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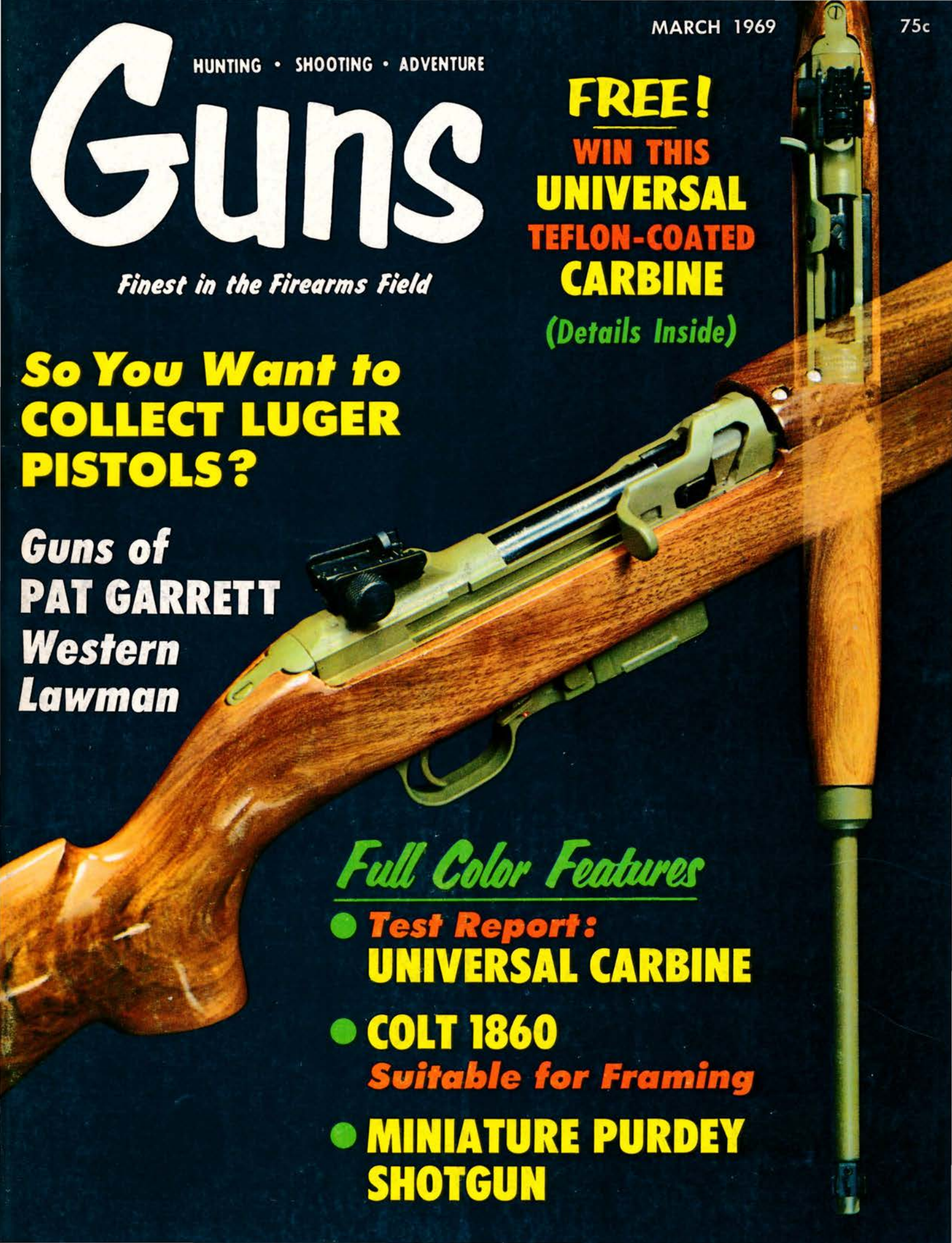
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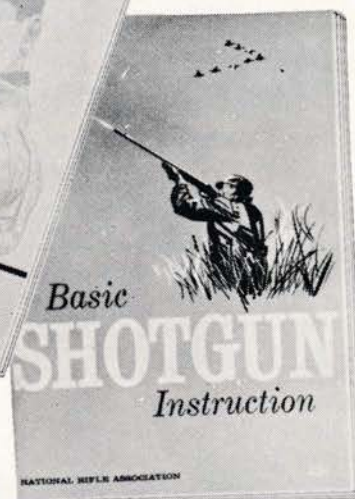
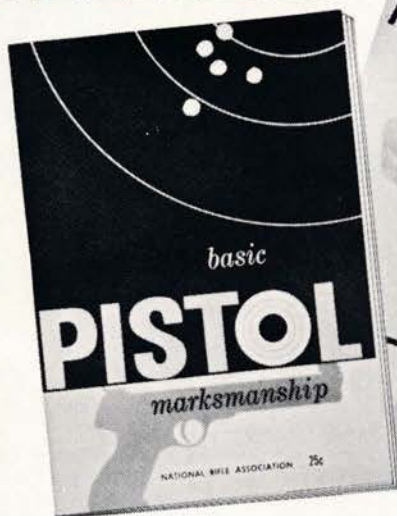
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TRIGGER TALK

FREE GUN DRAWING!

WE HAVE finally got things squared away so that we can continue the free gun contest within the requirements of the new firearms laws. The winners are: **Mr. Frederick Fuller, Laurel, Del.**; Winner of the Navy Arms 66 rifle. **Mr. William D. Rambu, San Francisco, Cal.**; Winner of the Schultz & Larsen rifle and Red-field scope.

One of the most popular contests, as far as the number of entrants, was for the Universal Carbine. Well, if you didn't win that one, see page 44 for another chance. This time, it's a brand new Universal with modern Teflon coating. Read all about it on page 37, then get your entry in the mail.

* * *

Throughout all of the gun law hassle, we have been saying that good strong laws which would punish those who use guns in the commission of crimes would do more to solve the so-called gun problem than all of the registration, mail-order bans, import prohibitions, etc. And, if our lawmakers would have given such a law a chance, we would have been proven right. Few people realize that the new federal law, which went into effect December 16, 1968, does have such a provision. It says that whoever uses a firearm to commit a federal felony, or who carries a firearm during the commission of a federal felony shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one or more than 10 years. Second offenses will bring not less than 5 nor more than 25 years, with no suspended sentences or probation. This is great—as far as it goes—but it does not go far enough! Presumably, a man could be sentenced to 5 years for shipping a gun to his brother in another state; at the same time that a criminal, who used a gun in a crime could be sentenced to only one year. It makes you wonder who they were really out to get when they passed this law.

THE COVER

Olive Green is only one of the colors available on the new Teflon-coated Universal Carbines. The full story is on page 37. This exceptional double exposure photo is the work of camera artist Gerry Swart.

March, 1969

Vol. XV, No. 9-3

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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CROSSFIRE

Mortar-Totin' Bandit!

I was filling out the federal form to register a relic World War Two mortar I have when my twelve-year-old son noticed what I was doing.

"Do you really have to register those things?" he asked, hardly able to believe his eyes. He thought a moment and then said, "Do they think you are going to walk into a store and hold it up with a mortar?" and burst out laughing.

This simply confirms what I have suspected all along—most of our legislators do not have the brains of a twelve-year-old boy.

Jerome Mendel
Plainfield, N.J.

McConnell On McConnell

In reply to a letter by Mr. Dennis McConnell in the December '68 issue of GUNS, I would like to say that I buy and enjoy your magazine because it is not a "sportsman type magazine."

I enjoy firearms and shooting. Each month I read with interest your articles on military, police and sporting firearms. When I have finished with my copy of GUNS, I usually loan it to some of my friends so they may enjoy it also. Their praise of your magazine is unanimous.

Second, I would like to refute the accusation that GUNS is not a clean magazine. From observation of the numerous smutty publications available on the newsstand today, I believe GUNS can portray the highest standards of good publishing tastes. If Mr. McConnell wants a sportsman magazine let him purchase one of the many excellent hunting and fishing magazines available at his local newsstand. As for GUNS, keep up the good content and I'll keep up my subscription.

Harrison R. McConnell
Alexandria, Virginia

Business Students For Guns

I have been a gun collector and plinking enthusiast for the last twelve of my twenty-two years. I and a lot of other Business School students agree with you and your magazine concerning the letter Mr. McConnell wrote. As business students we believe that any firm has the right to advertise in any publication which will accept it.

If Mr. McConnell wants to read a "clean" magazine, let him blow his mind on "Field and Stream" or "Outdoor Life." Furthermore, I and a lot of other guys here believe Mr. McConnell could write all he knows about the tastes of "sportsmen" on the back of a matchbook cover, in capital letters.

I look forward to your magazine every month and enjoy the articles therein, especially those regarding weapons used by the enemy in Viet Nam. Keep up the good work.

Bill Carrell
Louisville, Ky.
"Sportsman for twelve years"

We are flush with humility—and a determination to keep our loyal readers happy.—Editor

We're "Fabulous," Among Other Things

After reading your latest "Cross-fire" column, I decided to write and tell you I think your book is the best on the market. I can't understand why people write in downgrading your magazine. I enjoy your articles very much. Your color photographs are fabulous. I haven't missed buying your book in two years and I wish to thank you for your good book and interesting articles.

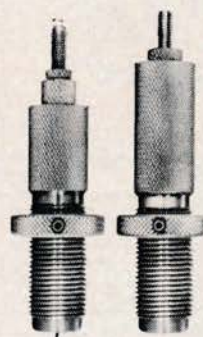
Steven Waller
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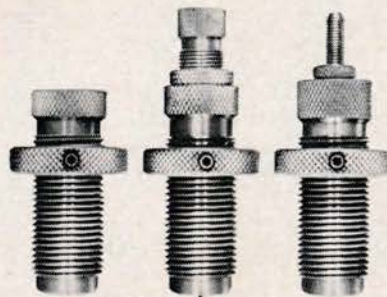
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The Guns Magazine



Nonte
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Panel of Experts

Galands Self-Extracting Army

I've checked all the books around but can not find anything on this revolver. Do you know the history and value? It is about .45 cal., has a 5½"



octagon barrel with 11 grooves and 12 lands, Belgium proof marks with all numbers matching. It is in mint condition, all blued, but with no name anywhere.

Robert C. Flynn
Windsor, Mass.

Your odd revolver is the Galands Self-Extracting Army Revolver (or Sommerville and Galand). This Liege-proved arm was chambered for 12 mm c.f. Perrin cartridge. It was also made in 7 mm and maybe a few other sizes. How long this arm was in production is hard to say, but I would doubt that it was very long, for as you can see it was a costly arm to produce with its rare extraction system. I would guess its value to be around \$90.—R.M.

Stripping Military Arms

I, like a lot of others who have been buying military surplus arms, find myself wondering how to field strip them. Where can I find instructions on field stripping an Astra M 600 9mm and a Belgian S.A.F.N M 49 7mm

rifle? "Small Arms of the World" by Smith does not have the information.

George V. Lane
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

"JOHNSON and LOCKHOVEN: International Armament, Volume II" (Library of Congress #64-24567) details the take-down procedure for your M49 on page 211. "NRA: Firearms Assembly Handbook, Volume II" details the take-down procedure for your Astra 600 on page 33. The above books should be available to you at your local Public Library.—S.B.

Beals Lever Action

In your July 1968 edition of GUNS I found on page 43, on the lower right hand side, a picture of a rifle designed by Beals. I have acquired a rifle of the same design and possibly the same caliber. Could you tell me the value of the rifle, and if the one I have will lose any value if I were to have the stock repaired. I'm very sure that mine is identical to the one you had in the July edition of GUNS. Many times I was tempted to throw the rifle away not knowing what I really had and only keeping it to fill space on the wall with my other weapons.

Frantz E. DeWillis
San Lorenzo, Calif.

If your rifle is a true Beals Lever Action of the rare type shown in our article on Remingtons at the Sahara, its collectors value would be in the range of about \$200 to \$450, depending on condition. I suggest you again check yours with our picture or with one from the Remington Museum.—R.M.

"Big Goof"

The .30-03 cartridge came after the .30-40, and they are *very* different. The .30-40 is the rimmed Krag; the .30-03 was the rimless predecessor of the .30-06. Somehow my answer to Joe Strelich (p. 17, Jan. GUNS) as published, included a statement I did not make—the U.S. Model 1903 and the .30-40 Krag are not alike.—S.B.

"No Parts Available"

I have a Remington M8 autoloading rifle in .25 Remington that is in very good condition. I would like to know if this rifle can be rechambered or rebarreled to a cartridge that is still available from the factory. I would like to keep the cost as low as possible.

A. W. Keezar
New York, N.Y.

I'm sorry, but there is just about nothing that can be done for the Models 8 and 81 Remington autoloaders. No parts are available from the factory and in many instances we are unable to maintain them in the original calibers. We have been able to obtain a few parts such as hammer springs from the Christy Gun Works, 875 57th St., Sacramento, Cal. You can handload .25 Remington ammunition, using .30 and .32 Remington cases, necked down and trimmed. The .30 cal. cases work the best. Case life is short, however. The loader must be experienced and capable of detecting the beginning of fractures which result in head separations and the body of the empty case sticking in the chamber.—W.S.

Use SMG Ammo In S&W Pistol?

I have been using Canadian 9 mm Luger ammo in my Smith & Wesson M39 with good results. However, I recently acquired some Canadian ammo (9 mm) that has a red ring around the bullet right at the edge of the casing. It also has a red painted primer. Is this sub-machine gun ammo? Is it safe to use in my M39? If it is safe, will it cause excessive wear?

Jack R. King
Columbus, Ohio

All Canadian 9mm Parabellum (Luger) ammunition is safe for use in your Smith & Wesson M39 pistol. All Canadian military ammunition in this caliber is loaded to the same specifications and is intended for use in both pistols and submachine gun. None of it will cause excessive wear in your barrel.—G.N.

American Eagle Luger

I have a DWM-built American Eagle Luger pistol in 7.65 mm Parabellum (.30 Luger) with grip safety. It is in near-new to excellent condition. I am wondering what it is worth.

Steven A. Janison
Juillet, S. Dakota

The American Eagle Luger is in great demand, if, as you stated, it is in like new condition. As for value, first, is it the 1900 Eagle or the 1906 Eagle? The model bringing the best price, of course, is the 1900 and would command \$350 to \$400 on the Luger market. The 1906 would bring somewhat less—in the neighborhood of \$250 to \$300.—R.M.

Rebarrel Or Trade?

Would it be feasible to rechamber and/or rebarrel my Remington 722 .257 Roberts up to a .257 Magnum? Or would I be advised to trade the entire unit? The present barrel is in excellent condition and has a custom stock.

Max W. Carver
Twin Falls, Idaho

The recessed bolt face and spring type extractor are somewhat of a conversion problem when enlarging to the belted case head of the .257 Weatherby Magnum. I have seen this conversion made, but I feel a new Weatherby rifle, or a custom built .257 Wby. Mag. on a good Mauser 98 or FN Mauser action would in the long run serve you much better. You will also find that the ballistics of a .25-06 are in the same class as a .257 Wby. Mag., and that this cartridge is more readily adaptable to standard bolt actions.—W.S.

Gyrojet Pistol

I would like to purchase a 13 mm Gyrojet rocket pistol manufactured by M.B.A. I would appreciate it very much if you could tell me whether this pistol is presently available and if so where it may be purchased.

Earl S. Pruce
Baltimore, Maryland

Any bona fide gunsmith in this country should be able to service your requirement through Stoeger Arms Corporation, Ruta Court, South Hackensack, New Jersey; the Gyrojets are in Stoeger's current catalog, page 28. A deposit of \$100.00 with your local gunsmith should work wonders!—S.B.

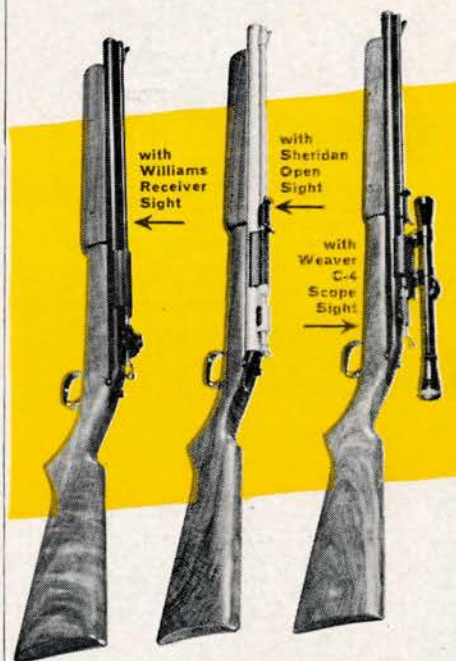
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Nonte Doubted

In his book on cartridge conversions, Maj. Nonte states that the 6.5 x 55 Mauser cartridge can be formed from .30-06 brass as follows: Trim to 2.157"; run into 250/3000 die until bolt will close; expand neck to .263"; fire form; use .263 bullets. RCBS Inc., does not recommend forming 6.5 x 55 Mauser cases from .30-06 brass simple because the .30-06 case is .101" under the size of a 6.5 x 55 on the base and this has to be blown out. The case might rupture at the base while this is being done and could blow up the gun. I am rather incline to go along with RCBS, but would like to get Maj. Nonte's reaction.

Arthur Zielsdorf
Victor, Montana

In theory, the .30-06 cartridge is not considered suitable for reforming to 6.5 x 55 mm Mauser. The reason for this is simply that the former case is roughly .010" to .015" smaller in diameter at the base than the latter. The assumption is that this additional amount of expansion on the altered .30 case if fired might result in a case split. This can happen if the case is of unusually soft brass, or has been over stressed by previous firings with higher-than-normal loads. My personal experience covers the firing of approximately 2000 rounds loaded to pressures of 40,000-45,000 psi in such reformed cases. In all of that firing, only one or two minor case splits resulted and they did not release gas back into the action due to their very small size and placement well into the chamber. Frankly, I see no strong reason for using reformed cases when Norma-Precision offers new brass in this caliber at reasonable prices. My original forming methods were worked up a number of years ago when such cases were not available.—G.N.

Sodia Combination Gun

I have a combination gun; 166A shotgun over rifle barrel which is marked 749.32. Also on the rifle barrel is the number 7.26 VIII 16269. Barrel length is 24". On top of the shotgun barrels are the words, "Bohler Blitz Stahl." On the sighting plane are the words "Franz Sodia Fer." The gun has Ferlack proofs and smokeless proofs. The action, barrel and forearm hardware are all stamped with the number 64. The action, locks, trigger guard and sighting plane are all in silver, engraved with scenes of rabbits and deer. The gun is in excellent condition and all original with the excep-

tion of the stock and forearm which I had to replace. Any information concerning the origin or history of this gun would be appreciated.

George H. Morgan
Trenton, Tenn.

It is impossible to accurately evaluate your gun without physical inspection. Franz Sodia was active in Ferlach from about 1946-56. Many of his guns were of high quality and in the \$600-900.00 price range. Some custom jobs ran considerably higher—and featured really superb engraving. I don't think that more than a few hundred over/under rifle-shotgun combinations were made; Stoeger imported Franz Sodia guns for a short time about ten years ago. Unless the restocking job on your gun was done by a qualified expert, it will seriously affect its market value, adversely.—S.B.

Building A Bullpup

Could you please give me some information on bullpup rifles? I realize these are not too popular and have never seen any articles on them in any of the various gun magazines. I plan to have a friend build a bullpup in .22/250 with a Mauser 98 action.



What barrel length would you recommend for varmint and target shooting? What is the most satisfactory trigger linkage arrangement? Can you recommend any publications that may be of help?

Kenneth T. Smith
Allen Park, Mich.

I've seen articles on bullpup rifles and was even quite interested in one for myself at one time. I'm unable to locate the information, however, and might suggest you write various gunsmiths listed in the Gun Digest. I would suggest a fairly heavy 26" barrel. A bullpup brings the muzzle plenty close to you even with a long barrel. My personal enthusiasm for the bullpup isn't too high. After doing a lot of thinking about it, I fail to see any advantages and don't relish the idea of having my face right over the action. And, being an old target shooter, and still following the game somewhat, the fact remains that very few of them are being used. If the advantages were worthwhile, a great many would be in use.—W.S.

"Impossible Question"

I own a .222 Remington and would like to know if there is anyway to make this rifle powerful enough to drop 400-500 lb. black bear with one shot. If this is possible, what must I do to the rifle? One other question: have you ever heard of crosshairs moving in a Redfield scope? I can't seem to get my shots grouped at all. One shot will hit in a 1 3/4" circle at 200 yards and the rest will be off to the left.

Richard G. Urban
Eglin AFB, Fla.

You ask a question impossible to answer. Your .222 Remington will produce instantaneous, one-shot kills on black bear with perfect bullet placement at reasonable ranges. This means simply a brain or spine shot. Without that type of bullet placement, your .222 just might make a large bear very angry. On the other hand, incorrect bullet placement will not produce either good or quick kills regardless of the caliber used. Generally speaking, I would consider the .243 Winchester or 6 mm Remington cartridges of minimum size and power for black bear. Conversion of your rifle to either of those calibers would be more costly than trading it in on a new one. Redfield scopes are normally very well made and shifting of crosshairs (reticle) is highly unlikely. I suggest you test the rifle very carefully from a bench rest and determine what type of accuracy it is producing. Make certain all scope and mount screws are tight and that the rifle is properly bedded in the stock. These factors are more likely to cause trouble you are encountering than any scope defect.—G.N.

W. Jeffery & Son Rifle

Recently my son forwarded to me a single shot rifle, caliber .32 Long Colt or short Colt, with octagon barrel, and hammer which cocks by hand, tip open similar to older model hammer type shotguns. The shoulder stock is very slender and is finally checkered. There is a small forestock which is also finely checkered. The lever for opening the breech is found on the right hand side just adjacent to the hammer. The rear sight is made up of three (3) pieces. One, for 50 yards, is fixed and has a vee in the top. The rest of this rear sight consists of two (2) leaves which are hinged and just

ahead of the fixed sight. One is marked 100 for the 100 range and the other is marked 150. The butt plate appears to be a hard rubber material and is mounted with two (2) screws. In the center is an indented area which is reminiscent of the old cameo pins. This area contains a picture of a dove on a branch. The top section of the barrel contains a fine engraved area for the entire length of the barrel except for an area approximately four (4) inches long just behind the rear sight. In this area one can clearly make out the name W. Jeffery & Son, Plymouth, No. 2121. Despite our searching, we can find no other markings of any nature on this rifle. Can you please provide some information concerning the manufacture of this piece, when it was made and where, plus its approximate value, if any. Generally, the rifle is in fair condition throughout. Both my son and I have fired this piece and it is as fine and accurate a piece as one would desire in something of obvious age such as this.

John T. Leary
Santa Clara, Cal.

Your W. Jeffery & Son single shot rifle is of English origin and from your description sounds like what is called a Rook rifle used by the gentry on their estates. I'm sure it is a fine weapon and it would be next to impossible to replace anything of its quality of manufacture today. Without seeing the condition of your rifle I would not hesitate to put a minimum of \$90 as its value and possibly more if condition merits.—R.M.

Metal Trigger Guard For Remington 600 Carbine

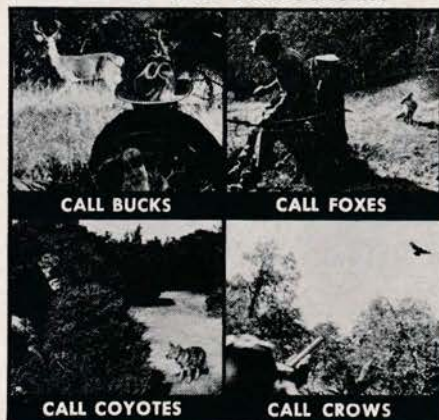
Can you tell me of a company that makes aluminum or steel alloy trigger guards for the Remington 600 Carbine.

Ian Swift
Fremont, Cal.

So far, I know of no one making a metal trigger guard-floor plate unit for the Remington M600 Carbine. This has come up many times and I feel that if we keep at it, the manufacturer just might see the light and offer us this rifle with a choice of metal or nylon. After all, they are certainly equipped for the job and could offer it at the lowest price. Perhaps the publication of this will shed some further light on the subject.—W.S.

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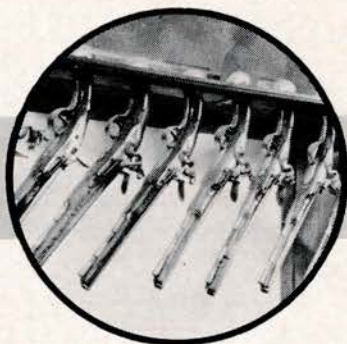
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New Garcia-Beretta Shotguns

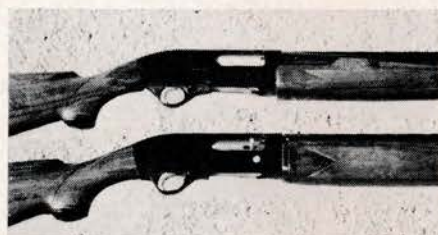
The Garcia-Beretta Company, taking a page from the Remington book, has developed two shotguns on one receiver. The first of these is a 12 gauge autoloader, the second is a 12 pump repeater. These are functionally fine shotguns. Both have the same feel and balance about them. Sighting is the same and weight and length is identical. There is a fifteen dollar difference in price. The autoloader, known as the AL-2, sells for \$200. The pump gun, designated the SL-2, for \$185.

The automatic is gas-operated. Two gas ports, just forward of the magazine tube, syphon off the hot stuff which impinges on a piston which in turn slaps the operating rod. There

for this feathery gun weight.

Stock runs 14 1/8" length of pull by 1 1/2" drop at comb by 2 1/8" drop at heel. These are good, useable stock specs. There is no recoil pad, there should be one. The trigger pull on the auto was clean with a weight of 3 7/8 lbs. The pull on the pumpgun was likewise sharp and fast-breaking. It "broke" at 3 3/4 pounds. The safety is the crossbolt type and is located in the forward end of the trigger guard.

Four hundred and fifty-two shots through the autoloader were pooped off without a bobble. These were target and field loads. The gun is easy to load. Also simple to unload without shuffling the cartridges through the action. The pump repeater was fired 378 shots. Performance was perfect. A box of 2 3/4" magnum loads was fired. These kicked! The shotgun is too light for magnum shells.



is a fractional delay while the shot charge is still in the barrel. This is necessary so that sufficient pressures will be maintained to surely function the action. The bolt locks into the barrel extension and there is a positive disconnect which blocks the firing pin until the bolt is completely locked.

Both shotguns have a handsome, streamlined look about them. The receiver is a lightweight alloy, fetchingly blued and mounted with a high chromium-plated breechblock. A raised ventilated rib, of alloyed steel, is standard equipment. Stocks are of European walnut and nicely checkered at pistol grip and forestock.

Barrel lengths range from 26 inches for the improved cylinder boring through 28 for the modified and 30 inches for the full choke. Weight is 7 pounds for the 26-inch barrel. This makes both guns essentially for uplands shooting. Magnum loads are not

Both shotguns are bored improved cylinder. Beretta marks this boring with 4 Xs on the barrel. Patterns at 25 yards were uniformly good from both guns. Fired at skeet the automatic broke 96 targets, four rounds of 24 each. The pump was not shot at skeet.

These are first-water scatterguns. Light, fast-handling, highly responsive and accurate shooting. With the addition of a recoil pad each gun would be a welcome addition to any quail shooter's battery.

H & A "Minuteman" Rifle

Hopkins & Allen is an old name in our arms industry, dating back roughly a full century. During the hard times between our two biggest wars, it simply couldn't stay in business, so H & A arms disappeared from the scene—though untold thousands from earlier production continued in use. Not until the 1950s did the H & A name again appear on new guns. Numrich Arms had bought all that

remained of H & A and begun manufacture of new, muzzle loading arms under the name. Now, a relatively wide variety of Hopkins & Allen muzzle loading guns is available, all completely manufactured in this country.

Newest is the *Minuteman* kentucky-style rifle available in both flint and percussion form. We've been working with one of each for a few weeks and, aside from a couple of minor problems, have enjoyed the experience.

The *Minuteman* is full-stocked in maple, with brass furniture, including brass fore-end cap. The barrel is pinned to the stock and the large patch box cover is attached by numerous screws. The barrel is 39" long, full octagon, no taper, .45 or .36 caliber. Typical non-adjustable open



sights of the 18th Century pattern are dovetailed into the barrel. Hammer, barrel, and breech plug and tang are blued, furniture and lock plate finished bright.

Performance-wise, the sample .45 caliber flintlock worked fine from the beginning—however, the caplock required some work. The hammer did not strike the nipple properly until the lock plate inletting was reworked. Trigger pulls on both were rather heavy; about six pounds for the flint,

better than eight on the caplock.

As for shooting, both guns performed well. At 50 yards from rest, using .451-.452" round balls and a thin ticking patch, a charge of 70 grains of FFG produced groups hovering around two inches. A little time spent refining the patch-ball-charge combination would, I'm certain, produce improvement. The bores are smoothly cut and loading is easy with either spit or greased patch.

We do have a few adverse comments to make. The percussion gun hammer is loose and, as already mentioned, the lockplate had to be re-bedded before firing. Steel screws are used to attach the patch box and look quite out of place surrounded by all that brass. The butt plates are formed

from sheet brass that is cut and bent to shape sloppily, leaving gappy joints—something better is expected on a \$180 gun. Neither butt plate nor patch box are polished. They've been sanded simultaneously with the stock, leaving a rough finish that should be polished on a gun in this price range.

Available in percussion or flintlock, .36 or .45 caliber, maple or cherry stock, at \$179.50 from Numrich Arms, West Hurley, New York.—Maj. George C. Nonte, Jr.

Revised Speer 9 mm Bullet

Nearly two years back, Speer Products introduced the first domestic factory-produced expanding bullet for use in the various 9 mm pistol cartridges. Of 125 grains weight and round-nose form with considerable lead exposed beyond the jacket, it performed very well in numerous different 9 mm cartridges and pistols.

This bullet has now been revised. In 9 mm (.355" diameter) it now has a shallow, wedge-shape, smooth cannelure approximately 0.155" from the base. In this form, the 9 mm Parabelum (Luger) case may be crimped in the cannelure to produce correct loaded cartridge length. Crimping most other 9 mm cases in the cannelure also produces an acceptable overall length. Crimping in these calibers isn't normally necessary, but

some handloaders prefer to and will welcome the change. This bullet has also been my favorite for use in the .38 Colt Super Automatic. In spite of being theoretically .002" undersize for .38 barrels, it has given me excellent accuracy. Our best loads have been 6.0 grains of Unique in 9 mm Parabelum and 7.5 grains in the .38 Super.

The same bullet is now offered in .357" diameter for .38 Special and .357 Magnum use. A deeper serrated cannelure is positioned farther forward to provide correct overall length when the .357 Magnum case is crimped therein. Loading data isn't available for this one yet, but is promised by Speer in the near future. We'll pass it on as soon as it comes in. Both of these new bullets are at your Speer dealer's shop at \$3.75 per C.—Maj. George C. Nonte, Jr.



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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

FIREARMS INDUSTRY TAKES GUTS STAND TO HEAD OFF REGISTRATION

In a statement presented to the National Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence, meeting here in Washington during Congressional adjournment, the major part of the American firearms manufacturers have publicly supported an identification card system for gun owners. It took guts in view of possible sales reaction. It was, however, one of the smartest moves the firearms fraternity could have made.

Supporting the stand are Remington Arms Company, Inc., Winchester-Western, Savage Arms, Ithaca Gun Company, High Standard Manufacturing Company, O. F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., Federal Cartridge Company, Harrington & Richardson, Inc., and Marlin Firearms Company.

The recommendation presents an alternative to the Commission instead of registration of individual guns and their owners. Under the industry's proposal, there will be no prospective confiscation list of firearms. And, card holders would be able to buy firearms out of his resident state and ship and receive them.

The identification cards would be issued like drivers' licenses by the state, and the individuals, like the driver, could operate or own as many firearms as he chose.

The U. S. has already had two hand-picked Presidential Commissions that recommended registration and offered nothing in return to the gun owners. Gun owners, would, under the previous commissions' plans, be listed with the criminal records division of the Justice Department's criminal information center.

Serving as Co-directors of the new commission's "Task Force on Firearms," are: George D. Newton, Jr., attorney and partner in the firm of Kirkland, Ellis, Hodson, Chaffetz and Masters, Chicago, Ill.; and Frank Zimring, Assistant Professor of Law, Research Associate, Center for Studies in Criminal Justice, University of Chicago. These were the two staffers who assembled information for the commissioners on the causes and possible cures of firearms violence.

The committee's first day of hearings on firearms legislation set the tone of things to come. Witness Sheldon Cohen, Commissioner, IRS, one of the leaders in the Johnson Administration for gun control, made his usual comments. Next, Arthur Sills, Attorney General of New Jersey, who pushed through that state's registration legislation, called for national registration. Regular readers will recall Sills from the infamous anti-gun hearings held by Sen. Thomas Dodd.

The only new piece of information developed thus far by the commission's hearings was that since the enactment of the New Jersey anti-gun law, gun crimes have jumped several percentage points. Sills also disclosed that there is much pressure building in the state to repeal the law.

The third witness was a real corker. Norval Morris, from the Center for Studies of Criminal Justice at the University of Chicago, was the most anti-gun witness this GUNS contributor has ever heard in fifteen years of covering Washington. Registration wasn't enough for this witness. He suggested that firearms should be confiscated and the police disarmed! (continued on next page)

Morris, who used to represent Australia as a delegate to several United Nation's Congresses on Human Rights, described himself as afraid to keep a firearm in his home. He used to have one, he told the commission, but it worried him so much he got rid of it.

(Maybe you readers have noticed something in the above coverage. Yep, the witness Morris and the commission's co-director on the "Firearms Task Force," are colleagues at the University of Chicago.)

Into this den of confusion representatives of the domestic firearms stuck their heads, represented by Dr. Philip Burdett, vice president and assistant general manager of Remington Arms, the fraternity spoke.

As far back as June 1968 many companies backed his present statement publicly, he pointed out. The most effective federal controls would be to regulate interstate shipments of rifles and shotguns to individuals, he suggested.

In addition, states desiring stricter controls might consider the enactment of firearms owners' identification card statutes similar in purpose to those now in effect in the states of Illinois and Massachusetts. At the same time, he emphasized their opposition to the registration of individual firearms on the grounds that it has no demonstrated utility in curbing crime and violence, would require a great deal of red tape and paperwork, and would be extremely costly to operate.

Apparently, Dr. Burdett's comments carried weight. The Commission shortly thereafter called for an independent study on the cost of registration. While the study, at this writing, has not been completed, conservative esti-

mates put registration at \$25/gun.

During the commission firearms hearings, Luis M. Neco, Deputy Commissioner in Charge of Licensing, for the New York City Police Department, stated that the Sullivan Law had become an expensive proposition for New York. But, he would not set a dollar figure for the commission. The price charged the applicant, he stated, did not begin to cover the cost.

Later, this GUNS contributor pinned the witness down. He stated the city "often spends more than \$500 dollars processing an application under the Sullivan Law." On a federal level, the cost could double.

Dr. Burdett, on the other side of the picture, stated that under existing federal law, the states will now be able to enact controls on the ownership and use of firearms within their borders with a reasonable expectation of compliance. He said that the manufacturers supporting his statement feel that the only type of state legislation which can reasonably be expected to contribute further to the reduction of crime and violence is the licensing of all persons who could legally own, possess, or use, firearms.

He pointed out that such a system might help to weed out ownership and possession of guns by some irresponsible elements in our society.

Copies of a Model Firearms Owner's Identification Card Bill, which was prepared by the industry, were submitted by Dr. Burdett. Under his proposal, a card holder could own as many guns as he liked. Thus, there would be only the initial cost of issuing the card and the government would not have a prospective confiscation list of firearms.

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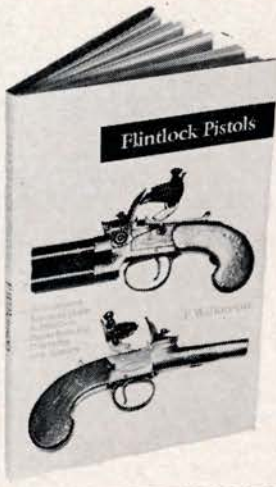
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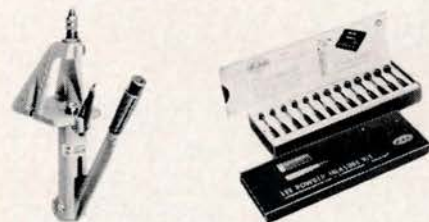


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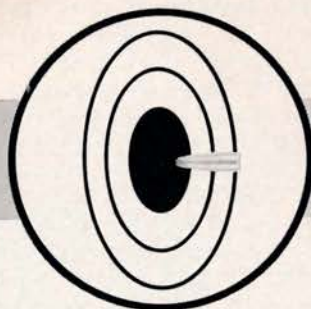
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POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE NERVES ALL come to an end in the tip of the trigger finger. Not in the last joint, now mind you, but in the very end. That is the part of the finger that should be placed against the trigger. It is the most sensitive and sensitivity has a lot to do with a well coordinated squeeze. Few people, they say, know how tall they are. An even larger number don't know how much the trigger weighs on their favorite rifle. They have never put the pull to the test. They have snapped the gun and reckon it is pretty good. It should be tested.

There isn't anything more important about the winning shot, whether on game or target, than the trigger let-off. Shooters fuss around about the goodness of the barrel, the bedding of the stock, the selection of a glass sight, and the preciseness of the load and then forget that neither any one of these nor all together really make the gun hit. It is more in the trigger getaway. It should not be slighted. Nor neglected. Nor overlooked.

A trigger, whether on a rifle, a shotgun or a handgun should be weighed.



Not with a pair of fisherman's scales—these kind that work against a spring and show a face calibrated in pounds—but with a dead weight. This type of weight is attached to a long L-shaped rod which rests against the trigger when the gun is held upright and at the other end is a series of weights in pounds and ounces. In using this kind

of trigger weight the gun is lifted vertically and carries the assorted weights with it. The weights may be added or removed in 1-oz. increments. Usually the tester starts with a weight which is below that needed to break the sear. He lifts the gun and the hammer does not fall. He lowers it and adds a 1-oz. weight to those on the rod. He lifts the gun again. If the sear still holds, he lowers the piece once more and adds another ounce weight. This is continued until the sear lets go and the hammer falls. He then adds up the weights on the rod and knows exactly what the trigger pulls. It is mighty surprising sometimes just how heavy it really is!

The pull on a highpowered hunting rifle should be between three and four pounds. I prefer the pull to be nearer the lower limit. A shotgun should be four pounds. The .22 target handgun wants to be 2¼ to 3 pounds and the centerfire handgun three pounds. With the .45 auto, four pounds. The pull, whether on rifle, scattergun or pistol, must break cleanly with no perceptible movement. And once the sear has been released there can be no over-travel—that is movement rearward while the hammer is falling. Any creep, movement in the trigger after the pressure has commenced, any softness or sponginess or variations in pull from shot to shot, are ruinous to good shooting.

There is a certain school of marksmanship that teaches you should not want to know when the trigger will let go. This is pure hocus. You have got to be so well acquainted with the trigger that you know within a fraction of an ounce when the pressure is all taken up. A gun, when it is aimed, is never still. It is always moving. Maybe off a benchrest, or from the prone, the sway is very slight nevertheless it is there. And offhand it is considerable. Unless you have such an understanding of your trigger as to be able to "break" it precisely when you want, you will shoot mighty ordinarily.

The same is true of the scattergun. Just because the smoothbore is fired

while it is swinging and is not a precise sort of tool but covers quite an area with its pattern, does not mean that the trigger must not be clean and sweet-breaking. And the gunner has got to be intimate enough with that trigger to mash it precisely when the lead is right. A shotgun pull that is too hard—and many run six and seven pounds—will account for a great many misses. And it does not matter whether at trap, in quail cover, or in the duck blind. By the same token a pull that is long and raspy, with a creep that cannot be taken up with one pressure, will ruin the best lead.

Aim with the scattergun is not like the aim taken with a rifle. With the smoothbore the aim is something that is accomplished as a part of a movement. The gun is lifted, slammed into the shoulder, and all this time the gunner is swinging the piece from behind and below the mark. As the barrels come into the flight line of the target the lead should be exactly right, or very nearly so, the trigger is pressed in that instant. If the sear breaks promptly, sharply, and precisely, no harm will be done to the lead. The game will be hit and killed. If, however, the trigger is too heavy, or too draggy, or is not the four pounds we have spoken of, the shot is likely to be a miss.

Many shotgun triggers have a bad over-travel. That is, after the sear is released and the hammer commences to fall the trigger keeps right on moving rearward. This backlash is covered up by the explosion and recoil. Unlike the rifle and the handgun where over-travel is a serious thing it is not so critical in the scattergun. It should not be there but it does not do the harm that does occur in the rifled arms.

Over-travel in the pistol is a bad fault for it is going on while the bullet is traveling up the bore. It moves the gun and this does harm to the hit. It makes calling the shot difficult and confuses the shooter. All the better handguns these days have trigger stops in them so that the false movement is halted the very instant the sear is cammed out of engagement with the trigger. This is as it should be.

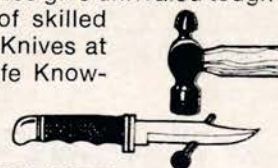
Many rifles have no trigger stop in the assembly. There is a movement that is perceptible when you know what to look for. Some triggers now have an adjusting screw which will eliminate all this play. Others do not. When false movement in the trigger really plays hob with the shot is when the shooter must get a shot away off-hand. The gun isn't still, and when he tries to coordinate the swing of

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the sights with the game, the little movement in the trigger after the hammer has commenced to fall can account for a hit much wider than the marksman had anticipated.

There are some excellent accessory triggers on the market these days for all the better rifles. These triggers are made and fitted with a degree of precision that is a delight to behold—a good deal like a fine watch. With an accessory like the Canjar trigger or the Timney, it is possible to adjust the pull to three pounds and then eliminate all the perceptible movement in the trigger. I do not mean visible movement after the sear has broken but before. You can press a Canjar trigger and watch it closely and never see any movement at all. And yet the sear will be released and the gun fired. These accessory triggers are somewhat expensive but worth all they cost.

In any consideration of the weight of the pull, that is whether to be satisfied with a five-lb. trigger on the hunting rifle or go down to only three lbs., the lighter weight is the better. It is easier to press away, is less disturbing to the aim, is done more quickly, and there is less tendency to flinch with the lighter pull. The average hunting rifle weighs eight pounds. If it has a five-lb. trigger this means that 5/8 of the weight of the arm must be exerted against the trigger to get it to go off. This is conducive to a poor shot when that poundage is dropped on that curved piece of iron known as the trigger.

Shooting skeet every week, I was averaging a regular 94% with an over/under that had four pounds on the first trigger and 5 1/4 pounds on the second. After 10 rounds of skeet I hauled the trigger mechanism out of the stock and brought the second trigger down to 4 1/4 pounds, the elimination of a full pound of weight. On the next 10 rounds of skeet I had an average of 96%. It would have been the same in the field with triggers like that. Despite the fact that the second trigger—like the first—was clean and snappy it was simply too heavy.

As a practice for the game fields I shoot a good deal with a 10-lb. rifle, a .22 long rifle, from the sitting position. Sitting is the most useable of all the positions in hunting game. It pays to practice it a lot so that those muscles you use are accustomed to the pose. You train them to support the rifle in a steady, strain-free position. The rifle, an Anschütz, is a target gun and a good one. But the trigger was a mite on the heavy side. It weighed 3 1/4 pounds on the dead weight test. My scores, as an average for the last

500 shots, ran 93.4%. I adjusted the pull, it is readily adjustable, and brought it down to 2 1/4 pounds. The average, for the following 500 shots, was hiked to 94.1%. Trigger pull is a critical thing and the lighter it is made, within reason, the less work to handle the trigger.

The best of the centerfire handguns for all-around use is the S&W Model 39, the double-action 9 mm automatic. It weighs only 26 1/2 oz. The trigger as it comes from the factory is four to five pounds. When you put four to five pounds pressure against a gun that only weighs 1 1/2 lbs. you generate a lot of tremble. And poor shooting. This was my case until I reduced the pull to three pounds. This is about as low as you can go safely. The second generation pistol in this family, the excellent Model 52, an automatic for the .38 wadcuter cartridge, a bigger pistol weighing 41 oz., has a pull as it comes from the factory of three to four pounds. This pull can be safely reduced to 2 3/4 lbs. and at this level it is then approximately the same as the weight of the gun. This pistol is the easiest to shoot of any of the centerfire handguns, either automatic or revolver. The trigger pull has a lot to do with its topflight performance.

ONE OF THE PRIME goals of the ammo maker when developing a new hunting cartridge is high velocity. Super speed is a big selling point and it gets a lot of attention from the design boys. One reason the magnum cartridge is so popular is due to its hyper velocity. It steps along faster than its standard counterpart and for that reason has more oomph. Huntsmen, when they turn to reloading their own, always seek a hot gamelands load for its wallop. It is axiomatic that they strive for plenty of speed.

Despite the interest and the obvious need for more velocities in our continuing round of development, the speedy cartridge has come along pretty slowly. The .30 caliber is a good example. The .30-06 drives a 180-gr. bullet 2750 fps. Its big brother counterpart, the magnum, achieves only 3150 feet per second. A difference of 400 fps, it is true, but at the cost of many years of developmental effort. In 1936, the .220 Swift was born. It hit 4100 fps with a 48-grain bullet and that was 33 years ago. Nothing to top this has come along since.

There is a certain amount of interest currently in the .17 caliber. This is a peewee that fires a bullet weighing from 18 to 25 grains. The best this tiny slug can do is to about equal the .220 Swift. Top velocities hover in the

4100-feet-per-second level. If speed gets much over this mark the bullet tends to vaporize. There is no standardized .17 cal. cartridge. It is a wild-catter's proposition. Most of the current lot of seventeen caliber cartridges are made up on the .222 or the .223 cases. It is simple to go to a bigger case and thus get more propellant but the pipsqueak slug under velocities that hit the 4500 fps plateau tends to break up, apparently along the rifling marks left in the jacket.

In 1934, Harold Gerlach, a German engineer, came to this country with his Halger rifle. It was a squeeze-bore job. At the breech end it was a .50 caliber but at the muzzle only a .30. The bullet was a peculiar one with a folded skirt on it which was pressed back into the body of the projectile as it traversed the tapered bore. The rifle and the cartridge were tested at Aberdeen, Maryland by the ordnance department and velocities of 5,000 fps



were achieved, but only at the cost of excessively high breech pressures.

Gerlach died in 1935 and the development of his rifle and its load stopped then. It was revived during World War II when the Wehrmacht used to a limited extent an anti-tank rifle that was a squeeze-bore. The barrel tapered from 40 mm to 25 mm. It had the selfsame folded-skirt principle on the round as did the Gerlach bullet. Velocities were reported in the 4,000 fps bracket. This gave the projectile a lot of range and a flat trajectory but it was inaccurate. Highly inaccurate. The trouble was in the folded skirting which did not press downward into the recesses smoothly and evenly. It was rough and jagged and dynamically played hell with the flight characteristics of the missile. But velocities were certainly pleasing high.

The Army medical corps, while studying the effect of gunshot wounds, placed a steel sphere weighing 15.4 grains within a wooden sabot and fired it at velocities which attained 4330 fps. The sabot was in two pieces and separated and fell away when the missile was free of the bore. The firing was done from a .30 caliber rifle. Occasionally the wooden shielding about the steel projectile simply pul-

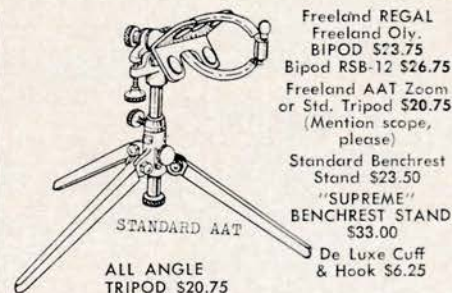
verized under the pressures generated.

What seems to be the limitations on higher velocities? Is it pressures, barrels, cartridge casings, powders, or the bullet? Ordinarily we limit our loadings to the vicinity of 55,000 psi breech pressure. To go higher puts a dangerous strain on the rifle action and it also represents the top limits for the brass casing. Of course it is exceeded and a good many experimenters get away with it but it certainly is not to be recommended. The accuracy life of the .220 Swift is about 600 rounds. This is directly related to the high velocities attained. Other ultra-high velocity cartridges wipe out a bore in comparatively few rounds. The propellant is burned in such quantity and in such a constricted space that the combination of a large shell with its over supply of powder in a narrow bore raises temperatures so high that the steel in the barrel is washed out.

Despite these problems which are well known, there are experimenters who cheerfully sacrifice barrel life to attain hyper velocities. They select a huge casing which will hold an immense quantity of powder and then settle on a relatively small caliber bullet, with its attendant narrow bore, and attempt through this combination to achieve very high velocities. What they achieve then is not astronomical bullet speeds but relatively small increases out of all proportion to the quantities of propellant consumed. For you can finally load so much powder into a big casing as to see a good part of the energy generated by the burning propellant used up in accelerating not the projectile so much as all the gases traveling up the bore behind the bullet. And the energy delivered to the bullet as it travels up the barrel cannot exceed in velocity the escape velocities of the powder gases.

The escape velocity of the powder gas depends on the molecular weight of the gas. Temperature also plays its part. The molecular weight of the combustion materials is relatively high; these include hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, water, and carbon monoxide. The greatest velocity these gases can move up the bore, and so put pressure behind the bullet, is related not only to the escape velocity of the gases but also is tied to the velocity of sound of the combustion materials. The velocity of sound of the gases is hitched to two factors; one of these is the molecular weight and the other is the temperature. As the molecular weight of the

(Continued on page 73)



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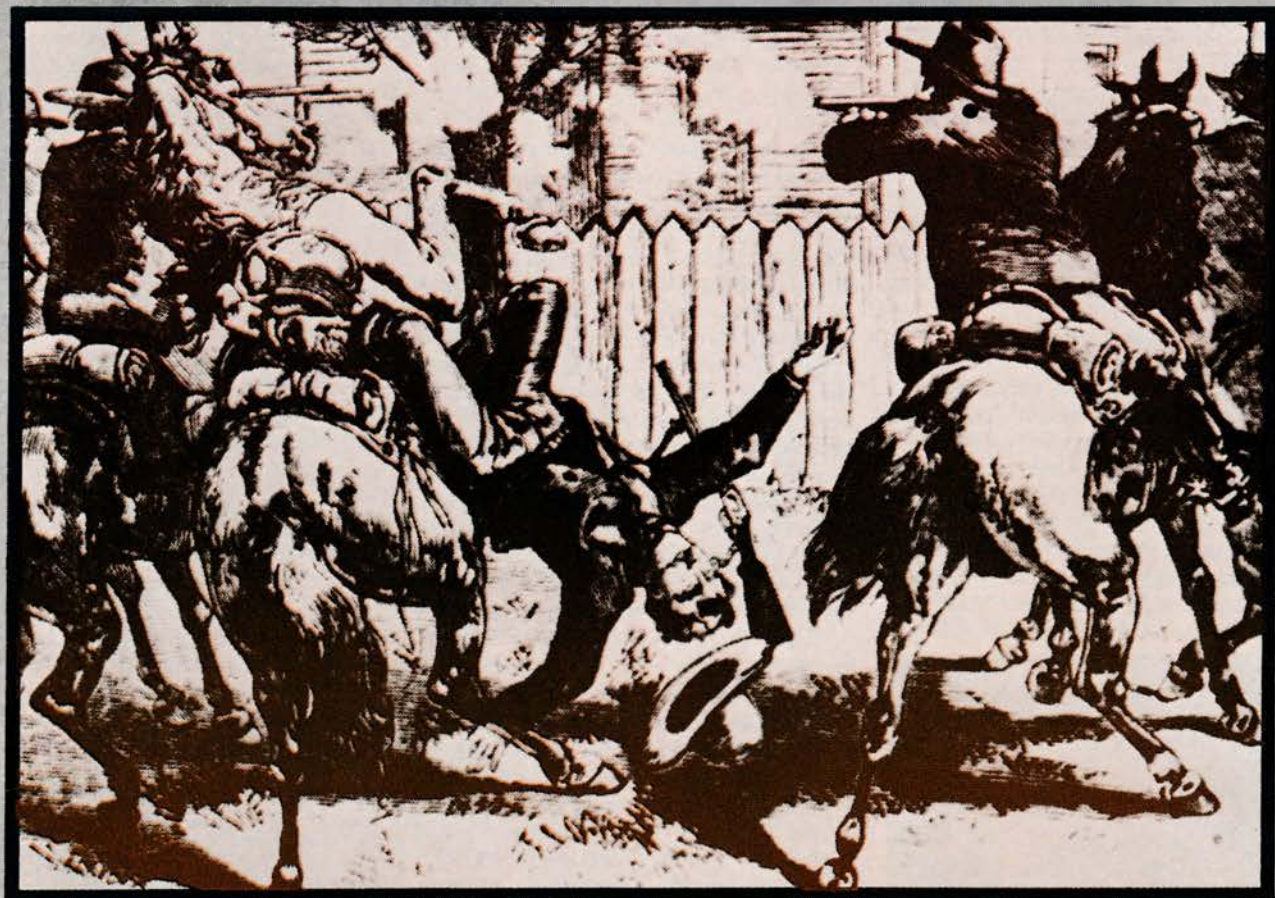
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PAT GARRETT



*"Like A Tall Tree On A Prairie,
He Drew The Lightnings.
And Like That Tree,
He Cast A Long Shadow."*

By E. B. MANN

Pat Garrett's bullet-studded campaign against Billy the Kid and other outlawed survivors of the Lincoln County War in New Mexico Territory—culminating in the man-to-man confrontation with the Kid himself in Pete Maxwell's bedroom in Fort Sumner, July 14, 1881—made Garrett one of the most famous of all the Southwest's gunfighting lawmen.

That fame, plus the fact that he, like most of those lawmen, carried a Colt's Single Action revolver, makes Garrett a natural choice for inclusion in that exclusive fraternity of law enforcement heroes—the Colt's Firearms Lawman Series. The commemorative Pat Garrett Model, Colt's Lawman Series, Colt's Single Action revolver, bedded in golden velvet in its black leatherette presentation case, is now on the market, a new "must" for commemorative collectors. These are truly masterpieces of gun-making artistry, bright with nickel and gold and Pearlite grips and memories of tall tales of tall men who ride no more.

There was nothing fancy, however, about the Colt Single Actions Pat Garrett carried. They were plain tools, nicked and scratched by use, bright with holster-



Colt .45 (at left) is supposed to be the gun Pat Garrett used in killing Billy the Kid. Below, is the same model in Colt's Commemorative Lawman Series.



PART ONE

wear, but functionally perfect as tools are when an owner's future depends on their performance. The most famous of the Garrett guns—"the gun that killed Billy the Kid"—lies today in a safe-deposit box in the vault of a bank in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is the property of Jarvis P. Garrett, Pat Garrett's son. It is a Colt Single Action with 7½ inch barrel, Serial Number 55093, and it is not available for inspection by researchers or writers. Jarvis Garrett has no desire to contribute in any way to any further publicity about his father.

Another gun publicized as "the gun with which Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid" is a Colt Single Action said to have been given by Garrett to a friend, with an "authenticating" letter giving the serial number and

stating that "(This is) the Colt's forty-five . . . with the dog filed off, and engraved 'Wild Bill' on the handle. This is the gun I put your friend, Billie (*sic*) the Kid, out of business with at the Pete Maxwell ranch on July 14, 1882 (*sic*). Wild Bill had this gun on when Jack McCall killed him, and it was sent to me a short time later by his sister . . ."

What a prize for the collector of "celebrity" guns: a gun connected with not one but *three* of the West's great figures—Hickok, Garrett, and Billy the Kid! . . . But there are several discrepancies, to state it mildly. Hickok's sidearms, according to such thorough researchers as Joseph G. Rosa and others, ". . . were either cap-and-ball Armies, or Springfield Armory conversions, or Richards-Mason conversions to the rim



Pat Garrett (top left) poses with Lawmen John Poe (center) and James Brent. Below, William H. Bonney.



PAT GARRETT

or center-fire cartridge . . . There is little likelihood that Hickok used a Peacemaker . . ."

The likelihood that Hickok ever used *this* "Peacemaker" is considerably lessened by the fact that its serial number, as quoted in the letter allegedly written by Garrett, dates it (according to various published listings of numbers by years of manufacture) as having been made in 1891—nearly ten years after Garrett's meeting with Billy the Kid in Fort Sumner, and some fifteen years after Hickok was killed in Deadwood!

Well, Garrett was known as a practical joker; perhaps this gun (if he ever owned it) and that letter (if he wrote it) are products of his wry humor.

But the mere identity of a gun is but a mote in the whirlwinds of controversy that have surrounded Pat Garrett, during his lifetime and later. Even his death was to provoke bitter, long-lasting, and still unsolved controversy. The same can be said about his crusade as Sheriff against the outlaw band captained by Billy the Kid. Garrett was reviled, on the one hand, then and since, as a publicity seeking bounty hunter; was passionately defended, on the other hand, as a dedicated lawman. Even his killing of Billy the Kid was questioned, proved by one writer, disproved by another. There are still those in the Southwest who believe that the boy killed that night in Pete Maxwell's room was an impostor, that Billy lived to ripe old age and respectability.

In 1950, a little man wearing the colorful name of Brushy Bill Roberts "confessed" that *he* was Billy the Kid and, backed by a highly reputable firm of attorneys, petitioned the State of New Mexico for pardon "for crimes committed, or alleged to have been committed, in the Territory of New Mexico under that name." The petition was denied, and the press had its heyday of ridicule for Brushy Bill. But there are still those who wonder how Brushy Bill "knew" some of the things he apparently did know about questions hitherto unanswered about Billy—who still ask in utter seriousness, "If he wasn't Billy, who was he?"

Be that as it may, Pat Garrett stands tall in the history (as well as in the legend) of the New Mexico frontier; as tall as his six-feet-four-inches-plus-high-heels-and-sombrero stature when he rode the dangerous trails of law enforcement in Lincoln County, New Mexico Territory.

Patrick Floyd Garrett was born June 5, 1850, in Chambers County, Alabama. From about 1869, Garrett worked as a cowhand on various Texas ranches. During the winters of 1875, 1876, and 1877, he was a buffalo hide-hunter in the Texas Panhandle and Kansas; and in 1878 he moved to Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, taking employment as a cowboy on the ranch of Pete Maxwell.

In the fall of 1880, Pat Garrett was elected Sheriff of Lincoln County—a shrievalty larger than some eastern states, then comprising roughly one-third of the present state of New Mexico; the largest county in the United States, then or since.

But distances were not Pat Garrett's biggest problem. The wounds and hatreds, partisanships and fears engendered by the Lincoln County War were still unhealed in Lincoln County, and many of the principals in that war were still very much alive and active—notably a young man of many names but one alias that made his real name relatively unimportant: Billy the Kid. Garrett's election as Sheriff carried with it, unwritten (Continued on page 72)

TEST REPORT:

DAVIDSON 63-B DOUBLE SHOTGUN

By LEE BERRY

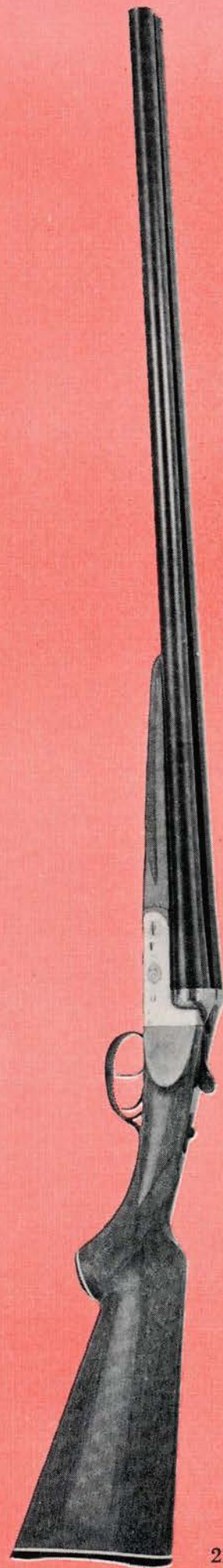
FOR THE PAST SEVERAL months, I have been using a couple of double barrel shotguns, called the Model 63-B, made in Spain for Davidson Firearms Co., 2703 High Point Rd., Greensboro, N.C. 27403. The Model 63-B is available in 12, 16, 20, 28, and .410, and retails for less than \$100.

Before getting into my observations, let's take a look at some of the particulars of the 63-B. These side-by-side doubles have a Anson & Deeley box-lock action with round cross-bolt (except on the 28 and .410); full floating firing pins; automatic safety; and manual extractors. The double triggers are gold plated, and the stock and fore-end are of Spanish walnut, nicely finished, and checkered.

The two guns we had were a pleasant surprise right from the beginning; first because they were in the smaller gauges, 20 and 28, which I like, and secondly because of the fine packaging which included molded styrofoam in a substantial outer cardboard carton. Those who (Continued on page 57)



The Davidson 63-B broken at the action shows "snap caps" included. Also worth mentioning is the good metal to wood matching and better than average bluing.



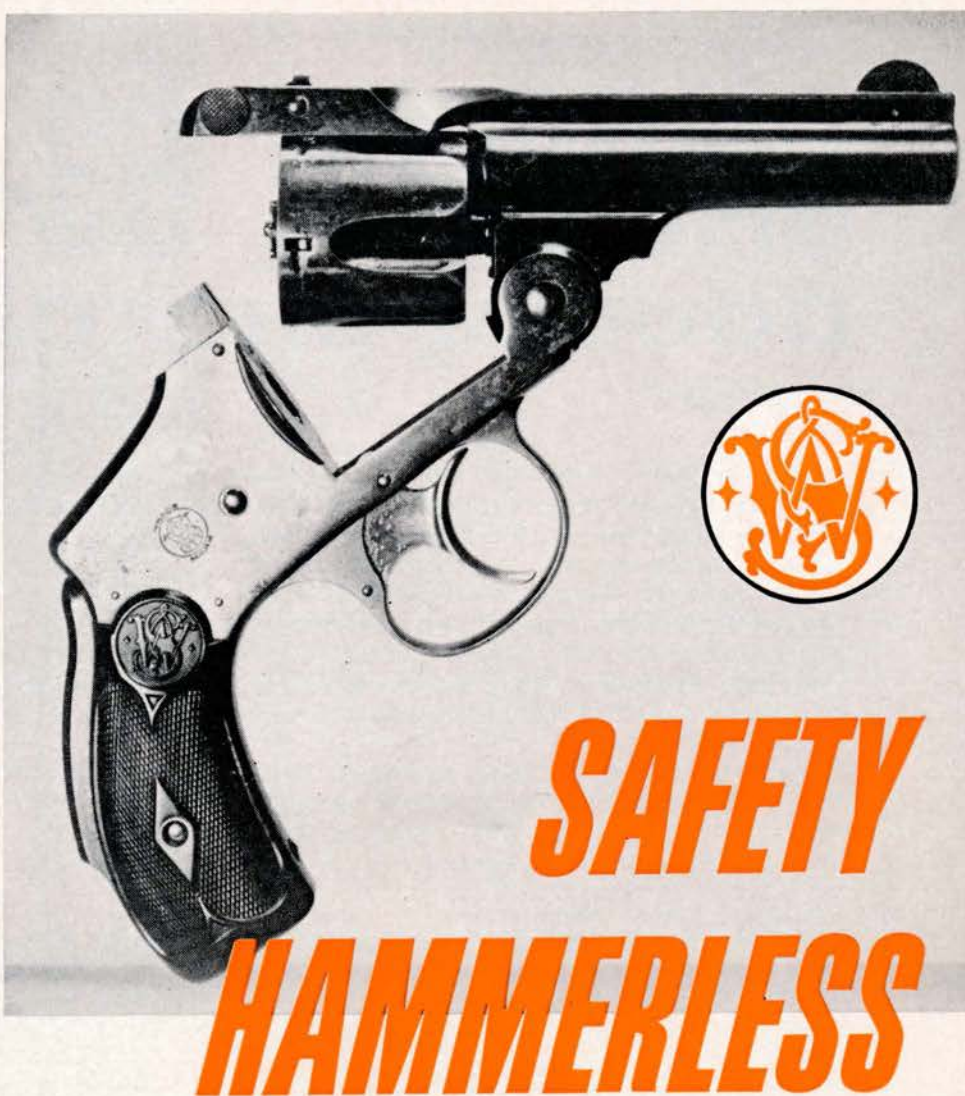
RUMOR HAS IT that back around 1836 Daniel B. Wesson of Smith and Wesson decided to design a revolver that would eliminate most of the "damn fool accidents" that were taking place daily with the conventional type revolver. In order to give the American public a powerful pocket revolver he chambered this new handgun for the .38 S&W cartridge that fired a 145 grain bullet at approximately 725 fps. He called this revolver the New Departure, and because he was so sure that the combination of safety features incorporated in this revolver would prevent a child from shooting it, he took it home. Loading it, he handed it to his youngster with a challenge to "see him shoot it." It is possible that Mr. Wesson leaned back in his favorite armchair with a confident smile. Regardless of what he did, rumor has it that his youngster promptly shot a hole in the living room floor.

I don't know how true this story is but the fact remains that the New Departure, or Safety Hammerless, or Lemon Squeezer has been widely accepted as one of the safest handguns ever designed and Smith and Wesson continued to manufacture it through 1940.

The late 1830's and 1890's were a period of transition during which the military was moving from big bore .45-70's to .30 caliber Krag's and the then-new .38 S&W Safety Hammerless caught the eye of the cavalry. Many Officers considered the .45 revolver to be too powerful—a rather strange attitude—and they arranged for Ordnance Department tests for both the .38 S&W New Departure and the Colt .38 Long Colt side-ejector revolver.

Neither revolver did too well in these tests, but the Colt with a 6" barrel was adopted as the regulation U.S. Army handgun. It enjoyed a brief and unblemished career until it ran afoul of the Mores in the Phillipines who took a cylinder-full from the .38 Colts and then proceeded to chop up the shooter with their machetes. This brought out—once again—the big .45's which had been put into storage.

The American public quickly nicknamed the S&W New Departure the "Lemon Squeezer" because of the grip safety on the top of the grip, and bought it in reassuring quantities. It had many advantages over conventional revolvers. The mechanism is completely enclosed so that dirt and dust cannot readily get into the action. The enclosed hammer eliminates any chance



By MASON WILLIAMS

of snagging the pocket or clothing, and because the hammer is hidden this revolver may be fired from an enclosed space such as a pocket.

The clean, smooth design has proven popular with people who must carry a handgun but who do not want to use a holster. This Lemon Squeezer slips in and out of places smoothly. In a pinch, this revolver may be easily fired with the hand well up and over the enclosed mechanism enabling the novice or woman to grab it and to fire it with one or two hands. The action has been designed to operate both double action and single action. In double action firing the shooter grabs the grip tightly to deactivate the grip safety then pulls the trigger all the way back in one clean motion firing the cartridge. Single action firing calls for the same approach but as the trig-

ger moves rearward the shooter can feel the hammer come to a stop. The double action pull ignores this stop and goes right on through to kick off the hammer. The single action shooter can hold the hammer safely at this stop point to allow him to bring the revolver to bear on the target. Then, by applying slight additional pressure the shooter fires the handgun in the conventional single action manner enabling him to pin-point his shots.

The Safety Hammerless is a break-open revolver which has evolved through five modifications totalling approximately 262,000 units in .38 S&W and 243,000 units in .32 S&W. The last few handguns manufactured in 1940 are basically unchanged from the first one which shot a hole in Mr. Wesson's floor, proving the validity of the basic design. I have seen, handled, and

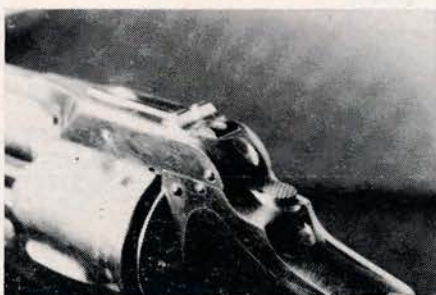
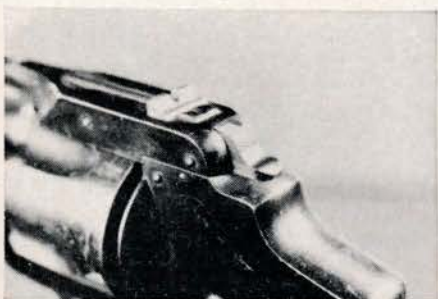
owned many of these Safety Hammerless revolvers. They will take a lot of external abuse due to the fully enclosed mechanism but they cannot stand dry firing. As long as the hammer fall is cushioned by a new primer there is no problem; but take away the cartridge and let the hammer fall repeatedly on an empty chamber and the hammer will break. I discussed this at length with Charles Duffy, one of the top Smith and Wesson collectors in the country in addition to being an excellent gunsmith. He went on to tell me that more Lemon Squeezers have been ruined by dry firing than by firing live ammunition. In his opinion, the fourth and fifth models in .38 caliber from 117,000 up—are well worth handloading for, providing the handloader does not exceed the basic minimum loads listed in the Lyman handbook. Handloading enables the shooter to use a more effective bullet than that loaded

by the factories so that without increasing pressures bullet performance can be substantially improved. Little 125 grain, jacketed, soft point bullets can turn this handgun into a effective defense arm for both men and women. Anyone who is not satisfied with factory bullet performance would do well to check into custom handloads and custom bullets.

Current Remington ammunition gives the following velocities in my two handguns, each with a 3" barrel. Five shots were fired through the tapes of my Avtron transistor chronograph to obtain a fair average. The 88 grain .32 S&W bullet averaged 725 fps and penetrated four one-inch plywood panels. The muzzle energy was 102 foot-pounds. The larger 146 grain bullet from the .38 S&W cartridge averaged 627 fps and penetrated six one-inch plywood panels. Its muzzle energy was 128 foot-pounds.

These are not impressive performance figures when compared to the .44 Magnum or other high velocity magnum cartridges but when loaded with custom 125 grain bullets in the .38 caliber handgun to give velocities around 825 fps this cartridge could often act either as a deterrent or as a severe crippling agent to protect women, homes or stores in an emergency.

My favorite handload for the .38 S&W in the New Departure is 4.0 grains of Unique, the CCI standard small pistol primer and the Shooting Associates, Inc., 125 grain Nuro-Shok bullet. This load turns out around 863 fps in my particular revolver. I do not recommend using this load in any New Departure revolver unless the serial number is over 117,000 and even then do not exceed this load. When working with loading tables be certain that you read all instructions and comments because *(Continued on page 66)*



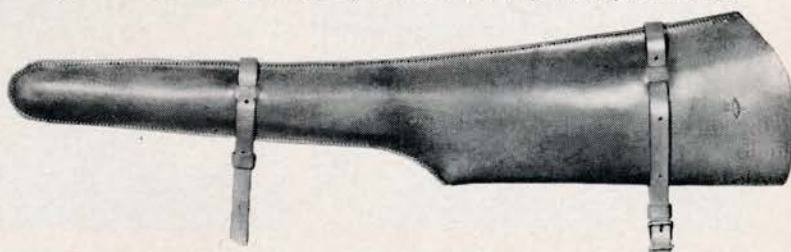
With sideplate removed, interior parts are visible. Photos at left show three of the variations used in the hammerless locking system.



Interlocking foam interior of Challenger hard case holds rifles in position through hard use.



Pistol rug and scabbard, along with Schoellkopf leather gun cases are praised by Askins for top gun protection.





The Case for a GUN CASE



Charles Askins

By **CHARLES ASKINS**

A DOZEN YEARS AGO, on my way to Vietnam, I looked around for some kind of a suitable packing case for the firearms I would take with me. I planned to take thirteen rifles, shotguns, and handguns, and more than two thousand cartridges. This battery was not for war; Indo-China was between wars in those days, the Franco-Communist embroglio had wound up and things were peaceful. I wanted those 13 shooting irons for hunting; some of the best on the face of the earth.

The case I found to hold my armament was an army rifle chest, intended to contain 12 issue rifles. I made it hold my thirteen, some of which were pistols, and it also carried most of the ammunition. This was before the days of hardshell cases which are common now, not that any of these latter are big enough to hold a dozen shooting irons.

A gun case for a trip of any length is an essential item that cannot be lightly regarded. Even on shorter forays, for instance from the house to the rifle range, a container

of some kind is desirable. The rifle or shotgun should not be laid in the trunk, and to stack it in the rear seat is to invite damage. It should be sacked up in some kind of a covering.

Besides the army rifle chest, which I successfully shipped the twelve thousand miles to Saigon and back again, I fetched with me a number of plastic and canvas gun covers. These were the kind that have a zipper along one seam and are lined with pile; fair protection if the going does not get tough. I was the chief instructor of firearms to the Vietnamese army and my duties required that I travel a great deal. I always had with me a rifle and a shotgun which I put in these plastic cases. It rains some 6-7 months of the year in Vietnam, and in the highlands of the interior the monsoon season sees a rainfall of 300 inches. This is pretty damp, believe me. I soon found that neither the plastic case nor the canvas one would keep the rifle dry. The rain entered along the zipper, and once the pile was soaked up on the inside, the case was useless. I finally acquired an open-mouthed saddle leather scabbard, such as we used on jeeps during World War II, and carried my guns in these cases.

After my return from Vietnam I was making ready for an African safari on which I would take four guns; three rifles and a shotgun. I could not afford to pack these in a wooden container as I had done on the soiree to Indo-China for it would be too costly to pay the air freight on such a box. Instead I had custom-made an all aluminum chest. This chest was not lined but inside it had built-in brackets to support the arms at the pistol grip and at the forestock. There were clamps with turnbuckles on them to hold the guns in place. The brackets were lined with sponge rubber and so, too, were the clamps. This aluminum chest has now made four round trips to Africa and is still in good shape. The guns shipped in it have always arrived in good condition, indicating sound design. Frequently, I have also packed ammunition in the chest and this has had to be lashed down. The chest travels as baggage and when I step off the plane in Africa the guns and ammo are ready for the safari. Nothing is worse than to arrive in the hunting grounds and find the rifles you shipped 3 months before have never put in an appearance. This happens, and all too often.

The aluminum chest was okay for shipment but once in the safari camp it is good only (Continued on page 54)

THE HUNTER'S GUN



I WAS ABOUT 100 yards ahead of my hunting partner as I walked out on a rocky point of a hill. The big mule deer buck had been bedded down directly under the rock, and immediately jumped up and joined a group of does that were crossing the large basin right in front of us. Dale, lead-

ing his horse, was following my trail through the four or five inches of new snow that covered the ground, and I ran back a few yards and told him to hurry, because those deer didn't act like they were going to stay around very long.

Dale's reaction was equally prompt

as he pulled the .240 Weatherby Magnum from the saddle scabbard, grabbed the cap from his head to use as a rest under the rifle, and dropped down in a shooting position on the rock before he even tried to pick out the big buck from the herd. The big basin had been full of bedded down

and feeding deer when I walked out on the point and now they were all alerted and heading toward the far side. It took a bit of time before Dale picked up the group of does with the big buck among them and now he had reached the open grass and was heading for the far ridge. Dale followed the buck with the scope and when I asked him if it was big enough he said, "Yes, this one I'll try for."

When I first jumped the big buck he was less than 100 yards away but by now he was nearing 400 yards and going straight away. As he started up the far ridge he turned nearly broadside to us but Dale still did not fire, not until the buck paused for that stop they nearly always make before disappearing over a hill, and then he touched off the 2½ pound trigger pull. I had been following the buck in my Bushnell 6 X 30 glasses and saw him hump up and veer off to the left at a slow walk.

Dale knew he had made a hit, but he jacked another 100 grain Norma hand-load into the chamber and kept the deer in his sight. The big buck didn't walk far before lying down. By this time the rest of the deer had topped the ridge and disappeared. We watched the buck for a few minutes and he made no effort to get up, so Dale decided to go directly across the basin on foot and I would take the horses around to where there was a gate in the line fence (about two miles away), and join him. It took me 45 minutes to get back to Dale and his buck. We found that the bullet had drifted quite a bit because of the strong wind blowing up the basin and hit the deer back in the liver, had expanded very well, even at that distance, but had gone on through. Elevation of his shot placement was excellent, but drift of eight inches or so had put the bullet out of the lung area but still allowed a good kill.

This is a very good example of a modern long range cartridge, in a very accurate rifle equipped with an excellent scope, being used correctly. When I first called to Dale he had responded promptly but did not run, so he was not out of breath when he was ready to shoot. He took a rest position immediately when he arrived at a shooting range and he followed the buck in his scope as it ran across the basin, withholding his fire until it turned broadside and stopped. All it took then was just a touch to the trigger. He told me he had held just over the deer's back and if he had allowed for drift the bul-

let would have been a center lung shot. We were not able to determine what the wind velocity might be out in the basin as we had been sheltered by the trees on the ridge he made the shot from.

Dale Hegreberg, from Minot, North Dakota, is a wheat farmer who also likes to hunt and shoot. He uses a shotgun well and is exceptionally good with his Remington 788 in .22-250 at killing varmints, out to the limit of that cartridge. He has learned a few basic rules that make a good and accurate shot of any hunter. One is the use of a rest whenever possible. He also knows that he or any shooter can hit game at a much greater distance and with greater accuracy if it is standing still rather than moving. I have noticed that good varmint shooters are also good game shots and tend to be

'For greater hunting success, get to know your equipment.'



Les Bowman

By LES BOWMAN

more deliberate in their shooting—and thus more accurate. His big buck this time was a nice one with a 28½" spread, and although it wasn't as big as the one that had out-smarted us the day before, it was a good trophy and Dale was pleased with the long and good shot he had made so successfully.

Dale's hunt was very different from several others I witnessed this past hunting season. One distressing incident involved three out-of-state hunters. They were returning from a pack in trip for elk and were nearing the end of the trail when they spotted three elk, two cows and a calf on the hillside opposite the trail, only about a hundred yards away. All three hunters jumped off the horses and started firing, each trying to get in the first or most shots. No one took a rest, al-

though one tried shooting prone. Now, it is illegal for non-resident hunters to kill cows in Wyoming and to make it worse, one of these hunters had already killed his bull elk. I have no idea just how the outfitter and guide would have gotten out of this situation if anyone had killed one of these cows, but fortunately they all missed. These three hunters were using semi-automatic rifles, which of course does not account for all of them missing the game, unless they had some idea that fire power alone will place a bullet correctly.

One of my friends who is an outfitter here had another case of poor planning for a big game hunt. He had a man and his wife come out for an elk hunt, and I was there to take some pictures of the start of their pack-in trip. As I am always interested in what type rifle a hunter is using, I asked the wife what kind she planned to use and she showed me a nice new semi-automatic, in .30-06 caliber, equipped with the latest Bushnell scope. I wanted to know how she liked it, and was told that she never shot it and that her husband had sighted it in for her.

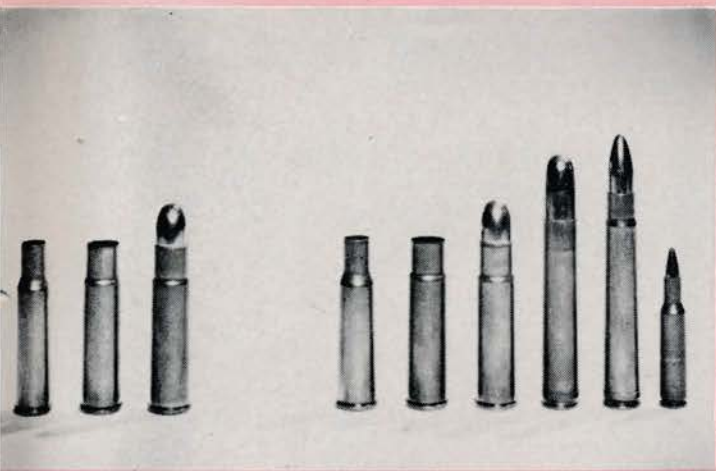
After the finish of their rather expensive ten day hunt I asked the outfitter how they had made out. He said the wife had missed a good six point bull, standing broadside, at 50 yards. Her husband had shot at and missed several good bulls and had finally killed a four point bull. These hunters were quite obviously not experienced enough and had not done the proper amount of practicing with their rifles. Many hunters seem to think that longer range, more powerful rifles and cartridges or the autoloading rifles are the answer to getting game. Of course this is not true, although the flat shooting, long range rifles of fairly low recoil can be helpful in getting a top trophy for a hunter in some cases. When I speak of long ranges I mean the 300 or 400 yard shots, and not the 600 to 1000 yard shots some writers tell about.

This past hunting season I had planned to make some pack-in trips, mostly for story material and pictures but I found myself spending nearly all of the season at the shop and shooting range, helping hunters get their rifles in shooting order. Although most of the rifles or scopes I worked over were of good quality, quite often the scopes were poorly installed; the mounts were loose on the rifles and the stocks, even on some of the *new* rifles were badly warped.

Actually, I (Continued on page 74)



Case before, after fire forming and with equipment used, including cornmeal, powder, funnel, tamper. Right: Tastefully engraved action of double rifle.



Left: Same as above. Right: Shown with the .458, .375 H & H, and .222 Remington cartridges.



DOUBLE



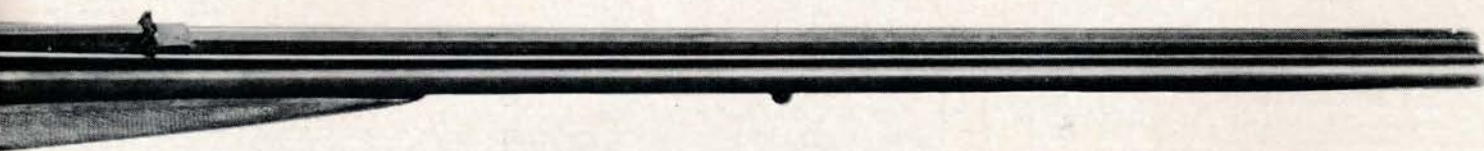
A LARGE BORE, double barrel rifle is a very useful gun when you encounter a dangerous cat in the jungle. Especially so if the cat is a 7-foot leopard about to eat a meal of his favorite food—pork. And particularly so if you are only 30 feet from the carcass of his kill, sitting in a machan less than 15 feet above the ground. I had such an experience but my rifle was a Model 70 Winchester, .357 H&H Magnum, and my shot was one of those freaks which is difficult to explain. Shooting from above and at an angle, the bullet entered a trifle behind the leopard's shoulder, penetrated the rib cage and exited slightly back of the brisket without touching any vital organ.

By the time I had slammed another cartridge into the chamber of my rifle, the leopard had plunged into the dense jungle, leaving a blood trail which marked his retreat for more than two miles. Then followed 12 days of the most frustrating tracking any hunter can experience before the wounded leopard was found in a cave. That's when I decided to own a double rifle, and this is the story of the fascinating new world which was opened up to me

after the purchase of this rifle.

American sportsmen rarely need a double rifle for game on this continent, but Europeans who hunt Africa and India almost always include it in their armory. So one must look to the European gun makers for this special type of gun. My gunsmith son, Jess, offered to locate one for me, which he did at a gun show. It was manufactured by Christophe of Brussels and the price was \$325. "This," I remarked, "is too good to be true," and it was. I'd priced double rifles in London; some could be purchased in the \$1800 to \$2100 price range, which made my Christophe look like a bargain. But when I inquired about ammunition, there was none available in the United States. The .405 Winchester cartridge would fire, but the case fit loosely in the chamber and it cross-fired so badly I could scarcely get on a 24" target with both barrels.

For 18 months, the pursuit of a satisfactory solution to the problem was an intriguing, and at times a frustrating, undertaking. Some of the facts which I assembled, certain facilities which I discovered to (Continued on page 70)



Double-trouble Christophe rifle.

By LOREN D. STARK

RIFLE JINX

*THERE ARE PLENTY OF
LUGERS AROUND TO SATISFY
THE AVERAGE COLLECTOR*



A .30 cal. Model 1900 Springfield Armory contract Luger with serial number 6532, complete with a Rock Island U.S. issue Luger holster.

By JOHN H. MORGAN

SO YOU'D LIKE to collect Lugers? But you say, "There is no sense in even starting. All the good Lugers are either priced out of reach or are frozen in collections." I say balderdash and poppycock! The best Lugers are yet to be found! If you will look into the past you will find the same thing was said 25 years ago and is still said today regarding cap and ball Colt revolvers and Winchester rifles, yet some of the finest examples are being uncovered every year. So it really isn't necessary to give up before you start.

The amount of capital or trading stock required can be determined by an appraisal of what you really want to accomplish in this Luger field. By setting your sights initially toward a goal that is attainable, you can have a Luger collection. First, learn all you can about the Luger, but keep in mind that almost any positive statement regarding Luger pistol details can be contradicted by evidence to the contrary; sometimes the evidence is real and sometimes imaginary. Two fine books are available on this subject, "The Luger Pistol" by Datig and "Luger Variations" by Jones, but don't fail to look through

**SO YOU'D LIKE TO
COLLECT LUGERS**



Six basic Lugers representing major design changes. A) 1906 9 mm Navy with factory modified safety. B) 1900 .30 cal. C) 1914 9 mm. D) 1906 .30 caliber. E) 1914 9 mm Artillery. F) The 1908 9 mm.

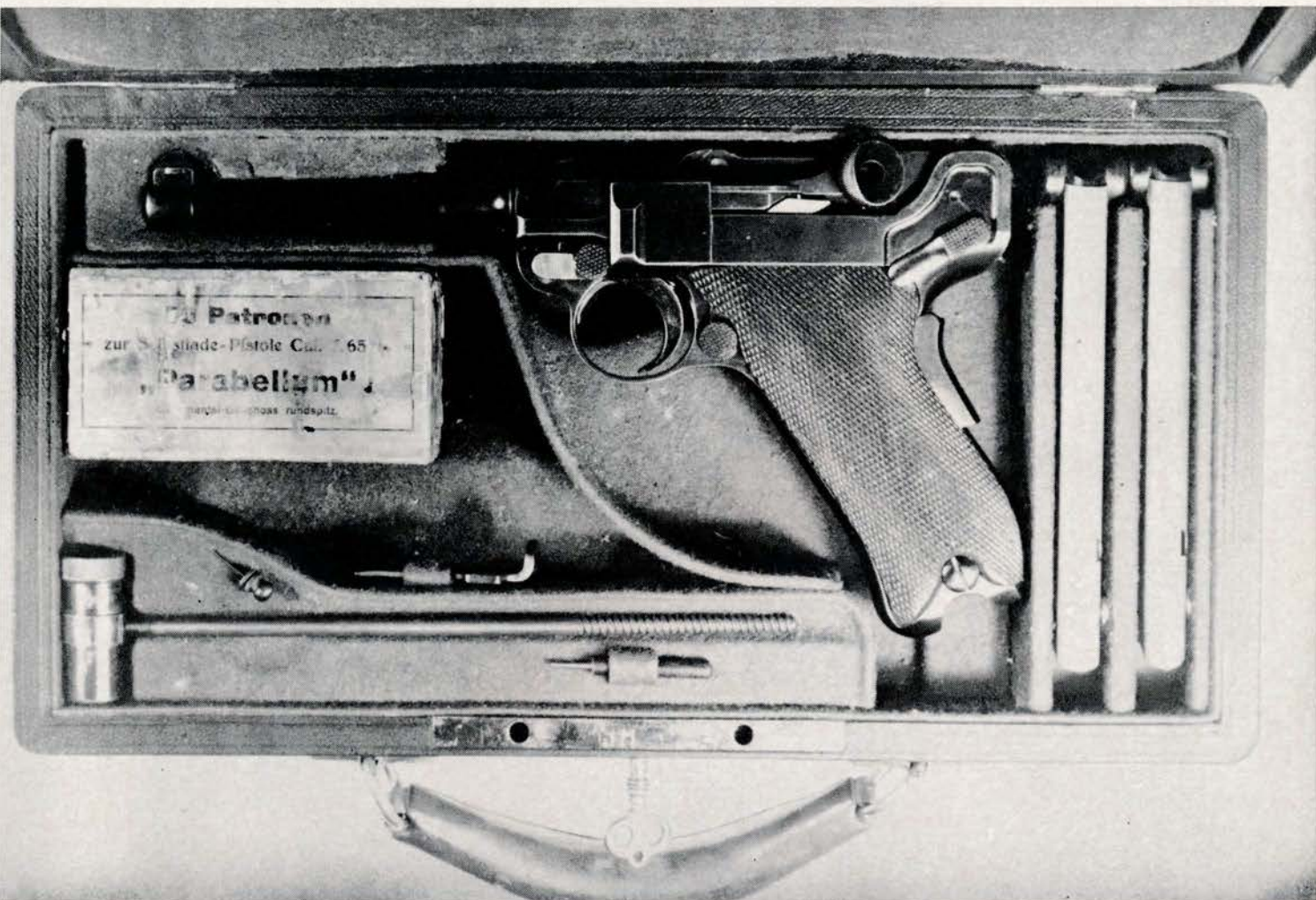
LUGERS

old catalogs and price lists.

Let's examine what comprises the most basic collection in this field. The first true Luger (or Pistole Parabellum, which was the factory designation) is the 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " barreled, 7.65 mm (.30 cal.), model of 1900. Some of these have an Eagle emblem, Swiss emblem, no emblem, etc. over the cartridge chamber; however, they are all the same pistols, made with the same tooling. There were some minor variations during the production of this model which involved the safety lever and the magazine follower button, but these are significant to only the most ardent collectors. So any 1900 Model plus any 1906 and any 1908 (or 1914 Model) Luger would reflect the major changes that took place in the evolution of the Luger. But this is oversimplified and too basic, with too few pieces to be considered a collection.

About 1902 a carbine model was introduced that is basically a 1900 Luger with an 11 $\frac{7}{8}$ inch barrel, upon which is fixed a three-position, tangent rear sight. A stock lug was added to the lower rear of the back strap to accommodate a detachable, checkered, shoulder stock that came with each pistol. A bar-like projection, added to the front end of the frame, projects forward under the barrel and supports the fore stock. These attractive carbines are scarce and expensive in almost any condition. In spite of what you hear to the contrary, the so-called Snail Drum

A welcome addition to any collector's stock of basic Lugers would be either or both of the above. Top is the 1920 .30 cal. Luger Carbine. Bottom, 1929 Swiss-made .30 cal. Luger, showing many detailed changes that supposedly lowered the manufacturing cost.



Cased .30 cal. 1900 Model Luger above, is one of two sets known to exist. The practice of casing the 1900 Model lasted only a few months, and was a holdover from casing of Borchardt pistols.



Magazine that holds 32 cartridges, is not a carbine accessory, for it did not appear until about 1914 with the Artillery Model, and while it will function with twenty or so .30 caliber rounds it is designed for use with the 9 mm cartridge only. Incidentally, this snail drum was also used with an early model Bergmann sub-machine gun.

The next variation of real significance was the Model 1902, which doesn't differ greatly from the Model 1900 except that the barrel was shortened from 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches to 4 inches and made fatter to add muzzle weight. The caliber was changed to 9 mm (nominal .354") and the squeeze grip safety made wider to minimize its hand pinching drawback. As a point of interest, the so-called squeeze safety was actually known as an "Automatic Safety" according to the book "The Luger Pistol" by Datig. It was automatic in that it was on "safe" at all times except when the pistol was gripped for firing. If the pistol fell or was knocked from the hand it would automatically be on "safe" before it hit the ground. The really significant factor of the 1902 Model was the introduction of the 9 mm Luger cartridge, which has become the most widely used pistol and sub-machine gun cartridge in the world.

The next obvious change is referred to as the Model of 1904. From the infrequency with which they turn up, very few of these Lugers appear to have been made. The major difference here is the change from the chamfered to the flat, fully checkered toggle knobs, while retaining the toggle lock on the right hand knob. Also, the flat spring-steel extractor was replaced with a spring-loaded rocking bar type that also indicates when a cartridge is in the chamber. The forward toggle link was redesigned to accommodate the new extractor. A 9 mm 6-inch barreled Navy Model, with a stock attaching lug, was adopted by the German Navy at this time as their official sidearm. Early catalogs show that this model was also sold commercially but not too many could have been bought for they are so scarce that most of the advanced collections do not contain either the commercial or the military issue model. I am not aware of this model being made in any but 9 mm caliber.

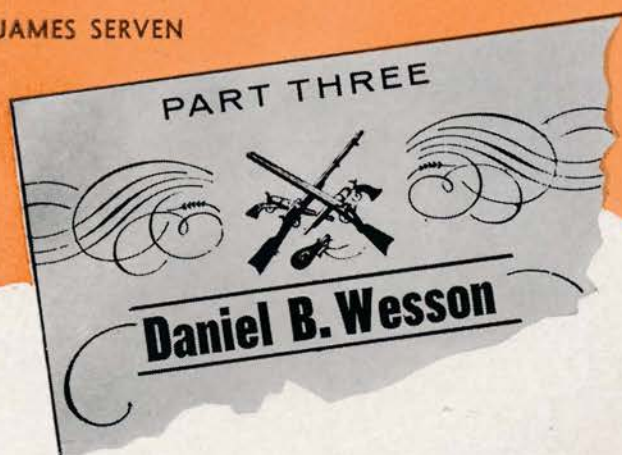
The next change was a major one and introduced the 1906 Model. In this design the double leaf type recoil spring was replaced with a compression coil type. The 1904 type extractor was used, (Continued on page 61)



The Wesson Brothers

The youngest Wesson brother, Daniel,
founded the Smith & Wesson firm

By JAMES SERVEN



Daniel B. Wesson

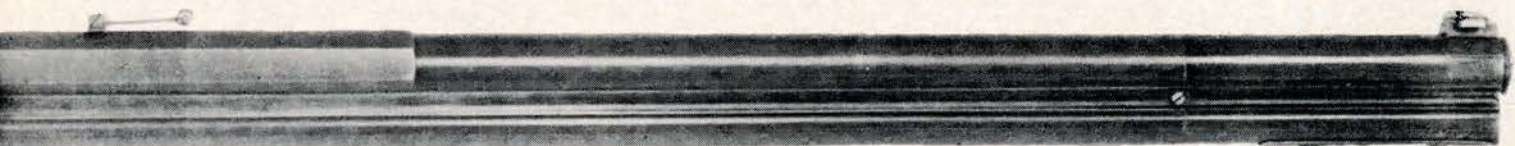
THE THIRD GUNMAKER in the Wesson family was Daniel Baird Wesson, born at Worcester on May 18, 1825. Daniel is the best known of the brothers; the Smith & Wesson firm for which he was primarily responsible continues to this day and is one of the nation's leading arms manufacturers.

There are books which describe and illustrate the many types of arms produced under Daniel Wesson's guidance, such as: "Smith & Wesson Revolvers" by John E. Parsons, "Smith & Wesson Handguns" by McHenry & Roper, and "Smith & Wesson 1857-1945" by Neal & Jenks. It will be the purpose here to trace the interesting course of Daniel Wesson's gunmaking endeavors rather than recite and

describe the long list of weapons with which his name is associated.

Daniel's first formal schooling in the gunmaking trade was undertaken under the watchful eye of his older brother Edwin in Northborough, Mass., about 1842. When Edwin moved down to Hartford in late 1847 or early 1848, Daniel and Franklin accompanied him and the three brothers worked together at "Wesson's Rifle Manufactory." Daniel had married Cynthia M. Hawes on May 26, 1847 and they now took up residence at 37 Pleasant Street, Hartford.

The rifle factory at Hartford was short-lived; the Wessons had been established there only a short time when the brilliant riflemaking career of Edwin, a relatively young



man of 37 years, was ended by death.

Loss of their older brother left Daniel and Franklin without the guiding hand on which they had come to rely. They soon left Hartford and for the several years which followed, Daniel is reported to have worked briefly with Franklin at Grafton, Mass., with Thomas Warner of Worcester, with the Leonard Pistol Mfg. Co. at Charlestown, Mass., and with Allen & Luther at Worcester. In this last association during 1852 he became acquainted with Horace Smith.

Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson were not only skilled mechanics, but both had an inventive turn of mind. Their friendship developed into a partnership which in 1854 saw them the possessors of patents for a lever action repeating firearm which employed a hollow lead bullet into which was sealed the propelling powder and a percussion disc. Manufacture was started at Norwich, Conn., and there appeared the first pistols to bear the Smith & Wesson name.

It was not all easy sailing; the unique lead cartridge had most of the handicaps of all non-metallic cartridges and a few others beside. And there were financial problems. In order to attract greater capital the inventors and their principal financial backer, Courtlandt C. Palmer, incorporated under the name Volcanic Repeating Arms Company. At this point (1855) Oliver Winchester of New Haven became an important stockholder.

As manufacture progressed some minor changes in design were made, the frames were changed from iron to brass, and renewed efforts were made to interest the public in a lever action repeater. The impotent ammunition

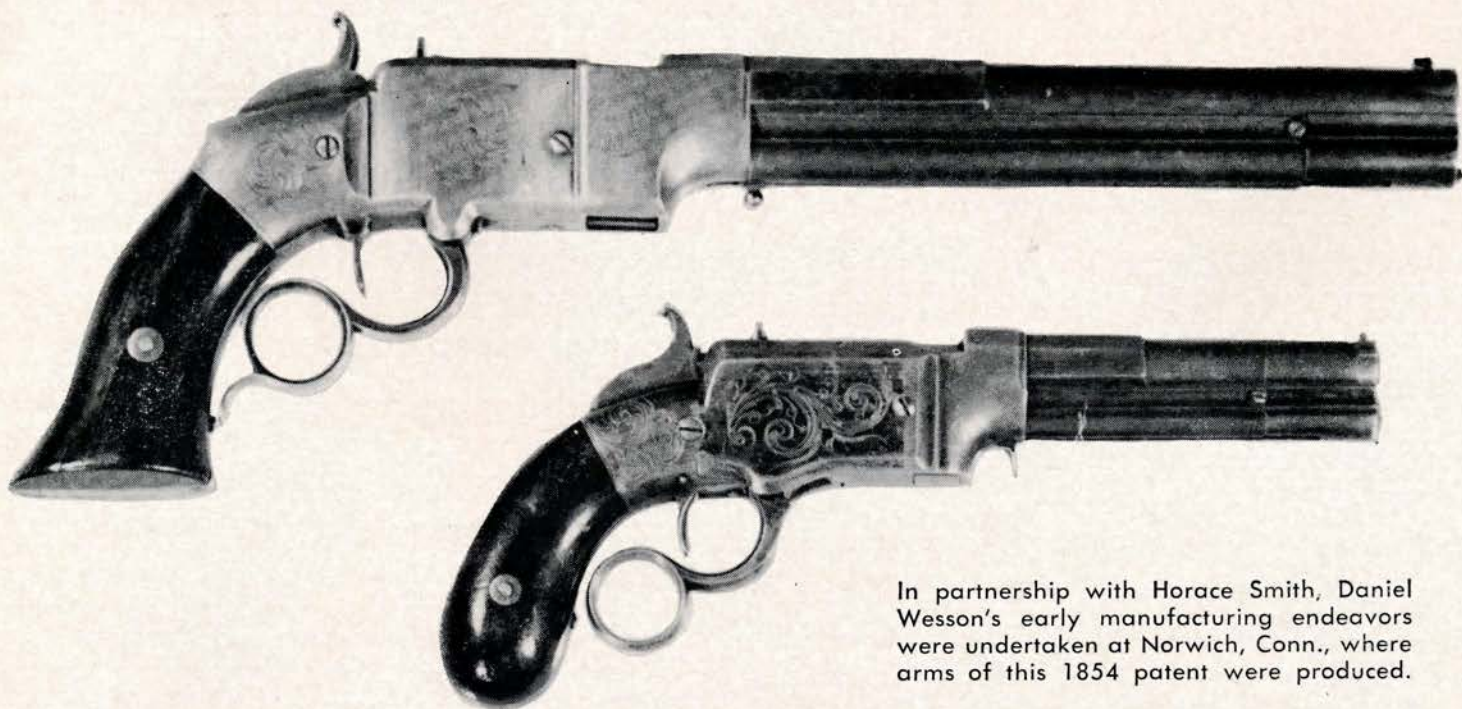
proved to be a major obstacle to public acceptance. Financial problems continued and, now doubtful of success with this kind of firearm, Horace Smith retired from the corporation. In 1856 the Volcanic Company was moved from Norwich to New Haven and Daniel Wesson at that time also liquidated his interest in the company.

It may be noted here that Oliver Winchester gained control of the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company, changed the name to New Haven Arms Co., and with the help of B. Tyler Henry in 1860 developed a .44 caliber metallic cartridge to be used with the basic Smith & Wesson lever action system. The result is popularly called the Henry rifle, and from it in a few years (1866) came the first rifle to bear the Winchester name.

Although they had abandoned patents which became the foundation for one of the greatest riflemaking companies in the world, Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson had another card up their sleeve.

Immediately following his withdrawal from the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company in 1856, Daniel Wesson joined his old partner Horace Smith in Springfield. Both had been giving deep thought to the development of a better self-contained cartridge for firearms. They were resourceful men, with ingenuity and inventive abilities. These qualities, plus an insistence on exacting standards, were destined to give them preeminence in their field.

Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson knew that Samuel Colt's basic revolver patent would expire in 1857. They planned to be ready with a revolver to shoot metallic cartridges when the road was clear.



In partnership with Horace Smith, Daniel Wesson's early manufacturing endeavors were undertaken at Norwich, Conn., where arms of this 1854 patent were produced.

THE WESSON BROTHERS



Under Daniel Wesson's direction, the top-break revolvers (right) were phased out and replaced by the improved models with the swing-out cylinders (left).

The partners had learned of a patent granted to Rollin White, then a resident of Hartford and a former Colt employee, in which the chambers of a revolver cylinder could be bored straight through and loaded from the rear rather than loaded from the front as in the caplock arms. Negotiations were undertaken for manufacturing rights, and these were granted in November of 1856. In April of the next year a shop was rented at 5 Market Street, Springfield, and preparations for manufacture of a .22 caliber revolver with a tip-up barrel were begun. Progress was slow in 1857, but the wheels began to turn with increasing acceleration in 1858 and at that period J. W. Storrs of New York was granted the general sales agency.

Although Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson obtained several patents on cartridges they were soon content to leave cartridge making to local manufacturers such as Charles D. Leet or Smith, Hall & Farmer. By the end of 1858 approximately 2000 pistols had come from the S&W workbenches. All these were .22 caliber pocket pistols, a very popular weapon of that period.

The year 1859 saw a beginning of a long line of patents granted for improvements or new S&W models. A few of these patents were granted to Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson but most of them were granted solely to Daniel Wesson. In later years Daniel Wesson's son Joseph was granted many patents which were assigned to the company. It would not be human if Daniel B. Wesson did not relish the fact that until 1869 at least he could block the manufacture of Colt firearms with a bored-through cylinder, just as Colt had exercised a monopoly on revolvers by patent rights until 1857. Wesson had not forgotten the bitter Colt-Massachusetts Arms Company lawsuit in which his brother Edwin's patent had been declared invalid.

Their .22 pistols a great success, the partners Smith and Wesson, having moved their plant from Market Street, Springfield, to larger quarters on East State Street, now found these quarters too small and undertook construction of a new plant on Stockbridge Street. Rumblings of a civil war had turned attention to producing a larger, military revolver. The step up in size was not great—merely an oversize .22 revolver made to take the .32 rimfire cartridges. Whereas the .22 tip-up revolvers were called the No. 1 series, the .32

(Continued on page 71)

TEFLON-COATED CARBINES



FROM



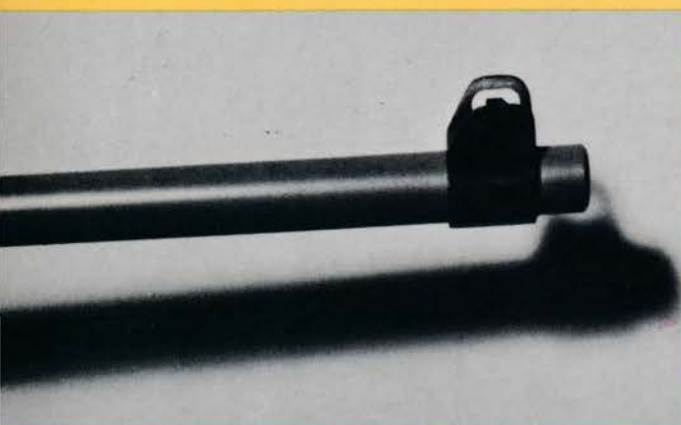
UNIVERSAL
FIREARMS
CORPORATION

By **DAN WINTER**

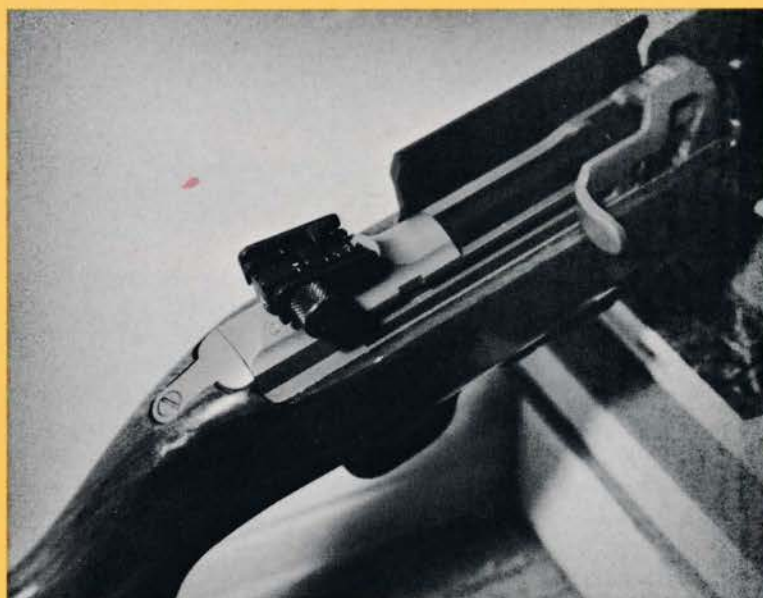
POLYTETRAFLUORETHYLENE. This mouthful is the scientific name for a product that has become a household word, Teflon. Yes, the same Teflon (a copyright trademark owned by Du Pont) that keeps the eggs from sticking in a frying pan. And now, the technology which helped the housewife has taken on some of the problems of firearms owners.

From the time they first began to manufacture the M-1 carbine commercially, Universal Firearms Corp. has been continually improving on the original design. The addition of Teflon coating is only the latest step in this chain of developments. But why coat a carbine with Teflon?

First, let's examine this material and relate its properties to the



Front and rear sights of the Universal TC are not coated. Photo at right shows the scope base in position ready for rings.



firearms field. Teflon is basically a white (color may be added), tough plastic, or in more technical terms, a polymeric resin. You will recall that when the first Teflon-coated fry pans came out, they were easily scratched, and the housewife had to use a wood or plastic utensil. Since that time Teflon has been improved considerably, and today it has been strengthened considerably. But let's forget the Teflon used in kitchenware, for the Teflon applied to the new Universal Carbine is a different breed of cat. The correct trade name of this new material is Teflon-S. It maintains the same "self-lubricating" quality of the original, but it is specially formulated for toughness and abrasion resistance. When applied, Teflon-S forms three layers. The top layer is basically all Teflon-S; the middle layer is a combination of Teflon-S and other chemicals; the bottom layer is a special mixture which forms a strong chemical bond with the metal to which the coating is applied.

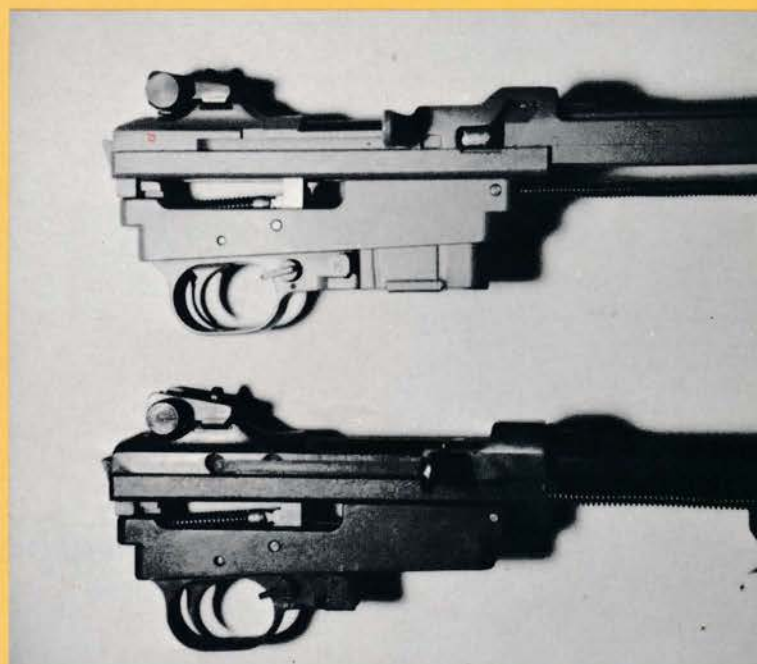
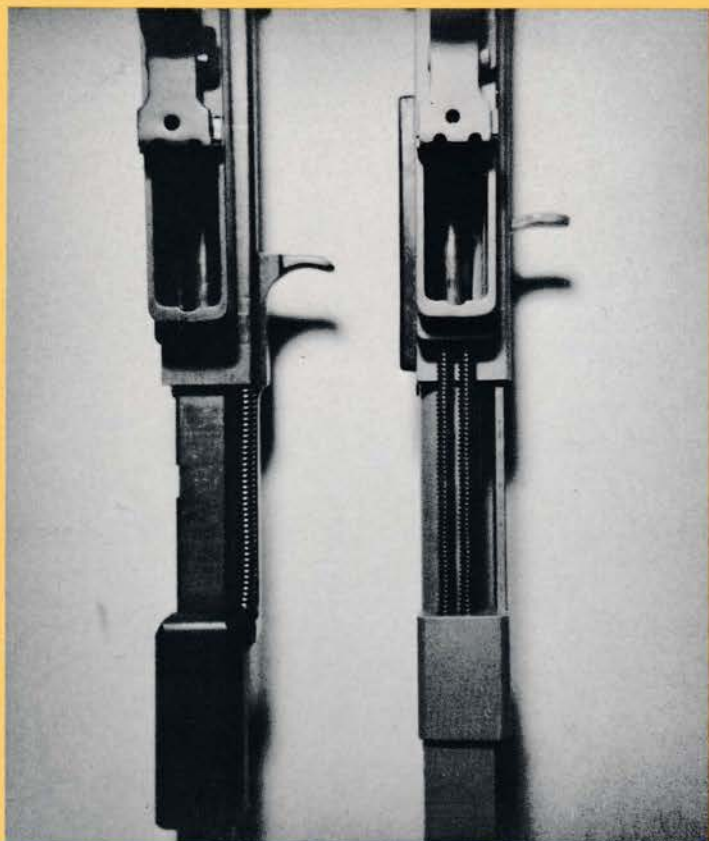
The process of applying the Teflon-S coating sounds

simple—material is sprayed on and then baked—but there is much more to it than meets the eye. Each of the steps necessary to cover the basic metal are controlled to the Nth degree. After application, the quality control experts take over to be sure that acceptable standards are maintained. Each article must pass the following four tests regularly: 1. microscopic inspection for film imperfections; 2. analysis for complete coverage and proper bake; 3. precise measurements of film thickness by electronic instruments; and 4. destructive tests for film adhesion. Du Pont is quite careful to see that anything bearing the Teflon trademark meets their high quality requirements, and that's one reason you will never be able to Teflon coat anything yourself. Universal must send the components to a finishing plant of Du Pont's, and the coated parts are then returned to Universal for assembly.

Now that we have some idea on what Teflon-S is, let's apply it to your gun. As we said, Teflon-S is basically a plastic, therefore, it will not rust. How would you like a



Universal TC bears Du Pont's Quality Seal (left).



Photos show old style slide/recoil spring system (left and bottom) compared to the new Universal design as seen on a new Teflon-coated Model TC.

rifle that would take on any kind of weather—even the corrosive salt air near the ocean—and come up without a spot of rust. I couldn't make any of the Teflon-coated parts of my test carbine rust, no matter how hard I tried.

Du Pont, in their specifications, say that Teflon-S is tough, and abrasion resistant. But just how tough is it? Here's a rather startling example: Teflon-S, applied to the large circular saw blades used in the lumber industry, has survived being stroked through highly abrasive wood over two million times! It would be hard to find any other gun finish which could survive even a small part of this abuse.

The self lubricating property of Teflon-S is due to its low coefficient of friction. The surface feels slippery to the touch, and two pieces of material coated with Teflon, when rubbed together, give the impression that you are sliding two ice cubes together. I am sure that anyone who has fired a carbine will recall the metallic clanking heard with each shot; some of it is

(Continued on page 60)



Test rifle, with Universal Model UD 4x20 scope mounted, looks like new after firing 500 rounds.

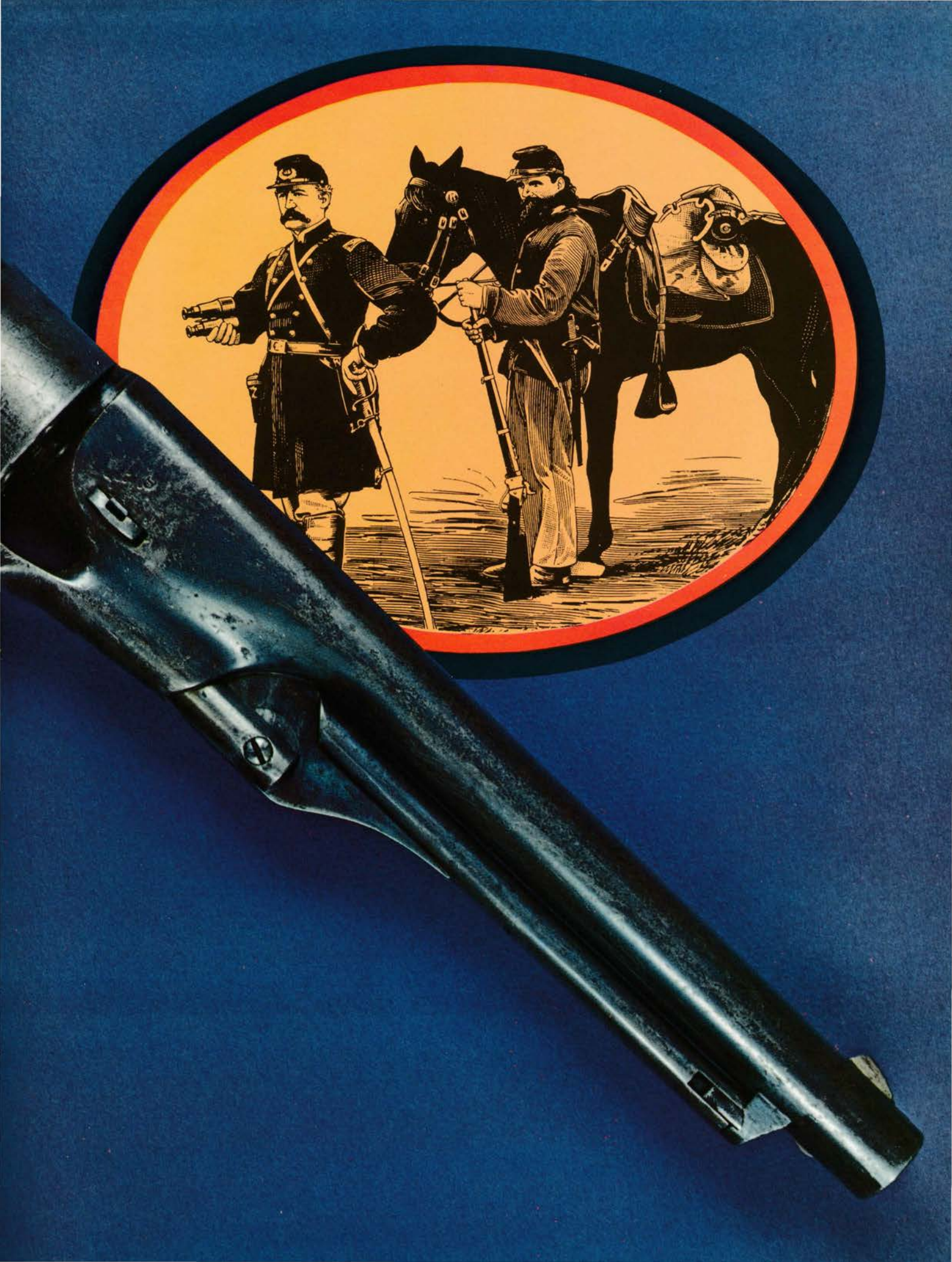


COLT

1860 ARMY REVOLVER

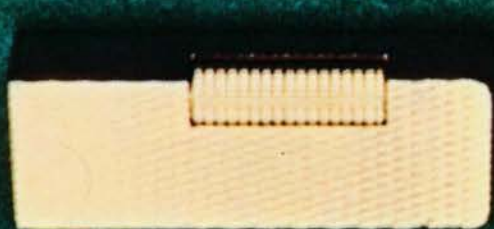
Photo by Dr. R. L. Moore







You can get some idea of the size of the Purdey in miniature by comparing it to the cigarette lighter.



Magnificent detail of the locks, hammers and stock are evident in this photo of the action broken open.



The name of Purdey is known the world over for magnificent workmanship, and the reasons for this acclaim are evident in this example of:

SHOTGUN CRAFTSMANSHIP IN MINIATURE

By LOUIS KLEBER

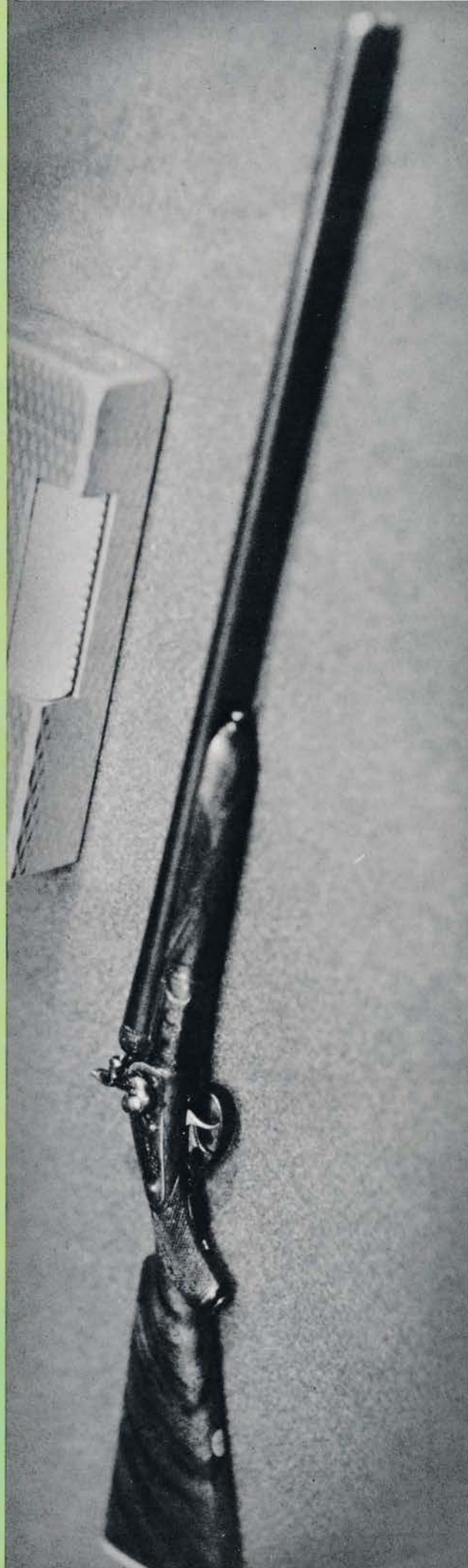
From the days of James the Elder, the name Purdey has been without a peer in English gunmaking. It is one of the few firms left in the world where the goal is not production, but rather an uncompromising dedication to perfection. Today, the Purdey tradition lives in the form of C. H. "Harry" Lawrence, their Managing Director. From the days of his apprenticeship in 1914, he personally served in every phase of the business. That experience puts him among the elite handful who can actually build a gun from start to finish, from wood to metal.

James Purdey & Sons set their knowledge to work on a special project to mark the occasion of King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935. Harry Lawrence was the principal architect in this and he painstakingly built a pair of miniature shotguns, exact copies of the Monarch's favorite Purdeys. These were presented to the King, while a third copy was made for Tom Purdey, last of the direct family line to run the firm. This gun is kept in the impressive "Long Room" of Purdeys showrooms on London's South Audley Street.

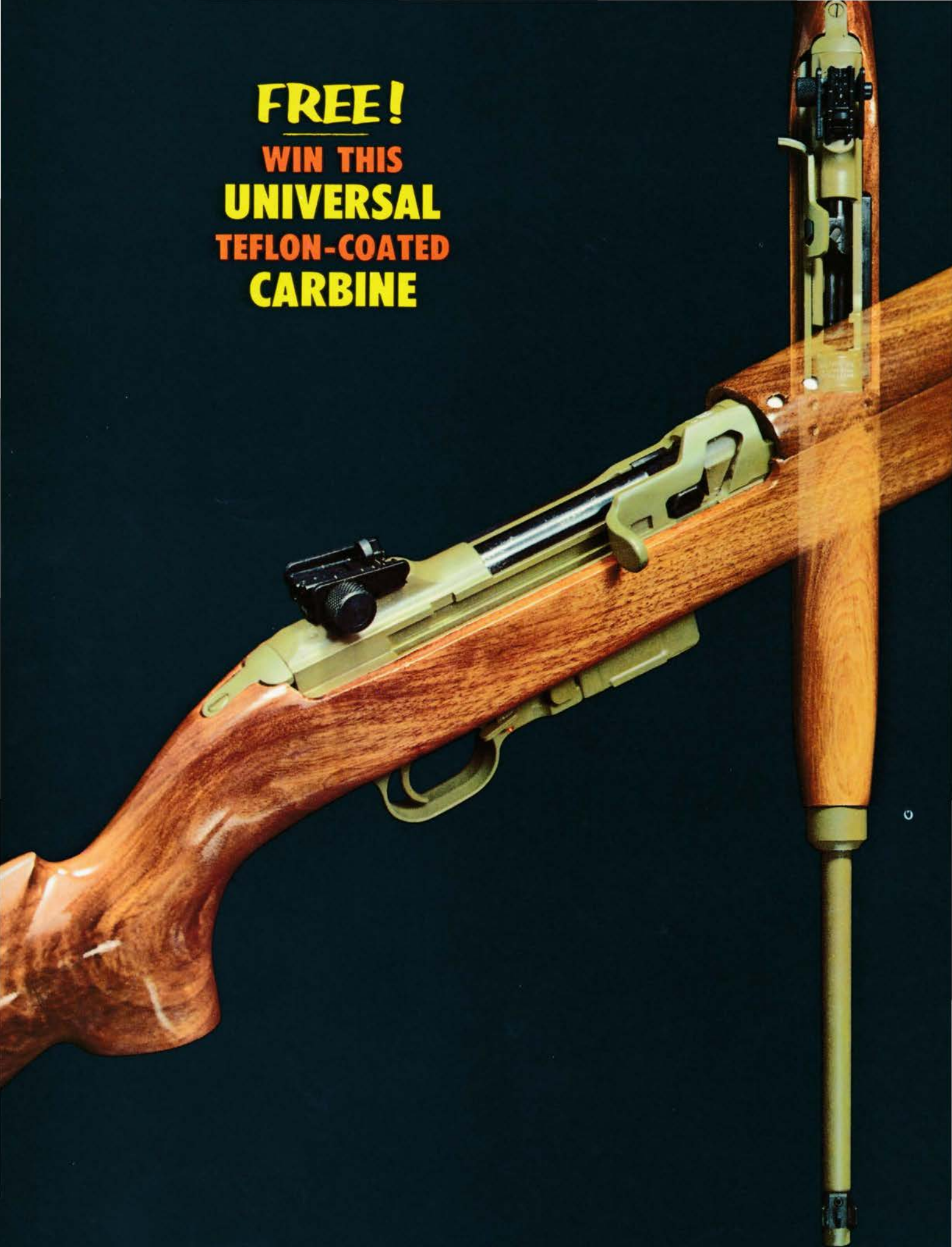
If there were such a thing as a foot tall man, he could take this shotgun and open the season on butterflies. It is a double barrel outside hammer model, complete with automatic ejectors and fully engraved. Despite its length of only 7½ inches, the gun's tiny hammers can be individually cocked and operated separately by the triggers. It breaks in normal shotgun fashion to permit loading of the minute "Eley Grand Prix" shells. The checkering and engraving is remarkably detailed. On the underside of the butt stock is a gold oval engraved "T. D. S. Purdey." The right and left lock plates are engraved "J. Purdey & Sons."

There may not be many foot tall sportsmen to bid for Harry Lawrence's miniature gun, but there are plenty of full size men ready to pay a four figure sum for a full size Purdey. One of the nineteenth century's great shots, F. E. R. Fryer, claimed he could be blindfolded and taken into a gun room where Purdeys would be identified "by the feel."

Big or small, a Purdey is unique.



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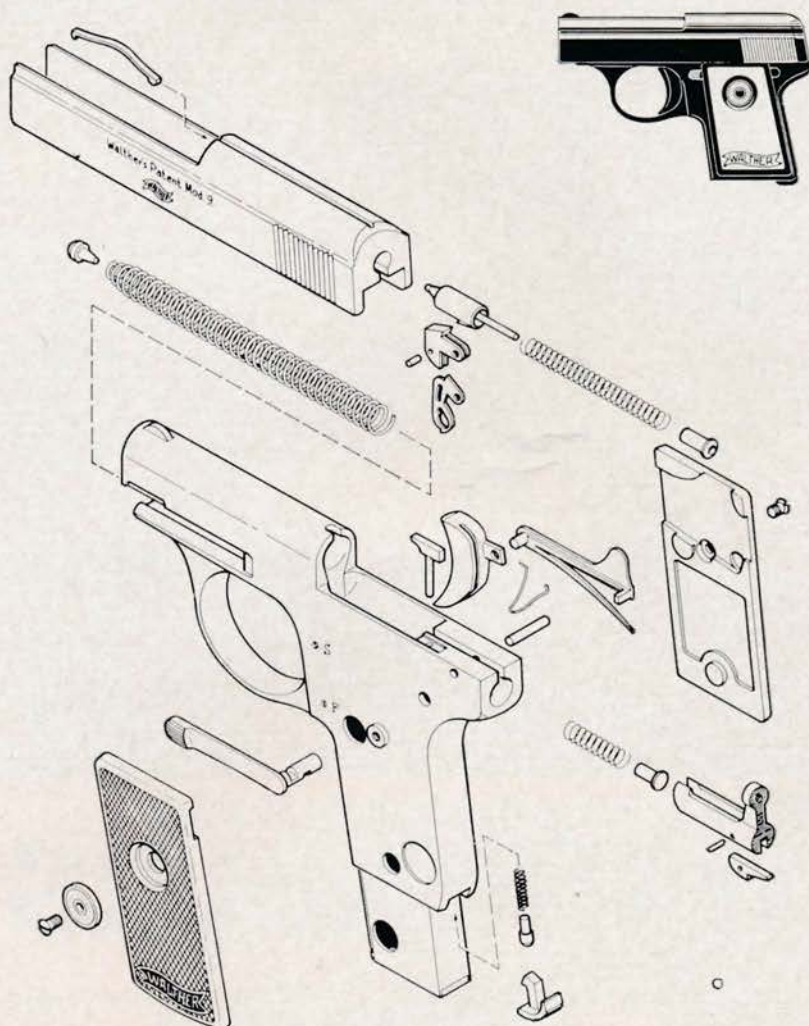
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AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE WALTHER MODEL 9

By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



THE FABULOUS PISTOL market after World War I induced the Walther factory to expand its line of .25 caliber pistols; the Model 8 was selling well, but they felt that there was a market for a smaller gun—and they introduced the Model 9, a masterpiece of compact simplification.

The barrel may be considered as being part of the frame and not intended for owner replacement; the extractor is designed with a "hooked" tail and is self-locking, being held in place by its own tension; the firing pin is ultra-light so that its velocity may compensate for lack of mass.

The unusual trigger-bar also serves as a disconnecter while the lower portion or "tail" acts as a spring, maintaining upward pressure on the bar at all times during the firing cycle.

Both the Trigger-bar and the Safety-lever are positioned outside of the frame;

the right and left grips being relieved to accept same.

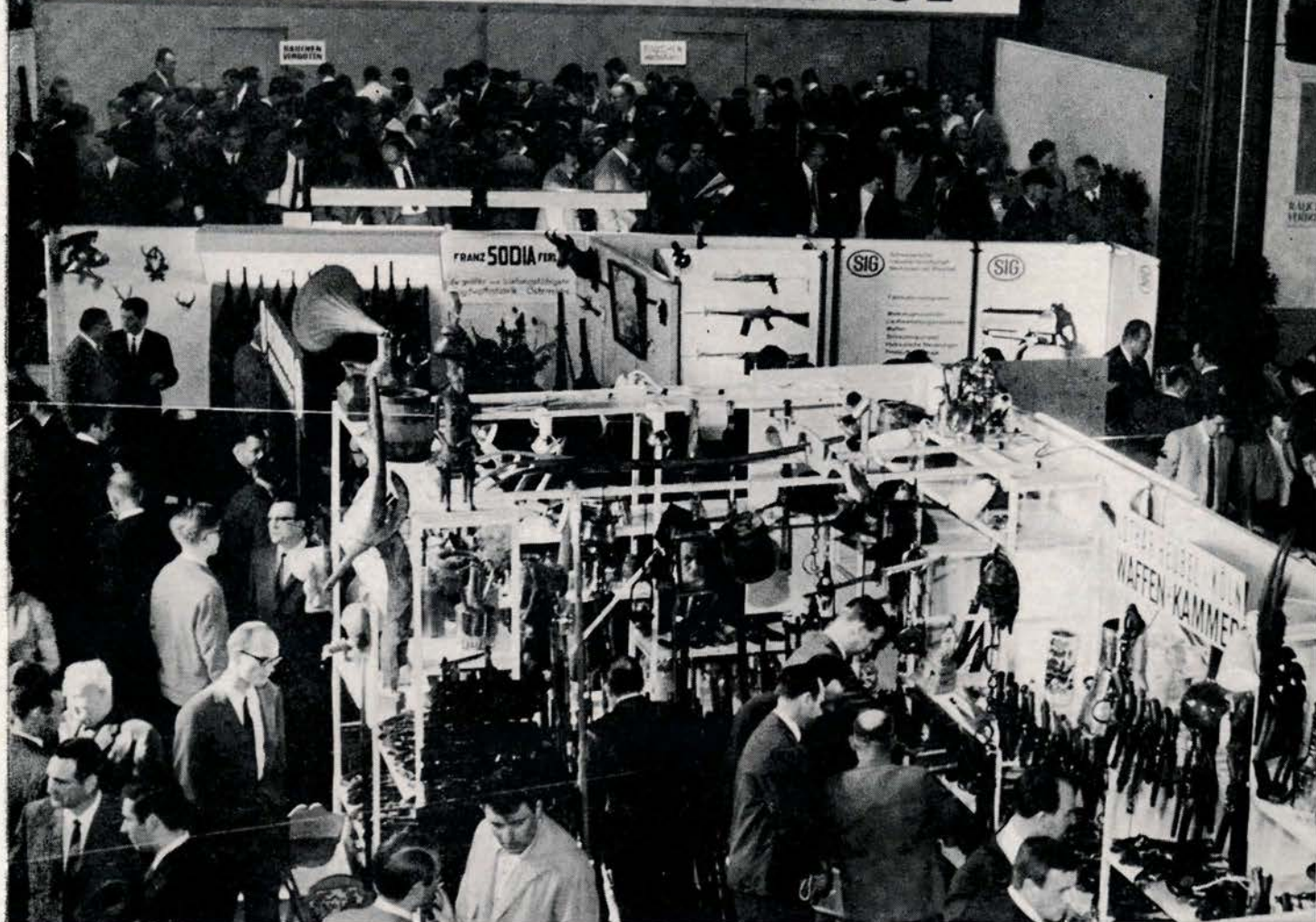
While the slide of the Model 9 is somewhat similar to the first .25 auto made by Walther (Model 1) the Bolt-latch idea could have been suggested by a little pistol introduced about 1920 by August Menz, the 4.25 Liliput; in this gun the latch was fixed, but the principle was the same.

The Model 9 is not a rugged gun and requires careful handling; particularly vulnerable is its right grip—if broken, it exposes the trigger and disconnecter bar.

The Model 9 is no longer in production; replacing it is a new gun (slightly larger) called the Model TP.

To Field Strip: Clear gun, remove magazine and pull trigger. (2) With finger nail or edge of magazine, lift up bolt latch catch. (3) Retract slide slightly and lift rear. (4) Ease off forward. Assemble in reverse order.

1. DEUTSCHE WAFFENBÖRSE



WAFFENBÖRSE—A GUN SHOW

By JAN STEVENSON

BÖRSE, according to my German-English dictionary, means "purse" or "exchange," and it's generally used in reference to the stocks, bonds, and securities market. "Waffen" of course means "weapons," and when you tack the two words together, it's best translated "gunshow"—a rare affair in Europe.

The first German Waffenbörse was held in 1968 in Schwäbisch Hall, a picturesque medieval town in Baden-Württemberg near Stuttgart, and the astounding success of the show surprised no one quite so much as its sponsors, the editors and staff of the German gun magazine "Deutsches Waffen-Journal."

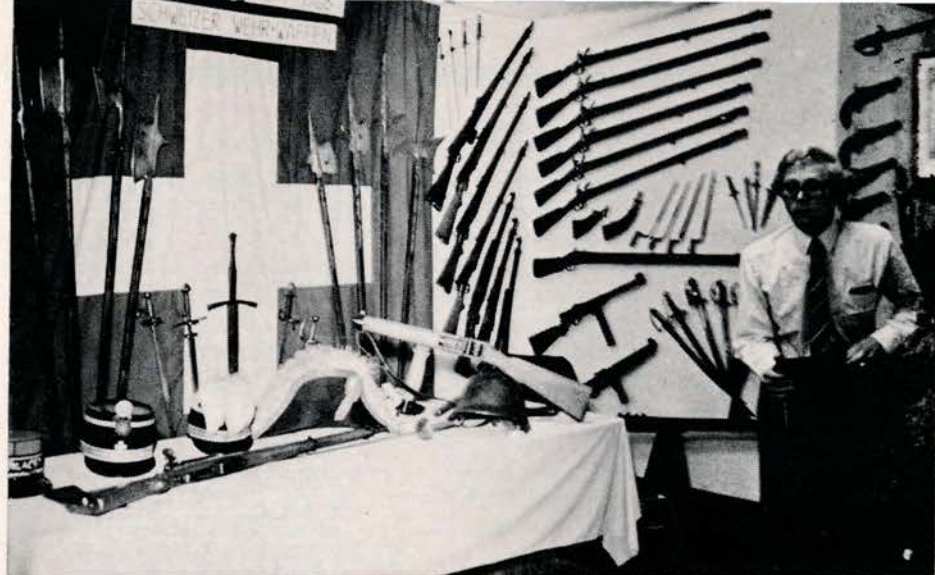
Considering that the show was the first of its type in postwar western Europe, an area where gun ownership is often throttled by complex restrictive legislation, attendance was optimistically predicted to top the 3,000 mark. By the time the show closed, it had hosted more than 10,000 visitors. There were simply no slack hours, and the historic Neubau—an enormous armory of the Middle Ages now

used as a convention hall—was constantly packed.

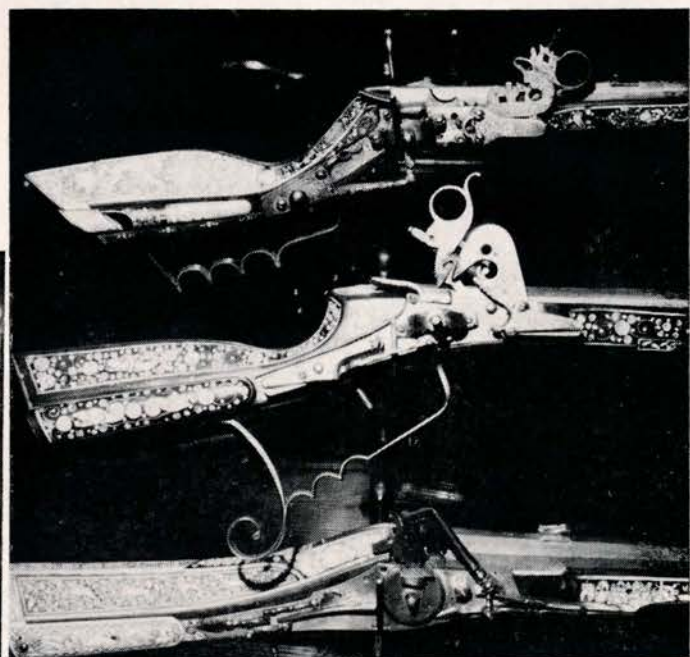
To gain an idea of the significance of the attendance, it's as if some 40,000 visitors were to come to the NRA show if you compare Germany's population with that of the U.S., and it's as if a half million "Rifleman" readers attended the annual convention if you compare circulation figures with the "Waffen-Journal."

And it was primarily the lack of a strong shooters' organization like the NRA that brought the "Waffen-Journal" into existence. While the German Schützenbund numbers an imposing 600,000 members or more, it caters primarily to air rifle competitions and small bore target shooters. The situation is the same all over Europe, with each gunning sport maintaining a myopic indifference to the fate and interests of other shooters.

The *Waffen-Journal* endeavors to fill this vacuum in Germany. The magazine is comprehensive in its coverage of all gunning interests, and both DWJ and the Waffenbörse have shown a willingness (Continued on page 58)



FOR EUROPE...



A constant stream of visitors attended the first German Waffenborse, viewing many fabulous exhibits of both antique and modern arms of every variety.

IF YOU HAVE a ruptured appendix, you don't call a plumber. Nor, if you have a stopped-up sewer, do you call your attorney. You go for advice to experts on a given subject.

Conversely, if you are honestly sincere (and sincerely honest) in a desire to serve your country, you do not recruit, as advisors, people who know nothing about the problem you propose to solve. The other side of that coin is the fact that, in most areas, reputable people refuse to support "causes" outside their field of knowledge or experience. The ethical lawyer does not diagnose illness; neither does the firearms expert lecture actors on "the Method."

Yet "The Emergency Committee On Gun Control," Colonel John Glenn, Chairman, offered instant answers to complex problems in criminology, law enforcement, and legislation—by people most of whom have no qualifications whatever in any of these sciences! Judging by its roster, the determining qualification for Committee membership would seem to be "A Big Name"—whether that name was won in a space craft, in professional sport, as a comedian, or as a sexpot in moving pictures. Yes, there are exceptions; we'll speak of them later. But, first—

Lauren Bacall, a Committee member, is a beautiful woman with outstanding physical characteristics. But what, we wonder, does she know about criminology, or guns, or law enforcement?

What makes Polly Bergen an expert in these sciences? Or columnist Ann Landers? Or conductor-composer Leonard Bernstein? Or Johnny Carson? Or farmer Hans Jensen, of Nebraska? Or Frank Sinatra of the Rat Pack? Or Walter Reuther? Or Joe Dimaggio? Or Bill Veeck "as in wreck?" Or Andy Williams? Or Sammy Davis, Jr? (Sammy Davis, Jr? The same Mr. Davis who, only yesterday, sought and got national publicity for his quick-draw prowess? What happened, Sammy? Did the newsmen lose interest?)

But perhaps the saddest example of this Committee's exploitation of famous but naive people is the name they use (and that word "use" is rich with meanings) under the title of Committee Chairman: the name of Colonel John Glenn, former astronaut and one of America's space-age heroes. But is Colonel Glenn a criminologist, an authority on law enforcement? Is he even a serious student of the history of firearms legislation?

SOME QUESTIONS... AND ANSWERS...FOR

THE JOHN GLENN COMMITTEE

By E. B. MANN

Editor's Note

There is little doubt that the Emergency Committee on Gun Control, and other such groups, were an important factor in the successful passage of the new federal gun laws. We must wonder, though, if it was the list of star-studded names or the logic behind their arguments which swayed our lawmakers.—Editor

We doubt it. If he is any of these, then the statements of his Committee, to which he has lent the prestige of his name and the weight of his reputation and popularity, betray, at very least, a strange failure on his part to study the facts which we know have been laid before him. We know, because we know that the National Shooting Sports Foundation wrote Colonel Glenn, respectfully and courteously, and sent him a thick file of data on the subjects which are the concern of his Committee—a courtesy which, to be best of our knowledge, Colonel Glenn has never acknowledged. Yet similarly conclusive evidence regarding the space program would, we are sure, have stirred the Colonel to urgent action in the years of his NASA engagement.

As admitted earlier, there are exceptions: men listed as members of the Glenn Committee who *have* experience in law and law enforcement—such men as Quinn Tamm and Thomas Reddin, the former bearing the imposing title of Director, International Association of Chiefs of Police, the latter, Chief of Police, Los Angeles, California. Quinn Tamm's affiliation with this Committee is not surprising; Tamm's fight against civilian gun ownership and his support of Senator Dodd's anti-gun propaganda dates back so far that one wonders if it may not stem purely and simply from that quaint old police un-truism that "if nobody but us cops have guns, us cops won't get shot." But Quinn Tamm does not represent all, or even a majority, of modern progressive police leaders.

Diametrically opposed to his views are those of the National Police Officers Association of America, who urge protection of "the rightful heritage of the law abiding American citizen to have and to hold firearms in lawful pursuit of the gun sports and for his self protection." Instead of licensing, registration, and sales prevention, the National Police Officers Association urges "strict enforcement of penalties for crimes committed with or aggravated by the use of a firearm," and believes that law abiding citizens "should have the right to legally purchase, without restriction, any handgun, rifle, or shotgun, excepting fully automatic weapons."

Further opposed to Tamm are at least three state associations of law enforcement officers (Wisconsin, Washington, and Texas) who recently added their votes to the long list of enforcement agencies and state legislatures who have gone on record against strict gun controls such as licensing and registration. One such group, in Wisconsin, stated its firm belief that gun registration, far from keeping guns out of criminal hands, "will instead add to enforcement problems." That same group added a statement that may well have been directed at Tamm himself when they admonished all concerned that, "Hereafter, all of you who feel you need a talking point for these ridiculous gun laws, please do not claim that law enforcement as a whole is on your side—we're not!" We pass this message

along for Director Tamm's attention.

As for Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin, if he supports the recommendations of the Committee of which he is a member, he must have done a remarkable about-face since his statements, made to the multi-million TV audiences following the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy in his city, that no gun law would have or could have prevented that crime. It is interesting to note, too, that Chief Reddin's state, California, ringingly rejected gun registration and the licensing of gun owners.

Before me is a document of twelve legal-size pages of single-space typing, mailed to me First Class under 18 cents postage. I am not especially honored by being a recipient; according to information at hand, this is a part of a nation-wide mailing of many thousands. Postage alone, to say nothing of preparation and printing, must have cost thousands of dollars. Is it impertinent, we wonder, to ask who paid it—and why?

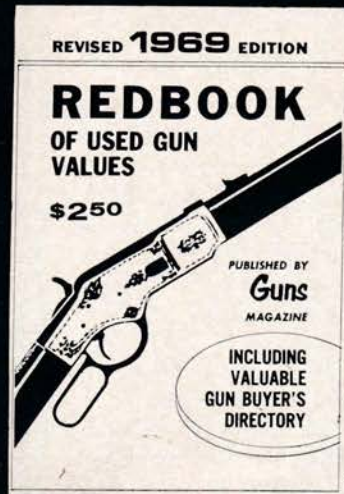
This is hardly an imposing document; it is badly written, marred with typographical errors, cheaply reproduced, less than worthy of the great names it carries. But the truly shocking thing about it is its blatant illogic, its brazen use of false statistics, and its writer's abysmal ignorance or total disregard of facts easily available to all Americans! The arguments are trite, hackneyed, disproved so often in these and other pages that repetition would be wearying. Excerpts from a two-page section titled "Fact Sheet On The Need For Stronger Gun Controls" are enough in themselves to brand the document for what it is—a hodgepodge of lies, distortions, and misinformation. For example:

1. "*In 1967, guns were used in 7,700 murders.*" False. Deaths, maybe; and all deplorable. But murder is a word the lawyers on your star-studded roster should not permit you to use loosely. The figure quoted includes accidental deaths, homicides of criminals by police officers in the processes of law enforcement. As for the accidents, we—not you—are doing something about them. In spite of the steady increase in gun ownership and the shooting sports, the incidence of firearms accidents has steadily decreased, due solely to the work of shooters themselves through such agencies as the NRA Hunter Safety and Home Safety programs, and others. As for the shooting of criminals by police officers—we suggest that it be applauded.

2. "*Since 1900, almost 800,000 Americans have been killed by guns—more than have lost their lives in all the wars in the history of the United States.*" Gentlemen, you know that this "statistic" has been disclaimed by the sources, to whom it was attributed; that it is a falsehood, invented as a blurb for a viciously anti-gun publication.

3. "*President John F. Kennedy—killed by a mail order rifle obtained with no questions asked.*" False. Questions were asked, in strict accordance with federal law, and answered falsely, (Continued on page 53)

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PULL!

By DICK MILLER

"IF I CAN consistently break 96 16 yard targets, why can't I break a hundred?" was the plaintive contribution of one trapshooter to a sporting goods store Monday Morning Quarterback session.

A fast answer to that plaintive query would be that any shooter who is regularly breaking 96x100 is going to break the hundred, and soon.

One of this particular shooter's quarterbacking friends chipped in with what was probably the best answer for his case, which was that this shooter shot only once a week at best.

The complaining shooter has something in common with the Sunday golfer, who can be happy when he breaks one hundred, which in golfing parlance refers to an entirely different set of circumstances. The golfer who breaks a hundred shoots a score of less than 100 which is reasonably enjoyable exercise but which won't win any trophies. Golfers who play only once a week rarely sharpen all of their strokes to the point where they can put together a game near par.

Most once-a-week trapgunners must resign themselves to losing a target here and there, for a score in the nineties, which, as in the case of golf, is an enjoyable outing, but which will rarely take home any trophies.

A respectable proportion of trapgunners who score with regularity in the nineties need only more shooting, even if it is only of the once-a-week variety to reach the perfect hundred. Shooting is, after all, a blend of physical and mental skills, and requires some conditioning of the mind and body for better performance.

Some shooters who lose the hundred by only a few birds do so simply because of fatigue brought on from shooting one hundred shells. Other hundred hopefuls miss their elusive goal only because they cannot discipline their minds to concentrate on one hundred separate shots. Obviously, the best way to treat this malady is to shoot more, so that the shooter builds stamina and becomes

accustomed to treating each of the hundred shots as a separate challenge.

Any veteran clay target shooter will tell you that many a shot is missed before the shooter ever pulls the trigger. By that they mean that the shooter's mind has wandered from the task at hand, namely, breaking the next target (that one and no more). More often than not, when a shooter starts thinking about total score, the next post, the last few targets, etc., a big fat "zero" goes up on the score sheet. How do I know? Experience, my dear friends, experience.

My first fifty-straight handicap patch was delayed because, after breaking forty-nine straight, my attention strayed to one of the factory men along the fence, and when I called for the fiftieth target, I was thinking of asking him for the patch instead of breaking the target.

The shooter whose hang-up triggered this column said in answer to my question that his four misses that produced the string of ninety-sixes were scattered, and were not predictable. I know other shooters, including myself, whose efforts to go straight were sabotaged by one post, one field, or one type of target. For example, I once recorded a string of 14 consecutive 96x100 scores at skeet, because I missed the same target each time. When it became agony to step up to that post, I got a case of shells, and stood on that post until I could break that target without fear.

Early in my trap days, I lost more good scores than I care to admit on post five alone. In one Grand, for example, I broke every target on posts one through four and not many from post five. Because I was unsuccessful in petitioning the rules committee to eliminate post five, I had to learn to shoot it (by positioning my left foot more to the right of the house, and by starting my swing from a point more to the right of the traphouse).

You can easily blow the hundred by lifting your head off the stock ever so slightly to see if that shot you concentrated so hard on was a hit or miss.

Scratch one target if you fail to position the gunstock correctly on your shoulder. Record a "zero" on the score sheet if you stop your swing, ever so slightly. These are only some of the more common reasons for missed targets. There are many others.

A shooter trying to break targets with a gun which does not fit him perfectly may hit every target for which he compensates correctly, and miss only those for which he fails to allow for the lack of fit. For example, it is quite possible to break good scores, even perfect scores, with a field-stocked gun, if the shooter remembers to hold over or "black-out" each target. But, if in the case of a hard angle, or just a lapse of memory, he fires point blank with the field-stocked gun, scratch that target!

The size or importance of a shoot often dictates who will shoot ninety-six and who will break the hundred. Some shooters shoot better when the stakes are higher, and others can't stand the pressure.

It has always been my opinion, and an opinion supported by many shooters I know, that at least one thousand of the three thousand or so shooters who compete for the Grand American Handicap on a given day are of equal mechanical shooting ability. Since there are only ten trophies at stake on that day, the ten shooters who collect the hardware are those who are least susceptible, on that day, to the pressures of competing for a national championship. So far as I know, or can learn, there is only one way to improve tournament shooting performance, and that is to compete in more tournaments.

If you, or one of your shooting buddies raises the question, "Why, if I consistently break 96, don't I break the hundred?" the answer may come quickly with a few more tournaments.

A very large number of trapshooters who can break 96 with regularity, but who find the perfect century elusive, will try to solve the problem with a new, or different, gun. And, this can be the answer. It also can be a figment of the imagination. A new, or different, gun can have just that tiny margin of lock time, swing, or stock fit that will garner more targets for the shooter. Then again, he may be kidding himself. The answer may not be in a new gun, but in learning to shoot the one he has. It is difficult to give long-distance, or even close-up, advice as to whether a new gun is indicated. Certainly, a new gun is not indicated on the basis of a single round, a single day, a month, or in some cases, even a single year.

Some aspiring gunners may find that it may take two seasons before a

gun becomes so much an extension of themselves that any or all misses need not be blamed on the gun. More than one shooting authority has said that you can learn to shoot any gun well, if you will stay with it long enough, and I am inclined to agree.

Where targets are recorded can have a bearing on scores. Gun clubs make strenuous efforts in most cases to throw uniform targets. But, it is next to impossible to throw absolutely uniform targets, and to duplicate the same conditions for light, background, winds, footing, etc. If you or a friend seem to be in a rut as a result of recording all your targets at one club, don't jump to conclusions regarding your shooting ability until you have tried one or more other clubs. I would probably have quit shooting in favor of some other sport if I had confined all my shooting to one of the first clubs I tried.

This was a small, two-trap club. Both of the traps seemed to be about the same, with the same background, wind, elevation, etc., but for most of us, scores varied widely on the two traps. Scores of 25 straight on one trap and fifteen on the other were not uncommon. The members seemed to accept this as a fact of life, but I could not. When I finally prevailed on a friendly factory man to check the offending trap, he found that it had been improperly installed, and marveled that anyone had been able to score as many as 15 shooting over it. This experience could be a guideline for any club having a trap over which it seems too many scores are substandard and for which the reasons are not otherwise obvious. For still other shooters who shoot good scores with regularity, but not quite good enough, it is well to check to see if these scores are a blend of practice and tournament, all tournament, or all practice. Without being aware of it, some shooters vary their hold, swing, etc. enough in tournaments as opposed to practice, that they become in fact two different shooters. It may also be said that these shooters are using two different guns. If you cheek loosely, and hold the gun loosely in practice, then cheek harder or tighter, and hold the gun more firmly in tournaments, you are, in a very real sense, shooting two different guns, because the stock dimensions are changed by your cheeking and hold.

Because it is early in the new year, I have devoted this space to the problems of the shooter who may be just a few targets away from a great 1969. For those of you who do not have this problem, my congratulations, and best wishes for an even better year over the traps.



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GLENN COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 49)

in breach of federal laws against use of the mails to defraud—just as criminals do and will break laws regarding guns.

4. "The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.—killed by a rifle in the hands of an escaped criminal who was free to buy and possess the gun despite his known record." False. Federal laws have, for years, prohibited purchase or possession of a gun by known criminals and/or fugitives from justice. Again, the killer broke the law—as criminals are prone to do.

5. "Senator Robert F. Kennedy—killed by a cheap pistol, the purchase of which did not require a permit or registration." True. But a member of your Committee, Police Chief of Los Angeles, said at the time, that permit requirement nor registration would have prevented the crime.

6. "Forty-seven Americans—shot down from the top of the University of Texas Tower by a man who amassed an arsenal of weapons without permit or registration." True. But no law even you have advocated would have prevented that clean-cut, law abiding, model of rectitude from "acquiring an arsenal." His sin was possession of a brain cancer. Abolish that, if you can, by legislation.

7. "In almost all states, guns may legally be bought by criminals . . ." False. In no state can guns be bought legally by criminals (see 4 above). Why not enforce the laws we have, instead of inventing new ones? Or if the laws we have cannot be enforced, how could we enforce the new ones?

8. "The United States had 5,126 gun 'murders' (or deaths?) in 1963, whereas England and Wales, with strict gun laws, had only 24." This is akin to saying that fewer people were killed by automobiles in Bermuda, where there are no automobiles, than in the United States, where there are millions. England's strict gun laws have, over many decades, reduced the incidence of guns in private ownership to less than 1 per cent of that in the United States (where citizens have stubbornly defended, and will defend, their right as free men to own firearms.)

But you have a point here. The trouble is that you have completely ignored it! Permit me to make it for you:

It is true that England has less murder than we have. London and New York City, for example, have almost identical populations—and their

gun laws, too, are almost identical. In 1966, New York City reported a total of 654 murders. Of these, 184 were committed with handguns—the specific type of firearms most strictly restricted by the Sullivan Law. In the same year, London reported only 36 murders, with all weapons.

Note, please, that even if there had been not one single gun in New York City, New York City would still have had more than 12 times the number of murders committed in London! Gun regulation had nothing to do with it: in this, both cities are identical. So—why? Are Americans just more violent, more likely to kill, than their British cousins? Yes, probably. Violence has been our heritage, and if there is blame for that, let others place it. But criminologists and law enforcement leaders point to other factors:

They point out that, in England, citizens respect the law enforcement officer, and support him. Courts act swiftly and with stern justice once a criminal is caught and convicted. The British public and the British press display no maudlin sympathy for the murderer; they reserve their compassion for the murdered and those bereaved by it. The sickish sentimentality, "There's no such thing as a bad boy!" never came from England! There are bad boys, and bad girls, and bad men, and bad women—and they do get guns, or other weapons, laws to the contrary notwithstanding. Let us by all means prevent, if we can, their access to any weapon. But might it not be more sensible, gentlemen, to direct your talents, and your prestige, and your money to the promotion of respect for law, respect for law enforcement, and realistic court attitude and court action toward crime and criminals—rather than to direct those powers against an inanimate object which cannot act except by human direction, which cannot act criminally except by criminal direction?

9. Under "comparative homicide rates" in states having strong firearm controls as against states with "weak" firearms laws, four "strong law" states are listed in one column, four "weak law" states in the other. But, gentlemen, did you forget that the state having the lowest homicide rate of all (Vermont) has practically no legislative restriction whatever on private firearms ownership? Did you overlook the fact, reported by the FBI, that New York City, with the strictest

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firearms laws in the nation, had a homicide rate higher than that of 131 out of 183 cities specially studied by the FBI in 1965? Or did your copywriters just choose figures to bear out your contention?

Gentlemen, in the words of the most powerful of all of your anti-gun allies (whose name does not appear on your roster), "Come, let us reason together!" If you have read the records you know that we who love guns hate criminal use of guns as much or more than you do, that we started years before you did to seek solutions to that problem, asking for better laws and better enforcement of existing laws before you were aware that there was a problem. We have opposed only the harassment of law abiding people by laws duplicating existing laws or by laws historically

proven to be useless. What you want, basically, is what we want: freedom from fear of guns in the hands of bad people. But we who oppose your methods are not bad people. Guns in our hands will never hurt you.

Thanks to you and your well-intentioned but misleading efforts, and the influence your outcries have exerted on our legislative bodies, some 25,000,000 law abiding American citizens are condemned to useless harassment by laws that will not prevent a single crime in our country—laws that will add to, rather than decrease, the burden of law enforcement—laws that criminals will laugh at—laws that law enforcement itself will be forced to ignore because it lacks the manpower and the funds to enforce them! We suffer—and your country suffers the waste of millions of man hours

and tax dollars—because you thought your eminence in your fields gave you the right and the wisdom to invade ours. It doesn't—any more than our experience in the field of gun legislation entitles us to tell you how to fly space ships, or play baseball, or wear a revealing neckline.

It takes far longer to correct an error than to make one; so there'll be plenty of time for you to weigh the results of your adventure in propaganda. We suggest that you do that. Study the crime statistics for 1969 and for 1970. See if the laws you promoted have produced the results you expected.

Then, in the midst of your disappointment, consider the old adage about the shoemaker, advising him to stick to his last. It has a core of sound wisdom!



GUN CASES

(Continued from page 25)

for storage. In the hunting car another type of case is needed. This is a full length saddle leather sheath, with a closed end fastened with an ordinary buckle. This type of case is made of heavy skirting leather and will save a rifle from a vast number of hard knocks. It should not be lined but should present only the flesh side of the hide to the rifle. The case should not be made of sheepskin or any soft leather for if it is, it simply will not cushion and protect the weapon as it should. On one safari, I had the Shoellkopf Co. of Dallas, Texas, make four of these cases for me. This was 10 years ago, and since then I have hauled these cases around the world. In a pinch such a case will serve as a rifle scabbard for use on the saddle.

Before it got to be popular to hijack airplanes, it was possible to mount the loading ramp with your rifle in such a case, over your shoulder. You could then stack it in a corner of the passenger compartment and no one thought anything about it. Later on, when aircraft were forced to fly to Cuba, they got pretty tough about packing your ordnance on board. If the airline had the policy, the stewardess would cart the rifle up into the pilot's compartment and give it to you at the conclusion of the flight. Now, it is generally taboo to try to board at all with the shooting iron draped over your shoulder. It is required that it be turned over to the baggage smashers, and this is a hazardous business—especially if you are going several thousand miles and will spend as many thousand bucks for a hunting

foray. I have given my rifle, in its full length leather sheath, to the baggage people and then wondered what kind of shape it would be in after four hundred pounds of baggage was tossed into the aircraft hold atop of it. The leather scabbard is alright for cover against the ordinary rough handling of the hunting car but it is not enough for air travel!

On horseback, the saddle scabbard is a must. There are many styles and the most of these are satisfactory. The quality of the leather should be just as genuine as the cases made for me by Schoellkopf; that is of heavy skirting cowhide. The rifle takes quite a licking on the saddle and it must be protected by the thickness of the sheath. Despite its good quality it should not be made oversize. You see many scabbards that are made for a universal fit. These will accept any rifle, whether with scope or without, feature a full length cap over the stock and altogether are far too bulky and certainly too heavy. The rifle swings on one side of the horse and it usually weighs eight to nine pounds. If the scabbard which carries the gun weighs another five pounds, you have far too much swung on one side of the animal; it tends to turn the saddle and will give him a sore back after a few days riding.

The saddle scabbard should not have a cover over its mouth. When the rifle is needed it is usually in a great hurry. If the case has a zipper closing the open end, or a bungle-some cap over the stock, or some other fol-de-rol, the chances for a fast

shot are lost. I have my scabbards made with a minimum of length and with the stock in the open. I can then grasp the rifle in the small of the grip before dismounting. The gun is hauled out of the leather as I step down off the horse.

It has grown popular in the west to equip the pickup truck—the most common means of transport in the ranch country—with gun racks. These are mounted in the back of the driver's cab, over the rear window. These racks are made of metal and are lined with plastic so that they do not scratch or mar the finish on the rifle. This device works very well; it makes the rifle easily accessible, it is out of the way, and the gun may ride there day after day spared from the vicissitudes of the weather.

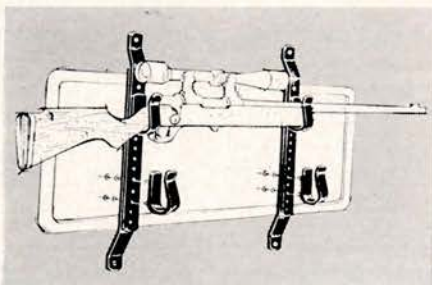
During the past decade a new kind of travel case has come along. This is the plastic hardshell, and it has a lot going for it. It is lined with polyurethane and gives the firearm perfect protection. The better cases have a ribbed shell that provides extra strength and protection. Also, the good ones have a piano-type hinge along the back side which gives the proper strength to the lid. The lid is closed by a series of three snap fasteners and there is ordinarily one or two simple locks. Within the case there are tie-downs to further secure the rifle. However the poly-lined interior anchors the gun once the lid is closed so that the chances of it shifting are virtually nil. These cases for air travel are the best yet developed.

The larger of the new hardshell boxes will hold two firearms. These are arranged so that neither gun touches the other. There are usually straps for further securing the guns, and there is always room to put in a

hundred cartridges or so, a cleaning rod, and some cleaning materials.

I have an all-aluminum case which is lined with sponge and is of quite high quality. I have taken one of these all-aluminum cases from Alaska to Asia with me and it has provided perfect protection to the two rifles within. There is a sturdy lock, three fasteners, and a full length piano-type hinge, also a place for a name plate. After countless long air journeys and through the mangling which only air freight handlers can give a piece of baggage this case has no damage to show.

While this kind of a case, as well as the plastic hardshells are alright for hunting trips, they are not to be used for firearms storage. Once in 1963, having concluded a safari in the NFD of Kenya, I came back to Nairobi and left my rifles with a forwarding agent, to be returned by water freight. The agent stored the gun case, an all-



Rack for truck cab by San Angelo.

plastic hardshell with poly in a warehouse where during the day the temperatures went to 100 and at night dropped to 50 degrees. When the rifles finally reached me, after about 4 months, both were deeply rusted; one so badly it was pitted on the outer surfaces. The poly-lined case had reacted to the temperature changes and with the condensation that occurred, had collected and held this moisture and the rust had resulted. The moral of this tale is simple, don't store your guns in one of these cases. Neither in Nairobi nor at home!

Another bad offender in this regard is the case, whether of hard leather or plastic, that is lined with sheepskin. This stuff is one of the worst offenders on the score of collecting moisture. They say that sheep's wool has lanolin in it and this will resist the moisture but I do not subscribe to this theory. In my experience sheepskin in a scabbard is murderous on any firearm that is stored in it. Don't tuck away any gun in a sheepskin case for long periods of time.

At home, I keep my rifles and shotguns in a series of gun cabinets. Some of these cases are glass-fronted, oth-

ers have solid doors. During the wet weather season I place a small bulb inside the larger cases and permit it to burn day and night, this keeps the moisture out and prevents condensation. The glass-fronted cabinets permit a look-see without removing a gun from its rack. Sweaty hands, especially by some persons, will induce more rusting than an immersion in salt water. When parties call to look over the battery I encourage them to gaze on the shooting irons without handling them. If, however, you get the fellow who simply must handle each gun, work the bolt, check it, and pull the trigger, then you have to go over each gun when he departs with a rag containing some type of preventative.

The gun cabinet keeps dust off the battery, mitigates changes in temperature, reduces the nuisance of condensation and moisture collection, and makes a good deal easier the job of keeping a great many guns in good order. A number of my rifles and some of my shotguns have been chrome-plated. This is done by the Marker Machine Co. of Charleston, Ill., and is a surefire way to eliminate the hazard of rusting. There is a black chrome which is applied to the outer surfaces which has a high lustre to it and this together with the regular chrome job on the barrel and bolt, makes the rifle impervious to not only the elements but to those fellows who simply have to handle the gun as it stands in the gun case. I seldom oil these chromed jobs, although Marker suggests that it be done, especially the outside. I have never found one that rusted through its black chrome yet.

Pistols, I store in a metal chest with a vertical series of drawers in it, each drawer holding two handguns. In each drawer there are two sacks of silica-jel to absorb moisture. These handguns are watched for signs of corrosion for they are handled a good deal and quite often hands are sweaty. After firing I scrub out the bore and go over the exterior with an oily rag. If the gun has not been fired in some time I haul it forth every two weeks and inspect it. The bore will usually require no more oil but the outside will get a swipe from the cloth. The drawers are of metal and while painted are still susceptible to changes in temperature with the resulting condensation.

Shooters with only a few guns may, as I do with those rifles and shotguns which I am shooting continually, keep them in an open rack just within the gun room, where there is no protection. Dust settles on them and passing breezes deposit moisture. Because

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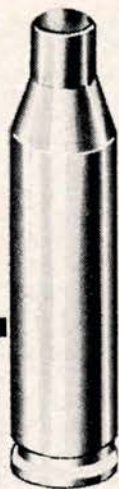
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these dozen guns are in constant use, they are always under my eye and I am alert to signs of deterioration. After firing each day, those that have been used are immediately cleaned and oiled, and the daily attention keeps all of them in good shape. A rack is not a gun case, but it serves well if you will occasionally look over the battery stacked there.

Occasionally, I get letters from soldiers who are going overseas for a period of several years. They want to know how to store their ordnance so it will keep in good order until they return. There are about as many things not to do in a storage job of this kind as there are things to do. One of the items to avoid is stuffing the firearm into any kind of a case. Another is not to run a grease-impregnated cord through the bore and leave it there. Neither should you stuff an oily patch in the muzzle. And, do not store the guns with any clothing, leather, or plastics.

A chest should be made of lumber, seasoned and dried, and it should be large enough so no gun touches another. The rifles, once in place, should be wedged apart. The chest should be stored flat, not stood on end. To do this will tend to drain the grease in

the bore toward the action. It should be marked so that in storage the firearms are all in a horizontal position.

The gun should be pulled out of the stock and greased with a heavy preservative. This should be scrubbed into the bore but the barrel does not have to be plugged with it. The action should be dismounted and all parts thoroughly coated. Then the gun can be again assembled to the stock. The wood needs no particular attention unless you want to go over it with a good stock preservative like Linseed. If there is a scope on the rifle this should be removed and stored separately. Iron sights can be left in place and greased with the preservative just as the gun is treated.

During World War II, I shipped home some booty rifles. These I dunked in heavy preservative before shipping. Some of these guns have never been degreased to this day. The metal is still in perfect order. The grease still just as sticky and persistent. Weapons put up in this fashion and then locked away in a wooden rifle chest will withstand several years of storage if the place where the chest is located is reasonably free from temperature changes, is dry, and free of condensation.



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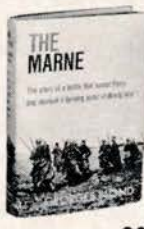


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DAVIDSON DOUBLE

(Continued from page 21)

have had other foreign guns will undoubtedly recall that a good many were packaged in a pulpy pressed board which fell apart when opened.

I have, in the past fifteen years, examined and shot many doubles—from Spain, Italy, etc.—in this same price range. Some have been good and some have been downright lousy. For less than \$100 (or even for a few bucks more if the price should rise), the Davidson 63-B is one of the better buys. My reasons for saying this may not cover all of the factors you might consider, but it's my neck.

The first consideration is over-all finish. My 63-B showed excellent metal-to-wood matching with only a few slight gaps. The metal parts which were not brush-nickle finished showed a better than average blue job, which means that the polishing job, done before it was blued, was better than average. The action opened and closed easily, and the safety moved without the grating sound heard on many low-priced doubles. About the only thing I found wrong with the finish was the engraving. I've got a thing about engraving that says if it can't be perfect,

it shouldn't be done at all. The engraving on the 63-B is adequate for the price, but I would prefer half as much done twice as well.

Shooting the 20 gauge 63-B was a real joy. After I had patterned the gun—not so much to count pellets, but more to be sure that it shot where it was pointed—I took a couple of boxes of Federal No. 8 skeet loads, a hand trap, and a willing slave to operate it, and went into a nearby field. Being only a fair to poor shot-gunner, the number of targets busted is immaterial, and could prove embarrassing. However, the fit of the stock and the general feel of the gun did much to raise my lowly average. I found that the close-in birds were smashed to bits by the left (modified) barrel, and busted rather well by the right (Imp. Cyl.) tube. Those birds that flew a bit farther were only dusted by the more open barrel, but still scattered nicely with the tight tube.

In the field, the 63-B did itself proud on the opening day of pheasant. The birds were rising close, and the 20 proved adequate enough to get me the limit before noon. After that,

this little 20 connected on the first two cottontails that scattered from brush piles. Then I quit while ahead.

Having had some experience with lower-priced doubles, as I mentioned, here are some of the things I looked for on the 53-B, and *didn't find*: finish marred and a poor fit at junction of buttstock and buttplate; sharp edges on frame and other metal parts; matted rib that looks like it had a permanent wave; fore-end that fits either too loose or too tight; rough chambering; rough wood in flutes and valley of pistol grip. There are a couple of other features of the 63-B worth noting. These guns are all proofed by the Spanish proof house at Eibar; but in addition, are fired at the factory with American shells (the two empties are included for your inspection). There are some imports that will fire European shells OK, but will hang up with U.S. fodder. Also, each 63-B comes with a pair of snap caps at no additional cost.

All in all, I found the Davidson 63-B a nice gun at a reasonable price.

There is a magnum version of the 63-B available at about \$115, and a little fancier version of the standard 63-B (called the BDL) at about \$110, which comes in the 20 and .410 models only.



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WAFFEN-BORSE

(Continued from page 47)

to come intelligently to grips with the firearms legislation problem. Unfortunately, it's substantially the same problem in Germany as in the U.S., although their laws are already harsher than anything that's been seriously proposed in Congress.

More than 2800 visitors to the Waffen-Börse signed a protest book to register their objection to anti-gun bills then pending before the Bundestag, and more doubtless would have done so had there not been a constant line waiting to sign.

Dr. Rolf Hinze, one of Germany's most erudite lawyers, writes regularly for the *Waffen-Journal* on the subject of weapons law. More than that, he

spends a major portion of his time travelling the country defending shooters in court when they've run afoul of Germany's complex maze of arms statutes which both the police and the general legal practitioner are ill-qualified to interpret.

In order to cut away some of the haze of misconceptions which shrouds German weapons law, DWJ held an evening of lectures at a local hotel the second night of the Waffen-Börse. This assumed an attendance of about fifty people, but at the last minute the gathering was moved to the banquet hall of the local gymnasium with a seating capacity of 250. Over four hundred people showed up, and al-

though no standing room was left, not a single person left until the meeting broke up at midnight.

The German shooters who made up the audience were concerned primarily with the rather inexplicable logic behind the law books. For instance, any military rifle manufactured since 1898 is classified as war material. Thus the purchase, transport, or sale of a 98K bolt rifle is strictly forbidden. However, if the bayonet lug is ground down and the graduations on the radial sight for ranges over three hundred meters are removed, the weapon is then classified as a sporting arm, and it may move legally in commerce. A scope can be mounted, and it's still legal. But is it less lethal than when it first left the plant, and if not, for what purpose was the law structured?

Any semi-automatic military rifle, no matter what modifications it undergoes, is thoroughly *verboten*. An M-14, for instance, would be illegal even if the magazine capacity were reduced to two shots. Yet the Winchester Model 100, which uses the same White's patent gas system as the M-14, and fires the same cartridge, is considered a sporting arm. One is left with the conclusion that essentially the difference between a legal weapon and an illegal one is just a question of how much wood is attached!

The shooters made their points well, and I gained the impression that the German enforcement officials profited from the opportunity to mingle with gunners who were doing their best to abide by the law, and who only asked that the law be founded on logic. On the other hand, gun enthusiasts were able to see the police as intelligent individuals doing a difficult and necessary job as best they could under unenviable circumstances. It was the kind of frank and friendly exchange of views that should be encouraged everywhere.

Police and governmental participation at the Waffenbörse was not limited to speechmaking—their exhibits at the Neubau were excellent and educational. The State Criminal Investigations Bureaus of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg cooperated in producing a fascinating display of violation weapons: walking stick guns, zip guns, and home-made silencers. The Staatliche Sprengkommando of Stuttgart, a bomb disposal unit, presented a table full of deactivated warheads of the type that these iron-nerved technicians dig up by the dozen each week. And the Baden-Württemberg State Proof House at Ulm displayed a fascinating collection of arms that had failed the mandatory proof firing.

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The Swiss Army had a comprehensive exhibit entitled "650 Years of Military Shooting in Switzerland" that traced the development of Swiss military arms from pikes and crossbows to the Model 57 assault rifle. Most interesting was an experimental prototype of the Furrer M41 submachinegun with the side-mounted toggle-lock mechanism.

All told, there were seventy exhibitors, coming from Germany, Denmark, England, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland, and fifteen more had to be turned down for lack of space. Some 5,000 arms, valued at three-quarter million dollars, were on display, with antiques predominating.

Barthel von Heilbronn, who has probably the finest Colt collection in Europe, presented an elegant display of percussion, transition, and early cartridge pistols of both European and American origin. K. E. Skafte, the Danish antique arms dealer, showed a fine collection of decorated wheellocks, flintlocks, and powder flasks.

The German Klingenmuseum at Solingen sent three swords. The first, a bronze dated 500 B.C., was associated with King Darius I of Persia. A Samurai sword with original case had been presented to Adolf Hitler by the Emperor of Japan. The third was Chancellor Otto von Bismarck's personal dress sword. These blades were insured for nearly \$15,000.

Of the cartridge collections, Hans Bert Lockhoven's display of early self contained rounds which tied in with lavish illustrations from old reference books was notable. Hans Erlmeier, co-author of the *Manual of Pistol and Revolver Cartridges*, presented an elegant sampling from his vast collection of handgun cartridges arranged according to projectile types.

Of the industrial exhibits, SIG of Switzerland had the most constantly mobbed table of the show. Set against a backdrop of mural-sized photographs, every weapon from the SIG line was available for handling and inspection, including a number of cut-away models.

Steyr-Daimler of Austria was on hand with the re-vamped Mannlicher line, and Franz-Sodia of Ferlach had a first-rate sampling of their fine doubles and drillings. Rheinmetall had an interesting exhibit on barrel manufacture by the hammer forging process. And Mauser, though not formally

present, were much in evidence with samples of their Model 66 bolt rifle, and prototypes of the not-yet-released HSc pistol which turned up in dealers' displays.

If it was a fine show for the gun fancier, the long term rewards may be even more impressive. For the American shooter can only be envious of the amount of favorable publicity the Waffenhörse garnered. Both of the German TV networks covered the show twice each for a total of twenty minutes of viewing on Sunday afternoon and Monday and Wednesday evening prime time. Thirty-five news representatives showed up for DWJ's press conference, and substantial write-ups subsequently appeared in such papers as the "Stuttgarter Zeitung" and the influential "Die Welt" of Hamburg. "Stern," Germany's equivalent to "Life," worked on a feature for a forthcoming issue and four radio stations gave coverage. All press reports to date have treated the Waffenhörse well indeed.

One reason for this excellent bit of press-relations is that the Waffenhörse staff are newsmen to the core, and find the publicity game old hat indeed. The *Deutsches Waffenhörse* was founded three years ago by Schwäbisch Hall publisher Emil Schwend, with Horst Schankliss of the local newspaper as editor in chief. The first issues, though admirably done from a journalistic standpoint, were pretty spotty on technical accuracy. The technical deficiencies have been cured by dint of three years of hard study, and by the addition of German arms authority Richard Horlacher to the staff. With the assistance of Schwend-group reporter Hans Herbert Frank, Schankliss and Horlacher are now turning out a publication that earns even the admiration of notably hard-nosed German weapons engineers with whom I've spoken.

If the future of the magazine is well secured, that of the Waffenhörse certainly seems so as well. The enormous attendance figures and the public enthusiasm for the event still has its sponsors somewhat dazed, and several German cities have made bids to have the next show moved to their convention facilities. As the "NRA show" of Europe, the Waffenhörse is off to a fine start, and for American shooters attending, it seemed just like home.

Annual NRA Show and Exhibit

The 98th Annual National Rifle Association Meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., from March 29 through April 3. If you have never attended an NRA show, you should try to attend this one; if you have attended before, come again.



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TEFLON-COATED CARBINES

(Continued from page 39)

still there with these new coated guns, but it is greatly reduced. Some of the reduction may be due to the fact that the finish is applied to the metal, thus adding to the tightness of the action, but a good deal is due to the muting effect of the finish itself. Pulling back on the slide of a new coated carbine is quite an experience, especially for those who own a standard carbine. Another factor worth remembering is that no lubrication is required on any of the parts coated with Teflon-S; thus you don't have to worry about cold weather jamming because of congealed oil or grease.

Universal is offering the Teflon-S coating on their sporterized version of the carbine, not the military style. Called the Universal .30 TC, it features a walnut stock with Monte

metal has rubbed on metal.

As the photo on the opening page of this article shows, the new Universal Teflon .30 TC comes in a variety of colors; olive green; black, blue, tan, and white. The finish, discounting the color, is smooth and somewhat dull. I have not had a chance to see the black colored finish as yet, but would think that it would be more attractive than all but the most highly polished custom blueing.

Of all of the major components of this carbine, only the bolt, front and rear sights, and the inside of the barrel are not coated with Teflon-S. The coating on the clip makes it snick into place with nary a sign of sticking or binding, and the slide works like velvet. I understand that Teflon S, although a lot tougher than its counter-

on the TC with the Universal base, which is included, and which fits either the Universal or Weaver rings.

The Universal action, with its redesigned slide, double recoil springs and guides, and modified gas piston and housing, is a far cry from the original GI Carbine with its inherent bugs—and with the crowning touch of Teflon-S protection, it is about as fool-proof as it could be made within the confines of the basic action. If you have a bad taste in your mouth from shooting the GI carbine; try a new Universal TC. And, if you have never shot any .30 Carbine before, try this one before you decide if a Carbine is for you. Perhaps you'll find yourself among those of us who have found a shooting friend, yet cannot say exactly why we like it so. Many gun writers have tried to explain the "Carbine Enigma," and yet no one can pinpoint the reason for its fantastic sales record. With the new Universal TC, shooters will have the best of the



Steps in Teflon-coating process: sandblasting; spraying; baking.

Carlo comb, ideal for scope use. Using the Universal side mount (the base is included with the rifle), we mounted a Universal 4x20 scope, and found that the comb height was just right.

Shooting the Teflon-coated carbine was a sheer joy; not one hang-up in more than 300 rounds, using both military surplus and new commercial loads. But it has been my experience that hang-ups are rare in any of the Universal carbines—at least in the half-dozen or so that I have fired. What really shook me was the absence of any visible sign of wear or finish removal on those action parts—receiver and slide—which were coated with Teflon-S. Now I will admit that 300 rounds of test firing is not a whole lot, but even after 50 or 100 rounds in a non-coated carbine, you can see signs of the blue finish missing, showing a silvery mark where

parts used in the kitchen, cannot take the extremely high temperatures encountered in stove-top cooking, although it will most certainly take any heat generated by sustained firing in the carbine. It would be interesting to think about the velocities attainable with a Teflon coated barrel and a Teflon bullet?

But, back to realities. I will be the first to admit that the new Universal Teflon TC Carbine will not please everyone, but I'll go out on a limb to say that aficionados of the .30 Carbine will take to this new breed like never before. The TC retains enough of the original carbine look and feel, and yet the "sporter" stock will brighten the eyes of those who regretted the low comb and rough pine feel of the military version. Those who want a scope on their carbine will hail the ease with which they can mount a scope

past, combined with the most modern technological, design, and material advances—who could ask for more?

As I said before, the Universal TC carbine may not be everyone's cup of tea; yet, this is, I believe, just the beginning of a whole new era in firearms protective coatings. It took a bit of daring on the part of the management of Universal to introduce Teflon to the firearms field. I am sure that Du Pont had been thinking about it for some time—but thinking and doing are quite different. I am looking forward to the next few years in the firearms industry; they may be wrought with legislative problems, but I doubt that they will be lacking in exciting new innovations. And I will be disappointed if a good many of these innovations don't come from that big "little" outfit down in Hialeah Florida.



COLLECTING LUGERS

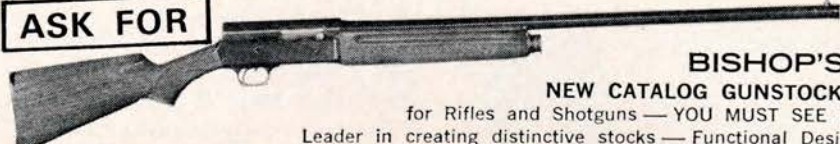
(Continued from page 33)

but the toggle was further modified by eliminating the toggle latch from the right hand toggle knob. The new recoil spring, being preloaded, made this latch unnecessary. The frame hook, used in conjunction with the toggle latch, was of course, deleted. This model Luger was offered in 7.65 mm caliber, with a 4¾ inch barrel, 9 mm with a 4-inch barrel, or 9 mm with a 6-inch barrel (Navy Model). Many of these 1906 Navy Lugers were later modified at the request of the German Military to make the safety lever "safe" position correspond with the 1908 Luger safety. During the production of the 1906 Luger, possibly around serial number 39,000, the frame and barrel extension (receiver) were each shortened about ¼ inch. No explanation can be given for this change, for it seems to serve no purpose, but it did introduce a variation. Therefore, there are two 1906 models; the "long" frame and the "short" frame.

The Model 1908 introduced the latter day Luger. This was the year of its adoption by the German Army and is the origin of the "P-08" designation. It differed from the Model 1906 primarily in that the squeeze safety was deleted and the thumb safety was redesigned to actuate a sliding bar. Previously, the thumb safety merely acted as a locking device to prevent the squeeze from being pushed in. However, it should be noted that the "safe" position of the lever was now the reverse of all previous models. For a short period prior to WWI the toggle hold-open device, which serves to hold the action open when the gun is empty, was omitted. When it was finally decided to retain this feature, most of the pistols without it were reworked. About 1906 the four digit military numbering system was started and around 1910 the chamber date was added, all of which is explained in the Luger books. To the best of my knowledge, the 1908 Luger was available in the 9 mm caliber only, with a 4 or 6-inch barrel in both military and commercial models.

Changes that introduced the 1914 Model involved the introduction of the 8-inch barreled Artillery Luger and the addition of a stock lug to the lower portion of the rear back strap of all Luger frames. While this lug was only of real value when a shoulder stock was attached to either the

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long barreled Artillery, and possibly the Navy models, it appeared on the short barreled models as well. It was in all probability found easier to standardize the machining operations on the frames rather than designate certain ones for the Navy Model, others for the Artillery Model and the balance for standard size pistols. Incidentally, a ground off stock lug can readily be detected for it does not leave the same contour on the back strap as one originally made without a stock lug. It is extremely difficult to make an undetectable alteration of this type for it involves the addition of metal as well as removal.

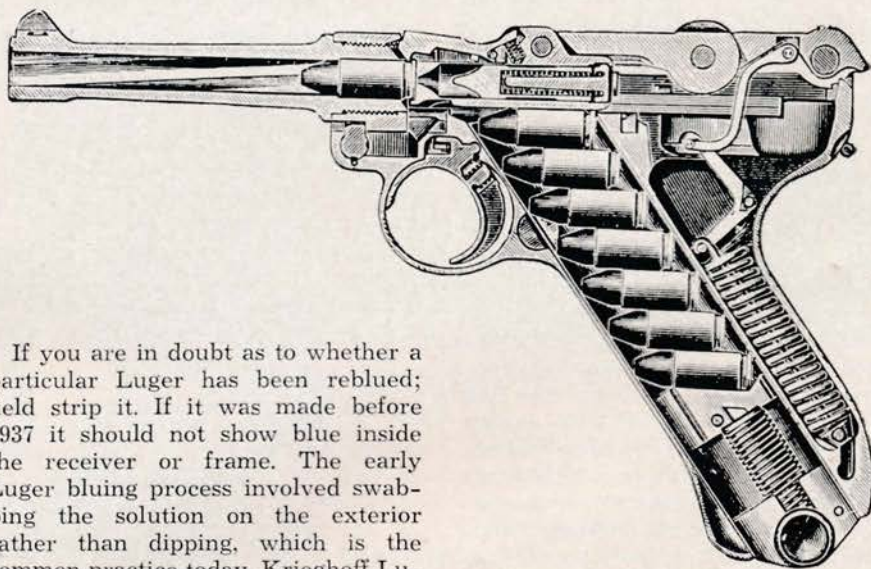
In late 1915 or early 1916 another feature was changed that has remained on all subsequent Lugers and that is the removal of a slight amount of metal from the trigger bar. This allows the toggle to be retracted while the thumb safety is in the "safe" position providing the firing pin is "cocked." Thus a live round can be extracted and ejected while the safety is on. You will find that Lugers made from around 1918 to 1923 are frequently fitted with light yellow grips. This is not an indication of an inferior pistol, it merely reflects wartime economy in the use of an unstained, more readily available wood. The finish is not as fine on these pistols as on the pre-war models, but they are just as functional, if not more so.

An interesting feature that will occasionally show up in the 1908 and 1914 model Lugers is a magazine safety. That is, when the magazine was removed, a linkage under the left grip caused a bar to move laterally behind the trigger. It was a fragile device that broke readily and thus will rarely be found complete. It undoubtedly was a source of annoyance to the user and I suspect that if it didn't break it was thrown away. It was discontinued after a short while.

The 1914 model Luger will be found in 9 mm and 7.65 mm calibers. The common barrel lengths are 3 $\frac{7}{8}$, 4 and 8 inches. But WWI reworks and new production of this pistol are referred to as the 1920 Model and were available in barrel lengths from 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches all the way up to 20 inches. These are actually true Luger barrels, fitted by the factory (either DWM or Simson). However, some American and German-made barrels in odd lengths were installed by A. F. Stoeger Co., New York City, for the period between the World Wars. What it really amounts to is, if you were willing to pay for it you could have had any barrel length you wished and they were not unreasonably priced. The period between 1920 and 1923 saw many strange Lugers. Some very odd com-

binations were put together by DWM and Simson. Most of these were sold as new manufacture, commercial pistols. If a particular Luger defies identification it could be one from this period.

When the Mauser Factory took over the manufacture of Luger pistols about 1934, only a few changes were made. One of these was the addition of a trigger bar safety. When the top half of a Luger is removed from the frame, it is still capable of firing a cartridge. Thus if a cartridge were inadvertently left in the chamber and upon disassembly, the forward end of the trigger bar were pressed in it would fire the cartridge. The trigger bar safety was merely a spring-loaded pin that could prevent the trigger bar from moving inward, thus precluding this hazardous situation. It apparently met with little enthusiasm for it was not incorporated into regular production. It will be found on factory reworked early models as well as on most of the later Mauser emblem Lugers. Other changes such as the polishing and bluing methods were changed.



If you are in doubt as to whether a particular Luger has been reblued; field strip it. If it was made before 1937 it should not show blue inside the receiver or frame. The early Luger bluing process involved swabbing the solution on the exterior rather than dipping, which is the common practice today. Krieghoff Lugers will show interior blue even in some early models, for they went to the dip method of bluing earlier than the Mauser factory. Eventually all parts were blued instead of heat coloring (gold) such parts as the trigger, safety lever, ejector, magazine release button, and disassembly lever. The grips of the latter day Lugers appear to have coarser checkering, are thicker and do not fit frame contour as neatly as the earlier pistols.

Thus far the attempt has been to point out those Luger variations that are of real significance. Thus, a truly basic collection would consist of the following:

1. Any Model 1900
2. Any Model 1906 (7.65 or 9 mm or both)
3. Any Model 1908 (commercial or military)
4. Any short barreled Model 1914 (9 mm or 7.65 mm)
5. A 6-inch barreled Navy Model (1906, 1908 or 1914)
6. An 8-inch barreled artillery model

The preceding six pistols represent the major design changes that occurred in the evolution of the Luger pistol with the exception of the extremely rare 1904 model.

You may ask, "How much would these six pistols cost me?" Well, that can't be answered without knowing what will satisfy you regarding external and internal condition, completeness of the piece, originality of parts, etc. It would be wise to collect only Lugers that have matching numbers, which will be explained later. Avoid a reblued Luger unless it is so rare that you may never find another of that variation. Even then be cautious because it may be a reworked common model that of necessity had to be

reblued to hide the counterfeiting.

Getting back to the cost of these six Lugers. In cash, it would represent a great deal to most of us, so try and trade some of those items you are not really interested in keeping. You say you haven't anything to trade! How many times have you turned down a bargain gun deal simply because you weren't interested in that particular weapon? This was a mistake! Remember the gun that doesn't appeal to you may become the pride and joy of another collector. Gun collectors are a funny lot; many will trade guns

for items not related to the gun field. I have seen them accept such trade items as: coins, watches, diamonds, antique toys, cut glass, binoculars, cameras, musical instruments, Indian artifacts, jackknives, swords, daggers, bayonets, military medals (American or foreign), books, etc.; the list is endless. Surely you have something to trade. So for the sake of economy and challenge, try and defray some of the cash outlay with trades. This can't always be done, but if you have patience and don't let your emotions rule your wallet, you can have that basic Luger collection.

There is quite a difference between collecting guns and buying guns. If you have unlimited funds to put into Lugers you can have a mighty fine collection in short order, but where is the challenge? Is there any feeling of accomplishment? You would not be a collector, but rather a gun buyer! Don't feel that you must grab the first Luger that fills a gap in your collection. Be patient.

An average condition 1900 model Luger can be found at gun shows priced from \$100 to \$150. An average 1906 Luger should be worth between \$85.00 to \$125.00. A 1908 military model should go for \$75.00 to \$100.00. A 1914 model for \$60.00 to \$90.00 and a 1908 or 1914 Navy Luger should be available at \$125.00 to \$200.00. The Artillery Luger prices are rising rapidly, but an average one should still be available for \$85.00 to \$110.00. Luger buffs reading this article will probably disagree with these values, but let me stress a point. I am not referring to "mint" Lugers, but those in average condition. This means that they may only have 60 to 80 percent of the original finish. There may be minor chips in the grips and the bores may be only fair to good, but these pistols should be in sound mechanical condition with original parts and capable of being fired safely. Some of those just mentioned would sell for fifty to two-hundred percent over the values stated in "mint" condition.

Now, as to matching numbers, let me explain. During the manufacture of Lugers all parts are machined within a tolerance range. Some of these parts will be slightly larger or smaller than others. It is required that they be selectively fitted to the mating part of a particular pistol during assembly. Since additional operations are to be performed, such as polishing and bluing, the unfinished pistols of necessity are disassembled and the parts become intermixed with other similar parts. Therefore, to identify these so that they will be reassembled in the pistol to which they have previously been fitted, the last two digits

(sometimes the last three) of the assigned serial number are stamped on each of the individual major parts. It becomes obvious that the pistols would have to be segregated into groups of not more than 100 each. A Luger with mismatched parts obviously is not factory original, but it may function perfectly. However, it is best to avoid these for they are not held in very high esteem by collectors. Non-matching magazine numbers have little effect on the value of Lugers for it is intended that they be interchangeable in practically any Luger; however, the magazine should be from the same era as the pistol. Getting back to the collection of six basic Lugers, you may want to expand beyond this stage. The next logical piece to try and obtain is the 1902 fat barreled 9 mm or the 1902 Luger Carbine. Both are scarce and expensive. As of now, even a fair to good Carbine is bringing from \$400 to \$700, and the fat-barreled 1902 prices start at about \$350.

There are many collector-type Lugers that have been omitted up to this point, mainly because they are very scarce and high priced and they do not necessarily show an evolution in the development, but rather, have some rare marking that all too often may have been added to a common model by someone other than the factory. You would want a 1904 model for it does show the development, but they are so rare and expensive that you would have to rely on luck to get one. Only the most advanced collections can boast of having one of these.

There are prototype, experimental, and presentation Lugers whose values are established by how much the purchaser is willing to pay. Probably the most desirable Luger is the .45 caliber, of which at least three originals are known to have been made, but they are out of sight for all but the wealthy collectors. However, hope springs eternal and I have chased phantom .45 caliber Lugers the same as many collectors have. A very strong rumor has persisted for over 20 years that there were at least six .45 caliber Lugers in France at the end of WWII. The story goes, that back when the .45 Luger was submitted to the United States for trial (1906-1908) that after some testing an order was placed by the Springfield Armory for additional pistols, but the German factory (DWM) hesitated and then decided not to accept the contract. It is entirely reasonable to assume that some small quantity of .45's was started before the project was abandoned and that they subsequently reached France rather than

(Continued on page 65)



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the shores of the United States.

I do not believe that a factory engraved Luger exists. Presentation engraved and/or plated Lugers, even if presented by Georg Luger himself, had the fancy work done on contract by an outside agency. Genuine pieces in this category are quite limited in number so the chances of finding one are pretty slim. The majority of these fancy Lugers are the result of German or America G.I.'s trading off cigarettes, coffee, rations, etc. to have a European engraver do some carving.

Thus far eight Lugers have been suggested as a collection and these eight guns will represent every change of consequence that took place during the manufacture of this pistol (excluding the Model of 1904). I personally have never seen the logic in collecting every Luger that bears a different emblem or date or infinitesimal mark of some kind, and claiming that each of these is a variation. Expanding a collection to obtain one Luger from each manufacturer certainly seems logical. These might include the Erfurt, Krieghoff, Mauser (with the Mauser emblem), Waffenfabrik Bern (Swiss), Simson and maybe a Vickers (made in England). Also, to obtain any Luger that shows an obvious variation in design is wise, provided it is a factory variation. The 1929 Swiss Model is a good example.

Why not try collecting Lugers now? It isn't easy and it takes time, but the thrill of finding a rare one at a reasonable price is undecipherable and it's like money in the bank.

You may say, "Where do I start looking?" The answer is—"everywhere." Gun shows are an excellent source for rare guns. Pawn shops, sporting goods stores, gunsmiths and on occasion, bars! Question other collectors, friends, relatives, etc. There is an old saying, "guns is where you find 'em!" A typical example of this is that I once acquired a nice 1893 Borchardt pistol that was hanging on the wall of a little mountain grocery store. All I traded was a rough, old, common, single action Colt. After the deal was made the sharp old trader cautioned me to be more alert in my trading activities because it had been so easy to take advantage of me.

Even if you get discouraged you can always hold the pieces you have acquired for a while and then trade or sell them for more than you have invested, even if you've paid top prices. All good automatic pistols have been and still are going up in value at a rapid rate. Therefore, in the long run, the only thing collecting Lugers should cost you is time.

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S&W HAMMERLESS

(Continued from page 23)

many current loading tables cover only solid frame handguns which have considerably more inherent strength than the break-open New Departure. As a matter of interest I have found that the above load using the little frangible nose Nuro-Shok bullet will expand the bullet to a half inch upon impact in sand, showing that these revolvers with this load are effective. This is one of the reasons why the New Departure in .38 S&W is well worth bothering with today.

This eighty-year-old handgun and cartridge can still find a place in today's world and another reason is price. In my area these handguns can be purchased for around \$30.00 in good condition. I imagine this price would vary from perhaps \$20.00 in some parts of the United States up to \$35.00 in other sections. Frankly, I believe these revolvers—in .38 caliber—are a bargain at these prices but only for

those people who need a small, compact, safe handgun that will be fired by novices a few times a year. They make excellent home protection firearms. They are reassuring to carry in the pocket when taking large sums of money from the store to home or to the bank. For the money this revolver is hard to beat.

The Safety Hammerless is probably the safest handgun ever devised for use by just ordinary people who seldom fire a handgun and yet who wish to keep one on hand. Many accidents happen when people commence playing with the hammer of a conventional revolver, cocking it, lowering it or even leaving it on full cock. This cannot be done with the Safety Hammerless. In my opinion, anyone who fires a Safety Hammerless has done so deliberately. I say this because it takes a combination of calculated motions to deactivate the grip safety and pull

back the trigger all the way to fire the cartridge. What's more it takes strength. It's not something that can be done casually.

I have not said much about the .32 S&W New Departure revolver because, even under the best of conditions, this handgun and cartridge cannot be considered as an effective defense combination. The .38 S&W is so far superior that I cannot recommend the purchase of the .32 for defense purposes. There is relatively little recoil or noise connected with the .38 so that these details can be disregarded, and novices and women can handle this cartridge/handgun combination without difficulty. In most instances where such a handgun would be used the mere sight of a weapon or the firing of a shot into the air or floor would tend to discourage the criminal.

Before closing I do not want to overlook the collector. All models of the Safety Hammerless are basically the same but for those readers who are interested in the differences between the various models let me check off a few. The First Model had a slid-



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ing push-type bar that locked and unlocked the barrel assembly so that the revolver could be broken open for loading. About 5,000 of these First Model revolvers were made. The Second Model serial numbers run from 5,000 through 42,480. The break-open catch in the Second Model was changed to a push button type. Pressing down on the release button located at the rear of the top strap opens the revolver. The Third Model had a break open catch that worked by pressing against a projection at the rear of the top strap. This Model took in serial numbers up to around 116,000. For this reason I have given the starting number of the Fourth Model as 117,000 in order to be absolutely safe. This Fourth Model finally incorporated the well-known twin knurled knobs that, when raised, allow the revolver to be opened. Only a few minor changes were made in the Fifth Model with serial numbers starting around 220,000 and continuing on up to 261,493.

Of particular interest to collectors are the 100 revolvers of the Second Model New Departure that Smith and Wesson shipped to the Ordnance Department for tests in May of 1890. These revolvers were blued and fitted with six inch barrels to conform with Government requirements. The serial numbers run around 41,333 to 41,470.

Collectors are also finding that it is more difficult to unearth good examples of the first three models and, as Charlie Duffy pointed out to me, today's cheap bargains will soon become sought-after collector's items in another 10 to 15 years. So keep your eyes open.

To sum up, I believe that the .38 caliber Lemon Squeezer is a real buy today as a home defense handgun or for pocket use when walking home the day's receipts or simply as an emergency arm in the store or office. Because of its construction and design it is a unique handgun which has endured despite the changing times and the trend towards large size and large caliber handguns. The New Departure is a part of American history which is gone forever so let's preserve it and appreciate it.



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FOR THE FIRST time in twenty-five years, a rare set of four Currier and Ives shooting prints are being made available, in limited edition, by the Remington Arms Company, Inc. Published originally in 1875, the prints portray in caricature the famous international rifle matches of that year held in Dollymount, Ireland. A quarter of a century ago, these famous lithographs were republished by the Remington Library of Fine Prints. Out of print since, they have become



collector's items, eagerly sought by hunters, shooters and sportsmen. The prints are faithfully reproduced in their original color on fine paper. Suitable for immediate framing, they measure 15" by 19" including border. Titles are: 1. Erin Go Bragh! 2. E Pluribus Unum! 3. The Highland Fling. 4. The Queen's Own. A set of four can be obtained by sending \$4.00 in cash, check or money order to: Prints, P. O. Box 731, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06601

NUMRICH ARMS now offers a beautiful all steel Winchester Forend Cap for '94 Winchesters. It fits all Centennial Models, replacing the less expensive pot metal furnished by the manufacturer. It is also an ideal additional accessory when converting an original round barrel '94 to the new Winches-



ter octagonal barrel manufactured by Numrich Arms. Completely ready for installation, the forend caps retail for \$3.95. For further information about this and the many other fine products manufactured by Numrich Arms Corp., write to them at Broadway, West Hurley, New York 12491.

SHOPPING WITH Guns

PACIFIC GUNSIGHT Company, one of the oldest names in reloading, and originator of the 7/8 x 14 threaded die which standardized reloading, is now releasing production quantities of its latest improvement in reloading dies. Tradenamed "Durachrome," the new Pacific dies feature a super-hard satin-chrome exterior finish, guaranteed not to chip, crack or peel as do decorative chrome finishes. The interior of the die is hand polished to a mirror finish and precise dimensional specifications. Durachrome dies are guaranteed for life against defects in workmanship and dimensional changes caused by wear. Other features of the new Durachrome dies are: hexagon spindle heads which allow more positive adjustment and



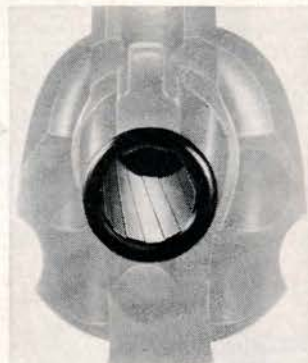
permit easy removal of stuck cases; new two-piece steel lock rings with lock screw, to simplify die adjustment; and built-in provision for crimping on all bullet seating dies. Pacific Durachrome dies are available in 94 different calibers in two-die sets for "bottleneck" cases and three-die sets for straight-walled cases. All two-die sets are available with a choice of full length or neck sizing die. In addition, a #1 carbide die is available separately or as a part of the three-die set. Highest grade steel construction is used throughout with machining to minimum tolerances, followed by special hardening and polishing process to insure perfect dimensions and smoothest interior finish. Both Durachrome two-die sets and three-die sets are retail priced at \$13.50 and are packed in heavy-duty plastic storage boxes. Write: Pacific Gunsight Company, Box 4495, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504.

THE THOMPSON/CENTER Contender, proving itself an exceptionally versatile firearm, will soon be available in the .17 Bumblebee cartridge. The first Bumblebee Contender, tested by Dean Grennell of Gun World, went a .450" maximum spread at 50 yards with an 18.5-gr. bullet and 7.0-gr. of 4227 powder—ex-



ceptional performance considering the gun was hand rested on a rifle shooting stand! Intended for use on small varmints, the diminutive .17 Bumblebee Contender will be offered with standard sights, or without for those who intend to scope this needle shooting beauty. Price on application. Write: Thompson/Center, Farmington Rd., Rochester, N.H.

THE BARREL OF the Charter Arms .38 Special Undercover, in both the two and three inch models, is now button rifled with eight grooves instead of the conventional six. This new rifling provides one complete turn in a linear 17 inches, rather than

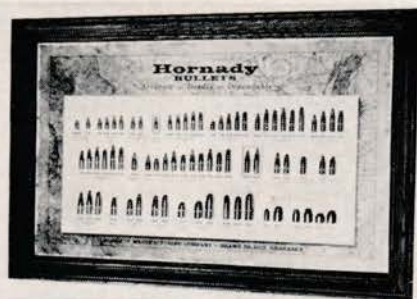


the conventional 1:16 ratio. Charter Arms states that this relationship between the number of grooves and the turn ratio provides better twist which in turn results in higher velocity and flatter trajectory. See your dealer, or write: Charter Arms Corp., 265 Asylum St., Bridgeport, Conn. 06610.

SHOPPING WITH Guns

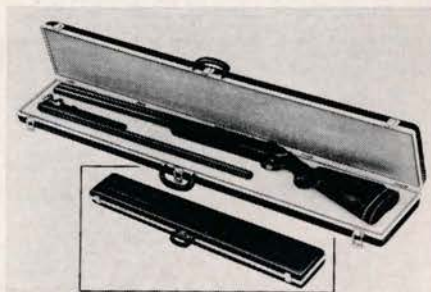
NOW, for everyone who enjoys outdoor activities, from the weekend hiker and camper to the serious sportsman, Silva, Inc., is introducing the new "Polaris" compass. It can be used to travel unmarked trails, explore the wilderness, pin-point game, and locate choice fishing spots. The Polaris is precision-made to provide accurate, reliable readings under all kinds of field conditions. It features transparent housing and liquid-filled needle action that stops from full swing in just four seconds. Sapphire jewel bearing and hairline meridian lines assure accurate, fast plotting of transfer of angles. And there is a convenient inch scale on the beveled end of the base plate and a millimeter scale on the side that let you plot the distance or record the route you traveled on your map. It's your best companion on any trip into the field. Watch for it in your sports shop or write: Silva, Inc., La Porte, Ind. 46350.

HORNADY HAS released the latest in its series of Bullet Display Boards. The display is designed for reloaders who want ready reference to various bullet types and calibers, as well as those who can use a handsome decoration for their den or reloading room. Inside an attractive "weathered"



wood frame, the display features the complete Hornady Bullet line mounted against a background of an authentic map of the early United States. The 73 bullet display is permanently bonded thereby retaining its new appearance indefinitely. At \$11.50 from: Hornady Manufacturing Co., P. O. Box 1848, Grand Island, Nebr. 68801.

THE RUGGED 52" Nel-King Gun Case is foam cushioned to protect your valuable firearm from the various perils of transit. Deep-cushion urethane foam cradles a fully assembled gun, including scoped rifles, gently yet securely. Other features



include double carrying handles, key lock, sturdy molded construction and a leather-grained vinyl finish. A must for the active sportsman, if you do any traveling at all this is the case to keep your favorite gun safe and secure. A real value at \$29.95. Specify black or brown. From Nel-King Products, Dept. GU-39B, 811 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

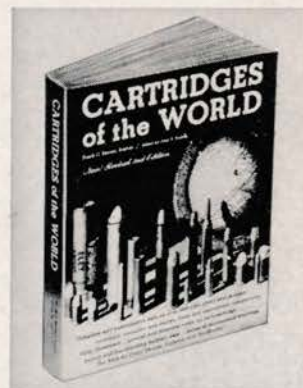
CHALLENGER IS NOW manufacturing an ideal case for transporting your favorite spotting scope into the field and to and from the range. The new case is large enough to carry all commercially known spotting scopes including mounting stand. The case, No. 2200, is 22" long, 10" wide and 5 1/4" deep. Its generous size will even allow shooters to take more than one scope to the field, giving greater choice of optical power. The newly designed interlocking foam interior holds the spotting scope rigid in transit and multi-sub layers of foam permit the shooter to vary the interior thickness allowing one case to be used for a variety of scopes and other items. The exterior is handsome and rugged having the outdoor look that real sportsmen appreciate. Price \$24.95. Unconditionally guaranteed. Write: Challenger Manufacturing Co., 105-23 New York Blvd., Jamaica, N.Y. 11433.

NEW SOUND SENTRY ear canal caps that protect against permanent hearing damage have recently been introduced. Designed to combine maximum hearing protection with comfort and safety, the Sound Sentry reduces sound intensity throughout the audio range and is said to be 90% as effective as quality muff type



hearing protectors. The Sound Sentry caps all ear canal openings but does not enter the canal itself. It can be worn comfortably with eye glasses and hats and a stainless steel head-band holds the conically shaped caps in place. Get full information from: H. E. Douglass Engineering Sales Co., 3400 W. Burbank Blvd., Burbank, Calif. 91505.

A NEW second edition, enlarged and revised, of "Cartridges Of The World" classic standard reference is now available. This definitive book includes all kinds of cartridges—paper and metallic, rimfire and centerfire, old and new, rifle, shotgun, pistol and revolver, factory and wildcat—from as far back as the 1870's. Complete



data includes historical background, ballistics, illustrations, dimensions, and introduction and discontinuance dates. The 384 big pages of the second edition are a must reference for the cartridge collector and reloader alike. Now at your local sports or book store, or \$6.95 ppd. from the Gun Digest Association, Dept. G, 4540 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. 60624.

DOUBLE RIFLE JINX

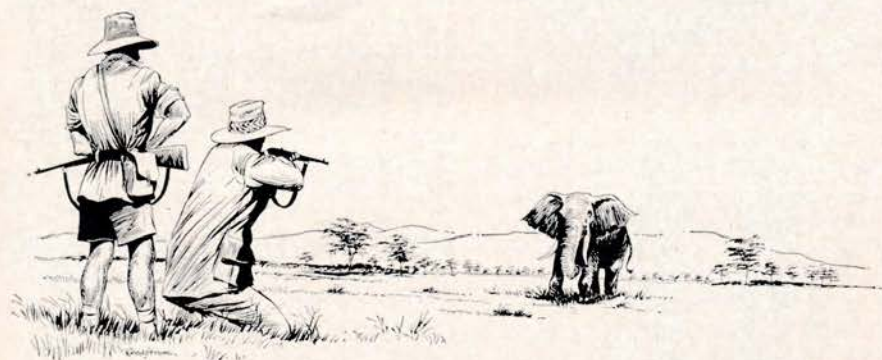
(Continued from page 29)

be available and the achievement of several technical operations which reliable experts said were not practical, all add up to a fund of information that could save others, confronted with similar problems, a lot of time and money.

The first step in exploring a source of ammunition was the making of a chamber cast which showed the caliber to be 10.75 x 65 R mm Collath. "The American Rifleman" furnished a long mailing list and additional names were supplied by those to whom I had made inquiry. These included both gun and cartridge manufacturers as well as suppliers located in England, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, and the United States. One firm, which specializes in manufacturing unusual cases offered to undertake the job but the tooling-up costs made

finding a load that would match the barrel regulation. Neither is anyone prepared to correct the regulation of those barrels. That is a highly critical job. It accounts for fully half the cost of a double rifle."

This was certainly sound advice, but I didn't take it. Jess continued to experiment with various cases which might be adapted to my rifle and he finally concluded that the .450-.348 Improved (Ackley) could be fire-formed to solve the problem if the rifle were rebored and rechambered. Westley Richards & Co., Ltd. of Birmingham, England had advised us that so far as they knew, there were no facilities anywhere which could perform such a reboring job. But Jess knew about the excellent work of which Ward Koozer of Walterville,



the cases too expensive. The search was thorough but when the replies to my inquiry were all received, it looked like I'd come to a dead end. Instead of giving up, I sought the advice of several recognized authorities regarding the reboring of the barrels in an attempt to solve the ammunition and cross-firing problems in one operation. One reply stated:

"When a double rifle cross-fires, it almost certainly means that you are using a wrong load. The type is extremely sensitive. The barrels are regulated for one exact load. Any slight variation can throw them off. Even such a negligible detail as the installation of a recoil pad can do it. It can be caused by a wrong choice of powder, or a wrong charge. Any variation in bullet type, weight or diameter can do it.

No one is prepared to rebores a double rifle; and I certainly wouldn't advise any rechambering. After such a modification there would be little chance of

Oregon was capable, and he was given the assignment.

When the reboring was finished, Jess rechambered the rifle and then fire formed some .348 Winchester cases. This was a most unusual operation. In order to avoid possible damage to the barrels, which might result from firing a .348 bullet through the .450 barrels, Jess built a special tool out of an old rifle with the barrel only 1/4" longer than the case. Into empty primed cases, he put 10 grains of Unique powder and then filled and firmly packed in corn meal up to and level with the mouth of the case. When inserting the case into the chamber, holding it perpendicular, he exercised the utmost care to avoid dropping grains of the corn meal into the chamber. Such misplaced bits of the meal would result in a bumpy disfiguration of the case. Then when actually firing, he maintained the perpendicular position in order to assure uniform expansion of the neck.

In spite of the most meticulous handling of the fire forming process,

there was some unevenness in the length of the reformed cases. This, of course, was easily corrected with a case trimmer. However, a small number of the cases came out with cracks in the neck and had to be discarded.

The next problem was the determination of an appropriate load. The barrel walls were unusually thin before reboring and, of course, even thinner after they were rebored. This fact emphasized the need for extreme caution. Fortunately the loading data contained in Ackley's "Handbook for Shooters and Reloaders" is very reliable but instead of using the minimum 64 grains of 3031 powder and a 350-grain Hornady Round Nose bullet, he used 60 grains of 3031. Everything was all right when the rifle was test fired except that the barrels still cross-fired about the same as they did before being rebored. It now appeared that the advice I had received about reboring a double rifle was quite valid. However, I had gone too far to stop, so for weeks I carried on extensive correspondence trying to find a gunsmith equipped with the knowledge and experience to undertake the correction. Westley Richards & Co., Ltd. was the only firm that offered any encouragement. However, after they had examined the rifle, I received the following letter:

"I have looked at this rifle and I feel we must advise that we are not very hopeful about regulating its shooting. We have never done this work on a rifle which has such thin barrel walls. It seems likely that these tubes will buckle if we try to bend them from the muzzles with a new taper wedge. Also we think they may vibrate so much that they will not hold onto their spacing pieces.

In addition to this worry these barrels are not in very sound condition. The left-hand tube is considerably bent towards the right, over 14" or so and the right tube has two considerable bulges about 12" forward of the breech. I doubt if it will ever shoot very well even if we could carry out the regulating.

I wonder if you have fired this .348 ammunition in this weapon since it was rerifled? Presumably this round is developing something approaching double the pressure of the original 10.75 x 65 mm round? I think this may be seriously close to the safety limit and I would certainly want to have it fired a few times in a Proof Chamber at our Proof House before I sent a man out on the range with it.

All this means that I think we should not spend any of your money on this rifle. If you want us to go ahead we must proof fire, remove ribs and try to straighten the left barrel and then replace ribs—and perhaps \$50 spent before we start shooting.”

This conclusion from so reliable a firm could have closed the last chapter on the story of my double rifle. But, since we had already test fired the load, Westly Richards was willing to proceed and in due course the rifle and a test target with a good pattern were received. Incidentally if you have never shipped a foreign made gun out of the country for repair, you should make the proper customs declaration on Form 4455 so as to avoid payment of customs duty when it is returned to you. Of course, Customs will collect the usual 14% on the cost of the repairs.

Finally, my prized double was back in my armory. Its sleek design, light

weight (6 pounds including the sling), 24½” barrels, delicate engravings on the breech and the intriguing mottled pattern of the grain in the stock were indeed my pride and joy. But could I use it? Was the cross-firing corrected? How about the recoil? And iron sights? What muzzle velocity? The killing power? In short, had I gone to a lot of trouble to end up merely with a show piece?

You can be sure I didn't wait long to test it on the rifle range. I got a tight pattern with the impact at the point of aim, the recoil was comfortable, the iron sights were no problem, the muzzle velocity was 1908 fsp and the energy was 2826 foot pounds. Now all I need is to meet a dangerous cat in the jungle and I shall be properly armed for the occasion. However, by far the most rewarding part of the experience with my double rifle is the information and know-how which it forced me to acquire before it could be of any use to me.



D. B. WESSON

(Continued from page 36)

caliber now was called the No. 2. By June of 1861 deliveries were being made, and a considerable number of these revolvers (which with a 6” barrel were called the No. 2 Army) were to see service in the ensuing War between the States.

Following the war, Smith & Wesson's first ambitious advertising was undertaken and they exhibited their revolvers in London and Paris, creating an international demand.

A little-known adventure into making shoulder arms was undertaken at this time by a separate corporation of which Daniel Wesson was president. This announcement of the new company appeared in the *Springfield Daily Republican* of July 10, 1867: “A new organization and one which promises to contribute not a little to the thrift and prosperity of Springfield is ‘the Wesson fire-arms company.’ It is a joint-stock concern and is composed of Messrs. Horace Smith and D. B. Wesson of the firm of Smith & Wesson, J. W. Storrs, late of New York and now of this city, Cyrus E. Buckland, also of this city, and Frank Wesson of Worcester. The company has ordered its machinery and in a few months will occupy a portion of Smith & Wesson's factory for the manufacture of a new breech-loading, double-barrelled gun, and shot-guns of various sizes and capacities. The double-barrelled breech-loader comprises several peculiarities of con-

struction invented by D. B. Wesson, and all who have seen it are loud in its praise.”

The Wesson Fire Arms Company survived from the 1867-68 Springfield directory to that of 1870-71. It proved to be a rather costly venture and perhaps its short life may best be explained by a quotation from the late Douglas B. Wesson, a one-time neighbor of this writer and grandson of Daniel Wesson. Recalling a story told him by his father Joseph H. Wesson, Doug told of how Daniel Wesson had come bustling into Joseph's office one morning in the best of spirits, smacked his son on the shoulder, and exclaimed: “Jodie, I've been studying the shotgun situation, and I've decided that if we go to work full blast and double our output of shotguns, we'll go broke in one-half of the time!” Needless, to say, with little more discussion the Wesson venture into shotgun making was closed down.

It had become apparent to Daniel Wesson that his “No. 2 Army” revolver was not large enough to serve the purposes for which pistols like the Colt and Remington caplock .36 and .44 caliber models were employed during the Civil War. The result of considerable study, and the acquisition of several additional patents finally led to production of Smith & Wesson's big top-break revolver officially called the “No. 3.” Early in 1870 these were ready for tests and

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in December of that year an order for 1000 No. 3 revolvers was received from the U. S. Ordnance Department.

The No. 3 revolvers had an 8" barrel and a 6-shot cylinder. They were chambered for a new centerfire cartridge which came to be called the .44 American. A few revolvers were made in .44 rimfire, especially for the Mexican trade. This was the first large caliber revolver especially designed for metallic cartridges, and until Colt's Single Action Army model became available in 1874 it enjoyed a wide-open market.

No. 3 Smith & Wesson revolvers were due for considerable alteration following introduction in 1870. Two top-break models (chambered for the .44 Russian cartridge) were produced for the Russian government, and a modified design called the "Scotfield Model" in a .45 caliber was produced for the United States government. Subsequently service and target models were produced in special .32, .38 and .44 centerfire S&W calibers.

The year 1874 was a crucial one for Daniel B. Wesson. On January 1, Horace Smith, at sixty-five and seventeen years older than his partner, decided to retire from the business.

Daniel Wesson became the sole proprietor although the name Smith & Wesson was retained. The profitable Russian contract helped pay off Wesson's obligations to Horace Smith, who invested wisely and at his death in 1893 is said to have left a quarter of a million dollars to charitable institutions.

Important, too, in 1874 was the obsolescence and discontinuance of the small No. 1 tip-up barrel revolvers and a decision to manufacture a .38 center-fire top-break revolver and other advanced pocket models. Plans were set in motion during this year to design and produce a "revolver-rifle"—a top-break revolver with a 16 to 20 inch barrel which might be used with a detachable shoulder stock. It took until 1880 to complete the manufacture of these arms and, as with most revolver-rifle arms, the model did not prove to be a howling success. Only about one thousand were made—in a special .32 center-fire caliber with a straight 1½" case.

As the years passed new patents and new models gave further evidence of Daniel Wesson's genius. Always he demanded high manufacturing standards. His sons Walter, Frank and

Joseph entered the business, and grandsons followed. With capable management secure, gradually Daniel Wesson began to enjoy some of the outside pleasures. He liked good horses and often he and Mrs. Wesson took long driving trips throughout Massachusetts and the adjoining states. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and had a trout hatchery at his farm outside of Springfield.

Interested in many civic affairs, Daniel Wesson shared his abilities and his wealth with the city in which he had built his success. Memorials throughout Springfield are numerous, including two hospitals endowed by Daniel Wesson with gifts of \$250,000 each. His life span was ended at 81 years on August 4, 1906.

The endeavors of Daniel Baird Wesson produced one of the outstanding success stories in American industry. While his accomplishments perhaps overshadow those of his brothers Edwin and Franklin, it was they who showed Daniel how to take his first steps up the ladder. Each in his field helped to give a very good reputation to the Wesson name; all contributed substantially to the advance of a growing America.



PAT GARRETT

(Continued from page 20)

and even unspoken though it may have been, an inflexible mandate: "Get the Kid!" Garrett was keenly conscious of that mandate, well aware that his place in history, his success or failure as a lawman, depended almost solely on its execution. His job was to kill or capture Billy the Kid, and to break up (again by death or capture) the crew Billy had gathered around him. It was a task to which Garrett devoted his full time as Sheriff.

If Garrett was a controversial figure, Billy the Kid was the enigma of his century. Literally scores of books, millions of words, have been written about him, some painting him as a fiend incarnate, others depicting him as at least a near hero, and still others choosing the middle-of-the-road conclusion that he was a misguided but predictable product of his time and place and of the circumstances which surrounded him. Today, researchers still disagree even as to his real name, to say nothing of the date and place of his birth, how many men he killed, or when he died.

Pat Garrett himself, with the literary assistance of a free-wheeling journalist named M. A. "Ash" Upson,

wrote the first "factual" book about Billy. It was titled, "The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid, The Noted Desperado of the Southwest, Whose Deeds of Daring and Blood Made His Name A Terror in New Mexico, Arizona, and Northern Mexico. By Pat F. Garrett, Sheriff of Lincoln Co., N. M., By Whom He Was Finally Hunted Down and Captured By Killing Him." The



book was originally published in April, 1882, by the New Mexico Printing and Publishing Company of Santa Fe, and an authentic copy of that First Edition will fetch, today, in the neighborhood of \$300. Many reprints have been issued down through the years, the latest being by Horn and Wallace Publishers, Inc., Albuquerque, 1964, in which is included some 50 pages of Biographical Foreword (more accurately, an apologia) by Jarvis P. Garrett, Pat's son.

In contrast with Garrett's 6 feet

four inches, Billy was only some 5 feet 8 inches in height, weight possibly 140 pounds. But none can deny that Billy had the gift of leadership. Small, still in his teens, a newcomer to the Territory, he was nevertheless an acknowledged captain of the fighting segment of his faction in the Lincoln County War—that bloody, many-faceted vendetta, outgrowth of incredibly tangled personal, business, and political interests involving many of the major figures in New Mexico's Territorial life and history.

Repercussions of that conflict reached all the way to Washington, D. C., and "on or about September 1, 1878," President Rutherford B. Hayes appointed Lew Wallace—hero of both the Mexican and Civil Wars, author, several times "favorite son" Presidential nominee by Indiana at Republican National Conventions—to assume the governorship of New Mexico Territory "and put an end to the trouble in Lincoln County." Wallace was not enthusiastic about the appointment; he knew little or nothing about the West, its people, its customs, or its wars; little indeed about the Lincoln County War in particular; but he determined to do the best he could with the assignment, in the hope of better things to come. At least he would find time in New Mexico to finish his book, "Ben Hur." Fortunately for him, the

book would bring him greater acclaim than did his efforts to unravel the tangled skein of New Mexico politics.

But local feuds have a way of wearing themselves out, if only through depletion of man-power, and the Lincoln County embroglio was no exception. A state of uneasy truce was in effect when Garrett was elected Sheriff—except, of course, for the righteous indignation on the part of some over the depredations committed by (or charged to) Billy the Kid and those of his war-time compatriots who, having refused Governor Wallace's offers of military escort out of the Territory and permission to start new lives elsewhere, were now outlaws. The depredations were not spectacular; no train robberies or bank

hold-ups; but a few cattle and horses did disappear on occasion, and Billy and his merry men did seem to have money to spend in the cantinas.

Here again Billy's knack of leadership was apparent. He was the smallest and youngest of a group which included some fairly hard-bitten characters—Tom O'Folliard, Doc Skurlock, Charley Bowdre, Dave Rudabaugh, Tom Pickett, Billie Wilson, and others—yet Billy was the leader. "Get Billy and the others will scatter," was a unanimous opinion throughout New Mexico. "Get Billy, and all of us—all of us who fought against him in 'The War,' and those of us who didn't but who do own horses and cattle—can breathe easy."



Continued Next Month

POINT BLANK

(Continued from page 17)

gases increases the velocity of sound drops off, conversely as the temperature rises the velocity of sound is hiked. The molecular weight is usually pretty high and this is the determining factor. This makes the velocity of sound comparatively low. Because of these limitations we are up against a stone wall when it comes to lifting bullet velocities above conventional levels with our current offering of rifle powders. It is believed that velocities cannot exceed a top of about 6,000 fps.

In an attempt to find some other propellant, one that will have light weight and a high velocity of sound quotient, Helium has been tested. It has some of the ideal characteristics. It is one of the very lightest gases, is inert, and has a velocity of sound of 3170 fps. The only problem with Helium is to compress it and to raise the temperatures. A special laboratory type gas gun has been developed.

These so-called guns are not guns at all but bear some resemblance. Forty feet in length the device has no application to a conventional sporting rifle. No attempts are being made to adapt the principles to a shoulder-fired firearm. Its reason for being is to test hyper-velocities, mostly for the sake of the National Space Agency. At any rate, it is of interest to small arms experimenters because of the velocities attained. These speeds regularly go over 10,000 fps and have attained velocities as high as 20,000 fps. Barrel life is exceedingly short. A steel projectile is used.

The gun has at its breech end a firing chamber which is loaded with a

charge of rifle powder. When this is ignited it burns, builds up a high pressure and this pressure in turn exerts force against a piston which is forced forward down a long tubing. In front of the piston is a volume of Helium gas. This has a static pressure of from 1,000 to 2,000 psi. The piston is slammed into this Helium gas and compresses it, at the same time raising the temperature. At the forward end of the tubing is the gun barrel. This barrel has a steel projectile lodged in its breech end. This bullet has a flange about its base so that the rising pressures generated by the compressed Helium gas will not force it up the barrel.

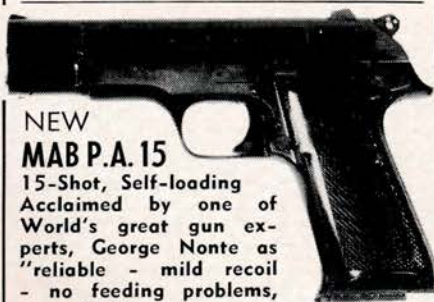
Just before the piston reaches the end of its travel this flange shears off and the projectile commences its travel up the gun bore. The exceedingly high pressures generated by the compressed Helium, together with its good velocity of sound characteristics, produce tremendously high velocities; regularly, as I have said, of 10,000 fps and lab experiments have developed speeds of 20,000 feet per second. Gas pressures, incidentally, sometimes go as high as 150,000 psi.

With the limitations on conventional propellants due to velocity of sound characteristics which are immutable, plus the somewhat ungainly dimensions of the 40-ft. gas gun, it appears we are going to be bound to current velocities for quite a while to come. The 4110 fps of the .220 Swift is now more than three decades without a peer, and it looks as though we are stuck around these levels.



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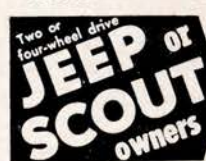
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HUNTER'S GUN

(Continued from page 27)

seldom get a new rifle with bedding that entirely pleases me, but in the past year or so, I have found a number of new rifles with warped stocks. Perhaps some of this is due to real good stock wood becoming more scarce and inferior wood being used, and some of it to the large demand for firearms that results in less thorough seasoning of stock blanks.

I am very sure that guns do not leave the factories with warped stocks, they get that way afterwards. I remember some years ago when Lenard Brownell, at the time still in business in Sheridan, Wyoming, stocked a custom rifle for Fred Huntington of R.C.B.S. and another for me. He used blanks cut from the same log, at the same time, for both rifles. Len is one of the best of the custom stock makers and I'm sure both guns left his shop in perfect condition; but three weeks later both rifles were shooting terrible groups. We returned both rifles to him, and a barrel inlay was made, the rifles rebbed, and sent back. My gun performed excellently and is still one of my most accurate rifles.

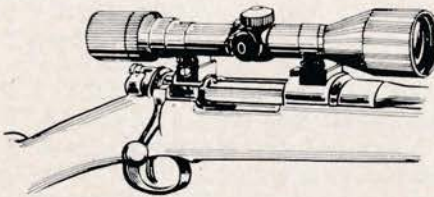
I am completely sold on full floating barrels and have them on all my bench rest, varmint, or hunting rifles. If they are not that way when I get them they certainly are before I use them much. These stocks have far less warpage trouble. Since I use my rifles in all hunting areas of North America, and under all weather conditions, I am sure that they are properly sealed, right from the start of using them.

The scope mount problem is another story. Needless to say, they must be installed "tight." Rifle recoil will shift a scope if it is not tight, but the rough handling of your rifle, when hunting in jeep, pick-up, or on horseback when the rifle is carried in a saddle scabbard, can loosen one in all directions. Loose mounts are only one problem with scopes, another is the location of the scope fore and aft, as measured from the rear lens to the butt of the stock. Manufacturers build a scope with an excellent field of view and the owner can ruin this by mounting it too far forward. On several rifles I checked this fall I found the available field of view only half of what it should have been. This lack of field of view can slow a shooter down considerably in finding his aiming point. One should remember that a scope mounted so that the user

must "creep" up the stock in order to get a field of view puts the eye too close to the scope, and can cause cut eyebrows from the recoil. A properly mounted scope, with the right field of view for the individual shooter, will eliminate this trouble.

Stock length is also something to which few shooters pay much attention. The average 13½" length stock is very seldom changed, although many women shooters would do much better with a 12 or 12½" stock. I have instructed several women shooters this past summer and find that they all shot and handle a rifle faster and better with a properly shortened stock. There are certainly women shooters who can and do shoot the standard 13½" stock very well, but I am a firm believer in a properly fitting stock, for both male and female shooters, and most females do take a shorter stock.

This last fall—I was going to guide a young lady on a Big Horn sheep hunt in the high mountain country. I told her she must come out to the range and practice enough so she



would know her rifle and how to handle it well on the hunt. For two months she practiced once or twice a week; first, from the bench, to develop feel and trigger pull, using the 100 yard range, then from the prone position, using a stock mounted rest, at the 100 and 150 yard range. Some time was spent at off-hand shots at 50 yards or less. Considerable time was spent shooting from a sit, with no sling, and then with a hasty sling. The results? Well, this young lady can now make groups of 1½" at 100 yards and 2½" groups, from a sit, at 100 yards, or groups of 2½" from prone, at 150 yards.

The rifle I had her using for this practice is my wife's 6 mm Remington custom, with 12¼" pull and 11½" distance from rear scope lens to stock butt. We used about 250 rounds of ammunition during her practice sessions, but at the start she did a great deal of dry firing practice. She will get a lot more pleasure from hunting now that she is confident that she can

hit what she aims at. During all this practice shooting I made no attempt to have her shoot at a moving target as I think this sort of shooting can come later. The small amount of time spent at off-hand shooting was just good practice for quick and easy handling of the rifle. Few hunters are qualified to shoot game off-hand at any range over 50 yards, and many hunters shouldn't even try that.

The hunter of today is most fortunate in being able to buy and use the best in guns, ammunition, and accessories. He should see that he knows how to use them well and with confidence because it is going to be harder and harder to find game. Hunting pressure is growing every year as more and more hunters take to the fields. This has become very evident in our state. Although 1968 was a poor hunting year from the standpoint of weather, there is no doubt but that the large game herds are diminishing, particularly the elk herds. It is rather easy to increase the deer herds in spite of hunting pressure and civilization but the elk just don't prosper like the deer.

This reduction in elk numbers can be checked by a survey of the animals taken in different areas and checked through game stations. I will list three different areas, the Wood River-Greybull (Meteeetsee), the South Fork Shoshoni, and the North Fork areas. I can remember when an area kill on elk would approach 1000 in numbers. In comparison the area kill in 1967 was only 417 elk for the Wood River-Greybull area, 583 for the South Fork area and 256 for the North Fork, a total of only 1256 animals for all three areas. The 1968 area kills were Wood River-Greybull, 296, South Fork, 220 and the North Fork, 251, total kill, 767. This is quite a reduction, and cannot be blamed on weather and hunting conditions alone. This year there were groups of 2 to 8 hunters who hunted the Thorofare area and never got a shot at an elk; this is a summer range of elk herds and they stay here during the fall, until driven out by the heavy winter snows.

I believe we will have to get accustomed to finding less big game in our hunting areas, and so it will be well for us to become more proficient in the use of our hunting arms and learn to take advantage of all the help we get from the good equipment now available, in the form of good scopes, good fitting rifles, and good ammunition. And we should spend more time in learning how to use these things more accurately. It will be a big help in eliminating some of our wounded and lost game and give us better hunter success.





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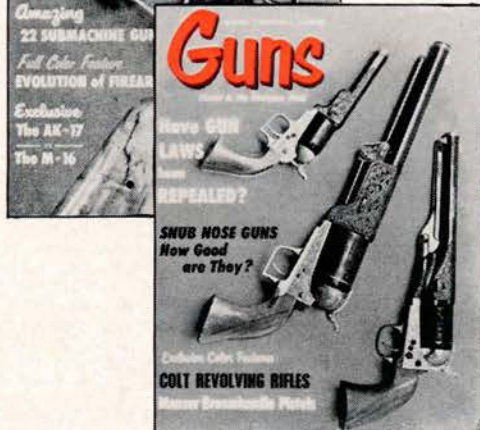
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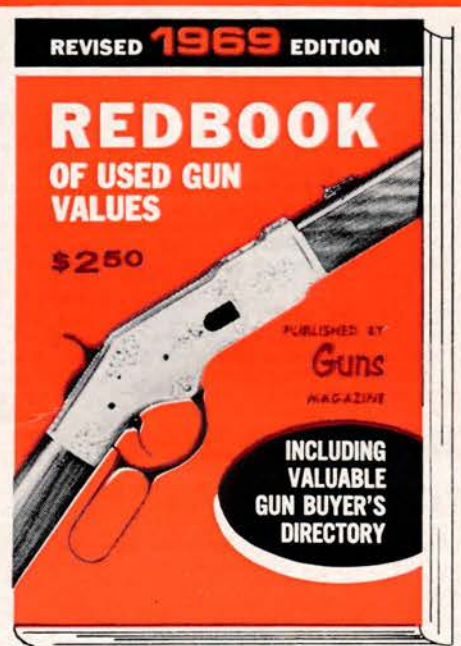
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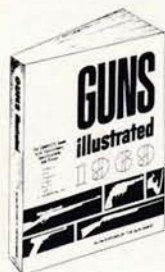
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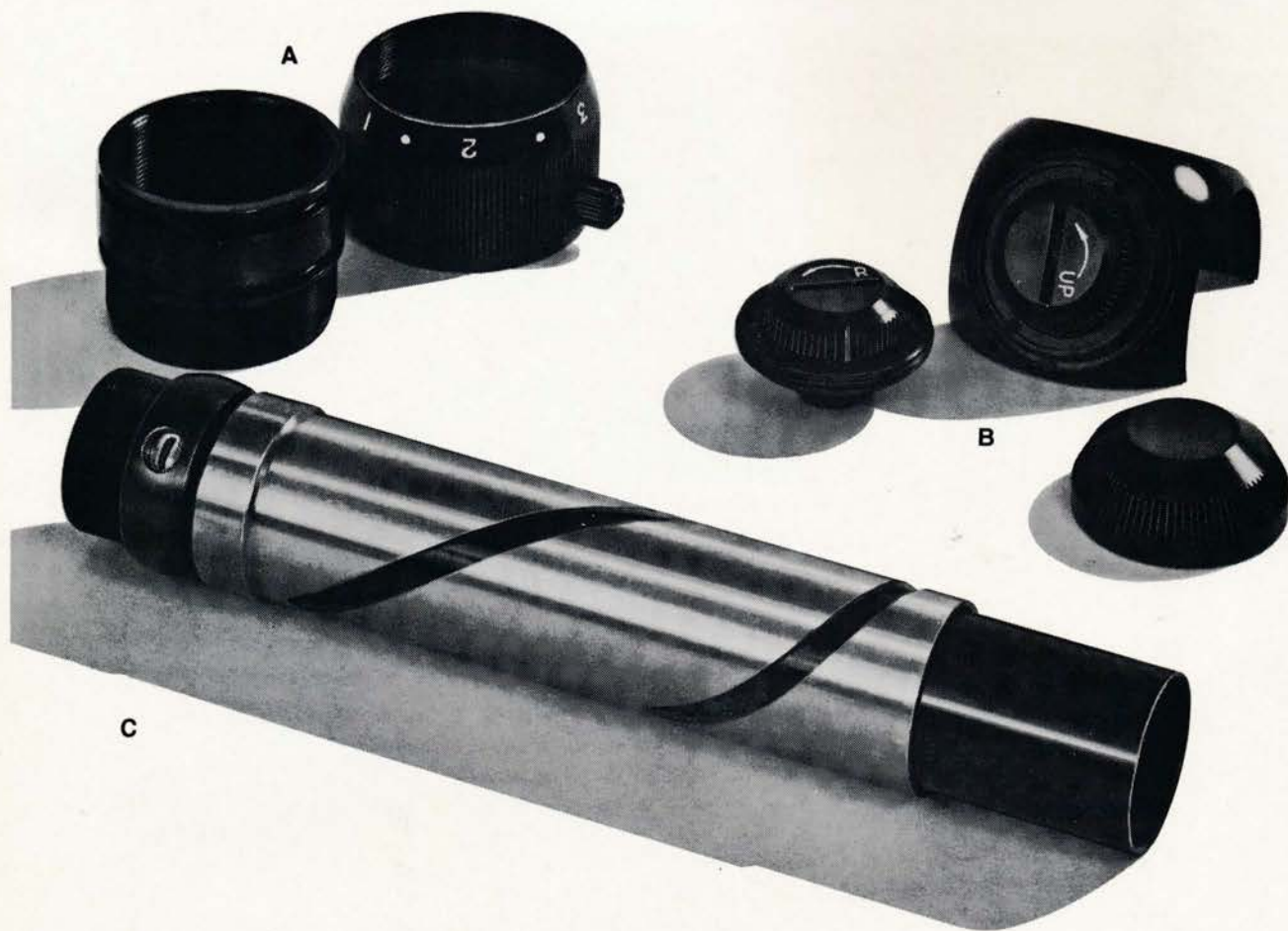
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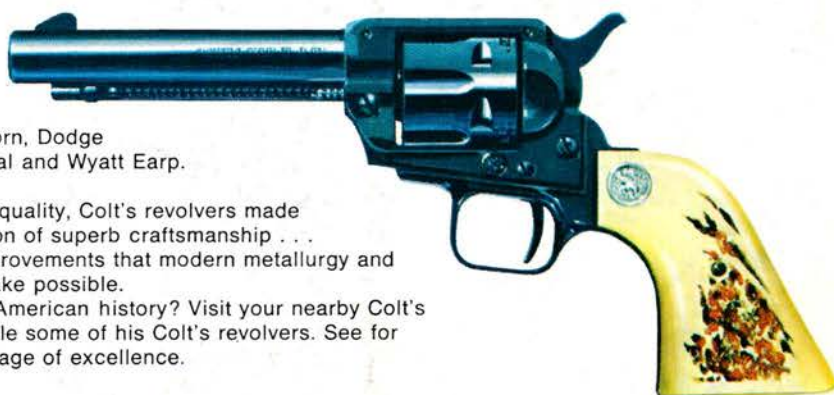


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