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NOVEMBER, 1969

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George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

BETRAYAL! This word is much used today when speaking of the way the rights of legitimate firearms owners have been abused.

Ask a cross-section of shooting sportsmen who they feel is responsible for their current problems, and chances are the answers will be either "Industry" or "Congress". But this is merely passing the buck!

The real guilty party is... **THE SHOOTING SPORTSMAN!** Out of 20 million firearms owners (and this is an admittedly conservative estimate) only 1 million cared enough about the legislation to tell their elected representatives how they felt about it. Surely most of the readers of this report did send letters—but did you stop at this point or are you still active?

There are several ways to magnify your influence on legislation. The first, and perhaps most effective means is to join organizations such as The **SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA** which are working for the preservation of your constitutional right to keep and bear arms. An established organization carries considerable influence when proposing reasonable alternatives to ill-considered legislation. To maintain and strengthen its position as a respected national organization, the S.C.A. needs the support of all present members to enlist more members, and recruit allies. Firearms owners who are not members of the S.C.A. are urged to join today and affiliate themselves with the organization most responsible in working to repeal useless legislation and protecting the constitutional rights of firearms owners.

To increase the power of shooting sportsmen in the field

of legislation, The **SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA** is organizing an equal time program. This plan operates on the theory that each shooting sportsman must give the same amount of time each month working for the preservation of his rights as he spends in enjoying his sports. You can readily see when you count target shooting, hunting, handloading, displaying, reading and just plain talking with your shooting buddies, you are spending a great deal of time enjoying your guns. If you spend an equal amount of time performing actions to protect your future rights, you will be helping yourself and your fellow sportsmen... plus future generations of Americans.

Another proven method to successfully influence legislation is the ancient "chain-letter" with a new twist. You start a letter—then ask each recipient to send one letter to each legislator from his district (one senator, two congressmen) and then forward the same request to five of their friends. With the pyramiding effect caused by a chain letter, you can see the tremendous number of letters that can be generated on any topic in a short period of time. Legislators can not resist public opinion!

These methods are not "an easy way out" of our current legislative problems. Both proposals require a lot of work. But the end result—an end to harassment of legitimate firearms owners—is worth any effort. If you enjoy owning and using guns, you must be willing to work to change present conditions. Join the S.C.A. today! Do your part to protect your constitutional rights to keep and bear arms. Don't just sit and complain—take positive action today to be sure you will be able to continue enjoying your firearms! Use the attached envelope to enter your membership in The **SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA**!

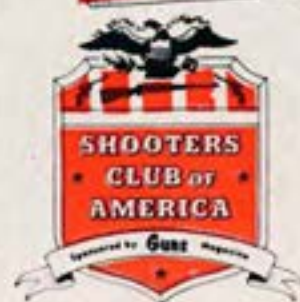
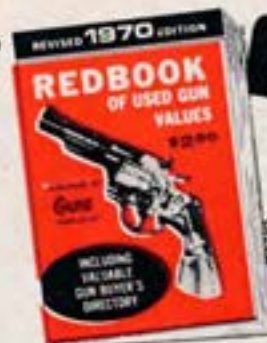
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CROSSFIRE

Water-Winter-Wonderland Woes

The other day I appeared before the Gun Board in Macomb County, Michigan to get a permit to carry a gun while on duty and in uniform. I was flatly denied the permit on the grounds that "We don't issue permits for self protection", "We don't want any more lethal weapons on the streets", "Protection of property is a police job" and "Your type of work doesn't require the use of a firearm".

I'm a dispatcher and guard for a burglar alarm company in Detroit. At the very least we would be called private policemen. We work Central Station watching alarm signals, service alarms and make runs when an alarm goes off which could be a B & E (break and entry) each time. Most of the men in the company live in Wayne County and have been given permits to carry firearms while on duty.

It appears Michigan's laws aren't uniform. Also in this case it is easier to get such a permit in the urban rather than suburban areas. I definitely feel the Gun Board is wrong and will fight them in court.

Continue your fight against gun laws. It is quite clear once registration comes in you will be denied the rights to carry firearms when necessary.

Thomas Booth
Roseville, Michigan

Custer And The Gatling Gun

I have just finished reading Richard P. Miller's story in the April issue of "Guns", called "The British And The Gatling Gun". I found it very good, except for one point. In it, he refers to the fact that Lt. Col. George A. Custer might have had a different fate if he had taken along a battery of Gatling guns which were offered him. I think at this point Mr. Miller should have stuck to his title, The "British" And The gun.

Point # 1—Custer wanted to take the guns, but refused when he found

out they would be pulled by a team of condemned cavalry horses. The key to Indian warfare was mobility, which was why Custer used a packtrain instead of wagons. Much of the ground covered by Custer was unsuited for wheeled guns, and limbers. Intelligence reports given to Custer told him that there were no more than a thousand Indians in the field.

Point # 2—Mr. Miller states that at "Abu Klea" the "Fuzzy Wuzzy" broke through a British square, but were turned away by the guns to prevent a Custer style massacre. The truth is that there was no great mounted Indian charge that overran Custer, with carbine and revolver blazing. The only time this happened was when Custer dispatched a company to cover what he thought was the arrival of his ammunition pack train. These men were charged and overrun, but the Indians suffered such heavy losses they never tried it again. The Gatlings would have been useless because of the rough and "gully" ridden terrain. Custer's only problem was that he ran out of ammunition. His packtrain, which was supposed to form a junction with him, failed to do so. All Custer could have done was keep the Indians' heads down. This would have bought him a little time, but not enough for the arrival of the relief force. The ground was not flat and level like "Abu Klea", the fire would have been of no use to the troops.

Point # 3—The guns which were offered to Custer were .50 caliber (50-70) gravity fed, wheel driven weapons. They were prone to jamming and fouling, the crews were inexperienced infantrymen. The only ammo for the guns was carried in the limbers, and this would have been expended within minutes, rendering them useless.

Again I say Mr. Miller's story was very good, but he succumbed to opinion rather than fact, something which is fatal to the accurate recording of history.

Nick DeMeo
Bronx, N. Y.

Read what the experts say about the Browning Automatic Rifle

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"Accurate and reliable, this handsome rifle is well suited for hunting deer and similar big game."

"The functioning of the rifle was superb, and I was surprised at its accuracy. Groups with some loads were down in the inch class."

"I was most impressed with the smooth, light trigger pull, rarely found on a high-powered self-loader."

"The rifle handled a variety of .30-06 loads with no malfunctions, and the recoil was outstandingly soft."

"Needless to say it worked quite well with no malfunctions or jams. The one really noticeable item was the apparent lack of recoil."

"As brought out in our tests on this rifle some months ago, the recoil is light. The magnum version is no exception."

"It is very good looking and shows great care in production."

"Until you've tried a wrap-around checkering pattern, you can't appreciate how difficult it is to do well, but both the forend and grip checkering are excellent—lines straight, no runovers and diamonds well pointed-up."

"The Browning proved to be highly non-fussy about its ammunition . . . Bullets of different shapes, seated to various lengths over all, fed and chambered with buttery smoothness and utter reliability."

"To test this rifle for use under severe weather conditions—and bearing in mind that cold weather often messes up an autoloader—I stored the B.A.R. in my food freezer overnight. . . I immediately loaded three shells in the magazine, scraped the frost off the scope lens and fired a group. The gun . . . worked to perfection. It's a dependable rifle, no matter how cold it gets."

"We liked the man-sized proportions, the lack of trouble, the incredibly light recoil and the sleek good looks of the latter-day BAR. It's an easy rifle to like."

These comments are from reports by leading gun authorities as published in major sporting arms magazines. We're gratified to add that this rifle's fine performance has been further documented in letters from thousands of American sportsmen who now own a BAR.

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

AS TIME GOES BY, there seems to be more and more foreign, metric caliber rifles and combination guns in this country. Or, perhaps, it's just that more of those old WWII trophies are getting dusted off for shooting. In any event, we do continuously receive requests for source information from people who need metric-caliber ammunition and/or handloading components to shoot in such guns. The lads out at Speer have helped a good bit with DWM items, but there is another good source of loaded ammunition, bullets, cases, and primers. Paul Jaeger Inc., P.O. Box 67, Jenkintown, Pa., 19046, advises that he distributes the entire line of RWS/Dynamit Nobel ammunition and components. The latest list received from Jaeger shows 19 calibers of ammunition and unprimed cases, and bullets of various weights and types in calibers from 5.6mm to 9.3mm. Added to that are six different Berdan primers to fit most metric cases, including the old 9.3x72R. In addition to the listed items, Jaeger advises that any item still in production or on hand at RWS can be special-ordered.

Ammunition is packed in 10 round cartons and is just a wee mite costly —prices ranging from \$3.80 per carton for the 8.15x46R to \$6.90 for the 6.5x68mm. Unprimed cases are packed 50 per carton, ranging from \$8.00 for 8.15x46R to \$14.00 for 9.3x74R. Primer prices aren't bad at all—from \$10.00 to \$14.00 per thousand. A list is available upon request.

...

We've mentioned the several new Norma powders earlier in this column. At that time, we had samples of the powders, but no loading data. Of course, since then we've been able to whip some up empirically, but that's no substitute for laboratory-tested data developed under controlled conditions with the aid of pressure guns and all the other goodies available to Norma technicians at Amotfors, Sweden. The data from those technicians is what we have just

received from Nils Kvale of Norma. It is contained in a 12-page booklet titled, "Norma Loading Data," which should now be available from your Norma dealer. If he doesn't have it, he should be able to get it for you soon.

Two handgun, two shotshell, and six rifle powders are covered. There is some overlap. N2010 and N2020 shotshell powders are also utilized in handgun loads. The total listing comprises over 100 shotshell loads and nearly 200 for rifle and handgun, utilizing the entire Norma line of powders. Rifle calibers covered range from the .222 Remington up through the 7mm Remington Magnum; and the .375 H&H. Included are virtually all of the reloadable military surplus calibers as well as all the more popular commercial cartridges. Handgun data covers all of the more popular calibers except the .41 Magnum. It also includes a few cartridges such as the .25 and .32ACP which are very seldom reloaded. Data for them is not usually found in other references. Shotshell data ranges from 10 to .410 gauge, covers both paper and plastic shotshells, card and plastic over-powder wads, and plastic and fibre wad columns. Individual loads are given for all popular makes of cases and wads. No magnum or 3" case loads are listed. This new Norma publication is a valuable addition to any serious handloader's library and is essential if he wants to use Norma powders to their best advantage.

...

Herter's Inc. has long been known for extensive mail-order dealings in guns, ammunition, and handloading components. The unfortunate provisions of GCA '68 make it impossible to order and receive components direct; so, we recently had a long phone talk with Myron Barrie of Herter's. He tells us that things have progressed now to the point where you may once again order directly from the company as in the past and that your order will then be processed

(Continued on page 10)

That's right. Unless you're ready to cough up maybe \$40 more, you can't buy a rifle with all the features of our new Ithaca LSA-55.

Start with our barrel. We cut it from genuine Bofors ordnance-quality steel. It's precision cut-rifled and hand lapped for dead accuracy. The alignment's perfect for iron sights or scope. Drills out shots clean and true. And its

floating design keeps it accurate.

The action's all Bofors steel, too. No cheap stampings or castings. Every part is machined from solid block steel for strength. Then fitted to minute tolerances for a silky-smooth action that stays smooth for the life of the gun. There are even special guide rails to prevent frustrating bolt binding.

Select your pull with our adjustable single-stage trigger. It's cracker-crisp, unchanging. A convenient detachable box magazine accepts full or single loads. It's a straight-line feed system—

no jam-ups surprise you.


Our LSA's rear sight is special, too. It's adjustable for both windage and elevation. It's removable and the receiver has built-in mounting bases for no-fuss scope mounting. Top-mounted safety is right at your thumb for instant action. And our recessed bolt face keeps cartridge heads safely covered.

See and handle the LSAs at your nearby Ithacagun dealer's. Get something for your money.

Ithaca Gun Company, Inc.,
Ithaca, New York 14850.

**If the competition made as good
a rifle at as good a price, you'd
have a choice**

The new Ithaca LSA-55 is available in the Deluxe model shown here, \$199.95, and the Standard model, \$159.95. Choose from .243W, .308W, 22-250 and 6mm Rem. calibers. Both have hand-checked Monte Carlo stocks made from the finest walnut, sure-grip palm swells and quick-detachable sling swivels. The Deluxe model features a rollover cheekpiece and Rosewood-tipped fore-end.

 **ithacagun**

HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 3)

have been selected in each state. Naturally, all the requirements of the Law must be met by both Herter's and the delivering dealer, and this means that you can't get overnight service. However, it does make it possible for you to continue to order the handloading items you need from the comfort and convenience of your loading bench or favorite couch. Incidentally, if you don't have a copy of Herter's catalog, it might be well worth your while to write for one. Of particular interest is the section on Semi-inletted and Finished Stocks for virtually any rifle or shotgun you can name.

...

The 9mm Browning Long Pistol cartridge (also called 9mm Swedish M/07; 9mm Long; 9mm Auto Pistol) is still produced in Europe, but not widely available here. Remington once produced it in the U. S., but no longer. Prior to WWI, many pistols were chambered for this cartridge. It was, at one time, the standard military round of Belgium and Sweden and the firms FN, Astra, Le Francaise, Star, and Webley all produced standard pistols chambered for it. In addition, several submachine guns used it. Oddly enough, though basically an auto pistol cartridge of semi-rimmed form like the .38ACP, some revolvers were chambered for it—notably the Webley-Fosberry "Automatic Revolver."

Many 9mm Long guns will accept and fire the 9mm Parabellum (Luger), but this cartridge produces pressures well above tolerances for which these guns were designed. In addition, the Parabellum round headspaces on its mouth, while the 9mm Long seats on its narrow rim. The Parabellum goes too deeply into the chamber, creating a condition of excess headspace. That leads to blown primers and ruptured cases—both conditions not calculated to prolong the life of the gun or the mild temper of the shooter. The same results can be produced by firing the .380ACP in the same chamber.

Perhaps, it should be mentioned that more than a few dealers have sold the Browning M1908 and its Swedish M.07 counterpart in this caliber as .380 or 9mm Luger caliber. These two are by far the most common 9mm Long guns encountered. Swedish guns produced by Husqvarna are not usually marked as to caliber, nor are some of the FN/Brownings except when stamped with a cryptic

"9mm," which could mean almost anything. Now, add to that confusion the fact that at least one fairly large lot of the surplus Swedish guns was more or less properly converted to .380 caliber. They are usually stamped ".380," lightly and in small characters, on either slide or barrel. But, in the years since those guns were sold, barrels and slides have been switched, repaired, replaced, and reconverted to the point you simply can't be sure what diet to feed a particular gun. A simple test will tell you what to use. If the slide will close on a 9mm Browning Long cartridge, that's the one to use. If not, it needs .380's. If you don't have a sample 9mm B.L. round, a 9mm Parabellum will do as well. But, don't try to fire it.

There's no point in paying a high price for foreign 9mm B.L. ammunition. Except for length, the case is virtually identical with the .38 Colt Super and .38ACP. Trim either to .80" length and it's ready to load. Use any 9mm (.355-.357" diameter) bullet weighing 90 to 120 grains seated to a cartridge length not exceeding 1.10" and you'll have a cartridge that will feed reliably through the mechanism. Both jacketed and cast lead bullets work fine so long as they are not of exaggerated wadcutter or semi-wadcutter nose shape. Soft- and hollow-points of the Super Vel type work equally well. In fact, any shape that will feed through other 9mm autoloadingers will work okay in this one.

Bullseye and Unique are the main powders we've used in this caliber. There is no need for any other, since they will furnish all levels of performance that lie within the cartridge/gun combination limitations.

Original factory load ballistics (110 gr. bullet, 1100 fps) can be closely approached with the 116 gr. jacketed Luger bullet and 5.0 gr. Unique, producing 1040 fps. Any recommended .380ACP loads and bullets may be used, though only those developing full power will produce reliable automatic functioning. In addition to all that, we offer the following data which has worked well in at least three different Swedish and one Browning/FN gun. All were assembled in altered W-W .38ACP cases with .356" diameter bullets and standard small pistol primers. RCBS, Inc., can supply dies, but these loads were assembled in .38 Super dies of the same make; the seating die was short-

(Continued on page 12)

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ened to crimp the shorter case.

Some of the reformed .38ACP cases used in my Swedish M/07 pistol have been through at least a dozen reload-

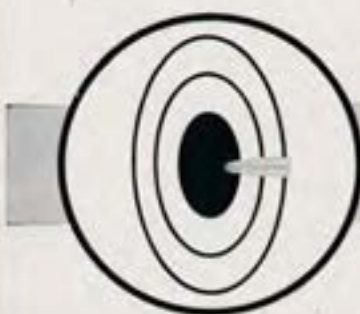
shoulder. There are more lubricants suitable for the job than you can count with your shoes off. Lately, we've been using "Lubri-Size"

Bullet	Powder	Charge	Velocity	Remarks
Lyman 338101	Unique	5.0 gr.	1075 fps	Moderate
Rem. 95 gr. FJ	Unique	5.0 gr.	1100 fps	
105 gr. HJ	Bullseye	3.8 gr.	1090 fps	Warm
SV 90 gr. JHP	Bullseye	4.4 gr.	not measured	Hot
Norma 116 gr. HP	230P	3.7 gr.	not measured	
Lyman 336402	Bullseye	3.0 gr.	not measured	Mild
95 gr. HJ	Bullseye	3.5 gr.	1000 fps	
92 gr. lead	Unique	5.0 gr.	1050 fps	Very Accurate

ings and are still in serviceable condition. Both the Swedish and Belgian manufactured guns are normally quite well made. Because of its relatively large size, this gun is quite free of the malfunctions often encountered in other designs.

Lubrication of cases before resizing should never be overlooked; but, on the other hand, overdoing it will also lead to trouble. A dry case will stick in the die, causing no end of vituperative comment. Too much slickum will cause severe dents, even splits, when it becomes trapped near the case

(Marksmanship Equipment & Accessories, 19 Summit St., N.Y., N.Y.) It comes as a pinkish paste, packed in plastic squeeze-tubes. I find pastes much more convenient than liquids. With the latter, it is simply too easy to get too much on the case. With a paste, a deliberate effort is required. A thin film of Lubri-Size makes full-length sizing and case forming smooth and easy. It works well when swaging bullets, too. It may be applied with the fingers or by rolling cases across a stamp pad into which the paste has been worked.



POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

WE SEE A NEW RIFLE cartridge every year and sometimes there is more than one. A common characteristic of these new loads is high velocity. If the factory cannot advertise a very hyper speed, there is sure to be a lack of interest in the new round. The shooter has been spoon fed on the goodness of ultra velocities and he measures all the new offerings by this yardstick. One of the selling points of the new .17 caliber is its speed. The boys who reload for this pipsqueak hit 4,000 fps. without much trouble. How much interest do you think there would be in the newcomer if it only attained 3,000 feet per second?

Despite the unending search for greater and greater velocities these going-hell-for-leather loads haven't upped speeds as much as you might presume. Take the .220 Swift. It was announced in 1936 and had a speed of

4110 fps. It was the fastest factory load. It still is. While the .17 caliber has been driven as fast as 4500 fps. it is still a wildcat. After World War 2 the magnum cartridge came to the fore. One of the most popular magnums is the .30 caliber. The common garden variety .30 is the old '06, it drives a 180-gr bullet at 2700 fps. The best the .30 magnums can do is 3150 fps—an increase of only 400 feet per second. This is an advantage but it isn't anything sensational.

Ballistics people have constantly searched for higher velocity. One of the early members was a German arms designer named Gerlach. He had a rifle called the Halger. He claimed 5,000 fps with this gun and a special cartridge. The casing was about the same size as our .50 cal machine gun cartridge. This was fired in a tapered bore. The bullet when it emerged

from the muzzle was about a .30 caliber. The Army Ordnance Dept invited Gerlach and his rifle to visit Aberdeen Proving Ground and there, sure enough, the gun and load did attain 5,000 fps. speeds. But breech pressures were in the neighborhood of 80,000 psi! The bullet, as it passed up the smooth bore of the barrel, had skirts on it which were folded back as it progressed through the tapered tube.

During WW-II the Wehrmacht had an anti-tank rifle which utilized the Gerlach principle. It had a chamber which accepted a 40 mm round. But when the projectile got to the muzzle of the tapered bore it measured only 25 mm. It had velocities in the 4,000 fps. range but was not accurate enough to be a good tank rifle. The projectile had skirts, just as did the Halger, but these did not fold back smoothly and efficiently. As a matter of fact, the skirting was irregular and upset the dynamic balance of the round and accounted for its poor accuracy.

A special .30-06 round was developed for conducting experiments in gunshot wounds on laboratory animals. This was done by the Army Medical Corps. The round was the conventional '06 casing but into it was loaded a steel sphere which weighed only 15.4 grains. This round ball was held in the casing by a wooden sabot which was split down the middle. The sabot once it was free of the muzzle fell away and the steel sphere was free to go on. Velocities attained were 4330 fps.

There are a good many factors that limit velocities. Among these are breech pressures; once pressures go above 55,000 psi., there is danger of bursting the gun. Brass shell casings won't stand pressures much above this limitation. Barrel life, likewise, becomes quite short and this has a decided bearing. The .220 Swift has a bad reputation for eating up barrels. Some tubes are gone after only 600 rounds of factory full charge.

While the .17 caliber can be driven at Swift velocities, when these are lifted to around 4500 fps., bullets sometimes disintegrate. These simply evaporate. What happens is that the jacketing is so thin on the tiny projectile that it splits along the marks of the lands and goes to pieces.

Bullet velocities a good deal higher than 4500 feet have been realized. But these have been accomplished with a gas gun, a smoothbored laboratory device that fires helium. With this type of gun speeds of up to 20,000 fps. have been gotten. The helium is compressed by piston force and when pressures reach optimum levels the gas is released behind an all-steel

projectile which is launched down this un-rifled bore. The tube is 40 feet in length and together with the breech assembly weighs almost a ton.

• • •

World-wide what is the most popular rifle cartridge? Why beyond any shadow of doubt the .22 caliber is the No. 1. Of that all of us will agree. But in the centerfire category the choice ranges between the .30 and the 8 mm. On this continent there isn't any doubt that over the past three-quarters of a century the thirty caliber has been the most popular. The swing to the .30 commenced when the .30-30 came into being in the middle 1890s. It was followed by the .30-40 Krag and then came along the famous .30-06. In Canada there was, besides the .30-30, the well known .303. This British development was equally important to the Aussies and is to this day.

If any other calibers seem to threaten the prominent position of the thirty caliber in this country today it may be such relatively new numbers as the .270, the 7 mm magnum and the .243.

World-wide there is a question about the popularity of the .30 caliber. It has a real rival in the 8 mm Mauser

cartridge. This is an exceedingly popular caliber and it has a wide circulation. It is not as powerful as the .30-06 but for all that it is both an excellent military and hunting cartridge. Many armies have used both the 8 mm round and the Mauser rifle which goes hand in glove with the cartridge. The Spaniards gave us quite a lacing in Cuba with a Mauser rifle and a 7 mm cartridge. Here, more lately, they have switched to the 8 mm caliber. The Scandinavians have also liked the Mauser but in a caliber somewhat peculiarly their own. The 6.5 mm.

The Ruskies, like ourselves, have clung to the .30 caliber. An old obsolete and not very potent cartridge. They have changed the casing since the end of WW-2 but not the bullet. It is still thirty caliber. The Chinese, who have a hodgepodge of calibers, some 8 mm and others our own .30, have now standardized on the Russian .30.

The influence of our .30 caliber has persuaded us to make the cartridges more and more powerful. The .300 magnum is an example.

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that as the military reduces its calibers so goes the sporting cartridges. When we junked the .45-70 in the army the sporting fraternity also dropped the big bore and took up the thirty caliber. What the adoption of the .223 will produce in the hunting world remains to be seen. The introduction of this lilliput into the military is as yet too freshly accomplished to have any perceptible impact. But judging by history it will have its influence. A relatively new cartridge is the .243 (6 mm). It is considerably more powerful than the tiny .223 but it falls short of having the power of the older 30'06. For all that the wide acceptance and continuing popularity of the .243 might well be the forerunner of the demise of the older thirty caliber.

• • •

One time Capt. Ned Crossman, who was a ranking firearms authority, was asked by a guns-ammo manufacturer, "Why don't you write something about shotguns, Ned?" The guns writer who was pretty testy, said, "There isn't anything new about scatterguns." And certainly he had a point when you look at the gauges. Every year we see a new rifle cartridge but when have we seen a new shotgun gauge?

The .410 was the last gauge developed and that was more than a half-century in the background. The possibilities of anything new coming along is pretty dismal. As a matter of fact there is some speculation that some of the present gauges might be junked! It used to be we had a lot more shotguns than we see these days. There was once a 2 gauge, and a 4 gauge, a 6 and an 8 gauge. We have managed to hang onto the 10 gauge but it is completely obsolescent. Beyond the tremendously popular 12 gauge we once had a 14, an 18, a 24 and a 32 gauge. Because of a duplication of performance, or a lack of need, as with the monster gauges, or because of a lack of power many have bitten the dust.

Of the gauges that are now actively in existence the 12 is by far the most popular. Of all the new guns sold 50% are 12s. There is another 25% that goes for the 20 gauge, and then among the others—the 16, 28 and .410—the remaining 25% of sales is divided. There is no manufacturer in this country of the 10 so it does not count. As a matter of fact there is precious little that can be accomplished with the 10 gauge that cannot be done equally well with a 12 gauge magnum.

The 12 has such a great deal of versatility it could very well serve as the only shotgun. The manufacturers have devoted such a great deal of time and

(Continued on page 52)



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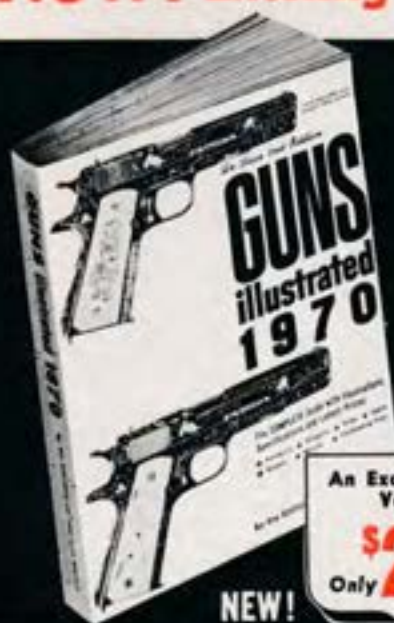
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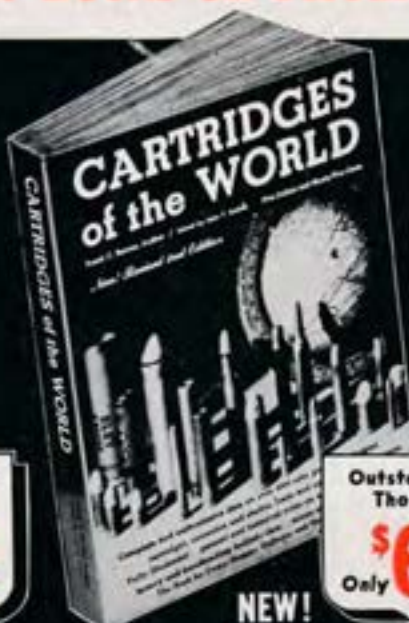
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By Col. Charles Atkins
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What does a varminting gun editor do? You guessed it! Related here is an exciting story about deer stalking in the Scottish highlands by John T. Amber.

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 contribution 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 Zarbak
An extensive and fully detailed treatise on this specialized phase of cartridge making.

DAN WESSON ARMS By Mason Williams
The great-grandson of Daniel B. Wesson establishes a new firm, develops a new handgun, and carries on a great family tradition.

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

By Warren Page
To paraphrase a popular commercial may seem like a stunt to get on the handwheels, 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 faster, stiffer, shorter (if they're in most NRAA weight rifle) barrels.

THE MARLIN: ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT GUN MAKERS

By Pete Kuhlthoff
Featured 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 yesterday, revealed to light and brought up to date by Pete Kuhlthoff.

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Panel of Experts

Mauser 98 Shotgun

I have a shotgun and would like to know if it has any collector's value. There is no name of any kind on the gun. It has a 26" barrel and is 12 gauge, full choke. It has a Mauser-like action and magazine that holds two shells. The word "GERMANY" is printed on the top of the barrel and on the side is "Nitro". It has a 1" metal disc in the stock and sling swivels. There are several proof marks on the barrel, action, and on the stock.

Herb Breeden
Wheeling, W. Va.

Your description fits a poor excuse for a gun beaten together in Germany just after World War I.

Model 98 Mausers were re-barreled with shotgun barrels and converted into bolt action shotguns; unfortunately, in order to make room for the greater body bulk of the shotshells, much of the locking strength of the Mauser action had to be milled away, thus weakening the action to the danger point.

Few of these are encountered these days and I suppose that any Mauser collector would be attracted to one for his collection—possibly to the extent of \$30-40.00; but don't shoot it!—S.B.

Re-chambering the .22 cal. S.M.L.E.

I have heard that the .22 cal. Mark III S.M.L.E. could be re-chambered to the .218 Bee. Is this possible? Could the rifle safely take the .225 Winchester?

S. Van Klett
San Antonio, N. M.

Converting the Mark III SMLE to .218 Bee or .225 Winchester would probably be quite impractical. The latter caliber is a "hot" one for the SMLE action, and I definitely would

not recommend this. Converting to feed would be difficult or impossible. It would no doubt hold the Bee cartridge,—but there is the problem of bore diameter again. A standard 22 long rifle bore is .222". The hotter center-fires are almost always .224". You could load the Hornady .222" dia. Jet bullet. But again you would no doubt have a single shot. I don't know which gunsmith would have a .218 Bee reamer or would be interested in trying such a conversion.—W.S.

Spanish .455

I recently came across a revolver that resembles the Wesson Favorite, .44 Double Action. It is Spanish made and across the top of the barrel is written "Manufactura Especial De Revolvers Garate Anitua Y O'a-Eibar (Espana)". I've used .45 ACP with half-moon clips which worked well. Is ammunition for this gun still available, and is it safe to shoot with factory .45 ammo?

William Mosser
Fremont, Ohio

Your Spanish Revolver was apparently originally chambered for the .455 Webley cartridge. The Spanish arms industry centered around Eibar, of which Garate Anitua was once a prominent member, produced many copies of Colt and Smith & Wesson revolver designs prior to the Spanish Civil War. Your particular gun was undoubtedly manufactured before WWI. Some such guns were of good quality, but more often they were of mediocre workmanship and material. Such guns are not highly regarded today.

Inasmuch as you say you have fired .45 ACP ammunition in clips in this gun, it has been altered so that it is no longer possible to fire .455 cartridges in it. Consequently, you will have to stick to the .45 ACP round. However,

you may also use the rimmed .45 Auto-rimmed cartridge which was originally introduced after WWI as a substitute for the rimless ACP case and 3-round clips.—G.N.

Kuchenreuter Rifle

I have a flintlock rifle made by Io. August Kuchenreuter, of Regensburg, Germany. Total length is about 51 inches, weight is about 8 lbs., barrel length is 34 inches, rifling is 7 grooves



and the bore is about .63 cal. I have shot this rifle many times. Could you give me an idea what this rifle would bring on the American market?

Sj. H. Brongersma
Netherlands

Some of the finest fire arms were made by the Kuchenreuter Family, and I would think that your flintlock hunting rifle would command a fairly good price on the American Market; although American interest mainly falls into American made arms such as the Kentucky Rifle and Colts, there is still great interest in the well made and appealing arms of the great European gun makers. Collectors value on the American Market for your Flintlock Rifle made by Kuchenreuter should be a minimum of \$350.—R.M.

Astra 400 Ammo

I would like to find out just what the proper cartridge is for the Astra 400. Is it the 9mm Luger, 9mm Steyr or the 9mm Bergmann-Bayard?

Richard W. Fuchs
Boston, Mass.

The proper cartridge for the Astra

M400 is the one known in Spain as the 9mm Largo, and known elsewhere in the world as the 9mm Bergmann-Bayard. Most such guns will also fire safely and reliably the 9mm Steyr cartridge. In addition, the .38 ACP may be used, providing the breech face recess is sufficiently large to accept the slightly larger rim of the Colt cartridge. The Astra M600 is chambered only for the 9mm Parabellum (Luger) cartridge, which must not be used in the M400.—G.N.

English Walking Cane Gun

I have an old walking cane gun about 24 gauge in excellent shape. It is a muzzle loader percussion type. On the very top of the gun is stamped Day's Patent. It has British proof marks and the handle is either hard wood, bone or ivory. Any information on it would be greatly appreciated.

Tiny Powell
Poteau, Oklahoma

One of the better percussion cane guns was the Days manufactured model. Makers of many types of flintlock and percussion arms, one of Days most interesting guns was the Truncheon or Bludgeon pistol carried by police officers and private guards... using the same system that you have in your walking cane. I would estimate value for your percussion cane gun if in excellent condition to be approximately \$100 to \$125.—R.M.

.38 Special, M41

I have been given a box of .38 Special ammo and on the box top is written "50 Cartridges, Ball, Caliber .38 Special M41, Remington Arms Co. Inc.". On the side of the box is written "These cartridges are especially designed and manufactured exclusively (Continued on page 73)

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WALTHER



EDITOR'S NOTE

At the time this article goes to press, it appears that the Walther TPH pistol will not be available to U. S. shooters. The new point system for imports, under the Gun Control Act of 1968, makes it almost impossible to import any small .22 or .25 auto pistol. If the law should be changed, Interarms Ltd., sole importer of Walther pistols would be the source for this pistol. Price not available.

By JAN A. STEVENSON

Small self-loading auto pistols have been rightfully sneered at for years. An opponent shot with the full-jacketed .25 caliber was apt to become enraged, and the pistols themselves were mechanically archaic, making them either dangerous to carry or impossibly slow to get into action. Easy concealment was their sole and only virtue, and their popularity, on the balance, was wholly unwarranted.

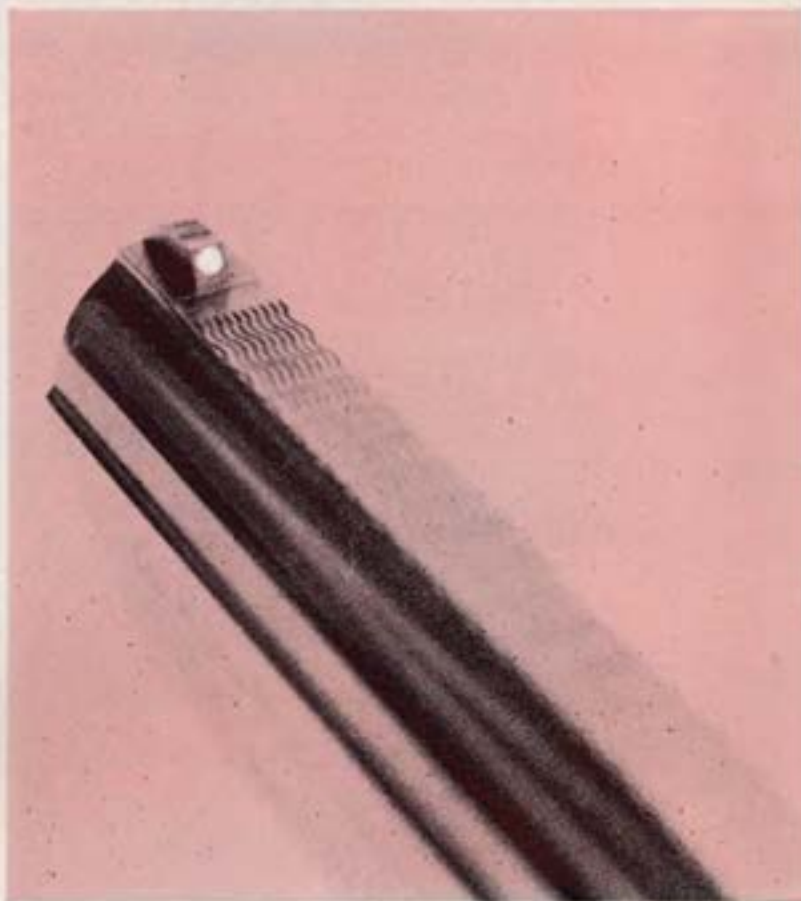
The Carl Walther firm of Ulm/Donau, Germany, has, with the introduction of their all-new TPH model, put an abrupt about-face to this situation. So far ahead of the rest of the pack is this "minigun," that I predict it is fated for instant and lasting popularity, and will for years to come

be the standard against which all other weapons of its type will be judged.

The initial designation "TPH" stands for "Taschenpistole mit Hahn" (pocket pistol with hammer) and the gun traces its lineage from the Walther PP, designed by Fritz Walther and first introduced in 1929. The PPK, or detective model, followed along in 1931, and these two first class handguns are by far the most popular police sidearms on the European continent today. The PPK, as well, has an avid following among American criminal investigators, and our custom holster makers are hard pressed to sew enough sheaths to hang this item.

In the mid 1930's, Walther engineers wed the double

TPH AUTO PISTOL



Left and above: Design of the TPH sights allows the gun to be used for defense-type work quite easily. The white areas show-up rather well and sight radius is the same (about 4 inches) as on a small snub-nose revolver.

action trigger mechanism that the firm had pioneered with the PP to a new locked-breech pistol chambered for the 9mm Parabellum round. This "Heeres" or "Army" pistol evolved into the P-38 of the Second War Wehrmacht and the P-1 of the modern Bundeswehr.

Walther's reputation for way-ahead designing, sound engineering, and fine craftsmanship is today well established, and the TPH will add to the luster—it's a gem.

In concept and appearance the new TPH is nearly a scale model of the PPK, but an inside look tells a different story. Walther designers went through the weapon from tang to muzzle, re-engineering it for ease of production. The most startling change is in the action, where stampings are the

new word. The PP and PPK attach a milled drawbar to a machined horseshoe sear, itself pivoted to the frame on either side. The sear engages a Colt-like hammer strut for double action, and contact surfaces on the hammer itself for single action fire. It works just as does a Hartford-built revolver. Not so the TPH, which routs a stamped drawbar right inside the frame to engage a much simplified interior sear, thus saving a dozen or so machining cuts, but giving, so far as I could tell, equally as good a trigger pull. Action parts on the TPH are, for the most part, mounted in the frame from above and pinned laterally into place. By this arrangement, as little machining as possible is done on the frame.

(Continued on next page)



Above: Accuracy and reliability are easier to come by with the frame mounted barrel.



Above: TPH ejector is a simple stamping. Rounded nubbin serves as a disconnecter. Below: TPH fits well into a woman's hand.



The frame itself is forged aluminum alloy, incorporating, like the PP but unlike the PPK, the arc of the backstrap as a part of the frame forging. The slide, obviously the most expensive part of the weapon, is machined from a steel forging, just as is that of the PPK.

WALTHER TPH- TECHNICAL DATA

NAME: Taschenpistole mit Hahn—
TPH

TYPE: Pistol, semi-automatic,
magazine fed

OPERATION: Blowback, unlocked
breech

CALIBERS: .22 Long Rifle; .25
Auto

CAPACITY: 6 rounds

TRIGGER: Double action first shot;
single action all succeeding shots

SAFETIES: Thumblever on slide
shields and blocks firing pin,
drops hammer. Disconnecter;
safety notch on hammer; inertial
firing pin.

WEIGHT EMPTY: 10.9 oz.

LENGTH O.A.: 5.3"

BBL. LENGTH: 2.8"

HEIGHT: 3.5"

WIDTH: .9"

SIGHT RADIUS: 3.9"

BLADE WIDTH: .091" with .067"
white dot inset

NOTCH WIDTH: .114" with 1/16"
white line underneath

CONSTRUCTION: Aluminum
frame; checkered plastic grips;
all other parts steel.

MANUFACTURER: Carl Walther
Waffenfabrik, Ulm/Donau, West
Germany

PRICE: Not available

Some changes on the TPH were necessary because there simply wasn't room for the luxurious gadgetry one finds on the larger models. The magazine release button had to be moved down to the heel of the butt because there wasn't space for it at the normal location on the left side of the frame. The slide of the TPH doesn't hold open on the last shot because the elaborate milled (Continued on page 56)

OUR MAN IN

WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

FRUIT FROM BAD SEEDS

Back in July, we had (here in Washington), for what it is worth, three new anti-gun developments. One, Senator Dodd introduced still another bill. Two, Sen. Dodd started new hearings. Three, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence released a report recommending the confiscation of privately-owned handguns.

Lest there be any misunderstanding about these developments, a look at the broad picture is necessary. The name of the game is politics. The idea was to put the man in the White House on the spot.

The Commission, commonly called "The Eisenhower Commission," was set up by President Johnson on June 10, 1968. It was the hottest year of "the long hot summers." The democrats knew their popularity was sagging, and something had to be done about all the violence that was being hung around their political necks. The limits of the Constitution had already been stretched with laws that didn't seem to be working.

What to do? Name a commission to study the situation! So a commission was named. It had to be stacked with right-thinking people. People who would not try to use the commission as a springboard to grab political power from the old leaders. People who agreed with the Johnson philosophy. People who would carry on the old ideas, should more conservative men move into key positions. Such a commission could not find that mistakes were being made!

There were men of another political philosophy named, but they, too, were

hand-picked, men who would use restraint in their disagreements with the commission. Why would such men serve? In matters of government, it is an unwritten law, you just don't tell the President of the United States to "get lost."

The fruits of the seeds planted back in 1968 are here: A task force report, written by the staff of the commission, concluded that "the vicious circle of Americans arming to protect themselves from other armed Americans must be broken." In other words, disarm the law-abiding citizens.

Here are some of the findings of the report:

"We recommend federal legislation to encourage the establishment of state licensing systems for handguns. The federal legislation would introduce a federal system of handgun licensing, applicable only to those states which within a four-year period fail to enact a state law that (1) establishes a standard for determining an individual's need for a handgun and for the licensing of an individual who shows such a need and (2) prohibits all others from possessing handguns or buying handgun ammunition.

"We propose that the states be permitted to determine for themselves what constitutes 'need' to own a handgun. For the federal system applicable to states which fail to enact their own licensing systems, we recommend that determinations of need be limited to police officers and security guards, small businesses in high (Continued on page 70)



The KRIEGHOFF SHOTGUN

BY MASON WILLIAMS

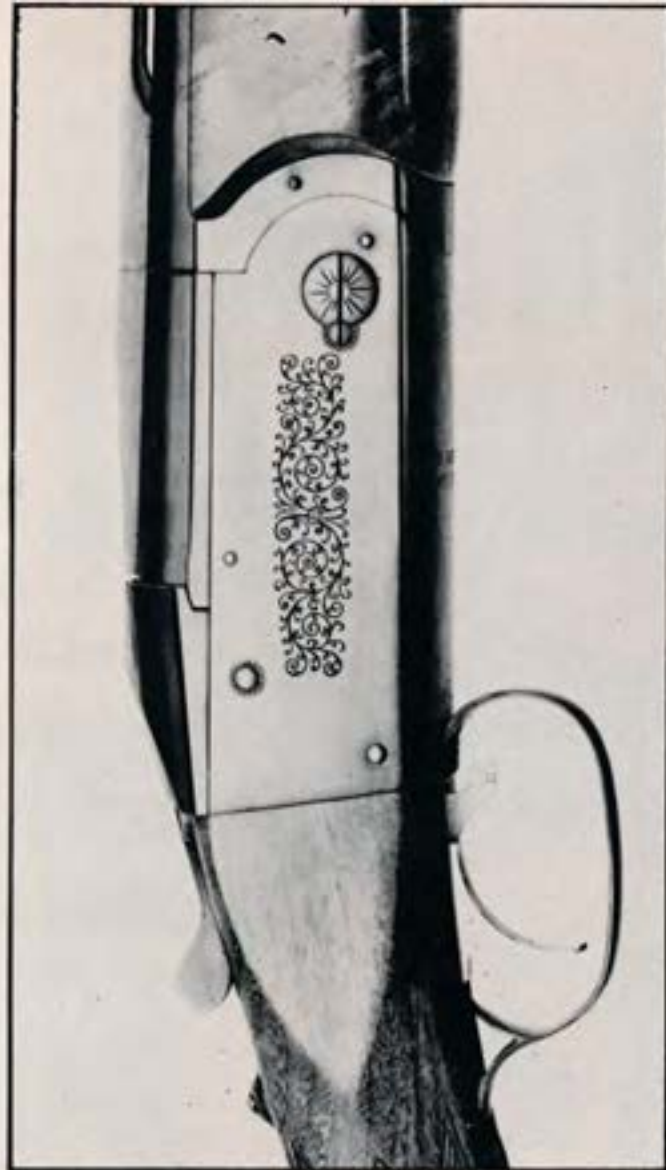


IN 1936 Remington sold their Over-Under shotgun for \$99.50 in Standard Grade and it was known as the Model 32-A. This 12 gauge shotgun incorporated many unusual design features, including a sliding breech lock that moved back when the action was opened and moved forward when the action was closed to slide over the top of the rear of the barrels to securely lock them into place. Over the years, this proved to be one of the strongest over-under designs ever manufactured and the Remington Model 32's became a legend in their time for sheer reliability, ruggedness and fast handling.

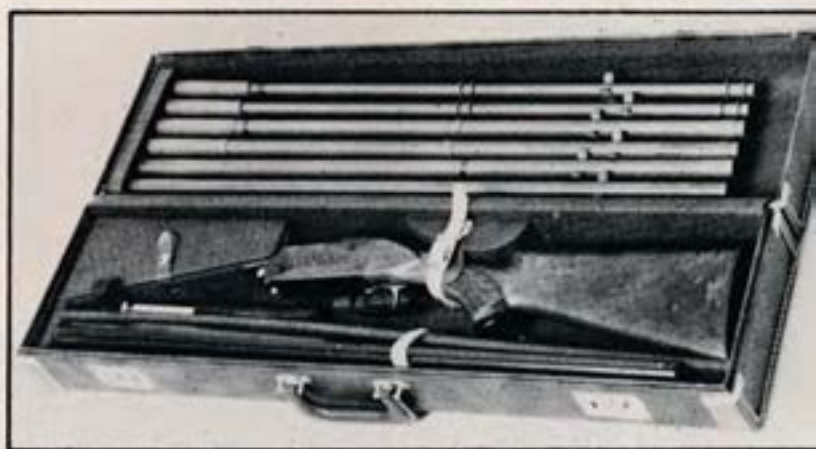
As far as I know, Remington never did resume produc-

tion of the Model 32 shotgun; after evaluating costs and the potential market, it became obvious that it would not be economically feasible. As a result, the Model 32 disappeared from the American market, but not before it had set an enviable record for handling, reliability and ruggedness.

At the same time that the Model 32 was making a name for itself, the German firm of Krieghoff was producing a high power, semi-automatic rifle that sold for \$500.00, a fantastic price at that time, but the Krieghoff firm specialized in unusual and high priced firearms. This Krieghoff semi-automatic rifle would handle the .30-06 cartridge or



Above: Receiver of the standard grade showing simple scroll engraving. Right above: The San Remo grade engraving. Right: A cased Krieghoff with a full set of barrels for skeet and trap. Case comes in either leather or vinyl covering.



any other rimless cartridge. It utilized a gas operated mechanism that was quite unusual in those days and was created, not for the military, but for the sportsman.

After the Second World War it took many years for German industry to stage its comeback but when it did rumors kept coming out of Europe concerning the Krieghoff over-under shotgun, and then suddenly, shooters realized that what appeared to be the old Model 32 Remington was actually available in Europe in extremely limited quantities. Since that red letter year of 1961, more and more top shotgun shooters have bought the new Krieghoff shotgun. Today, it is a rare trap or skeet shoot that does not include at least a couple of Krieghoff.

Professional trap and skeet shooters cannot afford to use shotguns that do not perform, and while personal likes and dislikes play an important part in the shooting game, it is important to note that the Krieghoff is rated as one of the top competition shotguns.

I talked to Bob Dietemeyer of Pacific Gun Sight Co., who is one of the active professional trap and skeet shoot-

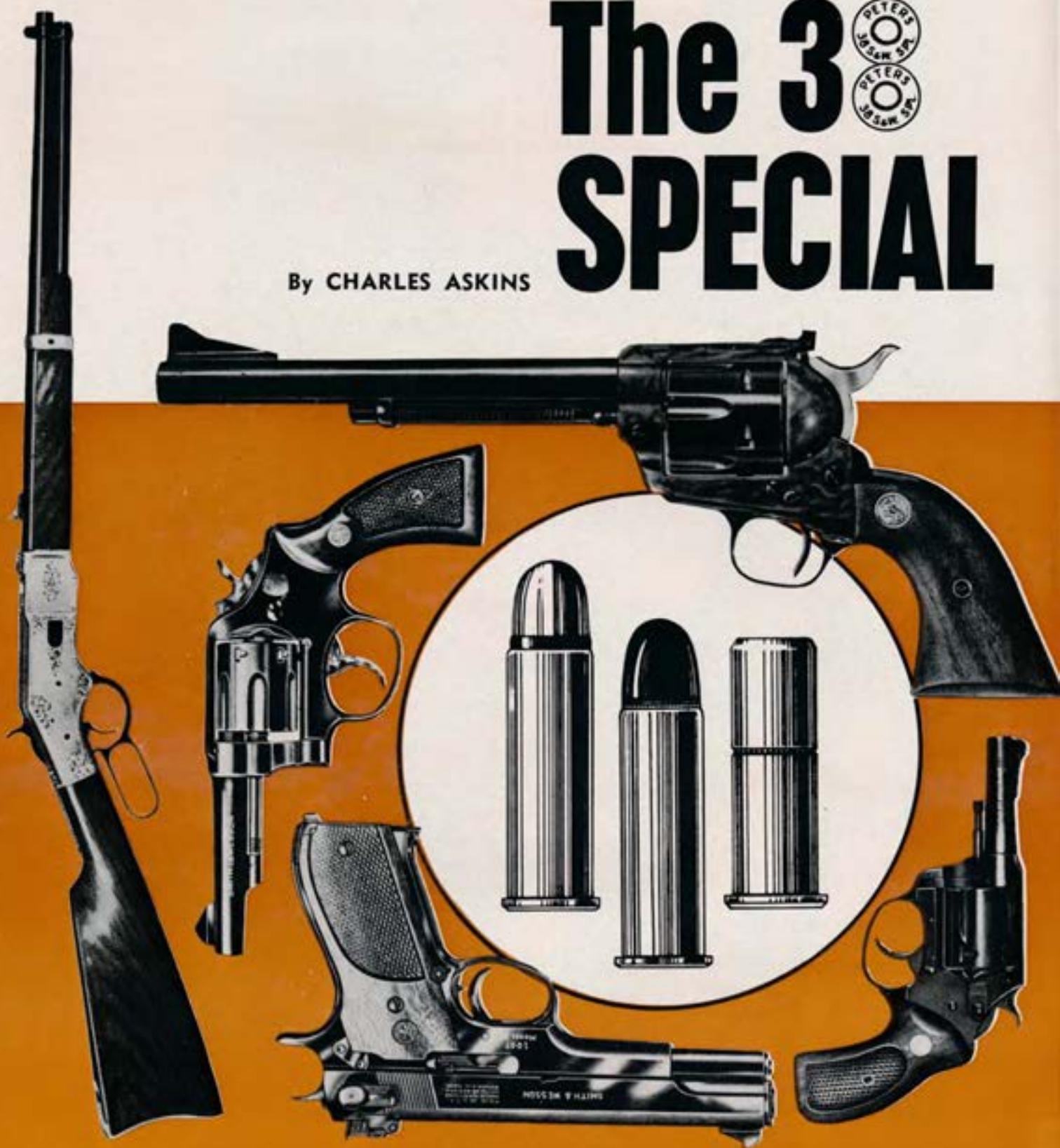
ers in the country, and he told me that he has a complete set of Krieghoff's in all gauges for all phases of shotgun shooting. Why? Because he can depend upon the Krieghoff. Keith Stegall, the well known custom stock maker, chose the Krieghoff as his basic trap gun for professional shooting. Why? Consistent patterns plus reliability.

It would appear that the inherently sound design features that Remington built into the original Model 32 more than thirty years ago have proven their worth making the new Krieghoff a superb competition shotgun. This does not mean that it is not an upland game or waterfowl shotgun. Not at all, but few hunters

(Continued on page 58)

The 3rd SPECIAL

By CHARLES ASKINS



38 SPEC. AUTO.		38 SPEC. & 357 MAG.												
														
35887	35863	357441	357445	358156	35893	35891	358101	358111	35875	358430	358435	358477	358429	358412
125	148	158	162	155	125	148	78	160	200	200	148	158	170	155



Right: S/Maj Joe Benner, an all time great of pistol match shooting, has always been a user of the .38.



THE MOST POPULAR center-fire handgun is the .38 Special. Look into the bureau drawers of a hundred homes, and more often than not the gun reposing there beneath all the freshly laundered shirts will be a .38. Glance at the sidearm packed by the police in any city from Los Angeles to Boston and you will see the time-worn Thirty-Eight Special. And on the target ranges across this broad land of ours this caliber manages to hold its own. The popularity of the gun and load now stretch back to 1902, a matter of two-thirds of a century. Nothing on the horizon today would appear to effect the enthusiasm for the cartridge over the next several decades.

The .38 Special was designed by Smith & Wesson for the M&P model revolver and was shortly taken up by Colt. It has been regularly chambered by both manufacturers ever since. The .38 Special is an outgrowth of the older .38 Long cartridge which was developed in 1875. It is considerably more powerful, more accurate, and more reliable than the older round which is now thoroughly obsolete. It is also a considerably more desirable cartridge than its first cousin, the .38 S&W. This number is under-powered, lacking in accuracy and consistency. It was whumped up in 1877 and has seen scant improvement since it first saw the light. The .38 Spl., on the other hand, has been steadily bettered and this goodness continues to this day.

There is a tendency these days to had mouth the .38 Special, claiming it does not have punch enough. Those who low rate the cartridge are a minority, though they are pretty vocal. These are a handful of gun writers who push the magnum calibers. The .38 Spl. is not a magnum and admittedly, on the score of power it falls behind the super calibers. On the other hand, it is more accurate than these heavily loaded numbers; it kicks less, thereby punishes the shooter a good deal less, and it is infinitely more pleasant to shoot. It is looked on by a good many law enforcement agencies as a better choice for the very fact that it does not have a lot of unwanted power.

Despite the criticism of the .38 Special on the score of knockdown punch, it does kill very well on small game. I have been shooting the cartridge for 35 years and have never had any complaint to make of its ability to knock over hawks, buzzards, crows, jackrabbits and an occasional fox or coyote. I am not the one to shoot deer, elk, bear and moose with the handgun—not any handgun. This is proper game for a rifle and is not proper target for a one-hand gun.

The sweet thing about the .38 Special is its marvelous accuracy. There isn't any centerfire cartridge that shoots better and a great many of them do not perform nearly as well. The Big Bertha devotees (Continued on page 64)



The Saga of **SCHULTZ & LARSON** and the **7x61 SHARPE & HART**



DeBowman



Above: The Schultz & Larsen rifle and some of the ammo used in tests. In foreground are case length gauges.

IN ANY COMPARISON OF the safety factors of the bolt action rifle we are quite apt to select the German Mauser, usually the Model 98, as the best example for our comparison studies. The 98 Mauser action is the best known of any of the foreign actions and has been imported and used by American shooters for over 60 years. It is a natural for first place, although, in my opinion, there are a number of different bolt actions, made in England, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Spain and other foreign countries that are superior to the 98 Mauser but have never become as popular here in the States.

Several years ago a Danish-made rifle was imported to this country and widely publicized by the late Phil Sharpe. This rifle was chambered for the then new 7x61 Sharpe and Hart cartridge. It was then, and still is, the only factory-made rifle chambered for this cartridge on sale in this country. The rifle was made by Shultz and Larsen Rifle Company of Otterup, Denmark. The company is an old one, founded in 1911, and has always been well known for its very accurate competition rifles. Shultz and Larsen also produced arms for the Danish government. They have always been regarded as manufacturers of quality rifles rather than quantity, and Phil Sharpe wanted a very accurate factory rifle to handle his new 7x61 Sharpe and Hart cartridge and arranged with Shultz and Larsen to produce them.

Sharpe's experimental ammunition was made up from belted H&H cases but his production ammunition, the cases as well as the factory loads was obtained from Norma of Sweden. Made with a 1 in 10 twist, to handle the

heavier hunting bullets accurately, the Shultz and Larsen rifle and the 7x61 Sharpe and Hart cartridge was an immediate success. Custom gunsmiths had reamers ground for them and began to produce excellent custom built rifles for this cartridge. Many of these custom rifles had chambers that deviated considerably from the Shultz and Larsen specifications. In fact, in some rifles it was impossible to load for them successfully, in dies made to accurate Shultz and Larsen specifications.

Phil Sharpe was a bit over optimistic about what the 7x61 could and would do as to velocity, and his loading data figures produced high and even dangerous pressures in many rifles. These factors diminished the popularity of the Shultz and Larsen rifle here in the States and for a number of years nothing much was heard about the cartridge or rifle. Norma Precision, of Lansing, New York, distributed the rifle for a short time, but the advent of the 7MM Remington and its rapid success in the magnum field once again put the Shultz and Larsen in the shadows. Ammunition for the 7MM was made by Winchester, Federal and most foreign ammunition companies, and nearly all large American as well as many foreign arms companies chambered a rifle for it.

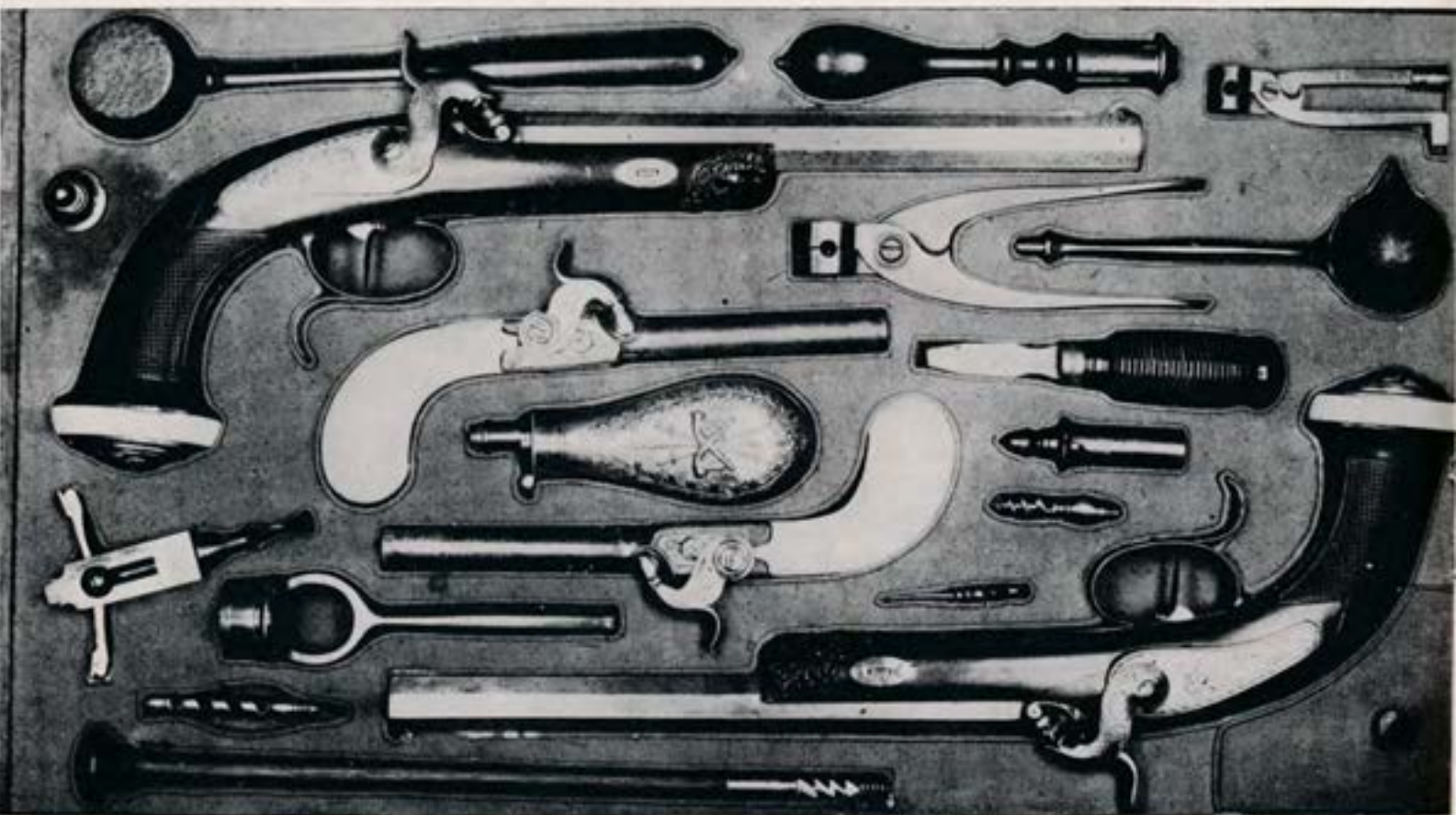
There are quite a number of the 7x61 chambered rifles here in the States. Those who own them and have used them a lot are quite well pleased with their performance. These owners know the correct loadings for their particular rifle, loads that produce the best results without excessive pressures. The velocities obtained are about midway between those of the .230 (Continued on page 50)

EARLY SHOOTING ACCESSORIES

Part 3 MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

*It took an assortment of implements
to keep the old guns shooting.*

By JAMES E. SERVEN





A variety of gun oilers ranging from the "metal bottle" type to the better known buttstock oiler.

POWDER AND THE BALL are the components which give the gun its lethal power. A third factor is indispensable, however, and that is the ignition. With the changes in ignition systems and the different mechanisms to make them function, various new tools have had to be designed.

For the early matchlocks of the 16th and 17th centuries only simple tools were required such as a mould, flask, screw driver, pick to keep the barrel vent clean and a loading rod. The ignition for matchlocks, a "slow match" that must be kept burning while the gun was aimed and fired, was merely a piece of fibered rope soaked in saltpeter and dried. When this was lighted and the glowing end pressed into a pan filled with fine gunpowder the flash which ensued was communicated to the main charge in the barrel through a small vent opposite the pan. Sometimes a rod with a U-shaped metal head was used to support the heavy barrel when shooting.

With the wheel lock guns of the

1500s and 1600s there came an indispensable tool—the spanner. Without the spanner—a key or crank with a square aperture used to cock the piece with a winding motion—the piece was useless. In the wheel lock mechanism a serrated wheel, activated by linkage and a mainspring, spun around against pyrites or flint when released to create the sparks for ignition. No spin, no spark.

Many shapes and forms of the wheel lock spanner were produced, some of them intricate in design. One of the most unusual types combined the spanner with a small priming flask. Another accessory sometimes found with the wheel lock and matchlock arms was a cluster of small individual wooden powder chargers strung together like a bunch of bananas.

When firearms progressed from the wheel lock to the flintlock period the accompanying accessories became more varied. Accessories for the early shoulder arms have had a way of disappearing and are scarce but, thanks to a better fate for cased pistols, we have

a very good surviving record of the gun tools of the time.

The flintlock period of cased pistols belongs primarily to England and gunmakers on the European Continent. English gunmakers were content to put up their arms in rather plain partitioned cases, well-made but normally nothing very fancy. On the other hand, German and French artisans had a flair for the elegant; their pistols and accessories were often put up in what are called "flush-type" cases with the pistols or rifles and their accessories neatly framed into individual recesses.

With each firearm came the indispensable powder flask and round ball bullet mould. While the English stuck to copper or brass flasks, the French often used thin polished horn or tortoise shell bound with silver or brass. In addition, there would be found a loading rod, a cleaning rod with several attachments, a screwdriver, a pick to keep the flash vent open and a hardwood mallet for starting the ball in the muzzle. Corner compartments usually held a key for the lock, extra flints,



A: Early wheel lock weapons used the winding key or crank called a spanner. B: A variety of nipple wrenches and other small tools including loading block (center) and a spring vise above it. C: Barrel vent pick and flash pan brush for U.S. flintlock muskets and straight-line pistol capper. D: Interior and exterior views of Colt's capper furnished with guns made at Paterson, N.J. E: False muzzle and bullet starter used to improve accuracy in about 1840. Use of this method continued into the early 1900's on fine single shot breechloaders of that time.



balls and other small items. Flintlock muskets in U.S. service were accompanied by a neat brass wire linkage that held a brush for cleaning the pan of the lock and a pick to clean the barrel vent. Wooden tompons were sometimes used to plug the muzzle and keep out dirt and moisture when the gun was not in use.

In the early 1800s the percussion or cap and ball ignition system gradually began to replace the flintlock. By the mid 1800s percussion arms had reached great perfection, but with this perfection and radical change in the lock mechanism came the need of more and different tools. In addition to all the implements mentioned for the flintlock it was now desirable to have a nipple wrench, a mainspring vise, a wad or patch cutter, a powder measure, a small oiler, compartments or fitted round boxes for percussion caps, extra nipples and wads. Some gun cases might contain two rifles or shotguns or even two pairs of pistols. With such sets there might be two differing moulds along with a fancy dipper for pouring the molten lead.

As has been mentioned in Part 2 of this series, some of these accessories were in themselves works of art. In one set of gold mounted pistols which I formerly owned, the bullet mould and powder measure were beautifully inlaid with a gold vine pattern. It may be seen from the painstaking attention given such items that their importance was fully recognized.

From the pairs of cased single shot pistols of the caplock period to the caplock multi-shot or revolving cylinder pistols we see some variation in the accessories. Samuel Colt's first pistols made at Paterson, N. J., did not

have an attached loading lever so he devised a combination tool which could be used to seat the ball by removing the barrel and inserting the tip of the tool in the barrel-key slot. In addition, the tool could be used as a screwdriver; the ball knob on the handle unscrewed to reveal a nipple wrench head and a vent pick. Here at Paterson also started a practice of furnishing an extra cylinder, a capper that fed caps on the nipples much the same as one plucked iron or brass rings on a merry-go-round, and a combination flask that discharged powder from one end and balls from the other.

Early cap and ball revolvers in England, before the attached loading rod became widely employed, also used a separate loading tool, but it had a single function and was attached in quite a different manner.

Makers of American caplock pistols such as the Massachusetts Arms Co. and others often made their single and multi-shot pistols without an attached loading lever, and they provided a rod with a mushroom-shaped head to seat the bullet over the powder in cylinder or barrel.

Now also came a great variety of nipple wrenches, most of them in combination with a screwdriver. The nipple wrench and screwdriver designed for Colt's big "Walker" pistols was curved in such a way that it could be used also as a spring cramp in removing the V-shaped mainspring. A more efficient mainspring cramp was designed, however, and this was made with a button-head screw that tightened sliding jaws as with a vise.

For a time it became a somewhat popular fad to provide an attachable shoulder (Continued on page 54)





3 GUNS

can be a Collection

By E. DIXON LARSON

Top to bottom: The First Navy Model. Second Navy Model, cylinder scene, larger trigger guard and left entry plunger screw. The Pocket Model with a fluted cylinder, lever retaining screw. Opposite page: Typical barrel markings of the Metros and the W. L. Ormsby designed, rolled-on scene.

Many arms enthusiasts are reluctant to ever become a collector because of the difficulties and overwhelming odds involved in obtaining complete collections. In order to collect Colts or Remingtons, considerable knowledge of many models must be researched. For example, there are 22 basic percussion Colt Models and 14 basic percussion Remington Models, variations excluded. Knowledge in most cases is attained over the years by reading and association with well-informed enthusiasts. Basically, over the years Colts have maintained their status as the "Blue Chips" of the antique arms field. Many "would be" collectors view the prospect of starting a collection as a horrendous undertaking and become discouraged—in some fields this could be true and expensive.

The Metropolitan percussion pistols, of which there were three basic models, offer the enthusiast the opportunity to complete a basic collection with three pieces. Average pieces are usually priced within the realm of the modest investor. Values of the Metropolitans have not escalated as rapidly as their comparable Colt cousins. Therefore, as interest is stimulated, and models become increasingly harder to obtain, prices too will rise.

Most seasoned collectors recognize the design and manufacture of the Metropolitan as being equal to that of the Colt. Some have even given the models status in a Colt collection because of their close kinship in appearance. There are significant differences between the Colt and Metropolitan. Enough to warrant them as interesting.

The Metropolitan Arms Company was conceived three weeks after the Colt fire in Hartford in 1864 and lasted about three years. The Metropolitan Arms Company was hurriedly organized by the Syms brothers, formerly associated with the firm of Blunt and Syms (whom Sam Colt had conducted legal proceedings against, as the Massachusetts Arms Company, over musket production). The intent of the Metropolitan Arms Company, of course, was to take advantage of Sam Colt's fire by providing a suitable arm as an expedient, and this they did. Arms were distributed

Characteristic of both Models: no safety pins, numbers may appear readable and stamped from either side, pin or dove tail front sight, notch or unnotched hammer. The cylinder scene, a roll engraving by W. L. Ormsby, father and creator of Colt cylinder designs, is commemorative of the Battle of New Orleans and surrender April 1862 as stamped on the cylinder. Some authorities feel the scene is fictitious, others recognize it as a commemorative and honoring a famous battle, figuratively accurate. It is suggested that the reader consult any encyclopedia, perceive the detailed account of the Farragut command Naval battle for the surrender of New Orleans, and then establish his own judgment.

The Metropolitan Pocket Pistols are almost exact copies of the Colt Police Model of 1862 except the loading lever is of a much simpler design and retained by a small screw at

METROPOLITAN ARMS Co. NEW YORK



and sold through W. J. Syms and Brother, 300 Broadway, New York City. At first, cylinders and barrels of their first Navy Model and Pocket "Police" model were unmarked. As the market increased, apparently so did their courage, as Navy Models were characteristically marked with "Metropolitan Arms Company, New York," and had rolled-on cylinder scenes after serial No. 1800. Variations can become interesting as the collector progresses. Technically, and for example, early produced models were unmarked, pistols marked for distribution by H. E. Dimick—St. Louis and so marked will be found between 1100 and to almost 1800. The two basic Navy Models vary as follows:

- Type 1—Produced prior to serial No. 3000 has small trigger guard plunger connecting screw for the lever enters from the right side, slim grips, bevelled at butt.
- Type 2—Has a slightly larger trigger guard, connecting lever screw enters from left side, slightly thicker grips, larger loading cut-out, produced after No. 3000 to serials No. 7200.

the front of the barrel lug. This was probably an attempt to avoid an exact patent infringement. Production appears to have originated with No. 1000 as a base serial number. Models were produced in barrel lengths of $4\frac{1}{2}$ ", $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", and $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Models have been observed, unmarked up to serial No. 2134. Marked models with the customary "Metropolitan Arms Company—New York," have been observed at No. 1825, indicating overlapping. Research indicates almost 50 percent of the production of some 3000 arms was marked. Screws used in these models have a distinctively higher crown than other manufacturers. It is recognized that evidence exists to conclude that the Metropolitan Arms Company also produced a few round barrel Navy revolvers, but discussion was intentionally omitted as only two are known and therefore availability must be considered.

Although less than 10,000 arms were produced by the Metropolitan Arms Company, they are available, challenging, and should prove a worthwhile investment for any gun collector.





THERE IS ONE shotgun on the market today that excites literally nobody. No gun writers pen reams of purple phrases praising its balance, beauty, or handling characteristics. No "expert" waxes ecstatic in print over its grace or symmetry of line—in fact, this particular kind of gun is all but totally ignored.

... *By everyone but American shooters!* In spite of its comparative "ugly duckling" status in relation to the exotic double-barreled imports that are now all the rage among the "in" crowd of hunters and claybird shooters, the lowly, unfeted 12-gauge pump is *still* the most popular and by far the most widely used shotgun in this country today.

And deservedly so! For the money, there is no other type of scattergun that offers more solid value to the shooter. In a modern slide-action gun (which is as distinctly American as the well-worn "apple pie and mom" cliché), a sportsman gets up to five shots without reloading; a thoroughly dependable, fast-operating action; and a balance that is a nice compromise between the muzzle-heaviness required for pass-shooting at waterfowl and the between-the-hands feel preferred by sharp-reflexed quail hunters—and all in a package that retails for somewhere around a hundred bucks!

Even more versatility is given by interchangeable barrels that can allow a bird hunter to tailor the choke of his gun to the game being hunted. Such a change takes only seconds, and (with most makes) can be accomplished in the field without tools. Thus a 12-pump owner can pop on a 30-inch full-choked barrel for an early morning goose hunt, change at noon to a 28-inch modified barrel for a walk through fields after pheasant, and then switch to an even stubbier open-choked tube later on for close-flushing quail.

(Winchester has made it even easier to change chokes by this year resurrecting the "Winchoke" feature on its model 1200 pump and the 1400 auto. The "Winchoke"-fitted barrel (which was first introduced several years ago on a Winchester autoloader that is no longer produced) is threaded at the muzzle, and accommodates a series of screw-in choke tubes that are almost completely contained within the barrel itself. This gives you nearly all of the advantages of the variable-choke device without making the business end of your gun look bulbous.)

As if that weren't enough, any modern 12-gauge pumpgun will fire every kind of standard length (12-gauge) shell, from the powder-puff 1-ounce field load on up to the teeth-rattling 1½-ounce "baby" magnum—and *some* field-weight slide-action 12-bores (such as the Savage Model 30) are chambered to digest everything up to and including the awe-inspiring 3-inch magnum. (Just *try* to find an autoloader that will handle *that* range of shells without adjustment!)

The ubiquitous 12-pump is found in the hands of American shooters everywhere—from skeet and trap clubs, (Continued on page 38)

SPENCER REPEATING SHOT GUN.

THE FLOCK GUN.



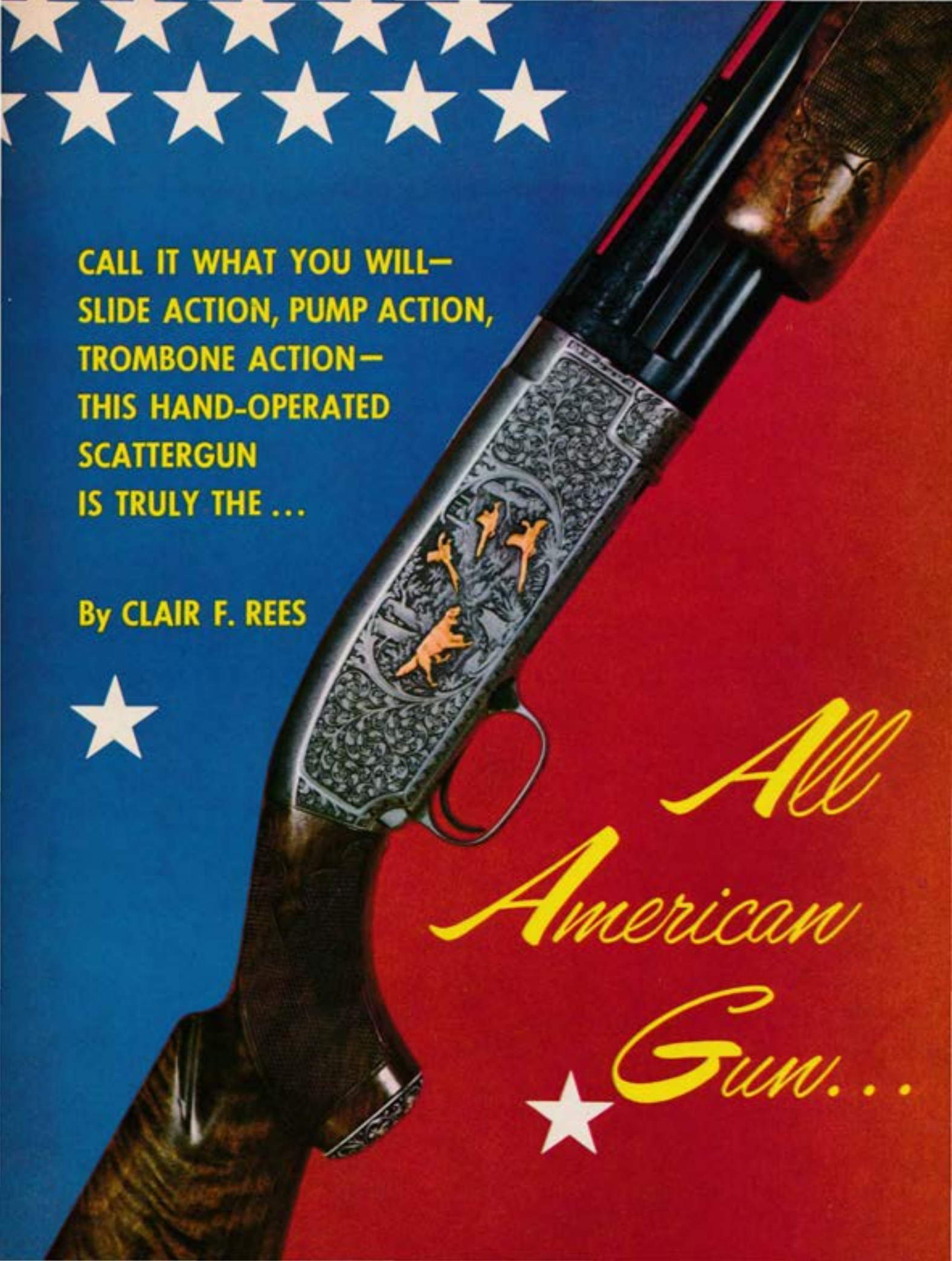
SIX SHOTS IN THREE SECONDS.

Dumaine Barrel, Italian Walnut Field Grip Stock, Checkered, Rubber Bolt Plate, and Choke.

The magazine is located under the barrel, and holds five cartridges, while one may be placed in the barrel. The six shots may be fired without taking the gun from the shoulder.

12 gauge only made; length of barrel 30 and 32 inches; weight, 8½ lbs. Price, each..... List, **\$60.00**

Left: Winchester M-97. Above: First pump shotgun, the Spencer, circa 1882.



CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL—
SLIDE ACTION, PUMP ACTION,
TROMBONE ACTION—
THIS HAND-OPERATED
SCATTERGUN
IS TRULY THE ...

By CLAIR F. REES

*All
American
Gun...*

to the duck marsh, to pheasant- and grouse-infested fields frequented by the upland gunner. No shotgun is more popular on this continent.

The 12-gauge pump is really a tribute to American ingenuity and manufacturing know-how. These guns roll off assembly lines by the thousands—with such mass production making their low cost possible—and yet the finished product is as thoroughly dependable as the finest European double. And it's sturdy! These guns sometimes take abuse that no piece of fine machinery should be subjected to—dirt and grit that would keep an expensive, hand-fitted double gun action from even closing; brine and rust; metal-denting shocks from rattling around in the trunk of a car—and yet they keep on firing.

In a way, the 12-gauge pump is a lazy man's gun. I know of no other type of firearm that will keep on functioning with less attention (even though neglect is *never* a good idea with *any* gun). I have seen examples that have never been treated to more than an occasional cursory pass of an oily rag through the bore that were in relatively good shape after decades of hard use.

Of course, the ruggedness and durability I've just mentioned is inherent to practically all slide-action guns, regardless of gauge. But for some reason, "12-gauge" and "pump" seem to go practically hand-in-hand.

This is hardly surprising, in view of the fact that the 12 gauge is far and above the most popular shotgun gauge in the world today. But the strange part of it is, is that such highly touted "newcomers" to the shotshell lineup as the 3-inch 20 and the magnum 28 seem to be finding their best acceptance in the new flock of over-and-under and side-by-side doubles. And although manufacturers of the almost equally mundane autoloaders shout it to the world when they chamber a gun for the stretched-out 20, the 20-gauge pump guns of America acquired 3-inch chambers in what practically amounted to utter silence.

Perhaps this is in tribute to the typical, no-nonsense buyer of the large majority of slide-actions being sold. Pumpgun purchasers have traditionally demanded top versatility and utility for their gun buying dollar, and there is very little room for argument in the fact that the 12-gauge is far and away the most versatile and practical shotgun boring currently available.

Here in the west, where I make my home, the word "shotgun" is practically synonymous with "12-gauge pump." In the duck marshes, on the prairie, or in the desert home of the chukar and sage grouse, you'll find the majority of Stetsoned hunters toting—that's right—12-gauge pumps. In fact, any stranger who shows up with a side-by-side 20 or an imported over-and-under is immediately branded an "Easterner" or "another one o' them rich Californians."

Admittedly, the twin-tubed guns are now beginning to catch on with hunters throughout the U. S., and every season sees a few more of these afield, even in such "no-nonsense" states as Wyoming and Montana. But I strongly suspect that in ten, or even twenty years from now, scattergunning popularity polls will still show the 12-bore pump at the top of the heap.

I know that the first repeating shotgun I was able to afford was a 12-

pump—a full-choked model 37 Ithaca. Prior to that, I had popped away at gamebirds with a single-shot Winchester—also in 12 gauge (in those days, 6-pound 12-bores firing full 1¼-ounce high-velocity loads were not deemed unsuitable for 37-pound freckle-faced boys. The byword was: "If he's old enough for a shotgun, give him a shotgun—not a toy!")

Although I shot many pheasants with the Winchester, I never really learned to kill ducks with any regularity until I acquired the pump. I think this was largely due to my trying too hard to connect with the single shot—I was more relaxed with the pump, secure in the knowledge that I had two backup shells in the magazine. Consequently, I began dropping ducks with the *first* shot with at least fair regularity.

Since that time, I have bought, sold and traded a variety of other shotguns,

(Continued on page 60)



CURRENT PUMP SHOTGUN MODELS

1. **Beretta.** Model SL-2. 12 gauge; vent rib; 26", 28", or 30". From Garcia Sporting Arms Corp. Price. \$185.00
2. **High Standard.** Flite King. 12, 20, or .410 gauge. Eight models, including trap, skeet and slug. From \$104.95 to \$154.95
3. **Harrington & Richardson.** Model 440 in 12, 16, or 20 gauge; Model 442, Custom Grade, in 12 or 20 gauge. From \$104.95 to \$139.95
4. **Ithaca.** Model 37. Eight models, including Deerslayer for slugs. 12, 16 or 20 gauge. Plain or vent rib. From \$109.95 to \$189.95
5. **Mossberg.** Model 500. 12, 16, 20, or .410 gauges. Eleven models, including slug gun and special 500th Anniversary Pigeon Grade, trap and skeet models. From \$87.75 to \$150.00
6. **Noble.** Models in 12, 16, 20, and .410 gauge. Feature Key-lock safety system. Plain or vent rib models. From \$84.68 to \$135.75
7. **Remington.** Model 870. All gauges, from 12 through 28 and .410. Field, trap or skeet models. From \$109.95 to \$259.95
8. **Savage.** Model 30. 12, 20 and .410 gauges. Vent rib on all. Left hand and trap model also available. From \$104.50 to \$112.50
9. **Stevens.** Model 77. 12, 16, 20 and .410 gauges. Plain barrel, with or w/o choke device. Solid frame. From \$86.95 to \$93.50
10. **Winchester.** Model 1200. 12, 16 or 20 gauge. Ten models, including slug, trap, or skeet. Options include Winchoke and Winchester recoil reduction system. From \$109.95 to \$209.95





LORD MODEL

Pair of presentation
Stevens gallery pistols, known
as the "Lord Model." These pistols
were popular during the late 1800's.
Photo by Harry Knode; from
Jackson Arms collection.

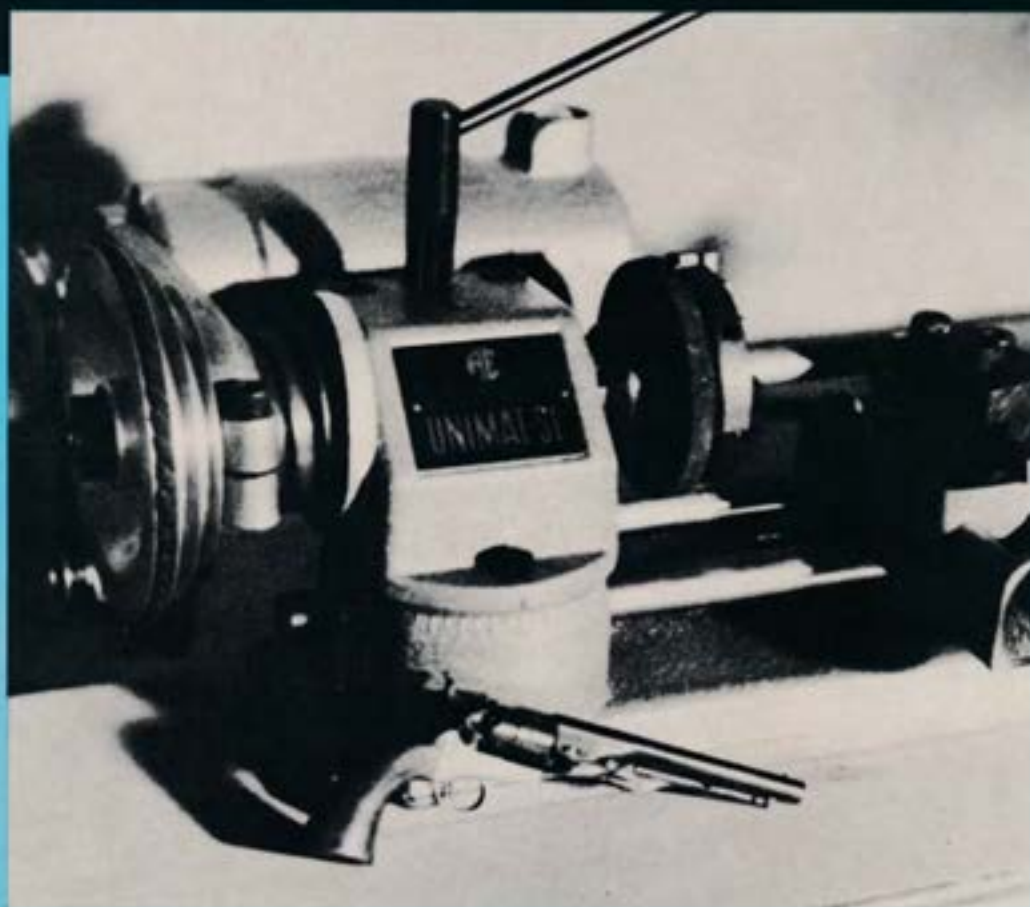




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MINIATURE MACHINE SHOP



The miniature Colt 1860 Army shown here was made, almost in its entirety, with a handy little giant of a tool, the Unimat precision lathe. Almost every part of this miniature was touched by a tool in the Unimat.

The Colt miniature is exactly one-third scale, and every part is an exact duplicate of the original. Working in his spare time, John Rakusan spent more than a year and a half completing the Colt and its accessories, and though there is quite a bit of hand work on the miniature, he says

that he would not have even considered the project had it not been for the Unimat. Let's take a look at this amazing little lathe, and you can decide for yourself if it deserves a place on your desk or workbench.

As a lathe, the Unimat has a distance between centers of 7", surely not for rebarreling or reborings jobs, but just right for the many smaller turning jobs that come up when working with guns. The swing (distance from center of spindle to round tool ways) is 3", large enough to swing





the biggest revolver cylinder for polishing. From these dimensions, you can see that the Unimat is not a giant in size—it is only 14½" long and 5" high—but it is a giant in the work it can do.

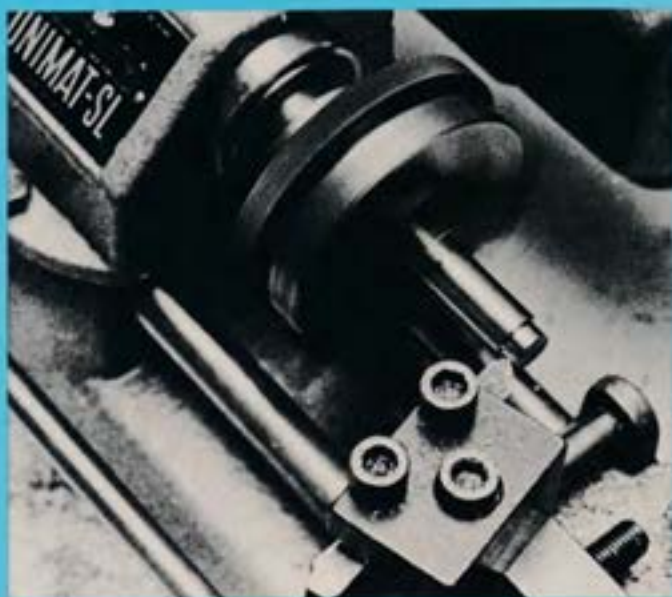
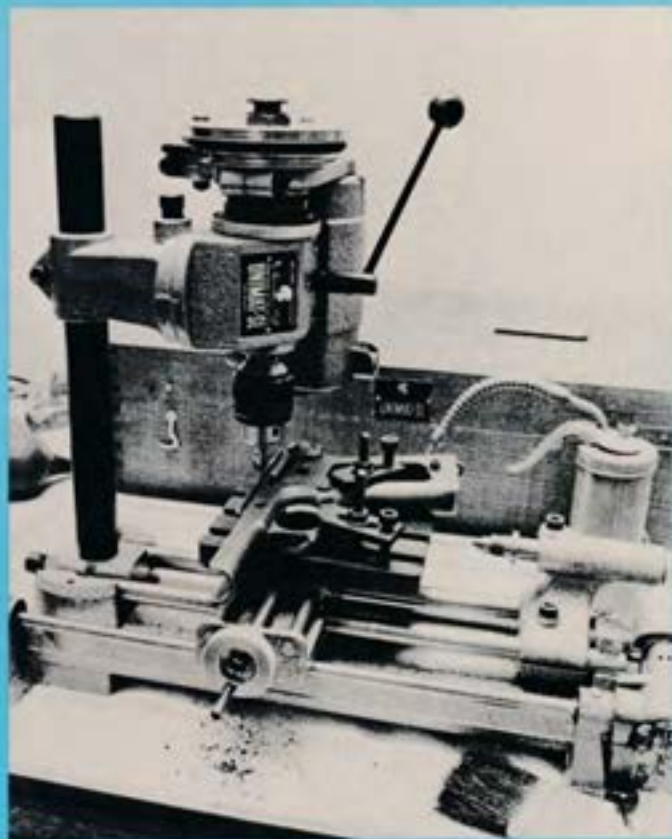
If you are saying to yourself, "But I don't really need a lathe that much," how about a small drill press? In seconds, you can swing the entire motor and belt assembly to a vertical position, insert the ¼" Jacobs drill chuck, and presto, a drill press. Yes, this lathe is also a drill press, but there is still more.

How about a vertical milling machine? It's as simple as turning this lathe into a drill press. Would you believe a surface grinder—same easy conversion. Need a polishing wheel? Mount the motor/belt assembly onto the tailstock, and you have the handiest little polisher you ever saw.

As you can see this Unimat is versatile. But to accomplish all of these many jobs you need two things; a powerful motor and a wide range of speeds. The Unimat is powered by a 1/10 hp, 110v motor that takes a lot of punishment, and the unique pulley arrangement gives you a choice of eleven spindle speeds from 900 up to 7200 rpm.

The basic Unimat, priced at \$139.50, includes the motor and pulley assembly, lathe bed, vertical column for converting to drill press, etc., the Jacobs chuck, face plate, lathe dog, two centers, a tool bit, and a wood storage chest. Options include a three or four jaw chuck, threading attachment, indexing head (you need this if you have any inclination toward duplicating the miniature Colt shown here). Also included with the Unimat is one of the most complete operating manuals you've ever seen; it may not turn you into a master machinist, but it does take you through all of the fundamentals of turning, milling, drilling and grinding procedures.

If you are at all inclined toward do-it-yourself projects, I heartily recommend that you see your nearest Unimat dealer, or send \$1.00 to American Edelstaal, Inc., Dept. G, 350 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10013, for their handbook called "Miniature Machining Techniques." Or, a post card will get you a free catalog.



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6 M NOVEMBER GUNS Magazine

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Sharps Model 78

Charles Askins

By CHARLES ASKINS



THE SHARPS-BORCHARDT rifle, the Model 1878 it was called, was one of the very best single shot firearms ever made in this country. It was built by the Sharps Arms Co. of Bridgeport, Conn., and was the culmination of some 30 years of most successful design and manufacture. Historians like to say the West was won with the Colt and the Winchester but the facts are the Sharps rifle, "Old Reliable," had an almighty big hand in the pacification of the country beyond the Mississippi. The Sharps

was the companion piece of the cavalryman, the Apache, the mountain trapper and the buffalo runner. It brought civilization to vast areas of a virtually untrammelled land but it also brought destruction too. It was the chief arm of the buffalo hunters and contributed to the decimation of the vast herds. Then it was called the "Buffalo Sharps."

The Sharps-Borchardt was the last of the line, and the best. It was first introduced in 1878 and continued to be manufactured until the company closed its doors in 1931. An interesting fact is that the Model 1878 was not too happily received. It was a day of simple things and shooters were suspicious of the hammerless feature of this last Sharps. They wanted to see the great upstanding hammer and to know when it was cocked. The Sharps-Borchardt gained most of its fame as a splendid target and big game rifle after the company had folded up; it was then that its full worth came to be realized. It is one of the strongest if not the strongest of all the single shot actions and it is so sturdy it may to this day be barreled for most of the modern calibers, and will take their higher-



than-black powder pressures quite safely.

The great strength of the action lies in the design of the receiver and the breechblock. The receiver is milled its full depth with deep shoulders which accept and support the breechblock. Behind the cuts for the breechblock is a plentitude of metal to give additional support to the lockup. The rifle is a true hammerless. It does not have a hammer at all but a striker. This striker is enclosed within the breechblock, is light in weight, has an integral firing pin tip, travels in a straight line, and has exceedingly short travel. It moves but three-tenths of an inch. This accounts for exceedingly fast lock time. The action, while it is extremely sturdy, is at the same time quite short. There are no tangs, the stock bolts to the butt end of the action with a huge through bolt. This contributes to a short, more handy rifle and one which permits a longer barrel without the overall length being significantly greater.

There is now a new Sharps rifle. A firearm which traces its parentage directly to the Model 73 Sharps-Borchardt. It is made by a brand new Sharps Arms Company, which is located in Salt Lake City, and has no connection, other than the name, with the original firm. The new rifle is an interesting development.

Art Swanson, a practicing design engineer and a single shot rifle buff took the Sharps, and with this as a beginning, designed the new rifle. It incorporates all the goodness of the old Model 73 with all the technical betterments of this modern day world. The finished gun is a joy to behold. Swanson, who is president of the company, made more than forty changes in the original Sharps 73 action, to come up with his improved design. Now, when the finger lever is dropped to open the action, it actuates a planetary cam system which rotates in Timken needle bearings and results in one of the smoothest mechanisms you can possibly imagine. At the first pressure on the finger lever, a cocking bar connected with the firing pin retracts the pin completely within the breechblock before any opening movement occurs. This makes it impossible for the firing pin to hang up in the cartridge primer. An extension on one of the rotating cams actuates the extractor mechanism and the combination results in a powerful and positive extraction. The extractor is also an ejector and by dropping the finger lever snappily the empty will be tossed out of the chamber. If it is moved gently the case is moved rearward but not thrown clear of the rifle.



Top: The Sharps action open. The engine-turned breechblock plus the Timken needle bearings make the action a joy to operate. Bottom: The forestock is attached to the rifle by a hanger just ahead of the lever.



The extractor is a new design by Swanson and is adapted to rimmed, rimless and belted cases.

The receiver is an chrome molybdenum alloyed steel, #4340, and is an investment casting. The side walls have been made heavier and thicker than the original Sharps, the barrel shank is longer, thicker and heavier. The breechblock, likewise of chrome-moly alloyed steel, has a large gas escape vent in the top of the block; an angle cut on the upper breech facing to cam cartridges into the chamber; a small diameter firing pin hole to retain high pressures around the primer; and fast lock time due to the shortness and speed of the striker.

Swanson knew, when he commenced with the Sharps Brochardt, that it had a black mark against it on the score of triggers. The trigger pull on the original Model 78 was almost invariably long and creepy. He went to Matt Canjar in Denver and asked him to design a trigger for the new rifle. Canjar is one of the country's leading trigger designers, and he came up with a real dilly for the gun! It is a combination single stage and set trigger. The single stage is adjustable for weight of pull, sear engagement and over-travel. It may be adjusted from 2 to 5 lbs. The set trigger, adjustable from 4 oz. to 1 1/2 oz., is instantly available for use but in no way effects the single stage primary trigger. The rifle has a selective safety which is located at the rear top of the breechblock and is mighty worthwhile when the set trigger is used at its low poundage! An adjusting screw makes the safety either automatic or manual, as desired.

With all the canny foresight displayed in enlisting Canjar to design the trigger for his new rifle, Swanson likewise showed acumen in the matter of barrels. He made Parker Ackley a vice president in the company with the understanding that Ackley would make all the barrels. Parker is one of the best barrelmakers in the country, and infinitely wise about sporting firearms generally. Barrels are made in lengths of 26 to 36 inches, in 7 different weights, and several different contours. Calibers include all the modern ones from .17 to .50. The company will offer a series of wildcat cartridges, most of them based on the 9.3x74mm case. There will also be a .348 Sharps, a .45-75 and a .50-70 Sharps. Barrels are without sights. A barrel design which incorporates a straight untapered portion of the tube extending some 8 inches ahead of the receiver ring is tapped for

(Continued on page 62)

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PULL!

By DICK MILLER

HOW MUCH ARE GOOD competitive clay target scores affected by mental factors, and how much are good scores affected by physical characteristics or equipment? Because I am not aware of any definitive case study documenting in detail the relationship between mental and physical factors and good scores, I am inclined to accept the oft-quoted gun club conversational assessment that good shooting is ninety percent mental and ten percent physical.

The 90-10 formula may not have much in the way of solid scientific research to support it, but it has much in the way of empirical evidence to lead one to believe that most good scores result from good mental discipline.

If, for the purpose of reaching a conclusion, you lopp off both ends of physical equipment for shooting good scores, you have to reach the conclusion that the great bulk of trap and skeet shooters are average in eyesight, reaction time, etc. We can accept that there are a few individuals gifted with superior eyesight plus above average reaction time and reflexes. Good scores should come easier for them than for less gifted individuals. At the other end of the spectrum, there are shooters with obvious problems of sight and coordination, many of whom shoot very well. This leaves the greatest number of winning scores, or good scores, being fired in skeet and trap matches by shooters who must be very close in physical ability.

I am inclined to agree whole-heartedly with the oft quoted remark on the Grand American grounds at Vandalia, to the effect that if there are three thousand shooters competing on a given day, at least two thousand of those shooters are equal in physical shooting ability. The trophies go to those shooters who can most successfully withstand the intense mental pressure of a tournament like the Grand. Another bit of evidence to support the conclusion that shooting is much more mental than physical is found in the number of people you know, and I know, who shoot very

good scores in practice, but whose scores take a sickening nosedive when you tell them that this is for real.

Now, if you accept the premise that good shooting is more mental than physical, and if in addition you suspect that your own hang-up is more mental than physical, what can you do about it? If there is one thing on which winning shooters agree, it is that most trophies go to the shooter who can successfully blot from his mind everything except hitting the ONE next target. This may sound complex, but it's as simple as that. If you want to hit the target, don't think of anything else.

If you walk on the post thinking of your gun, the weather, the background, your squad, the squad on the next trap, the crowd, the folks back home, what it cost you to enter, your clothes, how you look, how you sound, how you feel, what you did on the last post, what you are going to do on the next post, your score, how many targets you have shot, how many more targets you have to shoot, your yardage, or anything else, you can congratulate yourself if you break the next target. You were lucky, and broke the target in the face of most adverse conditions. If, on the other hand you accept in advance (without thinking about it) that you are as well equipped to break this target as most of the rest of the people on the field, and if you will devote all of your attention to the simple act of breaking a moving target, you should shoot good scores, and win your share of trophies.

Shooters I know have all manner of personal gimmicks to help them zero in on the one matter at hand, breaking the next target. More than one trapshooter stares fixedly at a spot on the ground until it is his turn to shoot. This keeps those shooters from being distracted by any of the myriad of movements or sights which can compete for your attention. Other shooters stare in space, some for the reason that they feel that their eye muscles can grasp a moving target more quickly from a point in space than from a spot on the ground. This

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formula may have some basis in fact, and if not, it works anyway.

Incidentally, when reading a discourse of this type, it is not unexpected that the reader should know the qualifications of the writer to expound on the subject.

I am qualified to write on the subject for two reasons. One, because I have missed targets for every reason that has been listed, and many that are not listed. Two, I have also won major trophies by taking my own advice, and concentrating on the matter at hand (breaking the next target—nothing else).

Good trap and skeet shooters have much in common with professional athletes, such as baseball, basketball, and football players. Neither can afford to develop a case of "rabbit ears". Shoot management can keep the crowd away from the shooting line, but there is little management can do to mute some of the invariable crowd noises (and remarks). If the crowd has been bothering you, shut it from your mind, by whatever means that works for you. You can't listen to the crowd and break targets at the same time. As in the case of other athletes, the shooter can't afford to lose his temper (or his cool) because of an adverse referee's decision. A shooter who hopes to shoot a good score can't be thrown by an argument from another shooter on the squad, or become embroiled in a controversy. You are on the post to break one target at a time, and what happens to anyone or everyone else is not your concern. You may feel deeply about it, and respond appropriately after the event is over.

At this point, some reader is sure to say that shooting is supposed to be fun, that he or she can't accept all this single-minded concentration on shooting good scores or winning. Facetiously, what is more fun than winning? Shooting is indeed fun, and more fun than any other form of recreation I've tried. I also subscribe to the old saying that a thing worth doing at all is worth doing well. I get more fun out of doing something well than I do from doing it poorly.

Looking at it in another way, competitive trap and skeet shooting is a lot of fun, before, during, and after the event. Much of the fun is in the fellowship with other shooters. The physical act of shooting an event takes only a fraction of the time spent at the gun club. So, why not for only that length of time that it takes to concentrate on doing a job well, blot all else from the mind and do that job to the best of your ability.

As I see it, the fun you normally have will then be accentuated by the

fact that you have done the thing well that you came to the club to do. Nothing that I have said here should be construed as meaning that if you have not been shooting good scores because your mind has been wandering all over the spectrum when you take your place on the post, you can go forth tomorrow, blot all else from your mind, and shoot better scores instantly.

If you have been acutely aware of all that goes on around you while you are waiting for the next target, you are not going to be able to blot it all out in one session. You might begin by trying at first to blot out only the crowd. When progress is made here, begin on the squad, and continue until you reach the desired point of concentration. As I mentioned earlier, nearly all shooters develop some sort of gimmick to help them concentrate. This is an individual matter, and what works for another shooter may not prove to be your cup of tea.

The New Jersey State Skeet Association has completed the selection of the First Annual N.J. State All-Star Teams. The 1969 team selections are based on 1968 averages.

12 Gauge All Stars: Dominick Argentina, Hawthorne; Peter Kroeger, Westville; David Severe, Cranford; William Stewart, Williamstown; Warren Horre, Fair Haven.

20 Gauge All Stars: Peter Kroeger, Westville; Richard Gordon, Englewood; John Dalessio, Penns Grove; Richard Hunter, HoHoKus; Paul Collins, Pemberton.

28 Gauge All Stars: Paul Collins, Pemberton; Peter Kroeger, Westville; Charles Boardman, Moorestown; Richard Gordon, Englewood; Lawrence Jacobs, Sicklerville.

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(Continued from page 29)

Remington and the 7MM Remington Magnum, if the same bullet is used. These are considerably less than Phil Sharpe originally claimed it would do.

When the 7X61 first came out, I had a custom made rifle chambered for it and I still have a half carton of the cases I got from Phil Sharpe to use in it. I have had this rifle rechambered to a 7MM Remington. The original 7x61 case was too much trouble to use. It was even necessary to have a special size shell holder to use it with some makes of presses. At this time I didn't own a Shultz and Larsen rifle but a number of our hunters who owned them had no troubles of any kind with them. However, many of the custom jobs chambered for the 7x61 case did have problems.

In the last few years or so I have read articles by owners and shooters of the 7x61 Sharpe and Hart cartridge and the Shultz and Larsen rifle. A couple of years ago a new distributor for the Shultz and Larsen rifle opened shop in California. This is the R. C. Fessler & Company, 1634 Colorado Blvd., Los Angeles, 90041. An article that came out about this time in one

of the leading gun magazines was extremely critical of the Shultz and Larsen rifle, ascribing most of the various case failures of the 7x61 Sharpe and Hart cartridges to the fact that the Shultz and Larsen rifle is of rear locking lug design, that this permitted sponginess and springing of the action, with resulting case failure, mostly in the form of case head separations.

At this time, Remington had a new model rifle out that featured rear locking lugs. This was their lowest priced, center fire rifle. It rapidly attained a great deal of popularity because of its inherent accuracy, and I don't recall anyone accusing the Model 788 Remington of having a spongy action that can cause problems, although it too has rear locking lugs.

When Fessler & Company asked if I would care to test one of their Shultz and Larsen rifles, I automatically connected the rifle with the 7x61 cartridge and wasn't too enthusiastic but Mr. Fessler told me I could have one in any of seven magnum calibers, including the .458 Winchester. I

immediately became interested and asked for one in 7MM Remington caliber. I received this rifle last year, before the start of the big game hunting season and was assured I could keep it for extended tests.

I had always felt that the troubles of the old 7x61 cartridges were due to poor chamber tolerances or to soft brass in the early 7x61 cases. In selecting the 7MM Remington Magnum chambering I had plenty of different makes of cases and factory loads, as well as my own handloads, to test the action with. I could give it very complete bench and field tests, as I planned on loaning it to competent hunters during the season.

The first tests were for general functioning and accuracy, using the three makes of factory loads, Remington, Winchester and Federal, in bullet weights of 125 grains, 150 grain and 175 grain. Performance was excellent right from the start, although I had to get accustomed to the method of loading this rifle. This seems to be the only feature that is much different. Proper loading procedure, if you wish to load both the chamber and magazine, is to open the bolt, drop a cartridge into the ejector port, close the bolt and put the safety on. Now flip the rifle upside down, open the magazine and drop three cartridges in and close the magazine cover. Although it sounds rather complicated, it really isn't. If you wish you can load only the magazines as described.

Before receiving the rifle I had ordered a tight, or minimum clearance, full sizing die from R.C.B.S. I also needed this die for the Browning Auto Loader in 7MM Magnum that I was testing. The Browning needs a die like this to assure proper bullet function and I knew the Shultz and Larsen was also cut to very close and exacting tolerances. I already had several excellent Wilson case length gauges made by C. E. Wilson, Cashmere, Washington. These are an invaluable aid in properly checking chamber lengths and in setting loading dies for any type cartridge but I consider them a definite necessity for serious loading of belted magnums.

To begin my tests I selected a box each of the following makes and bullet weights: Federals—in 150 grain and 175 grain; Winchester—in 150 grain and 175 grain; Remington—in 125 grain, 150 grain and 175 grain.

For reloading I used 150 grain Winchester, 160 grain Curry and 160 Sierra, and 175 grain Remington bullets. For powder I used Hodgdon's 4831 for all loads, with the exception of Norma 205 for special accuracy loads.

All of the handloads I used were higher than my normal loads by 1 to 2

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grains of powder and created fairly severe case scuffing. These gave me what I call a maximum overload. I used CCI 250 Magnum primers, and if a case showed loosening of the primer pocket, I then used Federal 215 primers, which are slightly oversize. This permitted several more reloadings of the cases. Reloads varied from 6 to 16 times for each case. All cases were full length re-sized after use.

Factory ammunition accuracy produced groups of 1¼ inch to 2¼ inches. Ejection was always very easy and smooth. Two of the cases used were reloaded and fired quite a few times, one 13 times and one 16 times, before the Federal primers dropped in place with only thumb pressure. Including the 140 rounds of new ammunition I started with, I reloaded all the fired cases 3 times, plus some of them considerably more, to check case life. During these tests over 700 rounds were fired through this rifle. All rounds were factory loads or handloads in excess of factory velocity and pressure. I have been making these tests for the last 8 months.

At the beginning of the tests I checked the headspace with a new Federal case and it was .007. A recent check shows the headspace to be .009. These checks were made using shim stock on the bolt face.

After the first firing of the factory loads I trimmed each case to equal the length of the new Federal factory case that I had used in checking the headspace, and which I now used as a master case to check case neck length and headspace. It was never necessary to trim case necks, except on a few cases that we had reloaded 8 or more times for case life tests.

This new Shultz and Larsen rifle, Model M68DL—serial number 12753, is an extremely good looking gun with excellent balance. The 23½ inch length barrel tapers to .555" at the muzzle. It is a 6 groove, 1 to 10 twist and the groove diameter slugged 283.9. It has an adjustable trigger with a crisp break and a 50 ounce pull. The stock shape is excellent. Because it does have a good shape, recoil is quite definitely diminished. Equipped with the Redfield 3x to 9x scope and Bushnell mounts it weighs exactly 8½ pounds. This is a rifle that any good shooter would be glad to have.

Now about those rear locking lugs. This type of locking lug is not new, although very few contemporary rifles have them. The Shultz and Larsen and the Remington 788 are two now being manufactured for center fire cartridges. Quite a number of .22's have them. A rear locking lug action, properly designed, has heavy, thick

side walls and relatively small magazine cut-outs and ejection ports. I seriously doubt that there is any more stretch or sponginess in a rear locking lug action that would be found in a rifle with front locking lugs.

The four rear lugs of the Shultz and Larsen have considerably more bearing area than a Mauser. The front of the receiver is not cut out for rails, extractors or grooves for the lugs to work on.

As with most all top quality modern bolt actions, a cocking piece shroud is used on the Shultz and Larsen. Although I doubt that it is any better than our own steel, such as 4130 or 4140, Shultz and Larsen uses Bofors steel in their receivers and barrels. This has the reputation of being one of the most uniform and stress free steels made and its machining qualities are excellent.

My rather complete tests, plus those of the H. P. White Laboratories of Bel Air, Maryland, which were quite extensive as to total strength at excess pressures, should pretty well disprove the statement that this rear locking lug action produces case separation, excessive head space sponginess or stretching. The new Shultz and Larsen is a good product and cannot be considered a "cheap" rifle, either in quality or price.

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(Continued from page 14)

effort to the perfection of the loads for the gauge that now cartridges can be had that are loaded as light as a soft 20 or can, at the other end of the spectrum, be had charged as heavily as the 10 gauge. It is a remarkably flexible gun and cartridge.

The second most popular shotgun and gauge is the 20. Like the 12 it has enjoyed a lot of improvement at the hands of our manufacturers and these days you can get 20 gauge cartridges that are loaded as lightly as the 28 or get 'em as heavily charged as a stiff 12. Likewise the various gun models have been made in weights from 5 1/4 pounds to 7 pounds and while the 20 is essentially an uplands game gun it can be used in the duck blind with marvelous efficiency.

The gauge that has a real jinx on it is the 16. I'd venture the day will dawn when no 16 gauge shotguns will be made. Right now many manufacturers offer only a single model in that gauge. The trouble with the 16 is the same affliction that haunted the 14 gauge and the 18 gauge. The 12 will outperform it and there isn't anything the 16 will do that the 20 cannot likewise accomplish.

This brings us down to the 28 gauge and the .410. The latter is thought to be some manner of beginner's gun. Actually it is the most difficult shotgun of them all. Only real honest-to-God experts should ever go afield with it. For the tyro shotgunner to attempt to learn the game with the tiny smoothbore is the kiss of death. The only redeeming feature it has is the lack of recoil. But as for hitting anything and really learning wing shooting it is a virtual impossibility. The first scattergun should be nothing smaller than a 20 bore.

As for the 28 gauge, it is another little stinker. It is kept alive by the skeet marksmen who are required in any program to fire the 28. There isn't anything it will do in the game fields that a 20 won't do better.

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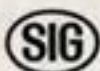


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(Continued from page 33)



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stock for a pistol, thus making it a pistol-carbine. This practice started abroad but there was a U.S. pistol and stock made at Springfield, known as the 1855 Model and Colt made some shoulder stock models a few years later. The idea was theoretically attractive but had little practical value, and this type of accessory went into the discard.

As the loading of a gun became a more precise science, fixed powder measures gave way to adjustable, calibrated types. Another measuring accessory, for muzzle-loading shotguns, was an oval cylinder partitioned in the middle and with a hinged cover at each end. One compartment held the correct powder charge and the other compartment held the correct shot charge. Along this same line of having the components for loading easily available, some hunters carried a ball loading block—a flat half-inch piece of wood about 2"x4" bored to hold a half dozen or so patched balls in snug fit; they could be easily pressed out for rapid loading.

Some accessories, of course, were carried forward through the various ignition systems and up into the era of the metallic cartridge. One notable example of this was the false-muzzle and bullet-starter patented by Alvan Clark of Boston about 1840. Edwin Wesson was given what was probably the first license to use the false-muzzle system and his fine heavy caplock match rifle had that feature. In principle, the false-muzzle and bullet-starter kept the conical bullets from tipping and seated them precisely within the rifling. The false-muzzle and starter were, of course, removed from the muzzle when the gun was ready for firing. Bullet swedges were another accessory which found favor for caplock muzzle-loaders and also for breech-loaders.

Harry M. Pope, considered by many to be the top man in barrel-making, often used a false-muzzle and bullet-starter for his breech-loading match rifles. He claimed that greater accuracy was obtained by loading the bullet down on the charged cartridge case from the muzzle rather than seating it in the cartridge before it was placed in the breech.

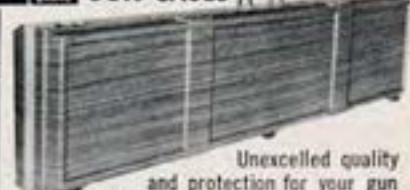
When metallic cartridges came along there were new problems for the accessory-makers to solve. Harry Pope designed his own type of mould, patterned after the Ideal single cavity mould but with a sprue cutter at top and bottom. He designed a special bullet lubricating pump, loading flask, re and de capper, palm rest and adjustable sights.

Changing from the loose components of powder, ball and primer to a self-contained cartridge called for practical means of carrying the loaded cartridges. A number of different leather cartridge pouches and looped belts were designed for the military services. A tubular cartridge carrier shaped like a very thin horse-collar with a metal cut-off at the bottom was used for early Ballard cartridges. Spencer employed a leather-covered box that held a number of loaded tubular magazines. In years past items of this kind might be found at the old Bannerman, White or Godfrey gun stores.

I would assume that holsters, scabbards, bayonets, and sights might also be classified as gun accessories but obviously their range is so great as to permit only their mention here rather than a detailed study.

It surprises some to learn that there are more shotguns owned by Americans than rifles or pistols. The various implements for reloading shotgun shells and the gear used by the shot-gunner are exceedingly extensive. The Bridgeport Gun Implement Co.

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was prominent in this field, offering sets which consisted of a loader, closer, crimper, capper, shell extractor, adjustable powder and shot measure and cleaning rod with swab, wiper and scratch bush. All these particular items came in a variety of styles individually. Such tools and some other things such as screwdrivers, oilers, creasers and cutters, chokes and muzzle brakes have continued to improve during the 1900s until we have reached today's efficient equipment. The tools for pistols and rifles made comparative progress with the shotgun implements.

While powder horns and metal powder flasks are now a thing of the past except for those who still like to shoot the old black powder muzzle-loaders, moulds and modern loading equipment are now very much in demand. With factory-loaded ammu-

nition rather expensive, sometimes hard to get, not always available in the powder or bullet favored by the shooter, and accessibility hampered somewhat by new restrictive laws, the accessories for reloading take on an increasingly important aspect.

Electric melting pots, bullet sizing dies, lubricators, cake cutters, powder scales, turret presses with their mounted powder measure and push-button primer feed all combine to bring handloading to a modern science but one in which you do not have to be a scientist to enjoy.

I hope this series devoted to gun accessories, concluded here, may have proved interesting and informative for newcomers to the firearms field, and has perhaps stirred up some pleasant memories among those, like myself, who started burning powder a long time ago.



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WALTHER TPH PISTOL

(Continued from page 22)

ejector, which serves this purpose on the PP and PPK, has been replaced by a small stamping which does nothing but kick cases out the port. This, however, it does very positively.

The chamber indicator pin was impossible on a rimfire pistol, but would have been of dubious use anyway since an experienced pistolman can read the extractor. The manual safety system is another point to note. In concept it is identical to the PPK arrangement. The changes are intelligent ones; they ease manufacture but do not detract from effectiveness. Essentially, the engagement lug on the PP striker has been replaced by a more easily machined sphere on the shaft of the TPH firing pin. Operation is identical—pressing the thumblever down on the left side of the slide both locks the firing pin against forward movement and rolls the steel safety cylinder around behind the striker head to prevent it from being hit by the falling hammer which is automatically tripped.

The barrel of the TPH, lathed down from rod stock, is rifled with six grooves by button swaging, and is press fitted and pinned firmly into the frame. The pin prevents rearward movement, while a large flange about the chamber mouth prevents forward motion.

This solid mounting of barrel-to-frame, typical as well of the PP and PPK, has always enabled Walther pistols to offer outstanding accuracy and reliability. The feed ramp is not split into wandering halves, the barrel does not vibrate within the slide shifting point of impact from shot to shot, and the possibility of the slide's blowing off backwards and injuring the shooter simply does not exist. These points are all plus factors inherent in the design of the weapon.

There's heaps more to handgun ac-

curacy than a good barrel—trigger pull and sights both play a major part. My test TPH had a nice single action, though with a bit too much over-travel. Double action was a bit gritty, but resistance was spread through the full length of the pull, as it should be. The chronic fault of PPK's is to have the entire weight of pull crowded into the first one eighth inch of double action travel—an impossible situation for the shooter, and one which the TPH's I've handled have scrupulously avoided. The test gun, serial #043, was not at all objectionable. Number 01, customized at the plant for presentation, was something else again; the double action was velvet smooth, and the single action letoff would have been perfect save for a slight creep. I did my shooting with #043, and the results speak for themselves. At 15 meters, bench rested, it would put five shots into 1¼" to 2" all day. Allowing one flyer per group, the best four were printing into an inch. From standing position, the groups opened up only slightly to 1½"-2½". This is nice shooting by almost any standards, and for a vest pocket auto it's phenomenal. Walther requires the pistol to plant five out of six into a group measuring at most 3¼ by 4½ inches, but I can't imagine a TPH that wouldn't shoot much closer in good hands.

One expects malfunctions with a .22 pistol. The rimmed case and soft lead bullets, each one with a generous dollop of wax on the nose, could have been calculated to give gun designers nightmares. I function tested the TPH in rapid fire bursts, right side up, on either side, and upside down, with never a hitch. However, I did get a couple of stoppages during accuracy testing. To this I merely say that I had a pilot run pistol, and to be fair, all such criticism should await full

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production run weapons. The design of the piece, as we noted, makes for optimum reliability, and Walther tests their guns with assorted lots of both European and American ammunition to assure that they will function acceptably with whatever the customer may feed them. On the point of reliability, the TPH can be expected to take a back seat to no one.

Handling qualities were first class. Slightly larger than some pistols of this type, the gun fits solidly into the hand, and although the little finger has to be curled underneath the butt, the gripping fingers find plenty to hold to, and do not wrap around and ram into the palm of the hand. Trigger reach was fine for a good d.a. pull, even with my long fingers, and was not awkwardly short even for single action. The gun hangs nicely and points well either from the hip or the shoulder, and I noted no tendency for it to squirm in the hand. The grips are two panels of molded plastic, and do not cover the arc of the backstrap. It weighs, empty, just shy of 11 oz., which somehow seems just right.

Even if the design of the gun was no more up to date than the Conestoga wagon, the TPH would be an outstanding defense arm by virtue of the sights alone. Designed by the German gunwriter von Stavenhagen, these line-up devices are by far the best I've ever seen on a production pistol. Sight radius is 3.94"—as good as you'll find on a snub revolver. The sights are of standard Patridge configuration, but realizing that a defense gun is for fast use in dim light situations, von Stavenhagen put plenty of light in the rear notch on either side of the front sight, and mounted a white bead on the face of the front post to align atop a vertical white line centered below the rear sight notch.

There's only one real criticism to be made, and that concerns the magazine release latch. Mounted at the heel of the butt, it's paralleled on either side by ribs on the frame intended to shield it from accidental disengagement; they also tend to shield it from the thumb. The release on the #01 pistol worked nicely, but that on #043 required two hands and Herculean determination to release. This item, if not made to work easily, will effectively nullify the firepower advantage that a semi-auto pistol should offer its user. We trust that Walther will take care of this matter before the TPH reaches production.

Aside from this point, the little Taschenpistole is, unlike much of its competition, a shooting gun through and through. We like it immensely, and believe it would be enormously popular with handgunners.

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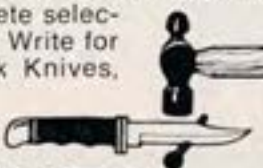
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(Continued from page 25)

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As noted above, a regular grade Krieghoff costs \$595.00, and if the shooter wishes an extra set of barrels the additional cost is \$275.00.

These shotguns are made of Bohler steel and have been fitted with a mechanical trigger. I had a chance to work with and fire one of the current production regular grade Krieghoffs in 12 gauge, and I found it to be a fast, easy-handling shotgun that put the charge right at the top of the front bead. The barrels were 28", full and modified. Handling was easy and clean and the straight stock handled recoil well. I would have liked to have been able to take it into the field for upland game. The fit of wood to metal was good and the polishing and bluing work was tops.

But this shotgun must not be judged by looks alone because the external appearance cannot justify a base selling price of \$595.00. Anyone interested in purchasing a Krieghoff should get their hands on one, feel its balance, examine the craftsmanship that goes into the "innards" and into each part.

Look at the choke. It is not just drilled out. It is ground and polished and lapped to produce precisely the correct choke for that particular barrel. A Krieghoff shotgun must be handled and fired and examined to be fully appreciated. Add to the good looks, sound, honest construction and the net result is a tough, reliable over-under that is worth every cent of its cost—especially to the man who must have consistent and flawless performance.



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ALL-AMERICAN SHOTGUN

(Continued from page 38)

from side-by-side doubles and stack-barreled superposed guns to fast-firing autoloaders. In the process, I have hung on to a few favorites—among these, a beautifully balanced 20 gauge over-and-under, a long-recoil-operated 28-gauge auto, and a light-kicking gas-operated self-loader chambered for 12-gauge magnums.

These are all relatively specialized guns that are ideal for the right game in the right situation. The twin-tubed 20, choked improved cylinder and modified, is the perfect ringneck stopper early in the season when birds are holding well and flushing close, while the featherweight 28 sees lots of action on sage grouse and chukar—I can carry this gun in rocky highland country mile after mile without really becoming tired. Of course, the 12 magnum is a goose gun, plain and simple, and would be out of place anywhere but on a pass shooting line.

But whenever I plan a "smorgasbord" hunt that will include a variety of game under a variety of conditions, there is one gun that is always first off the rack. In fact, this same gun usually rides along, for insurance, on all my quests for feathered quarry. As you may have guessed, it's my "old standby" 12-gauge pump.

Whenever I fall into a slump, missing more than my usual unimpressive share of birds—feathered or clay—uncasing my well-worn "trombone 12" usually puts me back on the track. I suppose this is because I grew up with a 12 pump, and am so completely familiar with its feel and action that I concentrate less on the gun and more on my target. Too, the fact that I know that next shell is going to be ready to fire just as soon as I shuck the action gives me added confidence on two-bird flushes. (In spite of the present near-perfect state of today's self loader, and the fact that I can't remember how many hundred rounds it's been since an autoloader jammed on me, I still have more confidence in the hand-operated pump.)

While I've tried to make it clear that I regard the American pumpgun as a highly useful, rugged and extremely reasonably priced scattergunning tool, you needn't think that you have to sacrifice luxury or pride of ownership to tote one afield. If you'd like to own a shotgun for other than purely utilitarian purposes, many slide-action manufacturers will be happy to oblige you.

In fact, the most famous pumpgun ever made—the trapshooter- and waterfowler-revered Winchester model 12—is still available—at a beginning price of \$875.00! And the people at Remington would be tickled silly to supply you with their premier grade 870 at the current price of \$1250 (if you like gold inlays, the same gun is just fifty bucks shy of two grand).

Ithaca isn't left at the starting gate, either, when it comes to fancy pumps. Their justly popular Model 37 (with bottom ejection) can be had in dolled-up versions running merrily on up to \$4500.00.

As I said earlier, pumpguns do come in other gauges—410, 28, 20, and 16, to be specific. But the 12 is well ahead of all these lesser gauges in pumpgun popularity. And it's safe to say that—in America, at least—the slide-action pump is the most popular gun on the market today. Ted McCawley, public relations manager at Remington, says of their 870 (which has been in the Remington line for twenty years), "we have sold more of these than any other single model we now produce." Ithaca's bread-and-butter gun has long been their Model 37, and I'm sure that Winchester would have been sad, indeed, to have lost the income from all the Model 12's and 1200's it has sold.

One final thing that certainly doesn't hurt the pumpgun's domestic image—it is one gun that is still being produced (by most manufacturers) right here in the United States. It is a gun that lends itself well to assembly lines and mass production (as opposed to the laborious handwork required in making a quality double). Therefore, it remains a gun made by Americans for Americans.

Coincidentally, this mass-produced Yankee invention is regarded as a mere "machine" by traditional British and other Old World shooters, and is generally not popular in these countries. Perhaps this is one reason it is so popular here. It is a machine—a very efficient one. And there's nothing we Americans understand and know how to make better—or appreciate more—than a good, well-designed machine.

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(Continued from page 47)

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height without the necessity of a
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is of classic design, or it may be had
with a loop if desired. The wood is
fancy American walnut in the stand-
ard grade rifle. The stock can be had
with any length of pull. The butt is
covered with a solid rubber pad of
such a length and enough width so
that the recoil is distributed over a
large portion of the shoulder. A ven-
tilated pad can be had on rifles of the
big calibers. The stock is fastened to
the receiver with a 3/4" through bolt;
there are no tangs. The forearm
comes in the same good quality wal-
nut, and it is offered in two lengths
and two different styles. It attaches
to the rifle by a separate hanger and
may be adjusted so that the barrel is
completely free-floating, or any de-
sired amount of pressure can be ap-
plied to the barrel.

Mike Keesee, who is Director of
Sales, for the Sharps Co., had two of
the Model 78 rifles with him when he
came to San Antonio. The first of
these rifles was a .22-250 with 26"
ultra-lightweight barrel. The second
was a .375 H&H Magnum with 28"
barrel in a semi-bullgun weight. Both
rifles were equipped with the Red-
field 2X-7X variable scope with the
4-Plex reticle. Mounts were also Red-
field and each was attached to the
rifle barrel ahead of the receiver ring.

Both rifles were quite impressive
in finish and workmanship. The ac-
tion and barrel was blued with a high
luster finish which indicated careful
preparation of the metal before the
solution was applied. The operation
of the falling breechblock was effort-
less, as silky and smooth as a knife
through hot butter. A real joy to op-
erate, believe me!

The Canjar trigger on the .22-250
broke at exactly 2 lb., 14 oz. The
trigger on the .375 Magnum went 3
lbs., 1 oz. Both were perfect; no
creep, no drag, no movement whatso-
ever, simply a quick-breaking let-off
that was utterly sweet. I did not fire
either rifle with the set trigger, being
quite content with the perfection of
the single stage. I seriously doubt if
the average shooter has any need for
this set trigger innovation.

The .22-250 weighed 7 lb., 2 oz.
with the scope and mount. The light
heft was due to the extremely feath-
ery barrel. The .375 weighed 8 lb., 15
oz., with scope and mount. The .22-
250 was a hard gun to hold quietly
because of its lack of weight out in
front. The .375, on the other hand,
due to its semi-bullgun tube, held
like a rock—especially offhand.

Both Mike and I fired the .22-250
with off-the-shelf factory loads, with
the 55-gr pointed softpoint bullet at
3760 fps MV. Because of the light
barrel we shot for typical hunting
groups; that is 3-shot groups. The
first of these, fired by Keesee, went
into 3/8". The second, fired by me,
plopped into 3/4". When we tried 5-
shot groups these invariably opened
up to something over a minute of an-
gle. A second 3-shot group fired by
Mike went into 1/2" and this was the

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best one we got. I shot a second group and it hit 9/10". We fired three shots and then permitted the light barrel to cool, the breechbolt open. After a cooling off period we'd fire again, and accuracy was quite good. The only thing was to avoid too many shots fired too close together. Had I been making a choice I would certainly have selected a much heavier barrel than this to compliment the excellent action.

I fired the .375 for group. The heavy barrel made the rifle exceedingly steady off the bench. I shot a 5-round string. These fell into 1 3/8". This is good accuracy for a heavy kicking rifle. The low profile of the Sharps action with the attendant high comb of the stock places the barrel and its recoil in line with the shoulder. This dampens the turning motion so unpleasantly common on most of the big kickers, and as a result the .375 did not rise and wallop me in the face as most of these guns do. After the benchrest group was fired I stood up and tried the rifle offhand. It had a fine hang about it and the weight and balance was such as to make it easy to hold steady. Two shots plopped into the 5" bull.

The Sharps rifle is an outstanding example of single-shot design. It will hold an enormous amount of appeal to that select little group of sportsmen who want to test their shooting skill in the game fields. The knowledge that he has only one shot acts as a stimulus to those marksmen who would pit their skill against the game. So keen is this feeling that I have known hunters who took a single-shot express rifle to Africa for elephant. A great many sportsmen who will never see Africa will hold the same regard for the Sharps. It will appeal to them as a test of shooting skill and a display of good sportsmanship to go afield with the single shooter.

The Sharps, likewise, will hold a great deal of charm for that sizeable group of varmint shooters who will be instantly attracted to the good looks, utter reliability, and fine accuracy of this newcomer.



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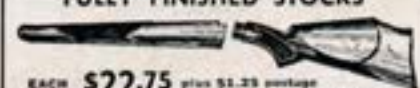
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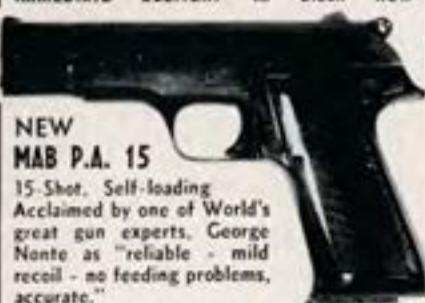


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THE .38 SPECIAL

(Continued from page 27)

may low rate the .38 on the score of punch but they never offer any matches with the gun where accuracy is the yardstick. The .38 Spl. out of a good gun will shoot quite as precisely as the best of the .22 Long Rifle match loads; or the .45 ACP with its target match loadings.

I have watched groups from the S&W Model 52 shooting the .38 wadcutter pile into less than two inches at 50 yards, from the HEG machine rest and using selected match ammo of Remington loading. This is terrific performance and is only occasionally bettered by some .22 Long Rifle target ammo, and then only occasionally. The best the .45 match 185-gr. semi-wadcutter loading will do seldom equals this although it will come close. You will hear about one inch groups at 50 yards by that vocal minority I mentioned before, and usually this is with some stiff .44 magnum handload. You can put most of this down to shooting with a typewriter and not over a sandbag. Only the other day I read about a series of 1" groups at 100 yards with the .44 Magnum. Now that was really something! Most factory rifles won't group into one minute of angle at 100 yards much less a short barreled handgun, held in the hands and fired off a bench. This is humbug and you may put it down as such.

The original loading for the .38 Spl. was with a 158-gr. round nose bullet and 3.6 grains of Bullseye powder. The 158-gr bullet remains the standard to this day, though it is not an especially accurate one. By the same token, it does not deliver much punch because of the shape of the slug. In 1907, Colt came along with its version of the .38 Spl., and while the cartridge casing was identical, the bullet had a flat nose. It weighed the same as the S&W projectile but that scow-like front end gave it a bit more thump. Since then such outfits as Lyman have developed moulds which provide a flat-nose bullet with a square shoulder behind it and this gives the cartridge more wallop.

The accuracy loading is the wadcutter. This bullet weighs from 146 to 150 grains and has precisely the same

measurements at head and tail. When the squared-off nose of the bullet strikes, it cuts a full size neatly round hole. It is by far the most precise of all the .38 loadings and one reason is because the bullet bears on the lands of the bore full length. This bullet is loaded into the casing full length and this constricts the powder capacity in the over-size shell. This also contributes to its good performance. The wadcutter is driven at low velocities with consequent low breech pressures, and this also helps to make it accurate. Primarily intended for target shooting, the wadcutter is an excellent killer on such small critters as rabbits, squirrels, hawks and related small vermin. The full flat nose of the forward end of the slug delivers total energy, and because of the square ended profile it does not tend to glance aside or deviate from its path when it strikes bone or muscle.

It has often been asked why, since the wadcutter delivers all its wallop due to the flat nose, a hefty service loading is not provided. The answer is that before the bullet could be given high velocities pressures would climb too steeply. It takes quite a nudge to push that full bearing slug into the barrel and if this was attempted ahead of a heavy charge of propellant it would run pressures out through the roof. The wadcutter, despite its riding the lands from end to end, tends to skid across the bore when it is driven into the barrel at high pressure. This does a lot of harm to accuracy. The odd shaped bullet is at its best as a low velocity high precision number.

The wadcutter 148-gr bullet, when backed by 2.8 grains of Bullseye, is a marvelously pleasant rapid fire proposition. Target rapid fire must be banged out to the tune of 5 shots in 10 seconds at 25 yards. Recoil is an important factor, hence the very light charge of Bullseye.

The .38 Spl. cartridge, when loaded with the regular 158-gr bullet, has an overall length of 1.5 inches; the S&W and Colt cylinders are the same length. When the wadcutter loading is put in this cylinder it is something



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else again. Since the sharp shouldered bullet is completely settled within the casing, the overall length is that of the shell itself. That is only 1.16 inches. The bullet has to make a flat-footed jump of almost a half-inch before it gets to the barrel breech. If the cylinder has chambers that do not quite line up, due to a worn cylinder hand, then the slug strikes off-center. It gets a big flat shaving taken off one side, or at worst a flat corner. This badly hurts accuracy.

What is needed for the .38 revolver is a special cylinder just for shooting the highly accurate wadcutter load. This cylinder should be only the length of the wadcutter cartridge. That is 1.16 inches. Then the sharp shoulder, when it was fired, would pass out of the chamber and directly into the bore; no free jumps required. The barrel would have to be threaded back through the gun frame to make juncture with the fore-shortened cylinder. This would not be any great problem, although it would reduce sighting radius by a half inch.

When S&W engineers whumped up the .38 Spl. back in 1902, they made the case too long. This was the period when smokeless powders were just coming into vogue and these worthies must have had some doubts whether the new propellant was going to be accepted or not. They made the thirty-eight for black powder. These days it has a great deal too much powder capacity. Even the full service load does not completely fill the case. And, when the 148-gr. wadcutter bullet is seated to its full length in the shell there is still an air space. As an experiment I one time cut 1/4-inch off the casing and thereafter loaded it with the wadcutter bullet. Not only were velocities more uniform but accuracy was improved. With factory wadcutter ammo the powder charge is so small that before firing the gun should be pointed skyward and sharply rapped on the butt to settle the propellant back against the primer. Unless you do this the powder lies along the bottom side of the shell and the primer flash tends to burn above it—or at best it only ignites the topmost flakes. What is needed as a standard item is a new .38 Spl. cartridge foreshortened by .25", and then loaded with the wadcutter bullets to its full depth in the mini-casing.

It was realized that the .38 wadcutter had more accuracy than other centerfire cartridges but that the revolver did not take advantage of its full potential. Clever gunsmiths like Howard Peters of El Paso and Jim Clark of Shreveport, La., commenced to experiment with the .38 Super Colt

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auto pistol in an attempt to convert this gun to use the revolver loading. They had a job cut out for them because the big rim on the .38 made it a difficult number to feed through a magazine. After a good deal of cut-and-try, both technicians succeeded in converting quite successfully the .38 Super to the wadcutter cartridge. This achievement was hailed by target shooters and a great many had the conversion done.

This was the forerunner of the Colt Gold Cup .38 and the S&W Model 52 auto pistols. Both guns handle the wadcutter cartridge and are the two most accurate .38's in the business. The decision of the two big companies to build these automatics had its beginning with the experimentation and preliminary spade work done by the boys in the field.

The bugaboo of the big rim on the .38 case was never forgotten. It did sometimes cause a jam and this would lose the gunner time and points in the rapid fire stages of the match. The hotrocks down at the army marksmanship training unit at Ft. Benning, a spot where the army concentrates its best shooters, decided to do something about the rim. They simply chucked the .38 empties up in a lathe and cut off the rim. They then continued and cut an extraction groove in the head of the case. This required some modifications on the extractor of the pistol but again this was no great chore. Performance was very materially improved.

After shooting the rimless .38 wadcutters for a season or two the military gunners took the matter up with Remington and this outfit agreed to make up a large quantity of the rimless thirty-eighths. This they did, and have been loading them for the army ever since. The loading has never been put on the general market and little publicity has been given the novel round. It is a natural for use in the .38 automatics.

My tests, using the HEG machine rest at 50 yards, with both the S&W Model 52 auto and the Colt Gold Cup show that the M52 will group into 1.90 to 2.25 inches with selected wadcutter match ammunition. The Gold Cup will consistently shoot into the 10-ring on the Standard American target. This circle measures 3 1/4 inches. Similar tests with our best .38 target revolvers indicate that only an occasional cylinder gun will shoot into the 10-ring. Frequently, you can get 5 shots to group into the circle but before the ten rounds are all fired there will be a flyer. This is caused by opening the cylinder to reload. When this is done, very often the first

(Continued on page 68)

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shot out of the second cylinder load will be a bit wide of the group. Revolvers are very finicky and more often than not there will be one, two and sometimes three chambers in the cylinder that consistently out-shoot the others. Because of the tendency of the gun—even when fixed in the machine rest—to change center of impact by the simple business of opening the cylinder and reloading, I am sometimes tempted to weld the cylinder shut and engineer a loading gate something like the old .45 Single Action. Undoubtedly, if the cylinder was never swung out the gun would shoot better. However, in any tests between the best of the .38 target cylinder guns and the S&W M52 auto pistol, the latter invariably outperforms the revolvers. This is a well known fact in shooting circles and for that reason you seldom see any of the headlines shooting anything anymore except the auto pistol.

A dude one time sent me his Winchester Model 92 rifle which he had converted to the .38 Special. It handled the standard 158-gr. loading quite satisfactorily. But it sometimes wouldn't feed with the wadcutters. Like the revolver, it was fit only for jackrabbits. You get some increase over the standard six gun velocity of 850 fps with the rifle but the stepped up velocity ain't much. Navy Arms Co. imports a really handsome replica of the old Winchester Model 66 rifle, the Yellowboy as it was called by the Sioux. It is ordinarily chambered for the .22 Long Rifle but here more lately Val Forgett has offered the .38 Special as well. It was once popular to have both the belt gun and the rifle chambered for the same cartridge; witness the .38-40 and the .44-40. Then the outdoorsman need carry only one cartridge in his belt. But the .38 Special is not a rifle round and never will be.

The standard loading has a velocity of 885 fps from a 6-inch barrel. This develops only 255 ft. lb. of muzzle energy. The wadcutter, with its 148-gr. slug, has only 770 fps muzzle velocity and the energy isn't even worth quoting. It is only 195 foot pounds. These are standard figures. Remington loads a hotter number for the use of the police and it uses the standard 158-gr. but it is driven at 1090 fps and shows 415 ft. lbs. of energy. Winchester-Western has a 150-gr. metal-capped

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bullet which is given 1060 fps velocity and 375 ft. lbs. of energy; it is sharply pointed and with the Lubaloy metal nose is intended for penetration of body armor, auto bodies, doors, etc.

Most impressive of the commercial loadings is made up by the Super-Vel Co. of Shelbyville, Indiana. This outfit specializes in hot loadings for police. Their .38 Spl. offering carries a 110-gr. jacketed hollow-point soft-point bullet which is driven at 1370 fps and contributes the somewhat impressive energy figure of 458 ft. lbs. This velocity-energy figure is attained by the use of the comparatively light bullet. Too, by using this lighter slug the manufacturer manages to keep breech pressures under acceptable limits.

This is the best that the .38 will do. It is not in a class with its big brother, the .357 Magnum. The .357 outperforms the older cartridge by a considerable margin and if the shooter is looking for power, and this is the sole criterion, then the magnum is the logical choice.

The .38, on the other hand, has a great deal to recommend it. More than anything else is the fine accuracy of the .38 Special. Along with its high precision is a light recoil, which not only does not upset the shooter and induce flinching, but permits him to get in following shots with speed and accuracy. As a part of the light kick is the fact that the cartridge can be shot in extremely light guns. Short-barreled light frame numbers like the S&W Airweight Model which, with its 2-inch barrel and 14½-oz weight, is still manageable. Because of its longevity and its popular acceptance over the many years of its existence there is a great deal of .38 Spec. reloading dope available. It is the most widely handloaded of any of our centerfire cartridges. Most police departments, still users of the thirty-eight, reload the cartridge so that their men can get their needed practice. Not a cartridge for bear, not even a round for deer, and sometimes found lacking when used on bandits, the old work horse thirty-eight is still a highly useable, versatile, accurate and worthwhile number.



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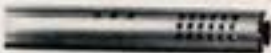
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WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 23)

crime areas, and others with a special need for self-protection. At least in major metropolitan areas, the federal system should not consider normal household self-protection a sufficient showing of need to have a handgun."

Here you have it then. Not only do they want handguns confiscated, there is also blackmail. States that enact anti-guns laws would be favored over those that do not!

More could be thought of this recommendation if it could be explained how criminals could be forced to turn in their handguns. The Supreme Court of the United States, in at least three precedent-setting cases has held that you cannot enforce a law that makes a criminal give evidence against himself. Since it is against the law for criminals to own guns it would be unconstitutional to force them into admitting they were breaking the law by "fessing up" to owning a gun.

There is more to the report: "Finally, we emphasize that laws controlling handguns should provide serious penalties for the possession of such guns by unlicensed persons. The apprehension of such persons should in time greatly reduce the rate of violent crime in the United States." This portion of the law, if enacted, would only be applicable to law-abiding citizens who could qualify for licenses.

While the report was in the printing process, Capitol Hill moved into action. Senator Dodd introduced his latest effort. The hint of handgun confiscation came in the provision of the bill which provided that the Government would buy unwanted guns.

Hearings were announced. It was obviously anticipated that the report would be released prior to the start of the hearings. This was foiled by members of the commission who did not agree with the findings of the report. So the Dodd anti-gun hearings started with a whimper instead of a bang.

Four members of the commission went on record as not agreeing with its findings; they were, Senator Roman L. Hruska, Judge Ernest W. McFarland, Congressman Hale Boggs and Leo Jaworski.

The report was officially released "without comment" by the majority of its members. Not raising their voices were Dr. Milton Eisenhower, Terrence Cardinal Cooke, Ambassador Patricia Roberts Harris, Senator Philip A. Hart, Eric Hoffer, Albert E. Jenner, Jr., Congressman William M. McCulloch, and Dr. Walter Menninger. (It

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should be remembered that this is a staff report and not a report of the commission. The commission is to make its recommendations later this fall.)

The Nixon Administration has successfully side-stepped the recommendations of the report. Witness after witness told the Dodd hearings "no more gun legislation at this time."

"At this time," leaves the door open for compromise. It also avoids direct conflict with those who believe in the confiscation of guns. The next anti-gun shots are expected to be fired when the commission releases its final report.

If two more states say "yes" the Constitution of the United States could be rewritten—hence the right to keep and bear arms could be clarified. Or, removed altogether.

Under a little-known provision of the Constitution, a national convention is to be called when two-thirds of the states (now 34 are needed) petition Congress asking for a convention to revise the Constitution. Only two less than that number have already been submitted to Congress.

While the petitions for a Constitutional Convention are for only amendments pertaining to the Supreme Court's reapportionment decisions, nothing like this has ever happened before. Such a convention would have the power to rewrite any part of the Constitution.

To avoid this possibility, Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. (D., N.C.) has introduced a bill (S. 623) to provide ground rules for the calling of such a convention. It has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee where Sen. Ervin chairs a subcommittee dealing with constitutional law. The senator has also been mentioned as a replacement of Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren.

The bill is a revision of an earlier one written by the senator. It seeks to eliminate the confusion that developed when such a convention would be called.

Many lawmakers here think the U.S. faces the worst crisis since the Civil War. Voices have been heard in Congress and in the press suggesting that the proposed convention would be a constitutional nightmare; that a "runaway convention would abolish the Bill of Rights, repeal the income tax, provide for an elected Supreme Court, and impose unimagined horrors on the nation such as gun confiscation.

It has also been suggested that Congress should ignore its clear constitutional obligation by refusing to call a convention even when the constitu-

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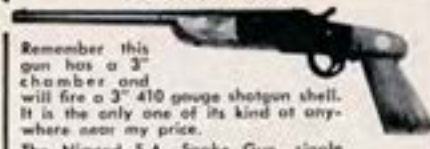
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tional requirement had been met. No one seems to have the constitutional power to force Congress to call such a convention.

Second, sober thoughts have since recognized these extraordinary reactions were the product partly of surprise and partly of opposition to the substantive changes sought by the state petitions. Nonetheless, it is still generally recognized that no precedent exists to guide questions involved in implementing this part of Article V of the Constitution.

This is not a bill to repeal any controversial decision of the Supreme Court such as those on the right to keep and bear arms. It seeks to eliminate the possibility of a wide-open convention.

Under its provisions such a convention would still be called but only on the same subject or point of law mentioned in the petition by the states. But, here is the rub: Would such a law be binding on such a Constitutional Convention?

Put another way, can you, in effect, amend the Constitution with a law? But, on the other hand, who would say such a law would not be binding on such a convention?

There are no answers to the complex questions. It is safe to say that such a convention could and would do pretty much what it pleased. The only restraints on such a convention would be those which it puts on itself.

The petitions presently pending before Congress deal with the so-called "one man, one vote" decision of the Supreme Court. The petitions seek to have Congress rewrite the Constitution to allow each state, if it chooses, to set up the election of one of its houses (such as senate or house) on a basis other than only population. (The Senate of the Congress now has two members from each state. Regardless of size or population each state has the same representation.)

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same time. Regardless of any law passed, the conservatives of Congress would like to change other controversial Supreme Court decisions. With crime being what it is, changes in the Constitution to deal with arrested persons would be a natural.

The liberals of Congress, who do not want a convention called in the first place, would surely counter with their own proposals. Here is where the right to keep and bear arms is likely to be thrown right into the middle of the fight.

Q&A

(Continued from page 19)

for military use. They are not suitable for civilian, law enforcement or other non-military purposes." What do I have? Remington would give me no answer.

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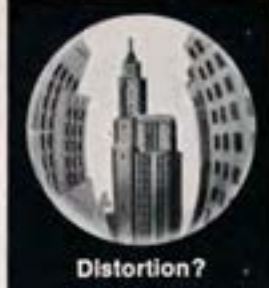
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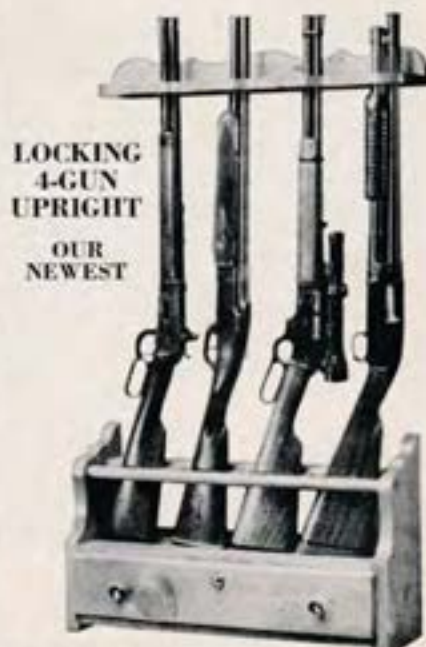
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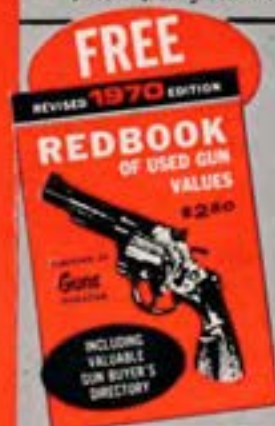
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2. If your reading were restricted to ONE of these magazines which would it be? _____

3. Age _____

4. Yearly Income _____

5. Married? Yes _____ No _____

6. Number of Children _____

7. Home Value _____

8. Attended High School? Yes _____ No _____

9. Attended College? Yes _____ No _____

10. Number of rifles owned _____

11. Average cost of rifles _____

12. Do you expect to purchase a rifle in the next year? Yes _____ No _____

13. Number of handguns owned _____

14. Average cost of handguns _____

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