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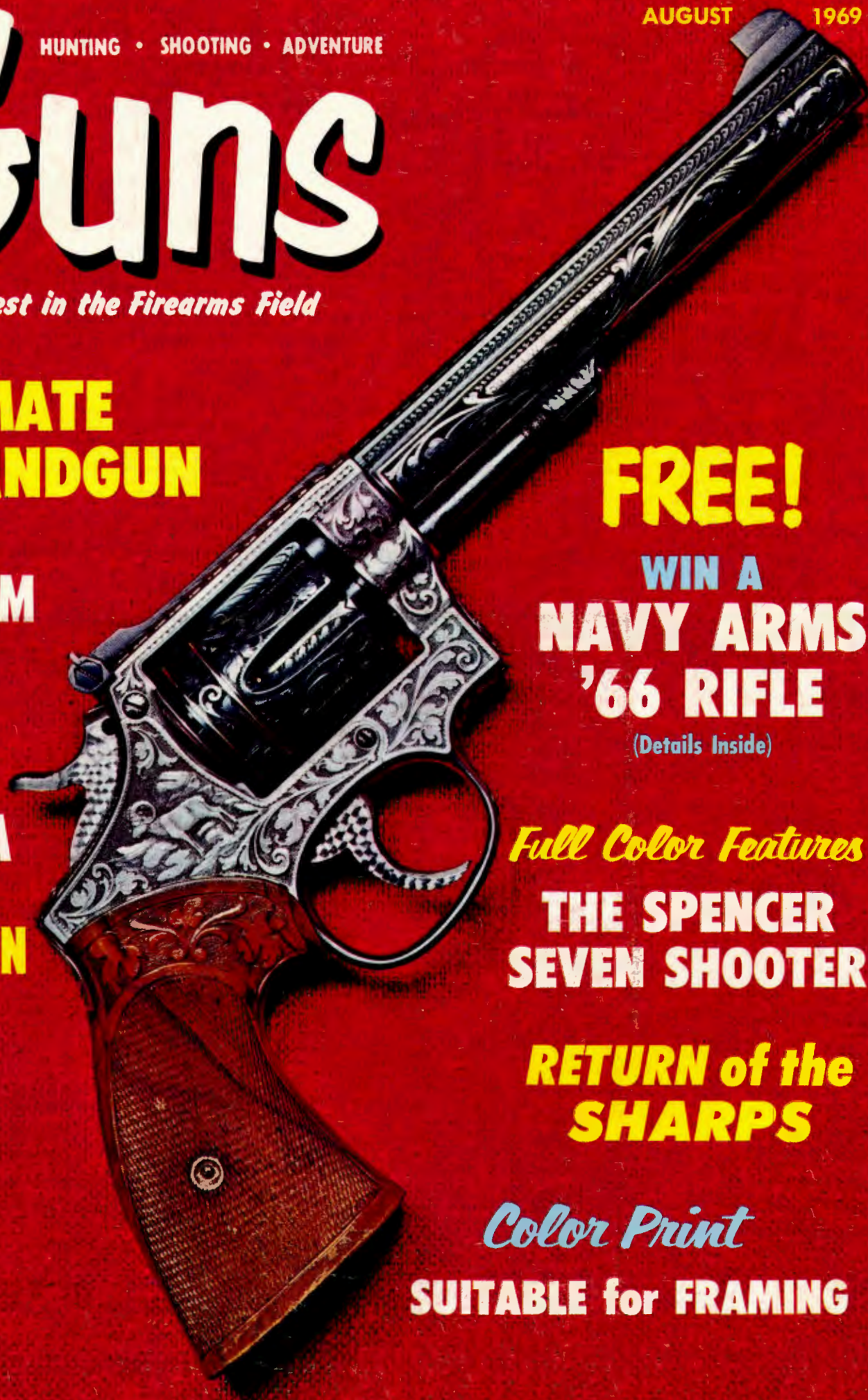
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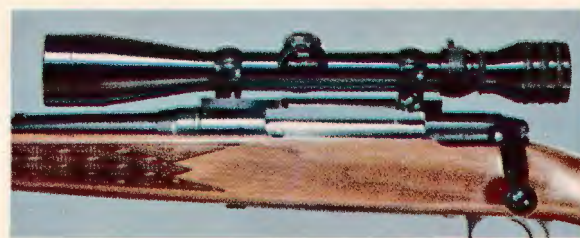


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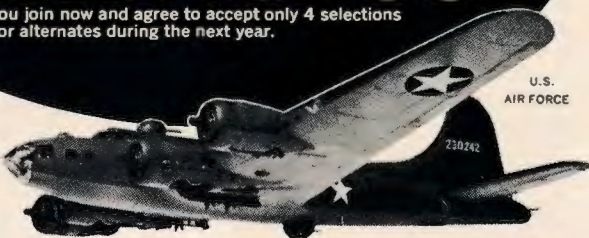
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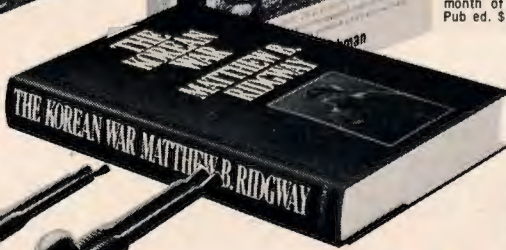
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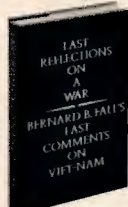
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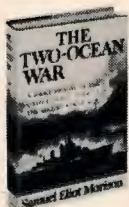
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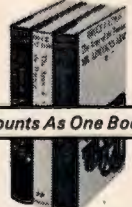
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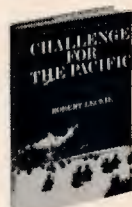
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# TRIGGER TALK

WITH THE turmoil in U.S. colleges in the news, and the militants' use of guns to force their demands upon the colleges and universities, the nation's press has again taken up the call for more gun controls. Each of the half-dozen or so articles I have read concerning this upheaval have referred to the feelings of the militants against gun controls. Then, eluding to the prospect of a violent conflict between these militants and white radicals, they point out that those of the extreme right are also against gun controls.

Now, I and several million others like me are neither black militants nor right wing extremists, yet when we defend our gun interests, we are automatically put into one or the other of these categories. Why? Can't there be a person who leans neither right nor left, yet believes that as long as his guns are not a part of the violence in America he should be permitted to keep and enjoy them without undue restriction?

More and more, it is evident that those who propose gun laws—be they a part of the government, citizens committees, or just plain do-gooders looking for a cause—have no idea in the world about what constitutes the gun ownership in the U.S. To many of them, the gun business is a grimey, unlicensed shop in the slums of a great urban center, selling pot metal pistols to rival gangs or sniping rifles to quasi-military groups. Well, if they would just open their eyes, they would learn of a whole new world of firearms owners, numbering in the millions, and more concerned about home, family, community, and just a few spare moments of pleasure with their guns, than about taking up a political or social cause and creating the violence which has engulfed our country.

It's not the guns of the sportsmen, collectors and target shooters which are causing the gun problem; yet the laws today are aimed specifically at those guns, and the people who are today being indicted for gun law violations could have been indicted for the same offenses in 1938, or 1958—without the Gun Control Act of 1968.

## THE COVER

Smith & Wesson K-38; engraved by Kurt Jaeger. Owner and photographer, Jack Swiney.

AUGUST, 1969

Vol. XV, No. 9-8

George E. von Rosen  
Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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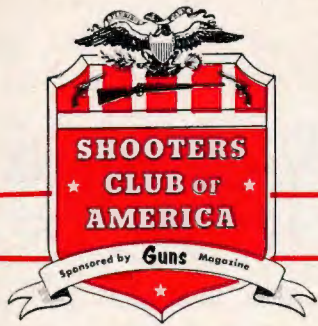
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*News from the ...*

# SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to the Constitutional Right of Every Citizen to Keep and Bear Arms*

In spite of last December's firearms legislation that invoked the most stringent restrictions on the shooting sportsmen in the history of our country, the anti-gun forces are still not content and are employing new tactics to further impair the constitutional rights of firearms owners.

This new attack on the second amendment—the right to keep and bear arms—is more devious than any in the past. It is based on public opinion rather than legislative maneuvers. After the December legislation, and the ensuing furor by legitimate sportsmen, many lawmakers are reluctant to have their names connected to anti-gun proposals. To weaken the opposition before a direct confrontation is precipitated, the anti-gun factions are mobilizing a behind-the-scenes attack utilizing the mass media to spread unfavorable propaganda, harmful to the interests of law-abiding gun owners. They hope in this manner to discredit shooting sports and sportsmen, sway uncommitted opinion through constant repetition of erroneous and misleading "facts" and statistics and win new backers for their causes.

Anti-gun forces know from experience they stand a better chance of achieving their goals by using smear tactics instead of relying on a face-to-face discussion of the merits and deficiencies of their programs. The current campaign to convince the general public that sports shoot-

combating this new danger to sportsmen. We are dedicated to freedom from needless governmental controls and acceptance by the American public as true sportsmen worthy of the respect of our fellow Americans. The cause of shooting sports is threatened as never before. **MAKE NO MISTAKE—THE AIM OF ANTI-GUN INTERESTS IS NOT TO LIMIT FIREARMS, BUT RATHER TO COMPLETELY OUTLAW FIREARMS!**

The SCA is dedicated to preserving the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms, and is in desperate need of your help if it is to continue to fight irrational legislation and opinion. We need members since there is strength in numbers—a large organization can bring more pressure to bear when working for its objectives. And we need money because fighting the mass media and the special interests it represents is an expensive task.

Although last December's legislation was disheartening to the causes fighting restrictive legislation, we can claim a partial victory, as we were able to prevent federal licensing and registration of firearms. The law was a genuine blow to legitimate gun owners, but the facts remain that without our efforts even worse legislation would certainly have been enacted. We can not now relax under the mistaken notion that the harm has already been done. Conditions can and will get even worse if we do not continue our pressure. We can roll back some of the elements of December's bill and we can make sure there will be no

—but only if we are willing to fight!

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## HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

Quite a few people still operate under the old precept, "If a little is good, a lot is better." We often see examples of just this approach reducing case life and otherwise making things harder than need be for the handloader, i.e., overdone chamfering, flaring, and expanding case mouths. The .38 Special is undoubtedly the most-reloaded handgun cartridge in existence, and it is possible to get as many as 50 loadings from a case without any trouble. Yet, we hear often of cases coming apart at the seams in 5 or 6 loadings. The most common failure seems to be splitting at the mouth. Several factors contribute to this—excessive chamfering, crimping, and flaring.

Let's start with chamfering first. When modern three-unit dies are used, chamfering isn't even necessary in straight-wall cases. Slight flaring of the mouth serves the same purpose better, so why weaken the brass by shaving part of it away? Chamfering only increases the probability that mouth cracks will develop early in life. And, once they start, they get longer with each loading. They also make crimps weak and uneven.

Case mouths must be flared *slightly* to permit easy alignment and seating of soft lead bullets without "shaving" metal or having the mouth dig into the bullet. The key word is "slightly." Adjust your expander plug so that the case mouth is flared just *barely* enough that once started by hand, the bullet can be pressed fully home without scraping off any lead. This amount of flaring is just barely visible to the naked eye by silhouetting the case against a light well-lighted background. Any more flaring than this simply results in early failure.

More than a few dies have expander plugs with short, sharp bevels which make it impossible to produce a slight but uniform flare unless all cases are trimmed to *exactly* the same length. A long case will get excessive flare, sometimes even enough to start a split then and there; short cases get none at all. It's far easier and simpler to reshape the plug than to trim every case you'll be loading. Turn, grind, or polish the flaring portion of the plug to a very slight taper.

Excessive crimping, especially when combined with excessive flaring, will virtually guarantee short case life. Except with heavy loads and heavy bullets, loads for revolver use seldom need more than a very slight crimp. The standard .38 Special wadcutter load, for example, will function perfectly without any crimp, there being insufficient recoil energy to cause the bullets to move in the cases. The 158-grain service load does require some crimp, but not a great deal. If you want maximum case life, do some testing with your particular load and dies. Reduce the amount of crimp until you find the minimum degree that will consistently hold bullets in place against repeated recoil. At that point, you'll be placing the least allowable strain on the case mouth.

Case length has a great deal to do with crimp uniformity. When a roll-type crimp is used, cases longer than the one on which the die was adjusted will be crimped excessively; shorter ones will receive little or no crimp. A taper-type crimp is far more tolerant of case length, since it involves a much greater portion of the case. Use a taper crimp or else trim cases uniformly if you want maximum life.

Crimping for use in self-loading pistols is another matter entirely. Almost all gun designs depend upon the bullet striking various surfaces which serve to guide the cartridge into the chamber. The bullet must be secured tightly enough to withstand the forces involved without moving in the case. A solid crimp is the most practical means of accomplishing this, though a tight friction-fit is also required. Except with some thick-walled cases and jacketed bullets, friction alone isn't enough. For these reasons, reduction or elimination of crimp can't be used to increase case life though the other measures can. I've found the taper crimp to be entirely adequate, and it is easier on the case.

You may have a resizing die that leaves a sharp shoulder on the case at its mouth or one that is so squared-off at its mouth that it actually shaves brass off the case body. Either can be corrected by polishing or grinding a radius at the die mouth. If this isn't done, cases will eventually separate at



the point where the shoulder is produced. It acts as a stress raiser, and after a few firings, the case comes from the chamber in two pieces. This applies much more to revolver than auto use, and it's no fun.

Cases will also sometimes split lengthwise about midway along the body. This can be caused by a seam or inclusion overlooked at the time the case was made, but that is quite rare in modern cases. More likely it is caused by work hardening which made the case brittle, or simply by being fired in a chamber so oversize the brass couldn't stretch to fit it.

If the split occurs consistently with new or once-fired cases, that chamber is simply too much oversize for safety. Little can be done about it unless the gun is worth the expense of having the chamber(s) chrome plated to bring it back down to size. However, if the cases are simply "tired" from being repeatedly expanded and resized, their life can be extended considerably by reducing the amount they are being resized. Polishing the die out to a larger diameter is one method of accomplishing this, but may spoil it for use in conjunction with other guns. A simpler method consists of merely backing the die out of the loading press until resized cases will barely chamber freely. The slight taper inside the die reduces the amount the case is squeezed down. With revolvers, make certain the case will enter *all* chambers freely, or you may wind up with problems. This method will not work with those dies which depend upon only a narrow ring at their mouths to reduce the diameter of the entire case. Nearly all so-called "carbide" dies are of this type as are a couple makes of steel designs.

We've mentioned die adjustment several times thus far. That brings to mind the fact that lock rings on most makes are far from perfect. The setscrew type is the most common, and also the least satisfactory. Double hex nuts work well, but require two wrenches and three hands. Best of the lot is the split, screw-clamped ring found on Bonanza dies. A half-turn of the clamp screw and the ring is freely


movable by hand; then another half-turn with a screwdriver and it is solidly locked in the new location without shifting in the process. I've been putting Bonanza rings on all my dies as each set is taken out of the drawer for use. Fortunately, Bonanza Sports, Inc., Rt. 4, Faribault, Minnesota, will be happy to sell you as many rings as you want for a mere buck each.

• • •

Recently, we've received a few queries from individual police officers asking for dope that would enable them to assemble ricochet-free handloads for use in the rifles they carry on duty. Unfortunately, there simply isn't any such thing as a practical, *completely* ricochet-free load in any standard caliber. Some of these officers have been using the .30 Carbine. This round has so little powder space that it isn't possible to drive any available bullet fast enough to insure breakup on impact. In fact, the standard military load is very bad, indeed, about ricocheting, especially from pavement and masonry walls.

The more powerful cartridges can often be loaded with varmint-type bullets to produce relative freedom from ricochets. This is particularly true of the high-velocity, .22 caliber centerfires, but these are the calibers that produce such explosive destruction of animal tissue that there are considerable humanitarian objections to their use for police purposes.

However, we've dug through many years' accumulation of loading data card files to come up with the following loads which are about as ricochet-free as it is possible to get in the calibers listed.

It must be remembered that the very characteristics which make these loads relatively free from ricochets (high velocity and structurally weak bullet) also cause massive wounds. On the other hand, keep in mind that conventional military loads produce more ricochets than any other type. Where handloading isn't especially practical, the same effect, to a lesser degree, may be obtained from carefully selected factory loads. Simply choose the lightest-bullet and highest-velocity load available. 

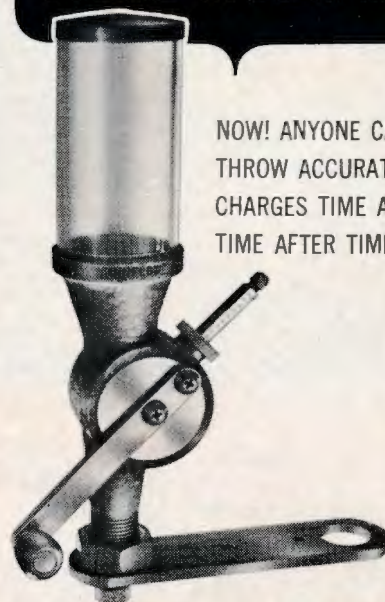
Caliber	Bullet	Powder	M. V.
.243 Win.	60-gr. Sierra	46.5/ H380	3700 fps
6mm Rem.	60-gr. Sierra	42.0/ Ball C	3750 fps
.250/3000	60-gr. Speer	36.0/ 3031	3500 fps
.257 Robts.	60-gr. Hornady	46.0/ 4895	3700 fps
.270 Win.	100-gr. Speer	48.5/ 3031	3400 fps
7x57	110-gr. Norma	46.0/ N-203	3000 fps
.30-30	100-gr. Speer	39.0/ 4895	2750 fps
.308 Win.	110-gr. Hornady	48.0/ 3031	3200 fps
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.30-06	125-gr. Sierra	52.0/ 3031	3300 fps

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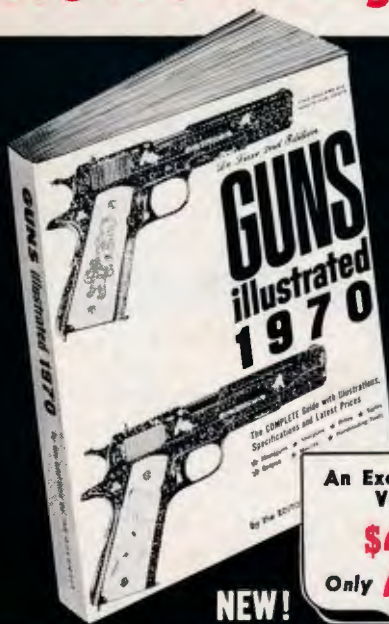
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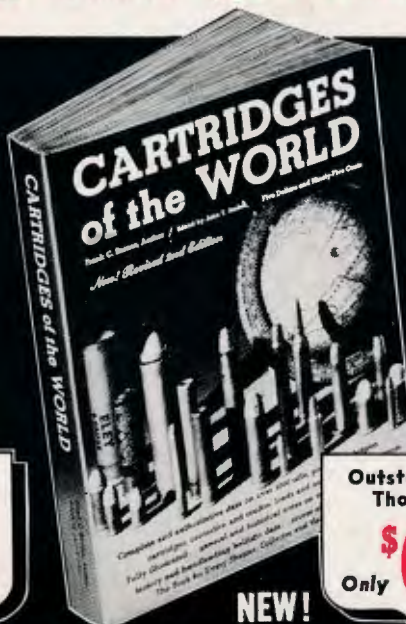


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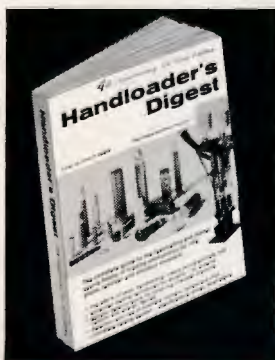
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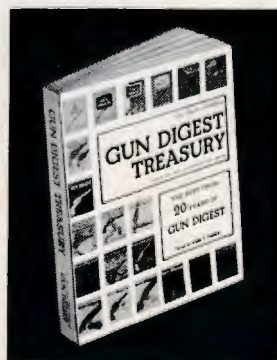


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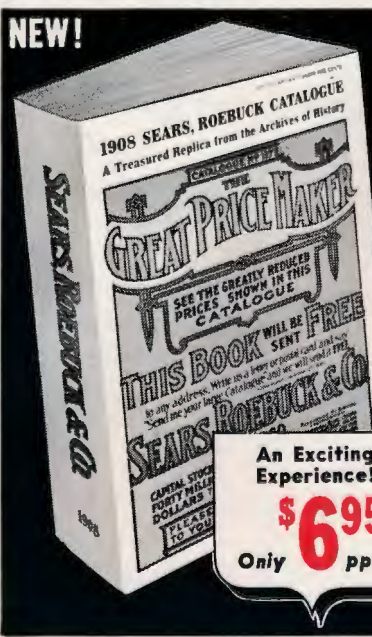


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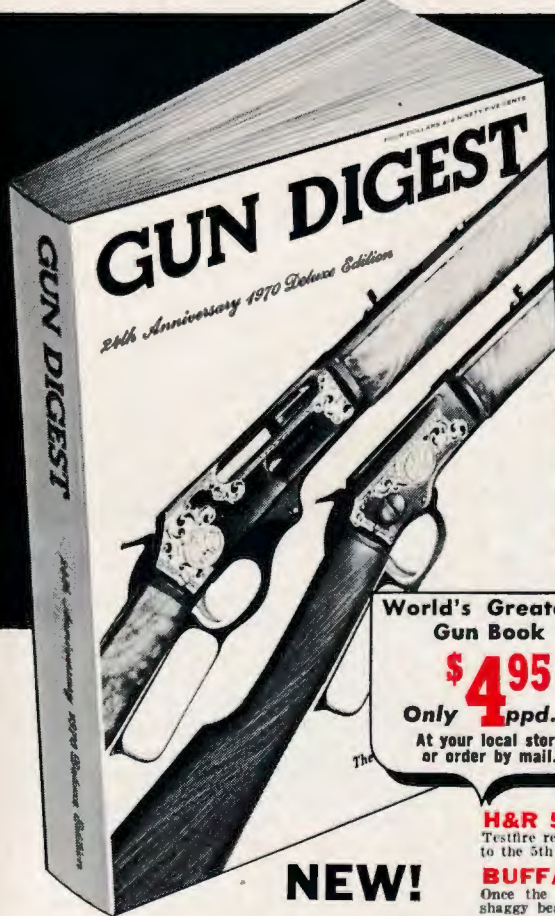
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Perhaps generally unknown to most, there is a vast Canadian province half again as large as Texas where not just game, but record heads—moose, caribou, grizzly and black bear, elk and mountain goats—still abound. This is British Columbia, and Brad Angier tells you where and how to find them.

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For many years arguments have raged and much speculation propounded on the Luger Parabellum, one of the world's most controversial pistols. Mr. Campbell not only tries to resolve some of the older arguments, but adds a few facts which, depending on individual interpretation, may clarify or further confuse the collectors of this revered handgun.

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The advent of smokeless powders caused a number of good rifles to become decorative trimmings for the den rather than fulfilling their original function. Ken Waters tells how some of those wall-hangers can become serviceable by handloading your own ammunition, some to the point of surpassing original ballistics. Then, too, modern powders can be used to up-date some of the earlier

smokeless loads for better performance. Like a doctor, Waters gives new life to some old-timers.

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What does a vacationing gun editor do? You guessed it! Related here is an exciting story about deer stalking in the Scottish highlands by John T. Amber.

**KILLING POWER CONTROVERSY** by Jack O'Connor

A man of great experience can be accepted as an authority. One of these men, well known to the world's readers, is Jack O'Connor. He can tell stories of how he shot his second Greater Kudu (or was it the third?) and many, many other species. Here, then, is a summation of O'Connor's experience in the field as he tries to help the reader toward a solution of his own. We'll all rightly agree with Jack that it's not so much the size of the bullet you put into an animal as where you put it—and it's better to be over gunned than not.

**RELOADING FOR VARMINT** by John Eachuk

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### IT'S NOT HOW LONG YOU MAKE IT . . .



by Warren Page

To paraphrase a popular commercial may sound like a stunt to get on the bandwagon, but the truth (about rifle barrels) must out. A few years ago, long barrels were considered a must for greatest accuracy, but the current crop of bench rest rifle makers and top shooters in that difficult game will now tell you otherwise. Today, these competition shooters want fatter, stiffer, shorter (if they're to meet NBRSA weight rules) barrels.

**THE MARLIN: ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT GUN MAKERS** by Pete Kuhlhoff

Pictured on the covers of the 24th Gun Digest are two of Marlin's latest firearms. The Marlin Firearms Co., long considered one of this country's leading gunmakers, has had a fascinating and exciting history. Here are the facts and anecdotes of yesteryear, recalled to light and brought up to date by Pete Kuhlhoff.

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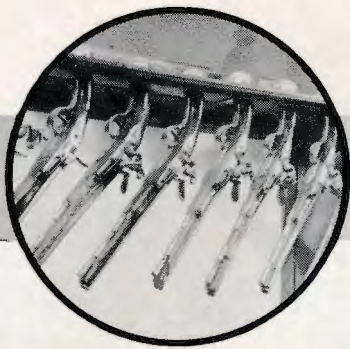
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# GUN RACK

## Stoeger Luger

Last year Stoeger Arms Corporation announced a .22 Luger pistol that was designed by Stoeger engineers and is made in New England. It is the Model STLR-4. Since 1929, Stoeger has owned the name "Luger" in this country. It is a registered trade name and is an exclusive property. The new pistol bears a faithful resemblance to the original German automatic, so far as exterior appearance is concerned. It has a 4½" barrel while the Parabellum had only a 4-inch tube, overall the Stoeger version is 8⅞" while the Luger 08 is only 8¾ inches, weight of the original is 30 ounces, the newcomer is an ounce lighter. The action is a blowback but the toggle joint is retained.

The frame is an aluminum forging of 7075 T6, as used in aircraft fuse-



lages. The barrel is chrome moly steel, hammer forged, 6 lands and grooves, left hand twist of 1-in-16 inches, with a countersunk muzzle. It is fitted to the receiver with an interference fit, that is, an oversize cross pin to securely lock it in place.

The bolt moves on SAE 1050 bolt-ways. These boltways also support the sear, hammer pin, and the magazine guide which in turn holds the hammer strut plate. The entire action can be removed from the frame by withdrawing the main frame pin and pushing in the take down plunger. The hammer and sear are heat treated. The takedown plunger hole in the rear of the receiver is exactly in line with the bore and after the bolt has been removed the pistol may be

cleaned from the breech end by running a rod through the plunger take-down hole.

The magazine holds 11 rounds and the pistol will handle either .22 long rifle standard velocity or high velocity. It will not function with long or short cartridges. The sights are partridge by type, the front post is ⅛" in width. The front sight is movable for windage by the use of a brass drift and a hammer. There is no adjustment for elevation. A test of the trigger pull on the sample pistol submitted to me for field testing indicated a weight of 2 lb 14 oz. The pull was clean breaking. There is a lever actuated safety on the left side of the receiver and on special order this safety can be located on the other side of the receiver for the left-handed shooter. Stocks are of wood, and are nicely checkered. The grip-to-barrel angle of the pistol is exactly the same as that of the original Luger.

Fired at 25 yards with Federal standard velocity .22 long rifle cartridges, the pistol grouped 5 inches left. The front sight is movable for windage so it was tapped with a brass drift and hammer until it came to zero. Elevation was okay. Test fired with CIL .22 high velocity ammo, it grouped into the 10-ring very sweetly. A test was run with .22 long Remington and .22 Short Winchester Leader but neither round would function the action.

There were intermittent malfunctions with both Federal long rifle standard velocity and the Canadian CIL high velocity cartridges. The round would feed up out of the magazine and the point of the cartridge would strike at the 12 o'clock point on the chamber. This would cause a jam. Extraction was positive with one exception. The failure to feed may be attributable to a faulty magazine. This is being replaced and a second firing test will be made before final judgment is passed on this interesting new Stoeger development.

## Loctite

Last fall I shot at a pronghorn at 250 yards and went plumb over the little buck's back. He ran out to 350 yards and stopped again and this time I creased his withers. It wasn't until he stopped at 450 yards that I nailed him. This was passing strange because the rifle had been perfectly sighted in for 200 yards. When I got back to camp I examined the scope and mount. I had 2 loose screws in the forward mount. That taught me a lesson right there. Now I use Loctite on those screws.

This preparation has been around for 10 years, so it isn't new. But it is the real huckleberry for scope mount screws. The company, Loctite Corpo-



ration, Newington, Conn., puts out a blister package which contains a tube of Loctite and a small can of what they call "Klean N' Prime". Before you use the Loctite you spray the mount screws with the solvent. This removes all greases and oils and also tends to make the polymer preparation set all the better. The screw is daubed lightly with the Loctite and then set in place. Within 30 minutes after it has been seated the gun can be fired. It sets just that fast. Whenever you want to remove the mount the Loctite breaks loose without too much difficulty. It is a sure guarantee against mount screws loosening as mine did on that pronghorn soiree!

## Husqvarna Sporter

Tradewinds, Inc., Tacoma, Wash., the exclusive importers of the Swedish line of Husqvarna highpowered sporting rifles have a new one. This is an improved version of the Model 98 Mauser rifle. To be known as the Model 1974-07 Imperial, the rifle submitted for field test is a 30'06. It is a lightweight sporter going 7 pounds, 2 ounces, with a 24-inch barrel. The barrel measures .308, with 4 lands and grooves, left hand twist of 1-in-10. It goes 1.18" at the breech and tapers to .56" at the muzzle with a weight of 2

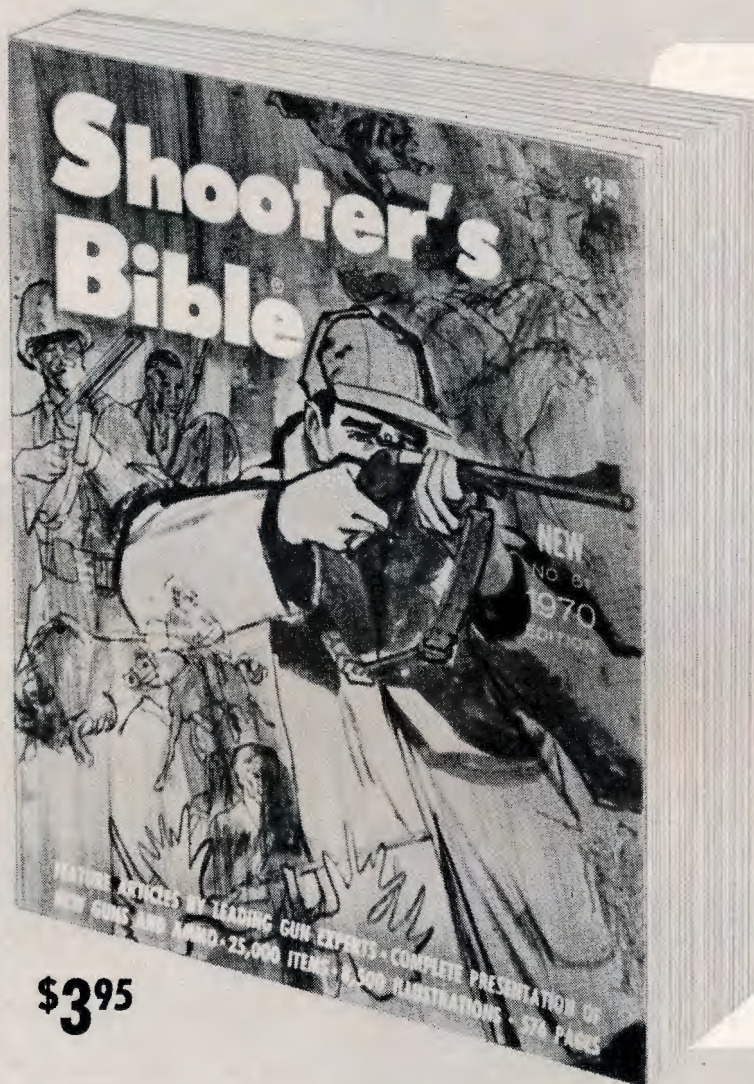
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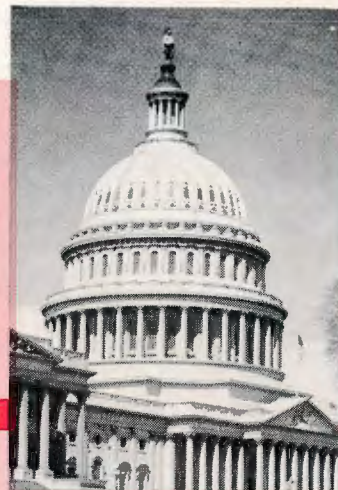
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# OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

Comes now the case of "Big Brother" making a movie. Would you believe a 16mm job, in full color, featuring violence and where the arrested party turns out to be the local sporting goods dealer? It is now in the making, and the producer, using public funds, is the ATFD, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Div. of the Internal Revenue Service.

You thought TV was full of violence? "For the sake of impact," reads the Federal Government's script, "the film could open with fast cuts of varied acts of crime using a gun, such as a street holdup—a bank robbery—whatever—and, then, zoom in on a liquor store holdup to show more detail of this one as the final crime scene."

It is the "final crime scene" all right! For the next 27 minutes the script calls for a re-run featuring how the liquor store owner gets to the undertaker. For the sake of "realism, and if this is met the message will be believed," the owner does not turn out to be Bambi, but he is shot, at the cash register.

All of this in a "technically accurate, well-written, and produced movie, therefore, only will be possible through the close working relationship of the Producer, Director and personnel of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division of the Public Information Division." And you thought "Big Brother" didn't have class!

The cost is reported to be "low," and according to the dictates of IRS, the film will be "versatile—carrying several messages to varying audiences. It should: inform the 200,000 licensed gun dealers of their obligations under the law; make the provisions of the law distinctly clear to specific publics, like

the 25 million hunters, 200,000 target shooters, and 100,000 collectors; Showing generally the law hasn't greatly affected their activity; provide state and local law enforcement personnel with insight on their increased duties, with 396,000 local and 47,000 state police protection types in this public alone, in some 10,000 police agencies;

Identify IRS, ATFD, as the administering agency, and, alert the general public of the overall operation of the new law in a nation with an estimated 200 million guns.

"The film's malleable format should make it useful as a supplement to the many talks of ATFD agents before civic groups, and a 10-15 minute version would have further appeal as a 'trailer,' " reads the statement sent to film people for bidding.

It appears more of a propaganda effort. Points out IRS, the basic theme should "make it strikingly clear that the IRS . . . in enforcing the Gun Control Act of 1968—while the law is intended to curb crime and violence—will not hinder legitimate gun owners, since basically it only requires that they properly identify themselves when making purchases, and limits gun buying to state of residence. "Here, perhaps overlooked, is what has become known as back-door gun registration through ammunition-buying regulations, regulations requiring the person's age, recording the kind of "proper" identification and the kind of gun using the ammunition, regulations that are not based on law. It is for this reason over fifty bills have been introduced into Congress to altogether remove long gun ammunition from the jurisdiction of IRS.

(Continued on next page)



"A dramatic production," reads the eight-page film proposal, "will have impact on the film's many and varied audiences. However, this will be a critical balance, since the message on the content of the law and the IRS role could be lost merely through overproduction. The goal will be realized, and if this is met the message will be believable."

Now, back to the plot. After the flash scenes of violence, the movie cameras and recorders enter the liquor store door and "finally pick up some of the harsh, tough dialogue as the owner gives in to threats with the guns and turns over his money from the cash register. The owner is shot."

Here the plot thickens. Three gunmen flee onto the street. One of the gunmen (wouldn't you know) drops his gat, "but they are now making their getaway and it all goes unnoticed, except for the camera which goes to an extreme closeup of the gun."

The action now dissolves into the next scene, with the "local police holding the dropped pistol, and talking about the new gun control law, and how through the dealers' new record keeping it might be possible to trace the gun." Does IRS choose to point out that dealers have always been required to keep records? No.

Next scene: "A fellow officer, calls out that he has something—a witness, noticing the suspicious scene earlier, jotted down the license number of the getaway car. Now police track the gunman to his home with this number and make the arrest." (So, how does the new gun law help?)

The store owner is dead—no fingerprints on the scene—the youth involved invokes his Constitutional rights, refusing to answer all questions except to deny that the gun is his.

The scene cuts to a private conversation between the officers. They talk about how they can make a case, consider the new gun law, and decide to canvass local gun stores. The dealer is found, the movie shows a search of his records, and a close up is taken of the boy's falsified records. *Dealer is then arrested by AT&F agents.*

IRS did point out that they wanted a "technically accurate, well-written and produced movie," therefore, a bit of advice. As famed Oriental detective Charlie Chan would ask, "How did 'boy' get car in his name? Why was dealer forced to give evidence against himself? Would dealer really admit to selling a gun to a 'boy'?" And: "In fact, why have car in story in first place? Quickest way to check on gun is to call manufacturer, get

name of dealer who buy. Actor not get flat feet walking around like policeman."

On with the IRS story: "Then the youth is hit with all the facts he admits involvement and starts baring details in movie flashbacks. So, again, the poor liquor store operator gets shot—again in living color. Is it the famed anti-gunner, Senator John O. Pastore, who is currently looking for ways to cut down on unnecessary violence on TV?

On with the story—youth rats on brother of friend. He was due to be released from prison, writes to friend about (would you believe) "big plans," when he gets "out" and "how one thing just lead to another until finally it snowballed into the real thing—a liquor store holdup." So, in living color, poor guy gets it again. Not only that, but he also gets his cash taken for the third time.

Boy tells background: These two punk kids meet a bus in their car. Exit convicted felon. The kids appear "uneasy about the whole thing, but he assures them. . .by (going) through his duffel bag and pulling out his own pistol, for the ego satisfaction. "Oh, come on, fellows." Here you have two youths looking up to a convict! As old Mister Republican, Senator Dirksen would say, T-h-a-t i-s n-o-t r-i-g-h-t !

On with the IRS story: These two punk kids have a sawed off shotgun taped under the dash. (Honest, it is in the script). There is a real ego satisfier for you. The "teacher" "now believes that his underlings have a little something on the ball, and without even asking where they got the shotgun his only further advice is that each get a handgun also—more practical in a holdup."

One of these youths, a "hometown sort," heads directly for the local hardware/sporting goods store. The owner knows the kid because he went to school with his 19-year-old son, and the punk has bought "squirrel rifles in the store before." The owner will not sell him a gun because he is under 21 and not permitted to buy handguns.

Exits the boy dejectedly. At another, smaller, store, the boy tries to score "by showing a falsified ID card he uses for drinking." The clerk, smarter than the local bartender, detects the card. But, when the owner starts to refuse the sale, the youth wins him over by blabbing about how unjust the law is. "The boy thanks the clerk and leaves the store, gun in hand and beaming."

Now comes the hard-core propaganda: The second punk finds a



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friendly unlicensed gun dealer in "a dimly lit barroom (while) drinking, and complaining to anyone willing to listen about the federal government and its darned new gun law." Now that's a strong word, even for a government movie. There is more.

On with the plot: "... as far as he is concerned, 'Washington is just making it a lot of trouble and bother for a guy to get a gun.' When the typical jovial bartender says that actually if the purchaser hasn't 'spent time' or crossed state line or such, he could buy a gun without much difficulty, the bellyacher nearly shouts that what really gets him is the demand (word apparently censored out of copy) that to buy a gun he would have to sign a firearms transaction record—and he didn't want anyone

snooping around his affairs. Some listeners, as would be natural, sympathize with the complainer—while others obviously disregard him as irrational now. With that established, our man then goes to a back booth in the bar with his drink, and sure enough, an 'I can get it wholesale' type guy approaches. . . The seller has just what the buyer wanted in the way of a pistol. He even blabs it is cheap because gun laws are harsh on stolen guns transported across state lines." The money is passed under the table.

After much more propaganda, guess what? Back to the liquor store goes the plot and the operator goes down to the tune of gun fire once again. This time with the narrative pointing out that the crime was solved because

of the new gun law.

Now the plot jumps from the crime scene to a waterfront, zooming in on two duck hunters. One says to the other that the new gun law doesn't affect them as much as they had thought it might. Then, "Slowly leaving the waterfront as ducks are about to fly overhead and the hunters are raising their guns to the ready—prepared to fire away—legitimately and unobstructed in their fun." The movie ends. . . .

Now there is real power, when you can order the ducks to fly on command! It is an ideal ending for an ideal movie for TV—Rowan and Martin's "Laugh-in." It deserves the "Fickle Finger of Fate Award."



## GUN RACK

(Continued from page 10)

lb 5 oz. It is free-floating at the forend tip. The stock is European walnut with a configuration to suit it to the American shooter's taste. It has a shiny plastic finish, good quality skip-line checkering and a comfortable pistol grip with a black cap and contrasting white line spacer. The main stock has a Monte Carlo cheek-piece. The buttplate is set off with a white line spacer of plastic. The stock has a length of pull of 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", a measurement very close to ideal for the average gunner. Drop at the comb is 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " and at the heel is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The bolt handle is angled backward to facilitate easy handling in rapid fire. This rifle is stocked for scope use.

The action is completely new. The receiver is clean of projections and shoulders, the bolt release is now in the trigger. The bolt is engine-turned, and has a counter-sunk bolt head, a spring-loaded ejector, and two large area locking lugs. The third lug, as common to the old 98 Mauser, is gone. The tail end of the bolt is now shrouded with a contoured cap. The striker protrudes through a hole in the cap and indicates the rifle is cocked. There is a small gas port in the bolt but none in the receiver ring. It is evidently intended that gas will pour back along the bolt raceway and be diverted from the shooter's eye by the shrouded bolt-end. This is not adequate and is to be criticized. The magazine holds 5 cartridges and there is a hinged floor plate released by a button in the trigger guard. The plate is etched with a silver design and is attractive in appearance.

The older 98 Mauser has a bolt that

wobbles so badly when it is fully withdrawn that it will sometimes cramp on the return. Husqvarna has cleverly avoided this fault. The two locking lugs are undercut and move in boltways that have likewise been undercut. These mated and angled surfaces keep the bolt without undue play or sloppiness. The right hand lug has a slight ridge machined into its surface to further alignment and eliminate unwanted play. The result is a bolt which moves smoothly and effortlessly. There is a side safety and this locks both the sear and the bolt. There is a big recoil bolt and an inspection of the cuts in the stock for the action reveals first class fitting of metal to wood. The stock has sling swivels but no sling is provided.

The test rifle was fitted with the new Redfield 3X-9X scope with the



4-Plex CCH reticule, in the Conetrol Huntur bridge type mount. It was found the scope mount holes in the new receiver lined up exactly with the Conetrol mount. The Sweaney Site-a-Line was used to zero. The trigger, non-adjustable, has a stop to dampen over-ride; it was slightly creepy and weighed 4 lb 2 oz.

Fired at 100 yards with Winchester 150-gr. Silvertip loads, the rifle shot well from the first. It was zeroed 3 inches high at that distance. Two five shot groups averaged 1.95 inches. A 10-shot string with Remington 150-gr. Corelokt bullets from the bench, measured 2.10 inches. That group was two inches higher than the Winchester Silvertip. At 200 yards, the load was swapped to 180-gr. Silvertip. Three 5-shot groups averaged 4.85 inches. A single group of 7 shots with 180-gr. Remington Pointed Softpoint fell into 4.25 inches. The rifle functioned well, there were no malfunctions, no failures to feed (I once took a Husqvarna to Alaska and found on arrival that it would not feed out of the magazine), and the trigger pull improved with the firing. This is a high class sporting rifle. A fit successor to the older 98 Mauser. It is improved and bettered and with the addition of other popular calibers and will appeal to the discriminating rifleman.

• • •

## Crosman .45 Auto-Repeater

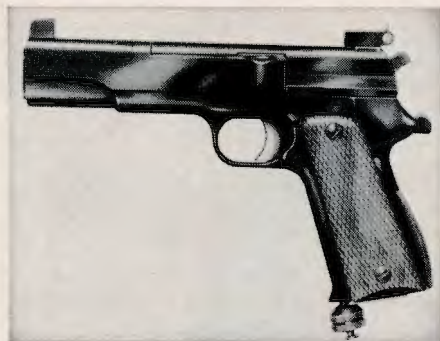
The 45 Auto-Repeater air pistol made by Crosman Arms Co., is a dead ringer for the real .45 automatic, the Model 1911. The Crosman version is for target practice in simulation of the big gun. A lot of imaginative engineering has gone into the design of this latest Crosman. I sometimes think that our most competent design people are not in the firearms field but are with the air gun manufacturers. The new 45 Auto-Repeater is a case in point.

The pistol weighs 45 ounces, is a six-shot, and has a micrometered ad-



justable rear sight with a patridge type post front. The trigger pull is fast and clean, at 4½ pounds. The gun is powered with a CO<sub>2</sub> bottle, a fuel that gives about 45 shots per container. The Powerlet flask fits neatly into the gunstock. Velocity is approximately 370 fps when a good grade of .22 pellet is fired. The barrel is 4¾" in length, rifled with 10 lands and grooves, with 1 turn in 16 inches. The magazine is of the rotary type, holding 6 waisted pellets. It is easy to load, but very difficult to unload unless you simply fire all the rounds.

The gun is made of zinc die casting and steel and is quite rugged and good looking. It is a dark blue in color and the plastic stocks are checkered.



The pistol is a semi-automatic. It fires one shot for every pressure on the trigger. When the shot is fired the gun recoils exactly as does its counterpart, the real .45 auto. This recoil is enough to work the slide and cock the hammer. For the serious .45 target marksman this feature is worth the whole price!

Fired at the regulation 10 meters which is the standard distance for the high precision air rifles, the new Crosman performed very credibly. A series of 10 strings, each of 10 shots, from a benchrest with sandbag support produced a composite target which measured 1.08 inches. I tried my hand at rapid fire on the reduced Standard American target at 20 yards, and scores ran 97, 96, 98, 99, 100 and 99. This is an exceedingly useful substitute for the marksman who is endeavoring to get into shooting form for the big .45.



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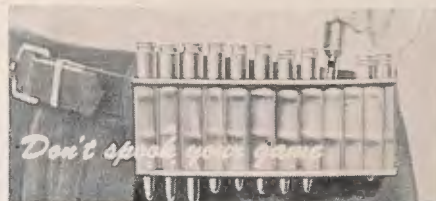
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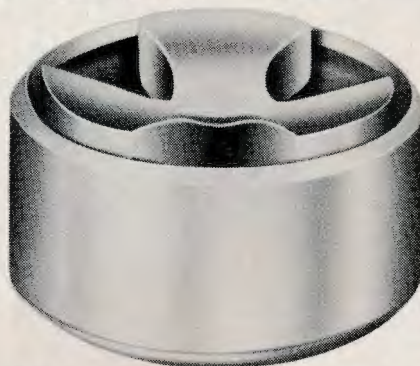
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# WHICH IS THE ULTIMATE G.I. SIDEARM



According to tests by the author, the .45 Auto now being used by our troops is not the best sidearm considering all the factors.



By JAC WELLER

**A**MERICA is the only nation issuing a dual-purpose side arm to its fighting men. The U.S. Model 1911A1 semi-automatic pistol can also serve in an emergency as an anchor for a small boat. This relic from the days of horse cavalry as normally carried in Vietnam weighs five pounds. Since not more than one man in 10,000 who has this weapon ever successfully employs it against the enemy, 25 tons are being suspended around the waists or shoulders of GI's for a whole year for each enemy casualty produced.

Weight is not the only disadvantage. So far, no efficient and convenient way of carrying this monster has been invented. The Government .45 in its still standard holster—the one which hangs down from the web “pistol” belt and has a special pad so the butt sticks out—is reasonably good for use on foot or while mounted on a horse. But it could not easily be worse for men who have to sit down on anything but stools. In a truck, a fixed-wing transport aircraft, or a helicopter, you either gouge yourself or your neighbor or both. It protrudes from your body so that getting into and out of small doors quickly is near impossible.

There are now many GI shoulder holsters in use in Vietnam. They are less inconvenient in vehicles, but they have other disadvantages. The .45 is so heavy that the constant pressure on shoulder and neck nerves can do permanent damage, even if no pack is carried in addition. Where several things are suspended from the shoulders in a hot moist climate, the result can be unfortunate.

A military pistol is issued primarily for self defense. But the old .45 in either type holster is excessively slow to use in an emergency. Six soldiers of the Free World—four Americans and two South Koreans—were ambushed on 14 April, 1968, about 1,000 yards south of the border (DMZ) in South Korea. Four were killed and two severely wounded before they could fire a single shot. They were riding in a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck, and because of the Truce Regulations could have only their side arms, no shoulder weapons. Our own safety rules prevented these unfortunate men from having a round in the chambers of their .45's. They were knocked out before they could get their weapons from belt holsters, pull back the slides to load, and fire.

In a similar situation involving State Troopers anywhere in America, the ambushers would surely have received return fire and might have been beaten. But men armed with the 1911A1 could not do this because of faults inherent in the weapon itself. A round cannot be safely carried in the chamber. This is possible in theory, but not in practice. The pistol can have a round in the chamber and the hammer cocked with the safety on, but the procedure is against regulations. It does no great amount of good either. The safety is located high up on the left side and is not easy to





TABLE "A": Details of Pistols Tested

Weapon	Cartridge	Energy in foot pounds <sup>1</sup>	Weight in Ounces Unloaded <sup>2</sup>	Weight in Ounces Complete	What was included in "Weight Complete"	Relative Convenience of carrying
<b>The Semi-Automatics</b>						
1911A1	.45 ACP	340	38	80	GI Belt Holster, Belt, 21 rounds of ammo in 3 magazines, & pouch.	Most Inconvenient
1911A1	.45 ACP	340	38	51	GI Shoulder Holster, & 7 rounds of ammo in 1 magazine.	Moderately Inconvenient
S&W Model 39	9 mm Parabellum	360	28	39	GI Shoulder Holster & 8 rounds of ammo in 1 magazine.	Middle
S&W Model 39	9 mm Parabellum	360	28	36	"High Up" Belt Holster & 8 rounds of ammo in 1 magazine.	Moderately Convenient
Walther P-38 (Post WW II type)	9 mm Parabellum	360	28	39	GI Shoulder Holster & 8 rounds of ammo in 1 magazine.	Middle
Saver Double Action	7.65 mm (.32 ACP)	145	25	31	"High Up" Belt Holster & 8 rounds of ammo in 1 magazine.	Moderately Convenient
<b>The Revolvers</b>						
S&W .357 Magnum 3.5-Inch Barrel	.357 Mag or .38 Special	700 or 235	43	56	Jordan-type Holster, special grips, & 6 rounds of Magnum ammo.	Moderately Inconvenient
Colt .357 Magnum 4-Inch Barrel	.357 Mag or .38 Special	710 or 240	35	45	"High Up" Belt Holster & 6 rounds of Magnum ammo.	Middle
S&W Centennial 2-Inch Barrel	.38 Special	200	15 <sup>3</sup>	28½	Hunter "Clam-Shell" Holster, 17 rounds .38 Special ammo, & carrier.	Most Convenient
S&W Bodyguard 2-Inch Barrel	.38 Special	200	20	33½	Hunter "Clam-Shell" Holster, 17 rounds .38 Special ammo, & carrier.	Most Convenient
Colt Cobra 2-Inch Barrel	.38 Special	200	15 <sup>3</sup>	29	Hunter "Clam-Shell" Holster, 18 rounds .38 Special ammo, & carrier.	Most Convenient

1—Roughly adjusted for barrel lengths.

2—But including empty magazine for semi-automatics.

3—These are for the Air Weight (aluminum frame) models.

find quickly. The weapon cannot be "placed on safe" with the hammer down, or on half cock. To carry it with a round in the chamber and the hammer on half cock is possible, but also accomplishes little. The hammer must be cocked before the weapon is fired, a procedure about as slow as working the slide.

Another reason for not carrying the weapon with a round in the chamber is that the old .45 can be fired even while the magazine is out. Regulations in both Vietnam and Korea require clearing, that is removing all rounds including that in chamber, from all arms when entering areas supposed to be secure. The process of unloading a live round from a .45 chamber in a crowd is not only complicated but unsafe. Men who go in and out often, the men who really need the personal protection that only a pistol can give, push loaded magazines into and out of their pistols, but don't ever jack a round into the chamber. Sure, they look to see that the chamber is empty after removing their magazine, but they know it will be because they never really load their weapons. If they did, the .45's would probably cause more friendly than enemy casualties.

The procedure of drawing the weapon from a holster, pulling the slide back and letting it run forward with a cartridge from the magazine, and then firing is complicated and slow. It appears to be, however, the only safe way that can be used with our present service pistol. If you are caught seated in a truck with your .45 in a standard belt holster, it will take you at least eight seconds to fire a shot, even if you remember it all correctly.

Many soldiers and Marines in Vietnam use belt holsters from which they can draw more quickly than the standard leather flap type. But a quick draw is nearly meaningless, if the weapon has to be loaded after it's out. Those special belts and holsters are intended for revolvers. The carrying of single rounds in individual belt loops is ridiculous for a semi-automatic pistol which uses magazines. A man would have to load his magazine from his belt and then reload his pistol with the magazine.

All this trouble with safety and firing the first shot quickly is unnecessary. Semi-automatic military pistols that can be fired by pulling the trigger even when the hammer is down began to be manufactured 30 years ago. Even before that, a safety feature that would help us enormously in Vietnam was incorporated in some pocket pistols. Weapons so designed cannot be fired, even when a round is in the chamber, if the magazine had been removed.

The Germans replaced most of their Model 1907 Lugers and all their Model 1898 military Mauser pistols before World War II with Walther double-action P-38 (Pistol, Model 1938) which fired the same powerful 9 mm Parabellum cartridge as the Lugers and some of the Mausers. During WW II, however, German armies spread over most of Continental Europe. German soldiers naturally wanted a pistol of some sort since they were living among strangers and were not normally allowed to keep rifles and sub-machineguns with them 24 hours a day. Instead of increasing the production of P-38's, Germany issued hundreds of thousands of pocket pistols of various types. These came not only from German factories, but also from arms making firms in occupied countries. They were chambered for the low powered 7.65 mm and 9 mm Browning cartridges known in America as the .32 and .38 ACP's. Some of them even fired 6.35 mm (.25 ACP) ammo.

The German idea was not to use these little weapons for fighting; they realized that even the most powerful pistol is poor for that. These handguns were, however, of considerable psychological value and probably were reasonably effective in the rare instances where they were used. The Germans appear to have been issued only a single box of 25 cartridges with each pistol; these were expected to last the war. The weapons could be fired sufficiently accurately at short range for personal protection without practice.

The great advantages of pocket pistols for military use lay in cheapness and ease of carriage. A Walther PP Cal. 380 ACP weighed, in its secure small flap holster, only 29½





#### THE .45 IN COMBAT

Above left: With other equipment the soldier doesn't need an extra five pounds of gun. Above: Though in secured areas, the .45 must be empty, even clip must be removed. Left: A .45 in a revolver holster with cartridge loops that let the rimless cartridges fall through.





TABLE "B": Details of Firing

	Weapon	Holster	Average Time in Seconds, Two Shots	Average Score for Two Shots
STAGE I	1911A1	Belt (GI)	6.91	9.1
		(Flap Buttoned)		
	1911A1	Shoulder (GI)	6.62	9.0
		(Snap fastened)		
STAGE II		Average for Stage	6.72	9.05
	S&W M39	Shoulder (GI)	4.24	7.9
		(Snap fastened)		
	S&W M39	"High Up" Belt	3.27	8.1
	Walther P-38	Shoulder (GI)	4.43	7.8
		(Snap fastened)		
STAGE III	Walther P-38	"High Up" Belt	3.68	7.6
		Average for Stage	3.90	7.85
	S&W .357 Magnum	Jordan	3.39	8.2
	3.5-Inch Barrel			
	S&W .357 Magnum	"High Up" Belt	3.82	8.4
	3.5-Inch Barrel			
	Colt .357 Magnum	Jordan	3.54	7.6
	4-Inch Barrel			
STAGE IV	Colt .357 Magnum	"High Up" Belt	3.93	8.6
	4-Inch Barrel			
		Average for Stage	3.67	8.2
	S&W .38 Special	"High Up" Belt	3.17	7.3
	Centennial - 2-Inch bbl.			
	S&W .38 Special	"High Up" Belt	3.08	6.8
	Bodyguard - 2-Inch bbl.			
	Colt .38 Special	"High Up" Belt	3.16	7.2
	Cobra - 2-Inch bbl.			
	Saver Double Action	"High Up" Belt	4.24	8.7
	Semi-Automatic			
		Average for Stage	3.41	7.5

ounces and could be carried close to the body so as to be no inconvenience at all. In bulk and weight, it was preferable to either the P-38 or the Luger.

The Germans were disarmed for 12 years after WW II. But some of those who had fought either with or against them gave their pistol ideas serious consideration. The Russians finally got rid of all their old full power 7.62 mm Tokarevs and substituted the 21 ounce Makarov or PM which fires a new 9 mm cartridge similar to, but with a

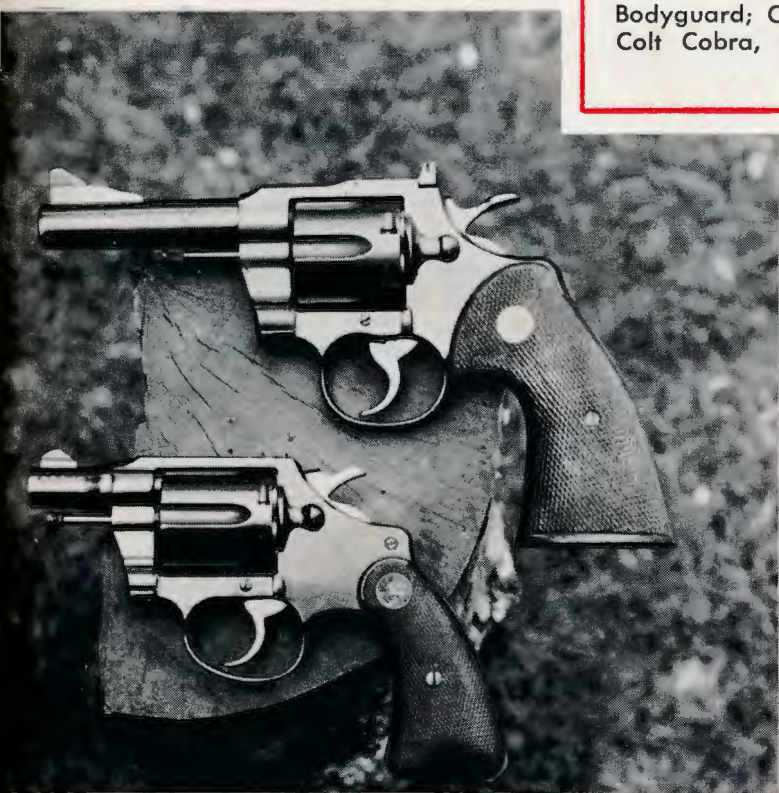
bit more velocity than the U.S. loaded .380 ACP.

After the PM and its new cartridge was accepted by Communist armed forces, another pistol came into being; it's really a small submachinegun. The Stetchkin, or APS, weighs 4¼ pounds complete with holster stock and 20 rounds of ammo in a staggered box magazine. Both the PM and the APS are among the lightest weapons of their classes and apparently sufficiently powerful for all normal uses to which they have been put. They are emergency





Clockwise: Walther P-38, Sauer Double Action; Govt. .45, S&W Centennial; S&W Model 39, S&W Bodyguard; Colt Trooper (top), Colt Cobra, all used in tests.



arms only and not intended for primary use in combat.

Other countries also have reduced the size and power of their service pistols and made them more compact. The Italians have standardized on the Cal .380 Beretta which weighs 21 ounces loaded. The Turks are manufacturing and issuing a copy of the Walther double-action PP also firing the .380. The Egyptians are making under license the pistol now standard in the Italian Army.

The British and the major Commonwealth armies used

in WW II an assortment of .455 and .38 revolvers as well as semi-automatic pistols chambering .455 and .45 cartridges. All have now standardized on the 1935 Browning which fires 9 mm Parabellum ammo. The West Germans have gone back to their P-38 chambered for this same round. These 9 mm pistols are not so light nor so easily carried as the military "pocket pistols," but they still show a net weight saving over our 1911A1 of more than two pounds. Neither is so awkward (Continued on page 54)





# BERETTA AL-2 AUTOLOADER

By STEPHEN FERBER

I HAD THE happy luck to test a shotgun on a variety game and under various shooting conditions. Since I used this gun almost daily for a period of two weeks, I can give an accurate report on its performance.

The gun was the Beretta AL-2, a new, light, fast-handling auto which is imported by the Garcia Corporation, Teaneck, New Jersey. The occasion was a two-week jaunt through southern California and Mexico.

The particular gun I drew for testing from the New Jersey plant was a 12-gauge model, which boasts a ventilated rib as standard equipment. The AL-2 sells for \$200, and as the manufacturer states in the literature, "it is not inexpensive." I might add, at this point, that Beretta makes a sister version of this auto designated the SL-2, a pump action gun that looks, feels and performs like her automatic counterpart. The pump retails for \$185.

The gun I tested had a 28-inch barrel, choked modified, the combination being ideal for the type hunting I experienced out west. I took California quail, teal duck, cotton-

tail and jackrabbits near Calexico, California, and Mexicali, Mexico. The ammunition used was Remington 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch Express and Federal factory loads—both high and low brass. I haven't shot handloads with this gun at all. Over 400 rounds of ammo was put through this particular Beretta, and I didn't experience any malfunction's. Both brands of ammo consistently worked smoothly.

The AL-2 is truly a handsome gun, very streamlined looking, light (about seven pounds), and the blue job is outstanding. The breechblock is high, it is chrome-plated and the ventilated rib is raised and made of alloyed steel. The stocks are European walnut, they are nicely checkered (forearm and pistol grip) and the absence of engraving doesn't hurt the overall appearance at all. Many guns are often made these days with scroll work or figures stamped into the metal, and in most instances, this attempt for aesthetics fails. The AL-2 does the job it was designed to do and it does this well.

I'm a left-handed shooter, so southpaws who are considering buying this gun will be delighted to know that while I shoot from the left shoulder, and the action tosses the hulls out of the right side of the receiver, gases and





debris didn't bother me. The cases are ejected at a sharp, oblique angle, well toward the front of the gun, on a line perhaps 30 degrees from the bore. I didn't get any powder burns at all, so this particular gun shouldn't be a hazard to lefties. The only configuration which might be a bit awkward for port-side shooters is the safety, which in this case is forward of the trigger guard. But that sort of thing is something we've had to put up with before.

The AL-2 is a gas-operated automatic, and the gas ports (there are two) are located just forward of the magazine tube. After one round is fired there is a very slight delay while the charge of shot is still in the barrel, so that adequate operating/performance pressures are maintained to operate the action. There is a positive disconnecter blocking the firing pin until the bolt completely locks up into the barrel extension.

The stock dimensions are more or less standard, but ideal for an auto of this type. The length of pull is 14 $\frac{1}{8}$  inches, the drop at the comb is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches and at the heel it's 2 $\frac{1}{8}$  inches. The trigger pull is a shade under four pounds, with no creep or override; it breaks clean.

A plug is built into the

(Continued on page 63)

## SPECIFICATIONS

Action: Gas operated  
 Barrel: 30", Full; 28" Mod.; 26" I.C.  
 Chamber: 12 gauge; 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " only.  
 Capacity: Three in magazine; one in chamber  
 Safety: Crossbolt.  
 Stock: Walnut; full pistol grip, checkered.  
 Dimensions: 14 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ "  
 Weight: 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.  
 Vent Rib: Standard equipment.  
 Price: \$200. Interchangeable barrels, \$85.  
 Importer: Garcia Sporting Arms Corp.  
 329 Alfred Ave., Teaneck, N.J.





# Norm Flayderman

Left: Flayderman with his 18th Century, 30-barrel "fire carriage."



**N**ORMAN FLAYDERMAN, an intriguing cross between Secret Agent James Bond and Historian Henry Steele Commager, grabbed for his phone.

"I'm looking for a Remington Keene 45-70 bolt action," said a voice from Oregon. Flayderman's lively mind clicked like a computer.

"Yes, yes, I've got one," he bellowed into the receiver, apparently convinced that his voice must carry all the way to Oregon on its own. "That's a very, very scarce item. It's in mint condition, except for the bore, which is smooth. There's a tiny crack near the wrist, hardly perceptible. Yes; well, the metal's been cleaned and reblued. . ." The salesman in Flayderman, another vital part of his makeup, was at work. Soon the old military rifle would be crated and on its way to Oregon.

That old Remington was probably picked up by the young dealer on one of his numerous trips around the country—or indeed, throughout the Western Hemisphere. He spends fully a third of the year away from his New Milford, Connecticut, business, on the prowl for weapons, military items and nautical material of antique vintage. Along the way, he picks up hundreds of other items which defy categorization—sometimes unavoidably, as part of a total collection which he wants; and sometimes because his instincts as a collector tell him he's found a rare piece.

Now 40, Norm Flayderman has been a professional antique dealer for 18 years; first in his native Maine, for the past dozen years in Connecticut. He feels now that his firm "handles more variety than anyone else in this business has ever handled, at any time"—and he is not given to such evaluations lightly.

When the phone rings in N. Flayderman's, Inc., it could be a neighbor calling to chat with wife Sue—or the start of another adventure for the avid collector. Not long ago, a call from one of Flayderman's "spies" in Colorado was indeed the start of another adventure—the acquisition of "one of the most exciting pieces of Americana I've ever seen."

As a result of the call, Flayderman soon owned a bronze bell, weighing about a ton, made and cast by Paul Revere in 1811, and so marked. After a bit of sleuthing, Flayderman found that the bell had come from a church along the south shore of Massachusetts. A hurricane in that town knocked the church steeple over, but fortunately the bell wasn't damaged.

"Strange as it seems, the people there just couldn't raise enough money, even with a national fund-raising effort, to rebuild that steeple," he said. "For some years the bell lay in storage, then finally it was sold to an oilman in Colorado. I got it at the time of his death, after his estate was probated."

Flayderman says he "desperately tried to place the bell back in New England, where I felt it belonged. The apathy I ran into was amazing. I offered it to a famous insurance company, which jumped when it heard about it. After all, Paul Revere made perhaps a dozen or 20 bells in his lifetime, and this was probably the only one in existence that had ever come on the market." The insurance people, he said, had a special spot in mind for the bell, in the lobby of their central headquarters. But upon measuring the space, they found that the bell was "about two inches oversized. So one insurance man said to me 'We're sorry, but we just can't use it. Can you get (Continued on page 60)



Items From The  
Flayderman Collection

1. Presentation sword; one of 10 presented by Lloyd's of London.
2. Scrimshaw carving; whale tooth, c. 1847.
3. Foc'sle piece from Clipper Roger Williams.
4. Gangway board from Civil War naval ship.





# THE MANNLICHER STOCK



Mannlicher-Schoenauer Carbine



Winchester Model 70 Mannlicher



Mossberg Model 800M



Smith & Wesson Rifle Model D





*Charles Askins*

By CHARLES ASKINS

IT MAY HAVE escaped your notice, but there is a quiet change going on among the centerfire rifles offered by our gunmakers. This is the introduction of the Mannlicher-type stock. This type of shooting iron has the stock extended to the muzzle, and it also features shorter barrels. The Mannlicher is not new. It has been around for a great many years. The Stoeger Arms Corporation has consistently imported Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifles for a great many years.

What is the significance of the trend to full-length stocks and shortened gun tubes? That takes a bit of analysis. To begin with the gunstock that runs clear out to the muzzle offers a more handsome firearm. The abrupt termination of the forestock midway of the barrel breaks the smooth flowing lines of the stock and does harm to the overall good looks of the gun. The Mannlicher stock has a racy, sleek appearance that gladdens the shooter's eye and instantly appeals to his aesthetic taste.

Along with this, the manufacturers are continually seeking something new, a change from the conventional and accepted to a design that is novel and different. The Mannlicher-type stock with its neat and orderly outline has offered that.

Winchester, this year, for the first time in its history has come along with a Model 70 stocked to the muzzle. This is pretty revolutionary and is indicative of the trend among the major manufacturers. The Model 70 is offered in .243, .270, .308 and .30-06. The barrel has a length of 19 inches and the rifle weighs 7 pounds. The stock is a Monte Carlo with a checkpiece and is built for scope use. There are no iron sights. This is a neat and handy rifle and is bound to appeal to a lot of gunners who will be instantly attracted to the beautiful lines and the less-than-forty-inches overall length.

The Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifles have been made by the Steyr Works of Austria since the turn of the century. These rifles feature an original action, turning-bolt type, with a bolt handle which is located midway of the bolt body. This bolt has a peculiar handle on it which is oftentimes described as "spooned" or "butter knife" in shape.

The full length stock of the rifle has been coupled with carbine barrels. These tubes are usually 18½ to 20 inches in length. At times in the past the barrels have been as short as 16 inches. The most popular caliber over the years has been the 6.5 mm. The Steyr Co. has always made their rifle with a double set trigger. This is popular in Europe but it has never appealed to American sportsmen. Here, more lately, it has been the practice to offer the American market the rifle with single one-stage trigger.

The Mannlicher-Schoenauer has been a very popular sporting rifle around the world. This popularity has ex-

tended over more than a half-century of use. It has been tried extensively in Europe, Africa and Asia, and by a few notable sportsmen in this country. Those who have used it have little but praise for its good qualities.

Despite its wide acceptance, the rifle has never caught on over here. One of the principal reasons has been that writers like the late Townsend Whelen consistently put the whammy on the out-to-the-muzzle wood. They contended it would warp under adverse conditions of weather and when this happened any high spots in the stock would bear against the barrel and cause it to shoot poorly. This word was passed around so generally that some American sportsmen had doubts in their mind. Along with this, the Steyr product before World War II often turned out their various models for Continental calibers which were virtually unknown over here. This, together with the unusual bolt handle all served to put a damper on very wide acceptance of the Mannlicher on this side of the Atlantic.

I have owned a whole succession of Mannlicher-stocked rifles. One was an original Mannlicher-Schoenauer in the fine old original 6.5 mm caliber. Along with it I have had quite a number of rifles custom stocked as wood-to-the-muzzle jobs. These have included a '98 Mauser, the Norwegian Krag 6.5 mm, a Winchester Model 88 lever gun, and a Sako Forester carbine in .243 caliber. These rifles have all produced good hunting accuracy and certainly the handiness and versatility of the various short-length models, together with their obvious good looks, have persuaded me most favorably.

As far as the rifles changing center of impact because of the barrel bedding in the full length stock, I have never been bothered. I shot the original Mannlicher in a lot of bad weather, exposing it for days on end, and it never evidenced any erratic tendencies. I hunted with this rifle in the Spanish Pyrenees—shots were always long, and the weather invariably on the wet side.

Up until the present U.S. arms makers have ignored the Mannlicher type of stock. The widespread canard that the rifle could not be made to shoot with gilt-edge accuracy dissuaded them. It is refreshing to note that this bias is now being rapidly broken down. The fact that Winchester has chosen to provide the Model 70 in the full-stock job is a happy omen for the future. You may be sure that Winchester's engineers very thoroughly tested the M70 with Mannlicher stock and determined that it did possess quite acceptable accuracy and that warpage did not occur in the stock. Winchester has not been the first firm to elect to the handsome new type of furniture.

Harrington & Richardson also has a Mannlicher. It is the Model 301 in calibers of .243, .270, .308 and .30-06. The rifle has a handy 18" barrel, (Continued on page 64)





# The TALES HUNTERS TELL

By LES BOWMAN

*Les Bowman*



I SUPPOSE it is natural for all of us to be more interested in stories of danger and hardships than in a quite truthful account of what actually happened. This seems to be particularly true of hunting stories, as sports magazines tend to print an awful lot of stories of narrow escapes from wild and dangerous animals that have taken an unusual amount of shots from big rifles before they die.

I guess these accounts were necessary to keep up interest in outdoor sports as there certainly isn't anything very remarkable in a report of a hunt if it is told in the same concise and factual manner that an early day airmail pilot reported on the failure of his motor, and the consequences. His report read, "Motor failed, no place to land but cow pasture, landed on cow, killed cow, wrecked plane." If a hunter, just back from an enjoyable and successful hunt, merely reported on his hunt that he, "Saw big bear, killed same," there certainly wouldn't be much of a story to that.

Personally, I have no objection to anyone embellishing their story of a hunt with all kinds of extra adventures but what I do find pretty hard to believe is their contention that certain kinds of game animals take such a large amount of "killing." After more than 50 years of hunting all kinds of game animals, from big cats and javalina in

old Mexico to brown bear and the big polar bear in the far north, I will have to report truthfully that I have never come across any of these "terribly tough and hard to kill" animals, and I have never had any of those hair-raising experiences I frequently read about, even though I have taken part in thousands of kills, made by myself and my hunters.

Reviewing the large number of game animals I have seen killed, during my own hunting experiences, and those killed by friends and hunters, in the years I was outfitting and guiding, I can not remember very many that took so much "killing," but I can recall quite a few that were badly mutilated and shot up before they actually died. In fact I have found and killed many of these badly wounded animals, sometimes days after they had first been shot.

Without a doubt, there are many reasons why we don't all make clean, one shot, instant kills, but I do know of two major reasons and these two *can* be minimized, if not eliminated. The first of these is badly placed shots and the second is the use of poorly constructed bullets or bullets entirely unsuited for the game being hunted. I certainly haven't always killed my game instantly and with one shot and frequently I haven't placed my shot exactly in the



right place, but I have always been careful to use loads that were adequate in power and properly structured bullets for the type of game I was hunting. I have *never* found it necessary to keep pouring bullets into a game animal to keep it from "attacking" me.

Many of the hunters who used our facilities as outfitters were rather inexperienced as far as hunting game was concerned. They didn't always have the best in equipment, and could really make some bad shots. Even the experienced and expert target shooters would lose their cool when faced with killing a real live animal and forget all they knew about aiming and hitting a target. This is when the presence of a good guide is appreciated. He does not shoot game for the hunter but can often prevent a badly wounded animal from escaping.

The big redwood tree country of northern California was my first hunting grounds. Although, by the time I was big enough to hunt some of the game animals had completely disappeared, there were still lots of black tail deer, cougar, and bear left. One of the game animals that the early explorers found in numbers, that was gone before my time, was the large coastal grizzly bear. The old cap lock muzzleloaders were not much protection against the big brutes and early tales of encounters with them are indeed hair-raising. The low velocity and shocking power of those old guns made it necessary for the hunter to walk up to within a few yards of the animal, try to place the ball correctly enough to reach a vital spot and make an instantaneous kill; or to fire at the game, hoping for a fatal hit, and then run for a tree and try to be safe and out of reach of the animal while he reloaded. There are numerous accounts recorded, by participants and eye witnesses, of the dangers faced by hunters who went after these big bear with their old muzzleloaders.

Those old round or conical lead bullets had low velocity, no expansion and no shocking power, and the shooter relied only on the size of the bullet making a big hole and causing heavy enough bleeding to be fatal, or to hit a vital spot, such as the spine or brain, and kill quickly. Unless the shooter was very close, penetration was extremely poor. The brass cartridge loads of the mid-1800's—and even the later loads, such as the .45-70, the .45-90 or similar loads—

were not too good for making good quick kills, unless the shooter was quite close to his target. Although they did penetrate a bit better, they still had low shocking power. It wasn't until the late 1800's, when the .30-30 Winchester came out and after this the .30-40 Krag, that shocking power of a bullet, created by the higher velocities, made the smaller calibers more efficient killers than the old big bores with their heavy bullets.

These newer cartridges, with their jacketed bullets and better powders, drove in much deeper, expanding to even larger diameter size than the old lead ball, and causing the same size wound channel but increasing the tissue damage and imparting far more shock through the hydraulic action on the body fluids. This increase of the killing power of high velocity is even more noticeable today, in the .30 caliber magnums, using the same bullets that are used in the slower standard .30 calibers.

When I first started hunting big game I used the 117 grain jacketed bullet in the .25-35 Winchester and I recall very few head of deer or bear that I shot and lost. I was very careful to do two important things; get close enough to assure me of hitting the animal and to try most carefully to place my bullet in the right spot. I learned early in my hunting career that one bullet placed correctly killed quickly and efficiently, and was much more economical, too.

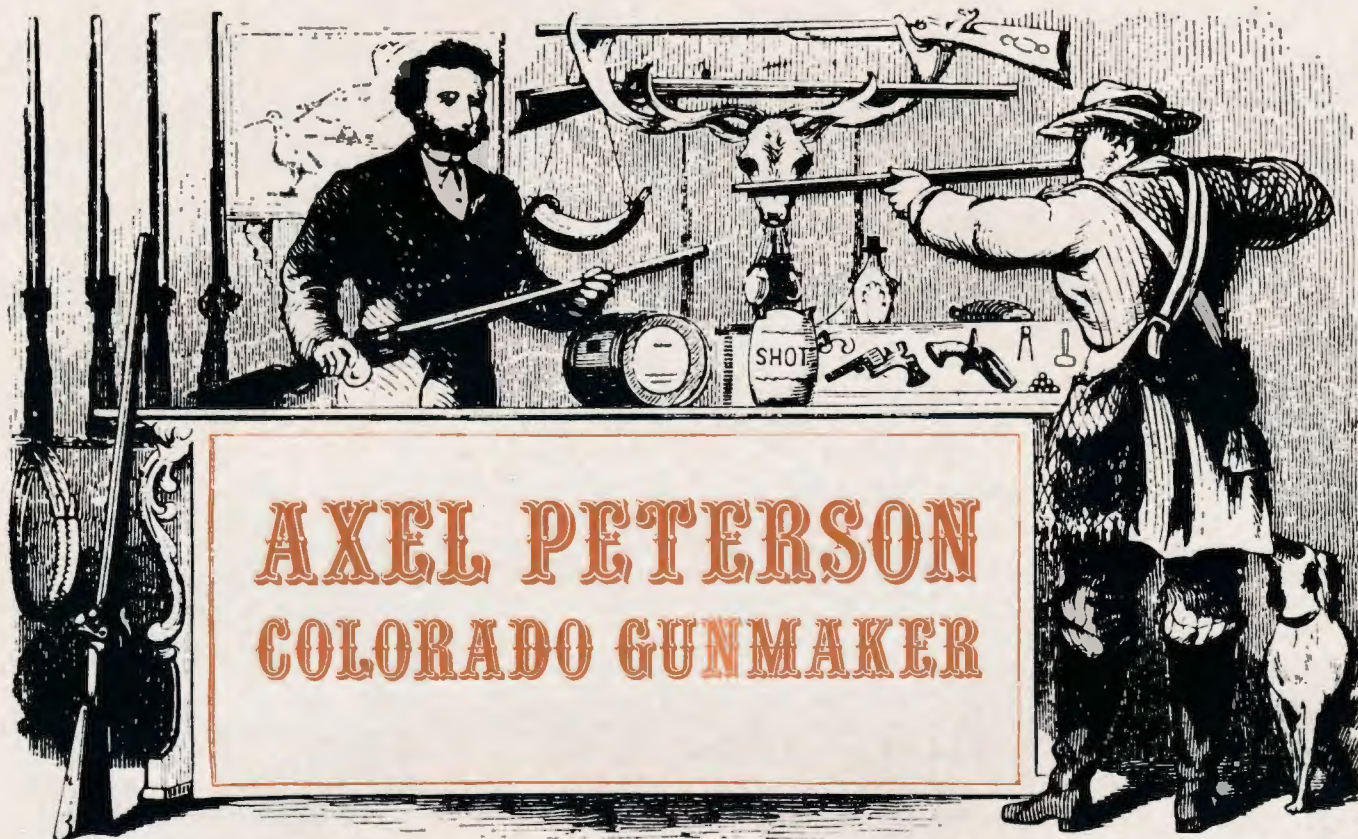
Anyone engaged in the big game outfitting business is certainly interested in seeing that all of his customers get their game, if it is at all possible. A lot of our hunters used to ask us what was the best caliber size for an elk hunt, and if we had honestly thought one of the big bores was best that's what we would have recommended. We preferred, however, to have them bring rifles of the .270 to .30 caliber class—and we didn't specify magnums, either. These might be a bit better at the really long ranges but the long range shots were only about 5 per cent of all hunting shots.

I constantly read articles by the big bore users saying that a caliber *larger* than the .30 must be used for elk or the animal will just walk away—carrying pockets full of ammunition, I suppose. We never insisted that any of our hunters shoot any particular caliber. If they came with one of the .338's, the .358

(Continued on page 52)







**A**XEL W. PETERSON was a five-and-a-half foot, 135 pound runt of a man who became a giant among gunsmiths. When you mention Schoyen, Zitchang, and Pope, you automatically add Peterson to round out the top four of the old time gunsmiths. Peterson was a machinist, inventor, a telescope maker, in addition to being a fine barrel maker and top notch rifleman. He began his career with nothing.

Peterson's background gave no indication of his future as a gunsmith. He was born in Stockholm in 1859, worked two years as a helper to a watch repairman, migrated to Chicago in 1877 and worked another two years as a typesetter on a Swedish-American newspaper.

His next move decided his future. For two years he had dreamed of going out West to hunt. He made it as far as Denver and got a job in a small key and gun shop.

During his second year in Denver, J. P. Lower and his sons invited Axel to go on a hunting trip with them. While on this trip they offered Axel a job. He went to work for this famous firm, saved his money and two years later opened his own gun shop which he operated until his death.

Peterson made most of his own tools and equipment and had his own small foundry where he carved the wood patterns and cast his own castings. He built his own drilling machine and his first rifling machine set up on a heavy plank. Perhaps it isn't so amazing that a man who became famous for precision barrels also made the tools to make the barrels.

Axel built his own grinders and drill press. His masterpiece was a small milling machine and shaper. Experts have estimated that this machine would have cost \$2,000 had it been made in a factory.

Some of Peterson's customers wanted octagon barrels but Peterson had trouble finding gunsmiths to do this work for him. Finally he designed a large, heavy duty milling attachment for his South Bend lathe and built it himself. The attachment would mill the flats on a barrel of any length.

Later Peterson began making telescopes for his target rifles. He was one of the first to make scopes with internal adjustments and the first to make scopes adjusting by the use of a knurled ring which encircled the scope tube. The modern Leupold scopes follow this idea.

Peterson bought his lenses from the Weiss Optical Co. in Denver. If a lens wouldn't fit a tube, he would file it while holding the lens and file under water. Peterson didn't have to make many scopes because the sale price was \$100, a lot of money in those days.

The first model of Peterson's powder measure was made of wood and designed to throw two different types of powder charges—a small amount for priming and a larger amount for the main charge. Among other accessories manufactured by Peterson were a bullet lubricating pump, a grease wad pump, a decapper and recapper, and an assortment of Schuetzen butt plates, palm rests, and finger rests.

Peterson was the inventor of bottom ejection for pump action guns. He made a slide action .22 caliber rifle that ejected out of the bottom. Before Remington brought their bottom ejecting shotgun onto the market, they wrote to obtain Peterson's permission. He was glad to offer the use of his idea and refused to accept a cent for it.

Two very unusual guns which Peterson designed and built were side-swing over and under doubles, one a rifle-shotgun combination and the other pure shotgun. Hinged

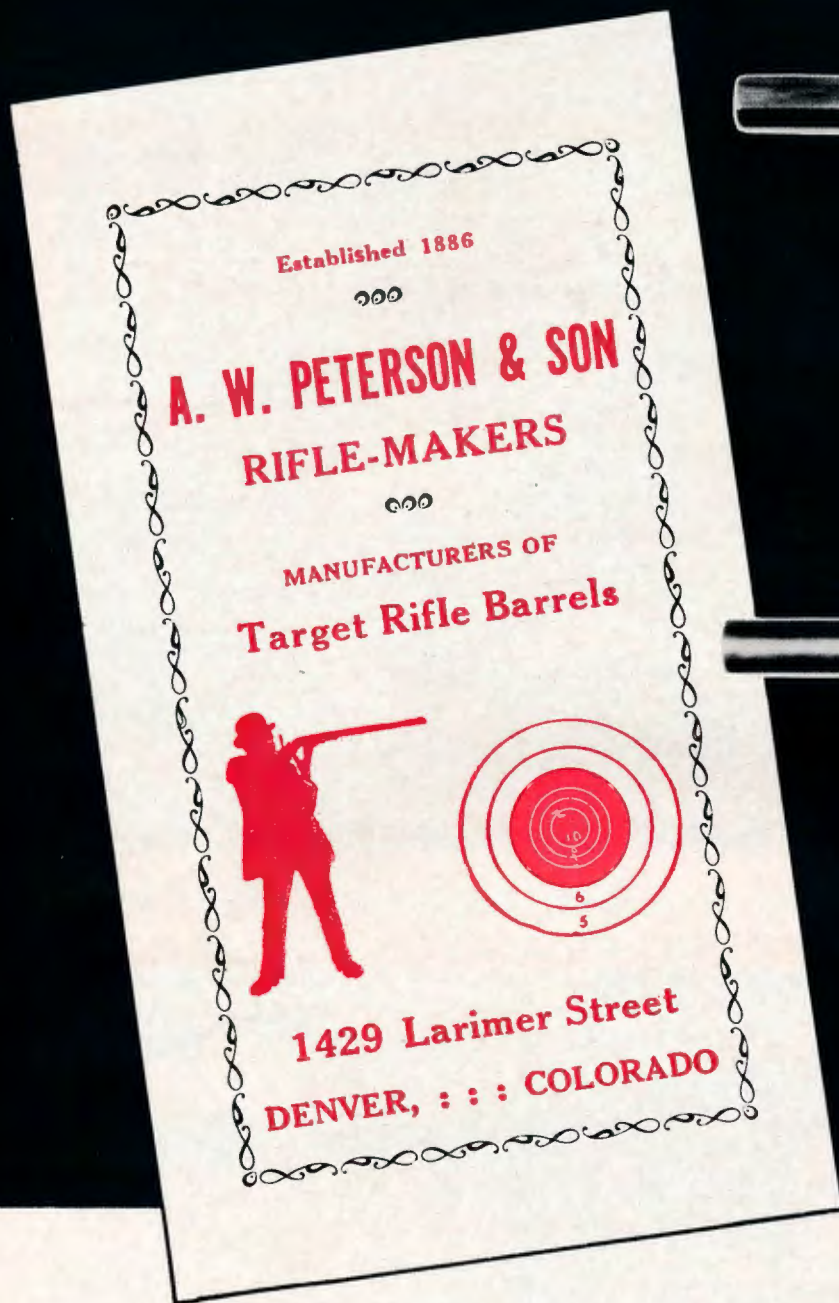




Above: Peterson with one of his scoped Ballard rifles. Below: with friends in front of his gun shop in 1886.







on the side instead of the bottom, these firearms did not have to open as far as a top break double to clear the second chamber.

In 1904, George C. Schoyen and Axel W. Peterson merged their shops and became partners. The Peterson barrels had not yet become famous, but Schoyen's barrels were accepted as being among the finest made, including those made by Harry Pope. These two fine gunsmiths did all types of repair work and specialized in Schoyen barrels and Peterson telescopes.

All of the barrels produced during the partnership were stamped with Schoyen's name. Schoyen had the reputation but it made no difference in the barrels whether rifled by Schoyen or Peterson as the methods and machinery were identical.

C. W. Rowland, the greatest of the bench rest shooters, had a number of barrels and other gun work done at the Schoyen-Peterson shop. Rowland was very particular and

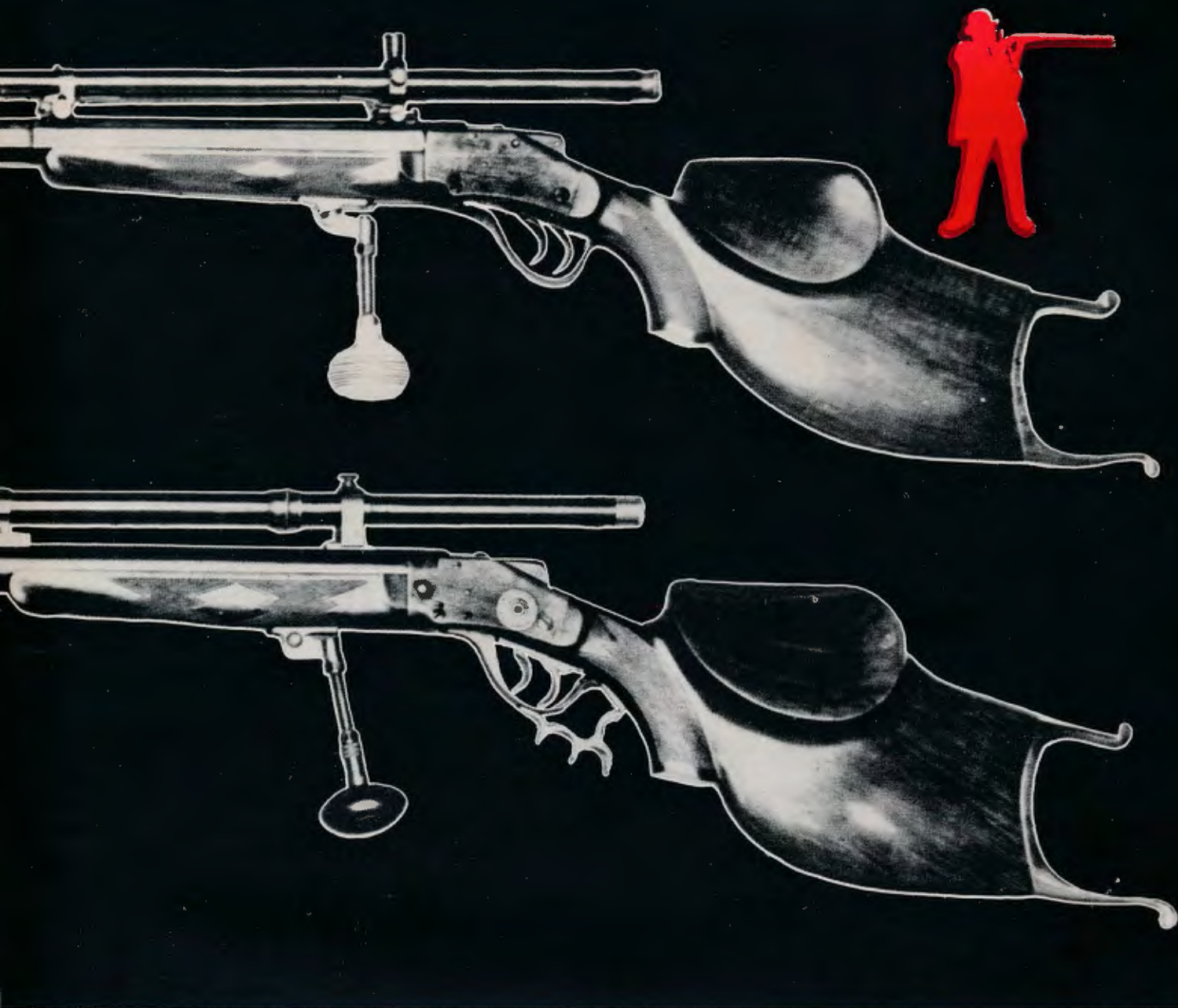
always specified that Schoyen himself do the job. Schoyen would promise to take care of it personally but when it was time to do the job, Peterson, often as not, was the gunsmith. Rowland was always well pleased and never knew that it wasn't always 100 per cent Schoyen work.

Peterson didn't have any headspace gauges. Instead he used new cartridge cases and gauged headspace by feeling with his fingers.

Most of his stocks and forearms were lightweight. He felt that the weight of the stock was of no importance to the shooting and said that if more weight was wanted it should be put into the barrel. His prescription for a good shooting rifle was simple, "Take a good barrel, breech 'im up tight and they shoot good."

Axel Peterson was a top competitive rifleman. From 1880 on, he was one of the top scorers of the Denver Rifle Club. The December 5, 1905, issue of the Rocky Mountain News carried a detailed account of the annual tournament





Far left: cover of an early Peterson catalog. Above: two Peterson rifles, both in .32-40 with Sharps-Borchardt actions. Both guns have palm rests, scopes and set triggers made entirely by A. W. Peterson.

of the Colorado Rifle Association. The scores fired in this tournament were the highest in the country.

These matches drew the best competition, yet A. W. Peterson won every match that he entered. The second day of the tournament was the big day and all matches were fired at 200 yards, shooting off-hand. The second day began with the fifth shoot and the results were as follows:

Fifth shoot, possible 50, Standard American target

First. A. W. Peterson—score of 220

Sixth shoot, 10 shots, possible 250 German Ring target

First. A. W. Peterson—score of 220

Seventh shoot, trophy match, 50 shots at the Standard

target. First. A. W. Peterson—score of 432

Eighth shoot, 5 shots, possible 50

First. A. W. Peterson—score of 43

Another time, Axel fired a score of 241 out of a possible 250 on the German Ring target. This was one point under

the world's record in effect at that time.

A. W. Peterson did much of his practice shooting at a range near the old brewery, on Cherry Creek Flats in Denver. A great deal of this shooting was done with the trap door Springfield rifle. Some days he would fire 150 rounds of the 500 grain ammo. His favorite target caliber was the .32-40 even though he had fired his highest scores with the .38-55.

Axel was not recognized as a fine barrel maker until around 1910. He was in partnership with Schoyen at the time and shooters began to notice the high quality and accuracy of the Peterson-made barrels. His reputation continued to grow until he was supplying barrels to top-notch riflemen in every state of the union. The list of famous shooters who bought his barrels included, C. W. Rowland, Dr. Hudson, Ned Roberts, T. K. Lee, Captain Hardy, Bill Bruce, Walter Stokes, and many others.

The reason that Peterson

(Continued on page 62)



# "DISTINGUISHED"

## MARKSMANSHIP'S HIGH PLATEAU



By HARRY REEVES

Distinguished International Shooter won by only 117 people in the U. S.

WHEN I FIRST became interested in competitive marksmanship, I often heard a term which at that time meant nothing to me, and which I believe is familiar only to that segment of competitive rifle and pistol shooters who are active in top flight competitions. The term was "Distinguished," spoken often with what approached awe by those who had not reached that qualification.

This term interested me. Why would a normal-appearing male citizen spend years trying to win a Distinguished medal. The more I learned about it, the more interesting it became. Finally, I too fell under the spell, and it seems in retrospect that about all I thought about during the years 1936 and 1937 was winning my first Distinguished medal. Quite naturally, all this active interest led me to some of the answers to my questions, and I learned a bit about the "what is it," and the "how do I win one of them." Some thirty or more years later I became interested in the "when did it start," and the facts about num-

bers of competitors who have won Distinguished Medals. I think there may be other marksmanship fans who would be interested in some of the facts and figures.

There are three categories of Distinguished marksmen. First is for Rifle; meaning the U. S. Military Service Rifle of the moment. Second is for Pistol; again meaning the U. S. Military Service Pistol of the moment. The third is for International competition; this one covers competition with rifle, pistol or shotgun, but can be won only through competition as a member of a United States Team in the Olympic Games or the International Shooting Union World Championship matches.

The "Distinguished Rifleman" award was the first of these and was established in 1884 by the Department of the Army, but with provisions which made it possible for a civilian to win one as well as members of the Military. Over the years the other branches of what we now know as the Defense Department, namely the Navy, Marine Corps,





SFC "Bill" Blankenship discusses a Free Pistol of the type used in International Matches with the author.

Coast Guard and Air Force, made the Distinguished Rifleman award available to members of their branch of the Service under the same conditions as were followed in the Army.

The "Distinguished Pistol Shot" was the next on the scene in 1891, just twenty years after the founding of the National Rifle Association in 1871.

The newest member of the Distinguished family, "Distinguished International Shooter," came into the picture in 1962.

Overly simplified, for many years the requirements for winning the Distinguished Rifleman or Pistol medal consisted of winning "legs" (or points) as a result of placing in the high 10 per cent of the entry in the National Championship for Service Rifle or Service Pistol. Three such "legs" were required. This meant that a competitor had not only to be a good enough marksman to place in the high 10 per cent, but having done so he could win in one

year, only one of the three "legs" required. About 1948, and again in about 1960, the system was changed slightly. Currently, one must win thirty points, with from six to ten points being awarded instead of a "leg." However, it then became possible to win from six to ten points at the National Championships, another six to ten points at the National Rifle Association's Regional Championships, and for Military competitors there were certain "Major Command" competitions at which points were awarded. During the past few years it has been possible to compete for points toward the Distinguished medals in as many as four competitions in a calendar year.

The rules of competition for the Distinguished awards are carefully laid down by the U. S. Army and the National Board for the promotion of Rifle Practice of the Defense Department. Speaking in generalities, the rifles and pistols (and ammunition) used in these competitions are the regular Service Arms of the Defense Department. Slight





## "DISTINGUISHED"

"tune-ups" of firearms are permitted which increase the accuracy and smooth functioning while retaining the basic service rifle or pistol as used in the field.

The contests to win these valued medals have been going on since 1884 for rifle and 1891 for pistol. The basic requirements and principles, brought up to date from time to time as the rifles and pistols changed, have been retained over the years so that the value of the hard-won Distinguished medal has never been allowed to deteriorate.

In the 85 years since 1884, only 3,712 have won the Distinguished Rifleman medal. I estimate that during this period of time at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million U. S. Citizens and members of the Armed Services have made efforts to win it. I further believe that this makes "Distinguished Rifleman" the senior sports award of the United States by many years in point of years of continuous competition.

Pistol marksmen have been trying to win Distinguished Pistol medals for 78 years (since 1891) with perhaps as many as half a million persons vying for the award. Yet only 2,060 citizens and military personnel have won it during this period of years.

In 1962 the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice instituted the "International Distinguished Shooter" award as a means for recognition of outstanding United States marksmen in International type competitions. It can be won only by those who have competed as a member of a United States Shooting Team and have, as such, won a Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal in International Competition. The International Shooting Union, governing body for International marksmanship competition, holds a World Championship every four years and supervises the marksmanship phase of the Olympic Games which are also held once every four years.

Since the International Distinguished Shooter award was instituted, only 117 U. S. Citizens have won this medal. Most of the 117 are still living and still in competition. However a few of these awards were made retroactive in an effort to make a somewhat tardy recognition of a few very outstanding shooters on past U. S. Olympic and World Championship teams.

Just how many of these outstanding sportsmen have there been, how many of them were "tops" with *both* rifle and pistol, and finally how many of them might have been superior enough to qualify for the title "Triple Distinguished"? These statistics are not readily available and are not conveniently located in one spot, however with the help of several friends in the right places I have concluded that the following figures are quite accurate to the present date:

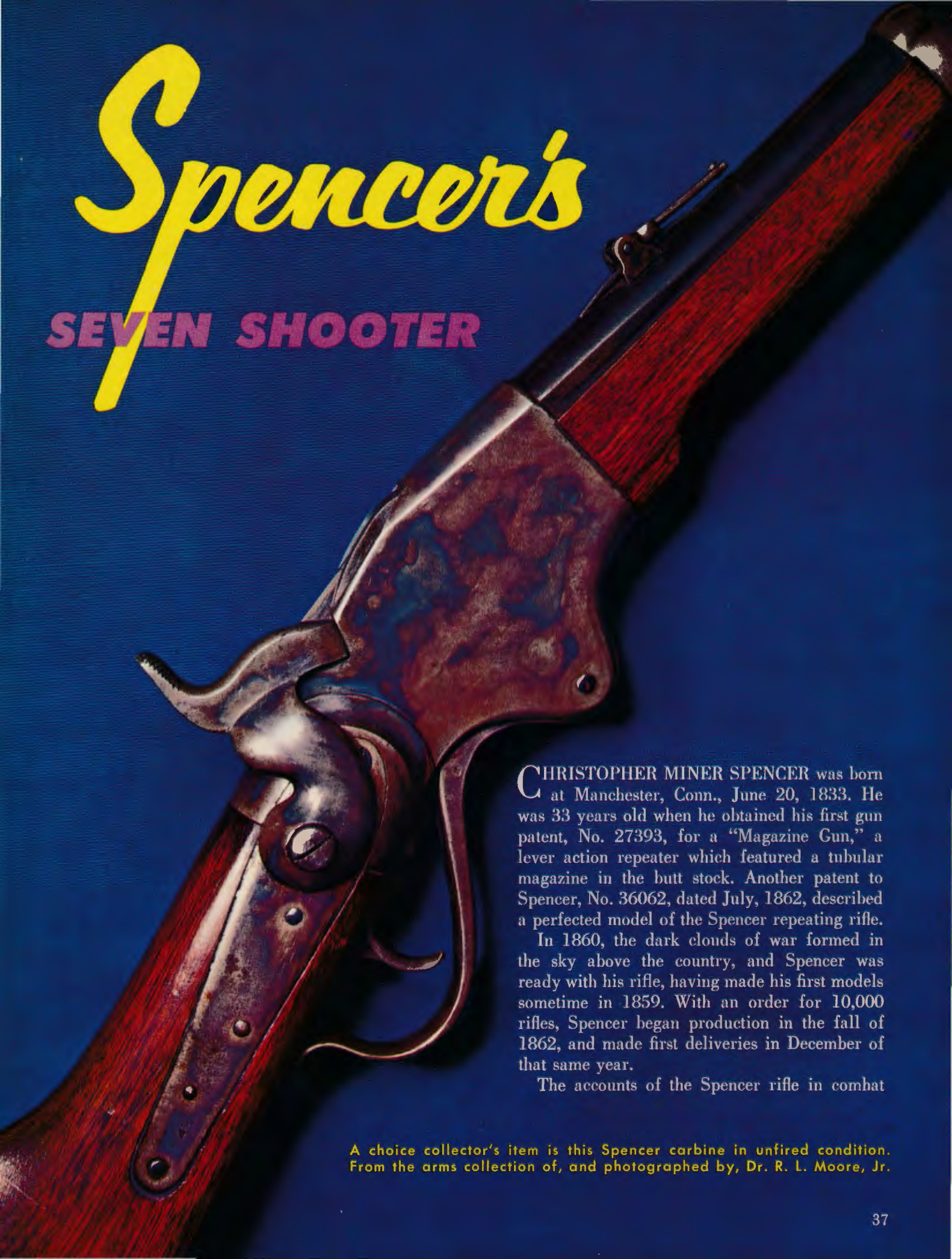
During the 78 years since both the Distinguished Rifleman and the Distinguished Pistol medals have been up for competition, *less than 600 have won both* for the rare "double distinguished" title. In very rough figures, this means that these 600 stand at the top (Continued on page 54)

Left: A representation of the "Distinguished" medals offered to members of the United States Armed Forces.



# Spencer's

## SEVEN SHOOTER



CHRISTOPHER MINER SPENCER was born at Manchester, Conn., June 20, 1833. He was 33 years old when he obtained his first gun patent, No. 27393, for a "Magazine Gun," a lever action repeater which featured a tubular magazine in the butt stock. Another patent to Spencer, No. 36062, dated July, 1862, described a perfected model of the Spencer repeating rifle.

In 1860, the dark clouds of war formed in the sky above the country, and Spencer was ready with his rifle, having made his first models sometime in 1859. With an order for 10,000 rifles, Spencer began production in the fall of 1862, and made first deliveries in December of that same year.

The accounts of the Spencer rifle in combat

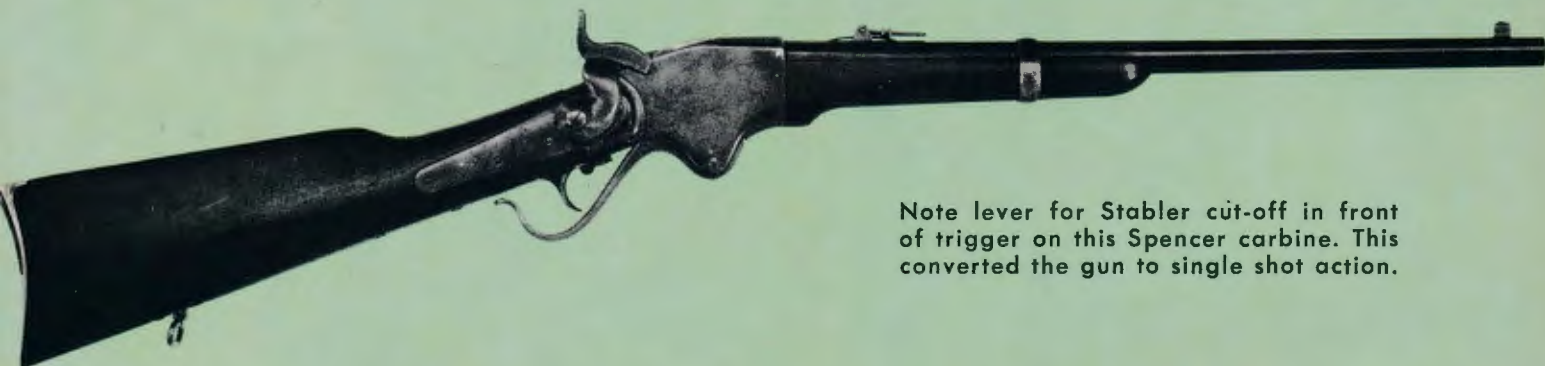
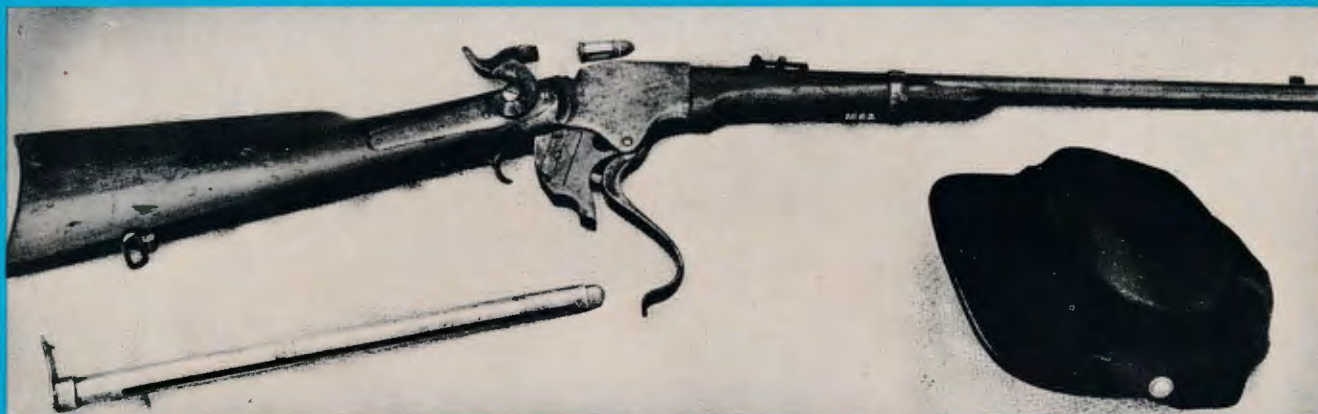
A choice collector's item is this Spencer carbine in unfired condition. From the arms collection of, and photographed by, Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr.



# SPENCER



Scarce Infantry model of the Spencer, with 31½" barrel. Below: Spencer in carbine version, showing magazine tube.



Note lever for Stabler cut-off in front of trigger on this Spencer carbine. This converted the gun to single shot action.

were glowing, and included the following from Col. John Thomas Wilder, commanding the 1st Mounted Brigade of the 17th Indiana Volunteers; "Since using this gun we have never been driven a single rod by any kind of force or number of the enemy." But the accounts of the superiority of the Spencer came from only those few army units armed with the repeater; there were still a thousand times more single shot muskets in use than there were Spencers.

With this kind of assurance, and the thoughts of a huge military contract racing through his mind, Spencer reached for the big plum. He wanted all of the Union forces armed with his deadly rifle, and where else to go to get the ball rolling but the President of the United States.

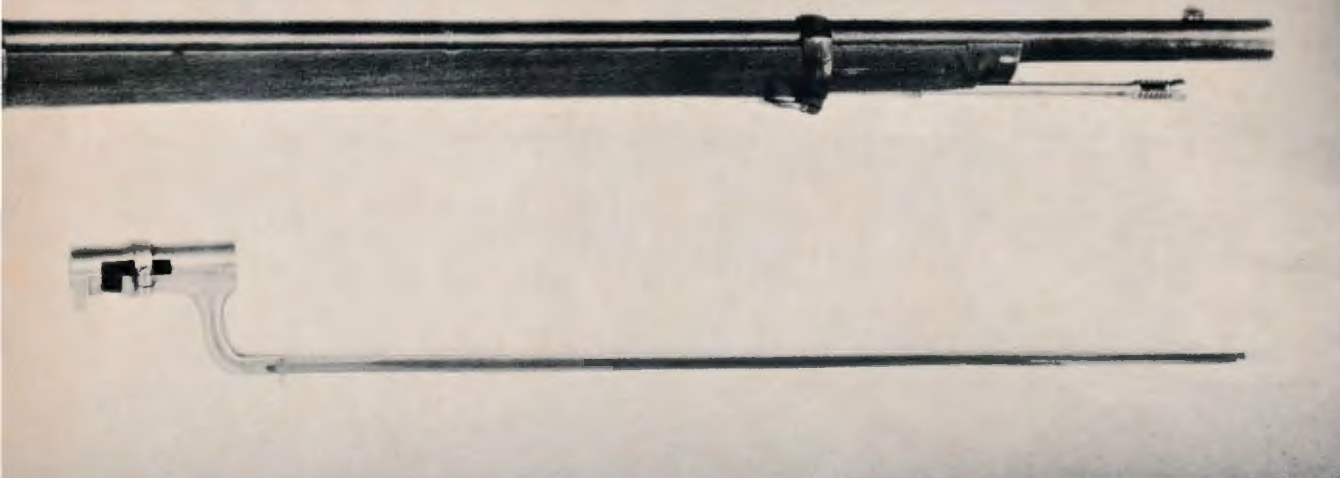
The first meeting between Spencer and President Lincoln took place on August 17, 1863, in the White House office, where Lincoln asked Spencer to show him "the inwardness of the thing." With nothing more than a screwdriver,

Spencer took his rifle apart and, I'm sure, gave a memorable account of its many features. The next day, Lincoln and Spencer met again, this time on the Mall, about at the present site of the Washington Monument, where the inventor and the President held an impromptu shooting match. Again, on the following day, the President met with the inventor and they, along with John Hay, a clerk in the War Department, shot the Spencer rifle.

Evidently, the President was properly impressed with the Spencer seven-shooter, for shortly after the meeting Spencer said that he had more orders than he could fill.

As the guns of the Civil War fell silent, Spencer rifles, of which some 150,000 or more had been produced, fell on the surplus market with enough of an impact to put the firm which made them out of business. The end of the war saw the opening of the West for those weary of war, and although the repeating rifle was to become a major factor





in the winning of the west, it was not the Spencer repeater, but the Henry and Winchester. The Spencer did, however, get extensive use in the Indian wars.

In 1869, the Spencer Company failed, and the assets were purchased, at auction, by Oliver Winchester. Christopher Spencer tried, several times, to make a success in the arms business, but neither the unique Roper rifle/shotgun combination nor the slide action rifles and shotguns of his own design could do the trick.

To the collector of today, the Spencer offers an opportunity to enjoy ownership of not only a unique weapon, but one that was purchased in greater numbers during the Civil War than any other single arm. And, like most other collector's firearms the Spencer represents an investment which is sure to grow in value. To better understand the value of the Spencers, let's take a look at the basic rifle.

The Spencer rifle was, according to some authorities, made up of some Sharps parts, primarily barrels. Thus the Civil War Spencer, used what Spencer called the .56-56, although the actual caliber was .52, the bore size of the Sharps. The .56-56 was a straight case rim fire cartridge. Later Spencers were chambered for the .56-50 cartridge, which was later altered by Spencer by removing excess crimp and introducing a slight bottleneck, and was then called the .56-52.

The earliest Spencers, and those used in the Civil War, were, then, those which used the .56-56 cartridge. There were rifles, with 30" barrels, and carbines with 20" barrels. These are marked, on the barrel: "Spencer Repeating Rifle Co. Boston, Mass. Pat'd March 6, 1860."

The post-war Spencers, in .56-50 caliber, usually with 22" carbine barrels and fitted with Stabler cutoff (which permitted single shot action by holding cartridges in the magazine tube when action was worked), have barrels that are marked: "Spencer Repeating Rifle Model 1865, Pat'd Mar. 6, 1860. Manufactured at Prov. R.I. by Burnside Rifle Co." These are generally recognized as being used in the Indian campaigns. They were made too late to see action in the Civil War.

What are Spencers worth today? Each Spencer, of course must be examined individually to ascertain the true value. However, an average condition Civil War carbine model is usually being offered (through prominent antique arms catalogs and at most gun shows) at prices from \$100 to \$175.

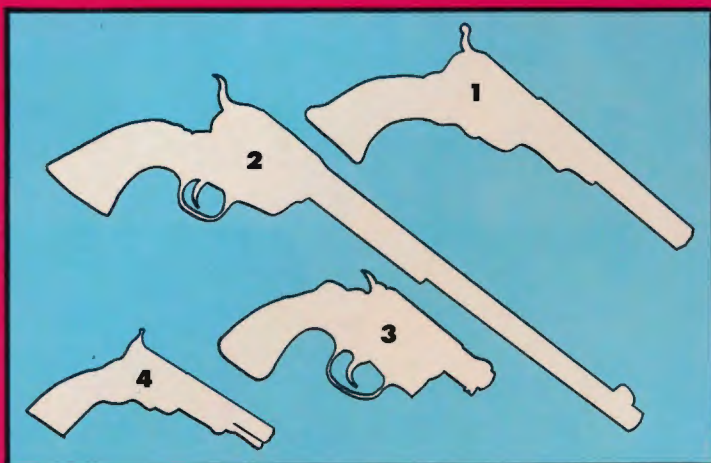
There were some sporting models of the Spencer rifle made, and these are generally valued higher than the military models, especially those with special features such as set triggers, target sights, etc. Also valued higher are the scarce Infantry rifles with 31½" barrels.



## GUNS Color Gallery

### Colt Quartet

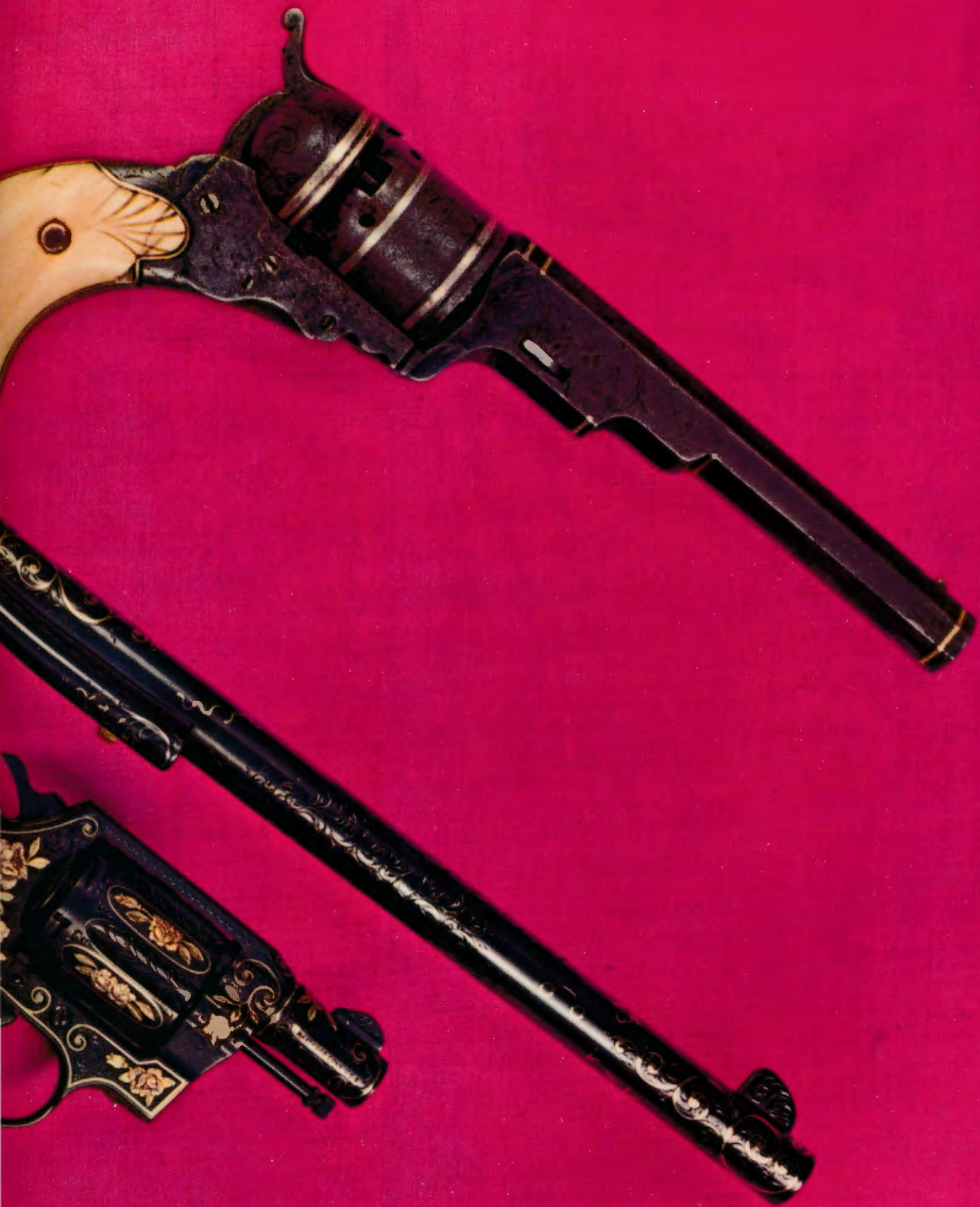
1. Famous "Texas" Paterson; 36 caliber. 2. Modern Colt "Buntline," engraved by Alvin White. 3. Detective Special, also engraved by Alvin White. 4. "Baby" Paterson; .28 caliber. Photo by Harry C. Knode.















# THE

*The story of the revival of one of the great names in firearms history, and a rifle that helped push back the rugged frontier.*

Fifteen years ago, a knowledgeable gun nut named Art Swanson became interested in single-shot rifles—notably, the historic Sharps. He began collecting these guns—many of them in ‘mint’ condition—and began studying them.

“The more I learned about these superb guns, the more I thought it was a shame that they—or at least some modern counterparts—were no longer available,” said Mr. Swanson. “My favorite long gun has always been the single shot—the ‘gentleman’s rifle,’ if you will—and to me, the Sharps represented the finest American single-shot action ever made.”

“I’ve been a gun nut since before I could read,” he continued. “And I’ve hunted all over the United States, Canada, and in North Africa. In addition, I have done some competitive shooting, and owned a sporting goods store for a time. In my home, I reload for the 53 different calibers I use, and have chronographed these loads on my own equipment.”

With this background, Mr. Swanson began analyzing the famous Sharps action to see if he could improve it. “I found that Christian Sharps was far ahead of his time when his company brought out the Sharps-Borchardt rifle (which was the last model made in the Sharps line) 90 years ago,” he said.

“With its hammerless design, incorporating coil springs and a straight-line firing pin, this excellent action became the unqualified choice of the grand champions of the Creedmore target matches.”

“Even though these guns were only manufactured for a relatively short time, they soon earned a permanent place in American history in the hands of soldiers, Indian scouts, wagon masters, and buffalo hunters. It was this latter group that really cherished

the hard-hitting, long-range accuracy of the Sharps,” Mr. Swanson continued.

While the excellence of the original Sharps-Borchardt action is attested to by history, Mr. Swanson found that today’s advanced technology and the demands made by modern, high-intensity loads suggested some improvements. And, after intensive engineering studies and tests and with the help of some close friends, he came up with a new action—using the Sharps-Borchardt falling block as the basis—but incorporating more than forty changes.

These changes now include a planetary cam system rotating in “Timken” needle bearings (which results in an extremely smooth-acting mechanism), a newly designed extractor that can be used with all cartridge cases (rimmed, semi-rimmed, rimless and belted), and a micrometer screw adjustment that allows take-up of even minute changes in tolerances caused by wear.

A unique selective safety mechanism is also incorporated. With this system, the safety can be set to go “on safe” automatically whenever the rifle is cocked, or it can be adjusted for regular manual operation (the automatic feature would be especially advantageous for target shooters where the main trigger sear is set for an extremely light pull).

Other improvements include a Canjar premium combination single-stage and set trigger that is fully adjustable, a jam-proof extractor mechanism, and the use of chrome-molybdenum alloy steel having a tensile strength of over 175,000 pounds per square inch in the action.

“The more I worked on this gun, the more excited I got,” said Mr. Swanson. “Finally, I felt I had



By Clair F. Rees

# RETURN of the SHARPS



achieved what I had set out to do: I had developed what I feel is the smoothest and strongest—the **best**—single-shot action in existence suitable for everything on up to the most powerful cartridges now available.”

With this belief, he began looking around for the commercial capital and an organization to produce and market his brain child.

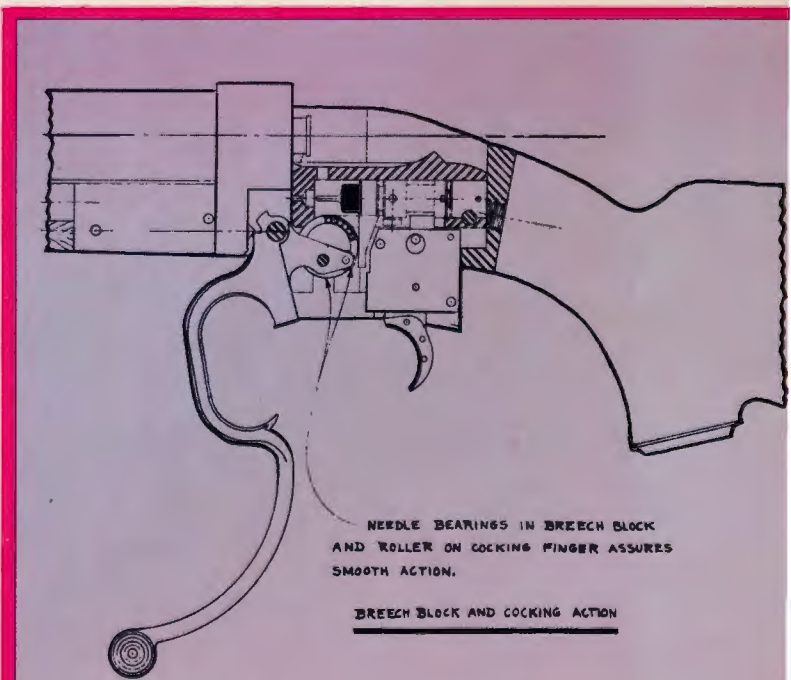
He found such a combination in National Housewares, a wholly owned subsidiary of Emdeko International Incorporated. This rapidly expanding corporation was looking to new areas for diversification, and it had the funds and merchandising know-how to place the up-dated Sharps on the market in a minimum amount of time.

In addition, the many-faceted organization had a ready-made distribution system—the Emdeko nationwide trucking service. This situation engendered plans for the new rifle to be sold directly to dealers, eliminating the jobber-wholesaler. “With our facilities, we believe we can—by doing away with the middleman—give better service and faster deliveries to dealers. Parts or guns ordered on Monday should be in the dealer’s hands by the following Friday. In addition, direct selling to retailers means that we can offer the gun at a lower price,” Mr. Swanson said.

When an agreement was reached between Mr. Swanson, National Housewares, and Emdeko International, the full resources of the giant parent organization were thrown behind the development of the new Sharps. “I was able to draw on the combined talent of some of the best engineering brains in the country,” Mr. Swanson enthused. “Specialists were involved all the way through—from final design



Top: P.O. Ackley and Art Swanson at Sharps exhibit.  
Below: Drawing indicates Timkin bearings in action.







and engineering, to setting up plans for production, marketing and distribution."

Corporate headquarters for the new Sharps Arms Company is at 5448 Riley Lane, Salt Lake City, Utah. Here, in the huge National Housewares warehouse and service center, the new gun is now being assembled and packaged. Sharps barrels are also manufactured in Salt Lake under the supervision of P. O. Ackley, the world-famous barrel maker. (Mr. Ackley is a vice president of the new company and is in charge of production and testing of the finished rifle.)

Mr. Swanson is president of the firearms company, and retains 20 per cent ownership. The other 80 per cent is owned by Easy Pipella, Mike Pipella, Keith Bigler, David Bigler, Edward Gilson and Frank Nelson, Jr.; these men are vice presidents of the company and are also the principal stockholders of Emdeko. E. L. Keesee, a former gun magazine editor, is the marketing director for the new firm.

Interest in the new rifle is running high, according to Mr. Swanson, with many orders being placed far in advance of production.

"Dealer acceptance has been exceptional," he said. "We have received letters and inquiries from hundreds of dealers throughout this country, and from Canada, Australia, South Africa, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, England, Italy, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Brazil and Peru. We have been accepting orders since the NSGA show in February, and the initial production run has long been sold out. We even have advance orders for several of the \$2500 grades, and have already received some queries on the \$5,000 grades," Mr. Swanson reported.

Earlier this year, initial deliveries of the new rifles to dealers were scheduled for the latter part of May and the first part of June. But because of some minor changes that were decided

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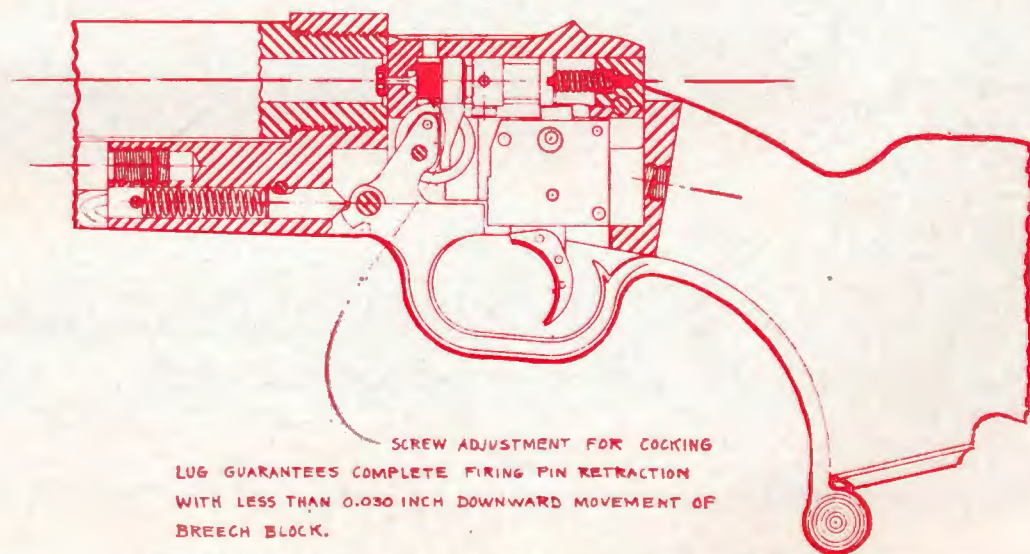
The Sharps rifle accepts a low mounted scope, and is available in calibers large enough for big bear.

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Above: Art Swanson, right, developer of the new Sharps, points out features to the author.



upon for the tooling equipment, this date had to be postponed thirty days. At the time of this writing, deliveries were scheduled to begin in early July, with delivery on a volume basis expected to begin sometime in September.

"Our production for the first twelve months of operation will exceed 10,000 units," Mr. Swanson said. "And we already have materials and components on order for an additional 10,000 rifles."

The new rifles—designated the Sharps Model 78, and offered initially

in 18 different calibers, including the .17-222 Sharps (that kicks a 22-grain bullet out of the barrel at nearly 4500 fps), the new .270 Sharps, the .348 Sharps H. V., and the .45-75 and .50-70 Sharps H. V.—is of entirely U. S. Manufacture, and uses no synthetic materials in its assembly. In addition to the new, hot "Sharps" calibers, the Model 78 is available in a variety of popular chamberings ranging from the .22 Hornet on up to the .300 H&H Magnum and the 9.3X74R.

The Model 78 is now offered in several barrel weights in 26-, 30-, and

34-inch lengths. Because of the extremely short action, a 30-inch barrel on this rifle gives an overall length comparable to a standard bolt action arm having a 24-inch barrel. This extra barrel length makes it possible to achieve higher velocities with the slow-burning powders used today, and yet does not make the rifle's overall length unwieldy. (With the lightweight 26-inch barrel, the Model 78 looks downright short—it should make an excellent "mountain rifle.")

The basic rifle is offered in the "De-

(Continued on page 60)



# AGAWAM MODEL



## TEST REPORT

By MASON WILLIAMS

**I**T'S NOT very often that youngsters have a chance to get their hands on a real, western-type lever action rifle that doesn't cost an arm and a leg, and which is safe for them to use. Agawam Arms has just put out their new Model "68" in caliber .22, and your dealer has it in stock now.

In my opinion, this little beauty should turn out to be a hit with the youngsters and also with the parents. The moment I saw this 5½ pound rifle I thought "what a perfect first rifle for a youngster."

The Model "68" looks exactly like the classic lever action rifle and the kids like this traditional eye appealing design. Agawam has used regular ordnance steel for the barrel so that it should outlast several youngsters—even in a large family.

The eighteen inch barrel is rifled and chambered for the

.22 Short, Long and Long Rifle cartridges. The action resembles the old favorite Martini falling block action with a falling breech that has been machined out of alloy steel, hardened and tempered. Thus the two vital parts of the rifle are solid steel—the breech and the barrel.

Despite its looks, the Agawam is a single shot rifle that has the hang and feel of a center fire rifle. It's not large—it's compact and points and handles like a carbine. Mine is well finished and fitted for the price. The barrel and the dummy magazine tube are both nicely blued. All the other metal parts have been made of precision cast alloy with a dull, soft black finish. The rifle and mechanism appear to be pinned together and the only screws I can find hold the butt plate to the stock and lock the forend band into place. This means that little fingers cannot take apart the rifle to





Ten shots at twenty-five yards from a rest, standing, turned in this size group. The only sight adjustment needed was a two click rise in elevation. Note that the styling is of the "old west" type that most kids like.



"see what makes it work," as they are inclined to do.

The mechanism appears to be so simple that it should be long lasting and trouble free. The lever is spring loaded to hold it snugly against the stock. A downward push cams the breech block out of what feels like a snap lock and then the forward end of the breech block drops smartly down to expose the rear of the chamber, pivoting on a heavy steel pin. The top of the breech block has been cut and grooved to provide guidance for the cartridge, making it easier to insert a cartridge into the chamber. The firing pin extends through the rear of the breech block to become clearly visible as the rear of the block cams up for reloading. The cartridge must be pushed well into the breech before trying to close the breech block.

After firing, the ejector snaps the cases out, throwing

them about six feet to the right and rear. Every now and then the ejector will only extract the fired case. I believe this is due to the variations in the cartridge case rims, allowing the ejector to partially slip by the case rim. This is not serious because the fired case can be easily pulled out of the chamber with the fingers.

The hammer and trigger assembly work independent of the breech block so that the hammer may be pulled back at any time; similarly, the breech block may be camed down or up regardless of the hammer position. After firing, the hammer rests on the rear of the firing pin but as soon as the lever is pushed down to eject the fired case, the hammer goes on a half cock. The moment the lever goes down, it would appear that the rifle cannot possibly fire. From what I could discover, (Continued on page 72)





# Bushnell | BORE SIGHTER

## TEST REPORT

By LES BOWMAN



IT SEEMS TO BE a habit with most of us to accept, quite casually, the numerous mechanical devices that have been made for our use, particularly if they do their work adequately and without trouble. This is especially true of those items that we are well acquainted with and have used for some time. It is only when the designer makes a new improvement on one of his well tested items that we seem to find many things wrong with it. We don't even try to find out why we don't like it, although we should realize that any of the well established companies are not going to put any device on the market that is not really an improvement.

An instance of this is the latest addition to Dave Bushnell's excellent line of optical equipment. This is the new Collimator and its accessories. The Collimator only, is accepted without question, as it is as nearly perfect in design and quality as can be made and in fact is very like the Collimators we are already familiar with and have used many times. This new item is offered with the regular, solid, spring-loaded arbors, but they also offer, and recommend, their new tapered, expanding arbor. It takes only three of these arbors to cover the caliber sizes from .224 to .458, as compared with 16 to 24 arbors to cover this caliber line when one uses the old type solid arbor.

Collimation or lining up of the sights of a rifle with the barrel bore, has been done for many years, by bore sighting. This is done by holding the rifle very solidly in a vise or by some arrangement so the bore aligns a target or mark



at some distance from the rifle muzzle and then setting the sights or 'scope to align with the same mark. This is not as easy as it sounds and some shooters never do get very good at it. The result is a lot of ammunition burned up trying to get the gun to group its shots on the target.

A few years ago a master optical genius, in California, John Sweany, brought out a low cost, easy to use optical gadget that could be mounted on an arbor or spud that slipped into the muzzle end of the barrel. This enabled him to set the sights or 'scope, within reasonably close limits of the bullseye of a target positioned at normal sighting-in ranges.

This method was far more reliable than the old bore sighting method and with a bit of practice, could be used by most anyone. It was the first time that a mechanical instrument had been offered to the public that made it possible to set a gun's sights to reasonable tolerances, without firing it. However, it did have its limitations. With this collimator a gun could be sighted in, to approximately a few inches of the bullseye, at 100 yards. After the rifle was sighted individually, for more exact groups, the Collimator could be installed and a check made of the collimator reading in relation to the sight. A repeat reading later would verify whether or not the 'scope had lost its original zero. If it had it was an easy thing to set it back to the proper reading by referring to the first reading made by the collimator.

The Sweany Collimator is marketed by the Alley Supply Company, Box 458, Sonora, California, 95370, under the trade name of Site-O-Line. Each Collimator comes with one spud or arbor in whatever caliber size the customer ordered. Extra arbors cost from \$3.85 each on up. If you owned a number of rifles in different calibers it would take a lot of arbors for all of them and it is very possible to have more invested in arbors than in the Collimator.

It was several years after this first Collimator came out before anything like it was put on the market to furnish competition and when one did appear the instrument and spud principal was about the same but the reticle was highly improved, as regards accuracy, in the first reading and in verifying repeat readings. . . This new Collimator was made in Japan and marketed by W. J. Collins of Shephardsville, Kentucky, 40165. This reticle had a fine grid of squares radiating outward from a common center instead of the diagonal crosshairs. The center of the grid was a set of heavier crosshairs and the grid squares were numbered from 1 to 10 each way from the center. Each of these tiny squares amounted to approximately 4 inches of 'scope setting, at 100 yards.

Right after the Collins Collimator came on the market John Sweany changed his reticle from the cross hair type to one that he called a circle type. This reticle had 7 circles, graduated in size, with spacings approximating 1½ inches at 100 yards for the width of the back circles and 4 inches at 100 yards for the width of the distance between circles.

Since the Collins instrument, called the BulletCo., came on the market there has been a number of other Collimators, using different trade names, put on the market. They are all of the same general type and design as the Sweany or Collins.

One of the best known of our domestic Optical companies is the D. P. Bushnell & Co., Inc., Bushnell Building, Pasadena, California, 91107. For many years Dave Bushnell has been marketing excellent Japanese-made optical devices, from telescope sights to the finest of binoculars



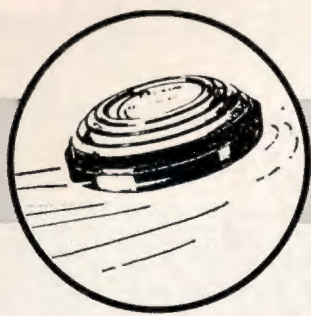
Top: The Collimator itself is similar to other makes, but the adjustable arbors are a new Bushnell concept.

and camera lenses. Now he has put his own version of a collimator on the market. It is designed very much on the same lines as those already out and uses the same type spuds or arbors. It is equipped with a 4 inch grid type reticle.

However, he has introduced a new, cleverly designed, tapered, expanding arbor, along with the regular solid spring loaded type. Each of these new expanding type arbors can take care of several caliber sizes. For instance, three arbors can take care of all caliber sizes from .224 to .450. This reduces the size of your collimator package and also reduces the cost of a complete outfit.

When my set of these new arbors and the Bushnell Bore-Sighter arrived I immediately dismantled one of the new arbors to examine it thoroughly. I made several trial tests with the Bore-Sighter on both of the new arbors, and on my regular Sweany solid type. I did find that the instruction sheet furnished with the Bushnell arbors was not very complete as to details about operating the new type arbors; not placing enough emphasis (Continued on page 72)





# PULL!

By DICK MILLER

**T**RAP READING is very big in trap-shooting today. At least stories about trap reading are very big with trap shooters today. The practice seems to have become so widespread that even such an august body as the ATA executive committee has discussed the problem with the supplier for traps at the Grand American. Devices to interrupt the cycle of electric timing mechanisms used on the traps so that traps cannot be "read" are being advertised in shooting journals.

Because GUNS Magazine, and this column, are read by shooters who are not practicing trapgunners, I hasten to explain that "reading a trap" means that the shooter times his shot in sequence with the trap so that he will receive a known target (or straight-away) as opposed to the "unknown angle" principle which has generally governed competitive trap shooting during its century of existence.

Reading a trap, in one sense, is not unlike conspiring with a trap boy to receive known angles during the days of hand-pulled traps, except that it is done unilaterally and does not require a conspiracy with another person.

Again, for the uninitiated, before electric trap pullers became common, the target was released by a hand pull, and the target angle regulated by a boy (or man) in the trap house who regulated the angle by the position in which he set the trap arm which threw the clay target. This is now done by an electric solenoid, or timing switch. It was at least rumored, in the days of hand-pulls and hand-set angles, that some shooters bribed or conspired with the trap boy to give them predictable targets, which were a decided advantage to an avaricious shooter. The reader may have determined by now that trap reading is a sensitive subject, at least with some shooters. Sensitive or not, because I have not touched on the practice during the eleven years of this column's life, here goes.

I should preface all that I have to say by making it clear that I have never read a trap, and don't intend to start at this late date, even if it re-

mains possible to do so. My reasons for not reading a trap, and for being opposed in principle to trap reading, are not all high-flying and virtuous.

I agree with the great Vic Reinders, writing in "Trap & Field," who said that he hoped the practice could be eliminated by mechanical or electrical means if for no other reason that after breaking a seventy-five straight, he hated to lose a target by getting the idea that he might read the trap, then flinch horribly when the wrong target appeared. One of my own most compelling reasons for not reading a trap is that when some little wheels start going around in my alleged brain, and somehow convince me that the next target is going to be a predictable angle, and said target appears from another angle, my gun muzzle makes eleven full circles around the target trajectory, the gun fires at what often seems to be a ninety degree angle from the target's path, I fall off the post, and the scorekeeper marks a fat "zero" on the score sheet. This is not conducive to general tranquillity. It may be indicative that I have a one-track brain, but my conclusion is that it is about all I can do at one time to concentrate on breaking the target without also having to think about reading the trap or any other extraneous subject.

I will go so far as to say that if I had to pick the winner between a shooter who concentrated only on breaking the target, no matter where it was, or one who was trying to read a trap and also break the target, I'll take the single-minded soul every time. I also like to think that when I break a good score, I broke it solely on the basis of shooting ability, aided by a little providence and good luck, and not because I was able to read a trap and gain some kind of an advantage on my fellow shooters. I can't help feeling that a trophy or purse won by trap reading wouldn't be quite as personally rewarding as one awarded for the ability to break targets alone. After all, trap is a game, as we are inclined to forget on occasion, and the game does not in my view in-

clude reading a trap to get a "cripple" or "set-up".

Incidentally, I never bribed or conspired with a trap boy either, probably for the same reasons that I don't read traps, and don't intend to. For reasons that have nothing to do with sportsmanship, honesty, or morality, I would advise the new shooter who hasn't started to read traps to keep it that way. I am firmly convinced that the shooter who thinks of one thing only, that one thing being breaking the target, will be a better shooter over the long haul than the shooter who is trying to live with a mental smorgasbord. And, in my humble opinion, he will not only shoot better, but feel better inside, and that's important too.

Those shooters who read traps are most certainly entitled to their own opinions, and if any of you feel strongly about the subject, I'll be happy to give you equal time in future issues.

For one last word to the non-trap-shooter, I should explain that under the rules of trap, trap reading is not presently illegal. It does seem to contravene the principle of unknown angles, but it is not against the rules as they are now written.

• • •

"Trap & Field" magazine's All-Around Average Awards for outstanding shooting records in 1968 make interesting reading, and at the same time provide some real goals for new shooters. Incidentally, six of the ten top award winners hit the winner's circle for the first time on the basis of their 1968 averages.

Two Texans topped the tallies. Wichita Falls' Larry Gravestock racked up an all-around average of .9631, only .0007 off the record, to top the list. His .9631 came from .9908 on 4,600 16-yard targets, .9301 on 3,950 handicap birds, and .9683 on 1,800 doubles. His victory was not hurt by his record-breaking and mind-boggling feat of breaking three hundred straights in doubles during one four-week period. That, my friends, is shooting!

One of Gravestock's major head-to-head opponents, another Texan, Jack Morris thrived on the competition, and finished the year with an All-Around .9610. He arrived at his .9610 by shattering .9973 of 2,600 16-yards, .9273 on 2,300 handicap, and .9584 on 1,250 doubles braces.

Arnold Smith, from Trenton, Ohio also posted .9610, being helped along to that figure by the second highest handicap average in the nation, .9356 on 1,600 targets. His doubles mark was .9587 on 800 clays, and at 16-yards, he blasted .9887 of 3,300 singles.



Although his Air Force duties didn't allow him much time in Hillsboro, Oregon, Tom Garrigus found time to clobber targets for an All-Around average of .9609. This average came from .9933 on the 16-yard line, .9338 from handicap yardage, and .9555 on the twin targets.

Those shooters who fear long yardage, especially 27 yards, can take heart from the performance of Frank Little, of Endicott, New York. He fired 2,300 shots from the maximum yardage, and broke .9300 of the targets. His All-Around was .9591, which included besides the 27-yard birds, .9858 on his 3,400 singles, and .9614 on 1,350 doubles.

Loral Delaney from Anoka, Minnesota made the squad for the first time, but she made it big. Her .9393 sets a new record. She cracked .9772 on 2,500 16-yard targets, mastered .9166 at handicap, on 1,500 recorded targets, and didn't hurt her chances with .9242 at 950 doubles.

A hardy perennial, Punkin Flock, from Miami, Florida ranked second among the ladies with her .9200. Her .9157 on 3,050 doubles targets topped all the men in Florida, and her .9752 of 4,450 16-yard clays was topped by only one Florida male. Her handicap mark was .8692 for 2,600 shots.

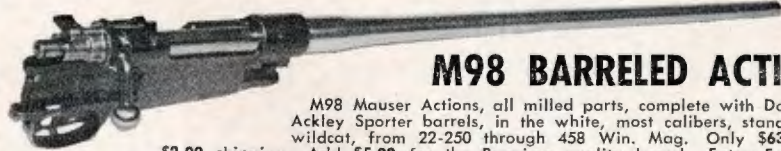
Hoosier Doug Bedwell, a handsome lad from my native state not only bested a lot of Hoosiers, but topped the nation's juniors in the T&F All-Around. His record .9546 came from .9277 on 3,100 handicap birds, supported by .9888 on 5,100 16-yard efforts, and .9472 of 1,800 doubles.

Mark Huff, from Minot, South Dakota, whom we all hope is not under water as this is written, took the second junior spot with an average of .9424. He recorded .9382 on 2,750 singles, .9021 on 1,850 handicap targets, and a fine .9420 on 1,500 doubles.

Another Oregonian, Ken Jones, of LaGrande, led the T&F Industry Division. He blasted .9800 of 3,300 16-yard targets, posted .9040 from 2,250 handicap birds, and closed strongly with .9400 on the doubles line, for 1,450 shots.

• • •

Trapshooting in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area is truly a family affair. Dr. & Mrs. Robert D. Mullenberger won men's and ladies high score at a recent Philadelphia Country Club event, with scores just one target apart. At a Torresdale-Frankford CC event, you had to be a member of the William E. Frost family to win, or so it seemed. Mr. & Mrs. Frost Sr. won high man and high lady in 16-yard, and their grandson, Bill Remmey, Jr. won both Handicap matches.



## M98 BARRELED ACTIONS

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## TALES HUNTERS TELL

(Continued from page 29)

Norma's or even a .375, and could shoot it accurately and without flinching, they could use it. I did try to convince them that this size was entirely unnecessary for game of elk size and that the various 7 mm Magnums and the .30 Magnums were far better, as they retained their energy in foot pounds better and shot flatter for those way out shots.

The necessity of placing the bullets correctly is just as important with a big bore rifle as it is with one of the smaller calibers. It is easier to make an accurate and correct bullet placement with one of the high velocity, easy-to-shoot calibers than with one of the heavy, slower big bore rifles, with its rapid bullet drop. Also, I have found that most people really do flinch, if they use the heavy recoil rifles much.

The hardest animal to kill in North America, according to many writers, is the bear, and this even includes our black bear. I am sure that whatever it is that makes an otherwise cool headed hunter stand up and just start throwing lead when he sees a bear has promoted this "hard to kill myth". And myth it is, because a bear, even a mountain grizzly, dies as quickly and easily as any game animal if hit in the right place, and it doesn't take a cannon to do it, either.

Whenever you read one of those stories that tell of a hunter taking about 17 or more shots to kill a bear while he is chasing it all over the proverbial "half acre," you can be sure he is doing more shooting than aiming. It seems to me that if I was that poor a shot I'd keep quiet about it. I have been in on the kill of over 60 grizzlies and hundreds of black bear taken by our hunters, and when ever a hunter had to shoot one repeatedly, examination revealed that his bullet placement was bad, or he had been using poorly structured bullets that blew up on impact.

Sometimes a hunter is not familiar enough with the build and shape of a bear to place his bullet in a vital area. A shot high in the hump of a grizzly will not put him down for keeps and I have seen a grizzly run for a mile after being gut-shot with a big caliber rifle. I have seen one shot in the heart run almost as far before it died. It is this type of incident that makes a hunter think the bear is so tough to kill. One forgets that deer, antelope or elk will do the same thing.

In shooting a bear, a shoulder shot

is one of the best, if made properly. I do not like to make a shoulder shot on any game animal that is shot for the meat, but for bear it is a good shot. However, the bullet must hold together and penetrate well for a good killing shot. A spine shot, made from the rear of a bear is always fatal. In fact, a bear is built so that his tail is *almost* in the center of his hind quarters, and a spine shot made from the rear is an easy one to make. Bear that are standing on their back feet, looking at the shooter, are easy to hit in a vital spot. A bullet put in the V, where the neck joins the chest, will go on through and hit the spine. I killed two big grizzly with this type of shot, at about 65 yards distance. I was using my .280 Remington and 160 grain bullets. The bullets went through and left a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch exit hole in back. At these distances, instant kills are necessary or the shooter may well have a truthful and terrifying tale to tell.

I remember one instance of poor shot placement by a hunter using a .338 Winchester and good game bullets. He was shooting from a blind at a big grizzly on the bait about 96 yards distance. The hunter made his first shot, using as a rest the hard and solid limb of a cedar tree without any padding under the rifle barrel. This helped to make his shot go high; then his estimate of where the shoulder point was, due to the high hump on the bear, caused him to hold higher than he should. The result was only a hump shot that set the bear to whirling like a top. He took off in a hurry, leaving a blood trail that soon faded out entirely. If he had not headed for and tried to climb a steep cliff he would have gotten away.

Another hunter lost a prize grizzly trophy at this same bait spot some years earlier. The bear had been standing broadside to him and he had hit him in exactly the right place on the shoulder point. I was watching through a pair of 9x35 Bausch & Lomb's, that brought that bear right up close. I saw dirt, hair and blood fly in all directions, and the big bear started rolling down hill, disappearing in the trees. We followed a blood trail until it quit and we never did find that grizzly. This time it was not a case of a tough bear but of a weak bullet. I found out that the hunter had been using light jacketed bullets of varmint type and the bullet just blew up, without penetration, making





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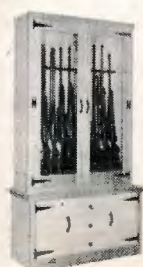
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The toughest animal I know of, pound for pound weight considered, is the little prairie dog; the rock chuck is next. However, I have never heard of these animals described as being hard to kill, but believe me if they are not hit properly you don't get 'em. I think the antelope can take more paunch and body shots, and run away, than any animal I know of, but it doesn't take a large caliber rifle to "kill" one. I think the various 6 mm's are the finest deer and antelope rifles built, they are fast, flat shooting and accurate. An antelope will run just as far and fast with bad shot from a .338 as it would if you were using a 6 mm, so why not pick the easiest to carry and shoot and then learn how to shoot it accurately and put the shot in the right spot.

I recently read an article by a shooter who liked the big bore rifles. He told of seeing five or six hunters in one camp—all using medium bore rifles in the 7 mm and .30 caliber class—shoot at and wound elk, with all the animals getting away. You can just bet your bottom dollar that if they did shoot that many elk and they did all get away this is one of the best jobs of placing shots incorrectly that I have ever heard of.

During the more than twenty years that I operated a big game hunting outfit, I never had a hunter "charged by a wounded elk" or chased by "an enraged bear". I did have one guide jumped by a she grizzly when he got between her and her cub, but he hadn't even fired a shot. He just happened to step between her and the cub, both of them being hid by low brush and she knocked him off his feet, rolled him around a little, ruined his binoculars and a cigarette case, called her cub and took off up the trail, right past Golden, my saddle horse. When Roy collected himself and got his breath back, he climbed on Golden and rode back to camp.

I am still convinced that if a hunter picks a good rifle of any of the medium calibers, learns how to shoot it well and where to place his shots in the different kinds of game, and uses the right kind of bullets for the job at hand, he will find that all game animals can be killed quickly and quite easily. This should be satisfaction enough without all those terrifying experiences.

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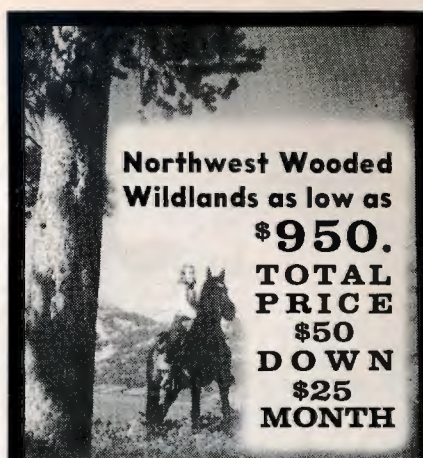
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(Continued from page 36)

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tional competition in past years: (Again, listed in no particular order)

Morris R. Fisher, a World Champion in Rifle, a National Champion in pistol and outstanding in both.

Thomas R. Mitchell, a member of several U. S. Teams and a National record holder in rifle and pistol.

Col. Walter R. Walsh, a frequent winner in U.S. competition in both rifle and pistol and a member of several U. S. Teams.

General Sidney R. Hinds, Sr., A member of the 1932-36 Olympic Teams and a frequent winner in both rifle and pistol.

Dr. Emmet O. Swanson, who competed actively and successfully for 45 years and was a member of more U.S. teams than any other person from 1924 through 1960.

George A. Rehm, U. S. Army, an outstanding rifleman.

I'd like to qualify my eulogizing of these nine named above by pointing out that there have been riflemen, pistol marksmen, and shotgun shooters who have won world wide recognition in one particular type of shooting or other, and in that particular type stood as high and in some cases higher than any of the nine. However only these nine have won that almost legendary "Triple Distinguished," and for my money they are the "solid gold" of the shooting-sport in the U.S.A.

## THE G.I. HANDGUN

(Continued from page 21)

as the .45 Government model either.

Let us review briefly the requirements for a military pistol. We should keep firmly in mind that a handgun is a poor weapon for combat. As Bill Jordan says, "If you think you are going to have a fight, get something else. A shot gun is a lot better, but a policeman can't carry a shoulder weapon around with him." Neither can those soldiers who really need pistols. Even the heavy, clumsy, hard-to-get-into-action .45 is weak compared to any shoulder weapon, and less accurate.

Pistols are still required, however, for soldiers and Marines whose primary duty is something other than fighting. Western armies which have tried to abolish pistols have failed. The British were down to one pistol

per rifle battalion in 1957, but they have increased the number considerably since then. One reason we still have our .45 is that early in WW II the U.S. M1 Carbine was supposed to replace all the 1911A1's. The idea was good in theory, but did not work out in practice.

The .45 is often supposed to be necessary because of a series of events which took place long ago, mostly before the Model 1911 was even invented. After the Spanish-American War, the U.S. fought in the Philippines, in part against fanatic Moros. Our regulation side arm at that time was the Model 1892 Cal. 38 revolver. There were instances in which a Moro would attack unexpectedly and kill an American with his bolo even after being hit by one or more .38 revolver



bullets. Cal. 45 revolvers did better. But neither the .38 nor the .45 of this era has anything to do with the best known modern .38, the .38 Special, nor the .45 ACP, the cartridge used in the Model 1911A1. The .38 cartridge fired in the Model 1892 revolver was the .38 Long Colt with muzzle energy of between 140 to 175 foot pounds (fp). The Philippines .45 was the old .45 Long Colt revolver cartridge with near 500 fp muzzle energy and a 250 grain solid lead bullet. This cartridge was truly a man stopper, but it wouldn't fit into the grip of the Model 1911 "automatic" pistol when it was being designed.

The full metal jacket 230-grain bullet from the modern .45 has only 340 fp of muzzle energy; it won't "knock a man down no matter where it hits him!" In fact, most men in firearms investigation have been astonished at how little damage .45 metal jacketed slugs actually do when they don't hit a vital area. The .45 has nothing like the power of the .357 Magnum (845 fp), the .44 Magnum (1150 fp), or even the U.S. Cal .30 carbine (990 fp). The 9 mm Parabellum (320 to 400 fp), the .38 Special (255 fp), and the .380 ACP (190 fp) are sufficiently powerful to kill men.

It would appear unlikely that U.S. servicemen armed only with pistols will meet many fanatical Philippine Moros. But GI's like other young men of wealthy nations insist on being armed so they can defend themselves even if their military jobs don't allow them to carry a rifle and a basic load of ammo for it. Some Americans, perhaps in part because of their long familiarity with the effectiveness of pistols in the hands of Gary Cooper, John Mack Brown, and John Wayne, want a side arm as well as a shoulder weapon. Our allies in Vietnam have been quick to acquire this trait.

Since a military pistol is required, what qualities should it possess? We have already discussed power. In the past, accuracy has been considered to be of extreme importance. The 1911A1 National Match as issued at Perry in 1967 is the most accurate military pistol in the world. It may even be the most accurate center fire pistol ever produced in large numbers. In common with many more skillful Distinguished Pistol Medal winners, I have enormous respect for the accuracy of this weapon. Even the standard issue Model 1911A1 is capable of real fine shooting in the hands of a Master.

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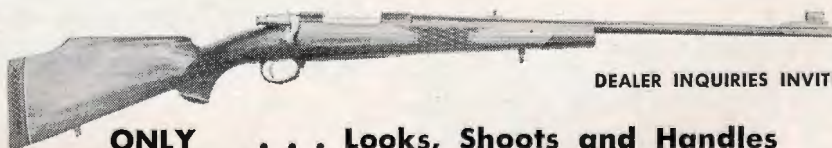
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at stationary black and white targets at precisely 50 or 25 yards. In combat, a soldier or Marine would have to use a shoulder weapon for even 25 yard shooting in order to hit anything. GI's won't be effective with a pistol beyond ten yards. Riflemen using the M14 or M16 sometimes miss at ten feet; pistol marksmanship is sure to be worse.

Even though the .45 is inherently accurate at ranges up to 50 yards and beyond, the average recruit can't learn to shoot it with even reasonable competence in the limited time he has for pistol training. Only an unusual man, or someone with pre-induction firearms opportunities, becomes an acceptable pistol shot in his first tour of duty. The big powerful .45 is about the most difficult handgun to master. A weapon with lighter recoil which fitted the average hand more naturally would be better. But improvement in this area might not

must be carried is more important than weapon weight alone. Soldiers and Marines spend many thousand man-days in vehicles, aircraft, and on foot carrying around a pistol for each time they will ever use it in anger. The .45 is the worst of the entire lot in weight.

The 1911A1 is also the poorest in regard to convenience of carrying, although the big revolvers are also bad. The least inconvenient as well as the lightest pistols for normal military use seem to be the S&W Model 39, the Sauer Double Action, and the small revolvers in belt holsters at, or close to, the waist.

I realize I may be prejudiced by my own experience in the above conclusion. I have used only S&W 2" barreled revolvers carried in "high up" clam-shell type belt holsters for more than 20 years, including two fairly extensive trips to Vietnam as a civilian newsman. I put both the weapon and



Turkish military, shown with Turkish copy of Walther PP.

be significant. A military handgun is mainly for self confidence and emergency self protection at close range.

Important characteristics of military pistols other than power and accuracy are weight, how conveniently they can be carried, how quickly they can be fired, and whether they can be carried and used safely. I compared a number of semi-automatic pistols and revolvers, which could be used for military purposes, to the Model 1911-A1. As shown in Table "A," all are lighter than the .45 both as regards weapon weight unloaded and with ammo, holster, and belt if a separate belt is required. Total weight that

holster and a small ammo carrier on my trouser belt slightly to the right of the buckle. I am not conscious of having a weapon at all. It has never come out of the holster accidentally, nor given any other trouble. The .38 Special ammo used in both the Centennial and the Bodyguard appears to me to be powerful enough.

Safety-wise, the .45 also ranks at the bottom of the list. As already mentioned, it cannot be carried safely and ready to fire at the same time. The other three "automatics" tested can all be carried loaded, but with the hammer down. They can be fired, however, just by pulling the trigger.



Removing the magazine renders the S&W Model 39 and the Sauer Double Action safe; you don't need to struggle through the dangerous procedure of unloading the chamber also.

The question of safety between revolvers and semi-automatics has been debated at length over the years. Many men, including most of those who decide on what type of pistols will be used by American police departments, believe that revolvers are inherently safer than "automatics." Certainly the revolvers tested are all safer than the 1911A1.

Now for the most important characteristic of all for those few soldiers and Marines who will need to use a pistol to defend their lives. I refer to the speed with which they can get at the weapon where it is normally carried, draw, and fire. It's not necessary, or perhaps even desirable, for GI's to learn fast draw techniques under police combat competitive conditions, but they should not be given a weapon which requires more than six seconds to get into action. If a pistol is necessary, even for self confidence, it should be fireable under normal circumstances in three seconds. This is impossible with the .45.

I realize that Major Bill McMillan, USMC, and a few others like him can do better than three seconds with the 1911A1 from standard holsters, but this isn't meaningful. McMillan could probably learn to use a crossbow well enough to beat me shooting a pistol in Timed Fire. He and his talented colleagues are not recruits; percentage-wise, they are insignificant.

In order to find out how long it takes to get a weapon into action, it is necessary actually to do this many times with each pistol tested. Six men of varying experience kindly agreed to help me in my experiments, a total of seven including myself. Two of us are competitive shooters; three are policemen. The remaining two had initially almost no pistol experience. As a group, we were not significantly different from GI's primarily armed with handguns in Vietnam.

We all fired the same four stage course at 30 feet. We used a life-size target in which the heart area counts five, the rest of the trunk and head four, and the arms and legs one. We stood with hands fully extended at our sides and were timed from the word "Go!" to the second shot we fired after each draw. I wanted to avoid, if possible, rapid and meaningless first round misses. In an emergency a man can easily miss with his first shot, but I tried to emphasize that all our firing was experimental, not

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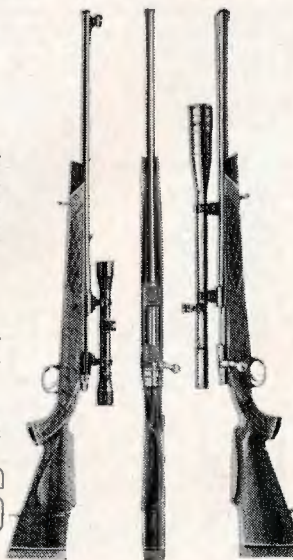
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on and the holster from which it was  
to be drawn, especially in connection  
with safety, he fired ten pairs of shots.  
Sometime after he said "Ready!" he  
would be given the command, "Go!"  
Both elapsed time and total score  
were recorded for each pair. The  
stages were as follows:

Stage I: The 1911A1 with .45 ACP  
military ball ammo. Each shooter was  
free to choose either the standard belt  
holster or the GI shoulder type, but  
we arranged our choices so there were  
three with one and four with the oth-  
er. We had to start with the flap but-  
toned down, or safety strap snapped.  
We all followed the standard proce-  
dure of loading a round into the  
chamber from magazine by working  
the slide before the first shot.

Stage II: The Smith and Wesson  
Model 39 or the post-war Walther  
P-38 from either a shoulder or "high  
up" belt holster. Each man chose his  
weapon and his rig, but we fired  
enough groups of ten pairs including  
some refire strings to get at least three  
records for each weapon with each  
holster type.

Stage III: Heavy revolvers with  
3 1/2" or 4" barrels of the standard  
American double action type from  
either Jordan-type or "high up" belt-  
type holsters. As above, we obtained  
at least three recordings for each  
weapon with each holster type. We  
used .38 Special ammo, although both  
weapons could handle .357 Magnums.

Stage IV: Light .38 Special revolv-  
ers with 2" barrels or the Sauer Dou-  
ble Action semi-automatic from the  
Hunter clam-shell "high-up" belt hol-  
ster. Again we fired enough to get at  
least three strings with each weapon.

#### CONCLUSIONS BASED ON EXPERIMENTS

The Government .45 required an  
average of 6.72 seconds for two shots  
to be fired. This is more than two sec-  
onds longer than for any other type  
of pistol tested. It makes little differ-  
ence whether a belt holster or a  
shoulder holster is used. This margin  
against the .45 is probably on the low  
side. The procedure of drawing, jack-  
ing a round into the chamber, and  
then firing is complicated. In an actual  
encounter in the field where a man  
has to go for his gun unexpectedly, he  
would probably be even slower. The  
reaching for an already loaded rev-  
olver or double-action "automatic"  
is simpler and more instinctive. The  
only good thing about the Model 1911

was that the average score of 9.05 was  
higher than with the other weapons,  
but probably not by a significant mar-  
gin. In all our firing with all weapons,  
only the two new shooters failed to  
score at least one "4" out of their two  
shots.

The S&W Model 39 and the Walther  
P-38 double action semi-automatic  
pistols are both superior to the .45 in  
time required to draw and fire, but  
slightly poorer than the revolvers.  
The weapons used in this stage were  
considerably faster than "high up"  
belt holsters, however, than from the  
military shoulder type, partly because  
we did our test firing with the safety  
strap buttoned down.

The heavy frame revolvers were a  
disappointment. We expected them to



Revolvers in .38 Special caliber;  
issued to USAF and Marine flyers,  
but not to the ground personnel.

be the fastest of all weapons tested  
and as accurate as the "automatics."  
They were not. Further, the Jordan-  
type holster would not be satisfactory  
for military use because the weapon  
and holster project out from the body.  
They look good and feel good stand-  
ing, but would be inconvenient into  
and out of vehicles and aircraft. The



pistols are too heavy to be worn comfortably in "high up" belt holsters and would have to be secured in place with a safety strap most of the time. This would add about a second to the time required to fire two shots.

We all realize that many men can draw and fire these heavy revolvers in less than one second, but we can't. It takes more practice than any of us has had. We realize further that we should be able to fire the big revolvers from Jordan-type holsters faster than we can the little fellows from the "calm-shell" type. All we can say is that it didn't work out that way.

The 2" barrel revolvers and the Sauer Double Action semi-automatic are the lightest and easiest to carry that we tested. They interfere with a man performing normal military duties both in combat and elsewhere less than the others and are also the quickest to get out and fire. The .38 Special cartridge has, or could have even from a 2" barrel, in excess of 200 fp of muzzle energy. Weapons of this caliber are widely issued to Americans in Vietnam already. If more power were considered necessary, it could be obtained. Experimentally, the little S&W Centennials have been chambered for the .357 Magnum and fired with this ammo for 1,000 rounds without damage to the weapon. They recoil viciously, however, and would not be suitable for training purposes with this ammo.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Some military men assure me that an "automatic" is better for combat than a revolver because it is more easily reloaded by using a second magazine. They also say that soldiers and Marines don't have to get out their weapons and fire quickly. The first is undoubtedly true, but the second is extremely doubtful. What about those six soldiers in Korea? If there is time and if more than five or six shots are to be fired, a GI is better off getting himself a shoulder weapon.

Even if an "automatic" must be retained, the 9 mm's are lighter, quicker, more convenient, safer, and equally powerful. The Smith and Wesson Model 39 is already in production in America; it has been purchased by the Government in small quantities and found satisfactory. If less power

is allowable, a "pocket automatic" like the Russian 9 mm PM could be used. A weapon like the new Heckler and Koch Model 4 in Cal .380 might be ideal. It weighs 20 ounces loaded.

I personally feel that a 2" barrel .38 Special revolver would be better. It is reliable, safe, powerful enough, and sufficiently accurate for personal defense. My aluminum frame Centennial in its clam shell holster with 12 extra rounds in a small belt pouch weighs precisely 28½ ounces. I can draw it and fire two aimed shots in two seconds. Most important of all, it is never inconvenient.

Accuracy with the light revolvers is a problem. None of us in the tests and few young servicemen are good at double action target shooting. We fired enough at 25 yards to realize this; we all missed the entire target occasionally this way. The Cobra and the Bodyguard can be fired single action; our scores improved this way. The Centennial has a grip safety, but it sometimes interferes with quick shooting, especially for men with large hands.

If pistol lightness is important for Americans, it is even more so for our Southeast Asia allies. The .45 is too big for them; recoil is so heavy that they can't fire it accurately even at ten feet. We have seen the great improvement in their combat effectiveness now that they have M16 rifles instead of M1's. It's time that something similar was done in regard to pistols.

The wealthiest country the world has ever seen has used the Model 1911 pistol for nigh on to 60 years. Why carry 80 ounces when 28½ will do the job more efficiently? The .45 is unsuitable for modern conditions of military life as well as combat. The only good reason that I have heard for continuing it on active duty is the cost of a change. Millions of dollars are involved. But considering the daily expenses of the Vietnamese War, the total now seems insignificant. Pistols are not really combat effective, but neither is saturation bombing of empty jungle by B-52's. The human energy presently wasted toting those extra 51½ ounces through paddy and jungle and into and out of all manner of tight places is more important.

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## RETURN OF THE SHARPS

(Continued on page 45)

luxure" grade 1 at a suggested retail price of \$295.00, and a "Premier" grade II at \$399.50. Prices on the "Custom" grade rifles begin at \$495.00 and run merrily on up to \$5,000.00.

The Sharps people are also jumping on the "commemorative" bandwagon with a Golden Spike Centennial issue commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad system in the United States. These Golden Spike models will be offered (in caliber .50-70 Sharps *only*) in cased sets of two and as single rifles, with prices beginning at \$495. (This commemorative issue is at least apropos, as Sharps rifles *were* used by the early railroad men, and the East- and West-driven rails were connected by the ceremonial driving of a golden spike in Utah—the new home of the Sharps.)

Each rifle made by Sharps is shipped with a "lifetime guarantee" that binds the company to repair or replace (with no charge for labor) defective parts during the life of the original owner.

The firm is also in the ammunition business. It is producing a complete line of loaded cartridges for all the new Sharps calibers and for some "standard" calibers. Production of the .17-222 Sharps ammunition will give the U. S. its first commercial .17-caliber load. (Plans are to have ammuni-

tion available either at the same time or very shortly after the first guns are delivered.)

In addition to loaded ammunition, Sharps is also marketing a line of match-grade bullets for handloaders. This line ranges from a 22-grain flat-base match hollow point in .172 caliber, to a .509 caliber 450-grain soft point projectile.

Other projects are also already in the works for the new company. Although Art Swanson and other Sharps executives are extremely close-mouthed about future plans, they will admit that the Model 78 single shot is only the beginning, and that other models will be forthcoming. It is hinted that at least one new addition to the line is scheduled for production beginning the latter part of 1970, and that this will not be of the single-shot type.

One new rifle that is definitely planned for production next year is an ultra-featherweight .257. This will be built around the present Sharps falling block action, and will weigh between 5¼ and 5½ pounds. With the 22-inch barrel, the gun will have an overall length of 36½ inches!

Note: As soon as Sharps rifles are available, Guns Field Editor, Col. Charles Askins, will have a complete test report.—Editor



## NORM FLAYDERMAN

(Continued on page 25)

us a smaller one?" It's absolutely fantastic the way people's minds will work." Despite his best efforts, Flayderman was unable to place the bell in New England, and it was finally purchased "by a very important West Coast museum which even rebuilt the steeple from the original plans to house it in."

The fact is, says Flayderman, he's found "for the most part when I've had historical items which should have stayed in New England, they haven't, because there just aren't that many good historical buyers here, while there are many in other parts of the country interested in items with a New England history."

While Flayderman has handled scores of other rare and valuable items in his career, the one that brought him the most acclaim was the famous sword collection of Phillip

Medicus of New York, which he purchased some years ago. It was, he says, "absolutely the finest, largest, most complete American sword collection ever accumulated. It would be physically impossible to duplicate the feat in this day and age." The collection contained over 800 swords, each different, but each "the finest of its type, ranging from pre-Revolutionary to Spanish American War era, and from the simplest sword of the foot soldier and the crudely forged backwoods sword of the Revolution, to the very ultimate in the gaudy, Victorian-era of presentation generals' swords."

So important was the transaction that "Life" magazine and several other national periodicals featured the collection in extensive color spreads. Flayderman has since disposed of the swords, piece by piece, many going to the museums and col-



lectors all over the world he regularly deals with.

Flayderman currently has in his possession what he calls "undoubtedly one of the greatest rarities in antique firearms, and certainly one of the most historic and important pieces we have ever handled." It is a 30-barrel flintlock "fire carriage" (see photo) that he found in England. Built in the early 18th century, the weapon was, he says, "obviously one of the very first forms of machine guns." He has documents proving it was long in the British Royal family, until presented by King Edward VII in the 1890s to the British Royal United Service Museum.

Still another special piece that came Flayderman's way was an 1873 Winchester rifle, marked "One of 1,000." It is, he says, "the ultimate prize in the Winchester collector's line"—so famous a gun, in fact, that a movie ("Winchester '73") was once made in which it was featured. A few of these were given out as prizes in the middle 1870s by the factory, he says, and supposedly they were "the best of every 1,000 rifles which Winchester made. They are a valuable historic gun for a Winchester collector."

But what made this rifle even more prized was the engraving on it—the name of Granville Stuart, who was known in his lifetime as Mr. Montana, one of the earliest settlers of that state and famed as a vigilante leader of the era. It is the kind of double-value find which a collector is lucky to come upon once in a lifetime, says Flayderman.

The youthful dealer can go on for hours about the prizes which have passed through his hands, and about the profession which requires, more than anything, "living by your wits." He makes thousands of decisions about authenticity and value, and to survive—in competition with other dealers and highly skilled collectors—he must be right nearly all the time.

"You learn it all only by experience," he says, "by handling the items. This is strictly an eyeball-to-eyeball business. You've got to buy a piece, you've got to own it to really get a feeling of it. All the reading in the world—while it is vital—and seeing something in museums and in collections is only the groundwork for actually knowing the value and authenticity of it. You must buy it and own it yourself, and sell it, to find out whether you've gone wrong. "I've learned 90 per cent of this business from the customers themselves, who are specialists in each of the individual items. Like every dealer everywhere, in the early going my walls

were decorated with mistakes. But I think I've profited from them."

Flayderman's extensive antique business is done almost exclusively through the mails (his current catalog lists 2,008 items—just a fraction of the number he has stored in three buildings) and by far mostly with museums and advanced collectors.

But while this business makes great demands on his time, it is but one facet of his enterprises. N. Flayderman, Inc., also publishes a catalog which is a most complete listing of current in-print books on antique and modern weapons, collecting, shooting, military equipment, uniforms, gunsmithing, ammunition, and related subjects. The latest catalog carries over 650 titles, each reviewed by Norm Flayderman himself. The catalog, issued quarterly, is sold to collectors, museums and libraries.

As if that were not enough to keep one young man busy, Flayderman also runs a publishing house which to date has produced 11 books on firearms and other items which his antique business deals in. Flayderman himself has authored two books which are now in various stages of production by a New York firm. The first is on "a special love"—scrimshaw—the second on Civil War recruiting posters.

Scrimshaw, a word made familiar by the late President Kennedy, who was also a devotee, is the art of the American whaling sailor of carving upon whale's teeth. Flayderman's book will run to some 400 pages, with over 1,000 items illustrated, and it will, he says, "tell both the story of scrimshaw and the history of whaling."

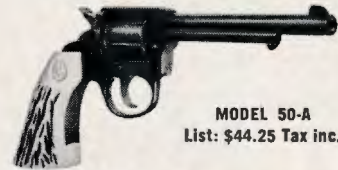
He is especially enthusiastic about the book on Civil War recruiting posters, because it illustrates what he calls "the ultimate thrill of this collecting business." The 300 posters "were originally collected for their romantic appeal and for their pictorial beauty," he says, "but a strange thing happened when we put them in chronologic sequence for the book: we suddenly had before us the whole history of the Civil War, the whole history of recruiting and the whole history of drafting. You could see in

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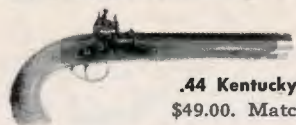
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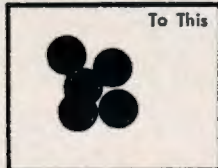
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these posters how public feeling throughout the period of the war changed—from super-patriotism at the beginning of the war to complete apathy at the end.

Putting this all together in book form perfectly illustrates what Flayderman calls "the most exciting and rewarding part of collecting: collecting for the specific purpose of studying the subject, writing about it, and adding something brand spanking new to the collection field through publication. That is the real thrill any collector can have."

Flayderman's unique place as a collector has been widely recognized, through appointment to various fellowships (such as the Company of Military Historians) and authoritative positions (staff arms consultant, Springfield Army Museum, and a half-dozen others).

So if you've got an old musket up in the attic, dust it off and give Norm Flayderman a call. But stand back from the receiver. The man on the other end may bellow a bit, for he'll be on the trail of another adventure into the past.



## AXEL PETERSON

(Continued from page 33)

left Chicago was to go West to hunt. And hunt he did. Some of his hunting partners were Carlos Gove, Harry Pope, J. P. Lower, C. W. Rowland, George C. Schoyen, Ed Howard, and others.

In 1912, Axel made a trip to Alaska and shot every type of game to be found there. The rifle that he used on the trip was a Springfield .30-06, however his favorite rifle was the hammerless Sharps-Borchardt .45-70 and he was also extremely fond of the .45-70 cartridge. Of course, he was constantly selling his favorite rifles and making another for himself. As he grew older, he began using the lighter .30-30 carbine. He generally mounted an offset telescope on his Winchester Model 94.

Schoyen died in 1916 and Axel, or A. W. as he was called, bought the tools, equipment, and the interest in the shop that belonged to Schoyen.

Shortly after this, Peterson went to Utah and worked a year with the Brownings in the development of the Model 1917 machine gun. This was the only time from 1886 until his death in 1946 that Peterson wasn't working in his own shop.

Most of the actions sent to Peterson to be built into target rifles were Ballards, Stevens, Borchardts, and some Winchester single shots. His favorite action for medium and large calibers was the Sharps-Borchardts.

Two of his rifles, both on the Borchardt action, were considered by him to be the finest pair of target rifles in the world. Both were .32-40 caliber. One had a round barrel and the other an octagon barrel. The stocks were almost identical. They were deep belied Schuetzen style. Both had palm rest and one had a finger rest built on the lever. Both guns were equipped with Peterson-made telescopes and Peterson set triggers.

The Ballard was Peterson's favorite action for his .22 caliber. He had no use for an action that could not be breeched up tight and stay that way. He made many rifles on the Stevens action but didn't think much of the Stevens actions made after World War I.

Axel failed to keep records of the barrels he made but late in his life he estimated that he made between 600 and 700. Many of his customers gave him repeat orders and there were several large companies who were steady customers. His largest single order was for fifty .22 caliber barrels for the Colorado National Guard.

The barrels were fitted to the Guard's Krag rifle for small caliber target practice. The rifles were made up as single shots and the bores were offset so that no altering of the bolts or extractors was necessary in order to fire the small rimfire cartridges in these large caliber center fire rifles. When World War I began, the .22 barrels were pulled out and replaced with .30-40 caliber.

Peterson's shop was located at 1429 Larimer Street, Denver. The gilt inscription on the front windows stated, "Established in 1886-A. W. Peterson and Son-Gunsmiths."

The work benches were in the front, looking out through the Larimer Street entrance. Axel's bench was on the right as you entered and Roy, his son, worked at the bench on the left side.

A metal grill work on each side plus a row of show cases and the counter kept the visitors away from the work benches and the drawers full of parts and customers guns.

Near Roy's bench was the bulletin board, covered with yellowed targets shot by the Petersons or with Peterson barrels. A heavy walnut counter with the show case at one end came



from the J. P. Lower store. The rail on the front edge was notched along its full length so customers would have a place to lean their Sharps, Remington or Winchester.

On Axel's side sat the fine little milling machine that he made. Further back in the middle of the shop was his masterpiece—the shaper that he built by hand. Cabinets with sliding glass doors were against both walls of the shop and held the many rifles and shotguns. Further back were shelves filled with old stocks, glass jars of lead bullets, loading tools, cans of powder and other shooting equipment.

The two lathes were halfway back in the shop. In the corner was the big, old forge that Carlos Gove brought to Denver by mule team in 1861.

In the later years of his life, A. W. tried to quit working so hard, but orders for barrels kept coming in through the mail. He would tell his customers, "This is my last barrel." For this reason there are quite a few people today who believe they have

the last rifle that Peterson made.

Peterson made his last hunt in Bu-  
ford County, Colorado, in 1942 at the  
age of 83. He went with his son, Roy,  
and Roy's wife, Ida. He got his deer  
as usual.

On July 25, 1946, the Denver Post  
carried the following item: "Axel  
Peterson, 86, expert gunsmith and a  
Denver Resident for 67 years, was  
found dead in his gun shop at 1429  
Larimer Street when his son Roy re-  
ported for work at 9:00 A.M. Thurs-  
day."

The A. W. Peterson Gun Shop is  
presently located in Mt. Dora, Florida.  
The rifling machine, reamer, Peter-  
son's hand tools, photographs, eleven  
of his rifles, and other articles in the  
shop were moved to Mt. Dora in 1953  
by the present owner, Leighton L.  
Baker.

A. W. Peterson contributed heavily  
to the heritage of American shooting.  
His rifles and barrels were held in the  
highest esteem years ago. They are  
held so today and will be cherished  
by the shooters and collectors  
for a good many years to come.

## BERETTA AL-2

(Continued from page 23)

magazine to conform to the three-  
shot migratory bird and upland shoot-  
ing regulations. This auto is very easy  
to load and unload. You don't have to  
feed the shells through the chamber  
for unloading; a chromed button lo-  
cated on the right side of the receiver  
takes care of that. When depressed,  
shells are fed effortlessly through the  
bottom loading gate into the maga-  
zine. They are removed the same way  
... through the bottom.

The AL-2 patterned best with the  
Remington stuff (this was carried out  
at 30 yards) but was not at all unsat-  
isfactory with the Federal ammo. I  
got consistent patterns using these  
two brands of shells, both high and  
low brass, and four different shot  
sizes. We used 5's and 6's on the rab-  
bits and slammed the ducks with 7½'s  
and 8's. We were shooting teal and  
widgeon, small birds noted for their  
speed and maneuverability, so heap-  
ing amounts of the smaller diameter  
shot is preferred.

Assembly and disassembly is a  
cinch. To remove the barrel you just  
unscrew the locking lug at the front  
of the forearm, and pull the forearm  
off. The barrel slides off with it. It  
only takes a few seconds to dismantle  
the scattergun, and perhaps a few  
extra seconds to put it together. This  
Beretta gun doesn't come from the

factory with a recoil pad, and it really  
isn't needed since the automatic ac-  
tion absorbs much of the recoil. Fur-  
thermore, the chances are that if you  
will be using heavy magnum loads,  
you will probably be wearing more  
than one layer of clothing anyway.

I must recount one particular  
episode with the AL-2, since it readi-  
ly proves the gun's reliability. We had  
flushed a large covey of quail from  
the edge of a canyon. My companion  
and I dropped three of the plumed  
birds, and the others—about 40 of  
them—flew down about 75 yards to-  
wards the canyon bottom, then they  
veered to the right and landed on the  
canyon floor among some mesquite  
cover. We collected the three dead  
birds (dogs are out in this kind of  
country, the cactus is murder on  
them) and followed the covey in hot  
pursuit. The best way to drop down  
into a canyon bottom with that partic-  
ular type of steep grading—fast—is  
to kind of "lope" down, digging into  
the earth with your boot heels, sliding  
from time to time, taking long strides.  
Just before I reached the bottom—  
perhaps I had another 70 feet to go—  
I slipped and couldn't regain my bal-  
ance. Rather than take a chance of  
breaking my neck, I chose to drop the  
gun (which I had been holding  
around its middle) so I would only



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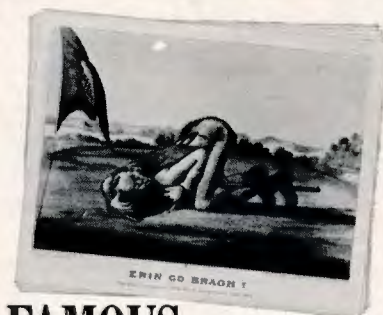
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hit on the seat of my Levi's and use both hands to break the fall, at the same time stopping my forward travel. That came to pass. The Beretta, on the other hand, continued on its way, sliding down the canyon wall until the muzzle encountered a small clump of cactus. Then the momentum lifted the rear end of the gun up and it did a somersault before it finally came to rest at the bottom. When I arrived, to my surprise, it wasn't broken. But imagine the amount of dirt picked up. I regarded that, and quick took off the barrel. Naturally I didn't have a cleaning rod with me, but located a reasonably straight branch to punch the clogged dirt out of the muzzle. I

brushed away as much of the junk as I could from the action, put her back together, reloaded, and went after the quail. I continued to fire that gun all afternoon without a hitch. When we got back to camp I took it apart again and cleaned it thoroughly. The amount of sand, dirt and general debris that I removed was considerable. It would take one hell of a pile of gunk to hang-up that action. The AL-2 is a most reliable auto. It's a fine shooter and swings and handles not totally unlike a well-balanced O/U. Whether you are right-handed or shoot from the port side, if you're in the market for a top-quality auto, consider this one. 

## MANNLICHER STOCK

(Continued from page 27)

weighs 7¼ pounds, an overall length of 39½ inches, a Monte Carlo comb with cheekpiece and a comb height suitable for scope use. H&R for an even longer time has had a single-shot .22 plinker which is stocked as a full-wood. This is the Model 755. It is a handsome little gun, and with its 18" bbl, weighs but 4 lb.

The Mossberg Model 800M is the very latest from this line. It is a Mannlicher-stock number and quite a handsome one at that! It is chambered for the .22-250, the .243, and the .308. Barrel is 20 inches and weight is approximately 6½ lb. Mossberg redesigned the bolt handle on this gun and it is handsome and graceful. It has a swept-back look about it and while the knob has been abandoned there is enough bolt to give a good grasp.

Tradewinds, Inc., Tacoma, Washington, importers of the excellent Husqvarna line of Swedish Mausers has a Mannlicher in the line. Smith & Wesson who likewise imports and sells another Husqvarna rifle, offers a full-length stock. These rifles have 20½" barrels, one variation of the Mannlicher has a Monte Carlo stock the other does not. Calibers are .243, .270, 6x55 mm, .308 and .30-06.


Those long-time importers of the original Mannlicher, the Stoeger Arms Corporation, South Hackensack, N.J. now have an even more complete line of their famous rifles. The Model 1961-MCA rifle, in calibers .243-, 6.5 mm, .308 and .30-06, is the original Mannlicher-Schoenauer. It can be had with the double set triggers or the single one-stage trigger, with barrels of 18½ or 20 inches, a weight between 7¼ and 7¾ pounds, or the purchaser may get the modernized Mannlicher.

This is referred to as the Steyr-

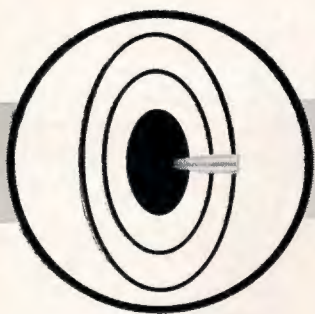
Mannlicher and has a completely redesigned action. This action locks up with six lugs, has a detachable magazine, a bolt that is more easily reachable and more readily grasped than the older rifle, and is chambered for such modern high-intensity cartridges as the .222, the .22-250, the .225 Winch., .257 Weatherby, the .264 Magnum, .338 Magnum and the .458 Magnum. There is also a .22 Long Rifle version, called the Steyr carbine. The Steyr Works, long time manufacturers of the Mannlicher-Schoenauer, have simply brought the older rifle up to date and this Steyr Mannlicher is the result.

Other Mannlicher-type rifles which have recently appeared in this rising popularity for the full length stock, are the Musketeer, a Mauser, imported by Firearms International, with a chambering for such hot numbers as the .308 Norma Magnum and the .300 Winchester Magnum. Also the Forester Carbine, another full-wood number, chambered for the .243, the .22-250 and the .308. It is made up on the Sako L-579 action, with 20-inch barrel and a weight of 6½ pounds.

While the Remington Company has no Mannlicher-stocked rifles in its line, I look for this outfit to announce one in the future. The Model 660 carbine, with its 20" barrel and an overall length of 38¾ inches is a natural.

Reinhart Fajen, our biggest stock-maker has now commenced to sell complete rifles. He offers a Mauser barreled action and his own stocks. Among other styles he has a Mannlicher. Fajen has for many years made Mannlicher stocks on custom order. I have a Winchester Model 88 lever action that has had a handsome Fajen stock attached almost a dozen years ago. 





# POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

There are several famous gun-building cities in the world. There is Birmingham in England, New Haven in Connecticut, Liege in Belgium, Brescia in Italy and Eibar in Spain.

In Eibar you will find sixty-four gun-making outfits. Some of these are so small the entire operation is jammed into one piddling tiny room with an output of a few score guns annually. Others, like the sprawling Aguirre and Aranzabal company along with the firm of Star Echeverria, work 24 hours a day and show an output of thousands of arms daily.

To visit Eibar, in the north of Spain and deep within the Basque country is an absolute must for the guns aficionado. For me it was a pilgrimage to the gunsman's own special Mecca. A return, as it were, for in other days I had swung through Eibar not less than once monthly. I knew all the gun makers on a first name basis and always had a shooting iron in the making.

Col. Glover Johns, the defense attache in our embassy in Madrid, is a first rate shooting man, he got all his diplomatic chores in mesh and loaded Reinhart Fajen and myself into his Ford and we were off on a day's journey across Castile. Through the pass to the north known as the Puerto de los Leones, thence a traverse of the Spanish steppe which lies beyond and finally into the historic old City of Burgos. Then onward and eventually into the mountains along the Cantabrian coast to wind up finally at nightfall in San Sebastian. Eibar lies forty miles beyond, it could await the morrow.

In Eibar, next morning, I was struck as I've been countless times before by the utter lack of appreciation of the gun builders of this historic old city. There are no signs beyond the town, much less within, to announce to the world that here is one of the most important arms manufacturing in the world today. You may beat up and down the city streets seeking firearms displays. You will find none. Nor yet are there salesmen hurrying away to the far corners of

the earth to sell the major output. Nor yet delegations waiting upon the gunmakers to dicker for their wares. You can, if you like, go visit the mayor. Sr. Esteban Orbea, whose family has been making firearms for 500 years, and in his office you will find no evidence of either the city or yet the family stock in trade.

The manufacture of guns is taken as a matter of course. Old hat. So commonplace as to merit no drum beating. Eibar is strange from another aspect and that is the total absence of hotels. The buyer who would seek to spend a million dollars in the purchase of Spain's famous product, the sporting firearm, is compelled to bivouac in San Sebastian and commute the forty miles to do his trafficking.

Eibar's firearms are built by a people who will tell you they are not Spaniards. They are, they will state somewhat fiercely, Basques. There are four Basque provinces in northern Spain and two in France. The Spanish Basque and his cousin the French counterpart are extremely close and look upon each other as though no frontier existed between them. There is intermarriage, much visiting back and forth, and if you ask the Spanish Guardia Civil they will tell you there is a devil of a lot of smuggling too! All of which is somewhat beside the point.

The Spanish Basque is the most industrious individual in all Castile. He works hard and he plays hard. Wine consumption among the "Bascos" reaches some astronomical totals best left untold. Suffice to say when he works he builds a sturdy firearm. No less than 90% of the Eibar output is in sporting shotguns. There is no production of rifles. The Star Echeverria Company makes auto pistols of all calibers from .22 to .45. The Star pistol is the official military sidearm and there is a production of a submachine gun which is also a standard item among the services.

Reinhart Fajen, these days the biggest stockmaker in this country, was in Eibar on business. The Pyrenees walnut which graces all the better Ei-

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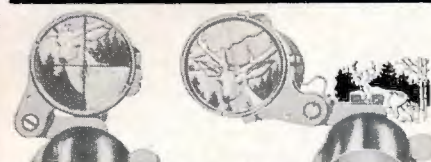
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bar-turned scatterguns is some of the most handsome. Fajen was anxious to sew up a constant supply of the striking buttwood while we were on the grounds.

Agustin Aranzabal, bouncy president of AyA—Aguirre and Aranzabal—gave us the grand tour of his innumerable shops. His shotguns are all side-by-side and over/under, with a further production of cheap single barrel models. There is no output of either autoloaders or pump repeaters. There is a selfloader in plan, a model to follow pretty generally the FN type. Prices range all the way from ten bucks to a thousand skins. The latter for the Model 37 over/under.

American shotgunners are familiar with the Matador shotgun. It is a moderately priced side-by-side which is made by AyA and imported by Firearms International. The Matador follows generally the lines of the Winchester Model 21 but only at a fraction of the latter's price.

Other AyA models are faithful copies of the famous English Purdy, Holland & Holland and Westley Richards. The managing director of Holland is dickering with AyA to have their guns made by the Spanish firm. "We'll do this," Agustin Aranzabal assured me, "but only on condition that our name be included on each gun." Because of the cheapness of Spanish skilled labor, outfits like AyA can build the costly double shotgun at a price much below that of the English. It is for this reason that companies like Holland & Holland have approached the Eibar firm to make a deal with them.

While AyA makes more shotguns than any other Eibar manufacturer the honors for the greatest arms output goes to Star Echeverria. The Star pistol is very well known around the world. Three models are made. The first of these is a copy of the .45 Model 1911, our service weapon. Star has incorporated some minor modifications but essentially it is our time-honored old cornsheller. One version has no grip safety. The pistol is the Spanish military sidearm having replaced the Astra after lengthy field tests. It is chambered for the 9 mm Bayard long cartridge. This round is longer and more powerful than the more familiar 9 mm Parabellum.

Star also sometimes manufactures the automatic for the .45 ACP ctg but this is only on special contract. There is a target version of the pistol with an adjustable rear sight and a hand-fitted action.

The second of the series is a pocket

automatic in .32 ACP and .380 ACP calibers. This pistol is an interesting hybrid for it has features of the old P-38 of WW-II fame, the Browning Model 1935, and the long obsolete Remington Model 51. It is a very worthwhile pistol, altho it reflects the Spaniard's lack of inventiveness.

Finally the company has a line of .22 auto pistols. These handguns run the gamut from plinkers to target models. The latter feature barrels of 6", 7½", 8" and 9¾" lengths, together with adjustable target sights, muzzle brakes, barrel weights, and custom fitted stocks. The actions, whether on the target model or the more common plinking types are all alike. These are a faithful copy of the prewar Walther. This is not to say the action is not a good one. It is and quite reliable. It is a simple blowback and entirely sound.

The Star submachine gun is the now obsolete German Schmeisser with certain rather minor innovations added by the Spaniards. It does not fire the 9 mm Parabellum round but is chambered for the 9 mm Bayard long ctg. This is made to conform to the Spanish military choice. The weapon can be readily adapted to a variety of calibers these to include our own .45 ACP. There is no better nor more thoroughly battle-tested arm than this German designed piece. It is notable for a dearth of machined parts plus a profusion of stampings, die castings and tubing.

Within scant miles of Eibar, scarcely to be counted as a part of the city but assuredly in the arms-making enclave, is the historic old firm of Unceta y Cia. This outfit is at Guernica. Under the trade name of Astra, a series of auto pistols ranging from .22 to 9 mm are made. The pistols are blowback operated and are notable for good materials and an excellent degree of workmanship. Astra also turns out a full line of side-by-side shotguns but not many of these reach the United States.

At a distance from Eibar is the pistol-making firm of Gabilondo y Cia. This outfit uses the brand name, "LLama," the Stoeger Arms Corporation regularly imports the Llama pistols. The company turns out both auto pistols and revolvers. The automatics are spitting image reproductions of the Model 1911 in calibers .32 and .380. The revolvers are practically identical with the Smith & Wesson. Calibers range from .22 through .38 Special. Both service types and targets models are under manufacture.







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## Panel of Experts

### Belgian Shotgun

I have a double barrel shotgun in 12 ga. which I would appreciate your helping me identify, and also its worth.

On the rib between the barrels is marked "Manufacture Liegeiose D'Armes A. Fue, Liege, Fondee 1966 Grand Prix Paris 1900." The Serial number is 120765. On the barrels is stamped "Acier Universel" and a work Cockerill. Between the letters K and E there is a picture of a cock. The underside of the barrels and action are heavily proofmarked with markings such as PIK 449.9, 174/18.4 176/18.4 also a diamond outline with 12/C written inside. There are also the Belgian proof house marks.

Harry Saake  
Floral Park, N. Y.

Manufacture Liegeiose (or ML as they are known) made a wide variety of guns differing in types as well as quality. Acier Universal means "universal steel"—the brand name of a special steel made by John Cockerill for Belgian gunmakers. ML won two Grand Prizes in Paris in 1900; one with their model 6618 which was a visible-hammer double shotgun. This model was offered for export at \$93.82 in 1948. In good condition, it should be worth \$50-60.00 today for use by

someone that likes outside hammers. The other gun that won a Grand Prize was their model 7330; an engraved, hammerless double with "Paradox" barrels. (Paradox boring produces shotgun barrels with a short forward section rifled—thus allowing use of both shotshells and slugs, but with somewhat more accuracy.) This was a very high quality model with engraving so beautiful that it looked like steel carving. This model was not offered in 1948; in very good condition, today, this gun would be worth \$1,000.00 or more.—S.B.

### Ballistics Career

I am interested in a career as a ballistics expert. What are the training requirements? If specialized schools exist for this job, can you please tell me their names and locations? What are the employment opportunities?

Barry F. Ross  
Seattle, Washington

In order to begin to answer your question, one must point out that there is a vast difference between the Ballistics Expert of Television (the Police Department) and the Firearms Expert of the Court Room. The Police technician is concerned mainly with



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Identification, and is actually not much more concerned with guns than a Finger Print Expert is concerned with fingers. Both are concerned with identification based on markings.

The Firearms Expert, on the other hand—in addition to identification, is concerned with mechanisms, designs, defects and performances of various types of hand guns, rifles, shotguns powder actuated tools and other devices involving explosives. Much of his work involves civil litigation, damage suits and insurance claims.

Police technicians are usually trained "on the job" augmented by a period at the New York Police Department School and or the FBI School. Some Colleges now offer courses in Police Science but these are quite superficial insofar as technical studies.

The Firearms Expert requires years of experience as a gunsmith, skill with the use of the microscope, and a vast back ground of familiarity with reference books and catalogs. Personally, I have been a gunsmith for twenty-five years, own a comparison microscope, three conventional microscopes, a Leitz Ultropak camera, 300 reference guns, about 2,000 reference cartridges, about 1,000 gun books and reference catalogs and a complete gunsmithing shop. As all of the above are necessary, you will understand that in addition to time, considerable money is involved.

While there is considerable work for Firearms Consultants, retired Police Technicians are usually available, and these try and improvise on their backgrounds enough to qualify for the specific job involved.—S.B.

## "Mauser and Committee"

I have come across a rifle that has been described by a gunsmith as a "Hungarian Mauser." The serial numbers, 7707, all seem to match. "Erfurt" is stamped on top of the receiver ring. "KAR 88" is on the left hand side of the receiver. The magazine looks to me as if it is a direct copy of either a Carcano or Terni. The bolt is a Steyr-Mannlicher-Schoenauer bolt! The major difference is the fact that the cartridge head is completely enclosed inside the bolt face and extractor assembly. A rather minor difference is that the actual configuration of the bolt handle is different but has about the proper location ahead of the trigger. It looks about 8 mm and someone told me that he had fired a .30-06 through it, whereupon I bowed my head in a moment of silent prayer. Any information you have would be helpful.

David J. Neder  
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Basically, the gun you describe is the "Mauser and Committee" predecessor of the German Service Mauser series. What has happened to this specific gun since original manufacture, I know not, and without personal examination, alas—shall never know! Idiotic as it may seem, there once was a bolt that had a countersunk head, specifically designed to fire a .30-06 in an 8 mm rifle—and there even was a special pocket designed into a parachutist's jump-suit to hold this special bolt! The idea was for the utilization of scrounged ammo by the invader. I personally encountered the suits and bolts in East Africa in 1942.—S.B.

## 6.5 Jap

I have a 6.5 Jap rifle but the firing pin and all parts related to the firing pin are missing. I made a firing pin and have fired the rifle. The first round showed a sign of buckling at the base of the cartridge but the next two rounds weren't as bad. The ammo was Norma, 6.5 Jap, 156 grain. The fourth round was in perfect shape. I would like some information on where to get parts for this rifle.

David James  
Seattle, Washington

As far as parts go, you have one of those "hunt and hope rifles." I've seen a number of very informative articles on the Jap rifles, but can't seem to locate one now.

My personal experience with them has shown the Japs were very careless in headspacing them. This was especially true in the later stages of the war. I would guess that yours has excessive headspace. This can be corrected, but I doubt that the gun is worth the expenditure,—as in the future, parts will be an almost impossible problem.

In the meantime your only chance is writing to the various companies which advertise surplus military weapons.—W.S.

## Needham Conversion .58 Musket

I have received as a gift an old-fashioned 1862 Springfield muzzle-loader with a Needham breech which opens to the side. It is in good condition, and as I have wanted such an old gun to shoot for a long while, I

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want to get cartridges for it. I am told that the original type of ammunition isn't made anymore and wonder if you might tell me where to get some modern cartridges for it.

Calvin Sova  
Monroe, Michigan

*The Needham system of converting Civil War percussion muskets for metallic cartridges used a rimfire cartridge, which is not available in a modern form. I would suggest that you try to trade off the Needham for one more suitable for your purposes. A Springfield Trapdoor .45-70 would serve well, as it is a cartridge arm for which ammunition and reloading components are current and is a great casual shooter.—R.M.*

### Be Cautious, Be Clever

I would like to relate a couple of incidents that may be of help to fellow shooters.

First, one day while cleaning up my shop I found a box containing ten or twelve misfired cartridges. The bullets looked good and, as the cases had not been fired, I decided to save them as I had Berdan primers and have had good success when using them in clean cases. I took the Lachmiller, Berdan primer decapping tool and punched a hole through the primer. I then rotated the case and again started the punch to remove the primer. Well, you guessed it, the primer exploded. Fortunately, there was no resistance and plenty of vent in the hole I had already made, so the only results were a loud noise and jangled nerves. For general safety purposes I always work with the head of a car-



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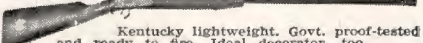
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tridge turned away from me and wear safety glasses in the shop at all times. It kind of gives one a jolt though.

Secondly, I had loaded some 12-gauge shells in Remington plastic. They all fit easily into the chamber of my shotgun, but after firing I found that some would not eject. Later, I turned up a piece of lead on the lathe that was slightly smaller than the inside of the 12-gauge shell and rounded it at both ends. It weighs about one pound, and now, when this failure to eject occurs, I just drop it down the barrel and out pops the offending shell.

I hope these experiences may be of value.

Aaron Reichard  
Goodyear, Ariz.

Your not the first one to have a primer go off in his face under those circumstances. All too often, people tend to regard a primer that has failed to fire as being inert. The fact that a primer did not ignite upon firing pin impact is no reason whatever to assume that it will remain silent when prodded by a decapping pin or actually pierced, as in your instance. Because of their relative violence, primers should always be treated with the greatest respect, regardless of how "dead" they might seem to be.

For many years now I have recommended carrying a short weight that will drop down the bore of either a rifle or shotgun in the field. One never knows when he may wind up with a case stuck in the chamber. A weight of the sort you are using is the simplest and quickest way I know to get such a case out of the chamber.—G.N.

### .310 Martini Cadet

I would like some information on obtaining a .310 Martini Cadet rifle. Also would that rifle be suitable for medium size game at close range? Where could I get reloading dies for this cartridge? Is commercially loaded ammo available?

Robert L. Thompson  
Roswell, New Mexico

I cannot recommend any single reliable source for a Greener/Martini "Cadet" rifle in .310 caliber. The original surplus lot of these guns brought into this country has been exhausted, but the guns do occasionally show up in the used-gun rack at many shops. It is simply a matter of inquiring until you locate one.

The original British loading of this cartridge drove a 120-grain lead bullet at 1200 fps with a 100 yard mid-

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range trajectory of 3.6". As can be seen from this, the cartridge is suitable only for small game, not for deer or anything that size or larger. The original loading may be improved upon somewhat by utilizing a 110 grain bullet and 8 grains of Hercules 2400 powder to produce a velocity of 1320 fps. This is still in the small game and short-range varmint class.

Ammunition may be obtained from several importers, one of which is Blackhawk Small Arms Ammunition, Loves Park, Illinois, 61111. Reloading dies may be obtained from RCBS, but the original British cases are Berdan primed and difficult to reload. A much more satisfactory solution is to trim .32-20 Winchester cases to the proper length, then resize full-length, then load in the normal fashion.—G.N.

#### .44 S & W Russian Ammo

I am trying to find out if anyone still makes .44 S & W Russian ammunition. Do you know of a supplier?

If you do not know of anyone, can you tell me where I can locate some brass and bullets to reload my own?

Lou De Palma  
Fredericksburg, Va.

You may obtain custom-loaded .44 S & W Russian ammunition from George Spence, Steel, Missouri. This ammunition is loaded in .44 Spcl. cases which have been shortened to the proper length. If you prefer to load your own, simply obtain .44 S & W Spcl. cases and shorten them to an overall length of 0.96". An excellent load consists of the 240-gr. round-nose lead bullet and 6.0-gr. of Hercules Bullseye powder, duplicating the original factory load at 770 fps. You may also use 7.0-gr. of Hercules Unique powder for approximately the same results.—G.N.

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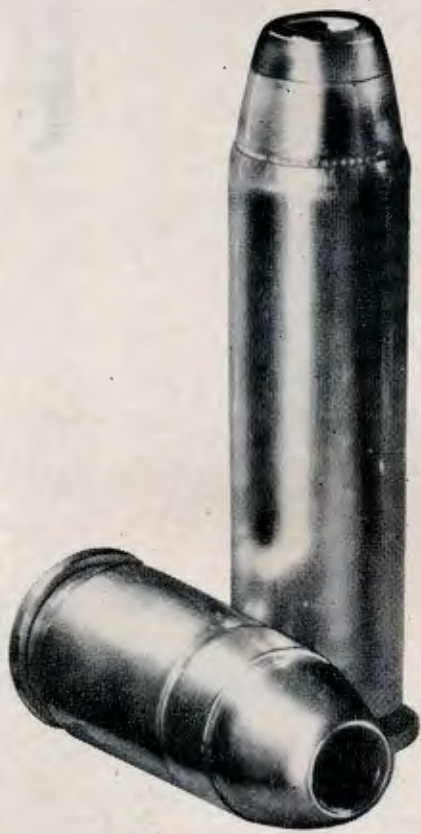
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## AGAWAM 68

(Continued from page 47)

this is an extremely safe, single shot rifle ideally adapted to youngsters and novices.

The rear sight is the conventional spring/ladder type that needs a larger and more practical notch filed into the existing rear sight cut. It is not adjustable for windage, although the entire sight may be driven over if windage adjustment becomes necessary. The front sight is part of the barrel/magazine band and is much too large and too coarse for fine shooting. This sight may be readily filed and worked until it is right for the shooter. It needs to be thinner and sharper because as it comes from the factory the edges are rounded. De-

spite these shortcomings, I found the rifle to be quite accurate when fired from a rest at twenty five yards with CCI ammunition.

As far as I have been able to discover in working with this rifle and in firing around 400 rounds, it is completely safe and an excellent buy at just under \$27.00 retail. The looks make it attractive to the youngster. Being single shot, the youngster must learn to place each shot with care and to make each shot count, so that when he graduates to a real, center-fire lever action rifle he will continue making each shot count. In my opinion, the Model "68" is a great training rifle.



## BUSHNELL BORE-SIGHTER

(Continued from page 49)

on the fact that more careful and tentative handling is necessary when using these new expanding type arbors.

I used a new Model 70 Winchester .30-06 as a control rifle for all my tests. Using a solid type arbor, I found that the Bushnell, Collins or Sweany all worked equally well and they could all be used on the expanding type arbor, also. It is possible that the grid type reticle, with it's even grid squares, might be less confusing to a novice user, than the circle type of the Site-O-Line with it's varying distances of circle width and spacing. However, this is only a matter of personal selection.

When using the expander type Bushnell arbor the collimator *must* be placed on the arbor in the *same* position every time. There is a flat place milled on the arbor shaft for this purpose. I make sure that the set screw is at the rear of this slot each time. This gives me more room to work the expander set screw. I find that if I insert the expander in the barrel nearly up to where the taper of the shaft is touching the muzzle or crown

of the barrel and then tighten the expander until it *just barely* takes out the slack and then carefully push the collimator to the rear, so that the taper makes a firm but not excessive contact, I get far closer repeat readings than if I just shove the taper in firmly and then tighten the expander. It is at this stage in the use of the new Bushnell expanding arbor, that I feel extreme care is necessary, in order to obtain accurate readings.

I made 50 installations and take downs one afternoon and marked down all readings. I had started with the crosshairs of the 'scope set on the center lines of the grid. The greatest variation I got was 1 grid square or 4 inches at 100 yards, during the 50 tests. This is a little better than I have averaged in similar tests using the solid spring loaded arbor.

If you install this new type arbor in the collimator carelessly, jam it in the barrel against the taper and then tighten the expander nut, you can get variations of 4 to 6 grid squares or 16 to 24 inches at 100 yards. If one is in a habit of using the collimator hurriedly or in a careless manner the

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solid type arbor is the best. I have just made a series of repeat checks using the solid type arbor and the average variation did not exceed 2 grid squares. Except to be sure that the spud spring was always on top and that the collimator never touched the barrel end I was not extra careful with the solid types.

I have frequently been asked by someone not familiar with the use of a collimator why the arbors are not made longer. We know that the direction a bullet takes when it leaves the barrel is governed by the last three inches of the barrel and there isn't any barrel that is exactly straight it's entire length. Longer spuds are necessary only for barrels that have recoil devices built in or on them.

The principal of the solid spring loaded arbor is that it aligns the bottom of the bore with the sight. The solid arbors are all made a bit smaller than the barrel bore in order to take care of the variations in bore sizes even where the caliber is the same. The spring keeps the arbor in aligned contact with the bottom of the barrel. In the expander type arbor it take its alignment from the entire bore area, instead of just the bottom of the bore.

It took quite a bit of practice for me to get my installation procedure *exactly* the same, each time I used the new expander type arbor but now that I have become proficient at it I like the expander type the best.

Because of the height of the different type sights and 'scopes above the center line of the bore, each rifle and sight combination has it's own particular setting that works best for the initial sighting in, when using any collimator. As an average I set the cross hairs in the 'scope about 1/2 grid square under the center line in the collimator. After I have the rifle shooting on the target, I sight it in exactly as I want it, say about 1 3/4 inches high at 100 yards. Then I install the collimator and make a check of the markings and write this down for future reference. At any time I can then set this particular rifle and collimator at this same marking, with a reasonable expectancy of being within 2" or so of that mark when I shoot.

I believe some kind of collimator should be part of every good hunters equipment, but I definitely think they deserve some installation practice and use, in order to derive the most benefit from them. I like the new expander type arbor and I believe it will be inducement for others to try and improve on it, and no doubt they will.



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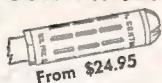
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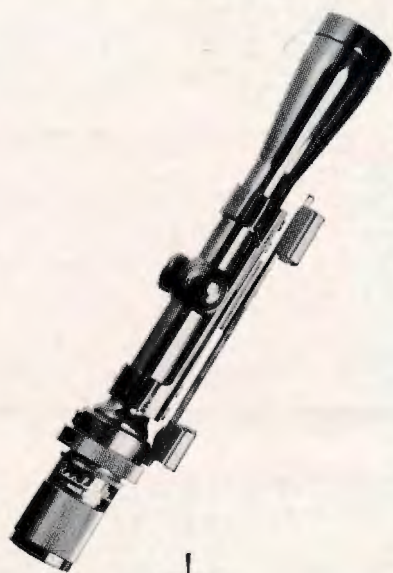


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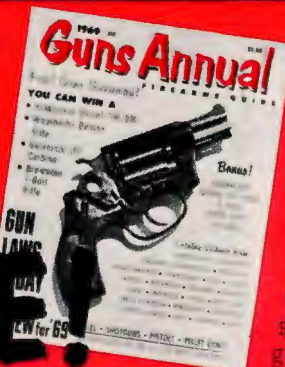
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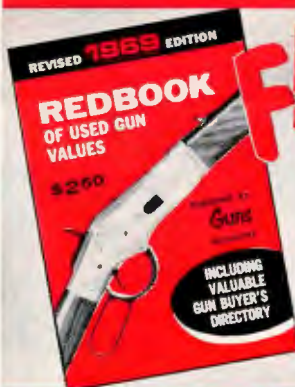
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