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COLT TROOPER
Mark III

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TIPS on CARRYING SPARE
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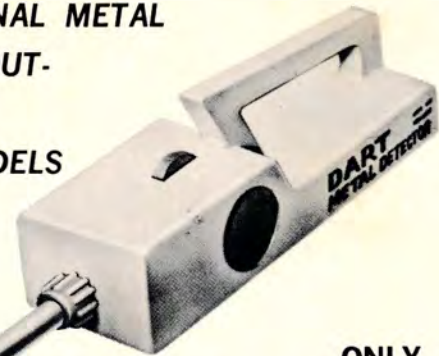
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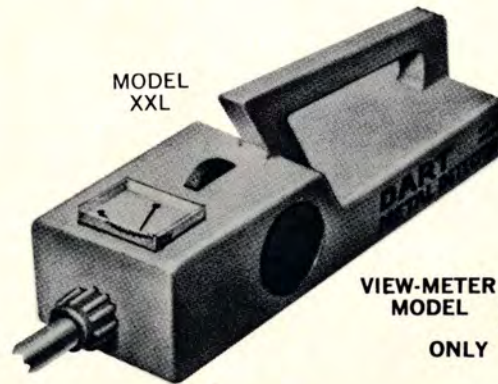
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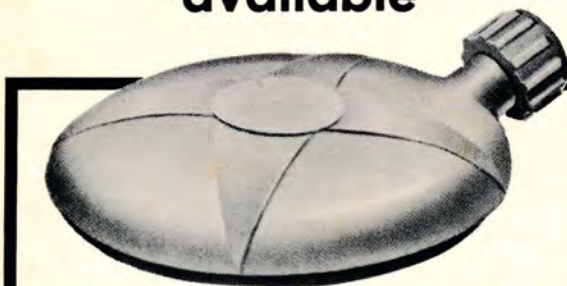
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TRIGGER TALK

ANOTHER WINNER!

BY THE time you read this, Mr. R. J. Zaludek of Oakland, California should be out in the field with his brand new Parker-Hale rifle, offered in our October contest, and furnished by Jana International, Denver, Colorado.

* * *

In case you haven't heard, California now has a new pre-emption law. Signed by the Governor in September, this new law is probably the most important piece of state firearms legislation passed in 1969. With this new law, the State of California has occupied the entire field of regulation of the registration or licensing of commercially manufactured firearms. With the passage of this law, the notorious San Francisco registration law went down the drain. Oh, how sweet it would be if we could get the same law passed in New York State, and thereby dump the Sullivan Law. What a pleasure it would be to get this passed in Illinois, and thereby negate the registration law of Chicago, perpetrated by the Daley machine.

There is no off-season for fighting to preserve the right to gun ownership, and individual shooters and sportsmens clubs should bring this new law to the attention of their state representatives. Here is the wording of the law; simple and straightforward:

"It is the intention of the Legislature to occupy the whole field of regulation of the registration or licensing of commercially manufactured firearms as encompassed by the provisions of the penal code, and such provisions shall be exclusive of all local regulations, relating to registration or licensing of commercially manufactured firearms, by any political subdivision as defined in Section 1721 of the Labor Code."

THE COVER

The hard-to-get Smith & Wesson stainless steel Chief is also one of the most difficult guns to engrave. But the Japanese artists of REI Engravers overcame the difficulty of carving the hard metal and came up with the gun shown on this month's cover. S&W courtesy of REI Engraving, Park Forest, Ill.; photograph by Gerry Swart of Chicago.

FEBRUARY, 1970

Vol. XVI, No. 0-02

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

The so-called inconveniences created for firearms owners by the many pieces of firearms legislation enacted by federal, state and local governments have become a lot more than just inconveniences. These many statutes are being used by law enforcement agencies as an excuse to harass legitimate firearms owners. The maze of largely unenforceable laws has clearly done nothing to curb the misuse of firearms and the national crime rate continues to climb.

Can unthinking bureaucrats still believe the answer to such serious problems is the enactment of even more restrictive legislation which fails even to acknowledge the principal problem, much less provide a reasonably sound start toward a solution? Is the real reason for such an attitude merely lack of insight or is a more dubious motive a reality?

Whatever the real reason for the actions of our lawmakers is unimportant. What is important is that unless we act now to alter our suicidal course, the United States will be in dire trouble. To change direction is a difficult task. It requires a great deal of sacrifices on the part of people concerned with the problem. A start has been made by the S.C.A. but to continue with this important work we need the help of many more people dedicated to the cause.

THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA is concerned with protecting our constitutional right to keep and bear firearms. The work is hard and requires the support of firearms owners throughout the country. We need many members and lots of hard work to offset the propaganda of the mass media and other notorious anti-gun factions. To overcome adverse publicity heaped on legitimate shooting sportsmen requires a concentrated effort on the part of everyone interested in protecting this basic constitutional right and the freedom from tyranny. The courts are unsympathetic to the plight of the shooting sportsman. While confessed criminals are released for minor

technicalities, the crime rate continues to climb and firearms and legitimate firearms owners are subjected to abuse and cited as the cause of lawlessness in our society. THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA has always advocated a sensible attitude toward gun control. That is, restricting the use of firearms to sensible people, and most importantly enforcing severe penalties for the criminal use of firearms.

This policy places the blame and burden where it belongs—on the criminal; not on legitimate firearms owners. Registration laws have succeeded in getting most guns registered—however the problem of a constantly rising crime rate has not been checked. The firearms owned by criminals will never be registered and criminals, not shooting sportsmen, are the ones responsible for the commission of crimes.

Do your part to protect your legitimate constitutional right to keep and bear firearms. THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA needs your help—and you need the S.C.A.! Let's work together to defeat unreasonable and unworkable laws. Let's uncover the true story of attempts to disarm shooting sportsmen and expose the motives of individuals carrying on this smear campaign. We must be able to present the facts of our position to the American public, and a strong national organization is your most effective means to mount a positive public relations campaign to counter the efforts of our opposition.

JOIN THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA TODAY! To put off this decision is to court disaster. If you value your constitutional right to keep and bear firearms you must act now. Put your name alongside thousands of other Americans working for the preservation of a free society—use the attached postage-free envelope to enter your membership in the S.C.A. DO IT NOW!

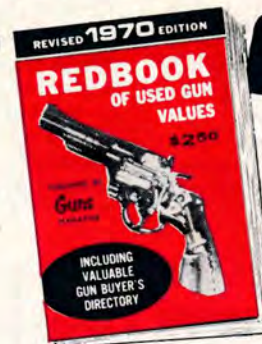
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CRACK!

BLAM!

POW!

How to separate the men from the boys: Lyman cast bullets

What separates the men from the boys in shooting? Is it big noise, shoulder-busting recoil and high cost hot-loaded jacketed ammunition? Or is it squeezing off the kind of ammo your gun and your target require?

Granted, maximum loads and jacketed bullets have their place: for extreme ranges or sure stops of big, dangerous game. But how about White Tail deer, woodchucks, targets, tin cans, backyard and basement practice — the all-year-round kind of shooting?

You choose the kind of load and bullet you want for various shooting conditions:

CRASH! For longrange kills at bear-and-moose-stopping terminal speeds, you'll want a hot load with the finest jacketed bullets

money can buy. Very effective; but rough on your nerves, shoulder — and the life expectancy of your fine, accurate barrel.

CRACK! That's a Lyman cast lead-alloy .210 grain bullet propelled at 2,250 fps, only a shade under its jacketed colleague. Ideal for deer and most trophy game on this continent. Kinder to your barrel than any jacketed bullet, thanks to far less frictional resistance.

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CROSSFIRE

Praise, etc.

I enjoy your excellent magazine. I really enjoy Maj. Nonte's articles as he always seems to know what he is talking about. Also I find the articles by Les Bowman highly authoritative and interestingly written. Between Nonte and Bowman, I find much interest in their writing and take most of their information as the best available. Keep them writing and I will continue buying your magazine.

I can't find much enthusiasm for Askins, though. From what I can tell from his writing the only thing he has been pleased with was the S & W Model 39, and that would please most anyone. If he would stop complaining and just present the facts as they are instead of trying to swing everyone to his way of thinking, maybe his articles might hold more interest.

Thanks for a good magazine, and most of all many, many thanks for your great efforts against the anti-gun fanatics. I have no more use for them than the anti-U.S. demonstrators that are numerous in the States. It sure is good to see that there are still some people in the U.S. that can still think rationally.

Dale H. Clark
APO New York

Canadian Supplier

In reading your May ('69) issue, we notice where Major Nonte mentioned that the only place they could buy 45-90 cases was from Pomeroy, that he redraws 45-70's. We have sent the Major a sample of a basic case that we have, that we can supply trimmed and sized to 45-90 length if he wished; also for .33 Winchester. And we can also supply these now head-stamped in the various calibres that this case will make up into. I just thought this information might be useful.

Ellwood Epps
Ellwood Epps Sporting Goods
Clinton, Ontario, Canada

The Smaller The Better

As an avid reader of your magazine, I'd like to throw in my two cents' worth in the handgun caliber controversy. I enjoyed Bob Robinson's letter (October Guns), but I have to disagree with him (and a few gun writers too) on the importance of the size of that hole in the barrel. Sure, "the bigger the better" was fine in black powder days, when handgun bullets were so slow that they had to be the size of a bowling ball to do any damage, but times have changed.

I can see Charles Askins' hair standing on end when I say this, but I am firmly convinced that no caliber larger than .38 or 9mm is necessary in a handgun. With the tremendous velocities and energies produced by modern powders, plus the continuing improvements in bullet design, loads like the .357 Magnum and .38 Super give all the destructive force you could possibly need for handgun sized targets.

Keep up the good work against the anti-gunners. It's been said before, but it can't be said too often—the only place we can really hurt them is in the ballot box. We got rid of Sen. Joe Clark here in Pennsylvania that way; it can be done elsewhere.

William P. White, Jr.
Wayne, Penna.

New Believer

Recently I purchased a small gun for self protection. Upon test firing it however, I was firmly convinced that I would take up shooting and gun collecting as a hobby. It therefore seemed plausible that I should purchase a few periodicals on guns. A gun collector friend suggested your magazine. I have to admit that I was pleasantly surprised at the quantity and quality of the articles in your magazine. You now have one more devoted reader and gun enthusiast.

Ken Gray
Gainesville, Florida

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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

HOW DID YOUR SENATOR VOTE?

The Senate passed, and sent back to the House, a measure with an important amendment for shooting sportsmen. This amendment would repeal that part of the GCA of 1968 which required the recording of name, address, etc., of the purchasers of shotgun or rifle ammunition.

Passed with a vote of 65 "yeas" and 16 "nays", it was not an easy victory for pro-gun people. It took over six months just to move this simple amendment through the Senate.

The fight over the passage of the bill marked the return of Sen. Edw. Kennedy as a political power. He seems to have quietly overcome the Mary Jo Kopechne death and is now using his position as leader of the Senate's liberal Democrats to try for the presidency of the United States.

It was Kennedy who held up the measure in the Democratic Policy Committee; it was he, along with Sen. Dodd, who directed the floor debate against passage of the bill; and it was he alone who masterminded the backstage strategy that caused .22 RF ammo to be removed from the bill.

It is interesting to note the way the Senators voted on the bill. Those voting anti-gun were: Birch Bayh (D-Ind.); Edw. Brooke (R-Mass.); Clifford Case (R.-N.J.); John Cooper (R.-Ky.); Tom Dodd (D.-Conn.); Hiram Fong (R.-Hawaii); Chas. Goodell (R.-N.Y.); Harold Hughes (D.-Iowa); Jacob Javits (R.-N.Y.); Edw. Kennedy (D.-Mass.); Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.); Geo. McGovern (D.-S.D.); Thos. McIntyre (D.-N.H.); John Pastore (D.-R.I.); Claiborne Pell (D.-R.I.); A. Ribbicoff (D.-Conn.); Margaret Smith (R.-Maine); J. Tydings (D.-Md.); Harrison Williams (D.-N.J.).

So, there are not only anti-gun Democrats, there are anti-gun Republicans, also. We can also see that there appears to be an anti-gun Northeast United States.

It is obvious that some of the lawmakers heard from the folks back home. Among these are both the minority and majority leaders, Senators Hugh Scott of Pa., and Mike Mansfield of Montana.

NOTE: As this is written, the amendment is stalled in a Conference Committee. C.W.

Mr. Gun Owner— Right now is your minute of decision.

Ask yourself this question: "Shouldn't I support NRA as vigorously as NRA supports my shooting interests?"

As a gun owner, you know that the best shooting is enjoyed by gunners who know how to shoot accurately and handle their guns safely, and that the best hunting is made possible by good conservation and good game management practices. And as a shooting enthusiast, you are certainly aware that in the name of "gun control" there are some well-intentioned but ill-informed people who are anxious to erode the gunning and hunting privileges that you enjoy today.

For 99 years, the National Rifle Association has consistently promoted better education in shooting skills and firearms safety, better conservation, better game management, the development of better gun-sports equipment and the protection of shooters' privileges.

These were the basic aims of NRA's founders, and they remain to this day, the basic aims of this national, non-profit organization.

All the other benefits that NRA offers its membership—warm, good fellowship, friendly competitive tournament shoots, awards for hunters, firearms information and many, many others—are simply the evolutionary by-products of nearly a century devoted to serving the best interests of America's responsible gun owners.

You need NRA—and NRA needs you!

Never before in history has the threat to the rights and privileges of responsible gun owners been so great as today! Never before have *you*, as a responsible gun owner, needed NRA's efforts to preserve and protect your shooting interests as today! And never before has NRA needed *your* active, cooperative support as today!

NRA's responsibilities to you as a shooting enthusiast are never ending, and must be maintained on a *continuing basis*. To achieve this, NRA has set a goal of one new member every minute, around the clock and around the calendar. Let's start our march to this goal by signing *you* up for NRA membership—right this minute!

NRA has to win it— one new member every minute!



Here are a few of the dozen or more benefits you'll enjoy as an NRA member: An annual subscription to "The American Rifleman," the illustrated monthly magazine that entertains and educates more than a million sportsmen-readers • Prompt answers by experts to all your firearms questions • Firearms safety courses from which over 3 million shooters have benefited • Hunting information in the form of bulletins on gun laws, hunting dates, game availability, shooting preserves • Low cost gun and personal accidental insurance • National, regional and local recreational shooting tournaments • Annual awards for hunters in all categories • The brand, spanking new directory of qualified and approved hunting guides, outfitters and hunting camp operators in North America—and *much, much more!*

So, Mr. Sportsman—if you *really care* about preserving—now and *in the future*—the shooting privileges and freedoms you enjoy today, you owe it to yourself to join and support NRA—the big, strong, long-established organization that, in cooperation with many other leading organizations, is so effectively fighting to maintain these freedoms for you!

FILL OUT, CLIP AND MAIL YOUR NRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NOW. (SEND NO MONEY—NRA WILL BILL YOU LATER, IF YOU WISH)



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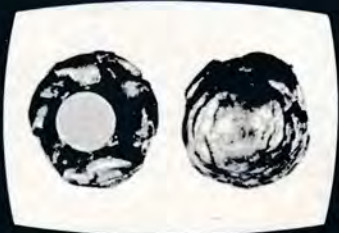
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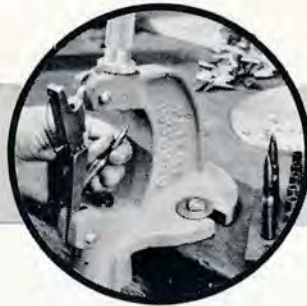


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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

JUST DRIFTED BACK in from Texas, where we opened the dove season down around the Killeen/Fort Hood area. The rains had come for about 10 days before opening day, so it wasn't simply a matter of sitting on the edge of some tank (stock watering pond) and waiting for the birds to fly down our gun muzzles. I'm one of the first to admit that "Tank Shooting" is a true gentleman's game where a fellow can bag his limit in a matter of minutes on a good day without ever moving his feet. As such, it represents the epitome of polite, decorous shooting. But, like I said, this was not our luck. The rain meant the birds had plenty of water they could reach without braving pound after pound of powder-driven shot. We had to get out and look for them—and, that means walking out the sunflower fields and valley post oak groves, kicking the cooing beauties out of cover and feed in 100-degree-plus temperatures. A good way to work up a modest sweat and a ponderous thirst.

Be all that as it may, ammunition is what we are really thinking about—and that means handloads. How many people do you know who insist a good bird load, except, possibly, for quail, means just about all the powder and shot that can be crammed into the shell? Quite a few, I'll wager. Many of the dove blasters we've met consider nothing less than a 12-bore 3¼/1¼/7½ load remotely suitable. Some of them insist on Short Magnum 12's or 3" Magnum 20's—and even then wish for more shot and velocity. Some, I feel, would welcome an 8-bore with 2 ounces of shot if such a gun weren't so ungodly heavy and slow-swinging!

The Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) is a fast and tricky target, and, undoubtedly, raises the profanity quotient of most shooters more than any other bird. But, you don't overcome this by vast charges of shot at over-standard velocities. You beat him by precise shooting, not quantities of shot.

When it comes to scattergun handloads for the cooing bird, don't try for the heaviest in the book simply because you've been told (or learned) he's hard to hit. One or 1½ ounce of #8 or #9 shot with a 3-dram boost will kill all the doves your local law allows—and with a lot less effort and shoulder soreness than magnums. Using the heaviest loads is like shooting Skeet with the same. After a single round you'll be backing away from the gun at every shot. Almost anyone can shoot all afternoon with standard Skeet loads and still be in pretty good shape—but try the same thing with 1¼/3¼ or heavier shells and it's a different story. The average shooter may easily burn up 2 or more boxes of shells in getting his limit of 10 or 12 birds. Don't tell me otherwise, for I've watched too many do it, and the man (woman or child) who downs his average bird with less than three shells is an uncommonly good marksman. Five is more like it, and that's where the advantage of the lighter loads becomes evident. You'll shoot better longer with your standard Skeet load than any "High Velocity wonder." And, you'll consume a lot less powder and shot, and will be a more accomplished marksman in the end. Consequently, when loading ammunition for doves or similar beasts of the air, try the common garden variety Skeet load using, perhaps, #8 instead of #9 shot to give somewhat better penetration. You'll hit more, feel better, and your cases will last longer, too.

A few days ago, a fellow dropped into the office carrying the ubiquitous paper sack which excites any gun buff's curiosity. In due course, he pulled forth its contents, a venerable Webley-Scott M1912 .455 caliber auto pistol of British Naval ancestry. This massive, boxy gun of unique design is not particularly scarce in my part of the Country and has been sold from time to time in fair quantities as military surplus gleaned from the British. Ammunition, on the other

hand, is about as plentiful as G-strings in a convent.

The big auto is chambered for the .455 Webley Automatic pistol cartridge adopted by the British Navy in 1912, along with the gun. It is loaded in a stubby *semi-rimmed* case. Rim diameter runs nominally .500"; base diameter .475"; neck diameter .473"; case length .900-.903". This makes it virtually identical to the .45ACP, except for the rim. It is intended to headspace in the chamber of the gun on the forward face of the rim, not upon the mouth of the case as does the ACP. Consequently, while many guns will chamber and fire the Colt cartridge, its use can't be recommended. Proper cases may be made from either .45 Long Colt or .45 Auto Rim brass simply by lathe-turning the head to produce a .500" diameter rim .048-.050" thick and at the same time cutting a new extractor groove with a root diameter of .400" or perhaps slightly more if the particular gun will allow it. The groove need be only long enough to accept the Webley extractor claw. The .45A.R. case will do nicely without change, however, the .45 Colt requires trimming to .903" length. If you can't get the alteration done locally, try George Spence, Steele, Missouri—he specializes in this sort of thing.

The Webley magazine will not accept full length .45ACP cartridges, so the altered cases must be loaded to a length not exceeding 1.20" with most bullets. Seat to whatever cartridge length permits free movement the full depth of the magazine. The original bullet was of a very blunt, almost hemispherical nose form weighing 224 grains. No mold is available which duplicates the shape, but nearly any .45ACP bullet may be used; I personally prefer the Lyman #452450, 200-grain semi-wadcutter and find that it feeds well. Original loads produced 710 fps, so any light .45ACP load may be used. The above-mentioned bullet with 6.0-6.5 grains of Hercules Unique works quite well. And, it also produces excellent accuracy. Velocity is in the 750 fps range. Groove diameter of the big Webley often runs as much as .456", so bullets should be sized accordingly. This diameter can be obtained by using .45-ACP bullets as cast, smearing lubricant in the grooves by hand to avoid purchasing a special sizing die. If you'll be ordering a mold specifically for use in this caliber, I suggest you request an oversize diameter of .457". Slug the bore of your gun first, just for luck, then get the mold .001"-.0015" larger than groove diameter.

A good many Colt M1911 pistols were also chambered for this cart-

ridge, purchased by England during the early days of WWI. The same solution to the ammunition problem applies to them—but, it isn't really necessary. Rather, simply obtain an extra .45ACP barrel and place it in the gun to use standard U.S. ammunition. The magazine will accept the .45ACP. This reserves the original barrel, as well as makes shooting the gun simple. Incidentally, those .455 Colts do command a bit of a premium as collectors' items, so don't butcher one up. If all you want to do is shoot, swap the .455 to me for something else.

Another little loading problem that cropped up a while back might well set some collectors back on their respective heels just a wee bit. It seems a fellow had a very nice Colt M1862 Police Model conversion he wanted to shoot. It had been converted, probably back in the 1880's or thereabouts, by a variation of the Richards-Mason system to handle the .38 Long Colt center-fire round. The original black powder .38 Long Colt load utilized a heel-type, hollow-base bullet of nearly .380" diameter which could be well gripped and spun by the rifling. Modern loads in the same caliber use .358"-.360" diameter bullets with plain or slightly hollowed base. Hence, they do not upset to fill the grooves.

This is corrected by either using a heel-type solid bullet of full groove diameter or a somewhat smaller bullet whose base contains a relatively large hollow upon which powder case may act to expand the base to fill the rifling. Lyman Mold #358431 (155 gr.) contains a generous cavity which expands the base well. As is, it gives acceptable accuracy, but will do much better if the bearing bands are enlarged to barrel groove diameter. Any competent lathe operator can open up the mold to accomplish this in a few minutes and at no great cost. In old black powder guns such as the conversion already mentioned, I much prefer to stick with black powder. Use as much FFFG as the case will hold, lightly compressed by the seated bullet. If you must use smokeless, try 3.5 grains of Unique. In this particular instance, no .38 Long cases were handy, so we simply shortened .38 Specials to the correct length of 1.03". This isn't actually necessary, since the old chambers are reamed straight through and will accept any case of the correct diameter, up to full cylinder length. Essentially the same procedures may be used to improve the accuracy of most old black powder arms chambered for what were originally outside-lubricated cartridges.

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**COLLECTOR'S
CORNER**

By ROBERT MANDEL

JUST about a year ago, we attended the Sahara Gun Show in Las Vegas, eager with the anticipation of marveling at another great antique gun show, but also heavy of heart because of the untimely passing of Harry H. Mann, who had directed these shows for many years.

That last Mid-winter Sahara show was dedicated to Smith & Wessons, and needless to say, it was the overwhelming success that Harry had hoped and planned it would be. That there will continue to be Sahara Gun Shows in the future is due, in large part, to the efforts of Harry Mann, who added to the many plus factors—the elegant setting of the Sahara Hotel, the overwhelming cooperation of the hotel staff, the roster of noted collectors who attended past shows, and the remarkable artistry and imagination of the displays, to name a few—his own special kind of leadership, born out of friendly persuasion and a deep knowledge of gun collecting.

It is fitting, then, that the tradition of the Sahara Gun Shows will continue, and that future shows will be dedicated to Harry Mann. In place of the usual two shows, there will be

only one, the mid-winter, which will be held early in the year. For 1970, the Sahara dates will be February 20 through February 22. This Sahara Show will be conducted under the able leadership of Ken Liggett, editor of "The Gun Report," and a familiar figure in gun collecting circles. Ken was ever mindful of the tremendous task of putting on the Sahara Show, and he was one of Harry Mann's most ardent supporters and most industrious helpers.

The Sahara Show in February will have as its theme "Colt Firearms," and with the tremendous interest in Colts today, this show should be one of the finest. Remember the dates, Feb. 20—22, the Sahara Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. If you can manage at all, you should plan to attend. I have a feeling that few collectors who knew and worked with Harry Mann will miss the opportunity to show their appreciation for his work by exhibiting. The congregation of famous names in gun collecting that will be there, makes this show the place to be for every person who has any interest in the collecting of firearms.

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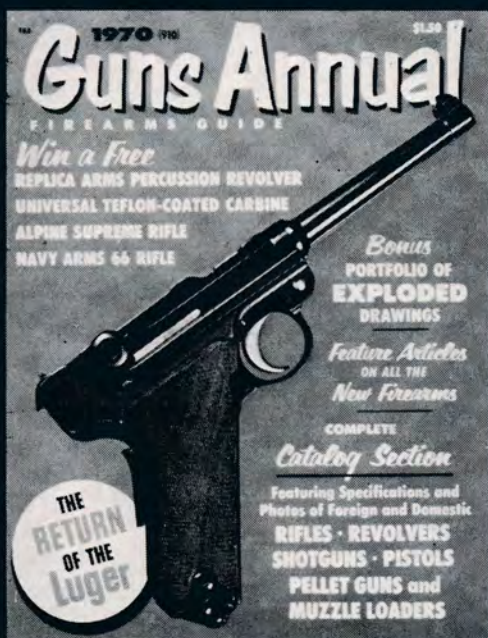
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Panel of Experts

ANNOUNCING!!!

NEW GUNS "SPEED SERVICE" QUESTION POLICY

Effective immediately, GUNS Magazine readers will have available a new concept in question and answer services. This improved "Speed Service" will get you the answer you need—fast—when you need it, and from any of our enlarged Panel of Experts. Readers will now direct their question to the appropriate member of our panel, and they will receive their answer by return mail. This new service will function properly only if you, the reader, will follow a few simple rules:

1. Each question should be sent directly to the panel member best suited to solve your problem. Mail questions directly to the expert at the address shown below.
2. Each question—only one question per letter, please—must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope and \$1.00.
3. You will receive the answer to your question directly from the expert. Our panel will select the most interesting questions for publication in this column, but you don't have to wait for the magazine to get your answer.
4. Letters with questions which do not have \$1.00 **will be disregarded**; those without a self addressed envelope will be answered in the magazine, and **not directly**.

We have enlarged the staff of our Panel of Experts to give you the best possible service on your questions. Remember, write directly to the expert at the address below—do not send questions to GUNS Magazine—and be sure to include the \$1.00 and the self addressed envelope.

Robert Mandel—Antique Arms

8142 N. Lawndale, Dept. Q, Skokie, Ill. 60076

Shelley Braverman—Modern Arms; Forensic ballistics
Dept. Q, Athens, New York 12015

William Schumaker—Gunsmithing

208 W. Fifth, Dept. Q, Colville, Washington 99114

Les Bowman—Hunting

P.O. Box 410, Dept. Q, Cody, Wyoming 82414

Maj. George C. Nonte—Handloading

P.O. Box 3302, Dept. Q, Peoria, Illinois 61614

George E. Virgines—Fast Draw

P.O. Box 2014, Northlake, Illinois 60614

Maj. R. O. Ackerman—Black Powder Shooting

9627 Arvada Ave. NE, Dept. Q, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Dick Miller—Trap & Skeet

Casa Correo Sta., P.O. Box 21276, Dept. Q, Concord, Calif. 94521

Bolt Jeweling

Could you please give me any information on jeweling a bolt? A step-by-step procedure would be greatly appreciated.

Thomas C. Papa
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Write the B-Square Engineering Co., Box 11281, Fort Worth, Texas for prices and information. They can furnish a bolt jig for calibrated turning, the steel bristle brushes and the jeweling grit impregnated compound. I use their small brushes entirely, and in the beginning, wrap the section near the ferrule with nylon thread to prevent undue flaring. The thread

will wear off as you progress, using the brush chucked into a drill press at high speed. In the beginning allow the brush to run for at least 5 seconds in each position with medium pressure. After the brush shapes itself with wear about 3 seconds in each position will suffice. You start down the bolt, moving your compound drill press vise (into which the jig is locked), just enough to overlap each jeweling spot a little short of the center eye (jewel). Your next row of spots is likewise overlapped into the first row, as well as individually within its own row. A little practice and you will be amazed.—W.S.

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Marlin '93

I own a Marlin Model 1893 lever action rifle in .32-40 caliber with a 25½ inch barrel (octagonal) and the tubular magazine runs the length of the barrel. It is in very good condition except the sights were replaced by Marble sights. How much is it worth and where can I get original sights for it?

Robert Beattie
Henniker, N. H.

Your Marlin Model 1893 is a collectors item; tho it will not bring as much as a Winchester of the same mfg. date and type, it is still bringing a fair price to the collector. I would guess its value in fine condition to be around \$90 to \$115. New sights could be gotten from Numrich Arms.—R.M.

Crescent "Rolling Block"

I have just purchased an old "Rolling Block" rifle made by Crescent Fire Arms Co., Norwich, Conn. It has a 23 inch barrel, 9¼ inches of which are octagonal. On the barrel is written "New York Club" Pat. April 14, 1892. Crescent Fire Arms Co. Norwich, Conn., Manufacturers". Can you tell me just what it is that I have?

H. A. Robelen Jr.
Goshen, N. Y.

I can give very little information on a "Rolling Block Rifle" made by Crescent Fire Arms Co., of Norwich Conn. other than the fact that they made many pistols and rifles in the late 1800's, as about 1891 they acquired the equipment of the Bacon Arms Co. Try a good gun shop or gun smith to find out the caliber, and the fact if it is safe to shoot.—R.M.

Model 98 Mauser

I have acquired a German WWII rifle and would like to find out several things about it. What is the exact make and caliber and would it be worthwhile to have it sporterized? The barrel is marked "dou. 44" and the floor plate is marked "byf".

Douglas Thompson
Lander, Wyoming

Your German WWII military rifle was manufactured in 1944 by Waffenwerke Brunn A.G., Bystrica Werks in Czechoslovakia. It is the standard M98 Mauser Short rifle style as manufactured late in WWII. It is chambered for the standard 8x57mm Mauser cartridge, also identified as 8x57 JS and 7.9 or 7.92mm Mauser. The "Byf" markings on the magazine foreplate indicate it is a replacement originally manufactured by Mauser, not by Brunn.—G.N.

Firearms Mechanisms

I am a gun buff with some machinist experience. I would like to know where I could get a simple pattern or blueprint for the mechanism of a percussion type pistol. I get a fine feeling out of making things from start to finish, especially weapons.

Robert F. Pelter
Joliet, Illinois

One of the finest books showing the mechanics of percussion and flintlock pistols and rifles is *U.S. Military Firearms* by Major James E. Hicks. This book shows all working mechanisms from the 1776 Musket to the U.S. Carbine of W.W. II vintage. I am sure this book would be of great help to you.—R.M.

P-38 Action

I recently read an advertisement for a Walther P-38. The ad said the gun was "double action". Does this mean the shooter has to cock the hammer for each shot? What is your opinion of that gun as far as accuracy is concerned?

Dale Pierce
Ames, Iowa

The "double-action" design of the Walther P-38 allows the shooter the choice of cocking the gun by means of the thumb or the trigger finger; this is for the "first" shot—subsequent discharges follow the conventional cycle whereby each cocks the gun for the next shot. The P/38 is relatively accurate for guns of its class.—S.B.

Model 1891 Argentine Mauser

Recently I purchased an 1891 Argentine Mauser Model I, Y, or L. I can't quite make it out. Is there any chance this type of weapon was used by Germany during WWI?

Michael Christian
Wayne, Michigan

The Model 1891 Mauser rifle was manufactured in considerable quantity for Argentina well before the beginning of WWI. The M1891 was not a standard rifle in use by the German Army during WWI—however, it is not beyond the realm of possibility for such guns on hand at the factory to have been requisitioned and placed in limited service by the German Military Establishment. There is no way to confirm such a happening, but it is possible. Generally speaking, though, the M1891 with Argentine markings was not used outside of Argentina.—G.N.



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Gunsmithing Schools

I am now in Viet Nam but will re-
turn home soon and would like to get
into the field of gunsmithing. What
schools do you recommend? I have
had a course in Unit Armorer while
in the Army and I am very interested
in weapons and weapon repair.

Sp 5 Ronald G. Tippen
APO San Francisco

Gunsmithing Schools Are:

Colorado School of Trades, 1545
Hoyt, Denver, Colo.—80215; Lassen
Junior College, 11100 Main St., Su-
scunville, Calif.—96130; Oregon Tech-
nical Institute, Klamath Falls, Ore.—
97601; Penn. Gunsmith School, 812
Ohio River Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa.—
15202; Trinidad State Junior College,
Trinidad, Colo.—81082

I wish to be frank with you. Gun-
smithing is a tough trade, any way you
look at it!! There are long, endless
hours of application and learning, and
you can never learn it all. There will
always be guns you can not repair,
yet customers feel you should, and
may consider you incompetent if you
can't. The monetary rewards are for
the most part meager.

If you choose this route, knowing
full well the bean pot may not always
be full, I might suggest one of the
schools,—then a good machinist's
trade school, or tool and die maker's
school. This equips you with a trade
that is in demand and will always be
a means of employment and making a
living. Then, take up the gun work on
the side, and feel your way along. A
good sporting goods retail business
works in nicely with gunsmithing, the
former, being the bread and butter
end of the business,—and of course
the repairs and gun work add to it.

I was in armament during WWII,
and became interested in gunsmith-
ing, to the extent I gave up a 14-year
newspaper experience and job. I'm
still not making the money I could be
making had I remained in the news-
paper business,—but I do enjoy most
of it.—W.S.

.310 Martini Cadet

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

Robert L. Thompson
Roswell, New Mexico

I cannot recommend any single re-
liable source for a Greener/Martini

"Cadet" rifle in .310 caliber. The orig-
inal surplus lot of these guns brought
into this country has been exhausted,
but the guns do occasionally show up
in the used-gun rack at many shops.
It is simply a matter of inquiring until
you locate one.

The original British loading of this
cartridge drove a 120-grain lead bul-
let at 1200 fps with a 100 yard mid-
range trajectory of 3.6". As can be
seen from this, the cartridge is suita-
ble only for small game, not for deer
or anything that size or larger. The
original loading may be improved
upon somewhat by utilizing a 110
grain bullet and 8 grains of Hercules
2400 powder to produce a velocity of
1320 fps. This is still in the small
game and short-range varmint class.

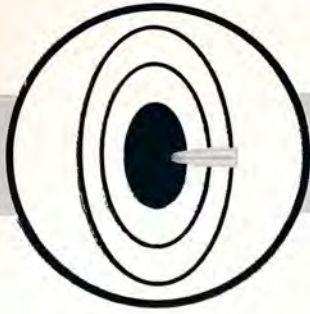
Ammunition may be obtained from
several importers, one of which is
Blackhawk Small Arms Ammunition,
Loves Park, Illinois, 61111. Reloading
dies may be obtained from RCBS, but
the original British cases are Berdan
primed and difficult to reload. A
much more satisfactory solution is to
trim .32-20 Winchester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

1910 Browning

I have an automatic pistol in 7.65
mm caliber which is identical to the
Browning .380 standard. I have been
told that it is not a Browning. The in-
scription on the left side of the slide
reads "Fabrique National D'Armes De
Guerre Herstal Belgique". All the
proof marks appear to be Belgian.
What do I have and what is it worth?

Rev. Joseph Kraha
Donaldson, Indiana

The gun you describe is a "Brown-
ing"—actually known as the Model
1910 Browning. A very complex li-
censing arrangement existed between
the Browning Company per se and its
manufacturing agents. It is only since
after WW II that Browning dealt in
hand guns within the United States.
Part of this deal was for FN to sell
the original Browning all over the
world, except the U. S. while Colt
made its Pocket Model (another
Browning). I suspect that the discon-
tinuance of the Colt changed the
agreement. However, rest assured,
your gun is a Browning, and in excel-
lent condition should be worth \$55-
65.00.—S.B.



POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

JUDGED BY THE NUMBER of letters directed this way there are lot of old muskets kept in the family as heirlooms. Countless letters are received which read about like this: "I've got an old single barrel 12 guage. The only name on it is "Blue Whistler Special," where can I get a new hammer. The original is busted." That is a good question as the record shows the Blue Whistler went out of production in 1892.

Older guns, even those made by our long established firms such as Remington and Winchester often cannot be repaired. When a model is dropped from further manufacture the supply of parts then on hand is all that is to be had. Unlike old model automobiles, which continue to require a certain production of repair parts for years afterward, when the rifle is no longer sold the spare parts soon grow scarce.

As an example, Winchester can no longer provide parts for their famous old Model 1873 rifle. This together with the Model 1866 rifle, are probably the most famous firearms in the Winchester line. Likewise that Teddy Roosevelt mainstay, the Model 1895, is completely without service parts. Directly after World War I, the company produced a crackerjack bolt action rifle. The Model 54. Today not a part is available.

On the Remington side of the coin the first pump repeating shotguns, the Models 10, 17 and 29, can no longer be accepted at the Ilion plant for repair. Once upon a time the firm made a whale of a sweet pocket auto pistol in .32 and .380 calibers. It was called the Model 51. Today it cannot be repaired. Forty years ago Remington came along with the first of the really big caliber autoloading rifles, the Model 8. At the same time, virtually, there was a pump action repeater for the same cartridges. If you have either rifle today, the Model 8 or the Model 14 as the pumpgun was dubbed, you are out of luck. No spare parts. To keep pace

with Winchester, the Remington company produced a bolt action rifle directly after WW-I, it was the Model 30. There are still a good many of these rifles in use. But the owners must look to someone besides the manufacturer when it is in need of overhaul.

The finest shotgun ever made in America was the Parker. The company was first at Meriden, Conn. and later moved to Ilion, N.Y. when the firm was bought out by Remington. Today the Parker is no longer made. As for spare parts, the Remington Co. has a very very limited supply. And while on the subject of Remington, this company made before World War II, a handsome over/under shotgun, the Model 32. Production was ceased with the commencement of hostilities and never resumed after the shooting was over. Labor costs were simply too high to make the fine scattergun competitively priced. These days if you are the possessor of the prized Model 32 you may write Remington who has a minuscule supply of parts.

Once the L.C. Smith shotgun was a common smoothbore and was highly regarded. Along with it, but not quite as good, were the Fulton and Hunter shotguns. The three were acquired in 1945 by the Marlin Company of New Haven. And along with the title went an exceedingly skimpy supply of parts. These few spares have long since been exhausted and Marlin wants it known that it cannot do a thing for the luckless chap who owns either a Fulton or a Hunter smoothbore. Three years ago the company commenced to again make the L.C. Smith gun. However the Marlin version is modernized in many respects and while there may be certain parts that are interchangeable you'd better query Marlin before you ship them your original Smith shotgun.

Another shotgun with an enviable reputation was the Ainsley Fox, as
(Continued on page 62)

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NEW!!!

Colt MARK III

BY MASON WILLIAMS



AS AN HABITUE of the old Colt factory in Hartford—with its dark, rambling buildings, long corridors and ghosts of the past—I was quite surprised to see the new Colt plant built a few miles south of Hartford on Route 91. This sparkling, well lit facility was created to produce the new Colt Mark III, .357 Magnum revolver. The entire operation concentrates on automatic manufacture, the machines running under tightly controlled tape-operated conditions.

Does the resulting new Mark III come up to expectations? First of all the new Colt Mark III, .357 Magnum is a tough, chunky, solid revolver that lies comfortably in the hand due to a new rear grip profile. There is a lot of weight forward in this handgun because of the heavier barrel and the new extractor rod housing that lends additional weight to the barrel. Colt sent me a four-inch barrel Mark III fitted with an adjustable rear sight and a ramp front sight that give me an excellent, clean, sharp sight picture.

The target hammer, with its wide, softly checkered spur, has been case hardened to give it a many-colored look. The narrow trigger is serrated. The grips are typical Colt grips that ride high over the frame and cover a sideplate screw

on the left side. The other sideplate screw lies above the forward edge of the trigger guard.

Removing these two screws reveals an entirely new Colt revolver mechanism—one that will soon be used in all new Colt revolvers. This new mechanism utilizes a coil spring for the cylinder lock, another for the trigger return and a third for the hammer, thus doing away entirely with the traditional Colt "V" spring. These three springs ensure that the mechanism will operate rapidly and reliably. Purchasers of the Trooper Mark III will soon discover that a faint line will appear on the outside of the cylinder near the rear, placed there by the cylinder lock. This snaps out of engagement as the cylinder commences to turn but then comes back up through its cut in the bottom of the frame to ride against the cylinder until it once again snaps into a cut to lock the cylinder. Colt aficionados should not panic over this nor write to the factory about it.

Colt has installed a trigger-activated safety block that rises and falls between the hammer face and the firing pin. Unless this block is in "battery" the hammer cannot activate the firing pin. It will simply fall and strike the revolver frame. If the safety block is raised fully into "battery" by the trigger, it then fills the space between the front of





Cutaway view of new Trooper Mark III shows new mechanical features spotlighted in color.

Left: Adjustable sights are improved version of Colt's Accro model, and provide both windage and elevation adjustments.

Center: Author used Avtron transistor chronograph to check velocity of Super-X, 158 grain ammo.

Right: New grip profile and smooth double action of the Mark III gave author a comfortable feel, even with hottest loads.



Metropolitan Mk III in .38 Spec. with new heavy barrel.



Official Police in .38 Special with new Mk III action.



Lawman Mk III in .357 Magnum with the heavy barrel.



Checking out last minute details on the Trooper Mark III are left to right: Paul LaViolette, Product Engineering Manager; Richard Baker, Designer; and Henry Into, Design Project Engineer. Manufacture is in new plant.

the hammer and the firing pin thus allowing the full force of the hammer blow to carry through to the firing pin.

The parts that make up the mechanism have been created from special metal powder, subjected to tremendous heat and pressure so that they come fully formed from the huge automatic machines in which they are made. Despite the fact that these parts are near-perfect as they come from the moulds, they are given a two hour polishing within rotating drums so that when they emerge from this processing they are ready to be dropped into the revolver mechanism. These parts are specially heat treated so that when they are placed into the Mark III mechanism they are so hard that no one knows how long they will last. One Trooper Mark III has endured over one quarter million cycles on automatic machinery, running day and night. Even after this torture, every part fits perfectly, nothing is out of tune and there are no signs of wear. In my opinion, this is the toughest, safest revolver that Colt has ever produced. Colt has manufactured all springs from stainless steel so that the shooter need never worry about these parts. They are literally impervious to rust.

About two years ago, when Colt conceived the basic idea of the Trooper Mark III, they contacted many outside handgun authorities, one group being the New York State Police. Out of these discussions, talks and evaluations came the present Mark III. When I mentioned to the New York State Police that I planned to run tests on the Trooper Mark III, they showed so much interest that I asked them to come down and run the tests for me. They had not seen the final version of this handgun so we all had an extremely interesting day testing and firing this revolver. This does not mean that the New York State Police endorse the Trooper Mark III. Not at all; as far as they are concerned this was merely preliminary testing and an informal get-together.

From a police and sporting point of view the Trooper Mark III is a double action revolver that gave no misfires or malfunctions of any kind. We fired five different types and makes of ammunition and the Mark III passed this acid test with flying colors. Many fine revolvers will turn in a perfect score single action, but start running ammunition through in fast double action and you can expect an occasional misfire. But not in the Mark III.

This is the ammunition that we put through my revolver: 1. Handload: Norma 158 grain HP bullet, 13.1 grains Norma #1020 powder, Norma SP primer; 2. Super-X, 158 grain Lubaloy #3571P; 3. Super-Vel, 110 grain JSP bullet; 4. Peters High Velocity 158 grain lead #3575; 5. Norma 158 grain FJSW #268. We had no malfunctions or misfires of any kind. Neither did any of the screws come loose.

Both Sgt. Lee Thomas and Trooper Alan Smith carried .357 Magnum revolvers. As a final test we decided to compare velocities between the Mark 3 with its 4" barrel and the Smith & Wesson Combat Magnum with its 4" barrel. We fired five shots from the Colt and five shots from Sgt. Thomas' Combat Magnum to obtain the following velocities from the Super-X, 158 grain Lubaloy #3571P ammunition. We used my Avtron Transistor chronograph with the tapes spaced at five feet, the handgun muzzle five feet from the first tape. The Colt velocities averaged 1325 fps; the S&W turned in 1254 fps.

The Trooper Mark III is not (Continued on page 72)

JOE CONDON



By BUD TOURTELLOTTE

FEW MEN in any profession can claim a career as strange and varied as that of Las Vegas gunsmith-to-the-stars and master engraver Joe Condon.

Over the years Joe has been a commercial artist, amateur heavyweight boxing champion, stunt driver, magician, custom jeweler, holster designer, leather worker, stock-maker, escape artist, trampoline performer, saddlemaker, handbalancer and health club manager.

But for 20 years Joe's first love has been guns, fine guns that can be made even finer through the applied magic of his multiple talents. You can take a raw barreled action to Joe and he will design and execute metal, wood and leather work into a cohesive total that can seldom be equaled by three different artisans. An example is the .17

Engraver for the Stars

Javelin owned by Las Vegas businessman Merle T. Richards. Joe engraved and inlaid the metal of the scope, scope rings and barrel, then carved and inlaid both the stock and the leather sling with the same oak leaf and basket weave patterns to complete the theme and achieve an end result seldom if ever seen on a custom gun.

Another example of Condon's "total treatment" of a custom order is the fantastic workmanship and design excellence shown on three Smith and Wessons which also belong to sportsman Merle Richards. More than 250 hours went into the scroll-work, *(Continued on page 71)*

DIRECTIONS FOR USE OF THE SELFLOADING PISTOL

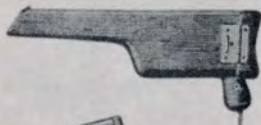


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



TO LOAD. Grasp the stock with one hand, and with finger and thumb of the other pull the breechbolt B where roughened, and pull it strongly backward. If it is made easier by pressing the muzzle against any suitable surface to overcome the friction, it will then be easily drawn back to its full extent.

to press the last cartridge below the bottom of the magazine, it will immediately spring forward and carry the top cartridge into the chamber. To be immediately fired, the safety catch should be at once applied. The safety lever S fig. 1 is fluted cylindrical piece that lies to the left of the magazine and is moved upwards by the same thumb. Ten consecutive shots can then be fired, the breechbolt will remain in its rearmost position, and a fresh clip can be inserted.

After firing the breechbolt can be let forward by first hooking the thumb of the forefinger of the left hand, pressing the platform down into the magazine, and then move slowly forward. As soon as the latter has passed the rear of the magazine, the trigger can be pulled.

TO UNLOAD. When it is desired to withdraw the magazine, the trigger should be pulled, the breech to load. The first backward pull of the breechbolt will be sufficient if it be then allowed to return to its normal position and again pulled in the same direction. The lock can now be separated between the lock and the barrel.

TO PUT THE PISTOL TOGETHER. The lock must be reversed. First, put the magazine in its normal position, and then the barrel, against which the front end of the lock is pressed, and the lock towards the barrel with both hands, and then together, when home.

Lastly, replace the platform in its normal position.

THE WOODEN CASE. This is opened by pressing in the stud on the left side of the handle, which will spring open. The case can be used as a stock by sliding the steel feather on the small end of the handle of the pistol.

TO CLEAN THE PISTOL. This should be done as soon as possible after use. The barrel should be cleaned thoroughly and applying good Rangoon oil. In order to do this easily the breechbolt should be removed and locked there by pulling the trigger, as described in the directions for loading without clips.

The pistol should be locked a day or two after cleaning and the process repeated, and as the oil appears discoloured.

Waffenfabrik Mauser, Oberndorf

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THE MAUSER COL.



MAUSER OR ASTRA?

A close look at the differences between the famous "Broomhandle" and its Spanish counterpart.

By H. W. HESLIN, Jr.

THE 1890's can rightly be called the beginning of the automatic pistol. During these years, gun designers strived to perfect the automatic pistol. Probably the most remarkable of these designs was the Mauser Model 1896. The Mauser was designed by Paul Mauser at the Mauser factory (Waffen-fabrik Mauser, Oberndorf am Neckar, Germany) in 1885. Mauser's pistol was the first really successful self-loader to be placed on the market.

The Mauser 1896, though never officially adopted by the German Army or any other nation, did achieve considerable commercial success throughout the world. Because of this, several armsmakers marketed very fine copies of the 1896 Mauser.

Perhaps the best of these was The Astra Model 900, produced by Unceta Y Comania, Guernica, Spain. (Next page)



With both pistols field stripped, the differences between the two can be readily noticed. The internal parts of the Mauser (left) come out in one large group. The Astra (right) has nine pins holding the works together. With the side plate removed from the Astra, the machine turned interior can be noted as well as the lockwork.

Since Astra was one of the most successful and respected names in Spanish arms manufacturing, they also had success commercially with their Astra Model 900. Firearms manufactured by Astra have always had an international reputation for quality and reliability.

On July 12, 1928, the Astra Model 900 was patented. Since this was about the same time that Mauser was producing their early Model 1930 Commercial, these two guns were in direct competition.

The following paragraphs will give the reader a comparison of the early Mauser 1930 Commercial, and the Astra Model 900. While closely resembling the Mauser in outward appearance, the Astra shows considerable original design and internal differences. The Astra's locking system is simplified and is not interchangeable with the Mauser's. The locking block in the Astra is pinned to the barrel extension, while in the Mauser the locking block is not pinned and works in conjunction with the lock frame and the barrel extension. The main spring or hammer spring in the two guns is also different. The hammer spring in the Astra

fits in a drilled out channel in the front portion of the grip strap. In the Mauser, the hammer spring fits in a channel in the lock frame assembly.

Another internal difference is the use of nine pins in the Astra. The Mauser has no pins. Mauser's remarkable achievement in producing a pistol in which the parts were made to interlock, thereby eliminating the use of pins or screws, has remained an outstanding feat in firearms manufacturing. There are other internal differences, but they are minor.

The only noticeable external mechanical difference is in the safeties. First cock the hammer of the Mauser. Next apply the safety simply by pushing it up to "safe". The Mauser's hammer can now be dropped merely by pulling the trigger. This will not fire the gun because the hammer falls short of the firing pin. The safety of the Mauser blocks the hammer and prevents it from contacting the firing pin.

The safety of the Astra works somewhat differently. After cocking the hammer, the safety cannot be applied until

NUMERICAL DATA

	MAUSER 1930	ASTRA 900
WEIGHT:	42 Oz.	45 Oz.
LENGTH:	11.3 In.	11.6 In.
BARREL LENGTH:	5.2 In.	5.5 In.
NUMBER OF GROOVES:	6	6
TWIST:	Right	Right
SIGHTS:	Front: Fixed Rear: Tangent	Front: Fixed Rear: Tangent
CALIBER:	7.63 m/m	7.63 m/m
CARTRIDGE:	7.63 Mauser	7.63 Mauser
MAGAZINE CAPACITY:	10 Rounds	10 Rounds



The Astra (right) shows differences in the hammer, barrel extension and the overall area of the back strap.



The barrel of the Mauser (right) is stepped, the sights are graduated differently and name is on chamber.



Action pins are evident in Astra. Overall finish is better because of different bluing process used.

the hammer is pulled back even further to its rear most position. Then the safety lever can be pushed up to "safe". Unlike the Mauser, the Astra's hammer cannot be dropped by pulling the trigger. Pulling the trigger serves no purpose because the safety has disengaged the trigger from contact with the sear. Actually the Astra's safety system works exactly like that of a Mauser Model 1912.

Another feature in the safety systems of both the Mauser and the Astra is "foolproofing." This means that in any intermediate position the safety lever occupies between "safe" and "fire," the safety lock positively blocks the hammer, rendering the pistol absolutely fool proof. Thus if by chance the trigger should inadvertently be pulled while rotating the safety lever up or down, the pistol will not discharge. The safety systems of both guns are quite adequate.

The workmanship and material of the Mauser and the Astra are of the highest quality. The fitting and tolerances of both guns are excellent. One can readily see that considerable time and care was used in manufacturing these pistols. Astra seems to have given even more time and attention to their product.

The inside of the Astra's frame and sideplate are highly polished and engine turned. These parts are quite pretty. Astra's other internal parts were heat treated and case hardened. Mauser likewise polished and heat treated many internal parts of their gun, but the inside and working parts of the Astra are much more impressive.

The exterior finish on both guns is exceptionally pretty as well as durable. Although the bluing processes used on the Mauser and Astra were different, the blue finish on both guns is superb. Mauser used the immersion salt "speed" blue process, while Astra used the slow European rust blue. The European rust blue is without a doubt the finest and most durable of any blue process yet devised, and produced a deep, lustrous, satin-like blue finish. The immersion-salt "speed" blue produced varying colors ranging from a deep brilliant blue, to a dull black or brown. The chemicals in the solution, the temperature of the bath, and the immersion time determined the final color of the

blue. Mauser seems to have had their technique thoroughly developed, as I have yet to see a badly blued Mauser 1930 Commercial.

Various parts of the Mauser and the Astra were not blued, but were heat treated to the color desired. The trigger, extractor, safety lever, bolt stop, rear sight, and the head of the firing pin on both guns, are heat treated to a brilliant cobalt blue. The bolts of both pistols were not blued either, but were brightly polished and left that way. With some parts finished in cobalt blue, and other parts brightly polished, these two guns make quite an eye-filling sight.

The Mauser and the Astra are both fitted with grips made of a select quality walnut. The fitting and the finish of the grips on each pistol are of a very high quality. On the Mauser, the grips have 12 shallow grooves cut into them, while on the Astra there are 12 deep grooves.

The takedown procedure of the Mauser is fast and simple. With the point of a bullet, press down on the magazine plunger and slide the floorplate forward. Remove the floorplate, magazine spring, and the magazine follower. Next cock the hammer, press up on the lock frame stop, and slide the barrel extension off the rear of the frame. Now pull down on the rear of the lock mechanism to free it from the barrel extension. The locking block can now be removed. To remove the firing pin, use a small screwdriver to push in the firing pin as far as it will go, and turn it ninety degrees to the right. You can now remove the firing pin, bolt stop, bolt, and the recoil spring. The lock frame mechanism can also be stripped piece by piece.

The takedown of the Astra is somewhat different from that of the Mauser. First remove the magazine floorplate, spring, and follower exactly as you would on the Mauser. Next push the safety lever up to its "safe" position. Viewing the Astra from the left side you will notice a groove at the top rear of the sideplate. This groove is in the form of a cut or straight line about 1/4 inch long. To dismantle, lower the safety lever so that the bottom of the safety lines up exactly with the groove in (Continued on page 66)



COLT BREVETE

Data on Colt licensed, patented,
and unauthorized foreign imitations
of Colt percussion pistols

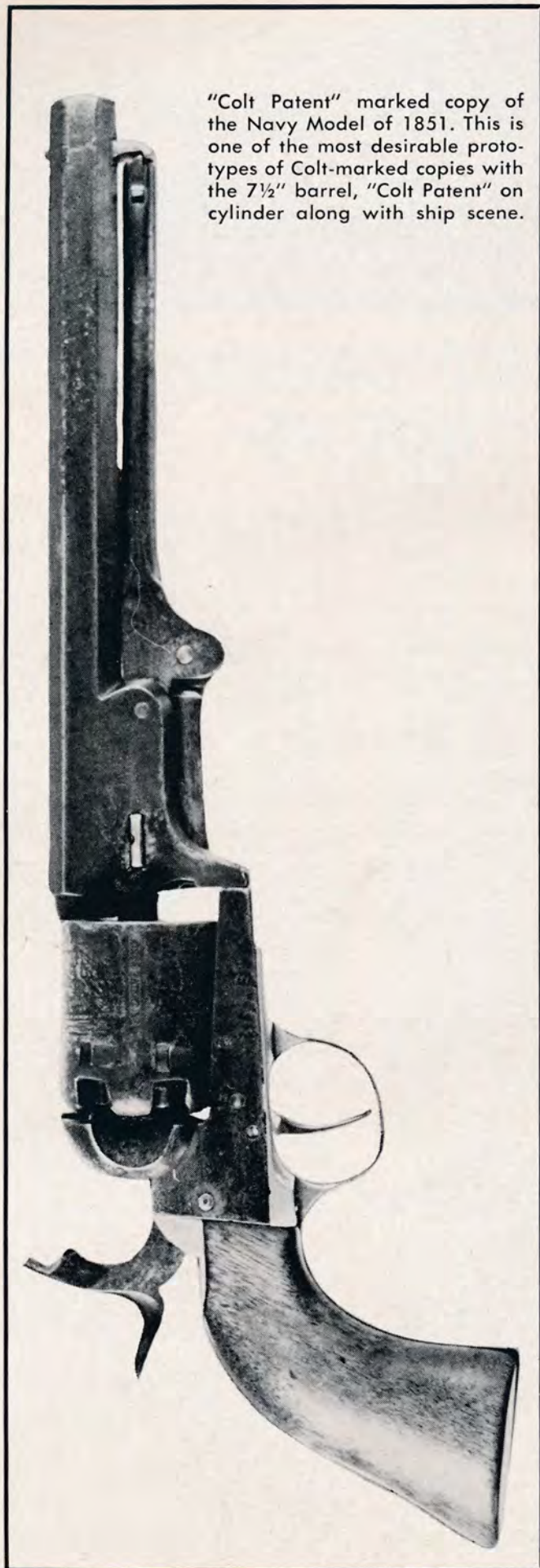
By E. DIXON LARSON

BEWARE of cheap imitations, for they are more dangerous to the man behind the barrel than in front . . .” so said Sam Colt.

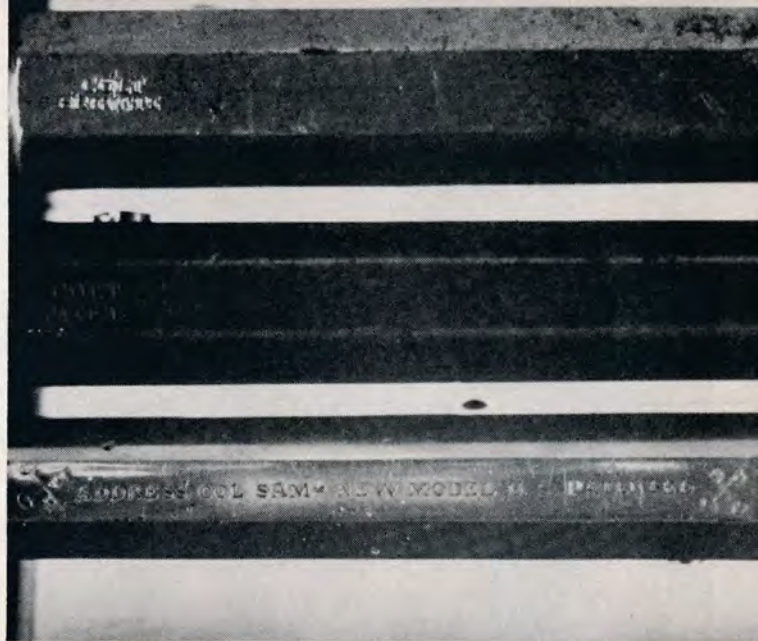
Most enthusiasts agree that the quality of foreign produced models, considered as “Colt Copies,” was inferior to those produced by the Colt Company. In reality there are only about five basic styles that were produced in quantity and marked with the authorized Colt contract stamping; namely, “Colt Patent,” in two lines on the barrel top, and “Colt Brevete” in two lines on barrel top. The “Colt’s System” characteristic markings leave a reasonable doubt as to Colt authorization, which is reflected by their sub-standard quality. Colt’s patent was issued in Belgium in 1849, other Colt patents can be noted as early as 1835, recorded in France and England. The European patents encompass the lock-frame, recoil shield in the same piece,

and the attached ramming lever. Most of the European patent laws required that in order for the patent to remain in force, the invention must be produced within the country where patented and produced within two years after patent issue—here we have the real answer to the Colt-Marked Copies.

Sam Colt, after the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, in an effort to protect his European patents, contracted to have revolvers produced in Liege, Belgium, which was at that time, the European arms making center. Colt contracted arms and parts from eight companies in Liege. All were provided with either the “Colt Patent” or the “Colt Brevete” stamp to be applied to Colt contracted arms only. The business ethics of some companies was questionable and parts as well as complete arms began to appear throughout the continent. Research will not con-



"Colt Patent" marked copy of the Navy Model of 1851. This is one of the most desirable prototypes of Colt-marked copies with the 7½" barrel, "Colt Patent" on cylinder along with ship scene.



Typical barrel markings showing Colt authorized stamp "Colt Brevete", "Colt Patent", and the copy, bottom.



Opposite page, top: marked "Colt American", six inch barrel, .36 caliber. This specimen is heavily foreign proofed with the Brooklyn Bridge scene (above) on the lengthy cylinder. Bottom gun: marked "Address Col Sam L New Model, U.S. Patented" in one line. The caliber is marked ".38", it has the Brooklyn Bridge scene and is also heavily proofed. Both pieces are typical of Colt patent infringements not authorized by Sam Colt and probably what he had in mind when he proclaimed the alert for "cheap" imitations, mostly from Europe.

clude that copies marked with the Colt name were all made under the Colt authorized contract. Undoubtedly, the name "Colt" improved the prospect of marketing any weapon, and was therefore used with or without permission. When used on cheap imitations, however, the name was tactfully mingled with the stampings, such as "col Sam," "Colte Pat." or "Colt System."

"Any person found importing or selling imitations of Colt pistols will be prosecuted. . . ." so said Sam Colt, but indications are that little or nothing came to pass from this edict. Colt contracts involved a manufacturer's royalty payment of 10 francs (about \$2.00 per frame) for each arm produced. This was eventually increased to 25 francs per arm. A copy of the prospectus circulated by, and recorded as a matter of record in the library of the Musee d' Armes at Liege, is shown on these pages.

"Pistols and Guns of Multiple Fire with a Single Barrel Colt System, Patented in October 1849:

Firearms of the Colt System, which has recently been marked improved, nowadays, leave nothing further to be desired; a multitude of testimonials bearing witness to their indisputable superiority and the reception which they have been accorded by the Boards of Ordnance in the United States and England bestow all praise.

They are six to eight shot, are easily loaded and fire like other arms; they have a (Continued on page 62)



GUNS and the LAW

FERRET BARRICADE ROUND

By COL. REX APPLIGATE

Below: the standard 37mm barricade round compared to the new Ferret. Bottom: the Ferret loaded with tear gas (CS). Note the roll crimp used.



THE OVER-ALL performance record of law enforcement agencies faced with a shootout against an armed criminal, insane person, or sniper "holed up" in a building leaves a lot of room for improvement. Although a barricade situation occurs almost daily somewhere in the nation, until recently most police departments have given little special attention to this type of situation. The increased amount of sniping in civil disturbance operations and guerrilla type hit and run shooting incidents has now escalated to a point where police training programs must give a great deal more attention to this type of police-criminal confrontation. Consequently, counter sniping teams are now being organized in some major departments, where they are beginning to receive training in military principles of movement under hostile fire, use of cover, concealment, etc. It is better tactics and much less dangerous if special trained men and equipment are used. This type of training is certainly preferable to engaging in a largely disorganized fire fight where all officers in the area indiscriminately fire at the target area using all types of weapons, many times endangering innocent bystanders, and one another.

The most widely publicized police barricade situation of recent years has become known as the Texas Tower incident. On August 2, 1966, Charles Whitman, a mentally disturbed ex-Marine marksman, murdered his wife and mother, killed twelve people and wounded thirty-one more while barricaded on the top of a tower on the campus of the University of Texas. For over an hour and a half, he dominated and controlled the situation, over a wide area of the campus, despite the counterfire of police and volunteer civilians armed with rifles. He

was finally killed by two policemen who were able to get within pistol range of his position, from inside the tower. Whitman's armament consisted of a 7 mm magnum rifle with a 4 power scope, a .35 caliber autoloading rifle, a .30 caliber carbine, a 12 gauge sawed-off shotgun, a .357 Magnum revolver and a 9 mm Luger pistol. During the long fire fight, Whitman used all of these weapons. Because he changed his position on the balcony of the tower, frequently, and used different sounding firearms, it was difficult, initially, for police to determine whether one or more snipers were firing. Due to Whitman's position and cover, tear gas weaponry that might have been used would have lacked both the range and capability of reaching him.

In 1966, the Associated Press carried the following story:

New Iberia, La. (AP) Two elderly brothers opened fire Monday on deputies attempting to serve them with legal papers, starting a 90 minute gun battle that involved 15 deputies, more than 1000 shots. Four men were left wounded. Officers finally subdued Andre Romero, 60, and Andrew, 65, at their farmhouse near here. The sheriff said his men fired more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, and the brothers emptied two boxes of shotgun shells containing 25 shells each and a 50 bullet box of .22's.

No special long range tear gas munitions were apparently available, or used, in this situation which clearly shows the possibilities when non-disciplined, indiscriminate firing by large groups of apparently disorganized and probably untrained law officers takes place. In many such incidents, poor law enforcement performance is not



entirely due to human error. Obsolete design or inadequate tear gas equipment has also been a contributing factor.

In Washington, D.C. this year, the following incident occurred:

Washington (AP) A shoot-out between police and a man barricaded in a northwest Washington home left three civilians dead, three policemen wounded by shotgun blasts and three other officers injured, Friday. Police said the man, who opened fire on two officers as they responded to an emergency call, shot himself to death after tear gas shells set fire to the three story home in a middle class neighborhood. Two women also were found dead, one of them believed by neighbors to be a maid. The three policemen were reported to be seriously hurt. Sgt. Robert Householder, 32, and Officer Roland Bennet, 28, were shot in the face as they left their car to investigate reports of shots being fired in the neighborhood. Capt. John Reynolds, next on the scene, also was hit in the face with a shotgun blast as he attempted to spot the gunman. In addition, Capt. Charles Monroe was badly injured when he jumped from the burning building following the shooting. Two other officers were being treated for either smoke inhalation or the effects of tear gas.

More recently in Chicago:

CHICAGO (AP) Five policemen were struck by shotgun pellets during a gun fight early Thursday at the West Side headquarters of the Illinois Black Panther Party. Three men were arrested after a 30-minute exchange of

gunfire which was observed by 300 persons who lined Madison Street and jeered the 50 policemen. A fire started in the second floor Panther headquarters during the gun fight. It was quickly extinguished and fire officials said it was started by one of the many tear gas canisters fired by police. Police and Black Panther spokesmen differed on how the gunfire barrage began.

In both these instances, burning type tear gas projectiles or grenades, used by police, apparently started fires that not only endangered lives but destroyed property. Fire loss has been an all too frequent side effect from police use of tear gas munitions in barricade situations over the past three decades.

Until recently, principal police reliance on a non lethal means of flushing out armed criminals, or insane persons, has been placed on a special, single shot 37 mm (1½") tear gas gun firing a large finned projectile. These guns and their ammunition were designed almost forty years ago and little improvement has been made in either the arm or ammunition since. The 37 mm tear gas, barricade projectile in principle use has been the burning type that releases its tear gas fumes as the result of a combustion process. The round gets very hot and easily starts fires in flammable material. Even though very hot, the barricaded persons have frequently picked them up and hurled them back out the window at the police before they have had time (15-20 seconds) to expel their tear gas loading. In more recent years, in an effort to eliminate the fire hazard, 37 mm tear gas barricade projectiles have been manufactured that explode on impact, releasing tear gas particles in dust form. Unfortunately, fireless type rounds have never really replaced the police reliance on the pyrotechnic or burning types, originally developed during the prohibition era.

The standard 37 mm barricade projectile is pointed, finned, weighs nearly a pound, travels at a velocity of 250-350 feet per second, has a high trajectory, and delivers its tear gas loading (CN or CS) by either the burning process or by a blast system. The manufacturers claim it is accurate up to 100 yards and that a standard 3' x 6' window can be hit with consistent accuracy. It has been the writer's experience that unless the men firing it are range training officers, with plenty of practice, the average policeman has difficulty in hitting a window with the 37 mm gun at ranges of less than 50 yards and many

times must make repeated attempts. 37 mm gas barricade rounds cost over ten dollars each so that limited police budgets usually result in little practice with live ammunition. Reloadable, training rounds are available but are also expensive and unfortunately have a relatively short practice life.

Basically, the 37 mm barricade projectile and the special gun that fires it is not, under modern weaponry standards, an efficient weapons system due to lack of range, high cost, poor accuracy, and general unavailability in many emergency situations. The shelf life of these munitions is limited. Gas leakage takes place under hot humid (car trunk) conditions, duds are common. This weapon is generally inventoried by the modern police department but usually never in the quantities needed or seemingly located where it can be used without considerable delay in assembling the arm, the ammunition and the men trained to use it. Consequently, law enforcement performance with the 37 mm barricade projectile and gun has been very spotty. However, until recently, this was the only available long range, tear gas delivery system available for barricade and counter sniper situations.

In June of 1969, the AAI Corporation of Cockeysville, Maryland, introduced its 12 gauge, Ferret, barricade round. This firm, a recognized leader in military arms design and development has made a significant and timely contribution to law enforcement. In 1966, AAI also developed a revolutionary new plastic, fireless tear gas grenade that could be thrown, hand held, or launched from a riot shotgun. The introduction of the Ferret now rounds out the picture and largely eliminates police need for the purchase of the 37 mm gas gun and its various costly gas projectiles to accomplish the same tactical purposes.

Continued on page 70



Surprising accuracy was had with the Ferret on a 36" target at 70 yards.



Askins on HOW TO CARRY SPARE AMMO



Ammo dumped into pockets is noisy and gets dirty fast.



Boxed ammo is slow to get out in the hunting fields.

RUNNING wild horses on the Vaqueros ranger district, I had a partner who used to carry his spare cartridges in an old boot top. He shot a .44-40 and he'd simply dip his hand into the old boot—which swung on his saddle horn—and fish out a half-dozen hulls and slam them into the Model 92 carbine. It was neat and efficient; except when it rained and then the cartridges would swim around with a choice collection of pine needles and small sticks.

When I was a kid growing up, there was a bosom hunting mate who had a .22 Winchester Model 90 pump repeater; he would dump a box of cartridges into an overall pocket and load his battered shooting iron with the fodder as it came out of his pants. In those days the twenty-two bullet was greased; not with a hard grease nor the wax which came along later, but with a soft sort of lubricant. After those cartridges had been mixed with the sand and pebbles in Hammer's overalls for a while they worked in pretty sticky fashion through the rifle.

Undoubtedly more hunters, and mostly centerfire users, simply dump a few cartridges into a pants pocket or a hunting coat and go on from there. I have carried a half-dozen rounds for the saddle gun in a pocket until the points would all be dubbed off, the extractor groove full of dirt and the brass scratched from contact with pocket knife, keys and coins. It is very probably the most common way of packing along the spare ammo needed on the big game hunt.

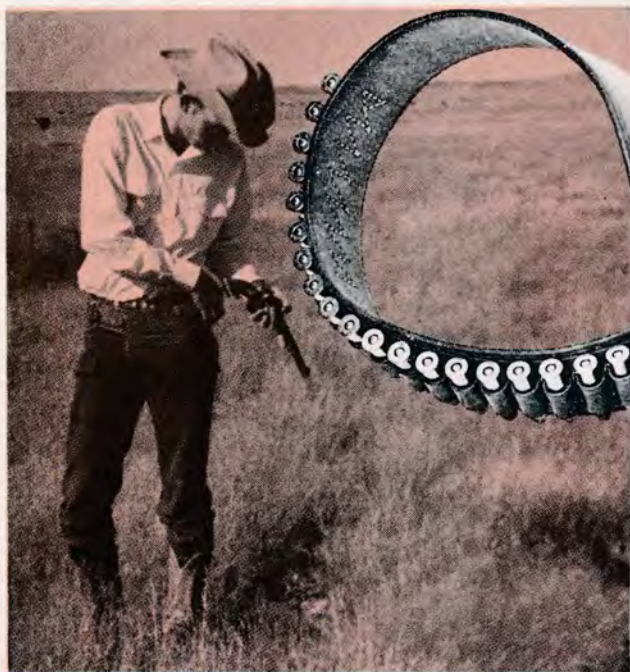
Stalking a big bull tusker in the Northern Frontier of Kenya, with Mike Hissey, my professional hunter, we were closing in through some exceedingly dense bush to get within 30 yards or so of the old bull. The cover is so indescribably heavy that shots have to be taken at very close yardages. With Hissey in the lead, and me treading on his heels we inched forward. Now an elephant cannot see very well but he can hear a pin drop at 40 paces.

When we were almost ready to get into position for my shot, Mike turned aside and commenced a cautious retreat. We fell back some fifty steps and then he put his mouth against my ear and said, "You've got some bloody some-

thing in a pocket that is rattling. Get rid of it." I shamefacedly pulled forth two .458 rounds that were tinkling together. Hissey frowned and shook his head. Walking ahead of me he could hear the two cartridges banging together in a forward trousers pocket. He knew if he could hear them that the old tusker would also get the news. It taught me to empty out my pockets before the next elephant stalk.

Where to pack your cartridges when hunting is a matter that most of us leave to chance. There are cartridge belts, boxes, pouches, bags, clips and pockets. There are also vests, coats, magazines and cartridge bearers. How a fellow goes off to the hunt with his ammo is a matter of highly personal preference. This same Hissey who objected to my shells rattling in my pocket, wore a cartridge belt which would hold 10 of his big .470 rounds. But when we would commence to close in on an old bull buff or an elephant he'd extract a couple of cartridges and put these between the fingers of his left hand. When he grasped the fore-end on his double express rifle, the cartridges were gripped by their heads and did not interfere with his grasp on the gun. If we were charged he'd get off the two rounds in the double and then reload with the two extra cartridges held in his left fist. It was a good scheme and worked quite speedily.

It is common practice for the African professional hunter to carry a couple of extra cartridges between his fingers when stalking the dangerous critters. It remained for an old Eskimo on St. Lawrence Island, which is in the Bering Sea and only 26 miles from the Russian coast, to show me a new wrinkle. Hunting walrus with him I watched while he potted a big bull with a .22 Hornet single shot. A big bull walrus will weigh considerably over a half-ton and the little .22 slug simply buries itself in all the blubber. My hunting amigo was not daunted. He shot the old bull and quick as a flash extracted the empty and literally spat another round into the chamber. He had some 3 or 4 cartridges in his mouth and when he fired he would draw the gun up close to his chin and literally blow another cartridge into the chamber! (Continued on page 72)



Picking ammo from a belt is slow when needed.

SPECIFICATIONS • MODEL 660 CARBINE

CALIBERS	222 Remington, 6mm Remington, 243 Win., 308 Win., †6.5mm Remington Magnum, †350 Remington Magnum.
CAPACITY	Five shot (six in 222 Remington). †4 shot.
BARREL LENGTH	Tapered Remington Proof Steel 20", extremely accurate.
OVER-ALL LENGTH	38¾"

SPECIFICATIONS • MODEL 788

CALIBERS	Regular—222 Rem., 22-250 Rem., 6mm Rem., 243 Rem., 30-30, 308 Win., 44 Rem. Mag. Left Hand—6mm Rem., 308 Win.
CAPACITY	Five—222 Remington Four—22-250 Rem., 6mm Rem., 243 Win., 30-30, 308 Win., 44 Rem. Mag.
BARREL LENGTH	24"—222 Remington, 22-250 Remington. 22"—6mm Rem., 243 Win., 30-30, 308 Win., 44 Rem. Mag.
OVER-ALL LENGTH	43⅝"—222 Rem., 22-250 Rem. 42"—6mm Rem., 243 Win., 308 Win. 41⅝"—30-30 41"—44 Rem. Mag.

SPECIFICATIONS • MODELS 700 ADL & 700 BDL

CALIBERS	22-250 Rem., 222 Rem., 6mm Rem., 243 Win., †6.5mm Rem. Mag., 264 Win. Mag., 270 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., †300 Win. Mag., 30-06, 308 Win., †350 Rem. Mag., †375 H&H Mag., †458 Win. Mag.
CAPACITY	Six 222 Rem., Five—22-250 Rem., 6mm Rem., 243 Win., 30-06, 308 Win., Four—6mm Rem. Mag., 270 Win. Mag., 7mm Rem. Mag., †300 Win. Mag., †350 Rem. Mag., †375 H&H Mag.
BARREL LENGTH	22"—6mm Rem., 243 Win., 270 Win. Mag. 24"—22-250 Rem., 222 Rem., Rem. Mag. 24" Stainless Steel Barrel—7mm Rem. Mag., †300 Win. Mag. 26"—†375 H&H Mag., †458 Win. Mag.
OVER-ALL LENGTH	41½"—6mm Rem. 270 Win., 30-06 Rem. Mag.

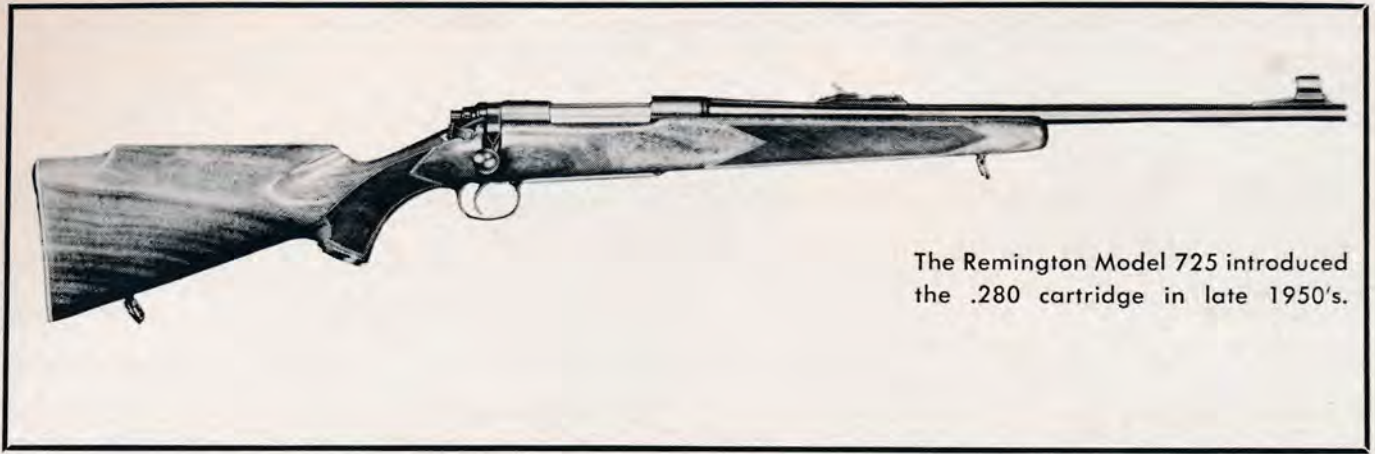


**WHAT
EVER
HAPPENED
TO
REMINGTON'S
222 MAG.
AND 280?**

Designed to fill the caliber gap, these two never quite made the grade.



W. Brown



The Remington Model 725 introduced the .280 cartridge in late 1950's.

THE YEARS, 1893 and 1894 produced quite a few changes in the gun business; the improved center-fire rifle cartridges, smokeless powder, jacketed bullets, and the general use of higher grade steels for gun barrels. Three of the best known and most popular calibers of all times—the 6.5, the 7mm and the .30 calibers—also came out about those dates.

The 6.5 and the 7mm became more popular with foreign countries than they did with us and the .30 caliber was the one used most by our hunters. The British deviated a bit from these choices and used the .303, which closely paralleled the 30 caliber used by us. These calibers were developed primarily for military use. The 6.5 was used in various size cases but the 7 mm Mauser case was never changed from the original Mauser design and capacity, except in the .280 Ross of Canada. It has remained the 7 mm Mauser (7 x 57) and the .275 Rigby.

Europeans were the first to have sporting rifles made up using the 7x57 case. Many of the worlds greatest hunters used this round for all game, including elephant. Bell of Africa used this caliber with complete success. Most of these sporting rifles were then made by Rigby of England and carried the name of the .275 Rigby.

It is only natural that the .30 caliber would be our best known and most used caliber as it has been the standard military arm ever since the advent of the .30-40 Krag in 1893. The next year the still popular .30-30 Winchester was introduced, and in 1903 the .30-03 and later the .30-06 was brought out.

After World War I, thousands of our service men brought different kinds of foreign made rifles home with them, mostly as souvenirs. Some of these, worked over to sporting guns, soon became popular with hunters, and the 7 mm was probably the most used and best liked of the lot. It wasn't too long before U.S. cartridge companies were producing ammunition for it. Because of the fast twist that was used in these military rifles to handle the long, heavy 175 grain bullets that were the ones most used in them, most all ammunition offered over here was bullets of this weight. While 139 grain bullets were also loaded in 7 mm ammunition they did not sell as well as the heavier ones did.

It was this extra long, heavy bullet used in a comparatively small case that kept the 7 mm Mauser from becoming extremely popular with U.S. shooters. Although there was a fairly good choice of bullets to be had in Europe, for use by the handloader, it wasn't until quite some time after World War II that new, independent bullet companies began making the 7 mm and other calibers in a number of

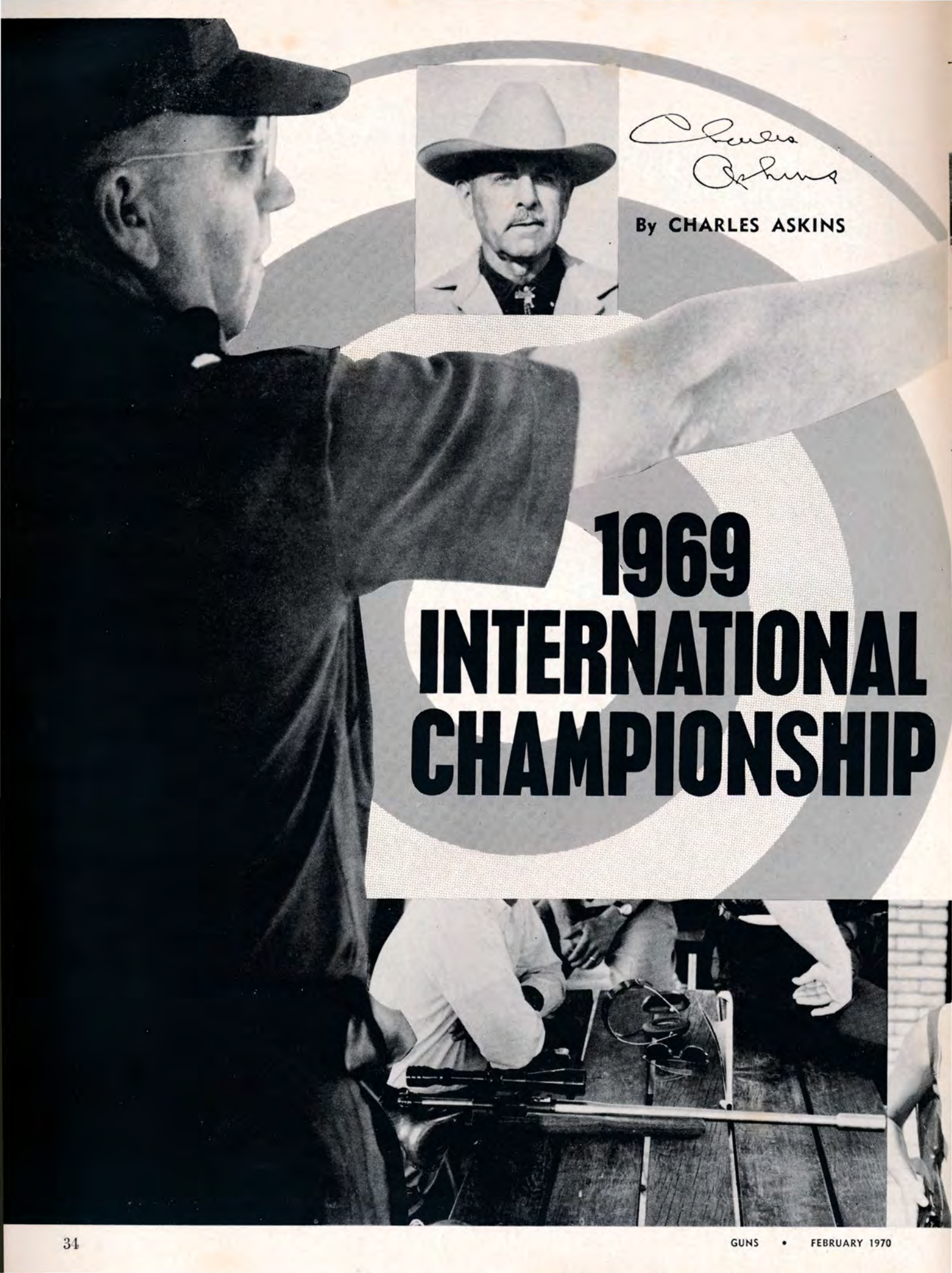
different weights. Handloading also began to really pick up about this time.

While the 7x57 would kill our biggest game, if it was used within it's retained energy limits of distance, the American shooter preferred the longer range, harder shooting .30-06 or a cartridge that had equal or greater power. The 7 mm case was, and still is, an ideal size to get excellent accuracy, but this accuracy alone was not enough to interest the U.S. shooter. He wanted flatter shooting and greater retained energy for long ranges. The 7 mm case became much more popular here when it was wildcatted down to smaller calibers, such as the .257 Roberts and the 6 mm Remington.

There were periodic flurries of interest in the 7 mm during these early years and then the introduction of the .270 Winchester, in 1925, took the edge off this interest. The .270 was just the .30-06, necked down. Its greater velocity and flatter trajectory, plus a bit lower recoil, produced a fast growing following immediately. Soon specially structured bullets of 130 grain weight were brought out for it. This proved to be an ideal weight, and the 3140 fps velocity gave the user shock and kill results that were astonishing. The 150 grain bullet was made available for those who favored a heavier bullet, but the 130 grain bullet remained the most popular and is still the most preferred.

There was now a gap in the caliber line between the .277" of the .270 and the .308" of the .30-06. Had Remington brought out their .280 at this time, I believe it would have given the .270 a lot of real competition for customer popularity. However, it wasn't until 27 years later, in 1957 that Remington got around to doing this. Remington put the .280 out with 150 grain and 165 grain bullets as their regular loads and then brought out a 100 grain load as a combination varmint and small game load. This was really a mistake. Such cartridges are not correct for varmint use and the 100 grain was too light for even small game, and it shed its high muzzle velocity real fast. Remington later changed this light load to the 125 grain bullet, which is much more practical for game killing.

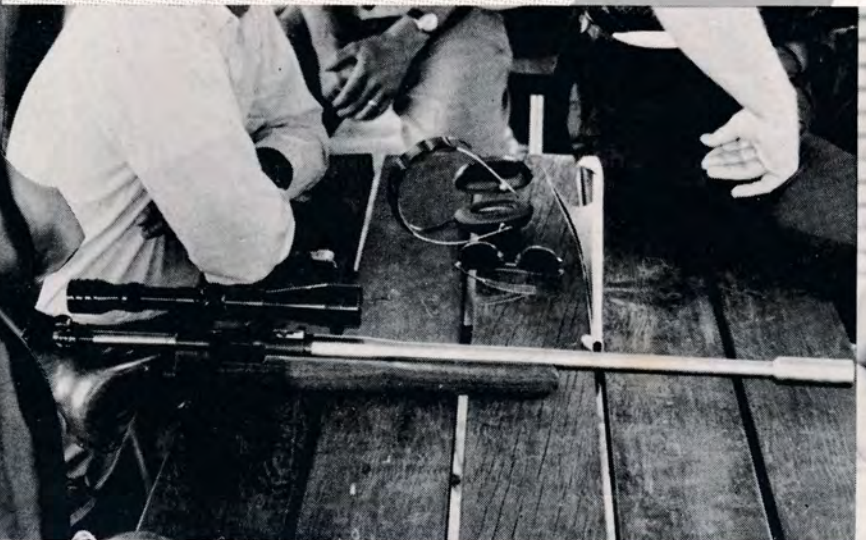
The 150 grain load is the best factory load for game killing in the antelope, deer and elk class. My own preference is the 160 grain bullet in handloads. The 165 grain bullet, factory loaded, was too blunt for long range shooting. The 160 grain pointed bullets of Sierra and Speer produced excellent big game kills at all practical distances. The 165 grain factory loading was very good for reasonably close up shots at bigger (Continued on page 56)



*Charles
Askins*

By CHARLES ASKINS

1969 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP





THE 40th World Shooting Championships will be staged in 1970. The U.S.A. will be the host country, and as a prelude to the programming of these ranking matches the United States is required to put on a preliminary shoot exactly like the real thing. This is done so that the big brass of the International Shooting Union, the parent order, can come and have a look-see and be assured that all the arrangements are adequate. This has now been done. The preliminary shootfest, the 9th Annual International Championships, were staged at Phoenix, Arizona, Oct. 4-13, 1969. The World Championships will be fired over the same range during October of 1970.

It used to be when we went to an international competition we got our ears pinned back. This was because the guns, targets, distances, time limits and shooting conditions were foreign to us. Now times have changed. A look in on the 9th Annual International Championships, at Phoenix this past October, the rehearsal shoot for the World Matches, shows that we now know our way around. There were eleven nations on hand besides our own, these included Canada, Mexico, West Germany, East Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Japan, Venezuela and Colombia, and of the matches I had a chance to

Large photo, opposite page: SGM Blankenship firing the Hammerli .22 short in the Rapid Fire Match that he won. Below left, opposite page: John Kingeter's rifle for the running boar event, a Remington M700 in .223 Cal.

observe, out of a 15-match program, we won eight and were tied for first in the 9th (it had not been finished). This is not bad for a country that has been taking a back seat in the Continental game for lo these many years. Complete results will be found at the end of this article.

We may have caught on to the European style of shooting but an inspection of the arms we use and those fired by our overseas rivals shows that our manufacturers have some catching up to do. European-made rifles, pistols and shotguns were markedly in evidence among the marksmen. Likewise ammunition, especially twenty-two rimfire and shotshells were more apt to be from England or off the Continent.

The distances from shooter to target are measured in meters. For the centerfire rifle this is 300 meters (327 yds.) and for the .22 rimfire rifles the range is 50 meters (54 yds. 1 ft.). With the pistol there are two distances, 50 meters and 25 meters. There is an air rifle match at 10 meters (33 ft.). In trapshooting there are a total of 16 traps, any one of which may spring the clay saucer. These birds go 70 yards at high velocity and are slightly thinner and tougher of texture than ours. At international skeet the gunner must keep the buttstock at his hip until the target appears, and after he asks for the bird it may be delayed up to 3 seconds. These are all strange rules, foreign targets, and unfamiliar distances to us.

But stranger yet are the guns. There is a free rifle. It may be either a .22 rimfire or a centerfire. It is virtually unrestricted as to weight, most go 15 pounds, with a stock which is equipped with a thumbhole, a high comb, an adjustable hook type buttplate, an adjustable palm rest, and an exceedingly light trigger. The free pistol is likewise just as unrestricted. It is a single shot, with 10 to 13 inch barrel, speed lock, finest micrometered adjustable sights, set trigger and a customized set of stocks.

In the air rifle match, the guns are 11-lb. models with 1-lb. triggers, finest adjustable sights, highest degree of precision, with adjustable butt plates, a self-dampening recoil system—and a European name.

The exceptions to this are in the running boar match, where the Remington Model 762 pump repeater and the

Below, left to right: Mexico's Nuria Ortiz using a Browning shotgun for skeet. Sgt. Tom Garrigus using a Krieghoff on the clay targets. Maj. Lones Wigger using the Winchester Model 52. He won two matches.



Remington Model 700 bolt action are favored, as well as the rapid fire pistol, centerfire pistol and standard pistol matches where you see our familiar S&W and High Standard models.

Our free rifle (300 meter) marksmen generally use the Remington Model 40X in .308 caliber. Some have retained the Remington barrel and others have switched to the Walker barrel. Loads are all made up at the Marks-



Major Lones Wigger accepts the Winchester Trophy for his win in the Smallbore Three Position Match.



Shooting at 300 meters over the desert sand gave terrific glare, especially in the prone position.



Marksmen from all over the world fire the Standard Pistol Match. Note ear muffs and relaxed positions. New shelters had to be built to keep the sun off the shooters. The range is now one of the best.

manship Training Unit, Ft. Benning, for the military contingent. The bullet is the 165-gr. Sierra. In the .22 rim-fire matches the leading marksmen fire the Anschutz Model 1413 Super Match 54 where the weight and type of rifle is unrestricted. In the Standard Rifle match, which limits gun weight to 11 pounds and disallows such things as hooked buttplates and palmrests, the hands-down choice is again the Anschutz in the Model 1403. This rifle has the Match 54 action but is built somewhat lighter in barrel and stock. Lones Wigger, one of our very best international marksmen, in the Phoenix matches, fired the Match 54 offhand and kneeling but switched to a Winchester Model 52 for the prone stage, to win the Smallbore 3-Position match.

Sgt. Bill Blankenship won the Rapid Fire match with a Hammerli Model 210 auto pistol chambered for the .22 Short cartridge. The Model 210 had a special anatomical stock fitted to Blankenship's hand by Lutz Hoffman of the Hammerli factory. This pistol has six gas escape holes drilled in the barrel near the breech to reduce recoil. There is also a muzzle brake at the other end. In the Centerfire Match, which was won by Joe Witherell of the Navy, Blankenship shot the S&W Model 52 automatic. It is chambered for the .38 wadcutter. Withrell shot the Colt .38 Gold Cup.

In the Standard Pistol match, open to .22 caliber, the High Standard Military model and the S&W Model 41 were the majority choices. There were some Hammerli pistols on the line but not in any numbers. The match was won by Jim Dorsey, closely chased by Joe Witherell and Charley Wheeler, all Americans, their pistols were either Hi-Standard or Smith & Wesson.

Tom Garrigus shot a Krieghoff over-under to cop the clay target championship. His team mate and the fellow in second place, Terry Howard, shot another Krieghoff. In the skeet match, Tony Rosetti shot a Browning over-under as did Senorita Nuria Ortiz, the Mexican gal, who was tied with our entry after 150 targets and eventually took third place. Bob Rodale, who came in 5th, was shooting his favorite Remington Model 32 over-under.

It was noticeable in the air rifle match that there were more Fienwerkbau Model 150 rifles than those of any other make. In second choice was the Anschutz Model 250. Of much lesser popularity was a variety of the "break barrel" types, made by Diana and others. The World Matches champ, Bernd Klingner, equalled his record of 385 with a Feinwerkbau at Phoenix. His team mate, and in second place, Gottfried Kusstermann, also shot the gun.

In the running boar and running deer matches the single-run single-shot stage of this match is shot by the American gunners using the Remington Model 700 bolt action in .223 caliber. Most of the rifles have custom tailored stocks, with thumbhole, high comb, a broad buttplate, and a beavertail fore-end. In the fast-run 2-shot phase of this event, where the marksman must get off two rounds during the 5-second run of the boar, the Remington Model 760 pump repeater in .223 cal. is the common choice. This rifle has a special heavy barrel, a customized stock, and a hunting scope.

Sgt. John Kingeter, who won the Running Boar match, is acknowledged king of the game. He has won more of the running boar and deer matches than any American. His rifles are the Remington Model 700 and the 760. He uses a Redfield scope, a variable, with the power-set on 4X. The reticle is a special (Continued on page 66)

Frank W. Freund

FRONTIER GUNMAKER

By James E. Serven

During the late 1870s and early 1880s two of the nation's most brilliant armsmakers were hard at work in shops only a few hundred miles apart. Frank W. Freund was in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, and John M. Browning was farther west in Ogden, Utah Territory. Both were struggling to build what they believed to be the best single shot rifle action ever made. Both produced superb actions, but the fickle wheel of fortune brought the Winchester Company to Browning's door and production of his single shot model was assured. Had Frank Freund found a major manufacturer to produce his early inventions, he might today be among the best known American gun inventors.

In his own way, however, Frank Freund piled up enough honors to satisfy any man in the gunmaking trade. It has been said that men with inventive ability and the skills of a

fine craftsman are not made—they are born with these inherent talents. This may be so. Frank Freund came from a family of craftsmen who had long followed the gunmaking trade in their native Germany. He had mastered the skills of the metal worker, the woodworker and the engraver.

Evidencing the restless spirit which was to mark his life thereafter, Frank Freund gained valuable experience through brief employment in gunmaking plants of Austria, France and England before migrating to America. He arrived in New York in 1857, twenty years old and full of confidence that he might make a name for himself in the gunmaking trade of this new land.

During the next few years Freund further developed his skills at the Remington Arms Company manufactory

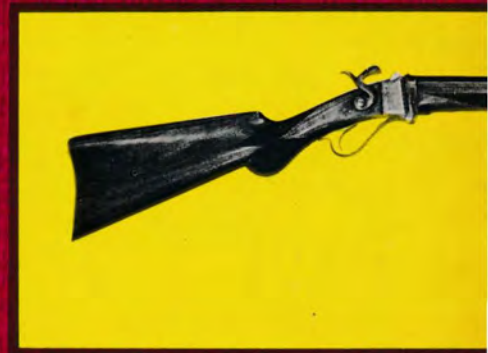
Right: A Cheyenne photograph of Frank Freund taken about 1876. Below: Inside of "Wyoming Armory."





at Ilion, New York. With the advent of war he put in eighteen hard months of service with the Union forces. After the war, like so many soldiers released from that bitter North-South struggle, Frank Freund's thoughts turned toward the West. He was more fortunate than most; he had skill at a good trade and a little money. With these important assets, and joined by his brother George, he set out for the frontier, arriving in Nebraska City on the Missouri River in 1866.

During 1866 the Union Pacific Railroad was off to a good start in their track-laying to the West. As the tracks





were laid, towns sprang up along the right-of-way—some temporary and some permanent. Hundreds of workers were employed and many of them owned guns. As the rails crept westward the towns of North Platte and Julesburg were born and with them the rough and ready life and bawdy amusements of men who worked hard and played hard.

By the end of 1867 the rails had reached the townsite of Cheyenne and by May 1, 1868 they were beyond at the 573 mile post. Cheyenne was bustling with activity and the Freund brothers thought it looked like a good place



Model 1877 Freund Sharps by Dr. R. L. Moore, owner and photographer. Both sides of this rifle, #202, are shown along with full length photo. Freund shops, upper left and right, in both Cheyenne and Salt Lake City.

Frank W. Freund

to put down roots. Toward the end of 1867 they wound up their business in Nebraska City and moved west to Cheyenne. Here, at first in rather primitive quarters, they established their "Wyoming Armory." The word armory seemed more impressive to Frank Freund and his brother George than the more common "gun shop."

The Wyoming Armory was much like the usual gun store of the 1860s in many respects. They sold the guns, pistols and shotguns of leading manufacturers along with ammunition and other associated items. But it was not as a gun dealer that Frank William Freund stood out above many others in his trade. He was more skilled as a gunmaker than most and much more imaginative. Approximately 20 patents were registered in his name from 1874 to 1893. George Freund was a willing worker but less talented. The only patent credited to George which related to firearms was a patent granted in 1880 for a rear sight and even this patent was held jointly with Frank.

Only a few of the Frank Freund patents enjoyed substantial employment in firearms, but the excellence of his mechanical innovations plus the quality of his workmanship made guns with "Freund's Improvement" sought by

such knowledgeable riflemen as W. F. Cody, Theodore Roosevelt, Annie Oakley and many others. Guns with Freund's improvements today are one of the great prizes for the collector.

The Freund brothers had some branch stores or agencies along the line of the Union Pacific, but for these small operations they have gained no lasting recognition. The great majority of the fine surviving specimens of Freund's work bear the Cheyenne address.

Frank Freund is best described as a custom gunmaker. His specialty was in reworking and improving the actions of single shot rifles. The Sharps action was his favorite for conversion to his system but he did rework some Remingtons, Maynards, Springfields, Ballards and a few other types.

Denver, directly south of Cheyenne, began to enjoy a boom as an outfitting town in the early 1870s. Things having quieted down a bit in Cheyenne, the Freund brothers decided Denver would be a good place to establish a "sportsman's depot." There on Blake Street they opened a store and for a time enjoyed a brisk trade supplying the buffalo hunters and others who needed guns and ammunition.

Not too much of Frank Freund's time was devoted to sales in the store. George could attend to that. Frank kept busy at his workbench with re-

pairs and also had time to work on the ideas flowing through his mind as to how the guns of the day could be improved. So it was that during the Freund activities in Denver from 1871 to early 1875, Frank applied for and was granted a half dozen patents. Recognition of his imaginative designs and excellent craftsmanship was given in 1873 when he was awarded a silver medal by the Colorado Industrial Association for the "Best Colorado Made Gun."

Attention was called to the Freund business at 31 Blake Street by an enormous 17 foot wooden gun suspended above the store front and said to be the largest sign of its kind ever made. This piece of gigantic advertising, however, was not enough to bring satisfying profits to the Freunds in Denver and *The Rocky Mountain News* of May 20, 1875, gave notice that the Freunds' sportsman's depot had been sold to John P. Lower. By June of 1875 the Freund brothers were back at their Eddy Street quarters in Cheyenne.

The transcontinental railroad had been completed in 1869 and Cheyenne had been made the capital of Wyoming Territory in that year. It also became the site of the Union Pacific's extensive repair yards. When the Freunds returned to Cheyenne there were rumors of gold in the Black Hills and the great stampede of 1876-78 was about to



break loose. Cheyenne began to boom as an outfitting point for miners and as a center for a growing cattle industry. It would not be too many years before the population of the city would jump from 1400 to 14,000. It was in the period subsequent to his return to Cheyenne that Frank Freund began to come into his own as one of the nation's premier custom gunmakers.

Freund's greatest acclaim was won through the building of single shot rifles, a majority using the Sharps type of receiver, but some using a similar receiver of Freund's own design. Of this latter design the carbine illustrated is a good example.

Basically the Freund improvement centered around the breechblock and its operation. Patent No. 180,567 dated August 1, 1876 and Patent No. 185,911 dated January 2, 1877 described the principal mechanical novelties and these patent dates customarily are shown on Freund single shot rifles. An arched *F. W. Freund* over the word *patent* also appears on the guns. A later patent, No. 216,084 of June 3, 1879, had some employment also, providing features that would bring the hammer to full or half cock by lowering the lever. Patent No. 211,728 of Jan. 28, 1879, was primarily applicable to Ballard rifles but could be designed for other arms. The June 3, 1879 patent clarified the principle for specific

use in Sharps type receivers.

Freund stated in his 1876 patent: "The chief object of my invention is to make a breech-block for a breech-loading gun, which cannot be moved beyond the limit of its ascent and which stands at a right angle to the center of the gun barrel, and which, in its descent, gradually swings around its horizontal axis, with its top off the breech to shorten its downstroke, and to operate the retractor, and which in its ascent gradually, and with ease pushes the fresh cartridge into its proper position."

For the 1877 patent Freund stated: "The object of my invention is to provide breech-loading rim or center fire arms with a gas-check, which will certainly close gas-tight all rear joints or passages leading from the firing-pin to the rear of the breech-block when the arm is fired. Another object is to provide a gas-check or firing pin actuator, which will be caused to half-cock the hammer when it is bearing upon the gas-check or firing-pin carrier, by the operation of lowering or raising the guard-lever. Another object is to have the firing-pin thus arranged more in a straight line, and thereby overcome the difficulty and danger of clogging when the breech-block is lowered for re-loading."

For the 1876 patent Freund claimed nine novel features, for the 1877 patent

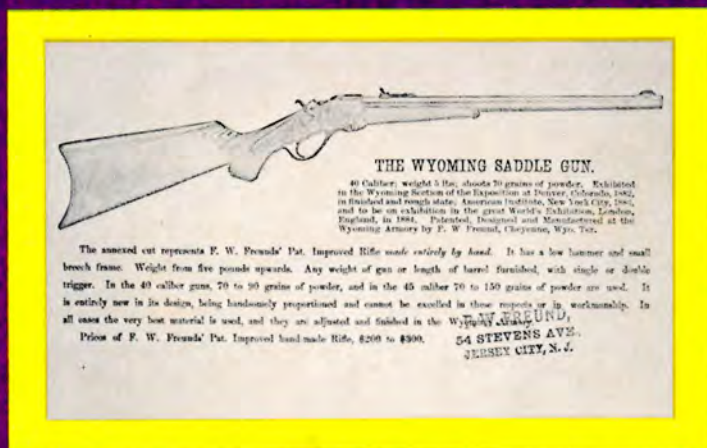
five, and for the June 3, 1879 patent three. For those interested in the specific details of these patents, copies may be purchased at 50¢ each by writing to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C. 10231.

The Freund breechblock was not a particularly complicated mechanism but it did have more parts than the old Sharps block. One important advantage was that it was designed to operate double extractors rather than the single extractor used by the Sharps. For the big long shells of the period this made retraction easier and positive.

There had been cases of serious injury with the Sharps because of difficulty in forcing the long shells into the chamber after the rifle had been shot a number of times. A touchy primer could cause a dangerous blowback before the action was firmly closed. The camming action of Freund's breechblock was designed to prevent accidents of that kind. Instead of the upper part of the breechblock being straight vertically with a flat top (slightly concave at the center) the Freund block was stepped back at the upper portion and rounded at the top.

A removeable tapered steel plate was fastened by a screw to the back of the breechblock in line with the loading groove, and along with the specially designed firing pin was installed to assure a positive gas check.

Hardest to find of the Freund guns is the carbine, hand made throughout. Right: illustration from a pamphlet published in Cheyenne, Wyoming and also used by Freund when he moved to Jersey City, N.J.



Another added feature was a very precisely fitted thin plate that was installed at the rear of the breechblock channel in the receiver. This plate was held in place by screws which enter from the exterior of the receiver near the top of the channel section. The steel plate assured a precise, tight joint.

Some of the Freund rifles—probably those of his earlier conversions—used the standard Sharps lock with its wide lockplate, altering only the hammer as needed. However, many of his finest custom-built rifles were made with a narrow back-action lock and a light gooseneck hammer. The working parts

ceived an award of \$7000—nineteen years after Frank Freund's death!

Despite some ups and downs, the Cheyenne years were the brightest in Frank Freund's life. Here he brought his bride Clotilda Gasparen in 1876 and here four of their eight children were born. There were family dinners at the Interocean Hotel with his friend Senator Warren, who ran a furniture store in Cheyenne and whose daughter married General John J. Pershing. He had clients among the notable military men such as Generals Phil Sheridan and George Crook. He joined the Masonic order and made many friends



This rifle made for W. F. Cody bears "The American Frontier" on receiver.

of these locks are beautifully hand finished, a mark of the craftsman who is as particular with the unseen interior parts of a gun as with those that continually greet the eye.

Frank and George Freund were especially proud of their sights. Frank patented a front sight on April 17, 1877 and with George patented a rear sight they called their "More Light" sight. This sight was of the folding type. A notched rear cross-bar with a diamond-shaped aperture below it was used when folded down flat against the barrel; when the folding section was elevated, a sliding bar could be adjusted from 100 to 1000 yards. The slide had a notch above a diamond-shaped aperture. Refinements were patented by F. W. Freund on Nov. 28, 1882 and the sight renamed "Adjustable Light."

An infringement on one of Freund's patents by the U. S. Government became the basis of a claim that dragged on for years. In 1875 Freund had secured patents for an attachable pistol grip. A similar grip was used on many of the U. S. Officer's Model 1875 Springfield "trap-door" rifles which are choice collector's pieces today.

Freund entered a claim for royalties and the claim gathered dust in government files. Finally, Mrs. Freund re-

ceived an award of \$7000—nineteen years after Frank Freund's death!

Throughout the West. Many glowing testimonials were received in support of his rifles. Even in the pleasant and profitable surroundings at Cheyenne, Frank Freund was rather disenchanted with the role of a merchant. It was not his forte—he was more the artist, the creator of fine guns rather than an over-the-counter salesman. When an opportunity came to sell the retail gun business to F. A. Dammann, Frank was delighted, so in 1878 notice was sent out that Dammann was the successor to the Freund retail business. What George Freund's feelings were at this change in direction of the business are not clear, but soon afterward the Freund brothers' partnership was dissolved and George departed for Durango, Colorado. He operated a gun shop there until his death in March of 1910 and is buried in Durango's Greenmount Cemetery.

The Dammann stewardship of the Freund retail business was short-lived and by the fall of 1879 the business was turned back. For reasons not altogether clear, title to the reclaimed business was vested in Mrs. Clotilda Freund, Frank's wife.

Apparently a sizeable stock of guns and associated items was maintained for most of the remaining years of

Freund's residence in Cheyenne. But, as was demonstrated in later years, Frank Freund was not a businessman; he was far better at the workbench than at the desk. His dedication to turning out strongly constructed and handsomely finished guns is especially noticeable in surviving examples of his work done in the 1880s. Some of the finest guns illustrated here are of that period. In 1883 he was awarded "The Medal of Superiority" for his rifles by the American Institute of New York.

Before 1880 the lockplates were engraved "Freund & Bro" or "Freund Bros." After that time the gun might be marked merely "Freund's Patent" or "F. W. Freund's Pat." The "Wyoming Armory, Cheyenne Wyo." inscription was generally included with the name.

Indians and buffaloes were favorite subjects for Freund engraving. Occasionally the guns would be inscribed "American Frontier" or "Freund's Improvement." No two guns were exactly alike, one of the features that makes them so interesting and important in any gun collection.

Freund's custom rifles for the sportsman were things of beauty and very popular, but his efforts to interest the government or arms manufacturers in arms of his design for quantity production met with failure. The Henry and



Freund took every advantage to put his name on his customized rifles.

Spencer repeating rifles had gained favorable reception in the West; then the Winchester Model 1873 was a big hit and soon after that Teddy Roosevelt's favorite, the heavier Model 1876 Winchester. One by one the single shot rifle manufacturers were feeling the pinch of competition from the repeaters. It was a great blow to Freund when the factory whistle of the Sharps Rifle Co. at Bridgeport, Conn., blew for the last time in October, 1881.

Sharps rifle parts continued to be available for several years after the factory shut down, but Freund saw the handwriting on the wall and began to develop his own receiver design. This receiver, somewhat similar but quite unlike the Sharps, was made a short time before Freund decided in 1885 to close out his business at Cheyenne and move to Jersey City, N. J.

Mrs. Jeannette Freund Brethour, youngest daughter of Frank Freund and a neighbor of this writer, advises that her father was influenced to make this move east by several circumstances, one being his wife's strong desire to be closer to her parents who lived in New York City. After twenty years as a pioneer western gunmaker, Frank Freund moved back to the area where he had first put his foot on American soil as a young German immigrant.

It was not an easy transition. Freund's Jersey City shop was first located at 78 Montgomery Street and his residence changed down the years from 54 Stevens Avenue to 412 Jackson Avenue, then to 254 McAdoo Avenue (later renumbered 144) and finally to 117 McAdoo Avenue.

One of his designs on which Freund placed great hopes was an enclosed action with a dummy hammer for cocking the piece. Somehow he became associated with two men claimed to be lawyers in Easton, Pennsylvania, who contracted to build a factory for manufacture of the Freund rifles. After Freund had entrusted almost all his capital to them, they absconded with all the money!

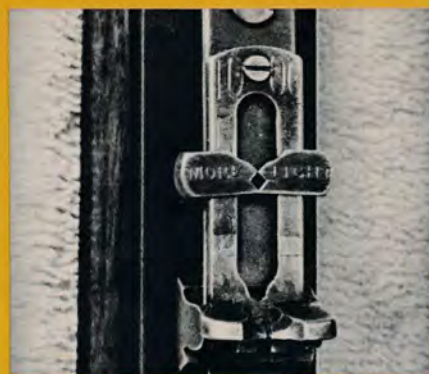
Somewhat crushed, he turned to the trade he knew best, advertising from his Montgomery Street address that he had spent a lifetime in gunmaking in the best firearms factories of the world such as in Vienna, Paris, London and in America. He called attention to the fact that he had been located on the Western Frontier for many years, during which he was successfully engaged in repairing and manufacturing fine

rifles and sights. He gave as his reason for locating in the East that there were better facilities of labor and material there so that he might fill all orders more promptly and at the lowest figures.

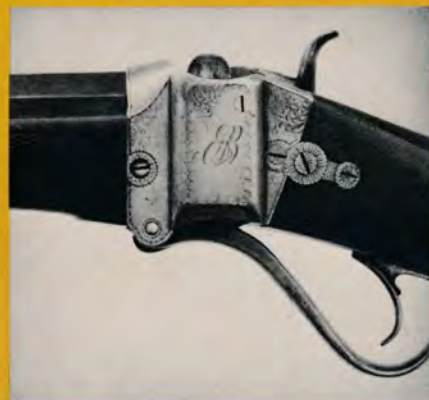
Customers did not flock to Freund's shop. He had a hard time supporting his large family—increased by four to a total of eight after moving to Jersey City. Finally he closed the shop and accepted a position to his liking in the Brooklyn Navy Yard where his talents could be profitably employed. One day, while getting off a streetcar, he fell and broke his leg. It took a long time to heal, and he did not go back to the Navy Yard.

The same glowing reports of great prosperity that a few years later would draw the famous barrel-maker Harry M. Pope temporarily to California filled Frank Freund with a desire to try his fortune on the Pacific slope. Although 68 years old, the spirit of

Right: Freund rifle made for E. B. Bronson in 1882. Below: best grade rifle. Note sight and engraving.



Freund's "More Light" barrel sight had diamond aperture with V notch.



adventure still called him to the far horizons and in 1905 he packed his carpetbag and headed for Los Angeles. Later he moved up to Sacramento and San Francisco. For four years he sent money home regularly to his family in Jersey City and advised in 1909 that he was about to be made a member of the firm with which he had become associated. Then the firm failed! It was too much for Frank Freund. He suffered a slight stroke and was almost destitute. Through the assistance of the fraternal order in which he had been a long and faithful member, arrangements were made for his return to Jersey City.

A rugged, determined man, Freund improved in health and set up a shop at the rear of his home at 117 McAdoo Avenue. He advertised that he could do stocking, bluing, browning and other

work. Mrs. Brethour remembers too well the acrid smell of those bluing and browning solutions that her father concocted in their kitchen.

Adversity and age finally took their toll on Frank William Freund; he died on July 27, 1910 at the age of 73. Along with Harry M. Pope he was one of the two great craftsmen to end their years in Jersey City after outstanding service to American riflemen for half a century. □

It would be negligent of the writer to close this story devoted to the works of Frank Freund without mentioning the valuable information on the subject published by Mr. John Barsotti, and to acknowledge with deep gratitude the material provided by Mrs. Jeannette Freund Brethour and by Mr. Archer Jackson.—J. S.



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GUNS Magazine Presents

The Guns of Tom Mix



Starring:

- Colts
- Winchesters
- Smith & Wessons
- Marlins
- Remingtons

Produced, Directed and Written by
George E. Virgines

THE magic name of this Western cinema hero of yesteryear is legendary in movie history. His name is to Western movies what Buffalo Bill Cody was to the Wild West Shows; Wyatt Earp to the gunslinging era; General Custer to the U.S. Cavalry.

Although he was a mythical cowboy to some, he was admired and worshiped by millions of faithful fans as the world famous movie star and King of the Cowboys. In 1933, he organized the "Tom Mix Ralston Straight-Shooters," which is alleged to have had 3,000,000 members in

the younger set.

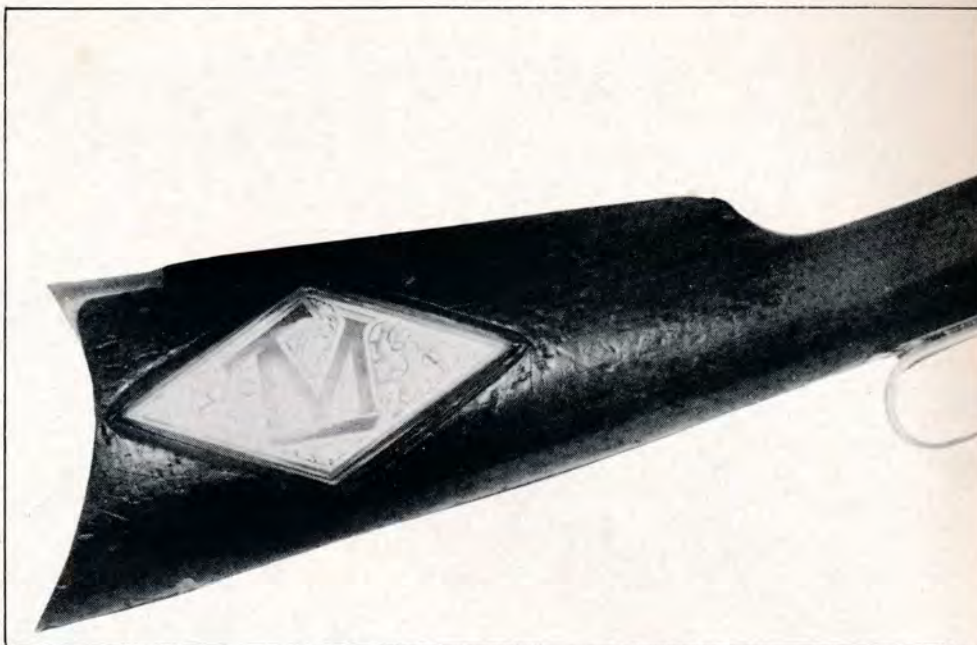
You may also date yourself by remembering those exciting Saturday matinees when Tom Mix and his wonder horse, Tony, performed in their latest epic. They were worth every hard earned penny of the five or ten cent admission charge. Between 1909 and 1935 Tom starred in over 350 western films. If you are lucky you might still catch one of these rare epics featured on the late, late television show.

Tom Mix shared his glory with his famous horse, Tony, who always received star billing. This magnificent sorrel was easily identified by the white "stockings" and the narrow white band down the center of the face. Tony, the wonder horse, earned his stardom the hard way by plunging over steep cliffs into a lake, jumping over wide chasms or high stone walls, or leaping from a train: nothing was too daring for these two famous stars.

Tom Mix was without a doubt the most flamboyant personality to flash across the silver screen. His prowess and flashy dress was the beginning of a new streamlined Western, unheard of in the William S. Hart era, nor was he surpassed by future movies or new stars depicting the West.

His background, before becoming a Western idol, is packed with real adventures, some more exciting than his movie roles. But like many heroes of the cinema, a great deal of controversy has been injected into his past because of over-zealous publicity agents. Although born in Pennsylvania in 1880, he was publicized as being Western born. Before becoming a cowboy he is credited with soldiering in the Spanish American War, the Philippine insurrection, and later in the Boxer Rebellion in Peking, China. After being mustered out of the army he managed to accompany a shipment of horses to the British troops in Africa. Throughout his soldiering career he is alleged to have been in all the action and wounded several times. True or false, one thing is for sure: he did learn how to handle firearms and to fight.

After his sojourn in service, Tom migrated to the West. His career epitomized almost every boy's dream of adventures as soldier, sheriff, Texas Ranger, Deputy U.S. Marshal. Although much of Tom Mix's career preceding his entry into the movies was colored by the movie studio publicity department, there does exist documentary evidence validating his service in the Army and as law officer. His



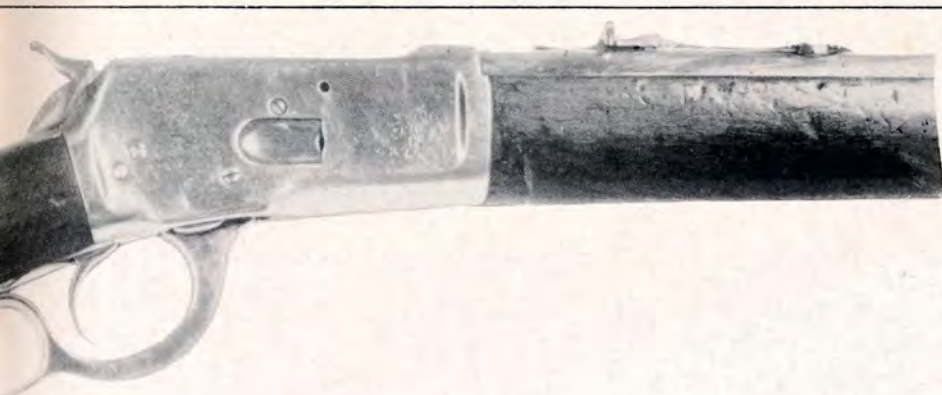
Pair of Colt SAA revolvers. Both have seen plenty of action in Tom Mix westerns. Top, cal. .45, pearl grips, bottom, cal. .38-40, bone grips. All photos with the exception of lower right, this page, Tom Mix Museum.



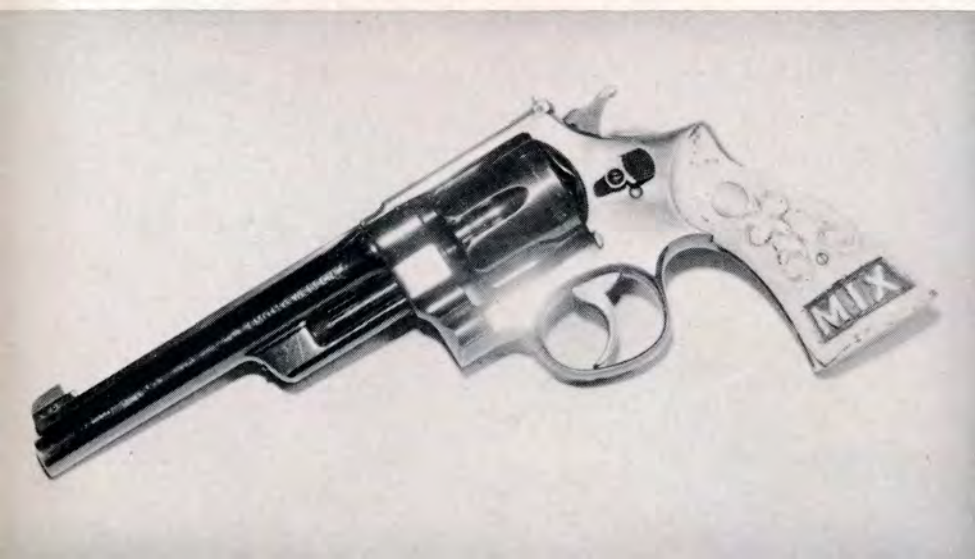
Mix admiring a presentation Ithaca from Al Malaikah Temple in 1920.



Mix with the Tom Mix Circus in 1936. Note gun belt and the fancy clothes.



This Model 1892 Winchester was used by Tom Mix in his circus act. It is .44 caliber, smooth-bore, serial #925114. It has a large diamond-shape "TM" brand engraved on a silver and blue plate. This gun, too, shows a lot of hard use.



"Tom" is engraved on one grip while "Mix" is on the opposite side. Tom liked to carry this S & W .357 Mag. in a shoulder holster when possible.



This matched set of Colt Official Police revolvers with pearl grips and nickel plating was one of Tom's favorites. Serial numbers 530719, 524511.

discharge papers state that he was honorably discharged on April 25, 1901 as a 1st Sergeant of the 48th Company of the Coast Artillery. He enlisted April 1898 for three years and received several classifications of medals including: 1st Class Gunner, Sharpshooter, and Distinguished Marksmanship.

As to his Texas Ranger service, he was a Ranger in Co. B, according to his Ranger papers dated September 22, 1905, and signed by Tom R. Hickman, Capt., Ranger Force.

In papers from the U.S. Marshal's Office, dated March 15, 1934, Tom held the rank of Deputy U.S. Marshal, as signed and attested to by U.S. Marshal J. R. Wright.

It was with the Miller Brothers' famed 101 Ranch of Marland, Oklahoma, that Tom Mix prepared for his then unknown future vocation as a hard riding cowboy. He was with the 101 Ranch from about 1906 to 1909. Later, the 101 Ranch was to become one of the greatest Wild West Shows in America. Tom Mix never became a featured performer with the 101 Ranch Show, even after he became a famous Western star.

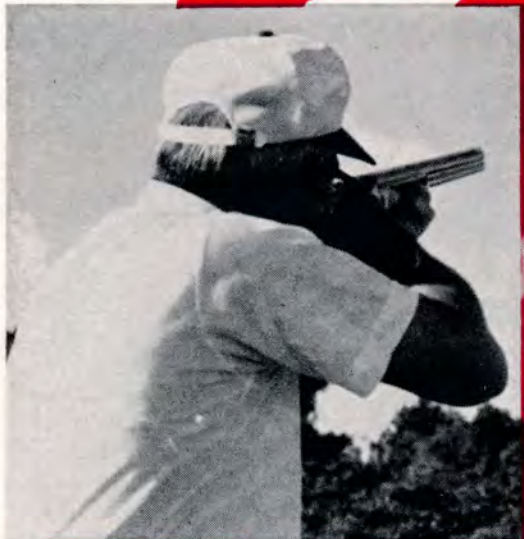
After leaving the 101 Ranch he bought a ranch of his own in the Cherokee territory near Dewey, Oklahoma. But the sedate life of ranching wasn't for him. It was here that the Selig Moving Picture Company used his ranch for location, and Tom offered his services. From this small beginning, a long and varied career in show business was launched. This was the beginning of a fabulous show career to span 31 years of movie making, and as a Wild West Show and Circus hero.

Tom Mix survived as a Western hero throughout the silent film era. He brought to the screen a new image of a cowboy. Unlike the William S. Hart type who played both good and bad guy and always dressed as a rugged and realistic tough Westerner, Tom Mix brought to the screen a completely new character who never drank, swore, or killed if it could be avoided. Long before the art of fast draw became a must in a Western, the holsters he wore were usually big and of soft leather, constructed with the idea of holding the gun securely so the hero wouldn't lose his gun during his perilous chases on horseback.

As to shooting, more often Tom Mix look like he was throwing the bullets, with the upward and downward slashing motions used when he was alternating (continued on page 54)

TEST REPORT

By B. R. Hughes



It was at the National Sporting Goods Association's trade show in Houston last February that I first saw one of Richland Arms' Model 828 over-under shotguns. To say that I was impressed would be an understatement!

Consequently, I made arrangements with Mr. Tom Heagland of Richland to field test one of the petite 28 gauge scatterguns at the earliest possibility. I specified 28" barrels choked M&F.

Several weeks later the package from Blissfield, Michigan arrived at my local sporting goods store. I hurried down and quickly opened the box. My initial impression, gathered at Houston, had not been wrong. This indeed was a real sweetheart. The 828 was light, responsive, and it came up nicely. Joe Bond, the genial manager of Riley's Sporting Goods in Texarkana, Texas, who had agreed to accept the gun through the mails for me, was as

impressed with the 28 as I, which speaks well for it. My next concern was to see to it the 828 shot as well as it looked.

I collected a couple of boxes of 28 gauge ammo, a carton of clay pigeons, and Steve Middlebrooks, a fellow shooter who happens to own a Trius Trap. We headed for the shooting grounds, and proceeded to shoot up every round of 28 ammo we had.

To make a long story short, the little 28 shot every bit as well as it looked! Neither Steve nor I missed a clay target when thrown as a single, although we didn't do as well on doubles. I was again impressed with how well the little gun came up to point. A couple of days later I got a bit more ammunition and patterned the barrels. Using Remington fodder containing three quarters of an ounce of number 6 shot, the lower, modified barrel pro-

duced patterns averaging 58 percent, while the upper, full choked tube turned in 71 percent patterns.

These are well-balanced patterns, and at 40 yards both barrels could be depended upon for reliable execution on game. Unfortunately, in April and May there is nothing of a game bird nature that can be hunted in Texas or Arkansas, but I did turn the 828 loose on a few crows called in with the aid of a "Call of the Wild" electronic game call. With three-quarters of an ounce of number 9 shot, the 28 gauge folded any crow within 45 yards that I put the pattern on. Now I'm just eagerly awaiting next dove season, when I plan to put the 828 to the test on what I consider to be the most challenging target for a wingshot.

On the matter of vital statistics, here are a few figures the potential customer for an 828 will be interested in:

RICHLANDS **MODEL** **828**



weight, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds; length of pull, 14"; drop at comb, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; drop at heel, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The gun features a ventilated rib of uniform one-quarter inch width. I believe I would prefer a tapered rib, but I'm sure this would up the price. The wood on the 828 sent me was beautifully figured walnut with skip-line hand checkering of 16 lines to the inch. The forearm features a release of the type found on the Parker. A non-selective single trigger is standard, but given my druthers, I'd have bid for a double trigger if a selective single trigger was too expensive. The action locks up by means of a Greener-type crossbolt.

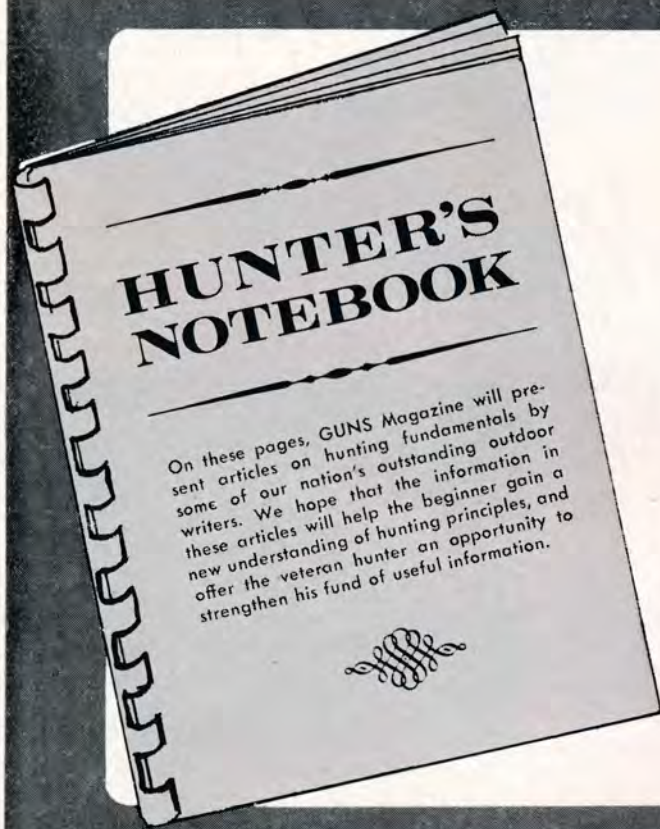
The fit of metal to metal is better than I am accustomed to seeing on moderately-price foreign imports, as is the fit of wood to metal. The finish of the external metal surfaces is very satisfactory, and I am impressed by

Top: the 828 lacks auto ejectors but removing the empties is quite easy.

the lack of waves on the exteriors of the barrels. The overall impression of Richland's 828 is very good.

Price-wise, the 828 retails at \$268, and I personally consider it a good buy at this cost. I feel a lot of American shotgunners are going to fall in love with this handsome little smooth-bore. Now if dove season will just hurry up and get here!





BASICS of DEER HUNTING

By BERT POPOWSKI

Twelve steps to productive
deer hunting from the leading authority
on game—from crows to caribou

I believe that far more good deer hunters can be produced in arm-chairs than ever mature in the actual hunting fields. By that I mean that basic deer hunting can be more frequently learned from sound articles, books and conversation than by random willy-nilly hikes in deer habitat. Once the tyro has learned the basic rules—and follows them—he can be just as successful as the veteran of 40 years of deer hunting.

Unless he is hunting for a specific trophy animal the experienced hunter takes a tolerant view of a hunting area crawling with inexperienced deer hunters. He knows that they will be making many mistakes, each of them keeping the deer moving until a suitable animal shows within range of his rifle. Since the game will then be watching its back track it usually provides an easier and surer shot than if the hunter had personally routed it out of its daytime bed. So, actually, the tyros simply make the veteran's success just that much more certain.

Of course, success occasionally blesses the greenest of tyros. But it is not consistent, and that is what makes deer hunting so challenging. Even the experts sometimes commit small but significant mistakes and have to drag on late in the season before they hang their venison.

I am comically reminded of one such veteran and his fruitless pursuit

of any kind of an eating buck during a full three weeks of a 30-day season. Meanwhile his wife had been a member of several hunting parties which collected from one to three bucks during every expedition. Finally this frustrated vet, after listening to his wife's cheerful report of one day's outing, exploded with a challenging demand: "Why don't you quit messin' around and get in some meat?"

The very next day the lady obliged, with a very handsome white-tailed buck that she coolly shot through the butt of the neck; with a mere .222 yet! Then, while her husband hung and skinned that gutted animal, enthusing all the while at the eating condition of the carcass and the meat-saving shot which had produced it, she sank the barb.

"Dearie, why don't *you* quit messin' around and fill *your* tag?"

The veteran choked on his wrath so he didn't subsequently enjoy the splendid meal of liver (from the three bucks we'd taken that particular day) with onions and various other comestibles the lady whipped up for the six-hunter party. Every time he opened his mouth he was set to some menial chore, or raucously asked as to when he'd collect some eating meat. He finally made the grade, on the 29th day of a month-long South Dakota season.

On the contrary, let's take George

"Lefty" Hansen as an example of a luck-struck tyro. Lefty was a grown man when he got talked into joining his card-playing pals on their annual deer hunt. True to form they spent most of the pre-opening-day night around the poker table. The collectors of big pots called for a round of drinks and the big losers similarly sought to drown their disappointments. The time circled around to within a couple of hours of legal shooting time before this "friendly" cutthroat game broke up.

Lefty, nursing a monumental hangover, wanted only to sleep it off. But his buddies wouldn't hear of it, poured him full of black coffee, handed him his rifle and hauled him off to the deer woods. He faded badly during the first hour or so but felt even worse when a bright sun came up. So he deserted a drive, found himself a handy log in a sunny area and laid his suffering body behind it for a rest. Fifteen minutes later he looked up as a twig snapped and sighted a fine whitetail buck coming toward him. He upped with his brand-new rifle, downed the buck, and thereby won the \$25 jackpot for the party's first deer.

"Is that all there is to this deer hunting?" demanded a smug Lefty. "Why I should have started that years ago!" Then he piled insult on injury by hauling his buck to camp, hanging

it, and then piling into bed for the day. For the rest of that ten-day trip he was the perfect camp tender. While the rest of the party worked its tails off, Lefty kept the camp in wood and water and manufactured the evening meals, and indulged in an occasional day-time nap to break the monotony. Naturally, at the evening poker sessions, he was keen as a fresh-honed razor.

But after that brief romance with Lady Luck Lefty hunted from a week to ten days annually for the next six seasons and didn't collect so much as a hair. He saw some deer in the woods but identified only a couple of them as bucks—and he missed those. His bit of beginner's luck had run out and, since he didn't know the dozen basic rules of the sport, he simply never was in the right place at the right moment.

If you've had any experiences similar to these and are having a deer hunting drought, here are a dozen basic rules to follow:

1. Don't stroll through deer country out in the open, clomping noisily through brush while swapping knee-slapping stories. Confine your funny-

bone ticklers to camp and home. While hunting, stay in cove, walk slowly and softly, and stop often to examine cover all around, even behind you. Deer have been known to follow a hunter to find out just what in heck he is up to.

Many a cat-footed hunter, prepared for a full day of hard hunting, has eased up to his buck within the first hour or so after dawn and is back in camp for lunch. Late afternoon and early evening is another choice time to achieve instant luck in deer hunting.

Finally, don't downgrade the simple method of sitting on stand. Pick a spot overlooking some natural narrowing of the country or cover—a saddle between two hills, a narrowing of cover where a point of brush or timber reaches toward another, or a spot where a level of land branches out in several directions—and place yourself to one side of it so deer traveling in both directions won't come up behind you. Stay motionless, don't smoke and keep your eyes and ears constantly working and have your rifle ready. The stump-warmers and the log-riders kill an awful lot of whitetails during every hunting season.

2. Don't expect deer to be concentrated only on the sunny sides of ridges and other wind-breaking shelters. They're outfitted with warm coats, underlaid with heavy tallow, and what is a comfortable location for you might be uncomfortably warm for them. So they lay up in areas which give them plenty of concealing and escape cover but also allows them to see, hear and smell approaching hunters.

Actually, the hunter who covers the best habitat is the one who moves the most deer. If he moves slowly and warily he will see some of them and get shots at his fair share. The blunderer, who crashes through with all sound effects going, may move fully as many deer but will probably be unable to identify bucks and get shots at none of them. As a matter of fact some bucks, able to pinpoint his whereabouts exactly, may merely drift out of his line of travel and not even leave a choice piece of concealing habitat.

3. Remember that deer are chiefly nocturnal animals. During the daytime they generally lay up and chew their cud. Most of the moving deer you see then have been spooked by careless hunters and they're on their way to another choice hideout. But they'll be moving cautiously and staying in cover as much as possible. Only when they're forced to cross open spaces will they move at a goodly rate of speed unless, of course, they've been spooked by shooting or some other substantial scare.

There are exceptions to this general rule but they're almost entirely caused by current or oncoming weather. During overcast days deer are usually much more restless than when the sun shows during all of the daylight hours. Also, during the hours preceding oncoming stormy weather, they'll be up and feeding at almost any hour of the day. They know bad weather is coming but can't forecast its duration. So, just to be on the safe side, they fill their bellies with food which may be covered by foot-deep snow during the period of storm.

4. The only time you should walk hunting country with the wind at your back is when you're trying to drive deer to your partners on stands. Even then it's smart to make your drive in a cross-wind direction so that any buck trying to break back through the line of drivers can't exactly locate any of them by their slip-streams of scent.

Continued on page 57



NOT ONE THIN DIME of Federal money will go toward supporting the fortieth annual ISU World Championships to be hosted by Phoenix, Arizona in October of this year. This bit of news is "man bites dog" news of the highest order, because the ISU World Shooting Championships are a plum on a par with the Olympic Games, are eagerly competed for by most European and South American countries, and by most developed nations of the world.

Not only are the ISU World Shooting Championships a highly coveted plum for the host nation, but the games in other nations receive maximum support from all governmental agencies, including the military. Egypt, for example, despite its economic troubles, built a magnificent three million dollar facility to host the 1962 Championships where Gary Anderson set the new world record in rifle competition. Weisbaden and West Germany were fine hosts and very pleased with the 1966 games, reporting substantial and long-lasting benefits from hosting the shooting championships.

Why, the reader might ask, are the 1970 World Shooting Championships a non-event in the eyes of the United States government? The answer is quite simple. As the reader perhaps knows well, the National Rifle Association had the temerity to resist a small clique of powerful United States senators in their attempts to impose unwise and unwarranted arms legislation on this nation.

Rules of the International Shooting Union provide that the member association in any nation is responsible for conduct of all international shooting events in which shooters from that nation participate. The member group in the United States is the National Rifle Association. Through the great power that is vested in a United States Senator, the small band of anti-gun senators have made sure that the NRA receives no support from any agency of government in the conduct of its affairs, including national (Camp Perry) or world shooting championships.

This situation provides an ironic twist, because there are very few international events of any nature which provide as much opportunity for people-to-people diplomacy as does the international shooting circuit. Many of the shooters, coaches, team officials, and association members are important and influential people in their respective countries, and, they move from country to country, where they can observe and compare.

There is a strong tinge of the tragic to this situation, when one reflects that much of our foreign aid, and aid



PULL!

By **DICK MILLER**

through the UN, goes to people who don't know the donor, and in too many cases could care less, or it is channeled to powerful individuals who use it to line their own pockets. A paltry few million dollars spent on hosting world shooting championship events could instill a love for and understanding of this nation in influential people from one hundred and six other nations, both free world and otherwise.

But, as this is written, for the reason mentioned, any support at all for the Phoenix 1970 World Shooting Championships will not come from Federal agencies, but must come from NRA, the city of Phoenix, civic groups, Maricopa County (who has done a magnificent job), the State of Arizona, the shooting industry, and friends of shooting everywhere. The logistics for hosting an event of this magnitude are mind-boggling. It is easy to see why the support of the host country's government is so necessary.

Here are just a few of the items, as enumerated by Mike Tipa, who is director of NRA International shooting, and also secretary of the ISU, to a meeting which I attended, of concerned Phoenix public and private agencies.

Housing must be provided for three to four thousand people; half of whom are shooters. Other facilities for up to eight thousand people must be provided. A multi-lingual P. A. System, at an estimated cost of \$7,000 is a must. Interpreters, in German, French, and Spanish, are necessary, at a usual cost of \$100 per day, plus transportation. There must be fifty team rooms (probably trailers) provided at Maricopa County's great Black Canyon Ranges, for the rifle and pistol games, and thirty team rooms at Phoenix Trap and Skeet Club, for the clay target games.

A room (trailer) must be provided for the armorer (he worked on the gun club porch at the 1969 dress rehearsals

in October of 1969). Some provision must be made for at least a temporary customs office in Phoenix, to avoid one or more of the rehearsal snafus, such as these. Ammunition for the Japanese team was sent via Pan-Am to San Francisco. Since Pan-Am does not fly to Phoenix, the shipment was given to another airline, who landed it at Tucson, because Phoenix is not a port of entry. The ammunition was placed in a bonded warehouse (late at night) and it was touch and go whether the Japanese team could compete as scheduled. Much the same problem plagued the West German team. Ironically, the East German team landed in Los Angeles, loaded their equipment into a rental car, and drove to Phoenix without incident.

Then there is the matter of experienced help, which is largely an internal problem. Col. Jim Crossman, director of the 1969 dress rehearsals, (required by ISU regulations), told me that the games could not have been held without the willing and unselfish help of NRA volunteers, who came from 26 states to help in the 1969 games. But, there were, and are, problems to be solved because there are very few civilians in the United States who have ever gained any experience in the conduct of international shooting events, which in many instances are quite unlike our domestic games.

For one little vignette on the 1969 games, I was visiting with one of the fine Mexican international trap competitors who had run a sparkling forty-eight straight, then got a slow pull which caused him to miss the 49th target. He wryly conceded that it was his own fault that he let this upset him so much that he also missed the fiftieth target. He explained that in all other countries of the world where he had competed, the target is called for by using a phonic device, which releases the target by recording the sound of the shooter's own voice. He said the contrast between phonic

and manual calls had bothered him throughout the shoot. Incidentally, the phonic calls had been ordered six months prior to the 1969 rehearsal, and arrived at the airport during opening day of the initial clay target games, too late for installation.

There are other little quirks of international competition which surprise the Yank gunner. For example, few gun clubs have to think of running a water line out to the firing points on a clay target range. Phoenix Trap and Skeet Club has to do this, so that international shooters may hose down gun barrels with water, to keep them cool. A group of veteran American international shooters confessed to me that this was one facet of international shooting they found hard to accept, when for, example, an Indian

I confess that as I mentally ticked off all the logistical problems to be solved in connection with hosting the 1970 World Championships sans any vestige of government support, I had almost reached the conclusion that we in the United States ought to cut and run, much as some knee-jerk liberals suggest in Vietnam, rather than risk a horrible fiasco in October, which could have world-wide reverberations that could exceed Vietnam in magnitude.

But, after attending the meeting of representatives from Phoenix civic, business, information media, and government groups, I could see that the people in Phoenix are real "can-do" people. After attending this meeting, I can understand why Phoenix is the fastest growing metropolitan complex in the United States.



maharajah would take a fine Purdey or similar shotgun, and unceremoniously hose it down with water on the firing line. One shooter confessed that he simply had not been able to do this to his own gun, which was several cuts short of a Purdey in price.

Speaking of guns, international clay target shooting is truly international in every respect. There seems to be little or no nationalism involved. I asked one of the German shooters (whether East or West, I don't know—so far as I could tell there was no distinction, either on or off the firing line) what gun he used, expecting him to name one of the German shotgun models. Turns out he used an Italian make. I asked Taro Asoh, the fine Japanese who took second in skeet, what gun he used, expecting that he would name one of the several Japanese brands. Not so for Asoh. He uses an American model, while some Americans used imports.

I also breathed a prayer of gratitude that the forbearers of most of the Phoenix people in the room had braved the blood, sweat, and tears of a Western migration to conquer a hostile environment, and that they have not yet been infected by the creeping namby-pambyism prevalent in so many sections of this nation.

You know, with a lot of help from a lot of people, I think they can do it! Phoenix can host the 1970 ISU World Championships in a manner which will bring credit to the U.S. in the eyes of people from 106 other nations.

But, there is one more observation which must be made. I will have to help, in any way that I can. You will have to help, in any way that you can, and a lot of other people will have to give the one hundred and ten percent that was given by so many in the great migration Westward. We, all of us, simply must not fail. The alternatives are too grim.



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GUNS OF TOM MIX

(Continued from page 47)

shooting with two guns. Often times his guns would be a mixture of the traditional Colt Single Action Army frontier model and several variations of the double action Colts. With double action type revolvers it gave our hero the advantage of throwing shots easier and faster, and looking more effective.

The flair, dash, and the exhilaration that Tom depicted in his screen heroics was eclipsed only by the flamboyant western clothes he wore—on or off the screen. Tom Mix was the best dressed cowboy with fancy tailor-made western suits, brocaded vests, handmade decorated boots, ornate silver inlaid gun belts, fancy engraved, silver plated, pearl or ivory handled guns, diamond studded spurs, and a diamond encrusted buckle that proclaimed him, "Tom Mix, America's Champion Cowboy."

When the sound movies came in, Tom Mix decided to stop making pictures temporarily and go on a personal tour with the Sells Floto Circus. He became an instant success, and the public thrilled to the opportunity of seeing Mix in person, doing many of the feats of expert horsemanship that he performed in his movies. To add to this, he put on a sharpshooting act that gave him even greater stature in the eyes of his many fans.

He made sound movies from 1932 to 1935, but the circus had become his new love. In 1935 he invested in a circus and wild west show that he took on tour. With him he had his daughter Ruth Mix, who was an expert horsewoman. The Mix show lasted for three seasons. By this time Tom Mix was no longer a young man. Then came that eventful day, October 12th, 1940. Tom was driving, at high speed, his Western decorated Cord sport car across the Arizona desert to Hollywood when he suddenly came upon a detour. He lost control of the car, and a heavy metal suitcase was thrown forward from the back seat, breaking his neck. It was great loss to his millions of fans and to show business.

He was 60 years old at the time of his death. He had lived a full life and left a legacy of memories that will never be forgotten. The nostalgic memories of all who will remember the legend of Tom Mix is best inscribed on a rock monument, with the statue of a riderless horse, located on the edge of Florence, Arizona:

"In Memory of Tom Mix, Whose Spirit Left His Body on This Spot

and Whose Characterizations and Portrayals in Life Served Better to fix Memories of the Old West in the Minds of Living Man."

The preservation of the legend of Tom Mix has now been made possible by the people of Bartlesville and Dewey, Oklahoma. On June 1, 1968, with official dedication ceremonies, the new Tom Mix Museum of Dewey, Oklahoma was open to the public. Here, preserved for all to see and enjoy, is a collection of Tom Mix memorabilia. The story of this fabulous collection is unique; in 12 days the townspeople of Bartlesville and Dewey raised \$40,000 to purchase this long hidden collection and help build this well constructed and air-conditioned museum to house it. William L. Halter, President of this project, should be given credit for creating the whole idea; his generous cooperation made this article possible.

Upon the death of Tom Mix in 1940, the personal items of Tom Mix, according to the probate of his will, became the property of the Ivon D. Parker Ranch of California. There was such a demand for any items or relics from the Mix Collection by souvenir hunters, collectors, and the general public, that Parker built a special room to house them, and the collection was placed, intact, in this hiding place. Only the closest of personal friends were ever shown this collection. After Mr. Parker passed away, and thru settlement of his estate, the Tom Mix Collection was passed on to his nephew and sons. Here again, because of the demand from fans for souvenir articles, they, too, had to conceal the collection from the public. Through friends, museum officials were able to contact the relatives and explain the desire to establish a museum in Dewey which could preserve forever these historical items and bring them before the public. The rest is history.

Artfully displayed in giant showcases are most of Tom Mix's fanciest cowboy gear, including: the \$15,000 sterling silver and hand-tooled black leather saddle, and many of his other saddles, a variety of spurs, bits, bridles, whips, handmade boots, and other riding regalia; plus trophies, personal mementoes, photographs, and even a life-sized replica of Tom's famous trick horse, Tony. Also on display are assorted documents of his military service and commissions as law officer; including his Texas Ranger badge, an Expert Rifleman badge, a

Deputy Sheriff Los Angeles County No. A239 badge, and one other, a Lieutenant, Los Angeles Aero Police #18.

The most outstanding part of this tremendous collection are 28 guns, all once owned and used by Tom Mix. To be able to present this many guns from one famous personage in a single collection is unique in itself. The collection consists of 14 handguns, 9 rifles, and 5 shotguns.

Two of his Colt Single Actions, used in many of his movies are; one, a caliber .45, 7½ inch barrel, with "T.E.M." engraved in the pearl handles, Serial No. 326113. The other, also with a 7½ inch barrel, caliber .38 W.C.F., with bone handles, and Serial No. 330558. Another Single Action model is a Bisley model with a 4¾ inch barrel, caliber .45, Serial No. 299014. This old shootin' iron shows a lot of honest wear. A very special revolver that Tom Mix liked to carry in a shoulder holster is a Smith & Wesson, Double Action, caliber .357 Magnum, Serial No. 55668. This particular revolver has white grips with "TOM" engraved on one side in red, and "MIX" engraved on the other side. A beautiful matched set of Colt Official Police double action revolvers, nickel plated, with pearl handles, caliber .38, show Serial Nos. 530719 and 524511.

One of the rifles that Tom used in his circus sharpshooting acts is a Winchester 1892 Saddle Ring Carbine, caliber .44 smoothbore, Serial No. 925114. A large "TM" brand is set in the stock on a silver and blue metal plate. Another prized piece is a Ithaca Single Barrel, 12 gauge Trap Shotgun, Serial No. 306516-T. In the stock is a gold plate inscribed, "To Tom Mix with grateful appreciation of Al Mal-ai-ka Temple, Oct. 9th, 1920."

A single shot Colt Derringer, Model #1, .41 rim fire caliber is inscribed on the barrel, "From Dan King III to Tom Mix."

The balance of the guns displayed includes the following:

Winchester 1892 Saddle Ring Carbine, caliber .38 W.C.F. A "TM" brand carved in the wooden stock.

A double barrel shotgun, 20 gauge, with the name Wm. Parkhurst on the side of the gun on a metal plate. This one appears to be quite old and has seen some use.

Marlin 1894 Saddle Ring Carbine, caliber .38-40. Deep "TM" brand carved in the old wooden stock.

Winchester 1892 Saddle Ring Carbine, caliber .44 W.C.F. This one has a rare Mexican silver coin inbedded in the wooden stock.

Winchester 1890, custom rifle, slide action repeater, caliber .22. Excellent

shape.

Winchester 1892, lever action rifle in .38 caliber W.C.F.; nickel plated.

A match set of Colt Officers Model, double action revolvers, caliber .38 Colt. "TM" brand and special engravings in the bone handle grips. Quite old but in excellent condition.

Smith & Wesson Model #3, single action, caliber .44 S&W. Nickel plated with dark walnut grips, excellent condition.

Smith & Wesson Model #10, double action revolver, caliber .38 Special. This gun is in mint condition, beautifully engraved, nickel plated with ivory grips.

Iver-Johnson, small double action revolver, caliber .22.

Match set of Colt Army Special double action revolvers, caliber .38 Colt. Both nickel plated with ivory grips.

Marlin Lever Action full magazine, .410 gauge shotgun, semi-pistol grip. Very good quality.

A custom Mauser bolt action rifle, 8 mm, by H. Barella, Berlin.

Another Winchester 1892 Saddle Ring Carbine, .44 Smoothbore used in Tom Mix Wild West Show and Circus.

Browning semi-automatic shotgun, 16 gauge.

Remington Model 11, semi-automatic shotgun, 12 gauge.

Winchester Model 1905, semi-auto clip fed rifle, .32 W.S.L. caliber.

Whether you are a collector or not, this array of firearms has to be unique and impressive; perhaps more because of its relationship to the King of Cowboys, Tom Mix.

This collection by no means represents all of the guns that have been associated with Tom Mix at one time or another. Scattered in other gun collections are other "Tom Mix" guns. There is known a Colt Bisley Model in caliber .41, an ornately engraved silver plated piece that was presented to Tom Mix by an admirer, Henry Fonda, who has himself been featured in many Western movies, is reported to have been gifted with one of Tom Mix's old six-shooters by his son, Peter. A gun collector in Canada obtained a Colt Army revolver, double action, caliber .45 smoothbore, with 7½ inch barrel; its distinction is the name of Tom Mix marked on the barrel, but unfortunately it could not be authenticated. Another gun associated with Tom Mix is a beautifully engraved, over—under shotgun by Marlin, with Tom Mix's signature inscribed on the side of the receiver.

As time goes by, most certainly more "Tom Mix" guns will come to light and they will all add to the legend of Tom Mix, "Straightshooter."

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(Continued from page 33)

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game. I have seen many big moose, elk and grizzly killed with this load and never saw a well placed shot that did not do a real good job.

I had two of the first Remington .280's that were brought out, both of them in the Model 725. For a number of years I loaned these to many of our hunters. I usually handloaded for them, and they were two of the most popular rifles we had for general Wyoming hunting. The bullet, slightly heavier than those of the .270, seemed to kill a bit better on the larger size game. The velocity of the handloads was almost the same as the .270 in comparative weights, such as using the 140 grain 7 mm against the 130 grain .270; or the 160 grain 7 mm as compared to the 150 grain in the .270. The game certainly couldn't tell the difference.

Although the .270 had a 27 year start on the .280 it still sold very well for quite sometime. About 1961 Remington realized there was a good sales potential for a properly engineered 7 MM Magnum—this was some time after Winchester had brought out their short magnum line of the .458, the .338, and the .264—so Remington introduced their 7 mm Magnum in 1962. This cartridge was very little different, ballistically, from the Weatherby 7 mm Magnum that had been out for several years. However, it was a standard case and not a proprietary cartridge and shooters would be able to make cases from most any magnum brass if they did not want to buy new brass or loads from Remington.

Also, and most important, Remington engineered new bullets, structured especially for the high velocities that this new cartridge would have. For this new 7 they brought out 150 grain and 175 grain bullets, later adding the 125 grain bullet. Remington took a calculated risk when they brought out this new cartridge, knowing that it would just about kill all demand for the .280. They were sure the new magnum cartridge would bring in enough business to offset this, and they were right.

The .280 is still a good cartridge, and in many cases a hunter is better off using it for certain kinds of game than the magnum. However, a large company must continue to show a certain amount of profit from any item in order to keep it on the market, and no doubt the sales of the bolt action .280 has fallen below this limit. For this reason it is quite un-

derstandable to see that in the latest Remington catalogues and spec sheets they no longer list the .280 chambering, except for the Model 742 auto-loader.

I have had a number of inquiries from owners of the .280 bolt action rifles asking if the cartridges might be discontinued in the near future. It most definitely will not be discontinued. There are thousands of .280's in use, both factory and custom guns, and the fact that Remington is still chambering for it in the Model 742 is assurance that it will be around for quite some time.

There is another cartridge that is also missing from the spec sheets on chamberings of Remington rifles this year. This is the .222 Magnum. In eliminating this one from their lists the economics of its value was of first consideration, but also there is the nuisance value of chambering for two cartridges that are so nearly alike in looks and ballistics as the .223 and the .222 Magnum.

Some years ago, the Army decided they needed a small cartridge and as they do in most cases like this, they looked neither right or left, but made their own decision as to the exact size they wanted. This size was almost identical with the commercial .222, already on the market. Actually the .223 was developed at about the same time as the .222 Magnum but was not put into general military use until later. The .222 Magnum was introduced for commercial use by Remington in 1958. It wasn't until the military started to use the 5.56, as they designated it, that Remington put it out commercially as the .223, in 1964.


Civilian shooters immediately began to have troubles with this situation, as the rounds were so much alike it was easy to get them mixed up. Although the .222 Magnum is considerably longer than the .223 case, a shooter can make a mistake if he happens to be in a hurry. The use of .223 ammunition in the .222 Magnum chamber allows for excessive head space and can have serious consequences to a shooter. The .222 Magnum also has a longer neck than the .223 and one half degree difference in shoulder angle.

Remington lists the velocities of the two cartridges as exactly the same. In practice, although there is a slight increase in case capacity, the resulting gain is minimal. Some bench rest shooters even believe the smaller case capacity makes for better accuracy.

Many of the top shooters use a case they call the .222½, which is just about half way between the capacity of the .222 Mag. and the old .222 Rem.

For a number of years I was very careful to see that no .223 ammunition ever got mixed up with my regular loads, and I didn't have any .223 ammunition in gun shop or around the shooting bench, for safety reasons. I have always felt that one or the other should be discontinued because of the nuisance and safety factors. However, as the military is quite definitely set on the use of the 5.56, and as its cases are the same as the commercial .223's except for the primer pocket swaging (and this can be ironed out), case availability of the .223's will far exceed that of the .222 Magnum's.

Since it is evident that the .17 caliber will be pretty definitely standardized on the .223 case, there is little doubt but that the .222 Magnum is the cartridge that should be side-tracked. Remington realizes this and no longer chambers for it, although they do have the .223 on their listings. There is no doubt that they will still manufacture ammunition for the .222 Magnum as well as for the .280.

If the military should release once fired brass of the 5.56 to the public, the .223 will certainly become extremely popular. Although I still own some .222 Magnums, any future cartridges I get in this headsize will be the .223 and the rock chucks and prairie dogs I shoot will never know the difference. 

TIPS ON DEER HUNTING

(Continued from page 51)

Trying to push deer upwind to hunters on stand is absolutely foolish. Deer, bucks especially, just won't work in on smelly hunters, no matter how well they're concealed or how quietly they sit. I've seen bucks stand quietly almost in the midst of a fusillade of shooting—at other deer of the band—until they figured out a safe escape route. But I have yet to see a buck fail to explode into instant flight when he smelled the rank scent of a hunter.

Some years ago I did a lot of late-autumn fishing in a grand deer area. That country also had a fine population of bobcats—which chiefly feed on rabbits but will snack on rodents from mice to squirrels, and a few mountain lions—which prefer deer but won't turn down any handy rabbits. But this was a time when the cyclic decrease of cottontails had nearly hit bottom. So both bobcats and cougars were hungry and were hounding deer as their handiest source of food.

Several times during those three autumns I saw terrorized deer on the move during daylight hours, when no deer would normally have been moving. Obviously they'd been harrassed by hungry predators, probably cats.

All the deer that passed upwind of me during that era continued their headlong flight. But any that got downwind of me, some as close as a dozen to 40 yards, virtually turned themselves inside out when they smelled me. They instantly swapped ends and headed right back to the area from which they had been fleeing, in obvious fear of their lives, only seconds earlier. Don't tell me

that human scent isn't more fearsome to deer than the smell or presence of their natural wildlife enemies!

5. Look for deer to the very maximum of your eyesight and, whenever you have the chance, examine cover with binoculars. You may catch the flick of an ear, the glint of sun on antlers, or the tail-twitches of standing deer. Once you have deer located it's a lot easier to sneak within range by stalking behind trees, brush or even ridge ends.

But don't try to Indian up within slingshot range. When you get within good range, which varies with the hunter's gear and shooting marksmanship, take your time and place a killing shot. It's usually far safer to make your bid with a medium to long shot on standing or slow-moving targets than to recklessly gamble on a hurried snap shot on low-flying bucks.

In either case, long shot or short, do not expect your buck to fall in his tracks like a punctured balloon. Even when fatally wounded, so badly hurt that he probably won't live more than ten to 30 seconds, many a buck leaves the premises on a high lope. It is only when he is instantly killed, or very badly disabled, that he'll be very near to the spot where he was shot. So the thinking hunter remembers the sight picture at the very split-second when his rifle went off. From it he deduces the location of his hit. Again, if he takes a middling long shot, when neither he nor his game is excited, he will do so at a relatively calm target

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and is thus in a far better position to call it a hit or a miss.

6. A fantastic percentage of hunters don't tutor themselves on the location of the vital areas of deer. They look at a broadside picture of a buck and, when asked the location of heart, lungs or liver, they stab a forefinger at the illustration in a pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey gesture. Although not blindfolded they might just as well be.

Some of the greenest of them will thus locate the heart somewhere near the middle of the lungs, or clear at their rear ends. Others seem to think the lungs run the full length of the upper half of the critter, from just behind the shoulder to just ahead of the rear legs. And, when it comes to locating the liver, a lot of those greenies say: "Huh? Whazzat?" They seem to think that liver is something you eat, not shoot at. Yet a liver shot is just as deadly as a heart or lung hit.

Finally, the wettest-eared of these tyros, regardless of their calendar age, hew to that ancient tradition that a shoulder shot beats all others. It's quite true that the shoulder shot, high, low or in the middle, will rapidly immobilize their game. If that shot is very low in that shoulder area it may hit the heart, plus breaking one or both lower front legs. If the shot hits high in the shoulder it may break both upper leg bones and, if high enough, may even sever the spinal column. But that shot isn't going to hit either heart or lungs. What it will do is damage a helluva lot of what might have been excellent eating meat.

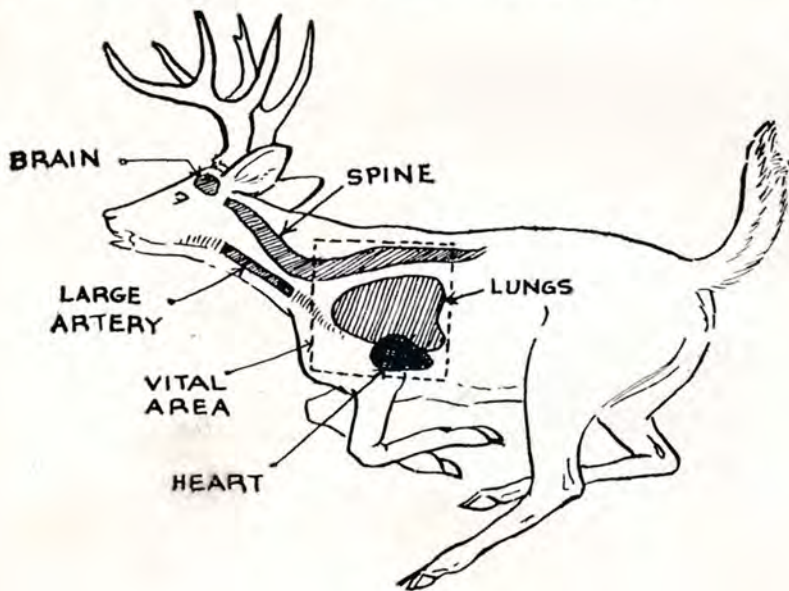
This shoulder-shot binge dates back at least four generations, when muzzle-loading rifles were in vogue. Their slow bullets would drop disabled bucks in their tracks with minimal meat damage. But modern high-velocity bullets make gory mincemeat and bone-meal out of the flesh-and-bone areas they penetrate. Even the lowly .30-30, using modern-day ammo, isn't an ideal meat-saver when used for shoulder shots. And such higher-speed bullets as those disgorged by most modern calibers are much worse.

It is my considered belief that shoulder shots, using modern calibers with suitable bullets, should be used only to immobilize such dangerous and inedible game as our large North American bears: grizzlies, Alaska Browns and polars. But using this shot on deer game, from whitetails to moose, is an admission of ignorance of what a mess our modern high-velocity loadings can make of edible venison. The only valid excuse for using

that outmoded shot is desperation, unless you're playing with one of the outmoded muzzle-loaders, just to learn how grandpappy did it.

A good way for the budding hunter to learn the important lesson of deer vitals is to memorize them from a pictured buck in a broadside stance, or from several such illustrations showing deer from various angles. I've trained several tyros in where to shoot for to collect instant venison. One of them, with no more practical experience in the deer woods than a close study of such poses, ran a score of 12 one-shot kills with 13 shots. Several others have done nearly as well, though on fewer targets where I was a personal observer.

A far better method is to get an accurately proportioned deer statuette—one from six to ten inches high is a good size—which can then be turned



throughout a full 360-degree circle so that shots from all points of the compass can be visualized. The fact that such an illustrative target is stationary is of little moment since few beginning deer hunters can make running shots except by accident. Even the experts seldom hit exactly where they want to on game moving faster than a slow trot.

Using such a statuette a do-it-yourself hunter can even use some of the nail polish the gals paint on their pinkies to designate the location and comparative size of the various vitals. Then, by turning such a model in all directions—above, below and at horizontal eye level—the tyro can easily visualize where his bullet must hit from any angle if it is to reach and fatally damage one or more vitals. Some of those will waste meat but they'll still produce one-shot kills. And, for the hunter who has limited

time afield, this pre-season training can produce venison when he doesn't have time to search for a perfect meat-saving pose of his tag-filling buck. Usually he doesn't have the time or patience or skill to hunt until he finds a buck within his limited marksmanship.

7. Deer hunters who park their vehicles just off a road or trail and then hunt around them are greatly reducing their chances at venison. True, a certain number of tags are filled close to woodland trails and even up to the edges of highways. But, once the season is a day or two old, such areas are shunned by deer as dangerous; except at night when most such "road hunters" are around the poker table or snoring in their bunks. Please remember that deer are nocturnal while hunters are diurnal.

Any hunter worth his salt starts hunting from the moment he leaves his vehicle or woodland cabin. But he seldom gets serious until he's a half-mile or more away from such areas of heavy human use. The fact that occasional bucks are shot within such areas makes most tyros hopeful that such lucky lightning will strike them. But it virtually never does. It follows that the farther you get away from areas of easy access the lighter the competition for game will be.

8. Just because deer have been killed in any given areas during previous years doesn't guarantee that they'll be there this year. Heavy hunting during the previous year, possibly invited by a two-deer either-sex bag limit, shortage of browse or plain winter-kill may have reduced deer to fragmentary popula-

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tions. Too, all the open areas of even choice game states aren't uniformly populated by deer. There are fair areas, good ones and excellent ones. The trick is to hunt deer in suitable habitat where they haven't been heavily reduced by various deer-killing pressures. Hunting them in lean areas can be a time-wasting proposition, especially for lightly-informed hunters.

Unless required by law, a guide isn't a compelling necessity but he can be a great help. Not only will he know all the trails to get you deep into choice deer range but he also knows where they feed and where they bed. A good guide may be nearly priceless because of his knowledge of habitat and habits while a poor one may actually lose himself in the very country through which he is supposed to lead you. Guides can also be of considerable help in gutting and helping drag out game. In many cases the

any member of the party can quickly locate it and administer it when needed. Such hunters should not only take it mighty easy but should also dress in warm lightweight clothing and carry a minimum of essential gear. Finally, if the hunting is to be done at elevations higher than the hunter is accustomed to, he should spend a few days in acclimating walking in that area before he commences serious hunting.

10. Job-softened hunters should have a complete physical checkup before they embark on any extensive hunting trip. It is perfectly amazing how many men who ride and fly in the course of their daily work think they're in the pink. Yet, when they arrive on the hunting grounds, they're unfit to walk more than a mile or two in search of game. Some of them are awfully smart in the business world

tically packed out of the mountains. He'd had his sheep hunt and he didn't like it, primarily because the country terrified him. From then on he was strictly a lowlands deer hunter.

11. The make, model or caliber of deer-hunting rifles is relatively unimportant, no matter how many drums have been beaten for specific ones. As long as they're legal, which automatically indicates that many hunters have previously successfully used them, they'll do a satisfactory job on deer. But they still require a hunter to steer their loads with reasonable efficiency. They won't do the job alone.

Actually the hunter should select a rifle for its handiness, reasonably light weight for carrying and of a level of recoil low enough so he isn't touchy about shooting the weapon. If he carries a moose or grizzly rifle into the deer woods he's doing himself a disservice. For he doesn't have to shoot a mere deer with enough foot-pounds of energy to slay animals which are several times the weight and of much higher life tenacity than that of a buck deer. While it is better to be over- than under-gunned that truism holds only as long as the hunter can maintain shooting accuracy.

Perhaps my scant regard for any one caliber as the "best" deer rifle is chiefly based on personal observation and experience. When Remington first brought out its .222 I became enamored of its superb accuracy and recoilless handling. First used on a variety of varmints I commenced wondering about its potential on smaller big game, from antelope through deer. Up to 200 yards it worked just fine, putting down unspooked game just as surely as if heftier rifles, ranging from the .250-3000 and .300 Savage through the .270 and .30-06, had been used. But at all moderate deer ranges, which means betwixt 50 to 100 yards, the .222 was far less damaging of meat, even when raking shots were occasionally unavoidable.

Using that original Model 722 Remington, and a later Sako, I trained two novices in marksmanship on assorted varmints. From personal experience I already knew how deadly the caliber was on smaller big game. So, when these tyros wanted to branch out into deer hunting and had no suitable rifles, they borrowed these two supposedly subdeer rifles with my complete approval.

Although the .222—like most .22 centerfires and other calibers of similar energy—is illegal for deer in most States, South Dakota hadn't yet banned it for big game. So those two



rough-country vehicles they drive can get right up to downed game so all dragging toil is eliminated.

9. Tens of thousands of cautioning words have been written about oldsters taking care of themselves in the hunting field. Most such Old Timers, and I am one of them, are trying to bag just one more buck. Some of them make it but a few of them don't. They are usually the ones who haven't learned that the snail-like deer hunter, the sitter on logs, is the one who gets his venison. Hurry-up deer hunting is for young, impatient and often luckless novices. But it can also be dangerous for those oldsters who aren't in good physical condition or may even be afflicted by heart weaknesses.

The latter type should never hunt alone. And their partners should not only know of their condition but, if they take medication, it should always be placed in the same pocket where

but they don't extend that intelligence to fit themselves for the demands of a hunting trip.

Take the case of the newlywed dude who had the fantastic luck to draw a Wyoming bighorn sheep permit on his very first try. He was a comparative youngster but had unfortunate physical and mental shortcomings; he wore glasses, used a hearing aid and was frightened of mountain heights. But he had that prized sheep permit. Now, with Buck Allemand guiding him, all he had to do was place one telling shot.

In spite of the fact that Buck had to practically lead him by the hand they worked up to within very moderate range of a band of eight sheep, including one grand full-curl ram. The dude proceeded to miss this lifetime trophy eight times, which is indicative that the range was short to begin with and was exposed for a considerable period of time. Although the sheep might have been stalked again that hunter had had it. He had to be prac-

novices proceeded to run a perfectly fantastic score on antelope and deer during the next several seasons. One racked up an even dozen one-shot kills on these two species, missing only one shot during that string. The other, with far less hunting time, added four more. It was an exhibition of continuous success that virtually any North American hunter, regardless of his armament, would have envied. I was proud of my two pupils and had a perfectly devilish time in refusing to sell them those two .222s. It just goes to show that if you put a bullet in the right place it doesn't take a moose-type rifle to knock over antelope and deer.

12. After a half-century of hunting, which touched 36 of these United States and four Canadian Provinces, I now find myself hunting as much for ideal habitat as for game. For, unless the wildlings find suitable food and shelter they will be in short supply in any inferior or unsuitable habitat. This is no ponderous reasoning on my part. It is merely an undeniable fact of adequate supplies to maintain wildlife.

It follows that an occasional deer will make do on short rations and scant shelter. But such marginal habitat is incapable of supporting any significant quantity of deer. If deer multiply beyond available food they will suffer malnutrition, which automatically invites decimation by disease, weather and predation. Miles of unbroken prairie grassland are, alone, incapable of maintaining a healthy crop of antelope, which demand sagebrush as their basic food, plus forbs and other non-grass fodder during some months of the year. Pronghorns will turn to some introduced foods, of which legumes are quite popular. But ranchers and farmers who raise such feed for domestic livestock quickly learn to hate raiding antelope.

There are many other parallels. The sage grouse, the largest member of the far-flung grouse family, can't exist in any area bereft of sagebrush. In such areas the species will die off to the vanishing point very quickly, though it may make out in areas of introduced legumes. So will prairie chickens if compelled to live in areas where a high percentage of the virgin sod has been plowed under or overgrazed. The dearth of diver ducks during the last decade is entirely attributable to draining of their deep-water habitat and its suitable foods. The ringneck pheasant, once thought to be a prime corn-country bird, will virtually vanish from areas which don't provide limestone in the soil,

thus in the birds' food. Additionally, drought and heat, which prevent proper hatching of clutches of eggs, have kept ringnecks from successfully invading many areas south of the Mason-Dixon line, except in fragmentary and short-lived numbers.

But everywhere, regardless of whether the species is haired, furred or feathered, a lack of year-around habitat can doom it to token numbers. If that habitat lacks suitable food the species will be highly vulnerable to malnutrition and associated disorders. It lacks shelter, cold, snow and predation are the chief killers. In good habitat it is almost impossible to extirpate a game species by mere hunting, no matter how heavy. But habitat shortcomings will do it in short order.

This, my final suggestion in becoming a capable deer hunter, is perhaps the most important. But it is closely integrated with sound game management, possible only when adequate habitat is first provided. Politics has never been beneficial to sound game management chiefly because few politicians are soundly grounded in hunting let alone informed on efficient game control. Actually, no group can legislate game into being where sound year-around habitat is unavailable. By the same token no species of game in this modern era has ever been built to hunting populations without the interested help of hunters, frequently despite political pressure to the contrary.

We have many examples of political bungling where game is concerned; from the destruction of the great Kaibab deer herds of Arizona through the removal of their natural predators until the deer overran their range and starved down to fragmentary numbers, to the present protection from hunting of deer, and other game, on our National Park and Monuments lands until they have to be thinned by butchering. Controlled hunting and natural predation keep game pruned within the capacity of its range to support it, while mass butchering is usually resorted to only when habitat has already been sadly depleted.

The dozen hints I've cited heretofore can easily put venison in your deep freeze, but only if you study them well before the season opens and the hour to put them in practice arrives. No one was ever born a natural deer hunter nor did he achieve his skills by instinct. Instead, his ability to annually bag venison is entirely due to employing some of the preceding tips during one season, and perhaps all of them during another. It is the hunter who knows them all who is most consistently successful.

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COLT BREVETES

(Continued from page 27)

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S. Colt."

"I do not intend to allow my Belgium produced arms to be sent to America for sale. . . ." so said Sam Colt. Apparently, Colt could not maintain a tight surveillance on his arms contractors nor was the legal machinery adequate to protect his interest, as warnings to firearm dealers both in Europe and the United States were continually published. It is not difficult to understand why the manufacturers were passing the arms over the transom, as the royalty of ten francs was almost equal to one-fifth

the retail price of arms. Some enthusiasts regard the quality of material used to make copies marked "Colt Brevete" made by N. Gilon as superior to all others—such is not the case. From a metallurgical analysis by an X-ray spectrometer, there is no appreciable difference. Generally, copies marked "Colt Brevets" or "Colt Patent" are more desirable because the workmanship is more professional. For example, the ship scene roll engraved on the Navy Models closely resemble that of the Colt Navy Model of 1851. Whereas the Brooklyn Bridge scene on the other models is rather crude.

"I have seen samples of the arms that are infringements upon my patents. They are the most infurnal productions I have ever seen . . ." so said Sam Colt.

Colt-marked copies are interesting and certainly have a status in the Colt collections, but remember, as Sam Colt said, "Beware of cheap imitations," especially those intended to resemble a Colt franchised Belgian produced model.

POINT BLANK

(Continued from page 17)

made in Philadelphia. Before World War II, the original Fox company was sold to the Savage Arms Corporation. This latter outfit kept right on making the Fox shotgun but modern techniques of design and manufacture were embodied and today's Fox bears only a superficial resemblance to the original. The fellow with an Ainsley Fox may get it put into shape by Savage but query them first. The company still retains some of the original parts but not many.

testers that the self-loading pistol was the more accurate.

One time I fired a series of 10 groups, each group of 10 shots, at 50 yards. The revolver was the Colt Officers Model Match, and the ammo was selected target quality. The revolver was cinched up in a HEG machine rest. The HEG is one of the best of all the handgun rests. This shooting produced these results.

1st group	.....	4.02"
2nd "	.....	3.75"
3rd "	.....	4.10"
4th "	.....	5.22"
5th "	.....	3.90"
6th "	.....	3.46"
7th "	.....	3.86"
8th "	.....	3.96"
9th "	.....	4.00"
10th "	.....	4.10"
Average	.....	4.03 inches

PISTOL MATCH shooters now shun the .38 revolver. Instead all the winners fire an automatic, usually the .45 Model 1911, accurized, or the S&W Model 52 in .38 wadcutter caliber. This swingover from the revolver has occurred since the end of World War 2. Before that the cylinder gun was the choice of all the target panners. What happened was that machine rests were improved and by the use of these devices it was proven to the satisfaction of all the observers and

After this firing with the .38 revolver I then fired 100 shots, following exactly the same procedure only this time I used a .45 auto that had been given a refitting by one of our best pistolsmiths. The ammunition was likewise selected. It was 185-gr. Remington wadcutter of target quality.

The HEG rest was again used and the distance was the same.

1st group	.....2.75"
2nd "	.....3.10"
3rd "	.....2.90"
4th "	.....2.10"
5th "	.....1.98"
6th "	.....3.50"
7th "	.....3.27"
8th "	.....2.80"
9th "	.....2.64"
10th "	.....3.10"
Average	.....2.80 inches

The 10-ring on the Standard American target measures 3.39 inches. In selecting any handgun as a target proposition we quite naturally want a shooting iron that will group all its shots inside the 10. The .38 would not do this. The 4.03" average which it turned in for the 100 shots was too broad to be held within the inner circle. The .45 auto, on the other hand, shot well within the diameter of the 10-ring and accounts for the fact that ranking pistol marksmen have abandoned the cylinder gun for the auto-loader.



Why is it the best of the target revolvers will not shoot up to the best of the automatics? The trouble lies in the design of the older arm. The revolver has a barrel in one part and a chamber in the other and there is a gap between them. Along with this the cylinder is too long for the cartridge and as a result the bullet has to make a long jump to enter the barrel. The thirty-eight was designed for a 158-gr. round nose bullet which extended from the cartridge casing almost a half-inch. Now the targetman fires a wadcutter bullet which weighs 148 grains and is seated completely within the casing. This necessitates a free flight of .5-inch from the mouth of the shell to the barrel breech.

This wild jump is poorly controlled. The forward portion of the chamber is considerably larger than the bullet. While the slug will measure approximately .358" the chamber will run about .379", a fit which is not conducive to accuracy. The bullet almost invariably strikes one side of the barrel throat and leaves a deposit of lead. When this happens it is not in alignment with the axis of the bore and the battering contact puts a flat side on the slug. This does a lot of harm to accuracy.

The barrel and the chambers in the cylinder depend, for good alignment, on three things. The cylinder hand, the cylinder bolt and the extractor. The cylinder hand has a nose and a shoulder just back of the nose. The cylinder bolt falls into notches cut in the periphery of the cylinder and is not too important. The ratchet-extractor serves both as a means of ejecting empty shells and also provides 6 shoulders for the cylinder hand to work against in turning each chamber into line with the bore.

The nose of the cylinder hand nudges the cylinder 1/6th turn and as this turning motion is completed the shoulder on the hand comes to rest against the notch in the extractor. If the fit between the hand and the extractor is a sloppy one then there will be poor alignment between chamber and barrel. The bullet will hit off-center and accuracy will suffer. This is a common source of trouble in revolvers and accounts in no small part for the fact that the better auto pistols out shoot them.

When shooting pistol matches, I used to test every chamber in the .38 revolver and after extensive shooting select the chamber which delivered the tightest groups and best scores. Because of the wear which occurs to the cylinder hand and to the extractor, you will invariably find that one or two chambers in the revolver will align better than the others. These then deliver better targets.

A test of a .38 Officers Model Match, which included firing 5 groups of 10 shots each from all the 6 chambers, 50 yards, HEG rest, turned up these results:

1st chamber	.....3.92"
2nd chamber	.....4.10"
3rd chamber	.....3.76"
4th chamber	.....3.50"
5th chamber	.....4.27"
6th chamber	.....3.86"

The best chamber was No. 4, the worst was No. 5, and the average for all 6 chambers was 3.90 inches. These differences are almost invariably due to the poor fit between cylinder hand and the ratchet-extractor. It is significant that when the revolver was loaded as it must be for match shooting, that is with 5 rounds, and these were fired, the average group ran 4.03 inches. But when the gun was fired one chamber at a time the group shrank to 3.90 inches. This shows that once the marksman has determined which chamber in his revolver is best he should be permitted to fire it exclusively in the slow fire stage rather than to compel him to shoot out the 5 rounds without reloading. This is a sort of stupid rule.



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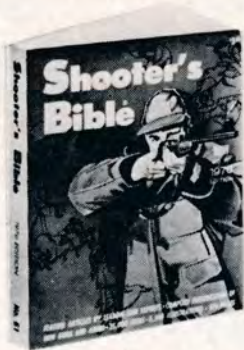
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THE TWIN SHOT SHELL from Penguin Industries was developed for dispersing hazardous flocks of birds from orchards, farmlands, vineyards and airport runways. It provides two powerful reports, one upon firing and another three to five



seconds later up to 200 yards from the shooter. Packed 5 cartridges per box @ \$1.65 from Penguin Industries, Inc., Dept. G-2, P.O. Box 97, Parkersburg, Pa. 19365.

BROWNING ARMS COMPANY has introduced four hand-finished hunting knives that feature richly grained Brazilian rosewood handles flanked by highly polished brass butt caps and handguards.



Blades are of 440 stainless steel which is acclaimed for its ability to hold an edge. Prices start at \$22.50 from Browning Arms Co., Dept. G-2, Route #1, Morgan, Utah 84050.

WHITTAKER'S "RIFLE ROOST" can be used on almost all vehicle doors. For both long and short guns, it protects the bluing and stock of the weapon. Quick



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FOR BLUEING AND TREATING gun parts, Heatbath Corp. is now offering two units. A three-tank Gunsmith Unit has three tanks; two heated for the Penetrate solution and one unheated for cold water rinse. The six tank unit offers facilities



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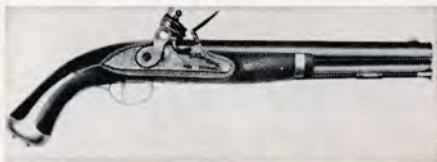
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original stamping. This gun does not fall under the federal firearms legislation since it is considered in the antique category. Price of the Harper's Ferry Flintlock Pistol is \$90.00 from Navy Arms Company, Dept. G-2, 689 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, N.J. 07657.

A NEW BOOK IS now in the offing from David McKay Co., Inc., New York. Titled "How To Defend Yourself, Your Family, And Your Home" and written by George Hunter, the book answers many questions on how to defend the home and family from burglars, rapists, murderers, etc. The material is slanted toward the average individual who knows that self-protection is becoming increasingly important because of the sky-rocketing crime rate. Available for \$6.95 from David McKay Co., Inc., Dept. G-2, New York, N.Y.

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S & K MFG. CO. announces the production of a unique, "See through" steel riser block for their conventional, drill and tap type scope mounts. These risers feature a windage adjustment and permit the simultaneous use of either iron sights or scope. The company guarantees the block will not squash or collapse under even the most rigorous usage. The mount bases retail at \$7.50 a set, the streamlined rings at \$11.00 pr. and the U N blocks at \$4.00 a pair from S & K Mfg. Co., Dept. G-2, P.O. Box 247, Pittsfield, Pa. 16340.

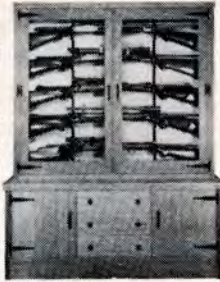
CINCINNATI INDUSTRIES, INC., has introduced a new Cindus Gun/Tote, the **Grand National**, largest in the company's complete line of fiber-molded gun cases. The **Grand National** holds two shotguns or scoped rifle, or a large camera with all its accessories and a



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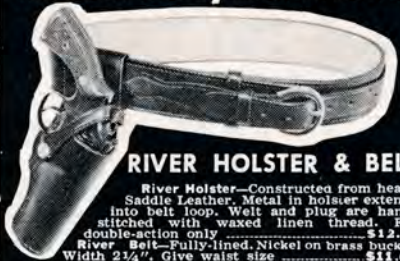
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MAUSER OR ASTRA?

(Continued from page 25)

the sideplate. There is a brightly polished pin just above the words CAL 7.63 which are stamped on the sideplate. Now with the safety lever lined up with groove, push the pin from the right side and take it completely out. The sideplate can now be removed. To do so there is an indentation at the rear of the sideplate that looks like the nose of a bullet. Using this indentation push the sideplate to the right and slide it off the frame. With the sideplate off you can see the internal working parts of the gun. Next the barrel and the barrel extension can be removed from the frame. This is accomplished by removing another brightly polished pin which is located just to the left of the first pin. Push this pin from the right and take it out. Now lift the barrel and barrel extension off the top of the frame. The

firing pin, bolt stop, bolt, and the recoil spring can be stripped from the barrel extension exactly as you would remove these pieces from the Mauser. Finally the locking components can be removed one by one from the frame. This takedown procedure is slightly more complicated and much harder than the takedown of the Mauser.

When it comes to making a choice between the Mauser and the Astra, it's a matter of personal preference. From a standpoint of material, finish, and craftsmanship both pistols are equal. Probably the biggest single factor in choosing between the two guns, is Mauser was able to manufacture their gun without the use of pins. Personally I prefer the Mauser, with the Astra being the best of the copies.

PHOENIX MATCHES

(Continued from page 36)

one which consists of crosshairs upon which have been transfixed a diamond shaped dot. This dot is quite coarse, it subtends about 8 inches at 100 meters. When the target races to the left, Kingeter uses the left hand point of the diamond to give up the proper lead; when the deer runs back to the right he utilizes the right hand point of the diamond. Loyd Crow, a veteran running target marksman, and a consistent competitor of Kingeter, uses the Weaver 1.4 x 4.5 hunting scope for his shooting. It has three dots in it, the middle dot for reference and the dots to either side of this one to gain proper lead. On the running boar the bullseye behind the shoulder cannot be seen so Crow aims at the pig's ear. It is black and can be readily picked up. This provides, automatically, the correct lead. He must set his scope to shoot about 4 inches low with this aiming point. Likewise on the running deer there is a tear-drop outline just below the eye on the target and this can be instantly spotted through the glass. It also requires some sight adjustment to pop the bullet into the center of the bullseye which is behind and below this aiming point.

The Olympic Running Deer champion, Martin Nordfors of Sweden, fired the 9th Int'l Championships. His rifle was a Husqvarna bolt action in .222 Remington caliber. It was specially stocked by Nordfors and as he

is a left-hander it had the bolt on the port side. This bolt had been modified by the Swedish gunner to function in a highly unique manner. To speed up its movement, Nordfors had reversed its action. When the bolt handle was thrown down it unlocked the piece, when it was thrown up it latched up the action. This would take some getting used to! Nordfors had trained with the reversed action and was lightning fast with it. He finished 3rd in the match. He had the rifle equipped with the Redfield variable scope and the Redfield Junior mount. He kept the varipower locked on 9X for all his firing.

With possibly two exceptions we had our best marksmen at the Phoenix bangfest. The missing duo includes Don Hamilton, a most fantastic pistolman. Hamilton is currently the national pistol champion, a title he has won before, and he holds the national pistol record of 2674. The other missing hotrock is Gary Anderson who is unquestionably the best rifle shot in the world. This shooter is the Olympic champion for both 1968 and 1964, holds the world's rifle record, a mark which he first established and then busted, has won 37 medals in international competition, 25 of them gold, and simply has no equal anywhere on earth. Anderson had just completed a year's scholarship in West Germany and his return coincided with the matches too close-

ly for him to attend.

The missing Don Hamilton had his nemesis on hand. This is Bill Blankenship who is beyond any shadow of doubt the greatest pistol marksman this country has ever produced. He has been national champion six times, has fired 2674, the national record, now held by Hamilton who bested Blankenship by a single X, and has numerous other national marks. A consistent member of all U.S. teams to fire abroad, this bucko is a most interesting marksman to analyze.

Although he fired a Hammerli .22 auto to win the Rapid Fire match at Phoenix, he likes the S&W Model 41 and more often uses it. In the center-fire matches he sometimes shoots the S&W Model 52 which handles only the .38 wadcutter. He also sometimes fires a Colt Model 1911, modified to handle the .38 wadcutter round. In the .45 matches he shoots an accurized .45



with a barrel in it from Smith & Wesson. He does not do any match shooting with revolvers but admits his favorite gun for just plinking around is the S&W .357 or the K-38 with 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ " barrel. He commenced to shoot in 1953. He had a brand new gift .45 M1911 and on invitation went out to the pistol range in Hawaii and hit the target 3 times out of 10 shots. A Col. Aldrige there encouraged him to come back and gave him his first coaching.

Bill is almost 40, stands about 5' 10" weighs 185, and is powerfully built. He has a large muscular arm and a rather small hand with short fingers. He has trouble getting to the trigger on the .45 with the old trigger in it. He wears shooting glasses without any correction in them, has no bad habits in that he neither drinks nor smokes, eats whatever he likes and is a stickler for plenty of sleep and good day-to-day living routine. He stands quartering to the target with feet wide-spread, his head erect, shoulders level and his body relaxed. The arm is fully extended. Bill aims with both eyes and takes a 6 o'clock hold at all ranges. He keeps all his triggers a mite on the heavy side so that all will weigh in without any question.

Shooting since 1953, Blankenship will retire from the Army this year. He has numerous offers for a job and will very probably accept employment with a firm closely associated with the shooting game.

Among the rifle shooters at the 9th Int'l Matches none were more outstanding than Maj. Lones Wigger of the Army. Next to Gary Anderson there is little doubt but that this Montanan is our best rifle marksman. At Phoenix he won the Smallbore 3-Position and the English Match, two major events. He also took the Free Rifle match, an event fired after my departure. Shooting in matches for the past 19 years, the 32-year-old Wigger was a gold medal winner in the '64 Olympics. He has annexed 11 medals in International competition, 8 of them gold. Since 1961 he has shot in some eighteen regional and state matches and won all but one. A member of every U.S. team in International competition, this shooting man is a steady-going, imperturbable, and exceedingly dependable anchor man.

Thirty-two years of age, married, with ten years in the military, assigned to the Marksmanship Training Unit, Ft. Benning, Ga., Wigger complains that he does not have enough time to practice. "Too many matches to fire", he explained. He fires a Remington 40X in .308 caliber in the free rifle events. It has a Walker barrel and a refitted Anschutz stock. His .22 rifles are the Model 1413 Match 54 for the unlimited events and in the Standard Rifle match he shoots the Model 1408. He also has a Winchester Model 52 which he shot prone at Phoenix. His ammo for the .22s is Eley, the British made cartridges.

He gets more pleasure out of firing the twenty-two events than the centerfire and while he almost always wins the 3-position matches he does not consider himself an especially good position shooter. He likes the prone stage best, considers his kneeling his weakest phase, and gets more satisfaction out of a good offhand score than any other.

He does not shoot the service rifle much but has fired it in competition sufficiently to become a Distinguished Rifleman. This past year at the National Matches, Camp Perry, he shot 200 in the Leech Cup Match, a possible score with 18 Xs. The winner had 19X, and it was a heartbreaker for Wigger! He shoots both indoors and outside and best likes the NRA Regional matches where wind conditions almost always occur. He thrives on adversity and when the other shooters are giving up because of the breezes he keeps plugging away—and

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winning! He has taken all the Regionals save one, back in 1961.

From Carter, Montana, Wigger's father was a shooting man and he got his son into the game. Lones has two boys, age 8 and 9 and he will start them whenever they show an interest. He has no other hobbies save his marksmanship and comments that although he continues to win it gets to be more of a chore every year. "Have to bear down harder and give up more sweat, blood and tears to annex the gold," he said with a smile.

He would like to play golf but there isn't time. He does not shoot either the handgun or the scattergun but would like to take up pistol shooting and learn it. He annexed a gold medal first place in the '64 Olympics. After that he wondered where there was to go. His interest waned a little but has since revived. He is now headed for the 40th revival of the World Championships, scheduled for the selfsame Phoenix range, and with these new challenges ahead is making ready.



MATCH RESULTS

English Match

1. Maj. Lones Wigger, USA 591
2. Philip Bahraman, USA 591
3. Lt. Wallace Lyman, USA 591

International Skeet

1. SP5 Anthony Rosetti, USA 192x200
2. Aro Taro, Japan 191
3. Srta. Nuria Ortiz, Mexico 190

Smallbore 3-Position

1. Maj. Lones Wigger, USA 1155
2. Capt. Margaret Murdock, USA 1148
3. Uto Wunderlich, East Germany 1147

Air Rifle

1. Bernd Klingner, West Germany 385
2. Gottfried Kusstermann, West Germany 381
3. Magne Landro, Norway 380

Rapid Fire Pistol

1. SGM, Wm. B. Blankenship, USA 590
2. Werner Pihale, East Germany 585
3. Earl B. Lamb, USA 584

Standard Pistol

1. James Dorsey, USA 581
2. Joseph Witherell, USA 576
3. Sgt. Charles Wheeler, USA 576

Running Boar

1. SFC. John P. Kingeter, USA 257
2. Sgt. Charles Davis, USA 254
3. Martin Nordfors, Sweden 251

Free Rifle

1. Maj. Lones Wigger, USA 1129
2. Uto Wunderlich, East Germany 1111
3. SP 4 David W. Kimes, USA 1102

Clay Pigeon

1. Sgt. Tom Garrigus, USA 193
2. Sgt. Terry M. Howard, USA 192
3. Karl Underberg, West Germany 189

Army Rifle

1. Maj. Lones Wigger, USA 558
2. Sgt. William Krilling, USA 551
3. Maj. Bruce Meredith, USA 546

Center Fire Pistol

1. Joseph Witherell, USA 591
2. Sgt. Bonnie Harmon, USA 590
3. SGM, Wm. B. Blankenship, USA 589

Free Pistol

1. Herald Vollmar, East Germany 564
2. Joseph Witherall, USA 554
3. Francis Higginson, USA 550

Standard Rifle

1. Capt. Margaret Murdock, USA 577
2. Klaus Zahringer, West Germany 576
3. Uto Wunderlich, East Germany 574

Air Pistol

1. SFC Hershel Anderson, USA 379
2. John Roedseth, Norway 379
3. Albert Gundert, West Germany 377

Running Deer

1. John Kingeter, USA 454
2. MSG Lloyd Crow, USA 452
3. Gote Gaard, Sweden 450

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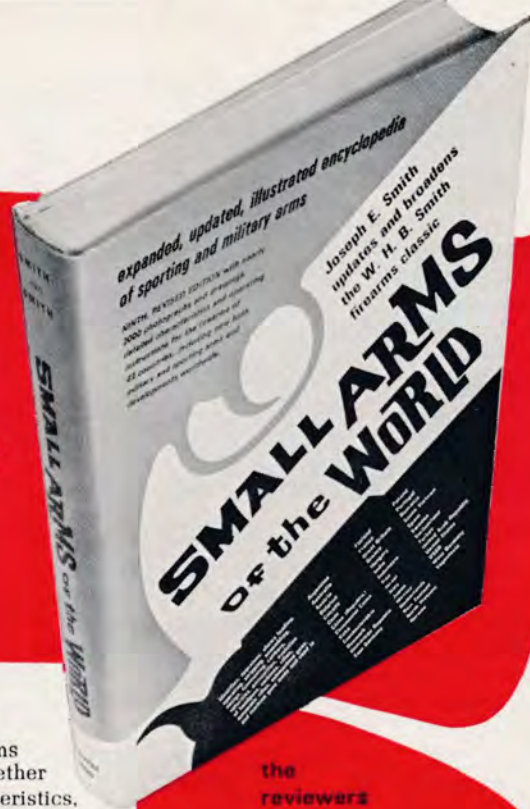
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AAI FERRET

(Continued from page 29)

The Ferret round can be fired from any 12 gauge cylinder, or improved cylinder bore shotgun. Because the majority of police agencies have now equipped with the riot shotgun for routine patrol and riot purposes, the development of the Ferret round, coupled with the shotgun grenade launcher, now makes this basic police weapon adaptable for all tear gas use situations.

The Ferret round consists of a finned, impermeable, plastic projectile loaded in the 12 gauge shot shell. It is ballistically stable, weighs 100 grains loaded with 3 cc's of liquid, CS, tear gas. It is not designed for direct use against personnel and travels at a muzzle velocity of 1000 feet per second. It has an almost flat trajectory out to 100 yards and is non lethal beyond 250 yards.

On impact and penetration, the projectile disintegrates, delivering the potent, military type, CS loading in the form of an invisible vapor, micro-particle size aerosol. There is no fire hazard. A sniper in a 9 x 12 size room will be immediately incapacitated and

find the area untenable. The writer fired a single round into the storeroom of Uncle Vince's old barn. It was impossible to enter the room, or remain in it for ten minutes, after the round was fired. With windows and doors open, all traces disappeared rapidly. It is unlikely that more than a single round into a target area will ever be needed, however in special cases the inherent accuracy makes it simple enough to deliver additional concentrations.

Firing over 100 rounds at police ranges indicates that consistent accuracy and hits on window size targets are possible at ranges up to 100 yards. There is a definite first hit capability by the ordinary officer at ranges of up to 50 yards. If the weapon is equipped with rifle type sights first shot accuracy can be extended to 100 yards. Recent controlled firing tests at 50 yards indicates a 90% hit pattern within a one foot radial area.

Penetration is surprising and exceeds that of the 37 mm shell. An automobile windshield made of laminated safety glass will be penetrated

at 100 feet. At 100 yards, the projectile will piece 1/4" plate glass, storm windows and screens, and hollow core plywood doors. High speed photos show that the projectile begins to disintegrate on impact, carrying almost its entire 3 cc payload into the area penetrated. Unlike the dust type CS agent concentration and that released from the burning type grenades, the Ferret liquid CS loadings present very minimal contamination, making this an extra plus, as this is sometimes a very disagreeable after action problem.

The Ferret round costs less than a third that of the 37 mm projectile designed for the same purpose. Relatively inexpensive practice rounds are also available. Training in its combat use is easily combined with other riot gun firing courses, as it loads, handles and shoots much like a rifled slug round. Shelf life is indefinite and the round will function in temperatures of 0° F to +125° F. The round is loaded in the commercial ALCAN plastic shotshell case, but due to its roll crimp and marking is easily distinguishable from regular riot ammunition.

Whenever and wherever demonstrated, the Ferret has met instant acceptance by major police agencies, National Guard and military units and



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Our congratulations go to Doyle Williams, Rt. 1, Box 67, Okemah, Okla., who was last year's champion at the Prospectors Club Meet. This year, he **EARNED FIRST PLACE AT BOTH THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEET AND THE INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTORS CLUB MEET.** To see Doyle work with his detector is a joy. Previously, Doyle had used other brands of detectors. His choice of instruments this year was one of our **NEW BREED OF HUNTER DETECTORS.**

Our congratulations also go to Sam Boyce of Holdenville. Sam earned second place honors in the Men's Division. Sam's choice of instruments this year was also a Hunter Detector.

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procurement has followed. It has greatly increased law enforcements capabilities in dealing with dangerous gunfire situations, in a non lethal manner. At the same time, safety of the police officers involved and non-

involved citizens in the area has been augmented. Long range tear gas delivery from police shoulder weapons has indeed progressed from the Model T era.



JOE CONDON

(Continued from page 21)

inlays and engraving, evident in the accompanying photograph.

The eight-inch .357 Magnum and the shorter barreled example of the same model both sport extensive scroll work and are tastefully embellished with gold wire and carved animal inlays. The chopped-barrel K-38 snub nose has been given an oak leaf and silver inlay treatment, and like its two companion pieces, is monogrammed MTR.

These are not merely gun-case dandies either. Richards, an active hand-loader and hunter, used the long-barreled .357 to drop the 1200-pound Alaskan Brownie shown, during a 1967 hunt in the Yakutat region of Alaska. The nine-foot animal fell to a single round of a Richards handload, a 157-grain Speer solid ahead of 10 grains of Unique. Richards scored from 100 yards using a two-hand hold from a standing position. The impressive trophy skin now graces the den of his Las Vegas home.

Since the city Joe has adopted is known as the "Entertainment Capital of the World," it is only fitting that Condon should number among his customers some of the brightest lights in show business. Sammy Davis, Jr., who is by the way one of the finest movie gunhands in the game, has a treasured Condon-engraved single-action Colt Frontier. Rotund

Buddy Hackett too has a SA Colt frosted with the Condon touch.

Superstar Red Skelton, a long-time gun nut, has two Condon-worked shoulder arms, a .17 Javelin and a .224 Weatherby. Film actor Jack Palance asked Joe to decorate a .44 Magnum six-gun and design and build a fast-draw rig for it. Palance was so happy with the resulting leather work that he then commissioned Condon to do a large leather painting.

Designing fast draw rigs is not a new facet of the many-sided Mr. Condon, however. Both the New York Detective Division and the U.S. Treasury Department use hideout holsters designed by the versatile gunsmith.

Custom jewelry making and hunting knife design and manufacture have recently begun to interest the master as has the embellishment of billiard cues. In billiard-mad 'Vegas where as much as \$600 is spent for one cue, this alone could become a full-time occupation.

But Joe Condon derives his greatest pleasure from transforming over-the-counter guns to collector's items, and chances are that you'll still find Joe at his bench in the Sportsman's Den (2845 Las Vegas Blvd. South) in Las Vegas, deep in concentration on artistic embellishment for some sportsman's rifle or handgun.



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TROOPER MK III


(Continued from page 20)

a target revolver. This does not mean that it is inaccurate. I have seen too many 1" groups fired at 15 yards to question its accuracy. The Mark III was designed and built to reliably fire factory .357 Magnum ammunition of all kinds and of all makes. This handgun was never conceived to be a worked-over .38 Special. It was designed and built to be a .357 Magnum revolver. As such, the double action pull has averaged out at around 10 pounds with a single action let off around 3 pounds. Not because this is the lightest double action that could be obtained from this mechanism but because a slick, smooth 6 pound double action pull was considered dangerous for the law officer, the sportsman or the hunter. Colt was advised repeatedly to keep the double action pull up around 10 pounds and they have done so.

As a matter of interest, the Trooper Mark III mechanism allows the gunsmith to work on it with a minimum of problems. It is possibly the easiest Colt mechanism to adjust that has ever left the Colt plant. If re-

placement parts are needed, the new ones will drop right into place because the parts are absolutely interchangeable. Moulding each part ensures that the first part produced will be precisely the same as the millionth part to come out of the mould.

The Mark III mechanism is already being used in other new Colt revolvers—the Metropolitan Mark III in .38 Special, and the Lawman Mark III in .357 Magnum. Both revolvers have heavy 4" bull barrels and retail for \$115.00. The new Colt Official Police Mark III is a dead ringer for the old O.P., but it carries all of the mechanical innovations of the rest of the line.

But those shooters who want the best will find that the Trooper Mark III in .357 Magnum at \$142.50 will give them the most for the money. In my opinion, this is an excellent, tough, reliable revolver that has been produced by a revolutionary new method of manufacture. With its superb hang and adjustable sights it should prove to be a favorite with hunters and outdoorsmen who take a revolver out where the going is rough. 

PACKING AMMO

(Continued from page 31)

He lost a lot of walrus as do all the Eskimos who hunt them. Many are wounded, partly because of poor shooting and inadequate calibers, and maybe even more from shooting the behemoths when they are in the water.

Hunting elk with George Turner in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico; I was struck by the novel way this old huntsman packed along his spare cartridges. He had a long stocking sewed of buckskin which he wore on a thong over his shoulder and under his arm. The sock was tied at both ends with the thong and at the forward tie was closed with an elastic band. When Turner wanted extra rounds he fed them through the opening in his buckskin by simply squeezing the pouch in its middle. It would then spew out the cartridges one at a time.

On this same hunt, we were questing for the elusive wapiti on horseback, my bronc turned over. We were

on a steep sidehill and his feet went out from under him and he and I slid down the mountain for twenty yards or so. I had my spare cartridges in a jacket pocket. After we got ourselves all gathered up again and I checked out the rifle and scope to see that neither was damaged, I rode on. Later that afternoon I got a shot at a good bull and when I dived into my jacket pocket to reload I found I was plumb out of fodder! That spill on the mountain side had emptied my pockets of spare cartridges.

The shotgun puts a big demand on handy and available shells. In Spain, where you may shoot beaten partridge, the expenditure of a case of loads over a powder-flecked weekend is not at all uncommon. The idea that you are going to take all the hulls you will need in the shooting coat simply will not do. Spanish sporting goods stores sell a leather box which will hold 10 boxes and this you hand over to your "secretario" who will

stoop at your knee in the shooting stand and hand up cartridges out of this box. Or, if you trust him not to point the spare shotgun at your head, he will load the extra gun for you and pass it along when the first is emptied.

When shooting in a hot corner on doves I like to have a leather pouch at my knee and pour a couple of boxes of 12s into it. Then when the flightings really grow intense you simply dive into the open mouth of the container and fish out fresh ammo. I have tried shell vests and these are altogether too slow when the shooting really grows intense. However, gunning for snipe in Vietnam necessitated wading in a marsh where the water oftentimes came up to your hips. The vest was then just the huckleberry. It kept the cartridges out of the water and yet was fast enough so that you could reload before you flushed another pair of the zig-zagging birds.

On the skeet field, one of the best shell carriers is a leather box which is sewed to a broad belt of the same cowhide. It will hold a box of 12 guage shells quite neatly. The top is torn off the box and it is inserted in the carrier. Then all you need do is to dip down and pick out a fresh cartridge. Another dodge that does not look quite as elegant but is just as efficient is the use of a carpenter's apron. It has a series of pockets across the front and in one compartment you can keep a box of live hulls and in the next you can drop the empties.

You see tyro shotgunners on the skeet field who are attempting the game for the first time and these laddy-os try to pack 25 shells in the pants pockets. It is ludicrous to see them fishing and wiggling trying to extract a fresh round while the remainder of the squad waits impatiently.

Shooting on the Alaska Peninsula for the Emperor's goose, a bird that is peculiar to that distant corner of the 49th State, I had twenty cartridges tossed into the big pocket across the front of my rain parka. It was sleeting steadily and this sometimes broke over into a hard snow. Along with the stinky weather was a temperature which was way below freezing. I had on plenty of clothing beneath the parka but because of the handiness of the big pocket I used it for the ammo.

Sitting in a makeshift blind made of driftwood on the little bay, the flightings had fallen off. It had been perhaps 30 minutes without any activity, when suddenly geese commenced to drift by. As silent as wraiths they would appear out of the gloom, some so low it appeared I could almost knock them down with the gun barrel. I emptied the old

pump repeater and shoved a hand into the pocket for reloads. It was half filled with water and mush. The cartridges sort of floated up to meet me. Hunkered in the blind, my lap had made a natural funnel which ran the waterproof pocket full of sleet and snow which rapidly melted. I poured out shells and water and was more careful thereafter to keep the flap closed.

Ten years in the Border Patrol on the Tex-Mex border gave me a lot of opportunity to try out shells carriers. We packed rifles, scatterguns and sixshooters. Ordinarily on field duty you would be armed with either a rifle or a shotgun, never the both, and the belt gun. This necessitated packing along cartridges for a couple of guns. I carried a S&W Model 1917 sixgun chambered for the .45 ACP. In my belt I carried 20 cartridges for it. The .45 auto load would shoot all okay in the revolver either with or without the half-moon clip. If you did not use the clip you had to laboriously pluck each empty out of the cylinder. Among my buddies were fellows who shot the old Colt Model 1917, they used the 3-round clips, and carried them in the belt. These were something of a nuisance to tote around with you as it was difficult to fit the clip into a cartridge belt.

Sam Myres, the best of the leather workers along the border, made a variety of cartridge belts. I had him make for me an extended belt loop for rifle cartridges. This detachable loop held 20 cartridges. It could be slipped on the pistol belt and then became a part of it. I packed a .250 Savage lever action in those days and Tio Sam made the rig of his for this caliber. It had two series of loops, the upper for the body of the cartridge and the lower loops for the neck of the cartridge. The fit was a snug one and it required a considerable tug to free a cartridge.

The .45 ACP cartridges were rimless. To keep these from dropping through the belt loops, I sewed a retaining shoulder on the belt. This was made of heavy skirting leather, a good deal like sole stock, and the points of the cartridges rode on this keeper. The holster was tied in place on the belt with a saddle thong. It did not ride over the cartridges.

Ammunition gets dirty in a cartridge belt. Every four or five days I'd remove every round in the belt and clean it with a square of flannel cloth. I did not use any oils, polish, or anything of the sort on the cloth. I have seen officers who were doing city duty in uniform remove the cartridges and go over them with brass polish. This may have looked good in

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the belt but it was courting danger. While our ammo is oil tight it certainly was a poor practice to scour it with liquid cleaners which might have penetrated the primer pocket and played hob with ignition.

A cartridge belt for shotgun shells is a heavy thing. And the cartridges are decidedly uncomfortable if the wearer travels in an auto. When the situation called for the use of a scattergun I always preferred to dump the spare hulls into a jacket pocket. Dividing them between the pockets to balance the load. Shotgun shells are easily damaged in a cartridge belt if carried there during any amount of field duty. The paper casing does not withstand rough useage and while the cartridge is supposed to be waterproof it won't withstand much wetting. Now that we have plastics the belt life of the round will be considerably improved.

It takes a long time to pluck cartridges out of a cartridge belt, and in a gunfight it sometimes seemed like eons. For the sportsman who sees the bull of the woods escaping before he can get fresh rounds in the rifle it can be an eternity. For these reasons I favor the clip-loading firearm, both the belt gun and the rifle. I eventually quit the revolvers and went to an auto pistol. When this happened I had Sam Myres make me a leather case to slip on the belt which held two clips. At the same time I swung over to the .351 Winchester auto rifle and in it I used the 10-shot magazine. At my belt I had a second leather pouch which held two magazines. The speed of reloading was picked up three or four times by this switch. For purely sporting rifles the comparatively recent innovation of a separate loading clip is a real improvement. Rifles like the Winchester Model 100, the Savage 99 and 110 with their detachable box magazines, the Ruger .44 carbine, Remington 742 and 762, and here more lately the Ithaca Mod L-55, with its separate magazine, are all very much worthwhile.

All the shooter needs then is a leather pouch worn on the pants belt and in this he can pack along one or two extra clips. To reload requires

only two or three seconds. A cartridge belt exposes the ammunition to the elements, the clip pouch will not, offering good protection from the weather. In this connection I finally found the ideal solution to the cartridge carrier in Vietnam. It was before the current blood-letting and during some fourteen months on the Indo-chinese peninsula I hunted a great deal. During the period of the monsoons there are hunting areas in Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia where it rains 300 inches during the season. I hunted in these downpours and keeping either yourself, your shooting iron, or your ammo dry was a real problem.

I took an old Civil War cartridge box with me for my cartridges. This container was made of leather, swung on the belt, and would hold 10 cartridges. It was closed quite securely and kept out the rain very well. From this container I graduated to an ammo box. It was of heavy skirting leather and was threaded on the pants belt. It had a leather flap which closed with a turn button. It was made to exactly accept a 20-cartridge box of shells. When action was imminent you could turn the flap back and thus expose the heads of the cartridges. I was shooting heavy rifles, bolt actions for the most part, and clip-loaders were out of the question. For rapid reloading of the belt guns the ammo box was just the ticket.

Since then I have tried these leather boxes in Africa and Alaska and I find them excellent. The cartridges are compartmented because they are not removed from the original cardboard box in which they come from the factory. There is a tendency for the heads of the shells to rattle against the top of the ammo box. This I cured by gluing a strip of plastic rubber on the under side of the flap. This holds them firmly. These cartridge boxes are now available from firms such as Bianchi, George Lawrence, Safariland, and others. There are two sizes, the smaller for cartridges up to .338; and a larger size for such loads as the .458 magnum. Size is important because the leather is sewed to accept the box of 20 cartridges quite snugly. This prevents rattling and noise which is taboo when making close stalks.

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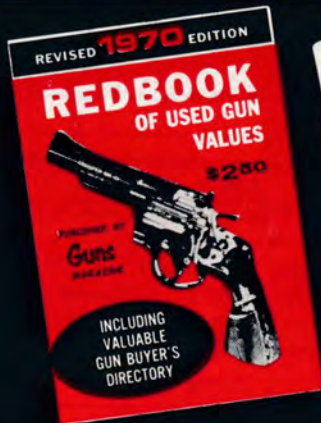
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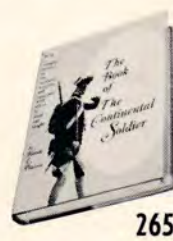
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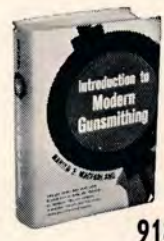
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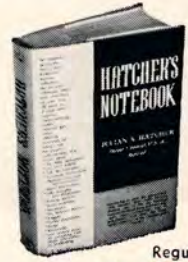
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