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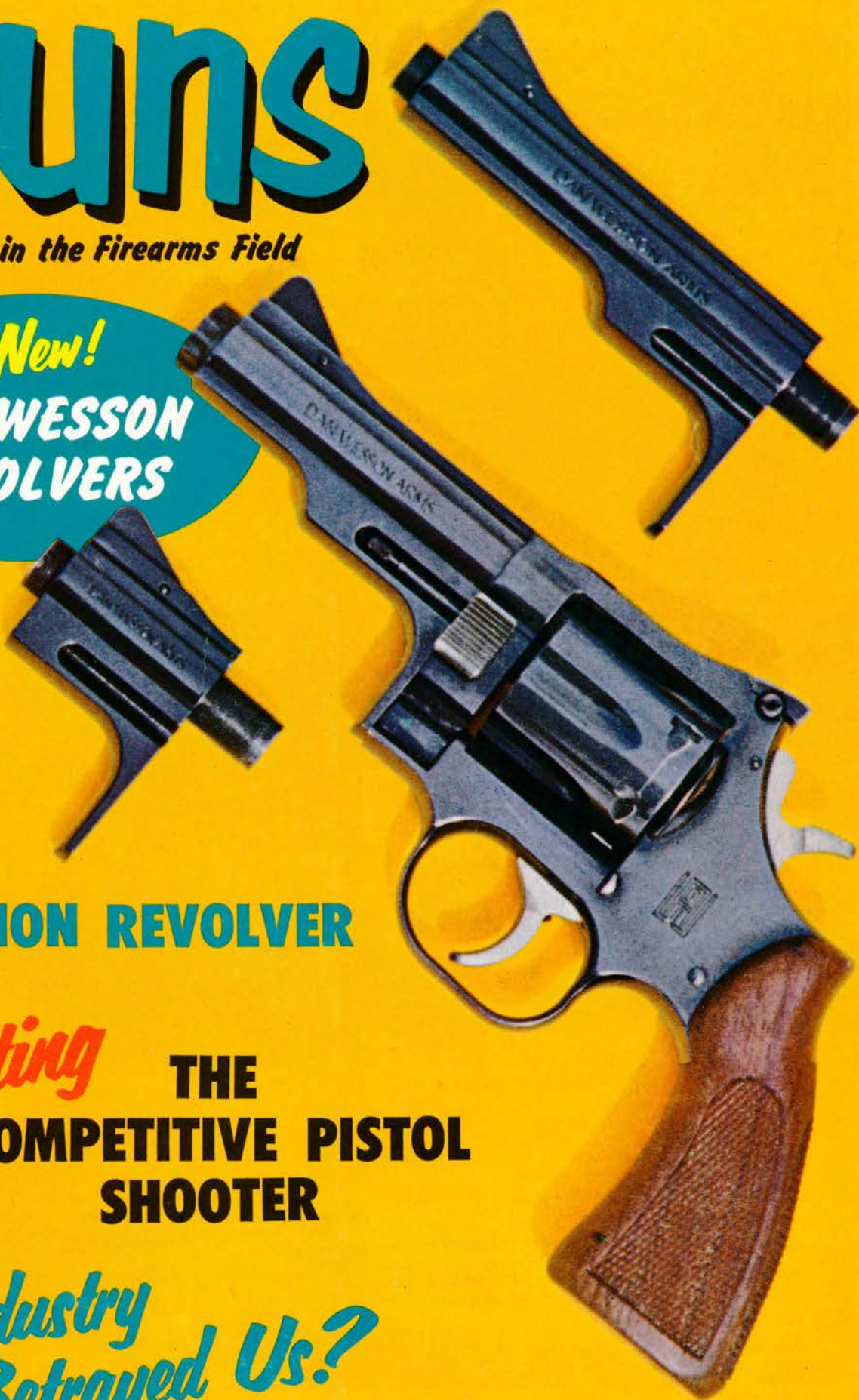
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TRIGGER TALK

FREE GUN DRAWING!

ANNOUNCING the winner of the Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifle; our contest gun in the February issue: Mr. Ross Peterson of Sand Lake, N.Y. is the lucky reader—congratulations.

GUNS ANNUAL

The winners of the four rifles offered in the 1969 GUNS ANNUAL drawing are:

Arthur Molinalo, Wisconsin; winner of the Weatherby Deluxe rifle and scope.

Benny Friend, Texas; winner of the Remington Model 700 Custom Deluxe rifle.

Charles Osterlein, Minn.; winner of the Universal .30 Carbine and scope.

Ernest Kimball, Kentucky; winner of the Browning T-Bolt .22 rifle.

Our congratulations to these winners, and our sincere thanks to all of the manufacturers who cooperated with us in these contests. There are more coming each month in GUNS Magazine, such as the Replica Arms revolvers offered this month on page 44.

* * *

There has been a lot of confusion about the registration of DEWAT automatic firearms under the new gun control law. Be warned now that all automatic firearms must be registered—even those which have been deactivated. If you have one of these in your possession, and it is not registered, you could be fined up to \$10,000 and imprisoned up to 10 years.

* * *

As this is written, we are preparing to leave the office for the NRA Show and Exhibits in Washington, D.C. We will cover the show, not only to take a look at the new guns and shooting accessories, but also to get some kind of a feeling about the legislative picture. Watch for our NRA Show coverage in the July issue, which will also feature a full color story of a Maynard rifle and a big full color gun print for framing.

THE COVER

Here is the brand new Dan Wesson revolver which is covered in our lead article. This promises to be one of the most interesting gun developments of the year, and perhaps the century, with interchangeable barrels and a unique action design. Photo by Bob Swirz.

JUNE, 1969

Vol. XV, No. 9-6

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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CROSSFIRE

Radom or Vis?

As a sometime "expert" on semiautomatic pistols, I must take issue with several points of "The Valiant Vis" in the April issue. First of all, when my writing is quoted, as it is on page 20, it would be nice to be credited, even when the quotation is used in a gently disparaging tone. Regarding the pistol's name, I'm sure that calling it the "Vis", its Polish language title, greatly impresses a small group of readers who delight in such pastimes as memorizing the entire pre-WW II DWM catalogue. However, I feel that the proper designation when writing for the average American reader is the Arsenal name, Radom. Conversely, if I were writing for a European magazine, I would refer to the Luger exclusively as the "Pistole 08" or "Parabellum." The correct terminology is always the name in prevalent usage in a given locality.

Aside from this, there are several factual errors in column one, page 68: "... a click will be heard." (?) "This results from the placement of a bar of steel between hammer and firing pin." Not so. The Radom interposes no block of any kind at this point. Perhaps the writer is thinking of the Petter pistol, the French Model 1935-A. Technically speaking, the Radom's grip safety is the only one provided. The unique hammer-lowering device is not a safety.

Further down, same column, the "finest safety ever devised for an automatic pistol" is not the Walther, which has a strong potential danger factor, but the Mauser HSc, which moves the firing pin up out of the hammer's reach, locks it into the slide top, and does not drop the hammer.

Incidentally, Mr. Lovitz was correct on one point: In my article, which appeared in another magazine last July, I did refer to the pistol, exactly 19 times, as the Radom. To avoid confusing the reader I will continue to do so.

J. B. Wood
Henderson, Ky.

MAB Corrections

I was happy to see the MAB pistol featured in the April issue of GUNS. I own one, and think it is the finest auto pistol value on the market. In the article, the grips are mentioned, and I think, in error. The Military and Standard models come only with the high impact plastic stocks; the Competition model is the only one with wood stocks. The author also noted that no instruction manual came with his pistol, but I understand that manuals now are packed with each pistol, there having been a delay in getting a correct English translation of the French manual.

Jake Petone
Lake Wales, Fla.

Praise From The Pros

We would like to congratulate John Ennes on his excellent article on Viet Cong rockets.

Being stationed North of Chu-Lai we have become quite familiar with these rockets and their capabilities. In our area of operation, our main concern has been locating their sites and destroying them, which proves to be a difficult task since Charlie is considerably smarter than we make him out to be.

Once again, our thanks for an article well done.

The men of the 1st Platoon
C Co. 198th Light Infantry

Likes Luger Article

Please convey our appreciation to the author and to your editorial staff for the excellent article on the Luger in the March issue (So You'd Like To Collect Lugers—John H. Morgan).

Mr. Morgan knows his subject and presented it neatly, accurately and interestingly. The selection of illustrations and layout were especially well done. Thanks.

Fred Houser
Havelock, N. C.

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

ONE OF THE queries most frequently received by this column is for information concerning the type primer (corrosive or non-corrosive) used in a particular lot or caliber of surplus military ammunition. More often than not, each such query also asks that the manufacturer of the ammunition in question be identified and "if it's not too much trouble, tell me when it was made." Those queries aren't answered as simply as you might believe.

First of all, it is virtually impossible to determine from our position whether primers in your particular lot of ammunition are corrosive or non-corrosive. The information simply is not available except in the case of U. S. manufactured ammunition produced specifically for the U. S. Government. Generally speaking, foreign manufactured military ammunition likely to be encountered on the surplus market is *probably* assembled with corrosive primers. Foreign .223 (5.56mm) and 7.62mm NATO (.308 Winchester) ammunition of very recent date is usually assembled with non-corrosive primers. I say generally because my queries to foreign governments on this subject are frequently non-productive. By far the safest procedure is to assume that all foreign military surplus ammunition is assembled with corrosive primers.

Even advertising claims made by the vendors—though normally made in good faith—cannot be relied upon entirely. For example, the French Military Mission recently advised me that only 7.62mm NATO and 7.5mm MLE.F 1 ammunition loaded in that country since 1960 utilizes a non-corrosive primer. This is the "5.5mm MLE.1961" primer. All other French military small arms ammunition is still loaded with corrosive primers though some surplus purveyors have stated otherwise.

Another report we have received indicates that military rifle ammunition produced by Fabrique Nationale in Belgium since some time in 1955 utilizes non-corrosive primers. This, regardless of the nation for which the

ammunition might have been produced. Even so, some "7mm Medium" ammunition clearly produced by FN in 1955 for Venezuela is known to utilize corrosive primers. I have the ruined barrel to prove it.

U. S. military ammunition produced since early 1950 has utilized non-corrosive primers—with one exception, in that the .30 Carbine cartridge has *always* been loaded with non-corrosive primers.

THERE IS a simple test you can perform on any new batch of ammunition to determine whether primers are corrosive. This consists of pulling the bullet and dumping the powder charge from a round of the questionable lot, and also from a current commercial loading known to be non-corrosive. Both primers only are test fired with the muzzle of the gun an inch or so from the face of a polished steel plate—so that the primer residue will be deposited upon the plate. After 24 hours of exposure to a relatively humid atmosphere, you may compare the corrosion (if any) produced by the suspect primer with that of the non-corrosive primer and draw a reasonably valid conclusion.

IDENTIFYING the manufacturer and date of manufacture is not particularly difficult, providing one has the necessary reference material at hand. An unusually complete listing and description of headstamps is contained in *Cartridge Headstamp Guide*, White & Munhall, H. P. White Laboratory, Bel Air, Maryland. All are grouped in alphabetical and/or numerical order, and are also cross referenced by country of origin, thus making it relatively easy to look up virtually any headstamp you might acquire. For example, you might encounter a cartridge headstamp "J-TE W57." Under "J" in this book, you will find it listed and pictured as No. 1115. It is described as the mark of the Toyo Seiki Co., Ltd., Japan, manufactured in the western calendar year of 1957. Military headstamps normally indicate the year of manufacture as well as the manufacturer's name. Most marks in-

dicating only the year of manufacture, but German WW II markings indicate the lot number within the year as well, and current French headstamps indicate the quarter of the year, and also the maker that supplied the case brass to the cartridge manufacturer. This book does not contain ballistic data or information as to type of primer, propellant, or bullet. It is intended purely as a guide to headstamps and in that it does a superb job. If this subject is of particular interest to you, you can't afford to be without a copy.

A FEW MONTHS BACK this column contained loading data for use with Super Vel light-weight, high-velocity expanding bullets. At that time, we promised you more data as it became available. We have just received a fresh batch, compiled by Lee Jurras in the Super Vel Laboratory, and it is

included in the charts below:

WE ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED if the 9mm SV load may be safely used in the Luger pistol. Certainly. In reality, the Super Vel load produces slightly less pressure than that of the standard German WWII 9mm ball load. The German load produced an average chamber pressure of approximately 35,000 psi in tests conducted by the H. P. White laboratories. Note that none of the loads listed below go that high.

In addition, Jurras has promised us further loading data as quickly as his hundreds of tests results can be screened and collated. Will pass it along to you as it becomes available. Incidentally, all of the above loads were assembled with Super Vel cases and primers. The primers are available from Super Vel dealers, but cases are still in the short supply and

SUPER VEL LOADING DATA .380 ACP (9mm Kurz; 9mm Corto)

Bullet	Powder	Charge Gr.	Velocity fps	Energy fp	Pressure psi
Super Vel 80 gr. JHP	Bullseye	3.3	1018	185	12,800
"	230P	3.3	980	170	11,700
"	230P	3.5	1020	185	13,200
"	450LS	4.0	1026	188	13,500
Super Vel 90 gr. JHP	Bullseye	3.0	932	173	12,800
"	230P	3.0	965	187	13,600

Above in 5" Pressure Barrel

9mm PARABELLUM (Luger; 9mm .08)

Super Vel 90 gr. JHP	Bullseye	5.0	1415	399	29,500
"	"	4.5	1310	343	24,300
"	230P	5.0	1422	402	32,200
"	230P	4.5	1274	327	24,800
"	N1010	5.5	1409	397	33,400
"	N1010	5.0	1354	369	30,800
"	7625	5.5	1401	392	30,000
"	AL-5	7.5	1320	307	22,300
Super Vel 108 gr. JSP	230P	4.5	1240	368	28,600
"	Trap 14	6.0	1285	395	27,000
"	Herco	7.0	1324	420	28,100

Above in 5" Pressure Barrel

.38 SPECIAL

Super Vel 110 gr. JHP/JSP	Unique	7.5	1282	399	18,900
"	"	7.0	1205	358	16,200
"	AL-5	9.0	1108	350	15,500
Super Vel 125 gr. JHP	Unique	7.0	1201	399	19,400
"	Unique	6.5	1099	335	15,500
"	AL-5	8.0	1110	341	16,000
Super Vel 158 gr. Lead	2400	10.5	1090	414	19,300
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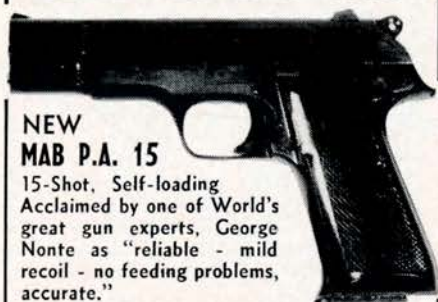
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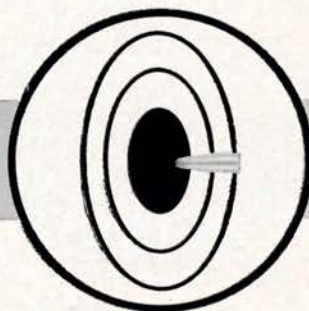
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POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

DAVID BOHANNON, a California sportsman, lay in the top of a pressure ridge a hundred and fifty miles off the Alaska coast. He was on the ice of the Chukchi Sea, prime polar bear hunting territory. In front of his position and bearing down on him was a monster white bear. The bruin was unaware of Bohannon and his guide, John Swiss. The pair had stalked carefully to place themselves directly in the path of the lumbering behemoth. On he came and when about 65 yards distant, Swiss whispered, "Take him".

Bohannon, the dude—all sportsmen are referred to as dudes by their guides—carefully squeezed the trigger. There wasn't even a click. The firing pin would not fall. Hastily he operated the bolt throwing out the live cartridge and chambering a fresh one. This time he squeezed a good deal more hastily for the great white target was bearing down on them like an onrushing freight. Again no explosion. A third try was equally unproductive.

The hunter, by this time pretty panicky, snatched up the rifle of his guide and attempted to snap off a shot with it. An empty click was the only result. The bear was at 35 yards and still was unaware of his enemies. He did not deviate, but kept coming straight on. Swiss drew his .44 magnum while Bohannon in desperation threw the guide's rifle aside and again snatched up his own. It had one last round in the magazine. He chambered it and aimed at the bear's broad chest. The rifle fired, the bruin was shot squarely through the heart and died in his tracks. Some 27 steps from the gun muzzle.

The temperature was 35 degrees below zero and there was a 22 knot wind whipping down from the Pole. This meant the working temperature was something less than minus 50 degrees. But that was not the reason for the failure of the two rifles to fire. What had happened was that a trifling collection of ice particles had gathered between the coils of the driving

spring which activates the firing pin.

The day before, Bohannon, newly arrived in Kotzebue, home base for the polar bear guides, had gone out on the ice and fired his rifle to check out the zero. The heat generated by this firing had penetrated the bolt sufficiently to cause condensation. The result was that ice particles had gathered between the coils of the spring, serving as a cushion so the firing pin could not set off the primer.

Whenever I prepare for an Arctic sojourn, I completely Arcticize my battery. Condensation up there is a problem, but maybe an even greater one is oils and greases left in the action. The lubricants under the influence of temperatures which range down to 40 degrees below zero can get as hard and unyielding as the ice. In anticipation of this each of my rifles is completely disassembled and every working part is washed in carbon tetrachloride and afterward thoroughly dried.

Once the sportsman has arrived in Kotzebue his rifle remains aboard the hunting plane. Here it stays day and night throughout the hunting sojourn. It is thoroughly cold-soaked and along with it the ammunition. High intensity rifle cartridges will lose velocity to the tune of approximately 14 feet per second for every 10 degrees of temperature from 70 down to zero. No one has yet calculated what the loss must be from 0 degrees down to minus 40! Suffice to say the hottest magnum has lost some of its thump in the Arctic. This, coupled with the fact that you never know until you pull trigger whether it is going to fire adds a good deal of spice to the adventure!

...

If you ask the average shooting man which he considered the most famous rifle action he will probably think a moment and tell you the Winchester lever action. He'd miss on that one.

The most famous rifle action ever developed is the Mauser. Sometimes pronounced, "Mowser" other times

called the "Mawser", this breech-up system has fought more wars, killed more men, downed more game, sold more copies, felt the bite of the Arctic cold and the heat of the tropics, belched forth its song on more continents and been with us longer than any.

The Mauser is a German invention. It was worked up by Peter Paul Mauser, who was the son of a gunsmith. The first successful Mauser action was the 1871 model. Since then we've had a whole succession of improved types. There was the 1873, and the Model '88 and the '89 and the Turkish Mauser of 1890, the Argentine 1891 and the Spanish 7 mm of 1893.

The Spaniards gave us a rough time in Cuba during the summer war now referred to as the Spanish-American with that new rifle they had! By 1898, Peter Paul, who was born in 1838 and lived until 1914, had really perfected his shooting iron. The Model 1898 is still around, some 71 years old and still the most popular turning-bolt breeching system in the world.

Not long ago, during World War II, the German Wehrmacht fought with the famous rifle. Afterward the French gathered up thousands of these weapons and trundled them off to Indo-China to arm the Vietnamese. Many of these same Mausers are in the hands of the Viet Cong today.

So impressed were we with the performance of the 7 mm Mauser in the hands of the Spanish during our war with the Iberians, we decided we must immediately have a modern turning bolt rifle. We had fought with the Krag and the old 45-70 Springfield. Our ordnance people whipped up a rifle which was adopted in 1903. It is such a careful copy of the rifle made by the Mauserwerke, Oberndorf-Nekar, Germany, that the U.S. government payed some \$200,000 in royalties for the privilege of manufacturing it. We might better have adopted the Mauser outright. It is a better rifle.

These days the following armies are equipped with the Mauser: Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Red China, Columbia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Luxemburg, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Iran, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia. While some of these nations are changing over to automatic arms the transfer is not yet complete. Countries like Belgium, Red China, Sweden, and Spain are in process. There are other countries that use rifles that are kinsin' kin to the Mauser. These are Italy, Japan, and Nationalist China. The USA, until very recently, still had both the 1903 and the 1917 rifles

in reserve stocks.

Among sporting firearms every turning-bolt made in this country is virtually a take-off on the Mauser. Abroad, the rifle is made, sometimes in purely military form, other times as a hunting rifle by the Steyr Works of Austria, the Fabrique Nationale of Belgium, the Brno Works, Czechoslovakia, the Radom and Warsaw Arsenals of Poland, and the Spanish arsenal at La Coruna. Not usually listed among the manufacturers of this world famous ordnance are the Pathan tribesmen of the Khyber Pass. These fellows turn out faithful copies using nothing but a foot-powered lathe and a file!

In the realm of sporting rifles the Mauser action has been barreled for every caliber from .222 to .458 elephant gun. It has been made in short, medium and magnum actions. The Mauser Co. once branched out and made a series of autoloaders. The best known importer of the Mauser action today is the Browning Arms Co. of Utah. This firm sells the Mauser as made by FN of Herstal, Belgium. Because of its goodness, its reliability and its world-wide acceptance the Japanese are now making a faithful copy of the M98 to be imported and sold in this country.

The trend in military circles these days is to the automatic arm. Among sportsmen this direction is not nearly so apparent. Eventually, I presume, the turning-bolt Mauser and all its kin will go by the board, but that time is certainly no where in the immediate future.

...

Three kinds of sights grace our hunting firearms. These are the open, aperture, and telescopic sights. Of the three the majority of hunting arms carry the open iron sights, yet of the three these are by a margin the poorest. Since they are so sorry the question arises why do the manufacturers continue to produce such poor equipment?

The answer is that these sights are the cheapest to produce. Besides this the sights, despite their crudeness, are the most popular. If you could run a count on the shooting men of this country you'd find more open sights and more shooters perfectly content with them than any of the others. More game has been killed with this combo than with any other.

While it may be popular, this kind of sight is crude and inaccurate. It is a 65-yd affair primarily. The trouble with the thing is that you cannot see the front bead in the rear notch the same from shot to shot. Besides this these sights have some of the most

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primitive adjustments, most of them movable only for elevation in increments of 50 yards.

The second sight, the aperture or as it is more commonly called, the peep, is infinitely better. It is quite accurate, is not quite as fast to use for really quick snap shots, but at the longer ranges it far outdistances the open sight. The sight comes in all shades of cost and refinement. The better ones are actually micrometered-adjustable. That is to say the movements are controlled by a click adjustment which measures the change in micrometered shifts of center. These have positive lock, are graduated and easily read. While it might sound like it is fragile, actually such a sight is quite rugged.

Where the best marksmen can hope to shoot as good as three minutes of angle at 100 yards with the open sight, with a good aperture he will hit one minute of angle. This means the one sight is three times as precise as the other.

While this may sound like the peep sight is the best answer the truth is the gadget isn't popular at all. If the figures were available, I think it would be found that the aperture sight is steadily losing ground. The little popularity it once had is slipping.

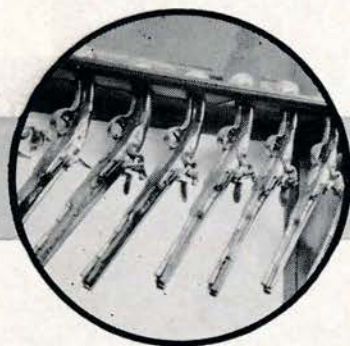
The glamor sight these days has got to have glass in it. The gunsman who graduates from the open iron sights that graces his prize when he fetches it home, skips the peep and goes directly to the scope. The telescopic sight is the most widely accepted of any accessory sight. This is not to say there are more of these optical gee-gaws than there are iron sights, far from it, but once the shooting man decides to improve he goes all out.

On the score of precision the scope at 100 yards—and we speak now of hunting glasses, those of 2½ to 6 power—are better than the micro-adjustable aperture sight. But at 200 yards the margin in favor of the optical sight grows considerably. At 300

yards the telescope simply walks off and leaves the peep.

The margin in favor of the telescope is not solely in the degree of precision, but even more from the standpoint of presenting an easier, better, and more clearly visible game target. The animal is literally drawn closer, brought forward to a yardage which may be anywhere from 2½ times to as much as nine times nearer. This permits the shooter to select a spot to place his crosshairs which insures better hits and cleaner kills.

Except in the jungle, or when hunting African buffalo, or cantankerous bull tuskers, who more often than not must be shot at yardages hard off the muzzle, I use a scope for all my hunting. Granted it has its shortcomings, its susceptibility to rough handling, to bad weather, to dirt, mud and rain, and its limited field of view is a serious weakness, a factor which makes it sometimes slow to use but with all this, I think it is still better than open sights or the peep.



GUN RACK

Bonanza 68 Press

The "68" may sound like a strange name for a reloading press we are reviewing in '69. We got the press late in '68, but wanted to spend some time with it before reporting—and then there's the time it takes to get into print.

C. E. Purdie, Bonanza Honcho, wanted a lower-priced companion to the big CO-AX press, but wasn't satisfied with any of the existing designs. He tried several, and we examined test models and prototypes nearly two years ago. The "68" represents the results of many tests, combined with economy of production, to produce a medium-price press of maximum utility and versatility.

It is basically an O-type press possessing an unusually large work opening tapering from bottom to top. We are particularly pleased that it sits fully upright on a large integral mounting flange. Why so many mak-

ers have for years tilted their presses is a mystery to us. It only causes case and decapping pin damage. The "68" dispenses with the usual swinging priming arm. A priming punch fits into the ram and a priming shell holder screws into the die hole. Thus, priming must be done separately, after resizing. That's the way we've always preferred to do it anyway.

The ram accepts standard detachable shell holder heads, but only Bonanza heads may be used in the priming station because of priming punch diameter. Bonanza holder heads have a hole diameter larger than other makes. The ram is very closely fitted in its long bearing hole in the frame, insuring good alignment for a long time.

Handle/ram linkage is conventional, with adequate mechanical advantage for any normal reloading work. On our sample, most case forming work can be done easily. The handle is

offset to the right, applies power on the downstroke, and all linkage pins are hardened and ground. A large soft grip is fitted to the handle. The ram is slotted to expell fired primers to the rear of the press. A container set on the mounting flange will catch most primers.

Our sample press works smoothly and easily. About the only fault to be found is the diameter of the three mounting bolt holes. We prefer ⅜" bolts to really tie a press solidly to the bench—and the holes won't accept a size that large. Easy to drill them out, though. The Bonanza "68" is priced at \$31.55, complete with one shell holder head and large and small priming punches. Bonanza Sports Inc., Box 278, Faribault, Minnesota, 55021.—Maj. George C. Nonte, Jr.

Dan Wesson/Brno Shotgun

The Dan Wesson Arms Company, is importing a novel Brno Works shotgun. It is a 12 guage, an over/under with two sets of barrels. The first set is for field use, 28 inches, and bored full and modified. The second set is for skeet, with twin comps built into the muzzles, 26 inches, and improved cylinder in both upper and lower tubes.

The Model 201 has a novel sliding breechblock. The top lever retracts the sliding breech and frees the locking bolt which passes through doll's head extensions on the upper barrel.

In closing, the barrels cam the breechblock backward and this takes considerable force as the block is held forward by a strong spring. Motion of the breechblock serves to cock both hammers. The shotgun has no ejectors; it is a simple extractor type.

The receiver has considerable depth but is notable for a lack of screws and pins. There is one pin which holds the trigger assembly in place. To assemble barrels to action requires that the breechblock be wedged against the corner of a workbench and forced backward to its cocked position. Barrels have two stud extensions that serve to lock the tubes to the action. The extension on the left side is spring loaded and must be depressed as the barrels are assembled.

There are two triggers. These fire either barrel, however the rear trigger may be pressed twice to fire first the lower and then the over barrels. The Model 201 is sometimes barreled with a rifle-shotgun combination and when this is done the forward trigger is used to fire the upper (rifle) barrel.

The shotgun weighs 7 lbs. 2 oz. with skeet barrels. Stock is walnut, checkered, and with a hard rubber buttplate. There is a pistol grip and a comfortable forestock. Drop and length of pull were okay for skeet. Measurements indicated both barrels were choked .003" just behind the built-in compensators. Patterns at 25 yards indicated good skeet distribution. Tried for 100 shots, scores ran 23, 24, 23, 24, with Federal and Remington new plastic loads.

Trigger pulls were four to five pounds with an excessive amount of over-travel. The lack of ejectors is actually a boon to the skeet shooter who saves his empties for reloading.

Patterns tests of the 28-inch field grade barrels at 40 yards saw the under barrel average 62% and the upper barrel 67%. Loads were $3\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$, Federal loading. An inside micrometer indicated the lower barrel is over-choked. It measured .685". The upper barrel went .680". Normal full choke is .695-.700".

The new Wesson shotgun handles well, points smoothly and is comfortable to carry and to shoot. The action is a little rough and hard-opening, and the lack of ejectors in a birdy corner will not endear the import to the gunner who has been brought up on guns that kick out the empties.

New Bushnell Mount

Two years ago Dave Bushnell introduced his Universal scope mount.
(Continued on page 16)

SHERIDAN'S

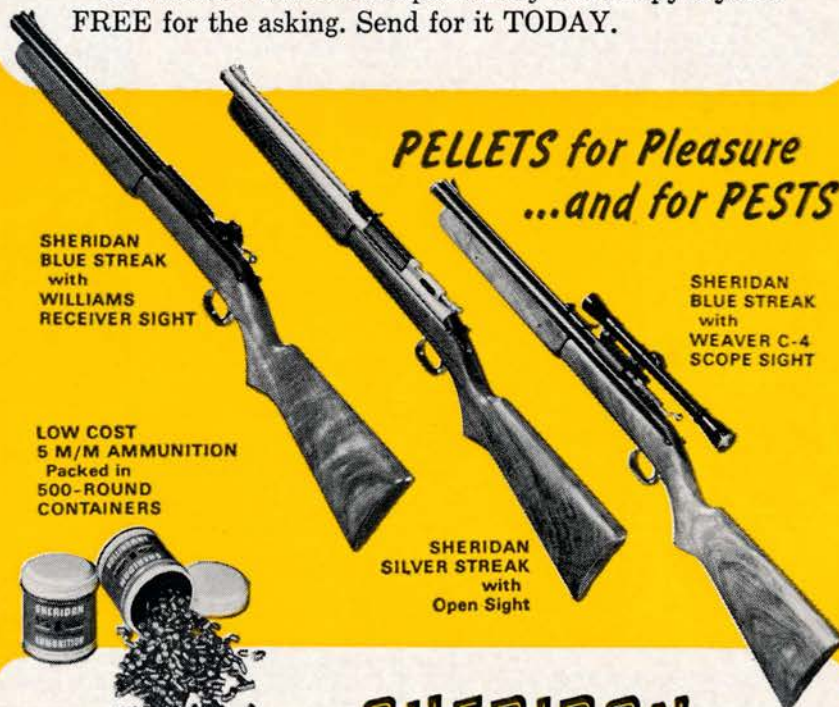
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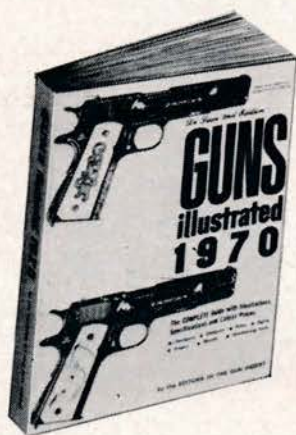
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

Gun owners have been given another valuable tool in the fight against gun registration, and they are going to need it.

The cost to the city of New York to process each application for a pistol permit is \$72.87, according to a survey prepared and paid for by the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence. Now, let us see, is it 40 or 50 million guns in the United States?

The Commission, set up by President Johnson, ordered the report after it heard conflicting reports on cost estimates. During these hearings the New York police official in charge of the program stated he did not know the cost. He did say, to this reporter, that often the cost to the city ran as much as \$500 to process one application. He added that the higher cost involved applications not involving ex-policemen. Being an ex-policeman is about the only way you can get such a permit.

These figures do not include the cost to the applicant. He pays \$20, not refundable. Then there are the indirect fees; time off from work, providing application requirements and lawyers. "Indirect cost of firearm control programs are as important as the direct cost," states the Commission's report.

Speaking of cost, Sen. Dodd's Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee requested \$257,500 in funds this year "to study all matters pertaining to juvenile delinquency in the United States." Last year, the one of the infamous anti-gun show, \$225,000 was authorized, of which \$208,310 was ex-

pended.

The Committee on Rules and Administration, which reviews fund requests, reduced the new amount to \$225,000. This is a reduction of \$32,500, but still \$26,690 more than the subcommittee used last year. The \$225,000 was approved.

This is important, because legislation to remove long gun ammunition and components from the 1968 Gun Control Act has been referred to Dodd's Subcommittee. The legislation, at this writing, has nearly 30 Senators as co-sponsors (See page 21).

Want to bet that part of the \$225,000 is not used for putting on another anti-gun show?

The committee is now investigating conditions in correctional institutions for young offenders. Into the hearings was brought a man, identified only as "John Doe," who made national headlines by telling the subcommittee the first thing he would do when he got out would be to get himself a gun and hold up anything that moved.

Dodd could, and probably will, publicly review the ammunition amendment this year. If he doesn't turn the review into an anti-gun show, surely subcommittee member, Sen Tydings of Maryland, will.

During Senate review of the funds approved for Dodd, the effectiveness of the subcommittee was challenged. Sen. Allen Ellender of Louisiana stated, "I thought we could get rid of some of these subcommittees. I believe this is a good place to start." Sen. Ellender also stated, "It seems to me that the longer this (Continued on next page)

committee goes on, the more juvenile delinquency we have."

The ammunition amendment is supported by none other than Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield. The Montana senator called it "back-door" gun registration. Ammunition was not to be included in the Gun Control Act of last Congress. The amendment was sneaked in at the last minute. There was no chance for developing a legislative history so the Internal Revenue Service went overboard in issuing regulations. Said Sen. Mansfield, "It seems to me to indicate that registration by another name is being required by a regulation of the Internal Revenue Service."

Under section 992(b)(5) and 923(g) of the law, dealers are required to record the name, age, and address of the buyer of ammunition as well as firearms. The regulations also call for the following "manufacturer, caliber, gauge, or type of component, quantity, name, address, date of birth and mode of identification, driver's license, and so forth." Mike Mansfield said: "It seems to me that this goes far beyond 'the name, age, and address' of the law and covers a good deal more territory which, in effect, amounts to registration."

The burr under Mansfield's saddle, even his chair in the Senate, is that he voted for the 1968 Gun Control Act. Some other senators up for reelection last year did not do so well. In the words of another senator, also from the West, "Some of the ladies are raising holy hell because they have to give their age when buying a box of shotgun shells."

"This is back-door registration and

should be corrected. In my judgment, it is necessary to correct an unnecessary burden and a deceptive form of registration and to bring the regulations in line with the intent of Congress at the time the bill was passed," Mansfield told the Senate.

The Senate rejected registration when it passed the 1968 Act. The ammunition provision points out clearly that many of the lawmakers did know what was in the legislation.

As a matter of opinion, it is this reporter's view that much of the legislation passed in Washington goes through without close review. This happens when a senator or congressman introduces legislation and then conducts the committee review of the measure. They develop blind spots.

"If we could only see others as others see us," someone once wrote. He has been rewritten many times, and it is the truth.

This reporter will take the liberty to pass another judgment. While the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence will, in all likelihood, make recommendations for anti-gun legislation, one could not help but respect their thoroughness.

The study on gun registration is an example. It is obvious sponsors of such measures have been peddling a real "pig in a poke." Or is that too descriptive? The Johnson Administration even had the gall to suggest the cost come out of wildlife funds. Wildlife funds paid by the hunter, of course. The cost would probably run into billions. How many \$3 duck stamps would we have to buy? How long would it be until more wetlands could be bought?

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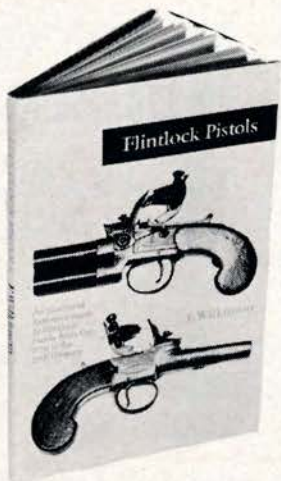
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by F. Wilkinson

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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 11)

This mount used only two mounting screws. The rear screw, a 6-48, held the rear scope ring and a forward screw fastened the forward ring. The screws had mounting studs which were recessed into over-size holes in the bases of the scope rings. Allen screws bear against the studs providing the joint between studs and rings. These same Allen screws provide windage and elevation adjustments. By loosening them there is both a lateral and a vertical movement possible. The mount is of steel and sells for \$14.95. Its advantages are that it can be mounted on any rifle. The fact that only two screws are employed makes it possible to locate the scope in any position, well forward, 'way back, or in an intermediate position. The mounting studs will accept any contour of the receiver and this is another advantage.

Now the Bushnell Co. has a new mount that is exactly like the original except made of aluminum alloy. Price, \$9.95. The mounting studs, 6-48

mounting screws, and the Allen screws are of chrome-moly steel, the scope rings and integral mounting recess in the bottom of each is of alloy.

The Universal mount was attached to a .358 Norma Magnum caliber. The rifle is the Schultz & Larsen. It develops 48 ft. lbs. of recoil with standard Norma loads. It was first sighted in



with the Sweaney Collimator, the Site-A-Line device, and then fired at 200 yards. The first 3 shots went 7 inches low and 5½ inches left. A correction was made by backing off on the Allen screws and after six rounds the rifle was in zero. The next five shots were in a 4.1" group. The fol-

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lowing five shots showed a tendency to crawl. The group was scattered vertically, climbing to two o'clock. This group measured seven inches. A correction was made in the mount by backing off on the Allen screws and again tightening. The third group measured 5.2 inches. The fourth group was spread horizontally. It measured 7.2 inches. It is likely that this mount will be okay for rifles of milder recoil but with a kick of 48 pounds the $\frac{5}{32}$ " Allen screws simply will not maintain a constant zero.

The Lee Primer Seating Tool

I am of the opinion that in every field of endeavor, not just shooting or handloading, there should be available to the public useful items that are both simple and low cost. Simplicity of design and low cost can be brought about through today's modern production technology. This sensible approach seems to be overlooked to a greater degree than we'd like. However, makers of handloading gear don't seem to get nearly as far out as occasionally occurs in some of the other fields of interest—but far enough, sometimes.

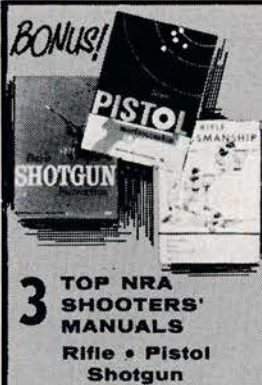
It is for these reasons that we are very much impressed with Dick Lee's latest brainstorm—a hand-held primer seating tool. It is being produced by Lee Custom Engineering, Inc., Hartford, Wisconsin, maker of the Lee Loader and sells for a mere \$2.45, plus \$1.50 for a shellholder head. Other similar items from assorted manufacturers sell up to the tune of \$27.50.

The intriguing thing about the Lee is that it will do anything the costlier tools do, though maybe not quite as conveniently. However, how many customers will pay an extra 20 or more bucks for only added convenience?

The basis of the Lee Tool is a light cast alloy frame carrying a pivoted lever at its lower end and a threaded shellholder head at the other. There is a spring-loaded primer punch that seats against a link connected to the lever. This passes through the shellholder. The spring keeps the punch retracted and the lever extended.

Simply drop a primer in the holder, slip a decapped case in place, and squeeze handle and body together to seat the primer. Pressure and seating depth are varied by the depth to which the holder is screwed in the body. This tool comes with punches for both large and small primers.

It would seem that handloading enthusiasts would find it very hard to pass by this handy, inexpensive, and practical gadget, and this writer was very much impressed.



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FIRST
REPORT:


New Dan Wesson Revolver

By MASON WILLIAMS

EVEN THE MOST jaded handgunner will perk up a bit when he gets his hands on the new Dan Wesson revolver that embodies some radically new and yet sound design features. First of all, the side plates are both clean giving a fresh look to the handgun. Gone is the finger-splitting cylinder lock that has been moved forward to the front of the cylinder becoming an integral part of the crane. This serrated catch moves up and down under spring tension to engage a cut in the frame, thereby locking

the cylinder at the front. At the rear, a simple spring loaded ball bearing has been set into the frame and this snaps into a recess in the rear of the ejector rod head, eliminating all of the customary complicated ejector rod assembly. This handgun has been so simply constructed and has so few parts that the first time the shooter takes it apart he will not believe that this small number of parts can possibly function the entire handgun. But it's true.

The next eye catching detail is the barrel nut that fits onto the muzzle end of the barrel. Unscrew this with the wrench furnished with the revolver,



D. Wesson (left) and
Fred Haines check out
interchangeable barrel
design of the new gun.



Above: the Dan Wesson Arms revolver, cal. .357 Magnum. Note the distinctive profile and muzzle. Photo of lockwork, left, shows the simplicity of design. Hammer spring is housed in the grip lug at rear of main frame.



pull off the barrel shroud, then the barrel unscrews and you are ready to screw in one of three other barrels. At the start, this revolver will be sold with either a 2½" barrel or a 4" barrel. Later on there will be 5" and 6" barrels. In order to correctly locate the rear of the barrel, Dan Wesson furnishes a gauge so that when you are screwing in a new barrel—or for that matter, replacing the original barrel—you insert the gauge between the front of the cylinder

and the rear of the barrel, bring up the barrel finger tight, slip on the barrel shroud, lock the barrel nut securely, pull out the gauge and the barrel is in place, with the precise barrel/cylinder gap. Simple? Once you have done this a couple of times, it only takes a minute at the most to remove and install a barrel. This flexibility enables the shooter to pot varmints with the long barrel and then switch over to the 2½" barrel for carrying. It appears to be an

DAN WESSON REVOLVER



Above, the Dan Wesson revolver showing three barrel lengths with their respective barrel shrouds. Below, the grip slides up and onto the rear receiver lug and is secured by an allen head screw. Wrench is supplied with gun. Note the Dan Wesson trade mark on receiver.



ideal arrangement for the sportsman, trapper, hunter and law enforcement officer.

I have purposely avoided mentioning the target shooter because the action of this revolver must be tried to be believed and today match target shooters are so intent upon using automatic pistols that I am afraid it will take a bit of doing to get them to stampede dealers for these new revolvers. The double action is so short, so clean, and so smooth that there is nothing like it on the market. The single action is so short that target shooters may injure their thumbs attempting to pull back the hammer the conventional distance. But I predict that once the target shooter gets his hands on this revolver he will be hooked.

In my opinion, the hang of the 4" barrel with an all steel shroud is tops, handling the big .357 Magnum cartridge with perfect ease and the match wadcutter .38 Special like a .22 Long Rifle. Naturally, the aluminum shroud will change both the hang and the weight. As I recall, the 4" barrel with steel shroud checks out at about 35 ounces—an ideal weight for an all-around handgun. Most important of all, once you have sighted in this revolver with one barrel and have it shooting precisely where you want it, removing and replacing the same barrel will not affect the point of impact. We tested two different barrels with their individual barrel shrouds and I could not notice any change in point of impact at twenty five yards.

The handling characteristics of this handgun were good for my particular hand with the checkered grips that come with the revolver. Dan Wesson offers three different grips varying in size, angle and shape. In the unlikely event that the grips do not fit your hand, take the wrench that is furnished with the revolver, unscrew the Allen head bolt that runs up through the center of the grip from the butt and pull off the grip, then slide on a new one and see how you like that. Because the grip is held on by this Allen head bolt that screws into a heavy square lug at the end of the frame, there is sufficient wood around the bolt to allow the shooter to file, alter and change the grip design, shape, and cant. Yes—you can change the cant or hang of the revolver and I suggest that when you order out your Dan Wesson Model 12 .357 Magnum that you put (Continued on page 53)

DO IT NOW!

HERE ARE TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSITIVE PRO-GUN ACTION

By J. RAKUSAN

EVERY SHOOTER, hunter, or gun collector wants to do something positive to ease the burden of gun control laws on the law-abiding citizen, and now they have that chance.

The Gun Control Act of 1968 prohibits a resident of a state from purchasing a firearm in another state. However, the Act permits a qualified resident of one state to purchase a rifle or shotgun in an adjoining state *if his state of residence permits it*. The Act reads: "It shall be unlawful for any licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or licensed collector to sell or deliver . . .

(3) any firearm or ammunition to any person who the license knows or has reasonable cause to believe does not reside in . . . the state in which the licensee's place of business is located, except that this paragraph (A) shall not apply to the sale or delivery of a rifle or shotgun to a resident of a State contiguous to the State in which the licensee's business is located if the purchaser's State of residence

permits such sale or delivery by law . . ."

The Internal Revenue Service, which enforces this federal gun law has advised that the purchaser's state of residence must have enabling legislation which specifically authorizes the so-called contiguous state transaction. Recently, the State of Louisiana's legislators passed a resolution which authorized such transactions, but the ATFD of Internal Revenue has ruled that a resolution is not valid; specific legislation must be passed and signed into law.

Here, then, is your chance to use your influence to get such legislation passed in your state. Reprinted below is a Model Bill which meets all the requirements of the ATFD. Get your legislators working on this now, (Continued on Page 52)

Page 3

Date	Manufacturer	Caliber, Gauge, or Type of Component	Quantity (Boxes)	Buyer's Name, Address, City and State	Date of Birth	Method of Identification (Permit, Driver's License, etc. Specify and show number)
2/12/69	Rem.	.38 Spl.	2	Joe Jones, 293 Third St. Dayton, Ohio	7/14/46	Ohio Driver Lic #73-8412
2/19/69	Fed.	12 ga.	3	Mike Lee, 1407 Dayton St. Sandusky, Ohio	4/12/42	Ohio Driver Lic #79-4172
3/1/69	Winch.	.22 LR	1	Frank Frelb, 817 Forest Ln. Dayton, Ohio	7/6/36	Ohio Driver Lic #36-4
3/10/69	Hornady	.270 Bullets	1	Andy Brown, 716 Lee Dr., Columbus, Ohio	3/5/39	Ohio Driver Lic #7

Many legislators are now asking if these records are not, in reality, registration.

the 6.5 has a lot going for it.

6.5 x 53 MANNLICHER-SCHOENAUER



6.5 x 55 MM



Charles Askins

By CHARLES ASKINS

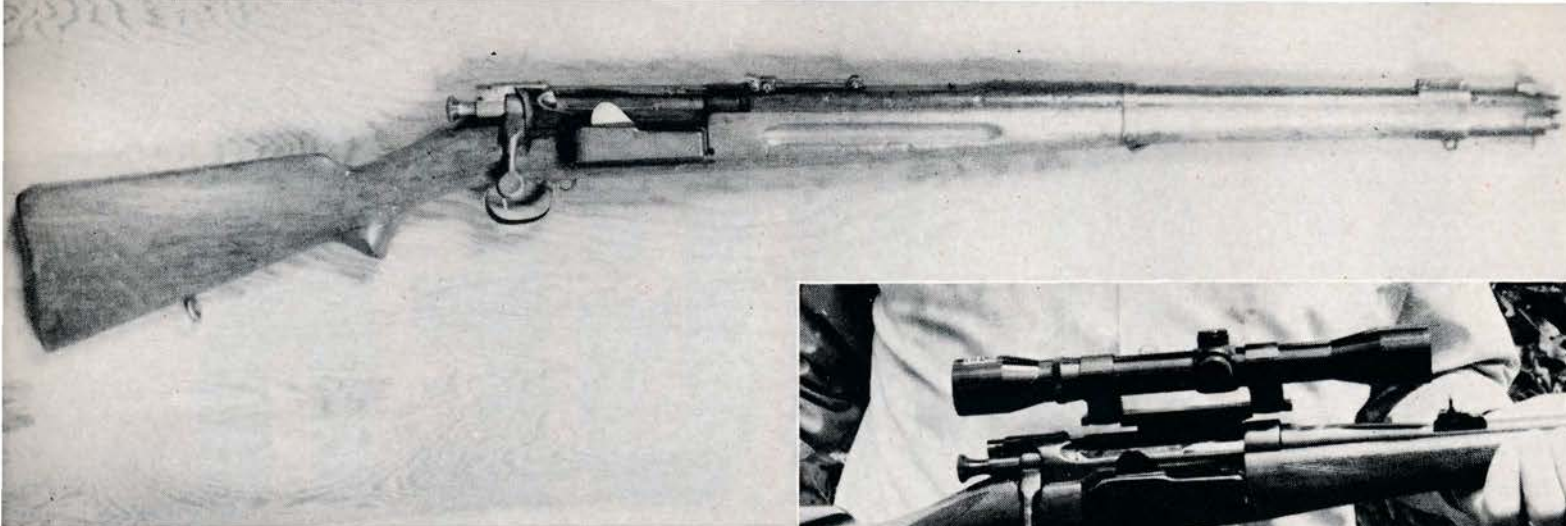
THE CARTRIDGES in the 6.5 mm family are thought of as suitable for deer and antelope. The facts are that Karamojo Bell, one of the greatest elephant hunters Africa has ever known, killed many elephants with one of this group. This is not to say that we recommend that someone else try his 6.5 on the great tuskers today but to point out that the 6.5 has a lot of lethality about it.

There are a whole miscellany of these cartridges, ranging from 6.5x27 to the 6.5x68, with the most popular in this country undoubtedly the 6.5x55 mm. This particular load was designed for the Swedish M1894 rifle and the Norwegian Krag-Jorgensen rifle. The cartridge was designated the Model 94, and was first loaded with a 156-grain roundnose bullet which delivered 2380 fps MV out of the Swedish Model 1896 Mauser. These days Norma-Precision offer the 156-grain loading at a velocity of 2493 fps MV. Also a 139-grain load with a velocity of 2788 fps.

The 6.5x55 is an excellent target cartridge. It is the wide choice of countless Continental target marksmen and has had some popularity in this country as a marksman's loading. The Schultz & Larsen target rifle, Model 62, is chambered for this excellent round. There is a fine offering of bullet weights for the caliber, ranging from the Norma 77-grain pointed softpoint, the 87-gr Speer softpoint, the Sierra 100-gr hollow-point, the 125-gr Nosler, the 139-gr Norma boattail, the 140-gr Speer softpoint, up to the Hornady 160-grain roundnose.

The Swedish and Norwegian carbines and rifles have been imported as military surplus and right popular they have been. The Swedish Mauser comes in two types, one of these is a carbine with a 17.7" barrel and the other is a rifle with a 29.1" tube. The Norwegian Krag of carbine persuasion has a barrel of 20½ inches. Of the two, the Swedish is the better, to be preferred because the action is stronger. The Mauser has two big locking lugs at the front end of the bolt while the Krag has only one.

The Swedish rifle was designed in 1890 at the German Oberndorf works and follows quite closely the Spanish Mauser Model 1893. It was adopted by the Swedish military in 1896 and from this date takes its model designation. It was discontinued in 1944 in favor of an auto rifle. The rifle has no third lug as does the Mauser M 98. The 6.5x55 mm does not exceed 50,000 psi which is safely handled by the M1896. The rifle is made in the govern-



Above left, Norwegian Krag prior to sporterizing, and above, the finished product. Left to right below: .264 Magnum, 6.5 Rem. Magnum, 6.5x55 Norwegian Krag.



mental arsenal known as Carl Gustafs Stads Gevörsfaktori and there it is subjected to two proof loads of approximately 62,000 psi each.

The Krag 6.5, contrary to what many shooters accept, was not originated in Denmark. It is a Norwegian product. It was developed during the 1880's by Col Johannes Krag and Eric Jorgensen, both Norwegians. It was made at the Kongsberg Manufactory, Kongsberg, Norway, and was first adopted by the Danes in 1889. In 1892 it was adopted by the American Army and remained the standard service rifle until 1903. Strangely enough, the last country to adopt the rifle were the Norwegians, in 1894.

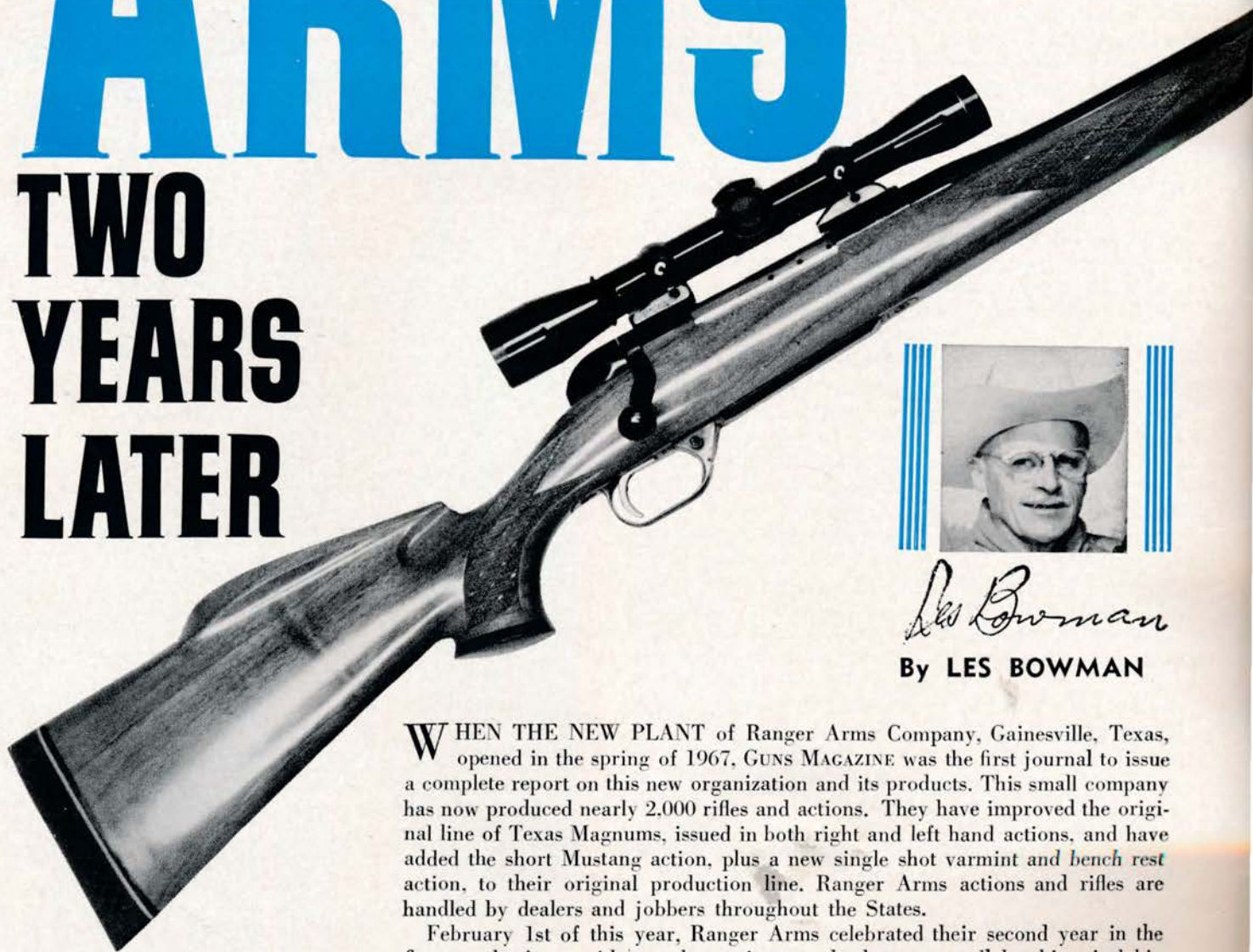
The Norwegian Krag has much the same appearance as the U.S. Krag. At first the rifle was manufactured for the Norwegian army in Austria, by the Steyr Co. Later manufacture was commenced by Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk and continued there until the rifle production was halted. Despite the fact that it is no longer made it is still the most popular arm in Norway today—among hunting sportsmen, civilian target shooters and the military.

There have been variations down through the years from the original rifle. The original rifle had a 30-inch barrel and weighed 8.8 lb. Through 1895 and '97 there were two carbines, one for the cavalry and the other for the artillery. These shorties had 20.50" barrels and each weighed 7½ lb. In 1912 there was another carbine, this one with a 24-inch barrel. It had a full stock and hand-guard and the bolt handle knob was flat and knurled. In 1923, a sniper's rifle came along and this was followed in 1930 by another sniping model. The one with 30" barrel and the other with a tube of 29½ inches. The last of the Krags was a hunting rifle. It was not chambered, like all the other, for the 6.5 mm cartridge but was made up for the 8x57 mm Mauser round. It was chambered for the more potent 8 mm for Norwegian elk.

The 6.5x55 cartridge is a development from the 7 mm Mauser. The 7 mm is a necked down version of the old German 1888 Mauser 8 mm round, and while the 6.5 is a take off on it there are differences. The head diameter is larger than either the 7 mm or the 8 mm. Bigger even than our own 30.06. Originally, the cartridge was loaded by both Sweden and Norway with an identical 156-gr bullet. It gave 2380 fps MV out of the long barreled Mauser rifle. These days both targetmen and hunters in Scandinavia use a new bullet (Continued on page 54)

RANGER ARMS

**TWO
YEARS
LATER**



Les Bowman

By **LES BOWMAN**

WHEN THE NEW PLANT of Ranger Arms Company, Gainesville, Texas, opened in the spring of 1967, GUNS MAGAZINE was the first journal to issue a complete report on this new organization and its products. This small company has now produced nearly 2,000 rifles and actions. They have improved the original line of Texas Magnums, issued in both right and left hand actions, and have added the short Mustang action, plus a new single shot varmint and bench rest action, to their original production line. Ranger Arms actions and rifles are handled by dealers and jobbers throughout the States.

February 1st of this year, Ranger Arms celebrated their second year in the firearms business with a rather unique, and what may well be, historical big game hunt, which took place on the Crow Indian Reservation, located in south central Montana, just west of the Little Big Horn and the Custer battle field.

When Ranger Arms was developing their first rifles and actions they had made quite a number of field tests with actual hunts, in areas just adjacent to

Right: top, Homer Koon and Van Ellis. Bottom, Gov. John Connally and Herb Klein. Facing page: the Ranger Statesman, about \$300 without scope, etc.



Above: left, Gov. John Connally's gun and, right, Herb Klein's gun, both in .300 Win. Magnum. Both rifles have Variable Redfield scopes on Conetrol custom mounts.

the Crow Indian Reservation and had become rather well acquainted with many of the members of the Tribal Council. Herb Klein, the well known big game trophy hunter, had been a member of some of these early hunts and had helped with the testing of the new rifles, which covered a period of several years before the company actually started production.

The Crow Indian Reservation in Montana is situated in some of the best big game country in America and until quite recently only members of the Crow Tribe were allowed to hunt these grounds. The Tribal Council has now made an arrangement with the Montana Game and Fish Commission to open the Reservation to a specified number of outside hunters, who would be given permits to kill certain types of game. The Tribal Council has complete authority as to the issuance of these permits, what they will cost, and who will receive them.

At the formal opening of the Ranger Arms Company in 1967 four beautiful presentation rifles had been presented to Governor John Connally of Texas, Herb Klein, Homer Koon, Jr., designer and president of Ranger, and Mr. Van Ellis, also of Ranger. All of these guns had been used by their owners and now they were to go on a hunt together.

When Ranger heard that some permits were to be issued for an elk hunt on the Crow Indian Reservation, Homer Koon immediately applied for four permits and was more than pleased to receive them. He contacted the other owners of his first four rifles and the hunt was arranged. These rifles are in 7 mm Remington Magnum and .300 Winchester Magnum calibers and it was these first four rifles that the hunters brought with them for the first elk hunt on Crow Indian lands, by a party of outside hunters.

The party flew in from Texas the day before the scheduled hunt and was welcomed by a delegation composed of Governor Forest Anderson of Montana and members of the Crow Tribal Council. At the banquet, held in the Northern Hotel that evening, Governor Connally of Texas presented a beautiful Ranger rifle to Governor Forest Anderson and also one to

(Continued on page 72)



The 6³/₄" GROUP

by GENE WEST

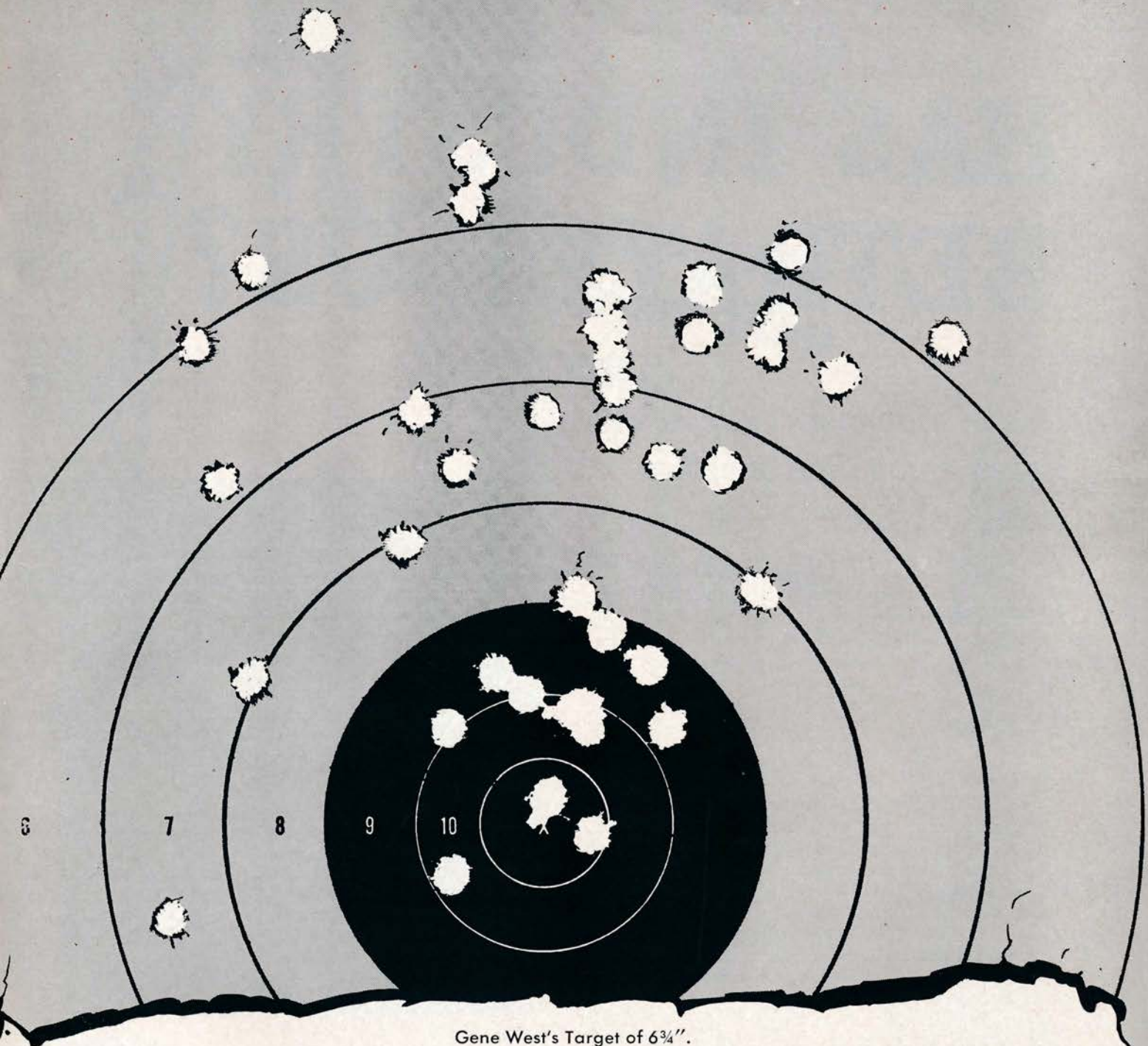


Author, shown above, loading a variety of different bullets available for the '06.

WELL, I FEEL pretty proud of myself! I just fired a 6³/₄" group! No, it wasn't at 500 yards, and it wasn't with a handgun. It was a regular hunting rifle. What then, makes this group anything to brag about? Yes, it was fired at 100 yards, but it was a 40-shot group, and there are a few other irregularities tossed into it. I fired it with a Model 742ADL Remington .30-06 semi-automatic rifle, and I used a Weaver V4.5 scope with post reticle. You can see that I wasn't using the ultimate in target shooting equipment. Yet, there is more to the story—I fired eight different weight bullets, ranging from the 110 gr. Speer thru the 220 gr. Hornady round-nose. I also used eight different kinds of powder, and with one exception, all of my loads were at or near maximum!

The venerable '06 has the reputation, and justly so, of being notoriously poor in its ability to shoot to the same point with different weight bullets. I have a custom converted Springfield that is wonderfully accurate, yet it will oft times toss bullets of different weights as much as eight inches apart at 100 paces. I knew that the 742 had more than acceptable accuracy for a semi-auto, but up until this time, I hadn't really checked to see just what the dispersion was with various weight bullets. The tests left me pleasantly surprised.

While I like the '06 and have shot and loaded it for years, I'll readily admit that it has its drawbacks. For many years it was dubbed by many as an all around cartridge—it isn't! There is no such a thing! The range of bullets available for it is tremendous. Normally, it is thought that you can load anything from 110 grs. to 220 grs. in it. However, if you wish, you can drop even lower to the 93 gr. Norma bullet. Fred Barnes used to, and I think still does, make a 250 gr. bullet for it. It is this 250 gr. bullet loaded to some 2180 fps over 52 grs. of 4831 that Jack O'Connor used to recommend as a brown bear load. I personally have never tried anything over 220-grs. in any .30-06, but with the customary 1-10 twist, I imagine it would satisfactorily stabilize the long heavy 250 gr. bullet. If bullets this heavy were to be used quite regularly



Gene West's Target of 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

it would quite probably be best to have a special barrel made for them with a faster twist—probably 1-8. However, it would be more practical to go to a heavier caliber rifle than to go this route.

Personally, I have never cared for bullets below 125 or 130 grs. in the '06. While they are touted as varmint bullets, both the sectional density and ballistic coefficient are poor, and they lose velocity too rapidly. Likewise, in most rifles, accuracy with these extremely light bullets leaves much to be desired. Driven to around 3200 to 3300 fps, bullets of 125 or 130 grs. perform much better than the lighter

ones, especially at longer ranges, and make for the best varmint loads. I also like them for antelope and smaller deer, though for heavy mule deer I prefer the 150 gr. bullets. Many times I have seen deer hunters packing an .06 with 180 gr. loads. Personally, I think they're missing the boat, as it seems to me that the 150 gr. bullet is probably the best for deer. However, the 180 is probably OK as a compromise bullet if you're hunting both deer and elk. Dick Hess, of the Colorado Department of Game, Fish & Parks, who annually brings home his elk, uses nothing but the 150 gr. Hornady loaded to close to 3000 fps. For

him, it has proved most effective. Actually, for elk, moose, and similar sized game, I'd prefer either the 200 or 220 gr. bullet. All of this is to point out the versatility of the '06. With roughly a dozen different bullet weights available, the variety of loads you can concoct is almost endless.

And the .30-06 is a widespread and popular caliber. Ammo is available anywhere and everywhere, be it even a backwoods general store. Another factor to attest to its popularity is the fact that without exception, every major arms manufacturer of bolt action rifles chamber at least one model for it. In addition (*Continued on page 60*)

HAS INDUSTRY BETRAYED US?

One of the most controversial issues among the shooters is the I.D. Card method of Gun Control legislation

By E. B. MANN

TALK WITH SHOOTERS across this country and you will get a lot of affirmative answers, many quite vehement, to the question posed in this title. One respected firearms publication has suggested, editorially, that the firearms industry (via its mouthpiece, the National Shooting Sports Foundation), by its decision to consider a "model" ID Card Bill, has compromised the position shooters have defended so long and so zealously—a firm, unyielding, irrevocable rejection of *any* form of licensing or registration.

Cliche Number One: Few things in this world are either all black or all white. Cliche Number Two: Conclusions reached without knowledge of all the facts are questionable conclusions. Cliche Number Three: Times change, and what was right in one place and one era may be wrong in another.

Everybody likes to be popular, and nobody who has been in and around "the shooting business" as long as I have could fail to know that the sure way to be popular with shooters is to say, on any question regarding firearms legislation, "I'm against it." This is a defensible position, since it is easily provable that anti-gun laws do not curb crime, as their proponents claim.

A fourth cliché, which I have heard ever since I can remember, is that, "The best firearms law is no firearms law." Instinctively, I support it. Certainly I have been "against" every anti-gun proposal offered by the Dodd-Kennedy-Johnson fanatics, including the Gun Control Act of 1968 which is now harassing us. That my opposition to those proposals has been active can be proved by letters in my files from Senator Dodd and others, and (as ultimate

EDITOR'S NOTE

This article presents one side of a burning question. The views expressed herein are those of the author, whose past articles on firearms legislation have been acclaimed by both our readers and leaders of the industry. There is, however, another side to this argument, with a viewpoint held, I am sure, by many of our readers. GUNS Magazine will publish the "other side's views" from any recognized spokesman of those who oppose the viewpoints in this article. Rebuttals should be addressed to the editor, and the decision on the selection of the rebuttal to be published will be based on the clarity of the presentation and the validity of the opposing arguments. No rebuttals will be acknowledged, and none will be returned, unless a postpaid envelope is enclosed with the article. In lieu of payment for publishing the article, a donation will be made in the amount of \$100 to the organization of the writer's choice, provided that it is incorporated as a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving "The Right To Bear Arms."

proof of something or other!) by no less than five mentions in Carl Bakal's bible of anti-gun misinformation.

But instinctive reactions are based on past experience, and are not always trustworthy in a changed present, or for a changing future. Instinctive reactions (mine, and yours) against *all* firearms regulations are conclusions reached by mental computers sadly lacking current data. For instance:

Time was when a very high percentage of American boys were given "a Daisy" before their ages reached double figures, graduated from that to a .22 plinker in or before their early teens, from that to hunting guns—and grew up, if not firearms aficionados, at least men with friendly knowledge and understanding of guns and of the shooting sports. American was then, by and large, a rural community.

Not so today. City dwellers don't have that tradition,

January 14, 1969

A MODEL FIREARM OWNER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD (ID) BILL

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LAWFUL OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND TRANSFER OF FIREARMS UNDER A FIREARM OWNER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND TRANSFER OF FIREARMS WITHOUT A FIREARM OWNER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD.

COMMENTS

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of _____
2 represented in the [applicable legislative body].
3 **Section 1. Lawful Ownership, Possession, and Transfer**
4 **of Firearms — Declaration of Policy.**
5 The [applicable legislative body] finds as a matter of
6 public policy and fact that it is necessary to curb unsafe,
7 irresponsible and unlawful use of firearms, while acknowl-
8 edging and implementing the constitutional and common
9 law rights of individuals to acquire, possess and use fire-
10 arms for defense of life, limb, liberty, property and govern-
11 ment, for training and practice in order to achieve a level
12 of competence appropriate thereto, including the right to

This "Declaration of Policy" sets forth the intent of the bill to establish a Firearm Owner's Identification Card system while protecting the rights of the law-abiding firearms owner.

Firearms laws which are intended to curtail crime are by their very nature directed at the law-abiding firearms owner as he is the one who will obey the law. Because of this, it is imperative that the law-abiding firearms owner be given protection under new legislation. No lawmaker who does not want to hurt the law-abiding firearms owner can logically object to such a declaration of policy. It is only fair and just that it be made clear that the bill is intended to function solely as a crime control measure and will not infringe the rights of the law-abiding citizen.

they think of guns only as implements of war, or of crime, or (doubtfully) of law enforcement. These are the people who outnumber shooters a hundred to one in many of our urban areas; and the proof of it lies in the restrictive gun laws that have been enacted in various urban areas. I regret this. You, as a GUNS reader, regret it. Frankly, we both resent it. But it is a fact of life in today's America, and we must face it—because it is a situation which worsens with every year of population explosion.

"Facing it" does not mean surrender. It does not mean denial of honest convictions. Nor does it necessarily mean defeat. It is a poor general who cannot adjust to changing conditions, to enemy strength, to the loss of a battle in the course of a continuing war. "The right to be wrong" is as much a part of democracy as the right to bear arms, or the right of free speech, or the right of free assembly. All rights are dangerous. But we must concede to New Yorkers and other urban dwellers the right to be wrong about firearms.

HAS INDUSTRY BETRAYED US?

legislation—until we can make their errors apparent even to them. What we must do is—prevent them from forcing their errors on the rest of us.

A major segment of the firearms industry lives in the very eastern megalopolis in which anti-gun thinking is strongest. These major firearms manufacturers are not surrendering to anti-gun pressures; over the past ten years, through the National Shooting Sports Foundation and other channels, they have spent mountains of money and Niagaras of effort in opposing those pressures. As a long-time member of the Board of Governors of the NSSF, I have sat with top executives of those companies through endless sessions of discussion and planning; and I can think of no single avenue of resistance that has not been explored and attempted.

It should also be remembered that much of the resistance so planned and so financed has been successful! Successful in the face of one of strongest political power structures ever assembled in our nation's Congress. Successful in spite of the most vicious, most malignant attacks ever mounted by this nation's news media.

Shoulder to shoulder, even if not always in perfect agreement, with the National Rifle Association, the Amateur Trapshooting Association, the National Skeet Shooting Association, the National Wildlife Federation, and other shooter-sportsmen's groups, we have defeated one Dodd Bill after another in spite of Administration support and lying propaganda—to say nothing of a score of other Bills even more frightening which were quashed, most of them, before you ever heard of them.

This is not surrender! Nor is anybody quitting now.

Certainly industry is not quitting. What industry is doing is what every good general must do—adjusting its strategy to meet changing conditions. It is the consensus of the best business, legal, and political brains available that industry (and the shooter-sportsmen groups) must prevent more *federal* legislation which would impose the errors of the anti-gun urban groups on *all* Americans—and must be prepared to fight effectively at state levels in *states where fights are forced upon us*.

I repeat: We will continue to fight federal legislation that would extend the anti-gun will of the hive-dwellers to the pro-gun majorities in the rest of the nation. We will try through every means available to correct the inanities of the Federal Firearms Act of 1968—and there are early indications that much of the worst of that Act can be corrected.

And we will fight at state levels to defeat bad legislation where local leaders in threatened states tell us that bad laws can be defeated—and we will be ready to offer reasonable control legislation (such as the NSSF Model ID-Card Bill) where state pro-gun leaders request it as a defense against unreasonable legislation which they feel they cannot otherwise defeat.

The ID-Card licensing idea is not new. Three states (New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts) already have it. At least ten other states (notably Connecticut, Michigan, Rhode Island, Maryland) are seriously considering simi-

lar action. The Council of State Governments, a very potent force in such matters, gave wide circulation to its form of ID-Card licensing of gun owners last summer—and their Bill is a holy horror, useless for law enforcement, damaging only to the law abiding. The National Association of Attorneys General is also drafting a “model” ID-Card Bill.

Most of these Bills were drafted by eager-beaver assistants in a States Attorney's office, with little or no knowledge of (or concern for) shooters or shooters' problems. There is much in all of them that is bad. Yet the natural procedure for other Attorneys General interested in gun control legislation is simply to lift the phrasings of existing Bills. Lacking advice, the bad will be lifted along with whatever good exists; and any advice favorable to gun owners must come from pro-gun sources.

With this advisory thought in mind, industry (via the National Shooting Sports Foundation) has put together a model ID-Card Bill in which definitions and phrasings are carefully worded to give maximum protection to law-abiding gun owners. No effort is being made, or will be made, to force the Bill upon any state that is satisfied with its present laws.

Before you damn the NSSF ID-Card Bill, before you damn industry as traitorous to shooting interests, bear these facts in mind: (1) Industry has fought and will continue to fight firearms registration at *all* levels, partly (but only partly) because it knows that registration can do nothing to prevent crime, little or nothing to benefit law enforcement—and is prohibitively costly. (Recent independent studies show that administration and enforcement of a firearms registration enactment, state or federal, would approach \$70 per application!) (2) If you live in a state which has reasonable firearms law, a state which can and will defend itself against bad firearms legislation—you can relax: the NSSF ID-Card will not be offered, much less forced upon you. You are among the lucky ones, and we love you! (3) If you live in a state where firearms issues are in close balance, or in a state where pro-gun people are obviously out-numbered—and if you, *the shooters, request it*—you will get every ounce of NSSF-Industry assistance it is possible to give; including a reasonable Bill (the NSSF ID-Card Bill), which, *with your support*, might crowd out the fanatic anti-gun proposals which could destroy you.

Yes, under the NSSF-ID Card Bill you would have to get an identification card that would serve as a license to possess firearms. To get it, you would have to fill out a simple application, and pay a small fee (\$1 to \$5 suggested). The NSSF recommends that the licensing agency be one other than a law enforcement agency, and tells why; but, whatever the agency, under the NSSF Bill you *could not* be denied a license unless you have a criminal record, or unless you have an *official* record of drug or alcohol addition, or unless you have an *official* record of mental incompetency, or unless you are below the legal age (18 years recommended). Once in possession of the Card, you would have every right to own, buy, or sell any number of guns.

The NSSF Bill recommends (Continued on page 64)

"Made by John Henry Blake"

Gun
OF THE MONTH

By HARRY DEAN

CONNOISSEURS of rare firearms are always on the lookout for the unique creations of John Henry Blake, and the bolt action rifle shown here is a sought after item indeed.


During the latter half of the 19th Century, John H. Blake designed and experimented with a number of rifles, both single shot and repeating models. It appears that he had notable success although he never gained any lasting fame as a result of his efforts. The bolt action repeater shown here is remarkable from the standpoint of its unique and clever engineering design as well as for its ingenious method of containing the cartridges. It is a rifle which certainly merits a more detailed study.

We might start by observing the clean modern lines of the rifle in the full length photo. Admirers of the old .30-40 Krag rifle may note some similarity in the magazine area but the Blake lacks the boxy projections of the Krag. The Blake rifle was available in several calibers but the most common seems to be .30-40 Krag for use with the 220 grain bullet.

The hinged magazine cover on this rifle is hand engraved with a snarling wolf in a double circle and bears the inscription: "Made by John Henry Blake, 1897, Patents Allowed, Blake .30-40S 220." The "S" stands for (Continued on page 66)

Left, the Blake bolt action rifle. Below, open magazine exposes indexing finger at rear of magazine well and seven shot charger.






By RUSSELL TINSLEY

A QUESTION OF LEAD

**Do you consciously think
about leading a
bird, or do you just let
instinct take over?**



I'M A STREAK SHOOTER. When things are going my way, I can drop birds in the field as if I'm blessed with some mystic sixth sense that puts me on target. But when I'm off, I'm way off and I couldn't swat a bull in the behind with a banjo at two paces. I envy those shooters who can consistently knock birds from the sky. You can almost predict, following past experiences, how many birds one can collect before he eventually misses.

But as I said, I'm a streak shooter, and on this warm September afternoon it seemed I could do no wrong. My brother-in-law, Jay Schott, and I were crouched on the perimeter of a grainfield about halfway between the Texas communities of Fredericksburg and Mason, ambushing doves. The birds would flush from the field, hurrying toward a watering pond in the timber beyond us. We bombarded them as they crossed overhead.

My first five shots put five birds on the ground. Jay, however, was having his troubles. He dropped his first one, then promptly missed six straight.

Finally, in exasperation, he walked over to where I was sitting under a broad-topped oak tree. "Doggone it Russ, I've lost my touch," he complained. "How much you leading those birds?"

I thought about it. Lead? Four feet, maybe? Four yards? Shucks, I couldn't say. I frankly didn't know myself.

The curiosity killed this cat, you might say. I got to thinking and that is, beyond a doubt, the worst thing that can happen to a shooter. It disrupts his subconscious reactions and concentration. Next time a dove came whipping by, I pondered this question of lead as I brought my shotgun up. Sure enough, I missed. Not once, but three times.

When it was all over, I'd put just two more birds down. The dead hulls of spent shells were everywhere, almost in mockery to my incompetence. It was disgusting.

That old bugaboo of wing shooting, lead, had done me in again. Actually, if I'd never paused to think and worry about it, I wouldn't have had the problem. The experienced wing shooter just does what comes naturally, well knowing that every shot is different and if he hesitates to think about each singular one, the bird will be in the next county before he gets around to squeezing the trigger.

Despite what some well-meaning friends might argue to the contrary, the question of lead must be subjected into



Flushed from their cover, these quail make easy targets for these lucky hunters.

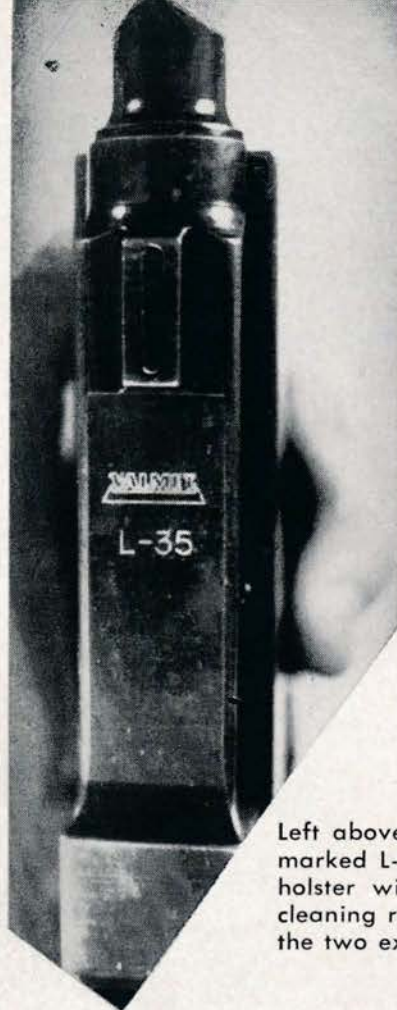
every moving shot. It is a basic law of physics. When two objects are moving, such as a bird and a pattern of shot, an imaginary point must be plotted where the two will meet, based upon speed and angle of flight.

To prove this to yourself, run a test with ordinary marbles. Have someone roll a marble across a smooth floor and you get off to one side, at a right angle, and try to hit the moving object with another marble, by aiming directly at it. Your marble will pass behind it every time.

What is happening is that while your marble is moving toward the other marble, the latter continues to roll forward with the same momentum, and in the time lapse when

the marble leaves your finger until it arrives at the point of aim, the other marble has continued forward, how much depending on the actual speed.

Lead plays a predominant part in every wing shot but two, the exceptions being when a bird is planing directly away from the shooter or is approaching on a flat trajectory directly at him. But both these shots are fairly rare, much more rare than most shooters imagine. When a quail gets up and hedge-hops across the brush, it might appear to be traveling in a level plane, but usually it is either rising or going down, and the shot is at an angle rather than straight. In this (Continued on page 62)



Left above: Commercially marked L-39. Right: Issue holster with screwdriver, cleaning rod, pouches for the two extra magazines.

IN 1939, when proud little Finland thumbed its nose at the Russian Bear, Finnish officers were armed with an unusual automatic pistol. It was designed by Aimo Johannes Lahti at the Valtion Kivääritehdas Arsenal in Jyväskylä, Finland, and bears his name.

Externally, the Lahti has the look of a massive Luger. Takedown lever, safety, and stock lug are also similar to the famed German sidearm, and its cartridge, the 9 mm Parabellum, is the same. Here, however, the resemblance ends.

The principal difference is in the bolt and locking system. Instead of the Luger's Maxim-toggle arrangement, the Lahti employs an inverted variation of the 1896 Mauser pistol design: A square-bodied bolt with a saddle-shaped locking-block which operates in a square-edged cut on *top* of the bolt. The locking block is cammed in vertical operation by angled lugs at each lower edge, acted on by channels in the barrel extension. A well-designed, and very strong system. Another point which sets the Lahti apart from other pistols is the presence of a feature found primarily in machineguns—an accelerator.

At this time it would be well to observe that the Lahti was designed for use



A LOOK AT THE LAHTI

By J. B. WOOD



SPECIFICATIONS:

SWEDISH LAHTI L-40

CARTRIDGE: 9 m/m Parabellum

WEIGHT: 41 ounces

LENGTH: 9 1/2 inches

HEIGHT: 5 5/8 inches

BARREL: 4 3/4 inches

MAGAZINE: 8 rounds

in a country where snow, ice, and cold are a real factor in military and police considerations. At extremely low temperatures, thickened oil and retarded ignition can result in feed and ejection problems. To offset this, Lahti added a small, pivoting lever at the forward lower edge of the barrel extension. When the rear movement of the extension has unlocked the bolt, the lower arm of the accelerator strikes a shoulder in the frame, delivering a sharp tap from its upper arm to the forward edge of the bolt.

One word of caution to Lahti owners who use their pistols frequently: In temperate climates, when using hot handloads or powerful surplus ammunition, the accelerator should be removed to avoid peening of the bolt and recoil spring base on the frame. Accelerator removal is not difficult, and will be described a bit further on, in the takedown sequence.

In keeping with its "cold-climate" design, every external part of the Lahti is generously proportioned for easy operation while wearing gloves. Trigger guard is roomy, and safety, magazine release, and bolt retracting wings are prominent and well-grooved. In fact, gloves are advisable

for any extensive firing of the pistol, as the safety base may be quite uncomfortable to the web of the hand during recoil.

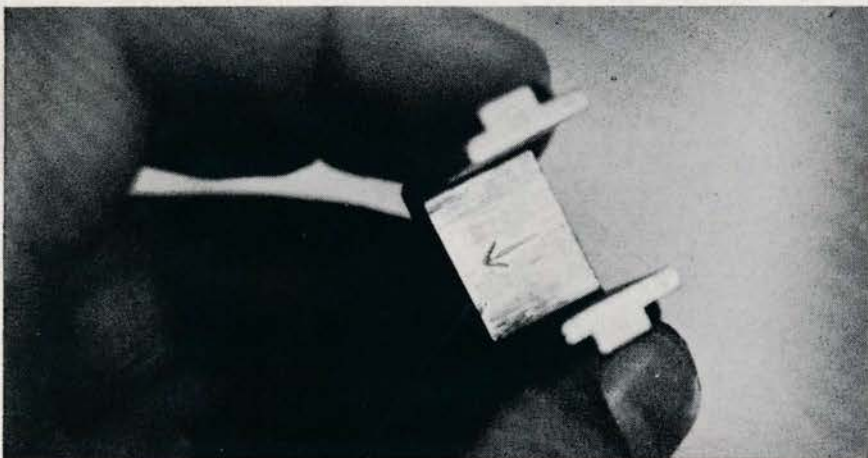
The magazine is particularly well-made, being of heavier gauge steel than is used in most pistols, and has a large follower button on the left side as a loading aid. There is no magazine safety, a welcome omission in any military pistol.

The original Lahti design was adopted as military standard by Finland as the Model L-35 (1935). Four years later, in 1939, a slight change was made, the omission of an unnecessary locking-block spring. The modified pistol, which has a different top contour without the spring housing, was designated the L-39. A year later, in 1940, a further modified Lahti was adopted by Sweden as the Model L-40, and was produced at the Husqvarna Vapenfabrik, A.B., in Sweden.

Principal differences in features and markings of the three pistols are as follows:

Finnish L-35: The original model has a triangular protrusion on top of the barrel extension, just forward of

A LOOK AT THE LAHTI



Top: Swedish L-40 locking system detail. Above: The locking block, with arrow which must point toward muzzle in reassembly. Below: Lahti's barrel group with the unique accelerator tail visible just above the thumbnail.



the rear sight base. This houses the locking block spring. Above the chamber is a narrow rectangular protrusion containing a loaded chamber indicator. Trigger guard is slim and rounded. On safe position of safety marked with a "V". On top of barrel extension, and embossed on the grips at top center, "VKT", the initials of the factory. Serial number appears on the left side of frame and barrel extension.

Finnish L-39: Practically identical with the previous model, except for the omission of the locking block spring, and the resulting change in the top contour. Also produced at Valtion Metallitehtä in Helsinki, commercial models marked "VALMET" on top of barrel extension.

Swedish L-40: Several changes were made, most of them to simplify production and facilitate maintenance. Hexagonal planes surround the barrel adjacent to the extension, making barrel replacement an easier operation, not requiring a special re-barreling unit. The loaded indicator above the chamber is omitted. The trigger guard is heavier, more rectangular. There are a few minor internal mechanism changes. On safe position of safety marked with an "S". Grips have at top center a crown above an "H", symbol of the factory. Left side of barrel extension marked "HUSQVARNA VAPENFABRIK A.B.". Below this, on extension and frame, the serial number, often with a letter prefix. On right side of barrel extension, forward of the ejection port, "SWEDEN" in English. (It is possible that this signifies an export model. I am not certain that the regular Swedish military model has this marking.) There may well be variations other than the three I have listed, but these are the principal types.

Range-testing the Lahti was an interesting and surprising experience. (Also a somewhat painful one, until I put on a glove!) With its Luger-like shape and grip angle, the Lahti has inherently good pointing qualities. Its relatively heavy weight also aids accuracy. Sights are also good, square post front and U-notch rear, and the top of the barrel extension is nicely matted to reduce glare. Trigger pull on the Swedish model (unaltered) was an even four pounds, the Finnish L-39 a tiny bit lighter. Both were crisp, with a slight amount of over-travel. Unlike the striker-fired Luger, the Lahti has a pivoting internal hammer and good sear lever-

(Continued on page 57)

Gun expert Edwin Pugsley began accumulating antique firearms in the late 19th century. His 3,000-piece collection, now a part of the Winchester Gun Museum, is a valuable historical record of the development of American small arms.



WINCHESTER'S

Collector Emeritus

By THOMAS DELONG

(Reprinted from Olin Magazine, 1969, No. 1.)

"I'M an incurable collector—clocks, music boxes, watches, compasses, sextants* and, of course, guns. Guns fascinated me from the time I could carry one and go hunting with my father," 83-year-old Edwin Pugsley recalls. "Over the years, gun collecting occupied untold hours as a hobby. When other boys were collecting stamps, picture-trading cards and toy soldiers, I was gathering old muskets and rifles."

Moreover, by the time Edwin Pugsley retired as director of research for Winchester-Western in 1950, he had one of the country's largest private gun collections. The following year, his 3,000 pieces—including many rare and unusual antiques—became a substantial part of the Winchester Gun Collection.

This year the Winchester Gun Museum at the New Haven, Conn., plant marks its tenth anniversary as a public exhibit. Largely because of Mr. Pugsley's sustained collecting for more than a half-century, the Winchester Collection ranks as one of the finest concentrations of small arms in the world and stands as an invaluable historical record for the study of American firearms.

The vintage pieces that he began accumulating in 1895 show the development of the military firearm from the muzzle-loading flintlock through the evolution of the repeating rifle and the self-contained metallic cartridge. As Winchester's chief manufacturing engineer during World War I and research director during World War II, he played an active part in developing military arms. These include the conversion of the Pattern 14 Enfield rifle, for which Winchester had large contracts, into the first Springfield Model 17; the first 50 caliber cartridge; the first operable 50 caliber airplane gun; the Winchester trench gun; the Browning automatic rifle, known as the BAR; the World War II development of the first 30 caliber carbine cartridge and later the Winchester carbine, adopted by the Ordnance Department as the 30 M1 carbine. Mr. Pugsley was responsible for the development of all Winchester models from the Model 52 target rifle to the Model 50 shotgun.

As a gun collector Mr. Pugsley has combined mechanical savvy with a profound knowledge of American history. Furthermore, he has been tireless in tracking down firearms for his prodigious collection. As a youth, he literally retrieved old military muskets and frontier rifles from junk piles and trash barrels.

"Of course, it took a good deal of luck in discovering discarded guns hidden away in attics," the octogenarian adds. "I was fortunate in another respect. Soon after I began collecting, my father became interested in the pastime. He was a retired civil engineer who'd stake me with extra cash when I'd stumble upon a real prize.

"My collection got started when I wrangled a battered Colt 36 Navy muzzle-loading revolver from the houseman at our small plantation in northern Florida. I was allowed a shotgun and a rifle for hunting but my parents objected to a ten-year-old's owning a pistol. The houseman had taken the Colt apart and couldn't get it together. I had never seen one before, but managed to reassemble it—even making some of the missing parts. Then I persuaded the houseman to teach me how to load and fire the revolver, and we shot secretly in the backwoods.

"It was easy to find antique firearms in those days," Mr. Pugsley recalls. "Women were scared to leave unused guns around the house. To get rid of them, they often tossed them out as junk or turned them over to children to break up. In my youth, hundreds of Civil War weapons were discarded as trash; others could be bought for pennies."

In 1904 a leading New York City gun dealer, Bannerman, displayed a window full of Remington Civil War revolvers for sale at 25 cents each. This attracted Mr. Pugsley, a freshman at Yale, and he set out on the first of what were to be innumerable trips to bargain with gun dealers and private collectors.

Six years later he acquired the nucleus of his military pieces. While a graduate student at M.I.T. in 1910, he heard of a large cache of military arms for sale by a Boston dentist. The dentist's father, a Union veteran named Bates, had been a crony of Gen. Ben Butler.

"I went to the address given me and found it was a ladies' embroidery shop. It didn't seem that a gun collection would be there, but I finally got up enough nerve to inquire about the pieces. A prim old lady met me. To my surprise and delight, she told me that the guns were stored in a back room. Clumps of rifles, a few pistols, and many components were lying one upon the other. Dentist Bates parted with the lot, and I had about two tons of military pieces in varying stages of dilapidation with a few in mint condition."

The next year, the 25-year-old electrical engineer joined Winchester as an apprentice mechanic. Off the job, he set out to add a Colt Walker revolver to his collection. Because the Whitneyville Armory near New Haven had made only a thousand Walkers in 1847, the search loomed as a formidable challenge for the young shop apprentice. Dozens of false leads and disappointments thwarted Mr. Pugsley. It took 25 years to track down the rare, 44 caliber firearm. The acquisition was even more desirable when he found engraved on the back strap of the butt the name of the original owner, who turned out to be a family connection of his wife. Mrs. Pugsley's relative, a Capt. E. L. Dana, had carried the Colt to battle during the Mexican and Civil Wars.

Annual visits to Florida led to Mr. Pugsley's acquisition of guns with unusual and bizarre backgrounds. Florida in the post-Civil War decades was still a rugged and remote region. When young Pugsley and his parents journeyed to Monticello, Fla., from Buffalo, N. Y., each winter during the 1880s and '90s, the railroad ended first at Palatka, but a few years later a Mr. Plant pushed it through to Tampa, about 200 miles south of their plantation. Schooners along the Florida coast transported the few adventurous travelers wishing to debark at Miami or Ft. Myers—primitive villages amid alligators, snakes, palmettos and pines. In this frontier atmosphere, shotguns and rifles were as common as tree toads. And occasionally, an old firearm found other uses.

Mr. Pugsley remembers that farm hands at a neighboring plantation butchered hogs with the large knife on the end of an antiquated, single-barrel pistol. He told the workers that a regular butcher's knife did the job a lot faster. He offered to trade a conventional blade for the pistol, and they agreed. Today, the Elgin cutlass pistol is one of the most valuable small arms in the Winchester Collection. ➡

*In 1954 Mr. Pugsley equipped an early 19th century chronometer and navigating instrument repair shop for the Marine Historical Association, Mystic, Conn. He is one of the seaport museum's consultants on such items.



A representative group of the more than 2,500 Pugsley-collected antique firearms:

1. Kentucky flintlock rifle with decorative stock, circa 1830.
2. Elgin cutlass pistol.
3. Colt 36 Navy revolver.
4. The Bellamy early 19th century English dueling pistol.
5. 1836 Colt Patterson revolver.
6. 1803 official U. S. model rifle.
7. Silver-plated 1864 Henry rifle, cal. 44.

WINCHESTER GUN MUSEUM

Oliver Winchester, the founder of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, is thought to have started the original collection in the late 1850s. He began to bring together specimens of repeating guns he was interested in manufacturing. For many years, the collection was kept more as a matter of record than as a display and was used as a reference file of guns made by the company, its predecessors, and its competitors. From the latter part of the 19th century until the present, all models put on the market by Winchester are in the museum. The collection, including firearms accessories such as powder horns, flasks, bullet molds, cartridge boxes and bandoliers, now totals over 5,000 items and has been seen by more than 200,000 visitors since 1959. It is on the ground floor of the Olin Research Center opposite the arms plant at the corner of Winchester Avenue and Munson Street, New Haven. The museum is open to the public on Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special showings for groups may be arranged by writing Thomas E. Hall, Museum Curator, Winchester Gun Museum, 275 Winchester Avenue, New Haven, Conn. 06504.

"There's a stirring tale behind the museum's Bellamy dueling pistols," Mr. Pugsley relates. "They came from the original settlers of our Florida plantation. In the early 1840s two Monticello families were feuding and agreed to settle the dispute by a duel. The weapons chosen were a set of long English flintlock dueling pistols. But by the time of the duel, the percussion system had been developed, which was much more reliable and up to date.

"In order to duel in proper style, the pistols were shipped from Monticello to Jacksonville by stage, and by boat from Jacksonville to New York to be changed. The job took three months, and the two fellows had to stay mad all that time. Finally, the duel came off, but neither emerged unscarred. Bellamy killed White on the field, but received a bullet in the shoulder and died a few months later. Sixty years later, I bought the set of pistols from the Bellamys' plantation manager."

Not all flintlocks had to be shipped north for conversion to the percussion system. A good blacksmith could change an old spark-igniting firearm into a percussion gun. Dozens of local farmers brought their flintlocks to Monticello's smith. But he never seemed to make a dent in the stack of guns. They accumulated over the years and many were left unclaimed. From time to time, the blacksmith would let Mr. Pugsley crawl into the storage bin behind the shop bellows to fetch one or two pieces.

A hardware store in Thomasville, Ga., provided a group of Kentucky rifles—the famed guns that helped to push the frontier westward in the early 1800s. Mr. Pugsley and his father found seven of the old flintlocks in a dust-covered, third-floor storage room above the shop.

Some of Mr. Pugsley's U.S. military arms and sporting rifles were found outside the country. He fell upon rare firearms in Canada's Maritime Provinces. Starting in 1904 the Pugsleys vacationed in Nova Scotia. Occasionally Mr. Pugsley would sail over to an old blacksmith shop in Lunenburg, some 20 miles from his family's home, and collect whatever old arms could be found in the shop. On one of his short cruises, he put in one evening to the small harbor of an island lighthouse. His Nova Scotia skipper knew the lighthouse keeper, and after supper both went ashore for a call, always welcomed by the lonely lightkeeper.

"As was the custom, we pulled up chairs in the kitchen, pushed off our heavy boots and warmed our heavily stockinged feet in the open oven. While we chatted, I spied a flintlock in one corner. I asked the keeper if I might look it over. The muzzle loader was an early American rifle with 'Harpers Ferry 1803' engraved on the lock plate. I was certain the earliest official U.S. rifle was made in 1806, three years later. I thought it was a mistake in marking. Still, I wanted that gun, and if the lightkeeper hadn't parted with the rifle I'd probably be there yet. Later investigation revealed that a few Model 1803 rifles had been manufactured. It was a great discovery."

Winchester's gun curator, Thomas E. Hall, describes the 1803 rifle as among the "rarest of rare" in the field of American firearms. He also points out that, well into this century, American and British muskets from the Revolution and the War of 1812 turned up in Nova Scotia as British Redcoats had been stationed there during both wars, and Lunenburg had been the scene of naval attacks by small fleets of New England fishermen and privateers.

Most visitors to the Winchester Gun Museum are interested in such historical guns and the part they played in the growth of America. When Mr. Pugsley began collecting, there were few sources of information on American military guns. He had to rely upon hearsay and fragmentary data from dealers and fellow collectors, and markings on the individual arms for the proper sequence of models and alterations.

"When my collection reached 2,000, it got out of control," he recalls. "Cleaning alone became a full-time job. Even with floor-to-ceiling gun racks in both cellar and attic, the New Haven house couldn't hold the collection. I was pleased to see it added to Winchester's, where it could be publicly displayed in chronological order.

"I keep only a handful of working rifles and pistols for occasional shooting.

"In one way, I don't envy the serious antique gun collector today. Prices have skyrocketed. I used to turn down Colt pistols at \$2 that now sell for \$150. To build a significant collection, it takes a fortune, and many rare pieces are unobtainable at any price. The days of picking up old guns for 25 and 50 cents are no more."

Winchester Gun Museum curator Thomas E. Hall and Edwin Pugsley discuss the loading technique for an 1803 U.S. model flintlock. In the foreground is a ten-barrel, 1875 Colt Gatling gun, purchased by Mr. Pugsley from a Philadelphia gunsmith nearly 50 years ago.

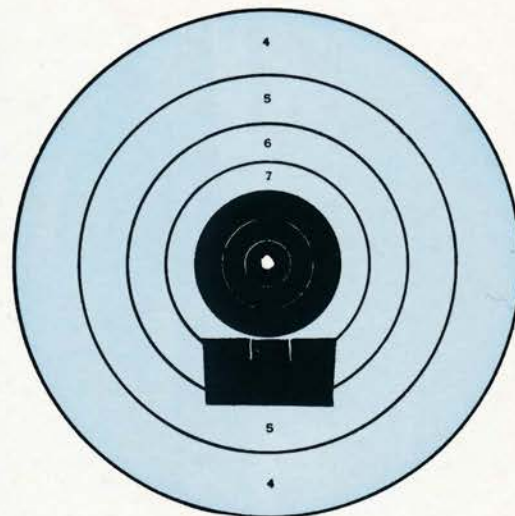




Outfitting the PIST

A national record holder advises on equipment you'll need if you intend to do any competition shooting

By STEPHEN FERBER



The four guns (left) are basic for conventional shooting. From the top: (1) Colt .45 "hard ball" with Bo-Mar sights, (2) Colt .45 heavy-slide gun, (3) Smith & Wesson Model 52 Master .38 Special, (4) S & W Model 41 in .22 cal.

Right, author's Walther Model OPS with custom-made grips by Herrett.

PISTOL SHOOTERS often acquire equipment in cycles. The first item to be purchased is usually a .22 caliber gun, and then, after competing in a few matches, the shooter realizes a need for a shooting box, ear protectors and a decent spotting scope. More guns are eventually bought—often the wrong types—and within a year or two, the general equipment is all there.

The purchasing procedure is unlike that of the smallbore shooter. The potential mousegunner usually goes about it more directly, the buying is considerably easier—but not less expensive—for him. When enough friends convince him of the great fun inherent with rifle-shooting, he goes out to his nearest dealer and immediately lays down a thick wad of bills, later walking out of the store with a Winchester Model

52, scopes, shooting jacket, sling, iron sights with various apertures, a goodly supply of ammo and an equipment box (packed with miscellaneous gear). He might choose a Remington or Anschütz over the Winchester, but generally, the choice of gun doesn't run the length of the dealers rifle rack.

As I explained before, it's different for pistol shooters. If you haven't yet invested in any equipment, the "get list" should read like this: A Model 41 Smith & Wesson (.22 caliber) pistol or one of the High Standard Supermatic Military models. Each has its own special features. But whichever of the brands you choose, avoid buying the short "bull-barrel" models. I've found the standard length barrels are more accurate.

If you can afford to,

(Continued on Page 58)

OL SHOOTER





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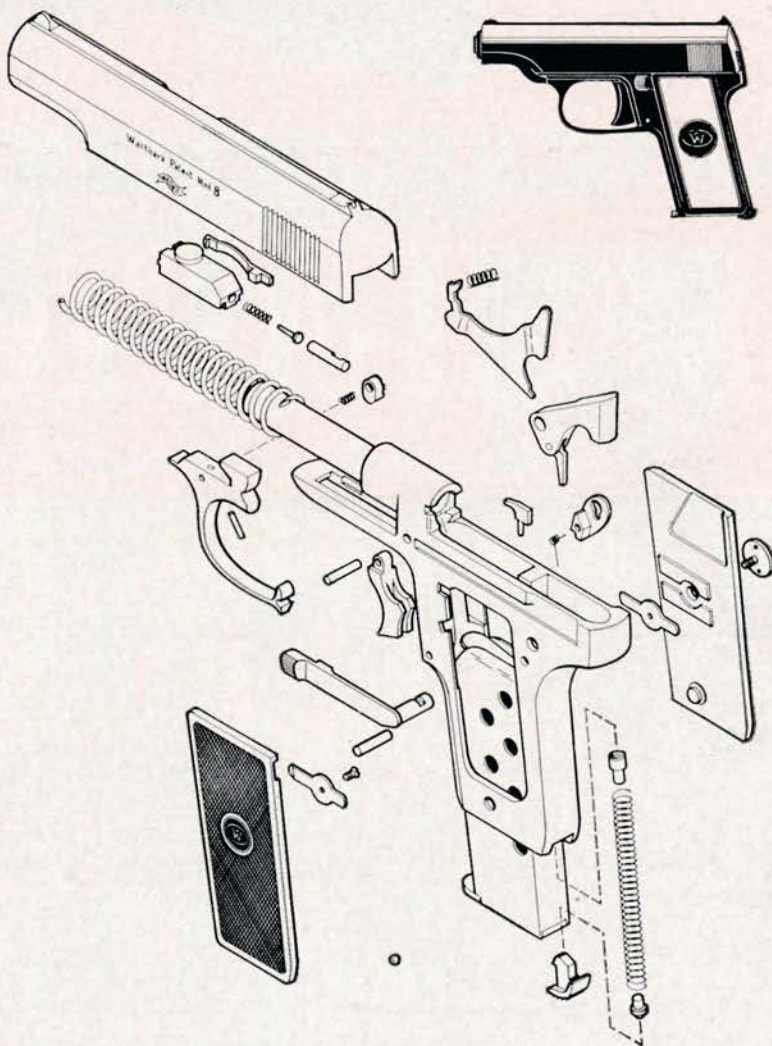
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AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE WALTHER MODEL 8

By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



CONSIDERED BY MANY to be classical, the Walther Model 8 is now a scarce gun—and rapidly getting rare. Midway in size between the conventional pocket and vest pocket pistols and weighing less than 13 ounces, it was widely used by Germans in World War II. Before WW II it was used in competitive target shooting!

It is an extremely well designed gun—about the only poor feature is the rather light sear-safety tumbler that is subject to cracking if an attempt is made (too often) to fire the gun with the safety on.

It is fired by a hammer (in contrast to the usual striker), thus avoiding the danger of a striker-spring that has taken a set and misfires when needed.

This model introduced the trigger-guard take-down design that is still featured in the PP/PPK series; grip mountings were continued to the Model 9.

The illustration is of the first model; the second model had an integral breech block, conventional (and shorter) extractor claw and one piece firing pin; most other parts interchangeable. Also factory issue were models plated with nickel, silver and gold, engraved presentation models and a duraluminum model that weighed 9½ ounces.

To field strip: Clear gun and remove magazine. (2) Press latch on right front of trigger guard and pull trigger guard down. (3) Pull slide all the way back and lift rear up and ease forward off frame. Assemble in reverse order.

It is understood that this pistol was produced under specific authority of the League of Nations; in 1919 Germany was restricted by the terms of the Versailles Treaty not to manufacture "military" firearms. The League held that the Model 8 was not "military."



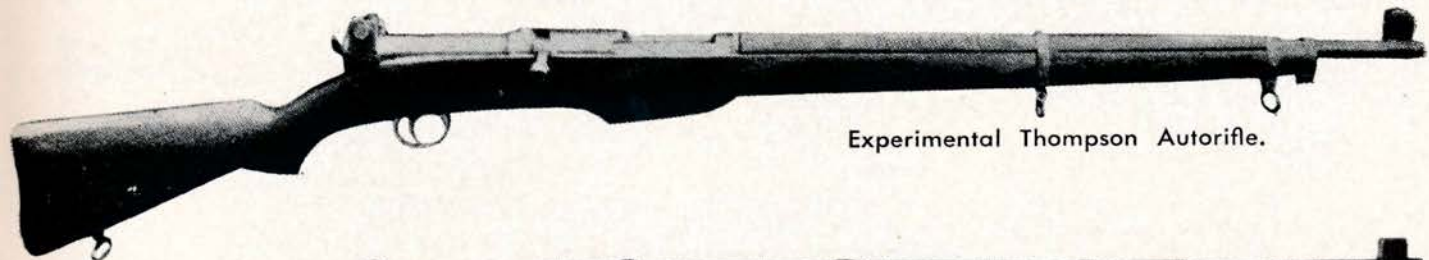
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEMI-AUTO RIFLE

First M-1 Garands come off Winchester assembly line January 10, 1941.





Early Garand for the .276 Pedersen cartridge.



Experimental Thompson Autorifle.



British Farquhar-Hill rifle of WWII.



George C. Nonte

By Maj.

GEORGE C. NONTE

AS LATE AS the beginning of WWII (late 1930's), the German High Command—previously noted for its weapons savvy—was still of the opinion that a satisfactory semi-automatic military rifle could not be developed around the full-power 7.9mm Mauser cartridge. This, in spite of the fact that the U.S. Pedersen in .276 caliber and the Garand in .30-06 had passed exhaustive tests nearly a decade earlier. In reality, the gas-operated Garand had been adopted by the U.S. Army in 1936 as "Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, M1." Even the controversial U.S. M1941 Johnson achieved production status before Teutonic minds were changed.

Thus, it was that the much-vaunted German arms industry failed to supply the Wehrmacht with a *satisfactory* self-loading infantry rifle until 1943—some 7 years behind the U.S., and 5 behind the Soviet Union. For all practical purposes, it may be said that Germany fought WWII with 1891 vintage bolt-action rifles, since the G-43 came late and was not produced in any truly significant quantity.

Just to set the record straight, let it

be known that the often-maligned U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Arsenal system did produce the most outstanding rifle of WWII, the M1, long before any other nation had a comparable weapon. The U.S. Army was the only one to fight clear through that war armed principally with self-loading rifles. It should further be noted, that the U.S. also had a light self-loading carbine, also designated M1, after late 1942. While the other combatant nations either gave up or struggled with development problems, U.S. Troops were supplied with nearly eight million combat-ready, self-loading shoulder arms. Critics of today seem prone to castigate both those weapons and the arsenal/industry teams that produced them, completely ignoring the fact that they were far ahead of the efforts of the rest of the world.

The arms industries and arsenals of the rest of the world simply couldn't quite come to scratch in this field. World War II proved the worth of the semi-automatic military rifle. In spite of controversy and condemnation in the press, the M1 rifle gave U. S. sol-

diers in all theatres superiority in both firepower and morale. People who'd argued that the selfloader was either impossible or impractical were forced to admit the error of their ways or sulk in dark corners.

Today, even the smallest nations, and most revolutionary or counter-revolutionary groups, are equipped with modern semi-automatic and/or selective-fire weapons. This wasn't always so and has only come to pass in the last 15 years. Prior to that, nearly every major power had striven unsuccessfully for half a century to develop the ground-pounders' dream weapon—a self-loader reliable in combat.

Ever since (Continued on page 74)



German G-41W (Walther) later refined into G-43.



**Avast! Climb aboard and listen
as diver Art McKee spins his tales of...**

Gun Treasures from the Sea



Untreated cannon ball on left, treated ball on right.

By RUTH W. DAVIS

THE LURE OF Spanish gold has spawned a new breed of treasure hunter—the deep sea diver. In the rubble of a sunken ship, alongside the sea encrusted doubloons and “pieces of eight” lay priceless firearms—cannons, muskets and pistols, sharing a common grave with the treasure they were assigned to protect.

A number of years ago, diver Art McKee, owner of McKee's Sunken Treasure Museum at Plantation Key, Florida, found a cache of gold and weapons on a reef 44 miles off the Florida coast. The coins were dated 1732. Through the Archives of the Indies in Spain, McKee was able to identify the wreck as the flagship “Rubi,” part of a fleet of 21 vessels sailing under the command of Don Rodrigo de Torres. The fleet's cargo was the annual output of the Spanish mint at Mexico City—the gold of Mexico and Peru.

Insurance writers of that day demanded that each vessel carry a suitable supply of weapons, gauged according to the size of the ship, defense against enemy ships and pirates. There was no protection against hurricanes.

Formerly a hard hat diver, both

commercially and for the U. S. Navy, McKee learned that the Rubi sailed from Vera Cruz, Mexico to Havana where the crew enjoyed a sailor's holiday. Then on July 13, 1733, against the advice of the superstitious sailors at the Cuban harbor, Don Rodrigo de Torres embarked for Spain, leading the fleet of cumbersome sailing vessels up the Gulf Stream. An unnamed hurricane struck, and according to the records, sixty-eight million dollars accompanied the ships to the ocean floor. The sailing date was Friday, the thirteenth.

“Many times we find cannons lying a short distance from a wreck,” says McKee. “Apparently when the ships were floundering, anguished seamen tried to lighten the cargo, so they pitched the cannons overboard.”

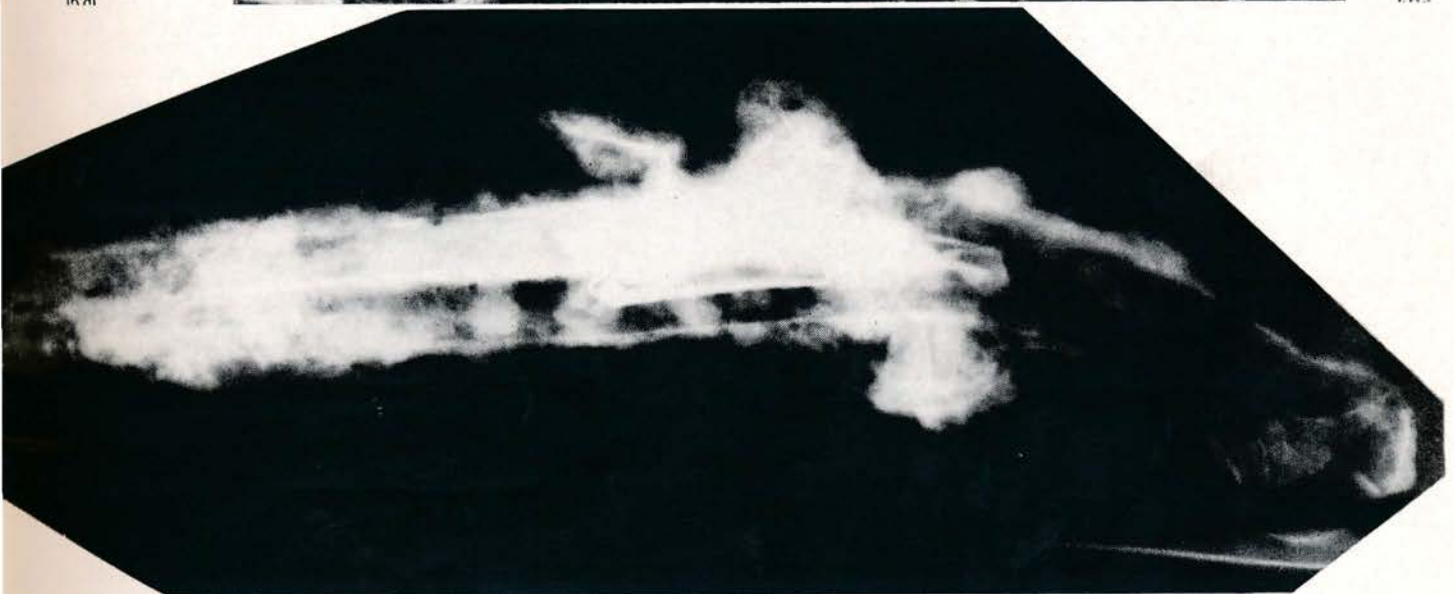
Evacuation of wrecks is a highly technical business. “We call it marine archeology,” smiled McKee, “but our critics say it is just treasure hunting. Each one of these vessels is an unread page of history . . . a time capsule that portrays an era.” In the navy, McKee's diving assignments were in the waters around Key West. His enthusiasm in delving into ancient wrecks began at

that time, and he searched for the most efficient, safest methods of unearthing (or unoceaning) the sea-aged remnants.

Equipped with air lifts and jetting hoses, McKee and his crew of divers discovered an encrusted flintlock revolver in the remains of the Rubi. To determine its inner workings, he had it X-rayed. The spring, trigger guard, trigger, and flint-lock are clearly identifiable, and to McKee's surprise, the X-rays showed that it was still loaded.

“Dueling swords, rapiers, cutlasses and silver bars all lie in the conglomerate wreckage,” says McKee. “Once we found a bayonet fixed on a flintlock musket.”

He held up a hollow ball. “This was probably the first weapon for chemical warfare. It had a wooden peg for a fuse. The Spaniards filled it with sulphur, shot it onto the deck of an enemy ship, and if it exploded, the sulphur fumes were released like poison gas.” Among the weaponry McKee hoisted to the surface are canister shot with lead balls for scattering; musket balls; and grape shot which was loaded into a bag, held in shape with wooden frames, and (Continued on page 71)



Top: In rubble of submerged wreck, Art McKee holds an encrusted flintlock.
Above: X-Ray of encrusted pistol shows the bullet is still in the chamber.



PULL!

By DICK MILLER

"MY PROBLEM IS adjusting from 16 yard trap to 20 and 27 yards—any suggestions?" writes a PULL reader. My first reaction to this question from a regular reader is to say, "Welcome to a very large, and not very exclusive club." A lot of people experience some real hang-ups when trying to shoot handicap targets with anywhere near the skill that they clobber 16-yard targets.

And now, for a fast answer to the second portion of our reader's post card, which said "Any suggestions?". My number one suggestion will surprise and shock a lot of trapshooters. My suggestion is that when you switch from 16 yard to twenty or twenty-seven yards, forget that you are shooting handicap.

I am very firmly convinced that for at least ninety-percent of the trapshooters who have trouble shooting handicap scores comparable to their sixteen yard scores, the problem has nothing at all to do with their shooting ability, but is all in the head.

As I see it, for most of the shooters who shoot respectable scores from the 16-yard line, but who taper off badly at handicap yardages, when they walk on the field and take a position more than 16 yards behind the trap, a little bell rings loud and clear in the confines of their cranium.

The little bell says "Whoa friend! You are back here on the handicap markers now. This is not 16-yard any more. The distances are greater, the angles are greater, and so on, ad infinitum!" Thereupon, they consciously try to shoot differently, try new techniques, shoot faster, shoot slower, shoot more deliberately, shoot less deliberately, etc. etc.

I am firmly convinced that if there was some method to conceal from shooters that they were in fact shooting from greater yardage, that many of them would suddenly shoot about

the same scores from at least the middle handicap markers that they do from sixteen yards. In my opinion, improved scores from the middle handicap markers on out to twenty-seven yards come only from practice at shooting those distances. To the shooters whose handicap scores tail off too much from 16 yard scores, I say, let's be coldly objective for a minute. How many handicap targets do you shoot in relation to the number of 16 yard targets? Let's pick a figure, and say that if you shoot five hundred targets in a week, don't you shoot about four hundred of those at 16-yard and about one hundred at handicap? If this is true, can you really expect to shoot as well as you do at 16 yards? Do you feel that your scores at handicap would improve if for a while, you shot 400 handicap targets per week, and 100 16 yard? Have you tried it?

Many of my opinions on handicap shooting are a direct result of my own early days in the game. When I started shooting trap, there were few active ATA clubs in my area of Southern Indiana, and most of my shooting was the so-called "turkey shoot" variety.

In that part of the country, most clubs used the five shots on the 16-yard line, then miss-and-out from 25 yards system. By that I mean that all entries fired five shots from 16 yards. When all entries had fired from 16 yards, those who had broken all five of the 16-yard birds fired miss-and-out from 25 yards for first prize.

The 16-yard shooters who broke four did the same for second prize, and the three-of-five 16-yarders were competing from 25 yards for third. As you might understand, this introduction to trapshooting accomplished several things, not the least of which was to make the shooter a competent 25-yard shooter. If he did not become a

consistent 25-yard shooter, he was likely to have some long, miserable, and frustrating days.

There are few experiences in sport quite as frustrating as to break five birds on the 16-yard line, then to miss the first target from the 25-yard line. For that shooter, it's all over until the next round. You might be able to break 24 out of 25 on the 25-yard line, but if the one you missed was the first bird, no one would ever know it. Unless you have been there, you have no idea how long some of those twenty-five yard shoot-offs could last! Many is the time I've seen several men shoot more than a box of shells each on the 25-yard line before there was a single miss.

Then invariably, there was the club or clubs where this game would be modified to "shooter's choice". By that, it was meant that the first shooter did not have to shoot from 25 yards, but could shoot from any point of his choosing behind the trap. In this game, I've seen (and been in) some interminable shoot-offs at distances up to fifty yards from the trap!

As I moved on from this competition to such well-known clubs as Cheek's in Clinton, Indiana, the Vincennes Gun Club, Jenkins Brothers at Orleans, Indiana, and the fine clubs in Illinois such as Stifal's in Casey, I saw many of these same shooters, and I noticed that when the handicap scores were posted, all of these men who had been this route with me were more than holding their own against all comers.

I am not inferring that we were "ringers" and that we were presenting problems for handicap committees. It just happened that we all took up the game at about the same time, and had similar exposure to it. All of us moved on to ATA and registered shooting at about the same time, and we were good. That is not an arrogant statement. It is a simple statement of fact, based on the experience we had gained in shooting handicap targets at extreme distances and under some of the most trying conditions imaginable.

There is another side to the coin of this beginning exposure to trapshooting. The reasons I have enumerated why handicap yardages are no terror for me are probably also the reasons why I have won trophies and Ford Purses in Grand American handicap events, but have never shot a decent 16-yard score at Vandalia. This background may also be the reason, and I think it is, why I shot several hundred straights at handicap before I was ever able to break one at 16 yards.

In all honesty, this affliction I will gladly bear. And now, on from turkey shoots to ATA and registered shooting. I've known literally hundreds of ATA shooters who simply gave up when they won or received another yard at handicap. No one will ever convince me that in a very short time at the most, these shooters could not break as many targets from twenty-two yards, let's say, as from twenty-one yards. Their problem was not the gun, the gun barrel, their shooting technique, the distances, etc. The only problem they had, and the one that licked them, was that little bell in the cranium that rang so loud and clear when they became aware that they were a little farther away from their work.

During the early fifties, I came to know and like a doctor from Southern Illinois. We shot at a lot of the same clubs, and for most of one year, shot on the same yard marker. Came a moment of truth one day at Herschel Cheek's in Clinton, Indiana, when we were shooting on the same squad, that Doc won the shoot, and consequently another yard. Doc thereupon decided on the spot, that he could not shoot good scores from one yard

further back—and he didn't! I told him then, and I tell him now, that the only reason he didn't shoot good scores from the additional yard farther back, was that he decided he couldn't, on the day that he won the yard.

I say to any shooter who is having trouble shooting good scores from any point behind the 16-yard line, don't talk yourself out of targets before you get there. It's easy enough to miss them without talking yourself out of them.

Back to the objectivity bit, stripped of all the emotion and verbiage, if when you see a trap target, swing past it, don't stop your swing, and pull the trigger at the right time, that target is a dead target whether it is 16 yards or fifty yards from the muzzle, or whether you fired at it from a point 16 yards behind the trap or fifty yards behind the trap.

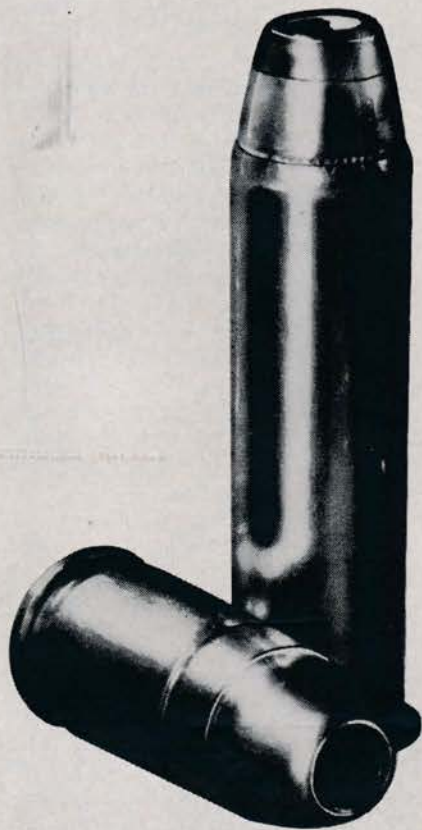
There are a lot of people, some of them experienced shotgunners, who have very vague ideas how far a shotgun will break a clay target. I remember with considerable amusement some of the remarks made by people who ought to have known better, when the maximum ATA handicap

yardage was stretched from 25 yards to 27 yards.

At some clubs, including the Grand, I remember dark mutterings about stretching the barrel and impossible distances, etc. I can also remember when shooters (including me, I admit ruefully) did not feel that 2¾ dram trap loads had enough steam to break handicap birds. We used them on 16 yard, but switched to three dram for handicap. Wasn't that a laugh, in light of what we know now!

Back to the switch from 25 yards to 27 yards, which was so darkly greeted by some shooters. Most domestic trap guns are choked to throw their best patterns at distances from 45 to 55 yards from the muzzle. A 25 yard shooter was breaking birds at about 45 yards from the muzzle, perhaps up to 50 yards. The 27-yarder was being asked to break them from 47 to 52 yards, well within the capability of his equipment.

So, you see, most of the problems of trapshooters are not in the muzzle, but in our little skulls! Fire when ready, Gridley. Blaze away at them like you didn't have a care in the world (and maybe you won't).



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(Continued from page 21)

and gather together all of the pro-gun forces you can to assure its passage.
MODEL BILL

An Act Authorizing Residents of this State to Purchase Rifles and Shotguns in States Contiguous to this State.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of _____ represented in the (applicable legislative body).

Section 1. Declaration of Policy

It is declared that it is in the public interest to authorize residents of this State to purchase or otherwise obtain rifles and shotguns in States contiguous to this State in compliance with such other laws of this State or its political subdivisions as may be applicable and in compliance with Section 102 of the Gun Control Act of 1968, public Law 90-618, 18 U.S.C. § 921 et. seq.

Section 2. Lawful Acts

It shall be lawful for a person residing in this State (including a corporation or other business entity maintaining a place of business in this State) to purchase or otherwise obtain a rifle or shotgun in a State contiguous to this State and to receive or transport such rifle or shotgun into this State.

Section 3. Not Applicable To Federal Licensees.

This act shall not apply or be construed to affect in any way the purchase, receipt, or transportation of rifles and shotguns by federally licensed firearms manufacturers, importers, dealers, or collectors.

Section 4. Definitions

(a) As used in this Act, the term "a State contiguous to this State" shall mean any State having a common border with this State.

(b) As used in this Act, all other terms shall be given the meaning prescribed in 18 U.S.C. § 921 (the Gun Control Act of 1968, Public Law 90-618) and the regulations duly promulgated thereunder as presently enacted or promulgated and as hereafter modified

• • •

A great many senators and congressmen are taking a look at the Gun Control Act of 1968, and they don't like what they see. In the Senate, S.845, introduced by Senator Wallace Bennett of Utah, would remove sporting ammunition (shotshells, .22 RF ammo, and rifle ammo) from the Gun Control Act of 1968.

Some 26 other Senators co-signed this bill: Gordon Allott, Colo.; Robert Byrd, W. Va.; H. W. Cannon, Nev.; Norris Cotton, N. H.; Cart. T. Curtis, Neb.; Robert Dole, Kansas; P. H. Dominick, Colo.; James Eastland, Miss.; Sam J. Ervin, Jr., N. C.; Paul Fannin, Ariz.; Barry Goldwater, Ariz.; Mike Gavel, Alaska; Clifford Hanson, Wyo.; Roman Hruska, Neb.; L. B. Jordan, Idaho; Mike Mansfield, Mont.; G. W. McGee, Wyo.; Lee Mtealf, Mont.; F. E. Moss, Utah; Karl Mundt, S. Dak.; James B. Pearson, Kan.; John Sparkman, Ala.; T. F. Stevens, Alaska; H. E. Talmadge, Ga.; Strom Thurmond, S. Car.; Milton R. Young, N. Dak.

The remarks made by Senator Bennett when he introduced this bill are revealing, and a portion of his remarks are quoted here:

"To force this kind of registration upon persons who buy rifle, shotgun and 22 rimfire ammunition is not going to affect the incidence of crime. The citizens of Utah and from many other areas of this nation are deeply disturbed. Congress and the Treasury have imposed upon law-abiding citizens as unnecessary and ineffectual set of backdoor registration regulations. Consequently, I believe that my bill is not only fair, but it is necessary to correct an unnecessary burden, a deceptive form of registration, and to curb the bureaucratic excesses which have arisen under the regulations."

It would be to our advantage if these Senators could get letters of support from all gun owners; write to them at: Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. If your Senator is not listed, write him, asking for his support of this measure.

In the House, several bills have been introduced which would delete all ammunition from the act. The following Congressmen have introduced amendments which would remove ammunition: Al Ullman, Ore.; Roy A. Taylor, N. Car.; Charles Griffin, Miss.; E. Ross Adair, Ind.; John R. Dellenback, Ore.; John R. Rarick, La.; L. J. Burton, Utah; J. I. Whalley, Pa.; Thomas S. Foley, Wash.; James B. Utt, Cal.; James M. Collins, Tex.; Durward G. Hall, Mo.; M. G. Snyder, Ky. Here, too, we should all write these Congressmen (House Office

Bldg., Wash. 25, D.C.), supporting their proposals, and we should also get our own Congressmen to support any of the amendments which would remove ammunition from the restrictions of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

No hearing dates have been set for house or senate bills, but we should not wait until such hearings are announced. Act now for positive action on these bills and amendments.

Here are two positive steps you can take to make the federal law work a lot easier. If we cannot act effectively to get this legislation passed, and thereby ease the burdens of the law, how can we expect to act effectively against future anti-gun bills? Let's all support the legislators in this, and perhaps they will react in kind when and if a registration bill comes up.



DAN WESSON

(Continued from page 20)

in an order for an inletted but unfinished set of grips that will enable you to literally custom tailor these grips to fit you and your hand. This feature makes this an ideal family revolver with grips to fit the hand of the man of the family, another set of grips to fit the hand of the woman of the house and other sets for the young shooters. This, added to the quick change barrels, plus the ability of this handgun to handle low velocity .38 Special handloads or high velocity Magnum ammunition, makes this revolver especially desirable.

The rear sights are big, rugged, and wide open, allowing the shooter to pick up the sight picture fast. These sights are adjustable for windage only and all the adjustment mechanism is well hidden from dirt and dust. The front sight lies deep in the heavy rib that runs the full length of the barrel shroud protecting this sight from any reasonable impact. It is adjustable for elevation only. Once the sights are correctly adjusted I could discover no method of making the sights move without deliberately changing them myself. In other words, once they are set, they will stay set.

The clean, smooth appearance of the revolver has been made even more attractive by the use of Allen head sideplate screws. These prevent screwdriver slipping with resulting marring of the finish. Personally I like the looks of the Allen head screws. The wide, smooth trigger eliminates all of the finger tearing problems that accompany the conventional serrated target triggers on most handguns. You can dry fire this revolver double action all day long and never rough-up your trigger finger. Similarly, the hammer spur has been serrated but not checkered, again to prevent any thumb problems that occur when sharp or jagged machine checkering

rips the thumb during single action firing.

Dan Wesson told me that all springs have been wound from stainless steel to give maximum, trouble free spring life. Both the cylinder lock spring and the hammer spring are coil springs to give that soft, consistent spring tension that is so desirable. As a matter of interest, during the limited amount of firing—less than five hundred rounds—that I had time to do before getting this article into our editor, I had no failures to fire and no malfunctions of any kind.

This Dan Wesson Model 12 .357 Magnum revolver has been well designed, soundly made and incorporates some excellent and practical ideas. Many people have questioned the advisability of bringing out a .357 Magnum handgun when so many shooters and law enforcement officers carry .38's, but look at it this way: The .38 Special revolver fires .38's only; the Dan Wesson Model 12 will fire any .38 and any .357 Magnum, thus combining the best of both calibers into a single arm giving the purchaser not only a complete range of barrels and resulting handgun weights but also the complete practical range of the .38 Special cartridge from low velocity match wadcutters through high velocity .357 Magnum ammunition. All this for around \$115.00. Dan Wesson told me that they have not as yet been able to fix the retail price but that it will fall somewhere between \$100.00 and \$125.00.

In my opinion, this is a rare bargain in today's world. How soon will these revolvers become available? By the time you read this article your dealer should have these handguns on his shelf, so stop in and see for yourself what modern design and modern production methods can give you.



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THE 6.5 MM

(Continued from page 23)

of 139-grains, a streamlined boattail which gives 2625 fps from the Swedish Mauser. This bullet has a mild steel jacket coated with gilding metal.

Despite what a lot of '06 fans may think, it is probably true that more 6.5x55 rounds are reloaded than any other. Not only is it popular in Europe but it is also a winner on this continent. It is fired and loaded in Australia and New Zealand, and Norma-Precision, who import all the components as well as the loaded cartridges, will attest that this is one of the big sellers. Originally the 6.5 case was primed with the Berdan-type primer. Norma got around this a number of years ago and now offer cases primed with the Boxer-type priming. Their cases are suitable for use with any standard American .210" primer.

In '62 I secured a Norwegian Krag in rifle length from Hunter's Lodge. This was a rough looking number but the barrel appeared okay. I sent the rifle to Williams Gun Sight Co. and asked them to refinish it, add a full length Mannlicher-type stock, attach their excellent Williams open rear sight and ramp front sight. Also the Williams scope mount for this model. We agreed the barrel should be cut to 22 inches.

The metal was all refinished. All the rust pits were removed and a handsome bluing job was undertaken. The stock making was left to Reinhart Fajen who did a bangup good job on the Mannlicher butt-to-muzzle walnut stock. I had specified that I did not want a recoil pad so Fajen added a steel buttplate. The smooth flowing lines of the full wood, commencing at the muzzle cap and running back to the trigger guard made the rifle indeed fetching!

I have since killed a raft of deer with this gun. I use the Norma factory load of 139-gr softpoint semi-pointed boattail bullet. It gives 2750 fps MV out of the 22-inch barrel. Pressures run 43,500 psi which is pretty hot for the Krag lockup. I have tried a miscellany of reloads in this rifle. The 77-gr bullet, the 87-gr, the 93-grain and the 120-grain. It groups best with the 139-grain Norma and with the Speer 140-grain; also with the 156-grain Norma and 4350 powder.

In the Schultz & Larsen Model 62 International rifle, I consistently get minute of angle groups at 200 yards with a load of 36 grains of 4895 and

the 140-gr Sierra spitzer boattail. This load gives me 2342 fps MV. In the Swedish Mauser, with long barrel and equipped with micrometer rear aperture sight and front aperture, groups run MOA with this same loading. Brass is Norma and primers are also by that firm.

Bullets run .263 or .264 but any of these military surplus rifles should be slugged to establish groove diameter—There is considerable variation. Too, many are long on headspace and this ought to be checked out by a competent gunsmith before you commence to shoot them. Some have seen a lot of mileage and plenty of rounds.

Another popular 6.5 is the old Japanese standard military round. This one goes 6.5x50 mm. It was fired in the Model 1897, 1905 and 1911 rifles and carbines; also in the Nambu machine gun. It was cashiered midway in the war because the Japanese wanted a cartridge with more punch. This rifle has a strong action and when converted to a sporter makes up into an excellent hunting rifle. The service load fires a 139-gr bullet and delivers approximately 2500 fps MV. Norma offers a factory round which fires a 139-gr—the same bullet as loaded in the 6.5x55—and it gives 2428 fps MV. Norma also has a 156-gr loading with a muzzle velocity of 2067 fps.

I have owned a succession of Arisakas. The first thing I do with a new one is to slug the barrel to see what groove dimensions may be. These vary considerably. Brass can be secured from Norma and it is Boxer primed. It can also be made up from '06 cases. The '06 should be swaged in the body to .450" diameter, leave the rim full size, then size the casing full length. Ream the neck, trim the cartridge to 1.965". When loaded with Hornday's 100-gr Spire-point and 37 grains of H335 the current rifle I have here shoots splendidly. Velocity is 2585 fps MV. The twist is 1-in-9 inches. A load of 34 grains of 4065 with the 120-gr Sierra Spitzer, Norma cases and primers, is another gem. It delivers 2345 fps MV on the Oehler chronograph.

Another good round in the 6.5 family is the Mannlicher Carcano. This case has a length of 52 millimeters. This was one of the standard Italian service rounds during WW-II. The cartridge is a rimless bottleneck with a length in inches of 2.05", a head diameter of .447", a rim of .446", and

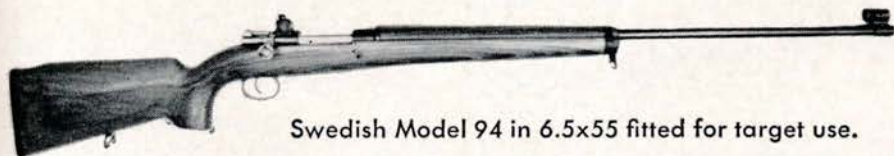
a neck of .296. Service round ballistics show the bullet weighing 159 grains with a muzzle velocity of 2225 fps and developing approx 39,000 psi breech pressures.

The arm for this round is the Model 1891, manufactured both as a rifle and as a carbine. Most of the shipments as military surplus to this country were in the carbine version. It is difficult to get one of these that is accurate. Bore dimensions vary a good deal and headspace is a real problem. Barrels have been neglected and seldom do you find a tube that is in such a state as to produce good groups. The trigger pull is invariably abominable and must have attention before the rifle can be shot accurately. Norma loads for the Carcano but only with the 156-grain softpoint round nose bullet. This is rated at an even 2000 fps MV.

There is a good deal of 6.5 Carcano brass floating around, but it is all

muzzle velocity is given at 2333 fps. Norma has two loadings, one with a 139-grain softpoint semi-pointed boat-tail at a velocity of 2575 fps; and a 156-grain softpoint roundnose with a speed at the muzzle of 2460 fps.

While stationed in Spain, I owned three different Mannlicher rifles. The first of these was the Mannlicher-Schoenauer 6.5x53 mm (this cartridge is now referred to as the 6.5x54 mm). It had been made in the Steyr plant, at Steyr, Austria, before WW-II. The barrel was 18 inches and the rifle was stocked full length. On it I had a 3X Zeiss scope in typical high Continental mounts. The second Mannlicher was a 7X57 mm with a 20-inch barrel. The third was a 9.3X62 mm, it had a 24-inch barrel and was half-stocked. That is the stock was the conventional sporter type. These rifles were all equipped with set triggers, having been made for the Continental trade. I had picked them up in deals with



Swedish Model 94 in 6.5x55 fitted for target use.

Berdan primed. The 30'06 case can be converted, but it takes some doing. The head must be swaged to .448" diameter and the extractor groove has to be deepened. The brass should then be sized full length in a 6.5x52 Carcano die and then trimmed to 2.07" length. Then ream the neck.

There is a gain twist in the Carcano barrel that handles 140-grain and 160-grain bullets best. An accurate load with the 140-grain Speer Spitzer is 37 grains of 4320, which will churn up 2460 fps MV out of the 21-inch barrel. For the 160-grain Hornady roundnose bullet or the Norma, which only goes 156 grains, a load of 38 grains of H380 worked well in reformed .30-06 cases.

This cartridge is an excellent deer and antelope killer. It deserves a better fate than to be joined up with a mediocre rifle. In a modern bolt gun with a 22" or 24" barrel it would be a highly satisfactory hunting number.

Another, and even better, 6.5 cartridge is the Mannlicher-Schoenauer. This casing measures 54 millimeters, 2.110 inches. The Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifles are imported by Stoeger Arms Corp. Stoeger offers ammunition as does Norma-Precision. The RWS loading as imported by Stoeger has the 159-grain H-mantle bullet;

individual sportsmen with whom I hunted.

I shot chamois, Ibex, wild boar, red deer, roebuck and Fallow deer with the 6.5 Mannlicher. The ammunition was RWS, using a 159-gr softpoint H-mantle bullet. I have never reloaded for this 6.5 round. Brass is available from Norma and it may also be made from 30'06 brass. Twist is 1-in-7.5 inches which is quite abrupt. I'd speculate that better results would be had if the shooter reloaded with bullets like the Nosler 140-grain, the Speer at the same weight, and the Hornady 160-gr. roundnose.

We have our own 6.5 mm in this country. That is the .264 Winchester Magnum. Then there is the 6.5 mm Remington Magnum. Let us look at these two home grown products in order of their appearance. The .264 Win. Magnum came onto the scene in 1960. It was introduced by Winchester and is one of a family group including the .458 and the .338. The case for the three loads is an adaptation of the .300 H&H magnum. The .264 has a length of 2.500 inches, this is the same, virtually, as the 30'06 (2.49") and contrives to function the cartridge in standard length actions.

The factory loaded cartridge comes with two bullet weights, one of 100 grains and the other with 140-grain.

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The first indicates 3700 fps MV and the latter shows 3200 fps. These data taken with a 26-inch laboratory barrel, specially chambered and tightly locked up.

In 1960, before the .264 Winchester appeared on the market I took a Model 70 with 26-inch tube to Africa on an extended safari. I shot 34 game animals with it. Performance was excellent. I used only the 140-gr. Winchester softpoint bullet. The number referred to as the Power Point. This bullet penetrated well but broke up into minute pieces after penetration. These bits and pieces of jacket and core once into the body cavity did a great deal of damage. There was seldom complete penetration of any animal regardless of its size and weight. But killing effect was impressive. Shots were not long, seldom over 250 yards.

Accuracy was first-water. The factory 140-gr load shot into 3 to 4 inches at 200 yards. The 100-gr load was not as good as this. Groups at 100 yards ran about 2 MOA. The twist is 1-in-9 inches and this is too fast for the short, light bullet. The Sierra 120-gr Spitzer with 60 grains of 4350 performs much better. It will shoot minute of angle groups out to 200 yards, as far as I have tried it.

The 26-inch barrel was long and unwieldy. On the African soiree it proved a nuisance both in the safari car and in the bush. When I returned home I shipped the rifle back to Winchester and then had Parker Ackley barrel a Sako action with a 23-inch standard weight .264 tube. This rifle has accounted for a raft of deer, a plentitude of pronghorns, caribou, and three elk. It is a handy length, a good weight and balances nicely. On the Oehler chronograph the loss of 3 inches in barrel length has reduced the 140-gr load to 2925 fps MV; the 100-grain is down to 3350 fps MV. This puts the .264 down in a class with the old .270 Winchester and indeed performance is about on a par between the two. The .270 with its 130-gr bullet will rev up 3125 fps MV, and with the 100-gr projectile does 3375 fps.

The more recent of our 6.5 mm rounds is the one by Remington. It is made up on a belted case, a shell that is almost exactly 55 mm in length. The bullet, as offered by Remington, is a 120 gr pointed softpoint Corelokt. It is given 3030 fps MV from the 18 1/2" barrel of the Model 600 rifle. Whether the company will offer other loadings in this round is not known. They may bring along a 100-grain loading. It is pretty difficult to consider a heavier bullet,

which is needed, because of the shortness of the M600 (now the Model 660) action. A longer and heavier slug would have to be seated in the case below the neck and this is not good practice. The logical thing, which the company has just announced, is to chamber the M700 rifle for this round. This action has enough length to it to permit the loading of a heavier bullet.

Not too happy with the 18 1/2-inch barrel on the M600 carbine, I sent my rifle to Ackley and had him rebarrel it with a 23-inch standard weight tube. I then forwarded the barreled action to Reinhart Fajen and he made up one of his splendid stocks for it. This is a laminated stock made of walnut and maple, the walnut in 1/2s" alternate laminations and the maple running 1/16"; each layer laid at 90 degrees to the other. This adds immeasurably to the strength and durability and of course, best of all, the stock will never lose its stability. Impervious to moisture and the elements, the "layered" stock has a lot going for it in the eyes of the hunting marksman.

On the rifle I place the Redfield 2X-7X scope in the Redfield Junior mount. With factory cartridges it consistently grouped into 1 1/4 MOA at 200 yards. With a variety of 100-gr bullets, from our leading bullet makers, it did not do so well. Ackley had given the barrel a 1-in-9 inch twist, precisely like the factory tube, but his barrel showed better accuracy with the 120-grain loading. Using 53 grains of 4350 and the 120-grain Speer Spitzer, this load shot groups of less than 3 inches at 200 yards. The Oehler chronograph showed an average muzzle velocity of 3065 fps from the 23-inch barrel.

A big mule deer hit at 190 yards high in the shoulders with the factory 120-gr Corelokt bullet went down to one shot. A whitetail buck, shot as he quartered away from the gun, was hit in the flank, the Corelokt ranging forward and across, it was a one-shot kill. Another whitetail shot at 165 yards, high through the ribs, was knocked down, got up and took a second shot through the shoulders. A pronghorn shot at 240 yards high in the shoulders died in his tracks. The load was the factory 120-gr Corelokt.

There are many other 6.5 mm cartridges. The most of them little known to American shooters. There is a 6.5X54 mm Mauser "K" (Kurz), a 6.5X57 mm, and a rimmed version of this same round. There is a 6.5X58R, used in a good number of double rifles. Then there is the Portuguese 6.5X58 Mauser, fired in the military Mauser-Verguiero rifle, and the

6.5X61 mm, a dead ringer for our old .256 Newton, and along with this is the rimmed version. Finally, there is the hot 6.5X68 mm. This is loaded by RWS and is imported and sold by Stoeger. The cartridge fires a 123-grain bullet at 3315 fps MV. It is badly overbore capacity and is ruinous to chamber throats.

Here, then, is a cartridge family—the 6.5 mm—that has a whale of a lot of utility. It is not a magnum, it has moderate power and no sensational speed. But it is a killer on game like deer, pronghorn, mountain sheep and caribou. The cartridge is a gem to reload and has all the accuracy a man could ask.



A LOOK AT THE LAHTI

(Continued from page 36)

age, contributing to a respectable pull.

Firing was from 25 yards, standard target for that range. Ammunition was Canadian surplus, about 1200 FPS velocity. After a few shots, I removed the accelerator and added a glove to the shooting hand. Before removal of the accelerator, ejection was about five yards. After removal, cases dropped about 8 feet from the firing point. There were no malfunctions. Firing was from standing position, one hand, no rest. Groups (five shots) averaged five inches, the best 3¾-in., the L-39 Finnish model turning out the latter.

With the accelerator replaced, I tried a few light handloads, about 950 to 1000 FPS velocity, and managed one three-inch group. With a set of target sights added, and using light loads, I believe the Lahti could be adopted to appreciably good target work. The accelerator would prevent any light-load ejection problems.

Takedown of the Lahti is simple and easy: Being sure the pistol is unloaded, cocked, and magazine removed, move the barrel and extension one quarter inch to the rear and turn the takedown lever, at the left forward edge of the frame, downward. Barrel group may now be run forward off the frame. Recoil spring is a captive unit on the frame, and will not fly out. Invert barrel group and withdraw bolt to the rear. Locking block may now be lifted out of barrel extension.

The accelerator is located at the lower left forward edge of the barrel extension. To remove it, rotate the part until the small hole lines up with the spring-loaded retaining pin. Insert a small-diameter tool (an unfolded paper-clip is ideal) in the hole to depress the pin, and lift out the accelerator. Retaining pin and spring can now be removed. While using the pistol with these parts out, I suggest you keep them in a plastic medicine container or other safe place, as the pin and spring are particularly small and easy to lose.

Reassembly is a simple reverse pro-

cedure. There is even an arrow stamped inside the locking block to guide you (it should point forward) I do not recommend further disassembly by the non-gunsmith for several reasons: Reassembly of the frame components requires the use of slave pins, and the left grip can't be taken off until the safety is removed, a fairly delicate operation in itself.

I do not have the actual production figures on the Finnish and Swedish Lahtis, but considering its limited commercial sale, the relatively small Finnish and Swedish military forces, and its brief span of manufacture (1935-1944), the Lahti could well become a choice item for automatic collectors. After being phased out by Sweden a few years ago, quite a few L-40 models were sold in America on the surplus market. Finland, however, still uses the L-35 and L-39 models, and only a very small number have trickled into this country as World War Two souvenirs. For this reason, the Finnish Lahti commands a higher price—as high as \$200 for one in excellent condition.

I have not seen the Finnish issue holster, but the Swedish type is quite an impressive outfit. It has compartments for the pistol, two spare magazines, a cleverly-designed box-shaped screwdriver, and a cleaning rod. I have also not had an opportunity to examine an authentic Lahti shoulder stock, but it is reported to be similar to the Luger stock, a flat type with provision for attaching the leather holster. Any stocks encountered will likely be of Finnish origin. It is believed that none were made in Sweden, even though the L-40 has a stock lug.

Endeavoring to regain territory lost in the Russo-Finnish war, Finland in 1941 entered an alliance with the Nazi Wehrmacht on the Eastern Front, continuing until the Russian advance in 1944. The Lahti saw combat service through this period, and today, it remains the military and police side-arm of that cold little country in the Soviet shadow.



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FAMOUS AROUND THE WORLD

PISTOL SHOOTERS

(Continued from page 43)

buy the centerfire guns at the same time. Although you won't (and should not) shoot them right away, their very presence will be a constant reminder to "dig in" with the .22, becoming accomplished with that particular gun, until you are ready for the more difficult calibers. Basic training and technique begins with the .22 rimfire. When your pattern is formed, when you have .22 shooting down solid, then you move on to the centerfire guns. Another point to remember is this: Don't try any serious shooting with .22 revolvers. If you have a wheelgun, reserve it for fun-gunning.

Buy a good pistol box—weight isn't important—but insure that it is sturdy, that water can't get through to the guns when the lid is shut, that at least three guns will fit in it comfortably, and that it has at least one accessory drawer. Then bring it to the local cobbler and have him attach either a leather or heavy-duty canvas strap to it, so it can be carried from the shoulder if desired. Insure that the lid can be closed when a spotting scope is attached.

Buy a spotting scope. The only requirement is that the resolution be good enough to spot .22 caliber holes from the 50-yard line. Also buy a good pair of wrap-around ear protectors. Add to this list these articles: a score book, carbide lamp (the small cigarette lighter size is best, and comes in a handy plastic case), a small can of carbide, a small contain-

er of light machine oil, a small screwdriver, and powdered or spray-can resin. The brand called Firm Grip is good. Also invest in a small staple gun. All the miscellany should fit comfortably in your gun box, with enough spare room for ammo.

The next gun to buy is a top-quality .38—again, I would not consider a revolver. Unless you locate a semi-auto built by Giles, Clark, Shockey, Dinan—or from one of the other few top gunsmiths of worth—I would suggest a Smith & Wesson Model 52 Master. On the other hand, when buying your .45, the Colt Gold Cup in that caliber is my choice. But only if you can't buy a top-quality .45 caliber custom gun—since these are best.

The three factory guns I recommended, the Smith Model 41, the Smith Model 52 Master and the Colt Gold Cup .45, are capable of putting together 2600 scores in the hands of the right shooters. The cost for all this equipment is about \$550 list.

Now, what about ammo? .22 rimfire is cheap, so buy in large lots for a better price break, and only shoot standard velocity ammo. It isn't necessary to invest in match ammo at this stage. Centerfire ammo—both .38 Special wadcutter and .45 caliber semi-wadcutter is expensive. Therefore it is also recommended that you buy some reloading equipment. Unless you're pre-experienced in molding bullets, I recommended that you buy these ready-cast, in lots of 1000. Commercially-made cast bullets sel-

dom vary in weight, and are of uniform dimensions. You can then go ahead and make up the cartridges by just using a standard C-type press. The bullets come pre-lubricated, so in addition to the press all you will need to buy is a good powder measure and two sets of dies, in both .38 and .45 caliber, primers, lube and shell holders. The reloading equipment shouldn't cost more than \$50. If you are careful during the reloading operation, your home-made cartridges will have factory accuracy at the 25-yard line. After you've been shooting a while, and it begins to make a difference, shoot commercial factory ammo from the 50-yard line, reserving the handloads for the shorter courses of fire. Remember, in a 2700 point match (three guns) only 30 shots are fired from the 50-yard line with each gun. The only other must-have item is a pair of good shooting glasses. Now you're in business.

Learning the basics of competitive shooting can be confusing, at best. However, since this article is primarily designed for the new shooter, the training technique that I'm about to explain is simple, without frill, and if followed to the letter, will give positive results.

First, send 50c to the NRA for their booklet, Pistol Rule Book, and read it from cover to cover—become thoroughly familiar with competitive pistol shooting procedures. After that there are two things to remember: The rules for proper shooting can be learned in a few minutes, and it takes practice—lots of it—to become a good shooter. There are no shortcuts to good shooting, style is basically the same for all, and application of the

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technique—shot delivery—is the same for Blankenship and Hamilton as it was for Reeves and Benner, and is for John Q. Public. Top shooters have no secrets. They practice hard and have excellent self-discipline.

I wish there could be another phrase to explain sight alignment, but there

isn't. You read about it everywhere, yet the term is never overused, because this—coupled with concentration—is the single most important concept to get down, and use, from the beginning.

Sight alignment means keeping the front blade in constant, proper per-

spective with the rear sight notch. And the relationship between the two sights is this: the top of the front blade should be flush with either side of the rear sight. If the *width* of the front blade were the same width as either side of the rear sight, (which it naturally never is) the eye would see three dashes (—) when aiming, or one unbroken horizontal line (—), depending on how large the actual notch is on a particular rear sight. Theoretically, if you adjusted the sights properly for a particular distance, and had perfect sight alignment (and perfect *sight picture*, which I will discuss next) when you squeezed the trigger, the result would be a dead-center X on the target. In striving for good sight alignment, there are two planes of movement to consider: vertical (elevation) and horizontal (windage). You don't move (break) your wrist to get the desired alignment, you do move your arm and/or body to achieve it.

Any variation from this perfect alignment, however slight, will move the point of impact considerably. The more variation, the farther away from the desired point of aim the shot will be. It's as simple as that. At 50 yards, a misalignment of 1/100th of an inch will move the point of impact three inches.

Now there is certainly a point of reference to keep the sights aligned with, and this is what we call sight picture. The point of reference is, of course, the bull. Proper sight "picture" is perhaps the most difficult concept to get across to new shooters—and sometimes oldtimers too. So far in this explanation, there seems to be three distinct areas to keep in mind—

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front sight, rear sight and target. But the fact is, there is but *one* material thing to *concentrate* on—the *front* sight.

You first must have a mental picture of what you are looking for. It's a quarry, something to find. You are looking for a specific picture—a round, black bull resting on the front blade of your front sight, at the same time keeping the two sides of the rear sight in a continuous horizontal line with the front. That is sight picture. You do this by focusing on the front blade, not the rear sight or the target. Sight picture is a mental configuration and becomes virtually a subconscious thing. Since you already have a mental picture of what is needed, you concentrate on that front sight, gradually making physical adjustments with your arm until the front blade is aligned with the rear sight (which will appear slightly out of focus and when the bull appears in its proper position. The bull will appear grossly out of focus—but not enough that you can't see its form, appearing like a

small grey ball, "sitting" on the front blade. When you achieve that picture, squeeze the trigger until it breaks.

If you lose it, put the gun down and try again a few minutes later. Don't focus on the target or at some point between the target and the gun. Train and condition yourself to focus on the front sight alone, come straight back on the trigger until the shot breaks, and follow through with the recoil. If sight alignment was precise when the shot broke, if you didn't push or "heel" the gun, anticipating recoil, the result will be a well placed shot.

Compared to sight alignment and concentration, everything else necessary to get the shot off comes easy—and is easy. Proper stance and trigger pull becomes automatic relatively soon. If you keep these few points in mind when on the firing line, the complicated procedure of shooting a pistol accurately, will become as second hand to you, eventually, as picking up a pencil to sign your name to a trophy receipt.



THE 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " GROUP

(Continued from page 26)

to bolt actions, it is also made in single shots, semi-autos, pumps, and lever actions. Roy Weatherby recently re-announced it in his fine Mark V rifles. I questioned him regarding this and he tells me that while '06s may be bought for considerably less money elsewhere, many hunters and shooters want the '06 and the pride of Weatherby ownership. They're buying the '06 from Roy, and surprisingly, it is outselling some of his own magnum calibers! This in itself is a mighty fine testimonial to the caliber.

How flat shooting is it? Using a zeroing-in point of 25 yards, let's see how it compares in various bullet weights, at various distances, with some of the newer hotter calibers.

As you can see, it stacks up pretty favorably with the newer, hotter, supposedly flatter shooting calibers out to 350 yards. While the flatness of its trajectory isn't good enough to make it the long range varmint rifle that some of the others are, it's still most certainly flat shooting enough to be capable of regular hits on game at these ranges if the shooter is familiar with his rifle, load, and can judge range at all. If he doesn't have this familiarity of rifle and load, and can't judge his range quite accurately, it's doubtful that he'd do any better with any other caliber mentioned above than with our old '06.

Now, for a further comparison, let's take a look at the energy figures of

Caliber	Bullet Wt.	50 yds.	100 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.	350 yds.
.30-06	125 gr.	+ $\frac{3}{4}$ "	+ 2"	+ $\frac{1}{2}$ "	- $6\frac{1}{2}$ "	- $12\frac{3}{4}$ "
.30-06	150 gr.	+ 1"	+ $2\frac{1}{4}$ "	+ $1\frac{1}{4}$ "	- 6"	- 13"
.30-06	180 gr.	+ 1"	+ $2\frac{1}{4}$ "	+ $\frac{3}{4}$ "	- 8"	- $16\frac{1}{4}$ "
.243	100 gr.	+ $\frac{3}{4}$ "	+ 2"	+ $1\frac{3}{4}$ "	- 4"	- $9\frac{3}{4}$ "
.264	140 gr.	+ $\frac{3}{4}$ "	+ $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	+ 2"	- 3"	- 8"
.270	130 gr.	+ $\frac{3}{4}$ "	+ $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	+ 2"	- $4\frac{1}{4}$ "	- $9\frac{3}{4}$ "
.270	150 gr.	+ 1"	+ $1\frac{3}{4}$ "	- $\frac{1}{2}$ "	- $8\frac{3}{4}$ "	- 15"
7 mm Mag.	150 gr.	+ $\frac{3}{4}$ "	+ $1\frac{3}{4}$ "	+ $1\frac{1}{4}$ "	- 3"	- 7"
7 mm Mag.	175 gr.	+ 1"	+ $2\frac{1}{4}$ "	+ $1\frac{1}{4}$ "	- $5\frac{3}{4}$ "	- $13\frac{1}{4}$ "

these same calibers and bullets over various ranges:

Caliber	Bullet Wt.	200 Yds.	300 Yds.	500 Yds.
.30-06	125 gr.	1710	1340	840
.30-06	150 gr.	1760	1340	790
.30-06	180 gr.	2020	1660	1110
.243	100 gr.	1430	1190	835
.264	140 gr.	2270	1910	1370
.270	130 gr.	1990	1660	1130
.270	150 gr.	1480	1100	630
7mm Mag.	150 gr.	2430	1990	1310
7mm Mag.	175 gr.	2700	2290	1640

Bear in mind that it's these foot pounds of retained energy out at game killing ranges, rather than muzzle velocity or muzzle energy that are important. Here again, the old '06 hangs in there pretty well with the rest.


Accuracy, with a well-tuned rifle is excellent in this caliber. But, even in an untuned, out-of-the-box factory semi-auto it's still better than at least 90% of the shooters are under hunting conditions. Let's go back to the 6¾" group I initially mentioned and take a closer look at it. Fired at 100 yards, five shot groups for the individual loads are as follows:

Bullet	Grs.	Powder	prox. center	Group Size Velo- city center (ap- to)
150			2950	27½"
220 Hornady	57.0/4831		2525	1½"
130 Norma	55.0/Ball C(2)		3065	2¼"
170 Norma	50.0/N203		2750	2¾"
110 Speer	58.0/H-380		3310	2½"
200 Speer	45.0/H-335		2500	4¼"
180 Hornady	44.0/4895		2600	1½"
165 Speer	56.0/H-414		2900	4½"

Before taking too long a look at each of the individual loads and groups let me hasten to add, with one

exception, these loads were simply taken from the various reloading manuals and no attempt was made to find the loads best suited to this individual rifle. The big 220 Hornady roundnose over 57 grs. of 4831 is a load that I have used and worked with quite a bit, and I might add, one that I am very partial to. Other than that, they are simply "out of a book" loads. With a little work and experimentation I have no doubts that good loads could be developed for all the different weight bullets that would consistently go in to two inches and quite possibly 1½ inches. Even so, with these loads, with two exceptions, accuracy is adequate for game shooting at 200 yards.

So, for all practical purposes, the grey bearded old warhorse still stacks up pretty well. With the proper bullet, it's flat shooting enough for most hunting. It's energy out at game killing ranges is still up there to do more than a sufficient job if the bullet is correctly placed, and even in the Model 742 Remington it gives more than acceptable accuracy. The reason I say, "even in the 742," is because most generally the semi-auto isn't considered to come close to equaling a good bolt action rifle in accuracy. This one does, but here again, it's an exceptional rifle. It's accurate, enjoyable to shoot, and it's the most foolproof centerfire semi-auto rifle I have ever used. It will digest any and all ammo with no difficulty, and it simply doesn't know how to jam. As with all semi-autos it has the annoying habit of tossing empties all over the countryside, but with that exception, I can find no fault with it. Even its trigger pull is better than on many a bolt action rifle.

No, the '06 isn't the mythical all-around rifle; yet, with the proper loads, it will do a fairly creditable job for most any task the average hunter will want to put it to. 

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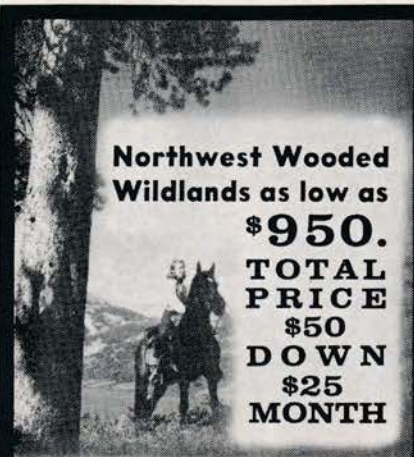
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(Continued from page 33)



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instance lead must be brought into the mechanics of shooting again, either shooting slightly above the bird as it rises or slightly below as it drops back down.

This is a fairly common situation; when a dove is hurtling overhead, directly in line with the shooter, he brings his weapon up and lifts it until the bird is blotted from sight, then pulls the trigger. When the gun barrel erases the target, it means it is moving ahead, thus compensating for target movement.

There it is again, that old bugaboo called lead.

It would be literally impossible for the shooter to, on the spot, reason out each and every shot. What happens is, his brain collects the facts from thousands of different and varied field shots and stores them up like a computer. Thus, when a quail jumps up, the shooter brings up his shotgun smoothly and his subconscious takes over, tracking at the correct speed, allowing for the proper lead, all based on a conditioned subconscious that has learned exactly how much to compensate from experience.

There seems to be three distinct types of wing shooters: (1) The common track and lead shooter; (2) The spot shooter; (3) The instinctive shooter.

Track and lead is far and away the most popular. The average skeet shooter shows the most pronounced prototype of this style. He holds his gun snugly to his shoulder, calls "Pull!" and starts tracking the target immediately after release, squeezing the trigger as the barrel sweeps past the moving target. Follow through is important since any abrupt stop as the trigger is pulled will cause the shot to fly behind the intended target.

The spot shooter is one who throws up his weapon and fires at an imaginary spot in front of a moving target, the exact point of aim being determined by long hours of experience. This is one of the most difficult of all styles to master.

Many of the so-called instinctive shooters swear they don't lead moving objects at all. Put the line of sight right on the bird and squeeze the trigger, they advocate. You wonder how this could be true until you watch one in action. What he doesn't realize is that he is compensating for movement although he isn't aware of

it, and unless the onlooker is alert, he won't guess that the shooter is allowing for any lead whatsoever. He seems to fire the instant the gun touches his shoulder.

The secret is watching how the shooter comes up on a target. If the bird is approaching from right to left, the shooter twists his body and moves his weapon in that direction as he brings it into firing position. The instant the gun is positioned and the bird is blotted from sight, he pulls the trigger. Some people refer to this as the "paintbrush method." The key is full concentration on the target. As the gun barrel is brought up and pulled across and the target is painted from sight, that's the signal to fire.

Most of the real good shots I've watched in action use this method. They get their weapons up and fire in one continuous motion, no hesitation. A picture of coordinated reflexes in action is Ted Williams, the former baseball batting star. On the skeet range he nonchalantly holds his shotgun to his side, gives the pull signal, and the next thing you know the gun has flown to his shoulder in a blur of motion, fires and the target shatters before it hardly has a chance to clear the release house. Amazing.

But there is one basic point of instinctive shooting that exposes some of the common errors in wing shooting. Most shooters concentrate almost entirely on lead, ignoring the fact that many, many targets are missed simply because the shot either sails high, over the intended mark, or below it.

Lucky McDaniel of Columbus, Georgia, probably the best-known preacher of the instinct-shooting gospel, explained this to me. He said every shooter has a natural tendency to undershoot. When we look at an object like a moving bird, a thrown coin, an airplane, we tend to glance at the bottom of the object. To compensate for this natural error, the shooter must always aim high, at the top of the target.

To illustrate this he handed me a broken-open doublebarrel shotgun and held a coin on a string out in front and instructed me to line up the sight bead with the coin. This I did. Then he told me to glance through the bore and tell him what I saw. I did and was amazed to see nothing except just the tiny sliver of lower edge of the coin.

"See," McDaniel said, smiling. "You'd have undershot that coin."

There are other considerations along these lines, too, such as gun fit, which can cause a person to either under-shoot or overshoot. Often the question of lead gets blamed for a miss when, actually, the shooter was either putting his shot high or low, a common and frequent failing in wing shooting.

Lead is an intangible thing that is difficult to grasp. It is one of the primary reasons while some good trap and skeet shots are not good field shots at all. A skeet target, for instance, comes from the house at the same angle, the same speed on every round. After firing untold rounds, the shooter has conditioned his shooting

this lead problem.

In actual tests conducted several years ago, it was found that it took about .1 second for the shooter to recognize the target, .25 second to pull the trigger, .008 second for the firing pin to be released by the hammer and for it to strike the primer, .003 second for the primer to set the powder afire and start the shot on its way, and .065 second for the pellets to travel about twenty yards. In all, this is about one-half second time lapse which means that in this time a dove moving about 30 miles-per-hour would travel about four feet at thirty yards and six feet at forty yards. If the shooter aimed directly at the bird at thirty feet, this would mean he would shoot roughly



This bird looks like it's going straightaway—but don't be fooled.

reflexes to this speed and angle. But in the field every shot is different, there are different speeds, different ranges. Only through field experience can the shooter recognize each situation and automatically, subconsciously adapt to it.

When a shooter watches a bird approach within range, raises his gun and comes to that moment of truth when he initiates a chain reaction, several things happen. First, the impulse is telegraphed from the brain to the trigger finger. The trigger then releases the firing pin, which in turn falls on the primer, which sets the powder afire, which burns and creates pressure to push the shot out. Then the shot must travel from the source of the power to the target. This seems like an instantaneous thing to the shooter, but there is a definite time lapse, which brings us to the heart of

four feet behind it.






On paper this seems highly technical and complicated. Yet it is remarkable how the subconscious mind can collect and retain all these facts from past shots, and call on this storehouse of experience and immediately realize what to do on any particular situation. The more experienced the shooter is, naturally, the more knowledge he has stored up and more adaptable he'll be to any given field situation.

I've heard talk about natural shooters and sixty-minute wonders who are supposed to become expert shots in less than an hour of instruction, but take it from me, there is no substitute for the time-tried avenue of success called experience. All of our great shooters traveled that arduous path to success. You must too, if you envision the grandeur of joining their elite ranks.



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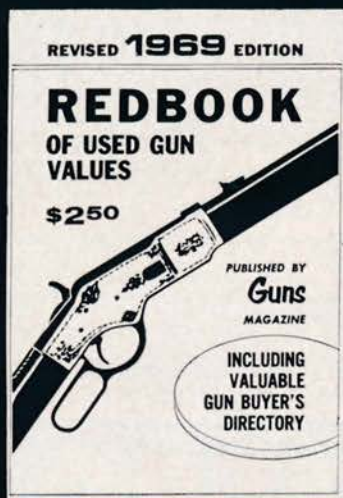


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BETRAYED?

(Continued from page 30)

making such cards permanent for the life-time of the holder (unless revoked for one of the same causes that would have prevented its issuance). Or, if renewals are demanded, it is recommended that the cards be good for terms of at least three, preferably five, years. States may require photographs and/or fingerprints; but the requirements must be simple, inexpensive, not burdensome either to the applicant or the enforcing agency.

Is this so bad? True, it offends those of us who think we have an innate moral and constitutional right to do as we damned please so long as it's not criminal. True, it's an added irritation—one more among the many already inherent in modern living—and one that is unnecessary if you live in a state you are sure won't impose worse requirements. In that case, you won't have to accept it, or fight it.

It's better than registration, which anti-gun fanatics in various states are demanding. Under a typical registration enactment, you would have to register and pay a fee for every firearm you own and every firearm you buy, sell, trade or trade for, give away or have given to you. And most such bills leave the issuance of registration certificates to the discretion of the enforcement agency. If he doesn't like your looks, he can reject your application!

The ID-Card Bill might even have some beneficial effect against crime, by sorting out some of those none of us want to have guns: felons, parolees, drug addicts, mental incompetents, and the like. It won't get them all; no law will. Criminals will still break laws, including this one. But the ID-Card Bill, as recommended, won't prevent the sportsman, the home owner, the storekeeper, from having guns for sport and/or for self defense.

One conscientious objector to the ID-Card Bill said, "But we've no assurance that it will come out of the legislature the way it went in! They can hash it up any way they like!"

That's true—unless you put muscle behind the Bill to defend it. It's your state. If you haven't enough pro-gun muscle to keep a good bill from being made a bad one, maybe you live in one of those states where the Bad Guys (in matters of firearms legislation) simply out-number the Good Guys. If so, you need the NSSF model Bill more than anybody! And if you

can't get it passed the way it is written, you'll just have to put up with the errors of your neighbors—or move elsewhere.

There is not space here to print the entire Model ID-Card Bill and the thinking behind it; free copies can be obtained upon request from the National Shooting Sports Foundation, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Connecticut 06878. But perhaps a few excerpts from the introductory statement, and other sections, may ease some of the fears, some of the misconceptions, that have arisen about it:

"The (legislature) believes that it is necessary to curb the unsafe, irresponsible, and unlawful use of firearms, *while acknowledging and implementing the constitutional and common law rights of individuals to acquire, possess, and use firearms for defense of life, limb, liberty, and government, for training and practice, . . . and for hunting and other lawful purposes; and that it is in the public interest to provide a means whereby law enforcement authorities will be able to identify persons who are entitled to acquire or possess firearms within the state by the establishment of a firearms owner's identification card system.*

"It is further declared that such . . . system is designed and intended solely to assist in preventing the misuse of firearms and is not intended to place any undue or unnecessary restrictions or burdens on law-abiding citizens with respect to the ownership, possession, or transfer of firearms . . . All fees established by this Act are intended only to defray a portion of the costs of administration of the Card System, and in no case to be a general revenue measure; and it is not intended that said fees will place undue financial burdens upon firearms owners or result in application denials for any reason other than those specifically enumerated in this Act."

A lot of words, yes; lawyers are like that. But surely the intentions are clear—clear, and vastly dissimilar to the preambles of many other Bills we have seen, which start out with the flat falsehood that "Whereas the incidence of private ownership of firearms is directly related to the inci-

dence of crime—," and go on from there to suggest prohibition and confiscation on any excuse conceivable to the enforcing agency. That difference is amply supported throughout the NSSF Bill:

"The enforcement agency may not prescribe any condition for the issuance of any Identification Card other than those specifically named in this Act, and shall within — days either approve the application and issue the card, or deny the application and notify the applicant in writing the cause for denial."

The only causes for rejection of an application are those stated previously in this article.

The Model Bill further stipulates the formation of an Appeals Board (composed of two members of a law enforcement agency, two members of hunting, shooting, or gun collecting organizations, and one member appointed by the Governor), to hear and pass on any protested denial, revocation, or seizure of a Card, or any objection to any rule or regulation made or proposed by the enforcement agency; and all decisions of the Appeal Board shall be subject to judicial review by the existing courts.

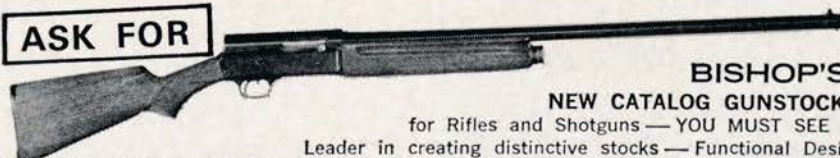
There's an old saying, "If rape is inevitable, relax and enjoy it." Industry doesn't go that far; what it does say is, "If firearms legislation is inevitable, try to limit it to legislation you (and we) can live with." That is the sole and simple purpose of the NSSF ID-Card Bill—and then only when requested by pro-gun people in a given state, as a defense against worse legislation.

"If that be treason," if this be betrayal by Industry, I guess you'll just have to "make the most of it."

But, first, ask yourself this question: Why would Industry betray shooters? Industry wants to sell guns (and ammo, and shooting equipment) as much as shooters want to buy and use them—and possibly for even more compelling reasons! Industry can be wrong; so can shooters. There may be better "generals" in the shooter ranks than any that have been discovered by Industry—but I doubt it. I've heard all the arguments, including my own; and I've seen no better strategies than those Industry has followed. I haven't always liked them, but—I don't like aspirin, either, but I take it to relieve a headache.

I'll tell you one thing: if you have a better strategy, you can get a most attentive hearing at any NSSF meeting. Or write me, and I'll present it for you.

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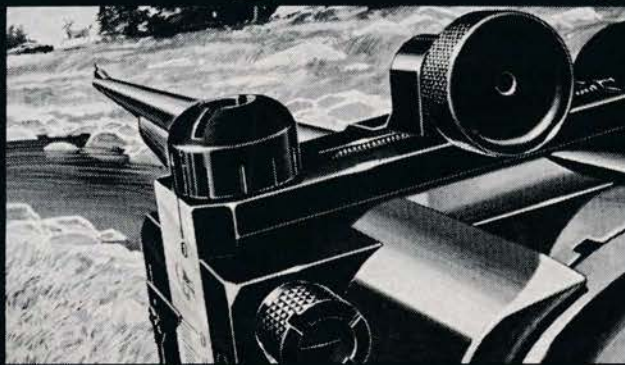
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THE BLAKE RIFLE

(Continued from page 31)

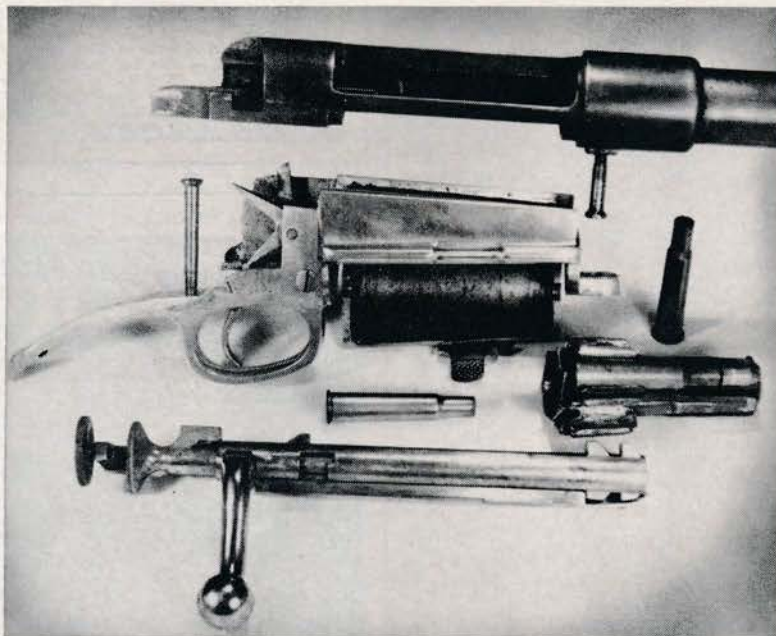
"Springfield" (as the military Krag's are marked) and the 220 refers to the bullet for which the gun is chambered, this being the old roundnose service load.

The Blake repeater holds seven rounds in its magazine with the cartridges pre-loaded by the shooter in spool-type chargers which are detachable. Spare spools may be carried. These magazine spools are a surprisingly simple affair made of sheet metal. A ratchet plate at the rear is activated by a metal finger hook which indexes the cylinder around for each shot much the same as the familiar sixgun. With each successive cartridge indexed and held in perfect alignment, the feed is smooth and certain. The large magazine capacity

has a divided stock. The mid-portion is occupied by the nicked plated brass casting which constitutes the magazine enclosure, trigger guard, and lower tang. This entire assembly bolts to the steel receiver.

The two piece stock on the rifle shown is extremely well fitted and the overall arrangement is one of solid construction. A fiddleback stripe is prominent.

The bolt action itself is a fascinating example of firearm mechanics. It put me in mind of the Remington Lee bolt action but the superficial resemblance ends there. The bolt knob is perfectly positioned above the trigger for fast handling. A marked outward curve at the base of the handle adds to the ready access factor. The compact



Take-down view of major components of the Blake rifle.

does not seem to make the rifle "thick waisted" or unwieldy. In fact, the smooth rounded hand hold at the mid-point is very comfortable when the arm is hung at the side.

While on the subject of loading, we may note that the Blake repeater has another associated feature. A magazine cut-off lever! On the left rear of the receiver is a front pivoted lever which can be operated to hold the full magazine in reserve while the rifle is loaded singly. Such a device is more often seen on a military arm than on a sporting rifle. However, Blake is said to have made up a military version for government tests.

As the photos indicate, the Blake

cocking-head peep sight is conveniently located at the rear of the bolt. A large cocking knob allows the rifle to be carried loaded and uncocked over rough terrain. Cocking may then be effected manually when in sight of game.

Although the multiple locking lug system was explored by Sir Charles Ross and Charles Newton at the turn of the century, we are just beginning to use this system on a wider scale. Now we can add John Henry Blake to the names of the pioneers. Observe the husky four-lug system of this sturdy action. Note that Blake employs the more conventional heavy lugs arranged in tandem pairs, as op-

posed to the "interrupted thread" pattern. There is strength aplenty when we consider the 1897 date on this rifle.

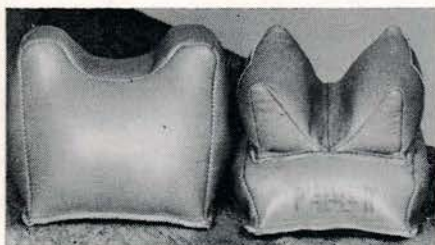
A current counterpart is the superb design of the new Mossberg Model 800 bolt action. The Mossberg engineers have improved the "tandem pair" locking lug concept with a six lug arrangement which divides the bolt into three segments.

Of special interest is the complex brass casting which forms the center section of the Blake rifle. The closeup photo reveals its unusual makeup. The finish and fit of these parts is vital to the smooth functioning of the rifle. They control alignment of the trigger and sear, indexing pawl, magazine cutoff and magazine spindle. Considerable thought seems to have gone into

the design of these parts.

Faulty extraction plagued many early rifles and John Henry Blake evidently intended to solve this in a rather ingenious way. A cut in the left wall of the receiver ring encloses a pivoted extractor bar which is activated by the passage of the left locking lug. This is a clever attempt to give a balanced "double extractor" grip on the cartridge rim.

All told, the design of the Blake rifle represents some excellent engineering thought when we consider its era. It is obvious that its maker took steps in a positive direction to resolve the design problems of the day as he saw them. The net result is one of those remarkable guns that was far ahead of its time.



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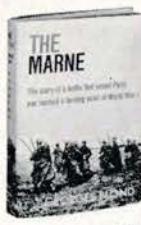


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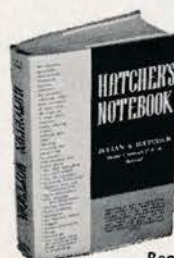
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BARNEY'S CANNONS, INC. has recently released a number of new muzzleloading cannon replicas in sizes up to full scale, among which is the 1/5-scale Revolutionary 8-pounder. Cannons produced by the firm are intended for use with black powder loads, and are in widespread use in sporting competition, signaling, interior and exterior decoration, and so forth. Bores, like those of most originals, are machined from solid castings by authenticated methods on restored machines dating well back to the 19th century. A 98-page catalog is available for \$1.00. Write Barney's Cannons, Inc., 61650 Oak Road, South Bend, Indiana 46614.

1969 NAVY ARMS CATALOG is just off the press, and available free to anyone who writes in. The 1969 catalog encompasses all the great replica guns manufactured by Navy Arms including the famous Remington Zouave Rifle, the model '66 lever action carbine both in .38 and .22 rim fire calibers, the famous Yank and



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GUN TREASURES

(Continued from page 49)

fired from a cannon.

He also found a bar shot—two cannon balls connected with a bar, which when shot from the end of a cannon, would catapult through the air like a baton and break the sails of the enemy vessel. "Spaniards preferred to disable vessels," McKee laughed. "If a cannoner sank one before it was ravaged of its cargo, he was keel-hauled."

"The University of Miami's ocean scientists tell me that the hardened debris around these weapons that have lain on the ocean floor is not coral rock, but a calcareous encrustation," McKee stated. "When the metal begins to rust, it forms bubbles; in these air pockets sand and shell are trapped, forming a paste that grows thicker every time the sea is agitated. Contrary to popular opinion, live coral will not grow on metal."

The sea-cement will preserve a gun or sword almost indefinitely when it is underwater. When it is brought up to air, however, the rusting process accelerates rapidly, and unless properly handled, a gun will disintegrate in a few days.

"The mechanisms of these guns are totally impregnated with salt crystals," says McKee. "Humidity changes cause the encrustment to crack, and the salt draws moisture from the air, speeding oxidation (rusting). Therefore, the first thing that must be done is to wash it thoroughly with fresh water." Following this, McKee dries

the weapon completely, then seals it from air by applying several coats of acrylic clear plastic spray. Every few months he checks the gun for cracks in the cement, then adds more spray.

"An excavated gun is more valuable because of its encrustation," says McKee. Pointing to his flintlock pistol he added, "It took 230 years to cement this gem. Wouldn't I be a fool to try and scrape it off?"

The reefs of the Florida straits claimed more than Spanish ships. During World War II, the British Man of War, HMS Winchester was discovered, along with 60 guns of the Royal Navy and 3000-pound iron cannons which had been cast in 1695.

At the time the wreck was excavated, there was a national drive to collect scrap metal, shipping it to England for conversion into planes and guns. Three of the guns were shipped to the English iron foundries, and as a morale-builder to the war-torn nation, the information was released to the London press that "guns that 300 years ago protected the kingdom are being hauled from the ocean floor, converted into planes, and are carrying His Majesty's banner against a new enemy—Germany." Several months later an article in the "Stars and Stripes" related that members of the RAF were applying for transfers to the infantry. They didn't want to fly planes made of metal so junky, it had lain underwater three centuries!

Usually the wrecks are spotted by

a plane. Identification of Spanish vessels is achieved through the Archives of the Indies in Seville or the Museum of Naval History in Madrid. Likewise, the British Admiralty in London has granted knowledge of their nation's vessels and their contents.

If the cargo is good, or if the ship has historical importance, McKee will lead a crew of divers. The policy is 'bring up any object you can find . . . we'll identify it later.' McKee's Museum features, among other sea-excavated artifacts, elephant tusks and copper pans for feeding prisoners, taken off a slave ship.

Guns and gold are historical companions. In the hands of greedy or adventurous men, they voyage side by side; and if they founder, it is simultaneous. The ocean is a great equalizer. Curiously, when they are retrieved together, they are mutually priceless.



CARE OF SEA EXCAVATED WEAPONS

Col. Rolfe Holbrook, curator and owner of the Holbrook Antique Arms and Guns Museum of Miami offers the following suggestions for care of sea-encrusted weapons:

1. Place in fresh water—anywhere from 2 weeks to years. (He has known collectors who submerged cannons in backyard canals for two years, claiming some of the metal components are restored by this process.)
2. Dry thoroughly and completely.
3. Place in an oil or kerosene bath. This, also, restores

some of the metal's components, and provides a protective sheath against rust.

4. Plasticize by acrylic plastic spray. Be thorough. Apply many coats, and check periodically for sign of deterioration, spraying each time. Remember, the case-met is subject to humidity changes, and cracks can appear overnight. (Not all metals are destroyed by their underwater experience. Brass remains unscathed; gold and silver change little. Iron and steel are most vulnerable.)



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RANGER ARMS

(Continued from page 25)

Edison Real Bird, who is the chairman of the Crow Tribal Council.

The following morning, in temperatures of 10 below zero, the party of four left for hunting areas in the Reservation. Herb Klein was the first to make a kill, getting himself a good six point bull for a trophy. Later that day, Homer Koon also connected for the second kill, another fine six point trophy.

The next day Governor Connally got an excellent big bull, a one shot kill, early in the morning, and about an hour later Van Ellis filled his permit. Actually, except for the extreme cold and the heavy snow that made it necessary to use snowshoes to travel around, there was nothing too unusual about the hunt, although everyone enjoyed a good time. All the meat was taken to the Crow Reservation Headquarters, to be used by the Crow Indians. The trophies became the property of the hunters. I believe this is really the first time that the first four production rifles of any factory has ever been used on a hunt, all at the same time. Two of these rifles were pictured in the original release article published by GUNS MAGAZINE.

Ranger Arms Company started their factory with a new designed action as the base of their business. First production called for a standard length action that would take cartridges up to the length of the .300 Winchester Magnum. This model was also immediately brought out in left hand action type. As soon as the standard length action was in production, a new short action designed to take cartridges from the .222 Remington to the .308 Winchester and the 6 mm Remington was started down the line. This was also made in right and left hand type actions.

As with all new products, some problems developed as soon as these new rifles and actions became available to the buying public, but were easily remedied. These problems included such things as weak springs and a magazine follower that was not fastened to the floor plate. This latter item seemed to bother all the stockers and gunsmiths who used the actions. They complained about the way the trigger was fastened to the floor plate and not the action. This required more exact bedding than many stockers were used to doing. Ranger made a change that now securely fastens the trigger assembly to the action, by screws. This has proved to be much

better than they anticipated, as the trigger can now be removed by just loosening the screws and dropping the trigger assembly, with the trigger guard, straight down. This makes it possible to remove the trigger without disturbing the floor plate or taking the barrel action out of the stock and possibly disturbing the bedding.

My Ranger rifle is one of the older type, but it has never given me any kind of trouble since I have had it. The trigger adjustment has remained a constant three pound pull, which is what it was originally set at when I received it.

Douglas barrels are, and have been standard equipment on Ranger rifles. An exception to this is when special contoured or stainless steel barrels are ordered. These barrels are by Shilen. They have had no problems with barrels. My 7 mm Remington Ranger has shot and is still shooting consistent 1 1/4 inch groups and it has been used by a considerable number of shooters.



One of the most surprising developments of this company is the fact that of all orders now in and those that have already been filled, nearly 70 percent have been for left hand actions. This seems to be a pretty good indication that the left hand shooter has been rather badly neglected until recently.

During the process of Ranger's development of the shorter Mustang action, I voiced the opinion that I thought the short stiffer action would be an excellent one for a super accurate varmint or bench rest action if the magazine cut-out was left off. Last year, after both long and short magazine actions were rolling smoothly along in production, five of the short single shot varmint- bench rest type actions were made up. These created a lot of buyer interest. Ed Shilen got one of these actions for a bench rest rifle for his own use and I got one and had Ed put on a special 24" stainless steel barrel, left in the white. It is in .17 caliber and chambered for the Harrington & Richardson version

of the .17/.223. I have not yet completed all my tests with this rifle but have already shot many groups that shade 1/2 inch. This is at velocities of over 4000 f.p.s.

Although Ranger has had their troubles in the last two years, these have apparently been satisfactorily remedied and on my last visit to the factory two months ago I saw a very busy plant with a healthy backlog of orders that cover several months production. There has been some re-



vision of their sales program due to the new gun laws and this is now being formulated and should soon be well established.

I have always been very impressed with the high quality metal that American gun factories now have to work with. There is no doubt also but that we have the finest production machinery possible and the trained technicians to use it. Although the Ranger rifle is a production designed rifle, it still requires some hand work to make it as excellent an item as it is. This is reflected in the price of the finished rifle and in the price of the action.

In the last few years, in fact since Remington changed to the Model 700, American rifle makers have shown a tendency toward the use of deeply recessed bolt faces, new type and far simpler extractors and ejectors, shrouds over the cocking piece, and in some cases, shrouded bolt ends at the front. Ranger has adopted many of these improvements to their designs. They use no stampings on the action or its parts. Some parts are machined or cut from bar stock, while others like the trigger housing, trigger guard, floor plate, etc., are made of investment castings. There has been no attempt to cut quality to attain price in the building of the Ranger rifle.

Common practice, nowadays, is for a new rifle company to have their rifle tested by an independent testing company to determine blow up strength or strength of shear of the bolt lugs and such parts. I know that Ranger had this done, but still I have often wondered just how much stress a rifle like this could actually stand. Last year I found out. I was in Oklahoma, and Homer Koon called me and asked

if I could come down and take some pictures of a Texas Ranger rifle that a man had blown up. The action was one of the first ones that a south Texas gunsmith had bought to make into a 600 yard target rifle for a customer. He had installed a 1 1/8" Ackley bull barrel on it and made his own stock for it. He had been firing it off the bench when the telephone rang and he went to answer it. When he came back to the bench he sat down, loaded a factory 160 grain load (it was a 7 mm Weathery Magnum) in the chamber and proceeded to fire it again. He just made one mistake. He forgot to take the cleaning rod he had been using out of the barrel. The end facing the bullet was the female end with no jag in it, so the pointed bullet entered the end of the rod and swaged it tight against the barrel, completely blocking the barrel only 3 inches from the end of the chamber. Such a blockage usually always results in a badly blown up gun. If the obstruction is out quite away into the barrel, then the barrel blows, although both action and barrel can let loose together.

In this case, the stock splintered, due to the out-rushing gas through the magazine well. This also blew the floor plate open. However there was no damage to the receiver, except that the load had created a .003" headspace. The extractor had been melted out of the face of the bolt by that super hot gasflow rearward. The action was undamaged and could be used again, and the shooter received a small nick on one finger when the floor plate flew back against it. That's all.

The gunsmith who had made this rifle was up there at Ranger's factory when I got there. I made pictures and then they planed the barrel in half so we could see exactly what happened. I certainly don't recommend this as a method of testing a rifle action but it surely raised my already high regard for the strength of the Ranger action. This gunsmith was also impressed. He bought another action for his customer's rifle and one for himself.

Any small independent arms company has a tough row to hoe in entering the highly competitive gun making trade today and this is especially true where an entirely new designed action is to be used and not a surplus or imported one. Viewing what they have accomplished in the last two years in this area I can easily understand why they felt like celebrating with a trophy elk hunt, even in the middle of winter. And four big elk with four shots isn't a bad way of doing it, either.

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DEVELOPMENT OF AUTO RIFLES

(Continued from page 47)

the soldier got practical breech-loading, metallic-cartridge rifles, he's wanted them to fire faster and with less personal effort. That's as it should be, I suppose, up to a point. Inventors, as well as military men, realized the desirability (not to mention potential profit) of a reliable semi-automatic infantry rifle. In 1885, Hiram Maxim (U.S.) experimented with a muzzle cap driven forward by powder gases. Its movement was transmitted rearward to unlock and open the breech. In 1889, J. M. Browning (U.S.), worked with a swinging, muzzle-mounted lever driven forward by gases. Connected by a suitable linkage, it actuated the lever of a Winchester-type action to unlock and open the breech. Neither ever passed the prototype stage as rifles, but contributed later to highly successful machine gun designs by the same inventors.

In 1904, a Mexican general named Mondragon patented a gas-operated, semi-automatic, rotating-bolt design embodying a remarkable number of the features found in later, more successful designs. It was adopted in 1911 by Mexico, produced in Switzerland, but not delivered. The Swiss-made guns went instead to Germany in 1914 for World War I. They became the standard German aircraft gun (for free use by observers) until the Parabellum (aircraft adaptation of the Maxim machine gun) became available. Mondragon was ahead of his time, and had his design not been so costly to produce, it could well have prompted successful designs a generation earlier than they came to pass. Anything seems to come easier after it's once proved possible.

In the 1880's and '90's, Von Mannlicher (Austria) developed a wide variety of unsuccessful self-loading designs. The M1885 and M1891 were mobile barrel, recoil-operated designs with locking systems quite similar in principle to the later, highly successful, Browning M1917 machine gun. The M1893 was delayed-blowback; the M1895, the most unusual of all. It utilized a rotating, Snider-type breech block opened and closed by what we'd now consider a conventional gas piston/operating rod system. The rod also served to chamber cartridges on its return stroke, since the breech block did not reciprocate. The M1900 reverted to the unlocked

rotating bolt of the M93.

Von Mannlicher was one of the World's most brilliant and prolific arms inventors, but even he couldn't produce a practical military self-loading rifle because of technological limitations, though his pistols achieved considerable worldwide success and recognition.

War clouds in Europe in the second decade of the 20th Century prompted greater efforts by the designers of many nations. Of the several proposed in Great Britain, the Unique Farquhar-Hill was produced in very limited quantity. It utilized gas operation to compress a spring which then provided energy to unlock and open the breech. Its 25-pound drum magazine gave it a unique, clumsy appearance. Its multiplicity of small, relatively fragile parts would have prevented combat reliability.

In 1916, Russia adopted the Federov Avtomat, conceived back in 1906 by Vladimir Grigorevitch Federov. It was recoil-operated, a short, rearward movement of barrel serving to unlock and accelerate the bolt rearward. Though development work had been done in the standard Russian rimmed 7.62 mm service caliber, the Avtomat was unaccountably adopted and produced in 6.5 mm Japanese caliber. The turmoil of the 1917 Revolution ended Federov production. Today, it is credited with establishing the pattern for modern assault rifles, and might well have been successful had its career not been cut so short.

France probably put more early semi-autos in the field than any other nation. The M1917 and improved M1918 were clumsy, inefficient and sloppily made—but they worked fairly well most of the time. Some 86,000 were produced and issued during WWI. This relatively simple gas-operated design was the basis for U.S. Ordnance Major Elder's design tested by the U.S. in 1918.

In 1911, Sorenson Bang (Denmark) had produced his unusual design. It hearkened back to Browning and Maxim, using a gas-driven, sliding muzzle cap which cycled the action by means of a long operating rod and a pivoted lever. In later forms by Bang, and as redesigned by Col. Liu, (China) and Maj. Hatcher (U.S.), this design was several times unsuccessfully tested by the U.S. and other armies. It simply could not be made

rugged, light, and simple enough to withstand service use.

The U. S. crash-developed the Springfield and Rock Island gas-operated rifles in 1917-18. Unsuccessful, they were essentially studies in adapting the basic M1903 bolt-action rifle to semi-automatic operation. During this same period, the U. S. was testing every design it could lay its hands on, convinced that a semi-auto rifle was of urgent importance in furthering the war effort. Many weird and impractical designs were considered briefly, then discarded out of hand.

The German arms industry produced relatively few designs, none advancing beyond the prototype stage. Among them was the Mauser M1916. More modern in appearance than most others, it utilized a complicated non-rotating bolt. It was the first design to use the large capacity, detachable, double-column box magazine now standard for all modern military arms.

World War I ended without a single satisfactory auto rifle having been developed. Only Germany (a few hundred Mondragons), France (86,000 M1917-18), and Russia with its few Federovs actually placed semi-autos in combat service. Even those designs were immediately dropped at War's end, none being considered sufficiently meritorious for continued development.

Budgets were slashed, and development efforts almost ceased throughout the world after the War. In the U.S.A., though, a vigorous, but penurious, effort continued. By 1920, John Garand had begun work at the Springfield Armory on his primer-actuated designs. That year Major Hatcher produced his greatly simplified version of the Bang design, completing the prototype in only four months, starting from scratch. Col. Thompson, of "Tommy Gun" fame, had his unlocked-breech "Bliss Principle" rifle working in 1921, and in 1922, J. D. Pederson began work at Springfield on his Luger-like, toggle-breech rifle. Several other military and civilian inventors reworked various World War I designs and also produced a few more-or-less original designs, such as the White and the Colt of 1929.

During this decade, the U. S. was certainly the hotbed of World semi-auto rifle development. Hlek, (Czechoslovakia) introduced an unusual lateral tipping-bolt, gas-operated design, while Bammarrito and Heinemann (Germany) both produced variations on the toggle-breech theme which had actually been pioneered in Maxim's highly successful machine guns.

(Continued on page 78)

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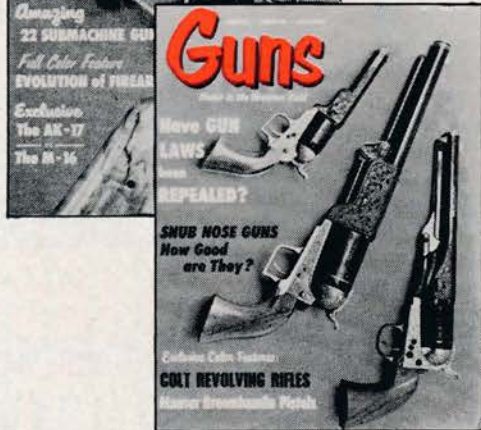
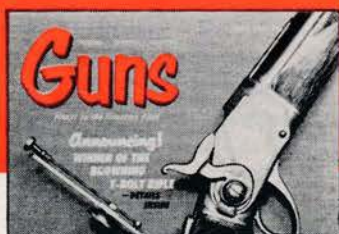
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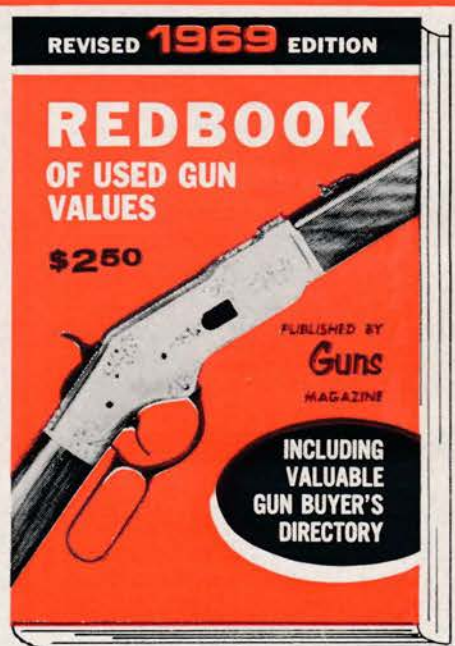
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(Continued from page 75)

No significant or successful development occurred otherwise in Europe, though a few Scotti and Breda rifles were produced in Italy. Most nations seemed happy with their World War I bolt rifles, sometimes augmented by semi-auto pistol-carbines and the new Maschinen-Pistole (submachine gun) introduced by Germany late in World War I.

In 1929, the U. S. Army began conducting extensive tests with the aim of adopting a standard semi-auto rifle. The dozens of designs considered narrowed quickly to the Pedersen and the Garand (now gas-operated) both in the .276 caliber designed by Pedersen. The Garand had won by a substantial margin when the tests were concluded in 1932.

Great Britain second-guessed U. S. Ordnance wrong—as she was to do again nearly 30 years later in the same area—and had jumped the gun with production of the Pedersen rifle by Vickers-Armstrong, the major maker of Maxim-designed machine guns for His Majesty's troops. The Pedersen was good, but not quite as good as the Garand. When the U. S. dropped the Pedersen, British interest in it ceased. This faux pas might well have been instrumental in preventing England from adopting a self-loader until the 1950's.

Much to the chagrin of most parties concerned, the U. S. Army Chief of Staff refused to approve the new .276 caliber, though he agreed with the design choice. This presaged several years' delay while the Garand was re-designed for the existing standard .30 M1906 cartridge. When redesign and further testing was completed, the Garand was adopted in 1936 as "U. S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M1"—the first semi-automatic military rifle to be officially adopted and produced in quantity by a world power. The road had been long and hard, stretching over 51 years from Maxim's and Mannlicher's first 1885 attempts, through later crude designs by both Browning and Mannlicher. Development and wide acceptance of auto pistols had taken place in a decade—half a century for rifles.

In the meantime, the Soviet Union had come to life, and in 1938, it adopted the Tokarev gas-operated tipping bolt design. Then, revised it in 1940 and continued it in service through World War II. Its development had stretched from 1919 onward.

Development continued to be conspicuous by its absence in England, but slowly picked up in Europe. Dieudonne Saive produced in the

mid-1930's what was to become the FN M1949 after World War II and was subsequently developed into the now-famous FAL which is now in wide use throughout the Free World. German occupation of Belgium and the FN plant prevented earlier production of the Saive design as had been intended.

World War II hit with only the U. S. armed significantly with self-loaders—Russia to a much lesser degree. Only Germany was able to produce a satisfactory arm of this type during the war, as already mentioned. Experiences during the war proved conclusively that no sovereign nation could any longer rely on manually operated rifles. France promptly developed the very simple and efficient tipping-bolt, gas-operated M.A.S. M1949 for its own use. Switzerland developed the SIG SK46 whose Schmidt-Rubin ancestry is plainly apparent; Sweden the unusual Ljungmann AG42B. Belgium, of course, launched production of the Saive as the M1949 for commercial sale as well as home use. Russia had, during the latter part of the war, adopted the short, light, gas-operated Simonov (SKS) carbine. Great Britain, alive at last, developed its EM2 .280 caliber light rifle of "Bull-Pup" configuration in conjunction with FN of Belgium. Czechoslovakia adopted its unusual gas-operated SHE(M52) rifle in 1952. Other major nations and most smaller ones opted to settle for free U. S. and Soviet or captured rifles, or purchase the other new developments as they became available.

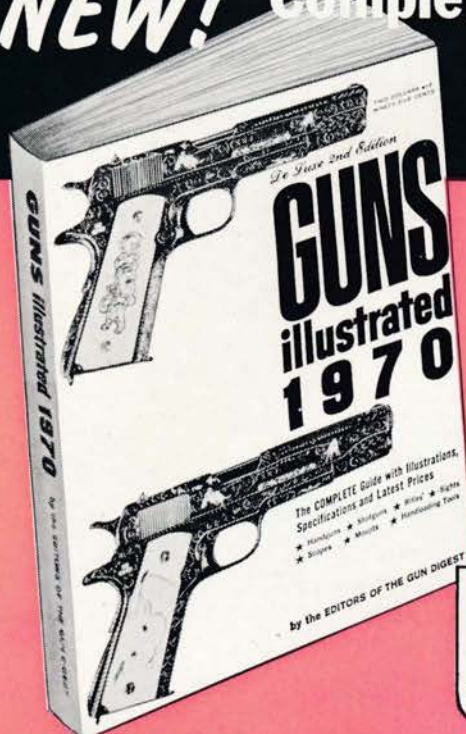
By the middle 1950's, every significant nation was either buying, begging, or producing top-quality semi-auto rifles as rapidly as possible to re-equip its armed forces. Less than 20 years after the semi-auto was proven practical by the U.S.A., such weapons were the world standard.

But the self-loader was short-lived. Sought after for nearly three-quarters of a century, it became obsoleted in 1943-44 by the appearance of the true Assault rifle, capable of full-auto fire, in the form of the German MP44. Some nations were placing orders for selective-fire assault rifles even before deliveries of their new semi-autos were complete. In the rush to re-arm, semi-autos were cast aside, some even before seeing use. Some nations sold as surplus brand-new, unfired FN M1949 rifles without ever uncrating them. The wide-spread use of the semi-auto stretched only from the late 1940's, until the late 1950's. Today, the nation still equipped with only such arms has an inferiority complex.



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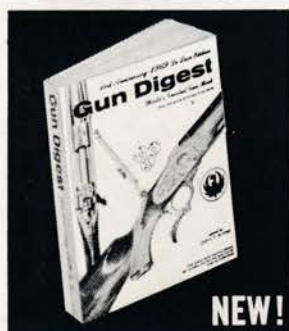
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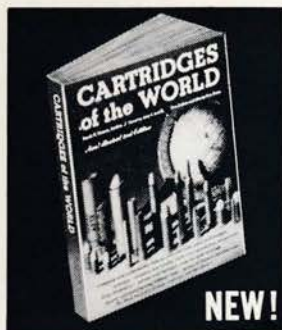
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