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Our Readers

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# TRIGGER TALK

I THINK that it's about time that we shooters take up the fight to ban firearms. Wait, I don't mean what you think. I mean a ban on the possession, and carrying of firearms by the military.

Here is my reasoning for this proposal. First, Senator Dodd and other anti-gun legislators say that the availability of firearms is a major cause of violence. Right? If this is so, and I can think of nothing more violent than war, does it not follow that a ban on firearms for the military might stop all wars?

Ah, but some sharp in the crowd says that we can't ban firearms for our GI's, if for no other reason than the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. But, if you have been reading your gun magazines, you know that the Supreme Court says that the 2nd Amendment meant only that the militia could keep and bear arms. Now, according to all the legal eagles, the militia means the National Guard. Well, the GI's are not in the National Guard, so they are not protected by the 2nd Amendment.

\* \* \*

How stupid can some people get? Several bombs explode on the east coast, and a half dozen lawmakers stumble over themselves to get to a microphone or a TV camera to call out for stricter control over the sale and possession of dynamite. This makes a whole lot of sense, especially when everyone knows that you can buy dynamite in just about every store in the country. I can't wait for one of these jerks to remember what he said during the rush for gun legislation, that "you can buy it as easy as candy."

\* \* \*

But GUNS award for the sad soul of the year must go to Rep. Abner Mikva. We'll be discussing his disgusting piece of legislative tripe in our next issue.

## THE COVER

A magnificent double derringer pistol with a built-in blade. Made by the French armorer, Devisme of Paris about 1850. Courtesy, Seven Idols Gun Shop, Albuquerque, N. Mex. Photo by Harry Kinney.

JUNE, 1970

Vol. XVI, No. 0-06

George E. von Rosen  
Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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Jerome Rakusan ..... Editor  
Harold A. Murtz ..... Associate Editor  
E. B. Mann ..... Contributing Editor  
Col. Charles Askins ..... Shooting Editor  
Maj. George C. Nonte ..... Handloading  
Dick Miller ..... Trap  
Robert Mandel ..... Antique Arms  
Wm. Schumaker ..... Gunsmithing  
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Ronald Penn ..... Advertising Sales  
M. Gross ..... Ass't Circulation Mgr.  
Sally Loges ..... Subscription Mgr.



EDITORIAL OFFICES: Jerome Rakusan, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill. 60076, ORchard 5-5602.  
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*News from the...*

# SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

## MAN KILLED BECAUSE HE FOLLOWED ANTI-GUN REGULATIONS

Last month in Granite City, Indiana, Mr. Joe Johnson was going to his local bank to make a night deposit. He ran a small hardware store which was open for Friday night business. He was a good family man with three small daughters.

He parked his car and walked to the deposit chute. Suddenly two men ran up from behind and grabbed his arms. One tried to put a strangle hold on Joe's neck while the other lunged at the bag which held the day's receipts. But, Joe was a Marine Corps veteran who saw combat service in Korea and had won the bronze star for bravery and two purple hearts. With hot fight in his eyes, he tore himself loose and gave one of the thugs a resounding left hook. He spun around with the money bag in his hand and ran down the dark street. But, Joe had a left leg full of small shrapnel particles, the old war remains of a North Korean handgrenade, and he was now unable to run very fast with his bad leg. Halfway down the block the two thugs overtook and grabbed him. A six inch knife blade flashed from the robbers pocket. It came down with a sickening thud on Joe's back, and he fell to the ground and rolled over in pain. The razor sharp, bloody knife then plunged into his stomach and ripped a ten inch gash. Part of his intestines and a fountain of blood came gushing up from the wound. They drew a cheap .22 pistol and put three slugs into Joe's lung, grabbed the money and ran.

When help arrived, Joe was lying in a pool of his own blood. As he was placed in the ambulance, he tried to ask for a priest. He died on the way to the hospital.

The supreme irony is that Joe used to carry a gun when he made his night deposits. He even sold a few guns in his hardware store. But, the Federal Government had now caused him so much trouble with record keeping, he discontinued his firearms sales. Then the local police had raised an argument about him carrying a gun, so he kept it at home for his wife's protection.

It is impossible to say what would have happened if Joe had been carrying his old gun during that ghastly night. But at the

very least, he would have had a fighting chance. As things are now, present trends in legislation and court room procedure indicate that the armed honest citizen will soon be a thing of the past. THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA believes a return to concepts that made our country great is necessary. Of immediate concern today is that all law-abiding citizens to be allowed the right to keep and bear arms. This is the only way to discourage the lawlessness that permeates our current society. We must once again teach all good people the vital importance of law and order. Then we will make our streets a safe place to walk at night, and our cities a safe place to live and raise our families.

THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA has always been the club that advocated a sensible attitude toward gun control. It is our policy to restrict the use of firearms to sensible people and to enforce severe penalties for criminal use of firearms. This policy places the blame and burden where it does belong, on criminals and not on the legitimate firearms owner. The registration laws have now succeeded in getting most guns in the hands of honest citizens registered. But the problem of a constantly rising crime rate has still not been checked, because firearms owned and used by criminals will never be registered. It is our main job to see that we have the right legislation so the criminals are registered and not honest gun owners.

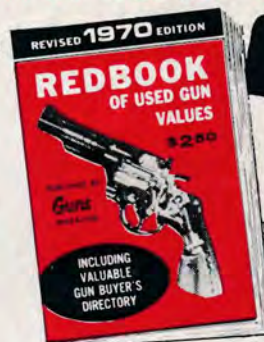
The best way to magnify your influence on legislation is to join an organization. THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA is the right organization for you. It works toward a future preservation of our constitutional right to keep and to bear arms for our own protection. An established organization like the S.C.A. carries considerable influence when proposing a reasonable alternative to ill-considered legislation. But to maintain the strength of our position as a respected and strong national organization, we need your support. We need you, and we need the help of all the people like you.

Let's not have more honest citizens end up like poor Mr. Joe Johnson. Use the attached postage-free envelope to enter your membership in the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA today.

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## CROSSFIRE

### Border Dispute

Those of us with gun collections outside the USA are really in trouble as we can't bring back into the U.S. any of our military arms. In my case this includes a 1902 .30 cal. Luger used by the U.S. Cavalry as a test gun and therefore judged a military.

If one contemplates taking arms out of the country, he should register them at the border on Customs Form 4457. However, only three arms can be brought back at one time.

There is an escape clause written into the workings of the IRS, but perhaps a bit difficult to use. They will accept a bill of sale, receipt or other commercial document, household effects inventory, packing list or registration on Customs Form 4457 to establish the weapon had been in the U.S. If none of these are available, then "a sworn statement before a U.S. Consular or Visa Officer or any other Federal Officer authorized to administer oaths" may be accepted.

This may be difficult however, as I have been refused entry for a Beretta M34 for which I showed registry papers from the San Diego Sheriff's Office!

Winthrop H. Ware, M.D.  
Aguascalientes, Ags.  
Mexico

### 10 Gauge Dessert

Charles Askins' article "10 Gauge R.I.P." was good and I read it thoroughly. The information he used was put into its proper place, or thereabouts. But, dear old Charlie did it with only one eye open.

He loaded the 3" 12 gauge with a full course meal and gave the 10 gauge its appropriate meal. But, he held back on the dessert. The whole meal for the 10 ga. is 2¼ oz. of shot with 58 grains of AL-8 with a muzzle velocity of 1250. This load and the 1⅞ oz. of the 12 gauges have the same muzzle velocity of 1250. The 1⅞ for the 12 and the 2¼ for the 10 are the ones he should have used.

The use of the 10 gauge may be limited, but by the same token I would not use a .375 H & H on rabbits either.

Donald Blazek  
Mt. Vernon, Iowa

### Shoulder Shots

Concerning Bert Popowski's article "Basics of Deer Hunting" (Feb. 1970), he whines about meat loss resulting from shoulder shots when using "modern high velocity bullets." I might suggest that if he were to use a good quality bullet like the BBC or Nosler at a moderate velocity, he wouldn't have that problem. A good shot through the shoulders will drop your game right there. No animal is going to get up and leave the country with the heaviest portion of its body lacking mobilization. I have seen game travel for miles after being hit in the lungs. Elk are notorious for this. Given a choice between a little shoulder meat shot up and loosing the entire carcass, I'll shoot the shoulder.

W. G. "Buck" Nichols  
The Dalles, Oregon

### The '73 Goiter

I would like to add a few footnotes to Mr. Sykes's excellent article entitled "Papo Amarelo" The '73 Winchester in Brazil.

Papo means goiter, but more commonly is used to designate that bulge at the lower end of a chicken's neck corresponding to the stomach (papo de galinha).

In my many trips to the interior of Brazil, I found out that a far more popular and common rifle was the Winchester Mod. 92 in the .44-40 caliber. These guns were usually found in the saddle ring carbine type with adjustable buckhorn sights. Rounds loaded with black powder were common Brazilian manufacture. They were produced by CBC (Compania Brasileira de Cartuchos) and the deeper one went into the interior the more prized they became. Mr. Sykes'



article illustrates two boxes of ammunition from CBC but they appear to be of far more recent manufacture.

A considerable number of Mod. 92 Winchesters were imported late in the last century by the Brazilian rubber barons of the Amazon valley to arm their rubber tree tappers against jaguars and wild indians. I own a mod. 92 saddle ring carbine with a 18" barrel, serial #971439 which came from my maternal grandfather's rubber plantation.

During my last hunting safari in Western Brazil, an old hunter wanted at all costs to purchase my mod. 92, but was relatively unimpressed by my other rifle, a brand new 30-06 Remington mod. 721.

A source of additional and reliable information on the subject is to be found in the person of Mr. Sasha Siemel, of Green Lane, Pa. Mr. Siemel many years ago wrote a book entitled "Tigeroo" in which he relates his adventures in Western Brazil, where he learned to hunt jaguars with a spear like the original natives. He owns and conducts a museum in Green Lane containing an invaluable collection of guns and memorabilia from all corners of the world but mainly from Western Brazil.

P. E. Almeida, M.D.  
Media, Pa.

### M-16 vs. BAR

In reference to your October '69 issue with a letter from Mr. Abraham Platsky, true we are the best fighting force in the world. No argument! About the statement referring to "meat heads", civilians have their share also. But on this statement of the M-16 being junk, I'm glad it's only an opinion.

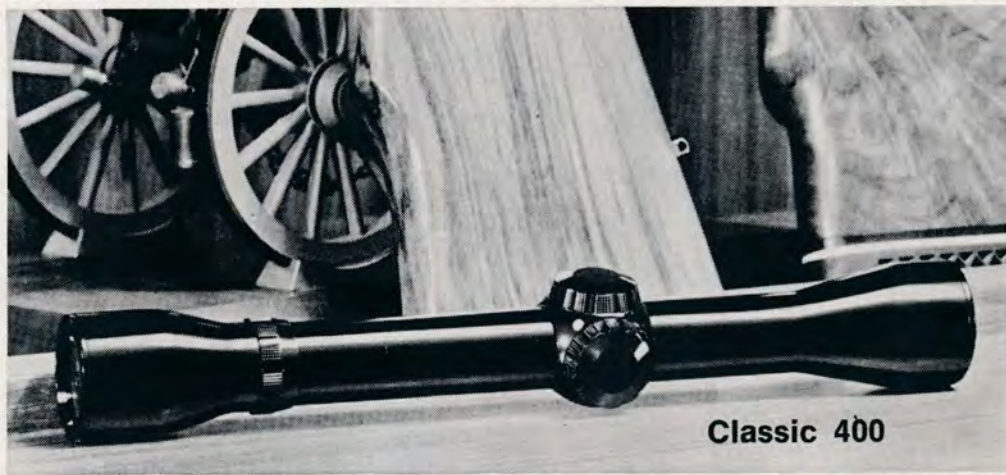
Speaking from experience, this is my second tour in Viet Nam, I have noted the following: the M-16 is lighter; it fires more rounds per minute; the number of rounds per basic issue is greater for the .223; the basic weight is less; the maneuverability of the M-16 is greater under the fast changing combat conditions; and the care and maintenance of the M-16 is easier.

The M-1 Garand is a great old weapon, but speaking of the appropriate weapon for the time frame, so was the Kentucky long rifle, the Spencer, and the Gatling gun. At this time most G.I.'s would prefer the M-16, M-60 machine gun and the Mini-Gun. Of course this is only an opinion. I'd suggest Mr. Platsky check with the Vets from Viet Nam, they too are ex-G.I.'s.

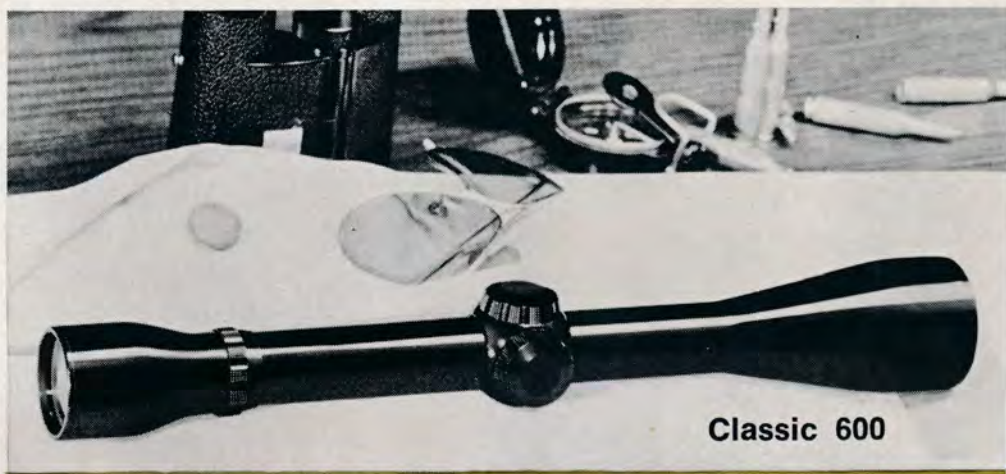
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## HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

**I**F YOU'RE ONE OF those fellows who are forced to hunt deer with a shotgun—and here in Illinois that's everyone not using a bow or muzzle loader—it's not too early to think about next season.

Except in those states requiring the use of buckshot, the hollowbase slug in 12 gauge is far superior to anything else readily available. Factory rifled slug loads are generally more accurate than you'd expect. It takes some doing to match their performance with handloads, but you can come close enough that the eight-pointer sneaking along the edge of that cornfield will never know the difference. The major drawback of factory loads is their cost—no great thing as far as rounds fired at game is concerned, but the practicing you really *must* do, can sure dent a wallet. Top handloads needn't cost you more than a nickel each if you cast your own slugs, but will go twice that, and more, if you buy them.

Lyman Gun Sight Co. offers a mold to cast the hollow slug with smooth walls. Casting is no different—in fact easier—than for any hollow-base or hollow-point bullet. The external rifling of factory slugs can then be applied by processing the slug through a swaging die, also supplied by Lyman, but is rather heavy work. In reality, rifling hardly adds enough accuracy to make it worth the effort. Smooth slugs shoot just as well in many guns. If this seems strange, consider that the bulk of the slug's stability is generated by the extreme forward position of its center of gravity—it produces a sort of arrow-like flight that doesn't appear to improve much with the slight amount of rotation given by the rifling-like ribs.

Smooth or rifled, the slug requires more than casual loading treatment. Simply dropping a soft wad column over the powder and seating the slug won't do the job.

Paper cases are most practical since they produce a better crimp. Anyway, repeated loading presents no problems and relatively few cases are used.

Hercules Unique seems to produce

better results than typical shotshell powders. A charge of 29 grains will produce in excess of 1500 fps at safe pressures with the other components and procedures we'll mention. Nitro card over-powder wads are acceptable, but the load will be more efficient when a plastic cup-type such as the Alcan Air-Wedge is used. Seat it with 50 lbs. pressure, then follow with 3/8" to 1/2" of good quality filler wad (depending on case used). Add one or two .200" thick nitro card wads. This is the key to success—without at least one heavy card wad directly under the slug, filler wad material will be blown into the base cavity or the base will be deformed and accuracy goes to pot. The card wad prevents this and supports the slug uniformly around its perimeter. This is far superior to the once-recommended practice of filling the slug base with wax or grease. As with any other shotshell load, the filler wad length must be varied to leave the proper amount of case for a solid roll crimp.

Lyman produces a roll crimp head for use in a drill press or portable drill. Powered use makes for a much tighter crimp than the old hand-cranked tool or the cam-driven head on the Lyman shotshell loader. I've obtained best results by dipping 1/4" of the case mouth in melted beeswax after seating the full wad column; dropping in the slug; then crimping in a drill press run at slow speed (about 400 rpm); maintaining moderate downward pressure until the wax melts into the crimp. The slug should be held tightly in place by the crimp after the wax has hardened. If not, re-crimp.

The ideal 12-gauge slug load, in my opinion, consists of a new or once-fired 23/4" paper case and any good primer (if you must use 3" cases, simply increase wad column 1/4"); 29 grains of Unique; Alcan Air-Wedge over-powder wad; one 3/8" (1/2") composition filler wad; two .200" Nitro card wads; a smooth (unrifled) hollow-base slug cast of very soft lead in a Lyman mold; all followed by a

*(Continued on page 12)*



# 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:

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700 Trap

600 Trap

MX-8



# Now about our skeet guns

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Comp. I Skeet

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heavily-waxed, tight, roll crimp. This load will generally stay within 5" for 5 shots at 50 yards from a properly-sighted single-barrel gun. It may do as well from either of the barrels of a double, but rarely will the two barrels shoot to the same point of aim.

Unfortunately, many shooters fail to fit their guns with proper sights. Nothing less than good adjustable rifle sights are acceptable on a shotgun to be used with slugs. And, zeroing (preferably at 50 yards) is fully as important as with a rifle. In iron sights, I prefer the Williams Gun Sight Co. "Foolproof" model with 1/8" aperture and a wide blade front sight. As for scopes, and they are quite useful with slugs, any good 1" diameter 1-1/2X to 4X is fine, though I lean toward the lesser magnification. Redfield's new "Widfield" line with its unusually wide field of view should be perfect for shotgunning deer.

Most important of all is to get in plenty of shooting with the gun/load combination well in advance of hunting season. If you haven't zeroed properly and fired at least 50 rounds of your hunting load at ranges of 25, 50, 75, and 100 yards, you aren't really ready to hunt with that outfit. With that in mind, hie yourself to the loading bench now and begin the preparations by assembling at least 50 rounds.

• • •

Zero Bullet Company, 7254 Farnum, Inkster, Michigan, 48141, recently sent us a goodly batch of assorted handgun projectiles with which we've been playing the past few weeks. Predominant in the line is a basic jacketed, hollow soft point design carrying an unusual cannellure. This crimping groove is not rolled or knurled continuously around the bullet in the usual manner. Instead, the groove is formed in a number of equal-length segments which do not quite meet—leaving about 1/32" of full diameter bullet between them. This type cannellure is formed by jaws inside a die, arranged to press inward on the bullet, thus the bottom is smooth, not serrated as in rolled-in cannellures. The late Jim Harvey utilized a similar method on his "Jugular" bullets, but placed the cannellure at the mouth of the jacket. Zero bullets have longer jackets and the cannellure is located as dictated by the cartridge for which the bullet is intended. Joe Stallings, honcho at Zero, tells us this type of cannellure offers greater resistance to bullet movement than the conventional type. In addition to the case mouth turning into the groove, it "bites" into the ungrooved segments of the jacket, thus obtaining a more secure grip. The idea does seem to have merit.

Zero jackets extend well forward on the bullet ogive so as to prevent leading and control expansion to some degree. The basic 110 grain bullet is offered in both .355" and .357" diameter for the various 9mm cartridges and those of .38 and .357 persuasion. The latter includes the .38ACP and .38 Super, a fact often overlooked. Velocities as high as 1300 fps can be produced in 9mm Luger; 1500 in .38Spl.; 1600 in .357 Magnum; 1400 in .38 Super. Thus far we've obtained excellent accuracy from these two bullets at 25 yards in .38 Special and 9mm. The 9mm version has a more rounded nose for reliable feeding in auto-loaders. Even so, we've gotten good feeding in the same guns and the .38 Super with the blunter .357" bullet.

Zero also supplies an excellent solid-base 148 grain swaged lead wadcutter bullet in .357" diameter. Current production carries an Alox lubricant, though previous millions used the no longer available Anderol. In a new Colt Trooper Mark III, this bullet produced one-hole ten-shot groups at 25 yards with 2.7 grains of Bullseye.

Zero Bullet Company is not a small hand-tool shop and keeps well over 1,000,000 bullets in stock. Bullets are made on automatic machinery at high speed. The wadcutters, for example, flow from a single machine spitting out 7000 per hour—and they are lubricated and ready to load without any further operations. Lead wire goes in one end, finished lubricated bullets come out the other.

• • •

Everyone occasionally has reason to expand the neck of a case a larger than usual amount—as in opening up 7.62mm or .308 to .358 Winchester. Simply running the smaller case over the standard .35 caliber expander plug can easily ruin it. This can be avoided by grinding a long taper on the expander, leaving only about 1/16" of it full diameter. I do this on a Dremel Moto-Tool held in a bench stand. Reduce the tip of the expander until it will enter the .30 neck, then grind a straight taper up to the full diameter, eliminating any steps or shoulders and knurling that might be in between. This taper must then be polished as smooth as possible. The reshaped expander will then pass through the neck and open it up smoothly if properly lubricated.

Flaring case mouths is almost invariably recommended for pistol calibers; hardly ever for bottle neck rifle cases. I find I can eliminate difficult bullet seating and occasional damaged case necks by dropping a tapered punch into the case mouth to produce a very slight flare; hardly visible. Flat

(Continued on page 51)



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Actually, the Luger is as American as apple pie. It was originally designed by an American, Hugo Borchardt, who tried to market it in the United States. No sale. So, being enterprising, he sold the idea to a German firm where George Luger came up with the Luger design as we know it. Stoeger popularized this model in America! And now — thanks to modern engineering and manufacturing methods — it says "Made in America" on the Luger. Some of the features we've shown above just don't exist on other sidearms. Luger's reputation as the most accurate and reliable sporter around is no accident. Police departments have realized that and many are now using the Luger as a training weapon. Next time you visit your favorite gun dealer, see the Luger . . . heft it . . . try it, odds are, you'll put a Luger in your shooting program. Available with 4½" bbl. \$69.95 or 5½" bbl. \$72.95. Send for Illustrated Brochure

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The Guns Magazine

# 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

Box 286, Bountiful, Utah 84010

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. 95421

### Carbine Malfunctions

I recently became interested in handloading for the M-1 carbine using cast bullets. The few articles I found on the subject recommend using linotype metal. I have heard that shooting this type of bullet will cause malfunctions in the carbine; causing the gas port in the barrel to accumulate the lead. Is there any way to prevent this or should I discontinue the use of cast bullets?

Charles Tinsley  
Tullahoma, Tenn.

The clogging of M-1 carbine gas ports due to the use of cast bullets appears to be a sometime thing. It doesn't always happen, but it does oc-

asionally. The only way to guarantee that it will not eventually tie up any particular gun is to periodically clean the gas port and cylinder. The port is cleaned simply by backing out the gas piston retaining nut, then running a twist drill or pin reamer of port size up through the gas port into the bore, cutting out any and all deposits. At the same time, the interior of the cylinder should be examined and any significant buildup of fouling scraped out. Generally, several thousand lead-bullet rounds are required before sufficient clogging will develop to interfere with operation.

The only other way to make certain no difficulties will ever be encountered is to use jacketed bullets. G. N.



### Cased Beals

I would like your opinion on the following described gun and its value: It is described as a Beals Patent, 6 shot, cap and ball rifle, .44 caliber, 24" barrel of which the first 8" is octagon, rest is round. On top of the barrel is marked "E. Remington and Sons, Ilion, New York, USA Patent Sept. 14, 1858." It is in a wooden case



with a 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ " shotgun barrel, about 28 gauge. Remington claims no knowledge of any such combination having been assembled in their plant. There are also a number of .44 cal. cast bullets and some wads in the compartments. Overall condition of the rifle is NRA Very Good.

Francis P. Hopkins  
Ilion, New York

From your excellent picture, I would consider that your cased Remington .44 caliber Revolving Rifle with extra shotgun barrel to have a collector's value of approximately \$800.00. It looks to be an excellent set and would enhance any gun collector's collection. R. M.

### Barrel Wear

Among my collection of Winchester lever action rifles, I have seen several that I like to shoot occasionally like a '94 in .38-55 and a '73 in .38-40. Both rifles have bores in mint condition. Will jacketed bullets produce any appreciable wear as the barrels are not marked as "nickel steel" or "for smokeless powder."

Wayne A. Hoffman  
Blue Earth, Minn.

Present-day factory-loaded ammunition in .38-55 and a .38-40 is loaded with relatively thin-jacket, soft-cored bullets which I do not feel will cause any significant harm to the barrels of your rifles unless used in very large quantities. If you plan on shooting ten or fifteen thousand rounds of such ammunition through each of the barrels, then I might become just a wee bit concerned about it. However, the average amount of shooting that one might expect to do with such guns and ammunition will certainly not harm the barrels.—G.N.

### Hoffman Rifle

I have a caplock rifle that needs identifying. It has an octagon barrel that appears to be about .36 or .38 caliber. The barrel is marked "J.V. Hoffman, Attica, Indiana." The engraved

lockplate is marked "Whitmore & Wolff, Pittsburgh." The curved buttplate and ramrod hardware are of brass and the full stock looks to be of maple. Would it be safe to restore the gun to shooting condition?

M. L. Hittle  
Mar Vista, Calif.

I find listed in American Firearms by Van Rensselaer the name Hoffman, J. V., Attica, Indiana. I would say that the gun is definitely a collector's item ..... this does not mean that it cannot be used ..... this is up to you. If taken care of and used sparingly it should double as a collector's item and a useable percussion arm. It's value if in excellent condition would be at least \$150.00.—R.M.

### Eagle Luger

In 1935 I bought a Luger for ten dollars. It is 7.65 mm, has a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tapered barrel, DWM in scroll on the toggle, American Army eagle on top of the chamber and the load indicator is spelled in English instead of the usual "Geladen." Below the serial number on the bottom of the barrel is the word "Germany." All numbers match and the gun functions perfectly. I have heard many stories on the value of this gun but would like your opinion.

Ben Robertson  
Terrell, Texas

Your description fits 1906 American Eagle Luger, sometimes called the 1900 '06 Luger.

It is estimated that less than 8,000 of this model were made for commercial sale in the United States.

In Fair to Good condition the current value of your gun would be about \$135.00-175.00.—S.B.

### German Drilling

I have a German Air Force drilling (survival), Sauer-Suhl, 12 gauge double over 9.3x74R. This gun has all original equipment including a letter from the factory dated Sept. 10, 1942. The gun appears never to have been fired. What is the value?

D. W. Groves  
Birmingham, Mich.

You are lucky, indeed. Age is in your favor in a case like your gun. A genuine 1942 unfired Sauer drilling with all original equipment (survival) which was: case, telescopic sight, regular & sub-caliber inserts, etc. should be worth \$600-650.00. These guns are not common today and the accessories are very, very rare—being actually worth more than the gun.—S.B.

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# POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

RECENTLY THE CHIEF of Staff of the Army, Westmoreland, has decided to adopt the M-16 rifle as the standard military arm. For these past several years we've had two standard rifles; the M-14 and the M-16. The M-14 fires the 7.62 mm (.308 cal.) round while the M-16 shoots the 5.56 mm (.223 cal.) cartridge. In the beginning the M-16 was authorized by the Army just for Special Forces and paratroopers. Westmoreland, who commanded all our ground forces in Vietnam, liked the lighter rifle so well he persuaded the Dept. of Defense to adopt it for all our troops. The Soviets had two service rifles, the older one they finally junked in favor of the AK-47 which is somewhat similar to our M-16.



Experiences over the past several years in Indo-China tend to make the M-16 look good. It is a sort of glorified tommy gun with a 20-shot capability and the cartridge has plenty of power to kill the enemy at close range. The average fire-fight occurs at 30 yards and at these off-the-muzzle distances the fellow with the most fire power usually wins.

The chances are extremely good that in the next war we won't be shooting at the eyeball-to-eyeball yardages. We could be fighting in the Sinai Desert where shots beyond the effective range of the M-16—a distance of only 300 meters—would be exceedingly common. Or we might be involved in China or northern India or on the more familiar ground of Europe, all spots where the enemy can be seen and fired on at long distances. That the M-16 will fail miserably, if and when this occurs, is not speculation. It represents the facts in the case.

An argument of the proponents of the single rifle is that an elimination of the older M-14 will tend to simplify the ammunition problem. This one does not hold water for we still have

as a standard weapon the new M-60 machine gun. It fires the 7.62 mm cartridge and has an excellent reputation for good performance. So the retirement of the M-14 would not alter the ammo supply problem. That is, unless the advocates of the Westmoreland plan also intend to introduce a machine gun to fire the pipsqueak .223 round. During WW II and the Korean affair we had two .30 caliber rifles along with a variety of machine guns, all of them firing the .30 caliber. The carbine used a .30 that was a peewee, the M-1 rifle and the MGs used another, the .30'06. This multiplicity of cartridges may have placed a strain on the supply branch but if it did there was never any indication the services had any marked difficulty in keeping the infantry supplied.

There is supposed to be about one-and-one-half million M-14 rifles in existence. There has been no production for some six or seven years. There are no plans to resume the manufacture of the weapon. This, you may be sure, has had a great deal of bearing in the decision to go to the M-16 as the only service arm. The lack of production of the older gun will have an adverse effect on the supply of parts for the rifles now in use. A situation which might very well encourage the cannibalization of existing guns, robbing parts to keep a smaller number firing.



When the last of the M-14s are withdrawn from troop units there is a good deal of speculation as to what will be done with them. The M-1 has been virtually given away around the world. There are only the most limited stocks of this older rifle now left in Army storehouses. It is altogether likely this will be the fate of the M-14. It will go to arm our allies. But just which allies? The South Vietnamese used to have the M-1. This has now been replaced with the M-16. This is an ideal rifle for these small



people. The M-1 weighed almost 10 pounds and the average Vietnamese infantryman weighs only 110 pounds, the rifle constitutes a terrific load. The M-14 is almost as heavy. It would be a poor rifle to hand the Vietnamese even if they were not now receiving the M-16. The Nationalist Chinese on Taiwan are a much bigger breed. They are armed with the old M-1. These people would welcome the M-14 as would the South Koreans. In Europe there is little need to consider the introduction of the M-14. In north Africa where the situation continually deteriorates toward war between the Israelis and the Arabs the politics of the situation would make it difficult to offer the surplus quantities of the older rifle to the Jews.

The logical solution to the problem of this 1½ million obsolete rifles is to hold them in Army storage and offer them to American shooters at a reduced and reasonable price for target shooting. This has always been done in the past with such now obsolete rifles as the Krag, Springfield, Enfield and the M-1. These rifles were sold through the Director of Civilian Marksmanship after the buyer established that he was a member of the National Rifle Association. The Johnson administration axed this old system and it is likely if an attempt was made to pass the M-14 along to deserting shooters that there would be loud cries from members of Congress who would be sure the sale was intended to arm the Black Panthers and other revolutionary groups.

• • •

Around the turn of the century the average scattergun had barrels of 30 inches in length. It was common to go to 32", 34" and even 36 inches for the smooth bore. It was believed that good performance resulted from long barrels, the powder burned more efficiently and the gun pointed with greater efficiency. But perhaps the best argument of all was that the gun shot harder.

A good deal of the affinity for long barrels—both on scattergun and rifle—was due to the influence of the muzzle loader. These front-loaders invariably had tubes of 30 inches or more. Lengths of as much as 48 inches were not at all uncommon. Black powder burns very rapidly and reaches peak pressures in milliseconds. Despite this the gunners of that distant day thought the cap-and-ball job had to have a barrel at least three feet in length to develop full velocity. The facts are, some of the barrels were so elongated the ball actually lost velocity because of the friction between the tube and the ball!

What was enhanced by the great

length of the business end was sighting radius. Other things being equal the more radius betwixt hind sight and fore, the better the gunner's aim. Of course the sights were pretty crude and the front was a tiny sliver of metal, a blade so far from the eye it was oftentimes hard to see with good acuity. This then tended to mitigate against the greater sighting radius.

The modern shotgun will have a barrel of either 26 or 28 inches. The latter is the more popular but the shorter tube is gaining in acceptance. Shooters have found that all the powder charge is consumed in the shorter lengths and these are faster and handier. There is still a manufacture of 30-inch barrels but it is a minor thing. Tubes of 32 and 34-inch are for trap guns only. As an indication of the trend toward less barrel dimension is the availability of barrels of 22 and 24 inches. And some of only 20 inches. These are specially made for slug and buckshot and are usually equipped with front and rear open sights.

Among sporting rifles there is a very discernable trend in the same direction. The highly popular Remington Model 600 and 660 rifles is indication of this change to shorter tubes. Winchester has commenced a move in the same order. As an example, the .458 elephant rifle used to be made only with a 26-inch barrel. Now it is offered with only a 22-inch snout. The standard Model 70 is now a 22-inch offering and the M70 with Mannlicher stock has only a 19-inch tube. It may not be apparent to a good many but the development of the military rifle has a considerable influence on the sporting counterpart. Thirty years ago the M-1 rifle had a 24-inch barrel; the M-14 when it replaced the older gun had only a 22-inch barrel. Now the M-16, the very latest, goes only 20 inches up front.

The Germans entered World War One with a Mauser which had a 30-inch barrel. When WW-II got under way there were a few of these old rifles still in use but the majority carried by the Wehrmacht was the new Mauser with only a 23.5-inch barrel. The older Mauser, the one with the longer barrel, was typical of the rifles used by our sportsmen during the early years of this century. These frequently measured 28 inches. I am thinking now of the Winchester Model 95 rifle which sported a long 28-inch tube.

Now the only rifles you see with barrels of 26, 28 or 30 inches are 1,000-yard bull guns. When benchrest shooting was in its cradle stage the hotrocks believed the barrel ought to be a long one, quite heavy and plenty stiff. Since then they have learned

(Continued on page 73)

## Now, carry your Smith & Wesson in a Smith & Wesson

Why stop with the world's finest sidearm? S&W now makes a beautiful selection of leathersgoods with the same kind of quality. This Sportsman Holster for instance, slung on our No. 94 Rifle Cartridge Belt, is available hand-fitted for any revolver; in russet or black; plain, basket-weave or flower-carved. That No. 91 Carrying Strap is kind to your shoulder (and your gun's stock). The Rifle? Yes... the newest Smith & Wesson! Ask your S&W dealer about our leathersgoods. For sportsmen. For lawmen. And write for a catalog. Smith & Wesson Leather Co., Springfield, Mass. 01101.

**SMITH & WESSON**

A BANGOR PUNTA COMPANY





# VOICE OF THE SHOOTER DREAM GUNS

Here they are! The Dream Gun ideas  
from the letters of our readers.

**T**HE RESPONSE to our request for ideas was overwhelming. And apparently, the voice of the shooter will be heard. Several of the gun manufacturers have asked for a chance to read these letters, and perhaps some of these "dreams" will come true.

We had thought, when this dream gun thing was first conceived, to publish the actual letters with good ideas, but there were so many, and so much duplication, that we thought it best to summarize the thoughts, except in a few instances.

As you will recall, Gene Lovitz, in his original Dream Gun article, asked why some American gun company could not locate a factory in Puerto Rico or on an Indian reservation. Well, one of the first letters we received was from Mr. R. C. Hadden (3121 West Coast Highway, Newport Beach, Calif. 92660) who said, in part; "I would be happy to do what I can to help any interested manufacturer obtain a favorable lease on the Gila River Indian Reservation, only 15 miles south of Phoenix. For the past three years I have been working with the Pima tribe on projects . . . and have found these people excellent and loyal employees and friends." How about it, some of you gunmakers? With government subsidies available, no inventory or property taxes, perhaps you could help bring about employment to a people who deserve it, and at the same time give shooting customers a quality firearm made in America by real Americans.

But on to the dream guns. If I learned nothing else by reading the hundreds of letters, it is this—and the manufacturers should take heed—there is more tradition in this gun business than I had imagined. Many readers asked for new guns chambered for some pretty old cartridges: "I'd like to see the comeback of the .32-20 as a handgun caliber."—". . . More big bore non-magnum revolvers for such calibers as the .44 Spec., .45 ACP and .45 Colt."—". . . a Ruger Blackhawk chambered for the .45 Colt with a spare cylinder for the .45 ACP." (there were many of these—ed.)—". . . a single shot rifle in the style of the Remington Hepburn in calibers .444 Marlin, .45-70, .30-40 Krag . . ."

In addition to a yearning for old calibers, many readers wanted to see the return of some discontinued guns: "I would wait in line for a Winchester Model 94 in a take-down version." or ". . . that fabulous, New Century

"Triple Lock" S&W back in production," and "Remington should revive their old #4 rolling block."—" . . . remanufacture of the S&W K-32."—" . . . return of the H&R single shotgun, Heavy Breech, in all gauges."—" . . . Savage manufacture their Model 29 slide action again."—" . . . I'd like to see Remington bring back the Model 141 pump in .44 Mag. or 35 Rem."

But the most requests—echoed many times over—was for firearms for the .22 Rim Fire Magnum. Everyone who mentioned this cartridge asked for an autoloading rifle; many asked for auto pistols, and some asked for revolvers in other than single action style. The next largest number of requests were for the Ruger S.A. in .45 Colt with a .45 ACP cylinder. And while we're on the subject of Ruger guns, readers also asked for a long action Model 77 rifle, a .357 Mag. auto rifle, the Model 77 with a Mannlicher stock; "lengthen the barrels on the .357 and .41 Mags to 7½" to allow those with the .44 and .30 Rugers to use the same holster," and a new caliber for the Hawkeye, "it was a good gun but the .256 never set the world on fire," and, "a .38 Special built along the lines of the Bearcat, probably a five shot. I taught my family to shoot with a Bearcat, but now need something similar in weight and feel in a bigger caliber."

Several left hand shooters felt "left" out of the market, especially in the larger caliber big game rifles—.458 Win. Mag. and .375 H&H—and in muzzle loading guns.

There were, of course, many contradictory letters. One fellow asked for "a neat little rifle with an action similar to the Sako L-461—without the dovetails;" another asked that all manufacturers put dovetails, similar to the Sako and Ruger 77 on their rifles. A recurring theme in some of the letters was for longer barrels on rifles. One writer asked that "Remington and Winchester give the shooters a choice of barrel lengths, and I don't mean 18" or 20", I mean from 20" up to 28". Another writer was more specific: "Domestic rifle manufacturers should offer 26" barrels as an option on rifles chambered for . . . high velocity, flat trajectory cartridges."

A large percentage of the letter writers agreed with most of the dream gun ideas proposed by Gene Lovitz, and it should not be necessary to repeat those here. Of all of the ideas expressed by Lovitz, the one that received the greatest support was for a .22 conversion unit for the Browning Hi-Power pistol. Next in line was Gene's suggestion that more handguns be made of stainless steel.

Here is a sampling of some of the more astute ideas; whether they are good or not depends on your personal likes and dislikes.

I'd like to see:

"Colt offer the Shooting Master in modern calibers with micrometer sights. And, cap and ball pistols by Colt would be most desirable."

"An American made 10 gauge 7-shot pump shotgun. Do you think that if I took the barrels off my Spanish double 10 magnum and beat both Rem. and Win. over their heads, they'd consider it?"

"I've bugged Marlin to build a carbine version of their .444 to no avail. Also, I'd like to see a single barrel trap at a reasonable price, something like the old Lefever."

"The Savage 24 in larger size, perhaps 12 ga. over the .243 or .308."

"Why not chamber the Savage 99 for the .350 Rem. Mag.?"

"A line of American made double rifles in practically any caliber."

"A good bolt action rifle to handle the .444 Marlin."

"Savage produce a hinged floorplate for their 110 rifles."

"The .30-06 made in lever action; I wouldn't care who did it, as long as it was designed for easy scope mounting."



## HERE ARE THE WINNERS

In our January issue we announced that we would screen all Dream Gun letters and award some Browning pistol and Weatherby rifle tie clasps to those which we felt were the best. Of course, there was quite a bit of duplication, and some of the better ideas were too long to reprint. But a panel did select some which showed a clarity of thought, and here are the winners.

B. W. Mitchell; Lancaster, S.C.  
Harry F. Corradi; Merrick, N.Y.  
L. A. Bonewitz; San Antonio, Texas  
Floyd De Lashmit; Indio, Calif.  
Keith Bowers; Dryden, N.Y.  
M. P. Belval; Jasonville, Indiana  
Roy Traband; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Charlie H. Smith; Northlake, Ill.  
Thomas A. Rutledge, Jr.; Ellicott City, Md.  
Mike Green; Muskogee, Oklahoma  
Lorne E. McNeice; Alberta, Canada

John F. Pasak; Ravenna, Ohio  
A 1/C Frank A. Bucino; APO Seattle  
R. C. Hadden; Newport Beach, Calif.  
A. D. Cook; Nashville, Tenn.  
Jess Boggs, Jr.; Connersville, Ind.  
Lawrence D. Graves; Augusta, Maine  
Ben Powell; Clifton Forge, Va.  
Henry Gruber; Chicago, Ill.  
George Getty; Morro Bay, Calif.  
Frank Follett; Wichita, Kansas  
Bob Kirkpatrick; Birmingham, Ala.

"A mild .44 Magnum load from the ammo makers."

"A superb handgun that could take the .222 Rem. Mag. and an over-under for the .222 Rem. Mag. and 12 gauge."

"The bullet makers come out with match bullets in more calibers. The 7 mm Mag. and others are losing ground because of the lack of a good match bullet."

"I would like to see S&W change the rotation direction of the cylinders in their revolvers; or they could have the cylinders swing out from the other side."

"Ten-pack boxes of rifle ammo, especially the big magnums."

"I'd like to see a ban on impressed checkering. Do you suppose my Congressman would help if I told him it was subversive?"

"Dammit, why can't the manufacturers of commemoratives come out with them before the celebration is over?"

"More .22 rifles built to .22 proportions, not .30-06."

"Outside of Dodd getting his draft notice, how about


one of our arms companies coming out with a single shot rifle in caliber .223?"

"Ruger sure would make a mint with a long action Model 77."

"Rifles that I could afford, chambered for the Weatherby cartridges."

"I'd like to see our American arms companies realize that the gun enthusiast makes his purchases based on quality above price."

"Bill Blankenship for President!"

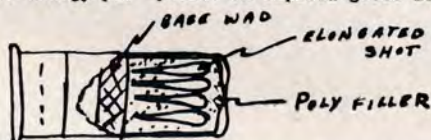
Well, those are some of the dreams of our readers. Included along with these ideas were thoughts not related directly to gun designs. Many expressed a hope for more care in either the manufacture or the final inspection of many firearms—even at the cost of a higher price tag. As we said at the beginning, there is a lot of tradition in this business, and the average gun owner takes a lot of pride in his firearms—if they deserve it. 

In the growing muzzle loading field, I'd like to see a non-corrosive, non-fouling black powder substitute that can be used dram for dram and still belch the clouds of acrid smoke so dear to muzzle loaders. Perhaps just an additive to today's black powder would turn the trick just as that used in gasolines to make them burn cleaner.

Last, but not least, a percussion rifle with the lock on the left side for us forgotten southpaws would be welcomed with open arms (and wallets).

Since manufacturers are going replica-happy, why not a .22 rimfire copy of the 1896 Mauser pistol? Or, and exact replica in 9mm from Erma? Or am I the only one in the world who likes 'em?

I have what I think is a revolutionary idea for a long range shot shell, although it has probably been thought of before, here it is: By using elongated shot (see diagram) actually pellets with tails, the shot would fly straighter by virtue of its elongated shape, and thus produce a tighter pattern, also its shape lends it greater sectional density than conventional shot and therefore would fly farther and retain more energy per 'pellet'. A capitol goose load what?



A slight problem lies in getting it out the barrel in the right direction the solution to this is to pack it in a poly filler much the way some new Winchester shot shells are. This only leaves the problem of loading it. Not a slight problem you'll admit.

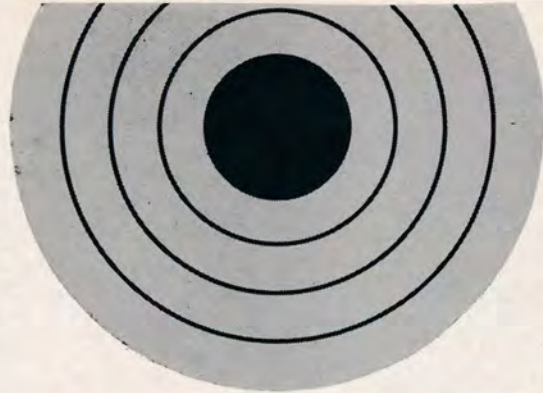
I would like to see the return of the "Mini-Brutes," such as the Stevens Favorite, the Stevens Crackshot, the No. 6 Remington Take Down Rifle, and the Winchester Model 1902. These small rifles would be ideal for hunting small game such as rabbit, squirrel, and bullfrog. They would also be a great gun for plinking.

I have wanted one of these rifles for several years, but everyone who has them won't sell them because they like them as well as I do.

*For 1970 I would like to see the military and police training facilities equipped with plastic transparent working models of their various firearms in use instead of their usual sheet diagrams and projections on the wall.*

*This way the instructors can go through each step with the whole class taking part in disassembling and assembling, and at the same time will be able to observe the operation of the internal parts of the weapon.*





# Beretta's Bid FOR THE Target Market



By JAN A. STEVENSON

## SPECIFICATIONS BERETTA MODEL 80

Type: Blowback	Front sight:
Caliber: .22 Short	1/8" square post
Breechblock:	Rear sight:
Unlocked, travelling	Adj., wide notch
in receiver tunnel	Sight radius: 9.3"
Weight: 37 ounces	Magazine cap.: 6 rounds
Height 5.16"	Trigger pull: 7 ounces
LOA: 12"	Safety:
Bbl. length: 6.7"	Left side,
Rifling 6 groove	blocks trigger
Twist: 1 in 24.62"	Weights: Lead, adj.
Importer: Not yet available in U.S.	Price: \$148.00 (in Italy)

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION of their first automatic pistol in 1915, Beretta's line of self-loading handguns has evolved and expanded to include excellent arms for the soldier, the shopkeeper, the policeman, and the plinker. Detectives, diplomats, and debutants could all find the ideal equalizer in the Gardone firm's catalog; not so the target shooter. If James Bond switched from Beretta to Walther mostly for literary reasons, the target panner's motivations were far more practical. Beretta simply didn't make a pistol that would haul its freight in competition; paper punchers perform elsewhere.

The company's first attempt to feel out the target market was a fumbling one. The short-lived Model 943, introduced three years after the second World War had ground to a halt, was a long barreled .22 offering of the 1934 service pistol. The Model 949, which replaced it the following year, was nicer to look at, but still fell far short of what was required. The 949 had well-shaped wooden stocks and a deinked searage, but that was about it. The sights were awkward to adjust and the rear element rode the slide while the front post perched on the end of the barrel. Besides the theoretical objections to such arrangement, the barrel-frame union left something to be desired. Even with factory-provided weights slung under the barrel, the heft was a bare 32 ounces—far too feathery for serious work. With a bit of luck, this gun could have snatched some of the 1936 Olympic laurels from Walther. Beretta just introduced it a decade and some too late.



A few years later, when the Marengoni-designed Model 70 introduced a new era of medium-frame Beretta auto-loaders, gussied-up rimfire versions with longer barrels, extended grips, and adjustable barrel-mounted sights in some combination or other were promptly forthcoming. Known as the Models 72, 73, and 74, they worked out fine as pot guns for campers, but turned no heads among competitive shooters. Weight was on the order of 20 ounces and they were butt-heavy at that.

In 1962 the foolishness stopped. Beretta hauled the drapes off their Model 80 in .22 short. The Model 80 owed nothing to previous designs. It was entirely new—which means something like a quarter million dollars in initial expenses—and was a dead serious effort aimed at one of the toughest and most specialized target markets in the world—the Olympic rapid-fire shooter.

The ISU or Olympic rapid-fire game is one we don't

## SPECIFICATIONS BERETTA MODEL 76

Type: Blowback	Front sight: Square post
Caliber: .22 LR	Rear sight:
Breechblock:	Adj., square notch
Unlocked, slide	Sight radius: 6.8"
Weight: 32.8 ounces	Magazine capacity: 10 rounds
Height: 5.4"	Trigger pull: 38-48 ounces
LOA: 9.25"	Safety:
Bbl. length: 5.9"	Left side, blocks sear
Rifling: 6 groove	Weights: None
Twist: 1 in 13.78"	Price: \$87.00

Importer: J. L. Galef & Son, Inc. 85 Chambers St.  
New York, N. Y. 10007



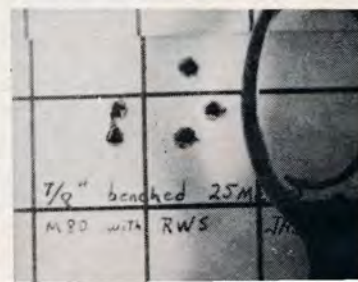
play. It's shot with .22's against full-size silhouettes at 25 meters, which sounds easy enough for openers. Each shooter fires on five targets. You start with the gun lowered. When the targets face you lift the pistol and put a hole in each, all in 8 seconds, then 5 seconds, then 4. Considering how long it takes to raise the pistol and align the sights for the first shot, that leaves a bare half second to traverse and touch off each of the succeeding shots on the third string. To win you want to plug the 10-ring, which measures about 6" high by 4" across—somewhat smaller than the K-5 zone of the Colt's silhouette! Two jams are allowed during the 60-shot course, but they always cost points. More than two stoppages and you've dropped the marbles, but do come back next year.

The gun behind the game, it stands to reason, is quite a specialized item. Accuracy is wanted, but fast accuracy in a reliable machine and no other kind. If it comes to a choice among reliability, low recoil, and accuracy. Pure accuracy will get the heave-ho every time. The .22 short, loaded just hot enough to pierce the paper, is the cartridge used, and the name of the game is making it feed and eject, and designing the gun to take out the bounce that's left.

The Swiss-built Hämmerli is the acknowledged boss in rapid-fire circles. Over the past few years Walther in Germany has spent enormous sums on their radical OSP model in an effort to break the Hämmerli hammerlock. The Russians meanwhile, on (Continued on page 53)

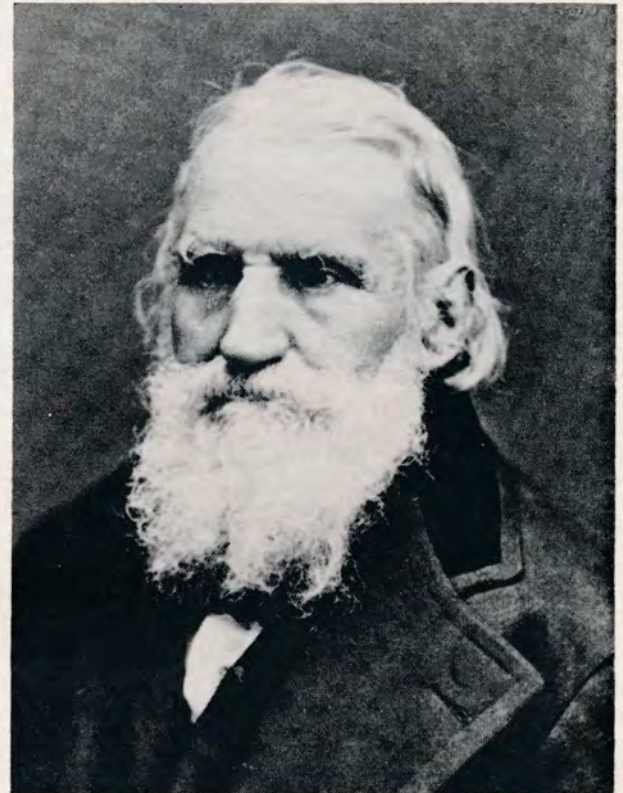
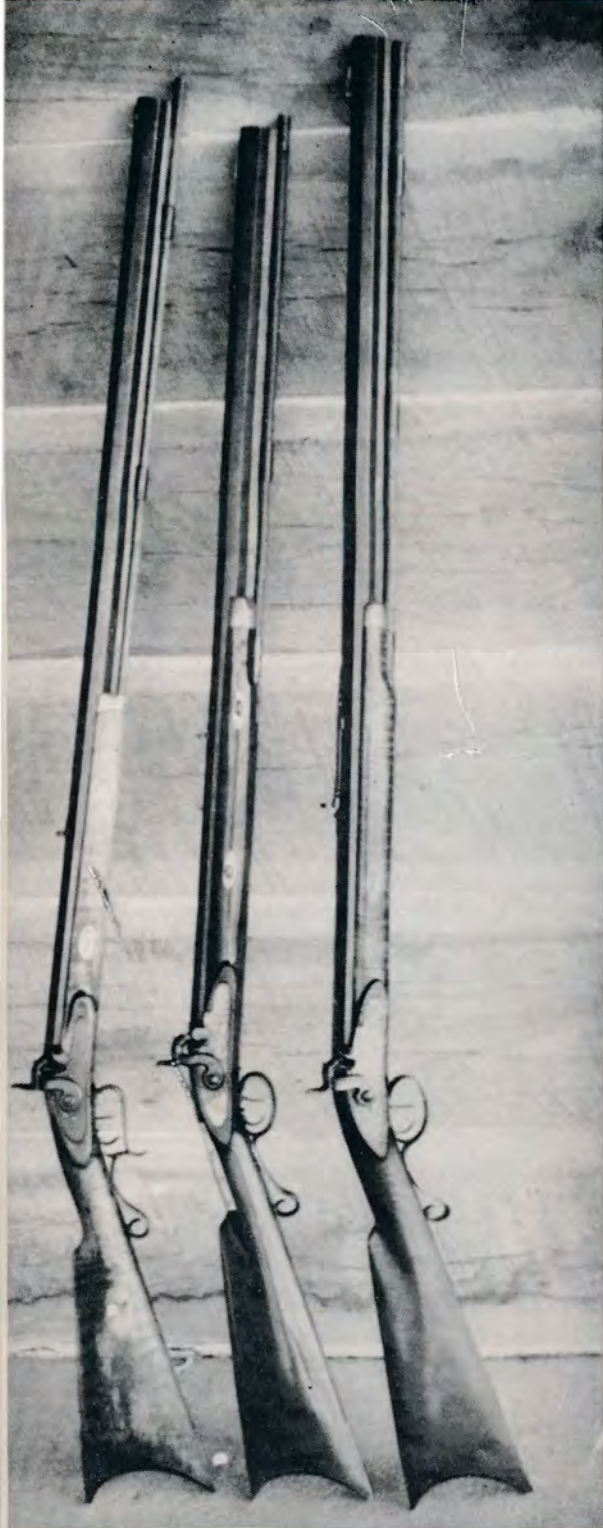


Accuracy with the 76 was a shade over one inch at 25 meters in the author's hands.



Model 80 performance was better with 7/8" group at 25 meters, fired from benchrest.





# HAWKEN

## The Big Saint Louis Gun

Above, clockwise: J. P. Gemmer rifle .45 caliber; .50 caliber S. Hawken (note wrist repair); .53 caliber S. Hawken mountain rifle. Note length. Evidence that the Hawken shop did buy pistols for resale is this gun marked "J & S Hawken." Sam Hawken, who came to Denver in 1859, set-up shop in the white lean-to building.

By E. L. REEDSTROM

## PART 2





**T**HROUGHOUT ALL THE CROWDED YEARS in St. Louis, none had been so packed with tragedy and promise to Sam Hawken as 1849. Cholera stalked the streets during the summer months, filling cemeteries and killing entire families. The horror pulled the diverse population into one united group, and selfishness was soon forgotten in the great need. Only nine days after the death of famed gunsmith Jacob Hawken, a new calamity added to the general excitement, and seemed for a time to divert attention from the cholera epidemic.

At 10 P.M., May 17, 1849, a fire broke out on board the steamboat "White Cloud" lying near the head of the landing. The wind, blowing a gale from the northeast, soon spread the flames to other steamboats lying below along the levee. In less than half an hour the entire fleet was on fire. Raging completely out of control, the fire reached into the city by way of Locust Street. A great number of buildings, including large warehouses chucked full with goods, were burned to the ground. Last efforts were made by blasting with explosives buildings that lay in the path of the fire in order to bring the flames under control. The Hawken shop, only two blocks away, escaped damage, except for a few shaken gunsmiths standing ready to protect their goods from invading thieves. Many businesses receiving the alarm in good time, stocked their goods and furniture in the middle of streets, blocking traffic in every direction. An onrush of buying arms for protection against looters came to the doors of the Hawken shop, and during this critical period, Sam was there to meet it. When the fire burned much of the old city, a new modern St. Louis was already being planned before the ashes cooled.

By now the Mountain Man and trapper were all but gone from the scene along with the final decline of the fur trade. Seeing this, many of the Mountain Men fell in with the "Great Western Migration" and acted as interpreters, guides, emissaries, messengers, and conciliators.

The Hawken's gun shop took a busy stream of '49-ers, supplying them with guns. Sam could not turn out rifles as fast as he could sell them. The ever increasing competition from other gun shops, along with great quantities of Eastern rifles being shipped into St. Louis, with prices hard to compete with, had certainly reflected the quality on Hawken rifles of this period. A discerning study of rifles produced at this time would indicate that Hawken quality had slipped somewhat. A rather distinctive change in style, plus a number of variations in construction detail reveal that the Hawken shop was hard pressed to meet the demand. As Sam continued the business after his brother's death, he changed the J & S Hawken to S. Hawken, St. Louis, and continued this stamp until his retirement.

Christian Hoffman and Tristram Campbell are first listed in the St. Louis business directory in 1842, as being employed by the Hawken factory. In 1845, they are listed as being in partnership at the address on Locust St., and Christopher M. Hawken, son of Jake, is listed as being at the same address with them. Because the Hawken brothers would not sell under their name anything not made by them, it would appear that the Hoffman and Campbell business was a subsidiary of the Hawken shop, serving as a merchandising outlet for items then in demand, but not handled at the Hawken shop. Among such items found there were Allen pistols, cheap Eastern rifles and Colt revolvers.

Christopher Hawken left St. Louis directly after his father's death and headed west. The 1854 directory shows that Tristram Campbell, former partner of Hoffman, is listed as partner to Sam Hawken. Samuel's son, William S. Hawken is also listed as being with Sam—this is the first indication that William S. Hawken had entered the gun business. It is interesting to note that in the same directory Christian Hoffman and Christopher Hawken are partners in a livery business at 13 and 14 Market Street. Although Hoffman did not have any strong connections with the gun business,





**FROM  
J. P. GEMMER  
& GUNS  
& AMMUNITION  
700 NORTH 8<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.**

J. P. Gemmer 8 gauge double barrel shotgun made about 1866-1867 with repaired wrist. J. D. Baird Collection.



Campbell, a former partner of Hoffmans, was a fine engraver and gunsmith. His skilled specialty was ornamenting rifles constructed by others. The St. Louis business directory lists Campbell as being in business alone at 76 Locust Street.

In 1859, the demand for rifles on the frontier was heavy. Not only were the white hunters seeking the big St. Louis' guns, but Indians as well had the same intentions. The only thing that prevented the settlers from advancing any farther than St. Louis, was the permanent Indian frontier which ran along the great bend of the Missouri. This remained a reality from the latter '20s through the early '40s. The massing of Indians west of this line had offered some discouragement to the white migration, even though the whites never took Indian ownership very seriously. The contact between the two races produced its inevitable bad effects, and periodic armed conflicts with the Indians were increasing.

The city of St. Louis was fast developing into one of the greatest commercial centers of the United States. Already the prevalence of smoke and gas belched out by factories, had become a daily menace to health. It may have been this polluted air that deteriorated Sam Hawken's health. On April 20th, 1859, Sam traveled to Denver, leaving his son William S. to dispose of the St. Louis business. During the Mexican War, young William S. volunteered and served under General Henderson of the Texas Rangers at the battle of Monterey. Here, 43 enlisted men, armed with Hawken muzzle loaders, held a bridge over San Juan creek against odds of from 600 to 2000 Mexicans. After the battle, nine of the forty-three survived. William S. was one of the nine but was severely wounded. He was soon mustered out of the service and journeyed to the north country to join his father.

Sam Hawken arrived in Denver, June 30, 1859. He tried his hand at gold mining, which he soon gave up, and returned to his old trade, gunmaking. In January, 1860, he finally opened a shop in Denver. The Rocky Mountain News carried an advertisement to that effect on Feb. 15th and reported that Sam Hawken was prepared to manufacture his style of rifle to order. In front of his shop on Ferry Street he had erected a tall pole from which swung a mammoth rifle that could be seen from all parts of the city.

Sam's health evidently restored itself in Denver as his longing for the old St. Louis haunts became apparent. Once more, leaving his son in complete charge of the gun business, Sam retired and returned to St. Louis in 1861.

The St. Louis Directory now contained a new listing: "William E. Watt—successor to W. S. Hawken—Rifle and Shotgun Manufacture, 21 Washington Ave.; Hawken rifles always on hand." Watt probably had the controlling interest in the business before he teamed up with John Philip Gemmer, an old employer who later took complete control of the Hawken shop in 1862. Gemmer, born in Germany in 1835, settled in Boonville, Missouri and became associated with John P. Sites, a gunsmith. Gemmer learned the gunsmithing trade and continued on to St. Louis on his own. Taking complete control of the factory, Gemmer let the name "Hawken" remain outside the shop as late as 1875. He also kept the Hawken stamp on many rifles he produced. Gemmer first operated at Third and Lucas—and later moved to Eighth St. between Morgan and Franklin, a few blocks from where Jake Hawken had died in 1849. Here Gemmer continued producing (Continued on page 56)

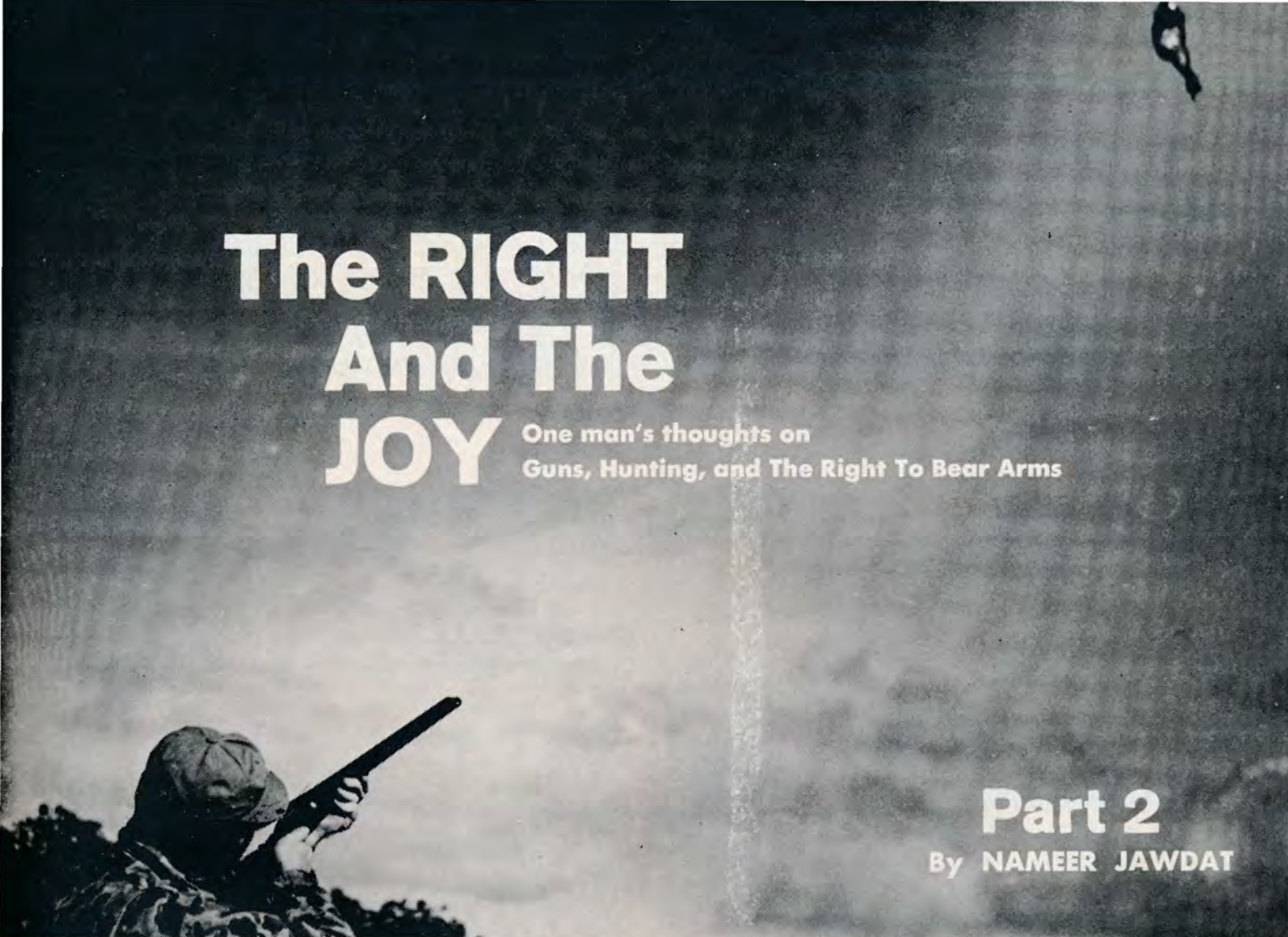


# The RIGHT And The JOY

One man's thoughts on  
Guns, Hunting, and The Right To Bear Arms

## Part 2

By NAMEER JAWDAT



THE HILLSIDES in central Italy, where I have just bought a farm, are wooded and fresh. I was walking along one afternoon last autumn when the ground was still damp from the rain that had fallen the day before, looking over the hill and casually forming a picture in my mind of the way my house would be built—how, and how big, and where in relation to the woods and the view. My eye fell on a spent shotgun shell and I picked it up and suddenly the eleven autumns that have passed since I last owned a gun disappeared, and I was once again out in the fields with a light double, walking through the swishing wet stubble and waiting for that never-to-be-forgotten, explosive b-r-r-r-r of a black partridge rocketing off from two yards ahead of you, or behind you, or right under your feet, or anywhere you do not expect it to be. The texture of the scene is indelibly imprinted in the mind of anyone who is lucky enough to have experienced it, as intricate and as formal as the pattern of a leaf. First there is the walk-up through

the clean-smelling stubble, the heart thumping with anticipation, the background noises of hunters and dogs pushed to the back of your mind by no conscious effort of the will, the feel of the lovingly-rubbed walnut and the clean cool steel familiar to the hand; and suddenly the explosion of the bird flying up, up, up; the feet taking their stance and the gun lofting itself to your shoulder and barking sharply, and the bird falling with a clean, thick thud; and the glow in you that can never afterwards be dissociated from the smell of powder. The sport of shooting is five percent shooting. The rest is memory and anticipation.

Words, words. I write what I have to write, but how can anyone explain the glory of guns to someone who does not understand it? Those who know, know. Those who do not are too busy telling us how wrong we are. How can we explain? Eternity has been described as the length of time between the day that a boy sends for a gun catalogue and the day it arrives in the mail. Yet who can describe the

excruciatingly pleasurable agony of choosing the first rifle from that catalogue? Is it comparable to the pleasure the father finds in training his son in the correct and disciplined handling of the gun, in the canons of sportsmanship and fair chase, in the lore and traditions of the hunt? What words are adequate to describe a father's pride the first time his boy powders a clay, cleanly and smoothly?

Anti-gun nuts have this in common: they hate the idea of people *enjoying* guns. Gun nuts have this in common: they love guns, but no two have the same ideas on what part of the shooting game to love.

... The man with the precise, surgeon's hands frowns as he looks at the delicately figured stock—and the heavy varnish on top. He lays out steel wool, rags, various weird-looking concoctions in unlabeled bottles. Then carefully, carefully, he starts to scrape the varnish from the stock with a razor blade. He is still frowning, but it is the frown of a happy man.

... In the heat of a summer's  
(Continued on page 57)



10 Ga.

12 Ga.

20 Ga.

24 Ga.

.410

IS THE

OUTMODED?

16  
GAUGE

16 Ga.

By CHARLES ASKINS



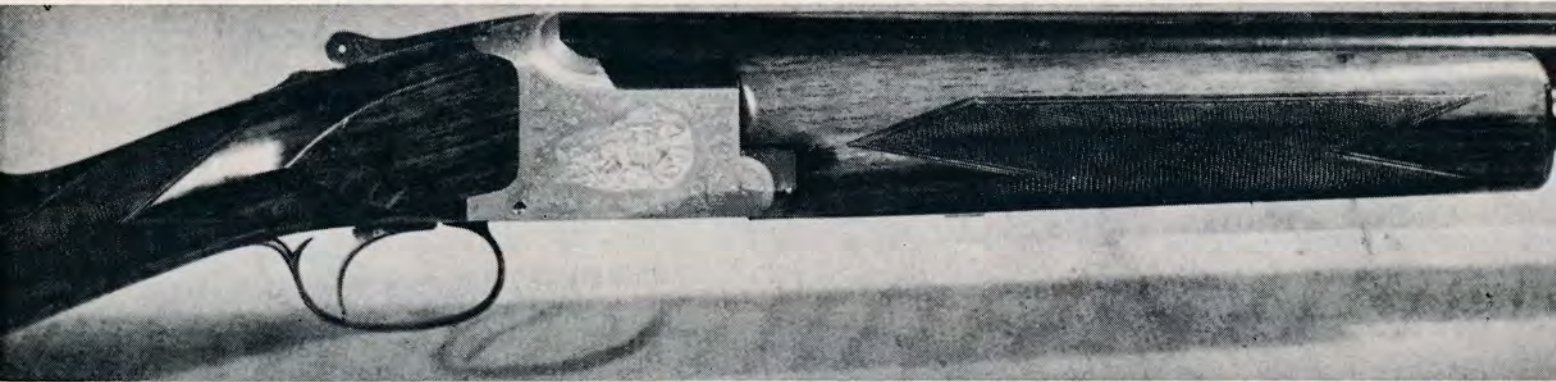
ONE TIME, in an *armeria* in Madrid, I found a Browning over/under 12 gauge. It did not carry the Browning name but only Fabrique Nationale, the Belgium firm that has always made the sturdy Browning superposed. This gun, found in the Spanish sporting goods store, was in good shape except for the barrels; these were utterly eaten up with rust and neglect. The Spanish have a corner on the mercury supply of the world and as a result their primers have always been the old corrosive mercuric-base type. Unless you vigorously clean a bore directly after firing the mercuric cap, you will get into trouble. The former owner of the over/under had been pretty neglectful.

I bought the Browning and shipped it off to Simmons Gun Specialties. Ernie Simmons cut off the tubes just ahead of the chambers and then he bored out the stubs. Into these stubs he inserted two 16 gauge Winchester Model 12 barrels. After that he did an exceedingly clever job of fitting his raised ventilated rib. The usual side ribs as a joint between the over and under barrels, were also added. The tubes were bored modified and were 28 inches in length. The gun had been equipped with double triggers. I had John Browning II, who was then living at Liege, install a single trigger. Then the gun was restocked with a blank from Stoeger, the stock work done by Acuirre & Aranzabal—AyA—the superb gunmakers of Eibar; engraved by Unceta of Guernica, and finally I was ready to shoot it.

This is probably the only Browning superposed in 16 gauge. That it is some thing of a hybrid cannot be gainsaid, but it is a curious polygot of parts and exceedingly clever gunsmithing on the part of various experts. The insertion and final fitting of the 16 gauge tubes in the 12 gauge stubs was a delicate business for the headspace had to be adjusted to minute tolerances. The over/under is quite sensitive to headspace and in this case Simmons did such a fine job I have never had a single round misfire in this gun.

I fetched the gun back to the states with me and have





shot it almost constantly since. It is a mite too tight for bob-white quail but is highly effective on our blue quail which habitually rise wilder than their little brown brothers. It is fantastically lethal on doves in season and I regularly take it in preference to anything else. Despite the fact that both barrels are bored exactly the same, that is, modified, it reaches out to 40 yards and kills the fast-winged game with a great deal of surety. I have had the gun in the duck blind where the Federal  $3\frac{1}{2}$  dram load with  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ozs of 6's is as efficient as anything I have ever fired. The modified barrels on ducks up to 40 yards is ideal. I am not one of these buckos who has to kill his webfeet at 55 yards to show what a hell of a gunner I am. I prefer to see the whites of their eyes before I belt them. The sixteen is just a whale of a wildfowler's piece on decoyed mallards. I have never tried it on geese and have no intention of doing so. I believe for the mighty honker that the 12 or the 10 is proper medicine and that the 16 and the lesser gauges are not proper.

Over a long shooting lifetime I have owned a succession of sixteen gauge scatterguns. The oldest gun in my rack, now 60 years in being and given me by my father, is a sixteen. It is an Ithaca, with 28-inch barrels, bored improved cylinder and modified, and weighing just 6 lb 5 oz. It was given my Old Man by Lou Smith, who started the Ithaca Co. and in turn was passed along to me when I was a teen-ager. It is chambered for the now obsolete  $2\frac{9}{16}$ " cases, and thus has earned an honorable retirement.

Still another Ithaca that I have used a great deal more is the Model 37 pump repeater. Equipped with a Poly Choke, with a barrel length of 28 inches overall, it was a favorite with me for blue quail and doves. With a weight of only  $6\frac{1}{4}$  pounds I found I could walk after the desert quail all day and never feel the weight.

The finest sixteen I have ever owned, which I permitted to slip from my grasp a few years ago, was a Winchester Model 21. It had 26-inch barrels bored improved cylinder in both tubes, double triggers, a selected Circassian walnut stock and forend, and a weight of 7 pounds. This was a duzy on jacksnipe, woodcock and bobwhites. One year, in Oklahoma, there were more quail than we had seen in twenty years and I had an Oklahoma sheriff, Russell Lovely, who not only had a whole gaggle of fine dogs but access to limitless acres all of which were fairly bristling with the lusty little bomb shells. The Model 21 was a most impressive performer, especially since I had to compete with the lawman who shot an old Model 12 pump repeater, 20 gauge, with 22-inch full cylinder barrel. If you could beat him to the first shot on the covey rise you had to indeed be fast! Sometimes I did with the Model 21. (Continued on page 59)

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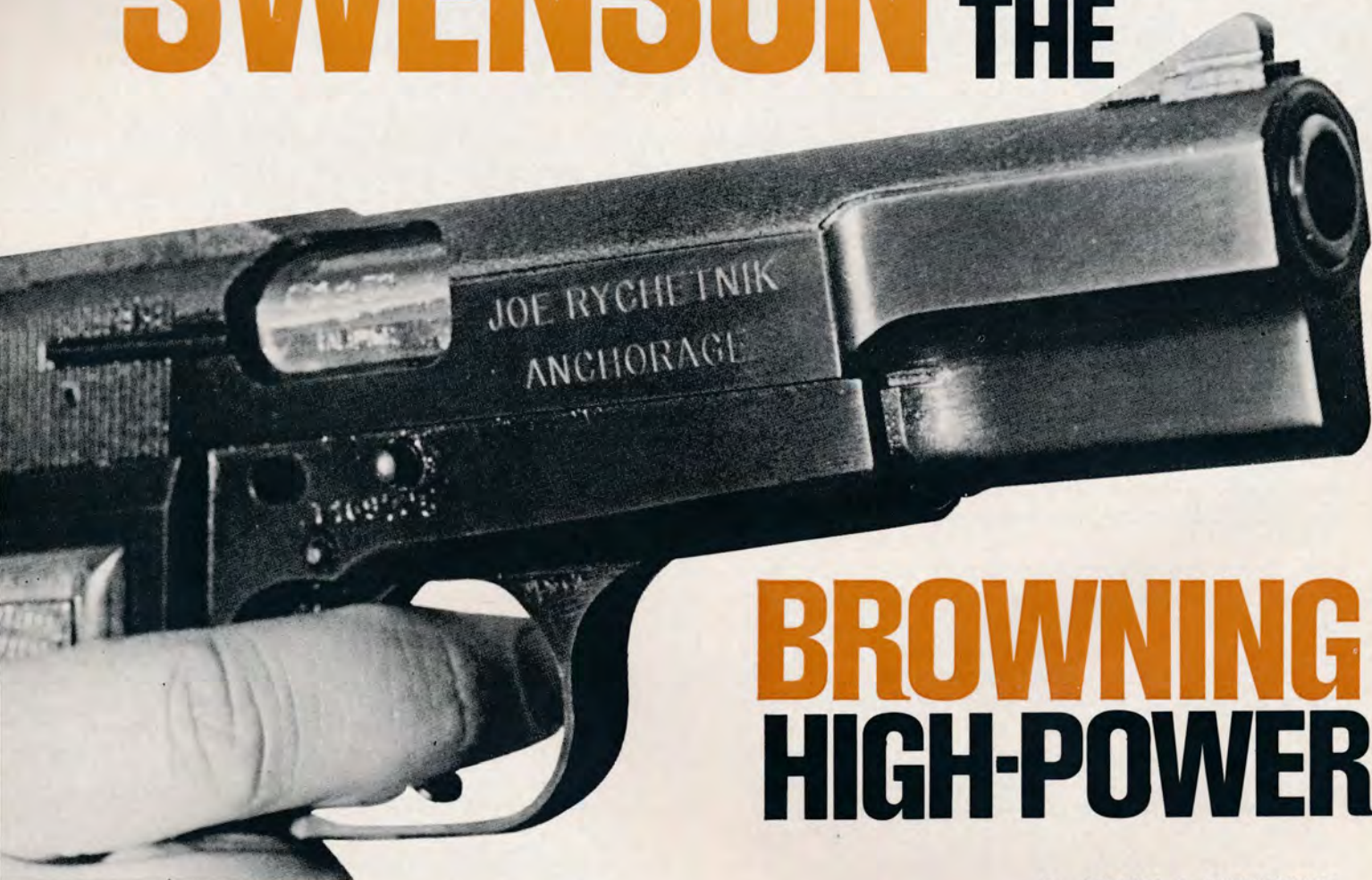
Opposite page: Major Charles Askins, author's father, was a shotgun authority in his own right and a staunch defender of the sixteen. Above: Author's Browning was engraved by the headmaster of the Engravers School at Eibar, Spain. Below: Askins shooting an Ithaca double sixteen. At seven pounds it is an ideal uplands gun.

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# SWENSON TAKES ON THE



## BROWNING HIGH-POWER

By JOSEPH S. RYCHETNIK



Swenson's treatment of the slide prevents reflection, eliminates glare, adds to custom look. Note the lack of white outline rear sight.



**A**RMAND SWENSON, master gunsmith and combat pistol maker to the trade (cops, secret and special agents, and a lot of the world's particular combat pistol shooters both in and out of Vietnam) locates his tools and skills in the Los Angeles enclave of Gardena.

For the past half dozen years he has restricted his services to the tuning, reworking and face lifting of the government model Colt .45 auto pistol. He rates it king of the combat handguns, bar none, and he can show you with targets and course times fired that it is indeed the gun to have in both fists when the situation gets tense. Swenson, himself an expert combat and target shooter with handguns of all types, finds the .45 the best for all seasons. And most of his customers, the top combat shooters in smoggy southern California, agree.

But there has been a slight change in the scene this past year. Swenson's combat pistol shop has always had at least a hundred .45's in the works for the past few years. Rarely has a revolver (except from a favored friend or cop-in-need) been seen on the shelves in various stages of Swensonizing. But now a new auto can be seen, in ever increasing numbers he reports. The Browning High-Power P-35 9m/m, long a neglected handgun with the combat shooting fraternity, is making the fast-shooting scene in a big way. Last spring I counted 114 handguns being worked on in waves of six or so. Of these, all but twelve were .45's. The dozen auto-loaders were all Brownings, and he can't remember ever seeing more than one or two a year in the past. Swenson reports the Browning is continuing to come in for combatizing and many .45 auto shooters are getting a Browning into his shop for the six to twelve months it takes for an accuracy-combat workover.

What's causing this swing to the Browning? Dean A. Grennell, editor of the American Reloader Association's Bulletin (see November 1968, No. 63 issue) feels it is the large magazine capacity that makes this John Browning

classic so desirable. Combat shooters like to start with an even 14 shots in the gun. Although changing magazines on the .45 auto is a split-second effort for a proficient shooter, it's an additional act that could cause a hang-up in a combat shooting session. On the combat courses it isn't the size of the hole that wins, but the speed and positioning of the hole. The Browning has the edge here in capacity.

Defenders of the .45 auto say the .45 is the more efficient killer when it comes to real combat situations and that the Browning is just something to shoot matches with. Maybe so, but many nations issue and swear by this 9m/m as the official military sidearm (Canada, Britain, and of course Belgium are some). A few U.S. police agencies are using the cartridge if not the P-35. The effectiveness of the 9m/m factory full metal case loading leaves much to be desired, but even with this loading many feel the 9m/m Luger round exceeds the .38 special, the normal police cartridge.

What is happening is that combat shooting is gaining in popularity not only in California, but in many parts of the country and for reasons of capacity, lower recoil and perhaps handiness, the Browning is coming into its own as a combat course weapon. Swenson feels that 9m/m matches will occur when more shooters get involved with the Browning, which will even the odds, but he feels the real combat contests will always be with the .45's and doesn't expect to see his .45 auto shop carrying any less of the heavy gun in the works. But there will be a Browning admixture, for sure!

Two models of the Browning pistol came into the Swenson shop for facelifting, both offering the same possibilities. The standard off-the-shelf commercial model (looking like many of the surplus military models) with fixed rear sight. And the definitely surplus military model with a fixed or adjustable rear sight slide marked off in meters to a range suitable for perhaps a trench mortar. The slid-



Lee Jurras of Super Vel had his own Browning "Swensonized" for combat shooting. Note the squared-off trigger guard and checkering on the trigger guard and the front strap checkering for a better grip in hot competition.





ing military rear sight sits on a ramp above the slide and is one more problem for Swenson's machine tools, but not much. The standard commercial model lists for about \$105 in blue. My military slide sighted one was sold from a Texas gun shop for \$115. I found the wedge shaped front sight and vee-shaped rear sight aperture a very difficult combination to shoot with, so I opened up the vee with a Swiss file to the same depth for a squared slot, and it shot better. The sliding rear sight could not be matched to any particular lot of ammo so I did no experimenting as to how far and how well the long range sights worked.

First groups with Remington 124 grain full metal cased and Western's 115 grain FMC ammo left me with the impression that no military side-arm, unrefined, can shoot tighter than a six inch circle, which was the best I could do. Unfortunately the Browning is very good at ejecting brass great distances, which makes recovery for reloading a hands-and-knees operation. Few of the hulls landed in the same place. Aside from the Texas-grapefruit sized group, trigger response was rubbery. You had the feeling a lot of things were going on inside before the hammer would fall. No crisp edge occurred to me even after many sessions of studied dry firing.

A business trip took me to Los Angeles, so I took the Browning along for a visit to Swenson's combat shop. I thought it would be the only one in the house, but Swenson showed me the dozen he had on hand. One belonged to Super Vel's Lee Jurras.

Swenson is not in the habit of taking one gun and running it through all the stages of accurizing. He sets up special tools and jigs for certain operations, so the handguns go through the shop in batches of a half dozen or so. I watched the beginning of the Brownings, and took notes on what apparently happens the remaining eleven months, twenty-nine days he had mine. Unless you are a top combat shooter in the Los Angeles area, or are pointing an empty hand at some North Vietnamese jungle-fighter, Swenson will not speed up the process of getting your gun out. It takes time, and it is worth it.

The Gardena gunsmith first strips off all the things that won't count—the original sights, the military ramp, in some cases a lanyard ring. He precision-fits the slide to the frame after building the barrel bushing. The barrel gets a muzzle sleeve that later will be ground to match the barrel bushing so that no play exists at this point. This is a grind-and-test procedure that takes time.

Next, a 1700 degree gas flame is applied to the trigger guard, with chill plates attached to keep the heating localized to the guard. My Browning did not get this treatment, as I

*(Continued on page 64)*

Left, top to bottom: Swenson adds metal to muzzle to keep movement to a minimum. Magazines are chromed and leather is added to protect them. Rig was made by Bianchi. Swenson shot target shown as inspection sheet for gun. Author is shown testing his new pistol for accuracy and reliability. Quality of work was excellent and the accuracy was superb.



# YOU CAN HELP REPEAL THE GUN CONTROL ACT OF 1968!

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AS THIS is written, a saga unfolded in Chicago which will again focus the attention of the voting public to what the newspapers like to call the "gun problem." Two young police officers stopped a car to question the occupants; one is dead, the other seriously wounded. And the newspapers, and the police officials, and the do-gooders reacted—and of course their reaction was against the gun.

On the lead page, photos of the scene are shown along with a statement—in big bold type—by Chicago's Deputy Superintendent which said: "Get rid of handguns. Rochford pleads." On the same page is a bold notice that on page 10 you will find a story on Rep. Abner Mikva's bill to prohibit the import, sale, and manufacture of all handguns. What a pretty anti-gun package!

But let's read all of this paper, and if we do, we see that there is more to the story. On page 30, at the tail end of the article, we read that one of the suspects in the killing of this police officer was arrested in November of 1959 for murder; convicted of murder in March of 1960, and sentenced to 25 years; paroled in April of 1969; arrested in November of 1969 for carrying a gun; escaped from a hearing of his parole violation by drawing a pistol from his pocket. Then he allegedly shot and killed again on March 3, 1970.

This incident points out one basic fact: Chicago may have anti-gun laws, but what it needs are some good anti-crime laws. Chicago's gun registration law did not prevent this killing; neither did Illinois' I.D. Card law. But a law which would have kept this criminal from walking the streets of Chicago would have certainly had a greater effect toward saving this life.

Most of the American public are so brainwashed by the anti-gun writings of newspapers that they believe that gun owners are a callous group who care little about anything except keeping their guns. We must show them that they are wrong. We, too, are concerned about the rising incidence of crime, and we will do anything which is effective in reducing crime. We will not, however, listen to the politicians who drape their anti-gun rhetoric in the black crepe of the unfortunate deaths of citizens. They cry out that people are killed by guns; yet no jury has ever found

a gun guilty of any crime. They use the old plea: "If we can save but one life with this gun law, we should pass it." Yet they could save a hundred—even a thousand—more lives by finding a way to keep killers behind bars! They could save hundreds of lives in the future by passing mandatory penalty laws. The Dodds, Kennedys, etc., all wrap their anti-gun feelings in the cloak of fighting crime, yet we do not see their names on anti-crime legislation!

If we are to win our fight to preserve gun ownership for legitimate sporting purposes, we must get our friends and neighbors to support true anti-crime legislation. And to do this we must use the tactics of the politicians; be forceful, but be vague. We must take up the cry: "Something Must Be Done," and not get too specific about how it must be done. It is not up to us to write legislation; the lawmakers do a bad enough job of it all by themselves. Let us merely point out facts about the crime problem, and follow this up with the cry: "Something must be done about this." Here are a few examples.

Fact: "Sixty per cent of all prison inmates who were released in 1963 were arrested again within five years!" Something must be done about this!

Fact: A phrase that has become commonplace today is: "He has a record as long as your arm." Something must be done about this!

Fact: The FBI book "Crime in the United States" says that: "... criminal homicide is, to a major extent, a national social problem beyond police prevention." Note that it says that this is a social problem, not a gun problem! Something must be done about this!

Fact: "Night time burglary of residences has increased 91 per cent since 1960." And they want people to go unarmed in their own home! Something must be done about this!

Next month we will examine one of the worst of the anti-gun bills, and we will explore methods for successful defeat of this threat to your right to enjoy a sport which few people understand. We will quote Rep. Mikva's bill to ban handguns, and give you ammunition with which to fight it.







# IS FOR ASSAULT RIFLE

By MAJ. GEORGE C. NONTE

**T**ODAY'S M16 .223 (5.56mm) rifle—throwing screaming bursts of fire at nearly 1000 rounds per minute from the hands of a mud-smeared, leech-infested infantryman in Vietnam—represents the epitome of the Assault Rifle. This isn't to say better weapons aren't in the offing, nor that the M16 is truly best for all purposes. Simply, it means that this one gun is in fact the peak development of a basic type as this is written. Other highly successful assault rifles exist, mainly the Belgian FAL and the Soviet AK Series. They represent different approaches in terms of ammuni-

tion and weight to the basic tactical doctrine that has in itself developed concurrently with the weapons—massive full-automatic suppressive fire delivered by the individual rifleman. In short, it is the earlier submachine gun doctrine applied across the board to the rifleman.

Weapons of this type would have little real value without the tactical doctrine which would, of itself, be impossible of achievement without the weapons.

We have the weapons—Assault Rifles—today, but they didn't come easily. The search went on a long time for an



arm small and light enough to be readily handled by the individual soldier, and capable of *controlled* automatic fire. From the very first employment of the modern machine gun in the late 1880's and 90's, a portable, one-man version has been avidly sought by all the world's military establishments. The original Maxim, Hotchkiss, and other machine guns fathered the Assault Rifle out of the Automatic (Machine) Rifle, with considerable genetic influence from the submachine gun.

By WWI, uncounted smaller conflicts had resulted in a high stage of Heavy Machine Gun development but without comparable development of tactics. But, until the Great War became a reality, no large effort had been made to develop one-man guns. Several basic HMG designs were stripped down to achieve limited improvement in weight and mobility. None were true one-man guns because the basic mechanisms were large and heavy and not at all well suited to scaling-down.

The 1912 American Lewis gun was adopted by the British and Belgians. Air cooled, with its relatively light (22 lbs.) weight, bipod mount, and enclosed drum magazine, it was vastly more mobile than standard machine guns. With it began the mobile base of fire concept employed so successfully in the 1940's. One man could move and shoot with it when the chips were down, but another man or two was still needed to carry ammunition and protect the gunner. Though a step in the right direction, the Lewis was still a far cry from what was needed.

In France, the Chauchat Model 1915 was developed, comparable in weight and performance to the Lewis, but totally different mechanically. It utilized a large, curved, bottom-mounted box magazine. Produced in quantity, it

was more prone to malfunctions than the Lewis, and appeared quite crude. But, it served both U.S. and French troops fairly well as a stop-gap measure.

In Russia, prior to the 1917 Revolution, Vasily Federov produced the first true Assault Rifle, the M1916 in 6.5mm Japanese caliber. It was nearly as light and somewhat shorter than a standard rifle and set the pattern and style which has varied only in weight and caliber since. Quantity production of the Federov was initiated and if the Revolution had not interfered, it might well have forced similar arms development in other countries 40 years earlier than it eventually came to pass.

In the U.S., John Browning rushed completion of his famous BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) which was adopted immediately as the M1918. It finally saw only slight service in the closing days of the war, but gained a tremendous reputation during the next major blood-letting.

After World War I, little development took place. Countless wartime programs were cancelled and the armies of the World made do with the Lewis, light Hotchkiss, Chauchat, and BAR until the 1930's. Czechoslovakia developed the Brno ZB33 in the BAR class and England adopted it as the BREN. Many other Nations followed suit. Germany, oddly enough, ignored light auto rifle development and concentrated on belt-fed light machine guns culminating in the MG 34-42 series. Not until 1942 with the FG 42 did Germany produce a weapon that approached Assault Rifle configuration. This gun's record was not impressive and it did not see wide use. Interestingly, it was the product of the Luftwaffe, not ground forces.

During the 1930's, several Assault Rifles were tested, primarily in Italy, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium. The Ital-

Italian Breda



FN-ABL



FN-FAL



M-16A1





lian Berda PG rifle of 1935 was a triumph of manufacturing expertise over engineering complexity—and it failed, being too fragile and complex for service use. The PG, incidentally, was the first to incorporate a burst-limiting device. This feature is just now being seriously considered to reduce unnecessary ammunition expenditure. The Czech ZB designs were repeatedly tested but never developed to the point of suitability. In Belgium, Dieudonne Saive developed for FN a highly suitable mechanism for a selective-fire rifle, the ABL, but German occupation of that Country prevented its production in quantity. Apparently Germany overlooked the merits of this weapon, though two decades later, it was to buy many thousands of the design as it had evolved into the FAL.

In the U.S.A. development was concentrated on semi-automatic rifles, resulting in the highly successful M1 Garand which was the first such rifle to be adopted by a major power. In the early 40's, the late Melvin Johnson further refined his recoil-operated semi-auto rifle for selective fire and large magazine capacity, but found no takers in quantity. He called it a Light Machine Gun, but it embodied all the characteristics of the Assault Rifle.

In Russia, the Simonov 7.62mm semi-auto rifle adopted in 1936 was further modified to produce selective-fire capability. And, the same procedure was applied to a limited extent to the M1938 & M1940 Tokarev rifles which saw moderate service in WWII.

All other Nations apparently preferred a combination of Light Machine Guns and bolt-action repeating rifles instead of the relatively complex, temperamental, and costly assault rifle types beginning to show promise for the future. Tactical need for the Assault Rifle had not yet been demonstrated. Automatic fire to supplement the rifle was supplied by LMG's.

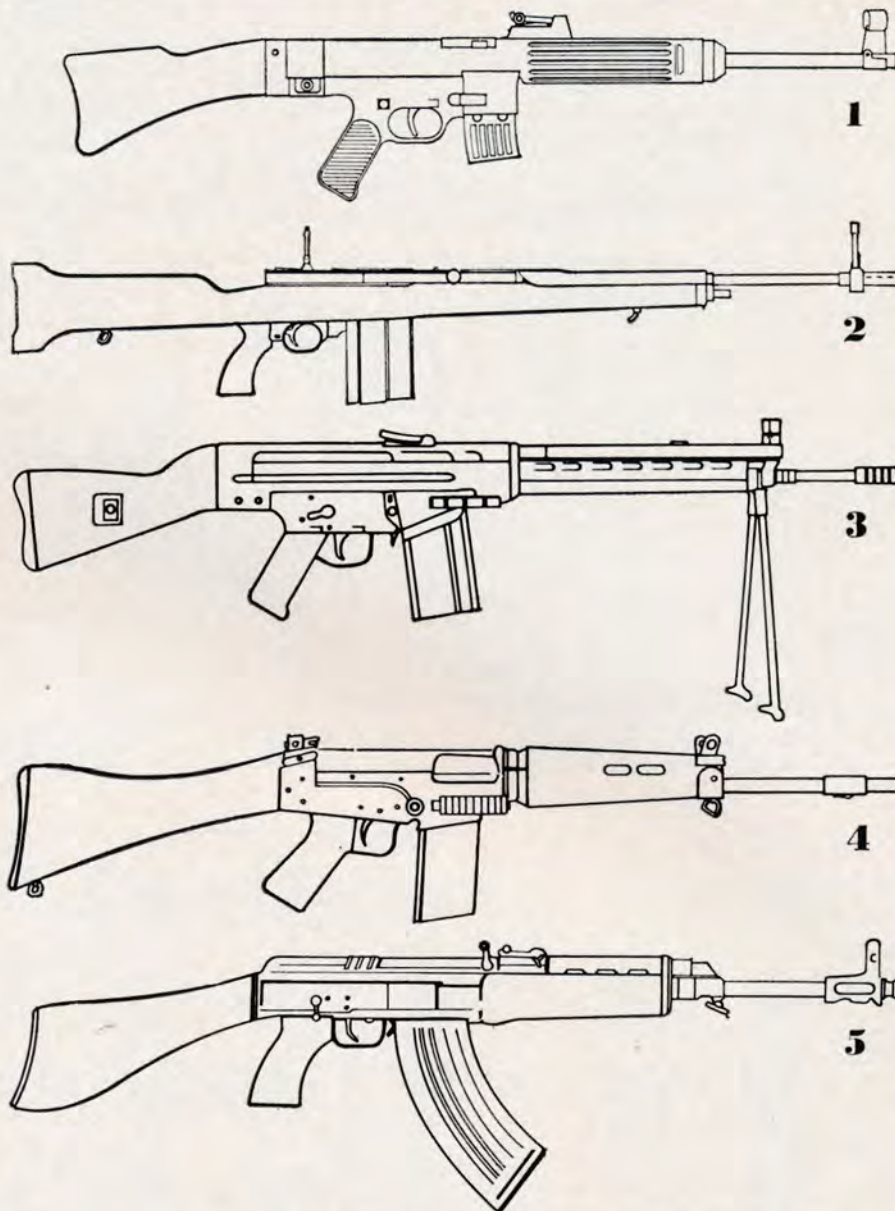
The coming of WWII spurred development of Assault Rifles. Nearly all major powers initiated urgent programs to produce a truly one-man automatic weapon. Probably the first to see service was the U.S. M-2 .30 caliber carbine. This arm was simply the semi-automatic M1 carbine fitted with a selective fire mechanism and featured the first of the so-called "intermediate" cartridges of relatively low energy and recoil. However, the M2 was not employed tactically as an assault weapon. The U.S. also developed selective-fire versions of the M1 rifle, but not in time

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for them to see service in the War. By this time, tactical doctrine was changing as it became clear the heavy machine gun could no longer dominate the battle field as it did in 1914-18.

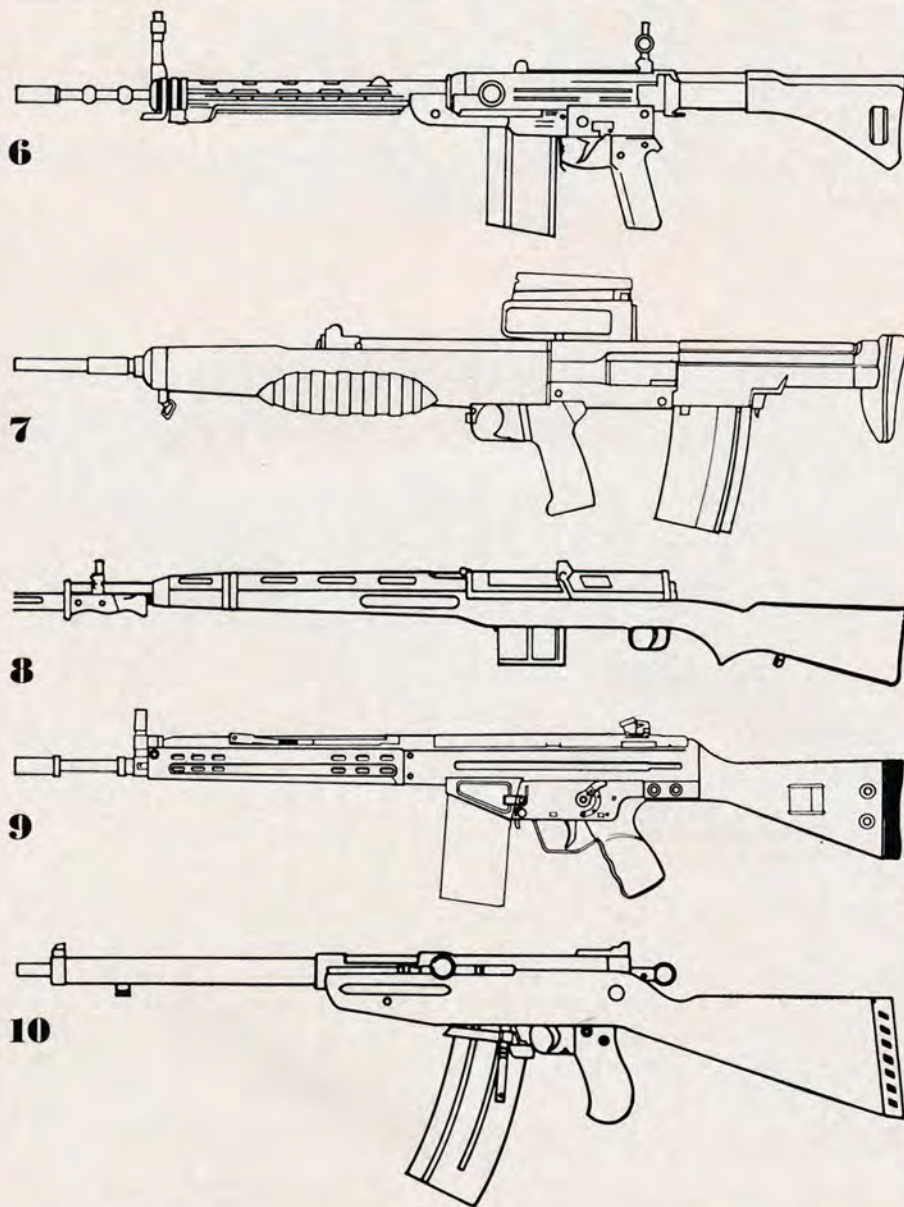
It was Germany that produced the first modern true Assault Rifle and the appropriate tactical doctrine for its proper employment. The result was the stubby, gas-operated MP43 employed in 1943 on the Russian front. It, too, was chambered for an intermediate cartridge of only moderate power, the 7.92mm Kurz (7.92 x 33mm) possessing somewhat greater energy and ve-

locity than the U.S. .30 carbine but less than the .30-30 Winchester. Troop reaction to the MP43 was very good, and large quantity production was planned immediately. It appears likely that the '43-'44 encounters with this weapon prompted Soviet development culminating only a few years later in the AK 47 of current prominence.

In reality, the only operational Assault Rifle to come out of WWII was the MP43/44 series. The M2 Carbine and the various conversions of semi-automatic rifles possessed numerous disadvantages and were, in particular,



Now you can win a copy of the latest edition of *Small Arms of the World* by Smith and Smith in the new *Guns Magazine* assault rifle identity contest. To win, all you must do is correctly identify each of the 10 weapons pictured below. Identification must include model number and country of origin. All entries must be postmarked no later than June 25, 1970. Post cards only. Address entries to: Assault Rifles, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill. 60076.



difficult to control during burst fire. The MP 43/44, with its specially designed cartridge could be controlled with relative ease because of its light recoil, yet was more compact than most infantry rifles, though heavier than some. It also utilized economical advanced metal fabrication techniques and was of simple design.

The MP 43/44 died with the end of the war, though captured stocks remained in service in eastern Europe for some time. It is reported that some were manufactured—or at least assembled—in East Germany during the late

1940's for use until the Soviet AK-series became available.

For once, small arms development was not stifled following a major war. Belgium and the U.S. became western centers of development, though Russia was the first to issue a new operational weapon in the 7.62mm M43 caliber AK47. The AK47 appears to have been influenced greatly by the MP43/44, though certainly more costly to produce. Its cartridge virtually duplicates the performance of the German 7.92mm Kurz and has since become the Soviet Bloc standard for rifles and

squad machine guns.

Together Belgium (FN) and Britain developed the EM2 rifle of "Bull Pup" configuration, along with a 7mm (.284" bullet diameter) intermediate cartridge slightly more powerful than the Russian and German items. The cartridge became the ".280 British" about which much U.S./British controversy raged in the early 1950's.

Concurrently, FN developed the pre-war Saive design into its FAL rifle. U.S. work centered around a development of the M1 Garand—a time-proven mechanism and a short .30 caliber, full-power cartridge called T-65.

NATO Doctrine required a single standard rifle/MG cartridge, and various political maneuvers resulted in the adoption of the U.S. T65 as "7.62mm NATO." This ended British work on the EM2 rifle. FN polished up its FAL and adapted it to the 7.62mm round. Belgium and England quickly adopted the excellent FAL, followed by many other Western Nations. In 1957, the U.S. adopted its advanced Garand type selective-fire rifle as the M14. Whereas the U.S. rifle was essentially new, Italy chose to copy its configuration and performance by converting wartime M1 rifles on hand. The result is designated BM-59, and has been adopted by several Nations as well as Italy. This is considered by many to prove the M14 represents little advance over the Garand.

France, pugnaciously independent, produced its own Assault Rifle in 7.5mm M1929 caliber as the MAS 49/56—a redesign of the semi-automatic M49 adopted immediately after WWII. This is an extremely simple and durable arm.

Up to this point (late 1950's), no really revolutionary design principles were evident in Assault Rifles. But, the delayed-blowback, roller-lock system attributed to Vorgrimmler (Mauser STG 45 prototype) had been under careful development by Spain's CETME. It emerged in the late '50's as the first really new locking system in half a century, and the CETME rifle in 7.62mm NATO caliber was adopted by Germany and Spain.

Following the delayed-blowback, roller-lock theme, Switzerland (SIG) developed its StewG 57 Series 7.62mm rifles now in use by Swiss and Chilean troops. Quite different in appearance and detail from the CETME, the StewG 57 nevertheless represents the same basic design and functions in the same manner. (Continued on page 49)



# RETURN OF THE

# HSc



**E**VERY NOW and then something turns up to re-establish my belief in the human race. Sometimes it is a move by the Government to modify ammunition record keeping, or college students ringing doorbells on their own time to raise money to save swamplands for wildfowl.

Even more rare is the firearms manufacturer who turns out a piece that is better than it should be. Such is definitely the case with the new Mauser HSc pistol as currently

World War cancelled their R&D work and forced them into full wartime production. The Mauser HSc is considered by many authorities to incorporate the most advanced design of any small automatic pistol. It is streamlined to permit easy extraction from a pocket. Nothing can catch. It is double action. When it first appeared it created a sensation with its radically styled appearance but because it was backed by the traditional Mauser workmanship plus the most modern design it became an instant success and an extremely desirable pistol to own. Returning servicemen brought back many thousands of these HSc's that were eagerly bought by shooters who knew a bargain when they saw one and who knew there would never be any more manufactured.

Then a couple of years ago word got around that Mauser was testing some new versions of this HSc and Mauser actually admitted that they planned to resume production in the near future. A few of the early pistols found their way to this country but I would like to state that the pistol I have is not a pilot model nor a hand-made model but a full fledged production product of the Mauser factory. As such, it is gorgeous. I have not used this word for many years and I mean gorgeous. The finish and quality of this pistol surpasses that of any HSc I have ever seen. I sincerely hope that Mauser can continue to maintain this standard of quality control.



produced by the world famous Mauser factory in West Germany. Interarms, Ltd., 10 Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia, imports the HSc and shipped one to me in .380 ACP. Mauser enthusiasts have long been aware that this pistol has been in the works, but first the Germans fouled up things and then, I understand, Mauser held up production until the HSc met traditional Mauser quality standards. Then, to make things even more difficult, the United States Government refused to allow Interarms to import the handgun until minor basic modifications were made. All this has been going on for two or three years but, believe me, the result has been well worth waiting for!

I have owned quite a few Mauser HSc pistols, all of them in .32 ACP and all of them early wartime handguns. The HSc was the last pistol to come out of Mauser's research and development laboratories before the Second



Above, left: The HSc shown with the various types of ammunition it fired without malfunctions. Above: Note how barrel lugs fit into the rear steel block and the front block accounting for the above average accuracy.



**Since its introduction in the 1930's,  
the HSc has been a favorite among  
both the military and civilians.  
This new offering from Interarms Ltd.  
upholds the Mauser tradition of  
making fine firearms of outstanding  
quality and design.**

**BY MASON WILLIAMS**

Mauser has machined the forward part of the trigger guard into a solid piece of steel whereas on the old models this area was hollowed out thus making the older pistols slightly lighter in weight than the new ones. Otherwise there are no obvious changes. Remove the grips and the heavier reinforced frame of the new pistol with its removable aluminum backstrap is clearly seen as are other changes in the mechanism that appear to both simplify and make more reliable the functioning of the new HSc.

The safety features of the HSc are extremely interesting and practical. The slide remains open after the last shot has been fired. Inserting a magazine releases the hold open lever and the slide runs forward to chamber a new cartridge in the barrel. This leaves the HSc with its hammer back at full cock. The shooter can leave it there and throw on the manual safety. With this in (Continued on page 72)



Mauser ships their HSc in a compact, blue plastic box that is fitted to take the pistol and a spare magazine. The top of the box holds a three shot target, a parts sheet and an instruction booklet that is written in English.

The obvious question is how does this current HSc compare with the original HSc's? What changes have been made? Have these changes cheapened the over-all quality and reliability of the pistol in any way? The new HSc has a matte finish on the top of the slide. The new rear sight has been beefed up and has been given a square rear sight notch that I consider superior to the old U type notch, because it ties in better with the square patridge type front sight. Otherwise, externally, both pistols are identical.

The new HSc is all steel (with the exception of the back strap which is aluminum) and it looks to me as if both the slide and receiver were produced by investment casting. Like its predecessor, the new pistol has a magazine safety that prevents firing the pistol if the magazine has been removed. The magazine release is located in the butt of the pistol grip and holds the bottom end of the hammer spring. Take-down is simple. Cock the hammer, place the manual safety on Safe, remove the magazine and—using the tip of the thumb nail—press down on the sliding lock in the front of the trigger guard. At the same time, move the slide forward about one quarter of an inch and pull up. The slide now comes off the top of the receiver.

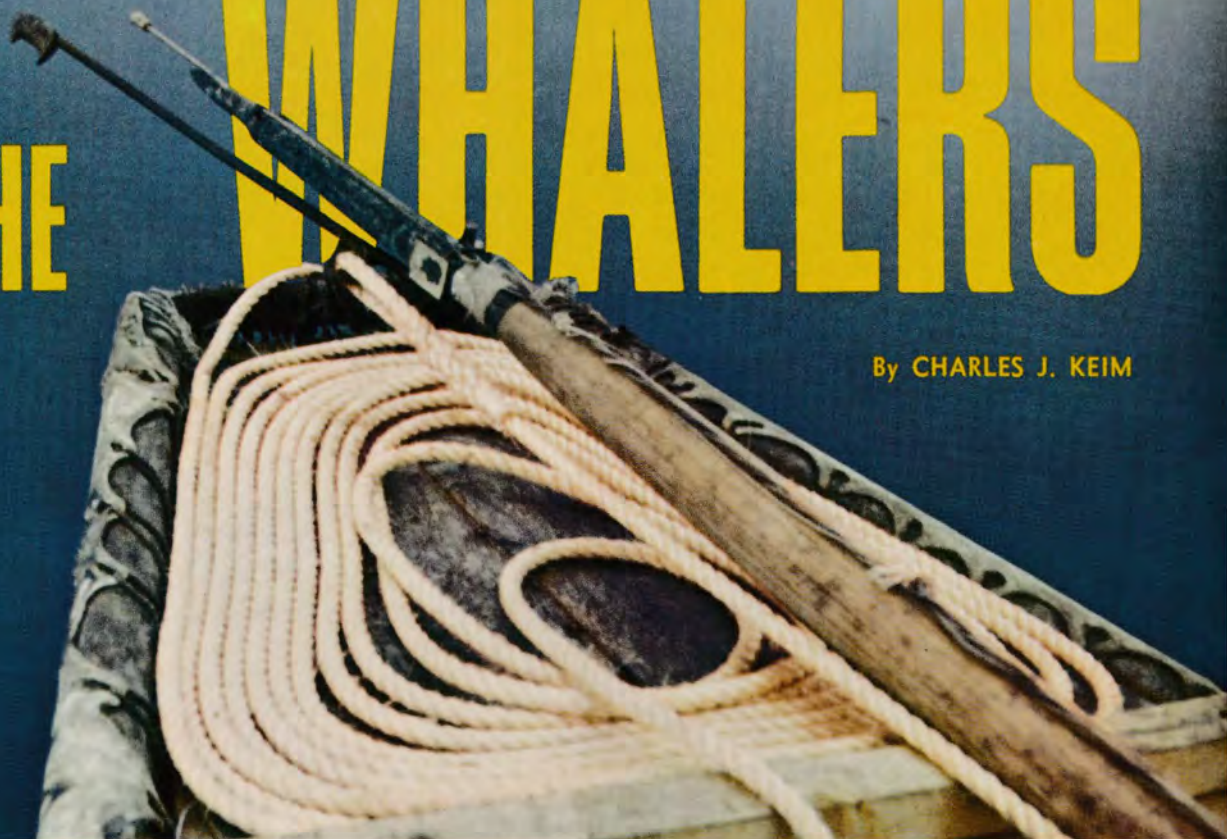
The overall finish of the new HSc is excellent. Checkering and wood finish is finely executed and greatly enhances the appearance of the gun. Butt extension is a welcome addition and is one of the best. Photo by Gene Lovitz.



# GUNS OF THE

# WHALERS

By CHARLES J. KEIM



AS NEW HORDES of Americans rush into Alaska as a consequence of one of the world's greatest oil booms, the "gun nuts" among them undoubtedly will begin snapping up what really have become some of the rarest weapons in the world—the whaling shoulder guns and darting guns.

Today's whaling industry has lost much of the romance which was present when sailing ships roamed the seas and hardy sailors battled the elements to bring in the precious oil and the baleen or whalebone which brought as much as \$5.50 a pound in the middle of the nineteenth century and was used for corset stays, ramrods for guns and a variety of other implements.

Technological advances enable the modern whaler to

catch and process the world's largest mammal with very nearly the assembly line efficiency of a modern Detroit automobile factory.

But there are exceptions to almost every rule and the Eskimos who inhabit the 49th state's Arctic coast are the exception in the field of whale hunting. Depending upon the bowhead or right whale to supply much of their meat, these Eskimos still rely upon the type of weapon they obtained from the white man more than a century ago when they put aside their own ancient harpoons made of ivory, bone, driftwood and slate.

The white man's principal whaling weapons in the Arctic, at the time the Eskimos made this changeover, were heavy brass shoulder guns and darting guns mounted on

Breech of author's gun. Bomb is breech loaded.



R. W. Meininger shown assembling a bomb. Note size of gun.



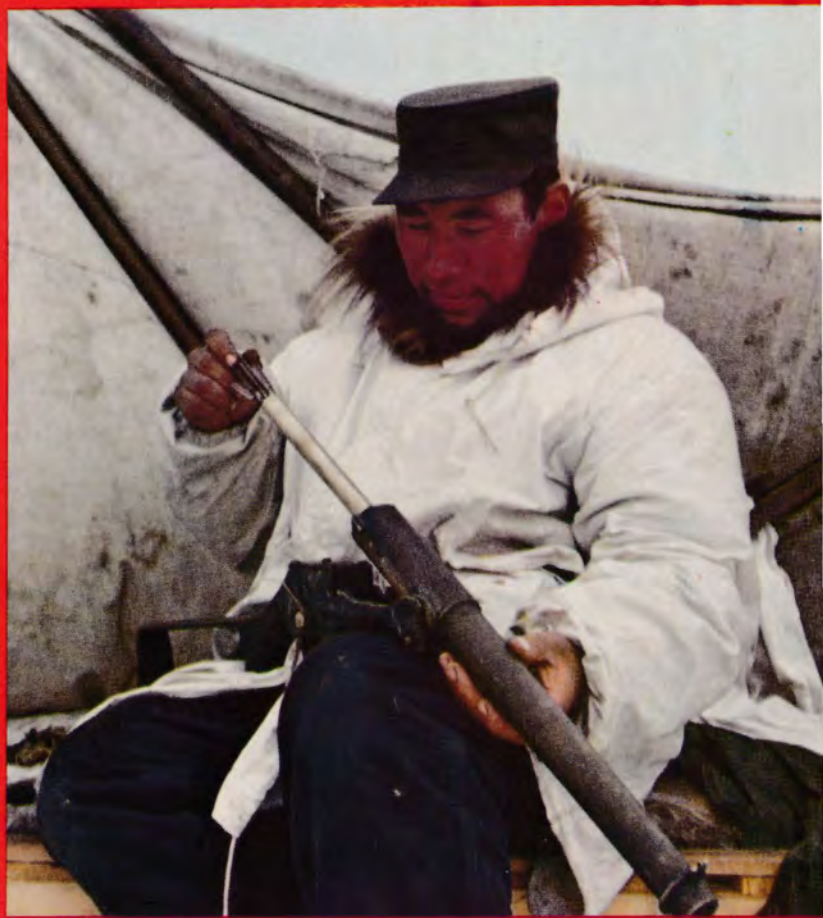


long throwing poles. Each type fired a pointed, cylindrical bomb that exploded shortly after it penetrated deeply into the whale. The explosion either killed or crippled the whales which weigh approximately a ton to each foot of length, and sometimes are as much as 60 feet long. The darting gun also carried a detachable harpoon.

Here's how Oliver D. Morris, Sr., former whaler and Arctic trader, still living in Fairbanks, Alaska, describes the weapons and how he helped to use them:

"Most whaling ships had their names on the shoulder guns, but not on the darting guns. Both shoulder guns and darting guns were made largely in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a whaling center 'til about 1893. Then San Francisco began to become a center. Some of the guns were made there. We had some darting bombs made in San Francisco. They wouldn't set up a machine to make them unless they received a 100-bomb or more order. They cost us \$9 each. This was (Continued on page 52)

Opposite page: Darting gun ready for business on the bow of a skin boat or "oomiak." Right: Eskimo hunter loading a bomb into a breech loading shoulder gun. Below: Eskimo from Barrow, Alaska taking aim with a shoulder gun on a bowhead whale directly under the boat. Note the whale's blow hole. They often take such risks to get their whale.











# A Trio of Winchester Treasures

A magnificent set of three highly engraved and gold inlaid Winchester rifles, with a rare Winchester cartridge board in the background. The rifles include a Model 1886 in .33 WCF caliber; the Model 1895 in .30-06; and a Model 1910 in .401 caliber. Photo by Harry C. Knode.





# The Rarest SAVAGE?

By HARRY O. DEAN

COLLECTORS and connoisseurs of the Savage Models 1895 and 1899 are well aware that Gold catalogs list a "Musket" or military version of the rifle. It has the standard loop lever, a full length stock and sling swivels, but in no *major* way does it differ from the standard rifle. This musket follows the 1893 Patents issued to Arthur W. Savage in most respects.

The rifle shown herewith is a *real* rarity! It *predates* the 1893 patents and possesses a number of *major* differences. I will refer to it hereafter as the Savage "Number one."

Arthur W. Savage was a superintendent of the Utica Street Railway in Utica, New York. He had an avid interest in firearms and the Savage Model 99, which he created, has become world famous for its strength and its modernistic design. The Savage "Number one" design, shown here, is a very early embodiment of the basic Savage invention. It appears evident that Mr. Savage had a primary interest in selling to the military and leaned toward a commercial and sporting adaptation of his design only *after* his military submissions were not successful. The drawings for rifle #1 are dated 1892 and, as we all know, the United States Ordnance Board adopted the 1892 Krag Jorgenson bolt action, a Norwegian design. For Arthur Savage it was the old, sad story of too little and too late.

However, because most of our experts are not aware of the Savage #1 design, we will give it a quick look.

Of primary interest to Savage fans is the odd appearing "bar" lever instead of the usual loop. This is not too unusual when compared to military versions of the Martini single shot which also boasts a similar lever. Its length may offer more leverage to extract a stuck case. The lever pivot point is also noticeably lower than on later rifles.

Note in the top view photo that the rear of the breech block has a "T" shape for increased bearing area. The obvious bulge at the location of the famed Savage rotary magazine discloses that this military design was created with high capacity in mind. The drawing shows eight cartridges, a healthy number.

Yes, the Savage #1 rifle is a true oddity. I first noticed this gun on the racks of the Research and Development department during one of my visits to Savage Arms. There are two rifles. The one shown here is in remarkably good condition. The other #1 rifle is fragmentary and badly eroded.

The #1 Savage is a highly interesting specimen and, although it did not meet with success, it marks the opening of a whole new era of lever action repeating rifles. Since then, the Savage Arms Company has become a giant in the ranks of gun manufacturers. They now offer a greater variety of sporting firearms than any other maker. And they are all guns of the highest quality.

A fitting tribute to the man who started the ball rolling—Arthur W. Savage! □

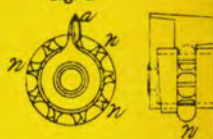
The author wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the officials of Savage Arms for their kind assistance.

NO. 35.

SAVAGE, No. 1.



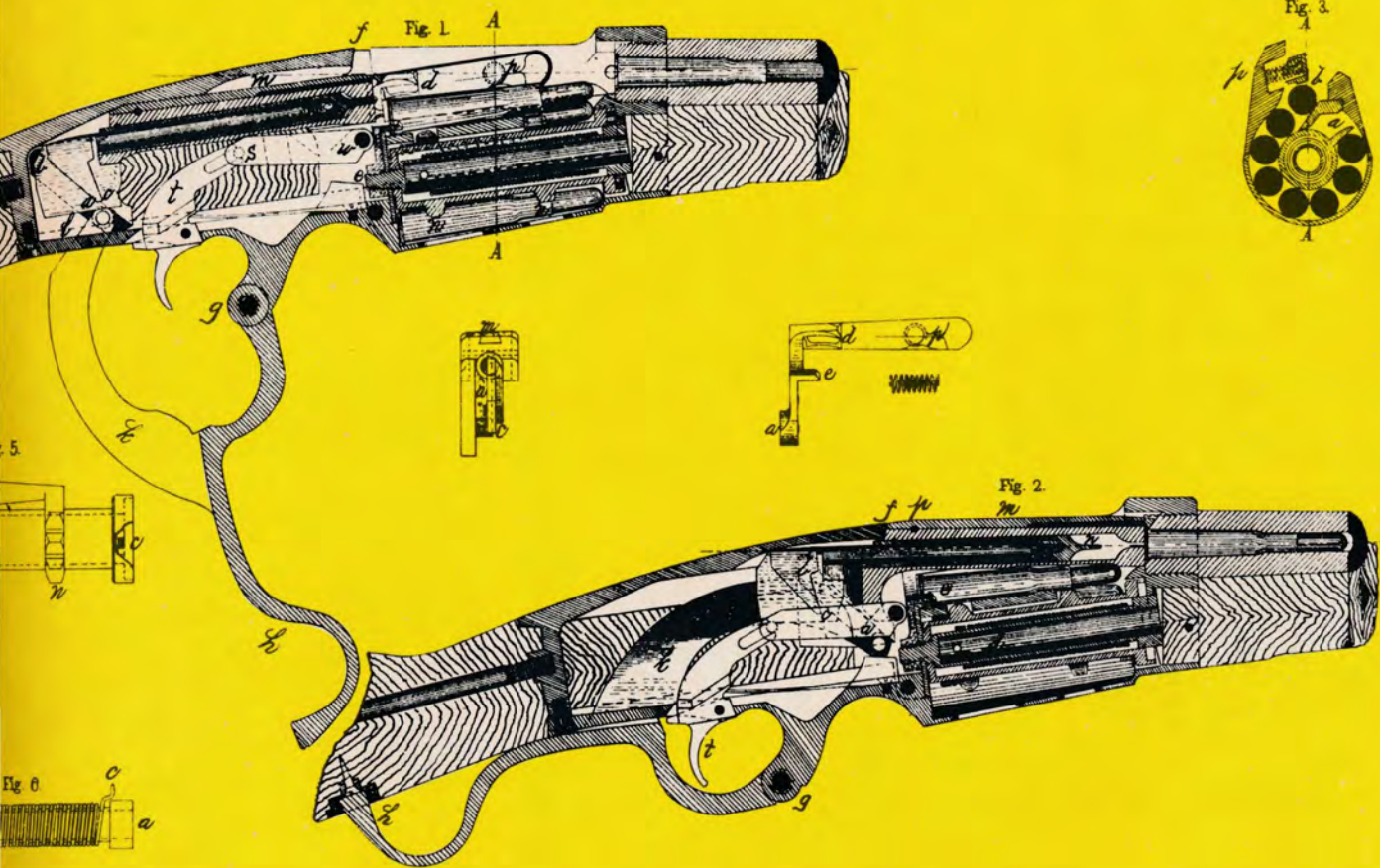
Fig. 4



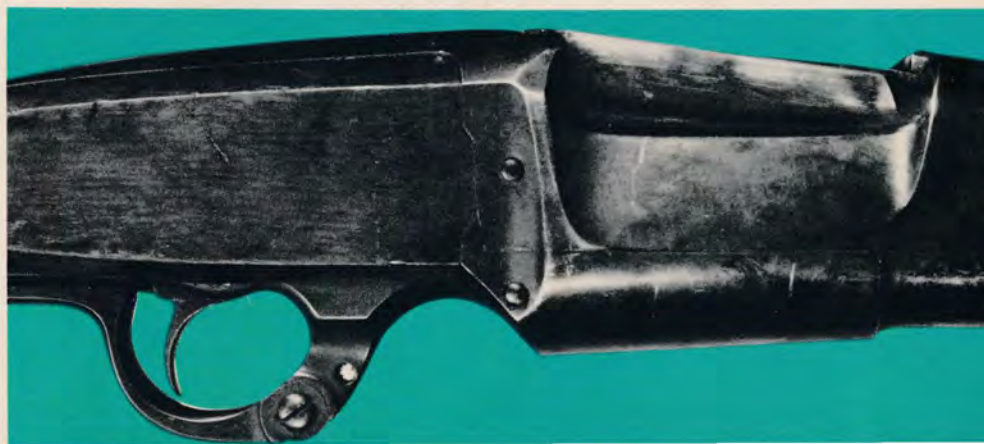




# PLATE XIX.



Top: Full length view shows a stock form similar to the Springfield .45-70 "trap-door." Above: The drawings of the Savage "Number One" rifle disclose the unique Savage locking system and a high capacity rotary magazine. Dated 1892. Left: In this action open view, the "T" shape of the rear locking area can be clearly seen. This increases bearing surface considerably. Note condition of metal. Below: This closeup of the #1 breech area shows the fine condition of both wood and metal.







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# Texas Ranger Commemoratives

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Founded in 1823, they acquired their famous reputation by riding herd on Texas outlaws in an era that produced hard-case gunfighters by the score.

"One Riot-One Ranger" became a living legend that to this day is practiced by the Rangers.

In order to give fanciers of western history an opportunity to include something of the Texas Rangers in their collections, Texas Rangers Historical Arms, Inc. has undertaken the production of the favored weapon of those early day lawmen. The Colt .45 was undoubtedly carried by more Rangers than all other handguns combined.

Texas Rangers Historical Arms, Inc. has contracted with Colt Firearms to turn out only 1,000 of these single action .45's to be designated "Texas Ranger Commemorative."

These Commemorative have stamped on the left side of the 7½ inch barrel **TEXAS RANGER COMMEMORATIVE** "One Riot-One Ranger". Inset into the left grip is a miniature Texas Ranger badge. At the top of the backstrap is a sterling silver seal of the State of Texas. **TEXAS RANGERS** is cut into the remainder of the backstrap to be read from the left side.

Eight hundred of these Texas Ranger Commemoratives will be delivered with blued barrels, case-hardened frames and walnut grips.



Two hundred Texas Ranger Commemoratives will be silver plated and engraved by the nationally known engraver Frank Hendricks of San Antonio, Texas. These will be done to the purchasers choice of three designs originated by Hendricks. Coverage is complete and of the finest quality. The grips on the engraved version are custom made ivory with the silver Texas Ranger badge inlaid.

The guns are delivered in a beautiful fitted walnut case 12" x 16" x 5" deep. The case is glass covered. Alongside the Texas Ranger Commemorative is a full size Texas Ranger badge made from a 5 peso Mexican coin precisely as they were when the Rangers had their own badges made in those early years. Badges were not issued. Each man had his own made.



The bottom drawer of the case holds a 250 page book "The Pictorial History of the Texas Rangers". This book contains more than 200 photographs, many never before published, and is a collectors item in itself. Included are photographs of all the famous Rangers plus photographs of their guns, knives, saddles, holsters, badges, etc. More than three years have gone into collecting data and photographs for this book which is appropriately covered with Texas Longhorn hide "with the hair still on." These hides are mostly from the famed herd of Texas Longhorns on the fabulous YO Ranch, Mountain Home, Texas.

The Texas Rangers Historical Arms, Inc. also offers 44 (that's all that will be made) Texas Ranger Bronzes. These are made by nationally famous western artist and sculptor Joe Beeler, of Sedona, Arizona. These Bronzes may be purchased by the first 44 purchasers of the Texas Ranger Commemorative.



The Texas Ranger Commemorative is priced at \$650. Engraved versions start at \$1,000. The Bronzes are \$850. A deposit of \$300 is required with each order.



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## HUNTER'S NOTEBOOK

On these pages, GUNS Magazine will present articles on hunting fundamentals by some of our nation's outstanding outdoor writers. We hope that the information in these articles will help the beginner gain a new understanding of hunting principles, and offer the veteran hunter an opportunity to strengthen his fund of useful information.



## REDUCED LOADS FOR TURKEY

Where law permits, you  
can use your big game rifle to  
hunt the wiley gobbler

By BERT POPOWSKI

THE first completely happy rifle turkey hunter I ever met was the ranch boy who had met up with a flock, drawn bead on a pair of alert gobbler heads with his iron-sighted .30-30 carbine and killed both birds. By fantastic luck his bullet had cut the throat of one gobbler and creased the back of the neck of the second. He'd collected something under 40 pounds of prime Thanksgiving dinner with one cartridge. But what was most important he'd killed his birds cleanly, with no meat damage.

Most rifle turkey hunters aren't that fortunate. Even the best of them flinch from head or neck shots because they're too chancy. And when they use standard deer-hunting rifles only a few of them can pinpoint their hits so that a lot of fine eating meat isn't shredded to pulp. Varmint rifles, because of their even faster and more frangible bullets, generally do an even messier job.

Most states which permit the use of rifles for turkeys set certain minimal requirements as to caliber, cartridge size, or both. But they don't permit the use of small rifles which, although they'll kill, usually do so so slowly that many marginally-hit birds escape as lost cripples. And that's a sorry end to our finest upland game bird.

In South Dakota, for instance—only

one state where either shotguns or rifles may be used—turkeys are classed as big game. That means that rifles which are legal for deer and antelope are also legal for turkeys. But, except in the most expert hands and under nearly ideal circumstances, many of the birds taken are badly bullet mangled. No rim-fires are permitted, which outlaws the .22 Long Rifle and the .22 Magnum. Even such tiny centerfires as the .22 Hornet are illegal for turkeys.

Turkeys have quite heavy-meated bodies but also very thin skins. Thus a bullet which is handily contained by the relatively rubbery hide of a deer blows open turkey hide as if it was paper. Since it also expands against the heavy meat that often results in blowing a bird to fragments, especially in the choice edible portions of strong legs and the heavy breast meat. No hunter likes to pick up choice game in such sorry hunks.

It took the first South Dakota open season of 1955 to drive home such facts to me. A lean 750 permits were issued to hunt an estimated 4,500 either-sex turkeys. Two of us went out, armed with commercial loads in a pair of .222 rifles and got our birds. But, while one of those was reasonably intact, the other had to be picked up piece by piece, as if it had been

shot and then instantly field-dressed by a buzzsaw. One bird could have been plucked and roasted in the traditional manner but the fragments of the other were strictly fricassee fodder.

Right then I decided something had to be done to allow us to shoot birds without such tremendous meat damage. For in these Black Hills most rifle hunters feel very fortunate if they get shots within 100 yards and aren't surprised if their game is 150 to 200 yards out yonder. So a pinpoint hit at the traditional "butt of the wing" is something to be hoped and tried for but rarely realized. As for shooting the birds in the head or neck, that is a piece of luck similar to setting out to bust a Las Vegas roulette table with a beginning stake of \$5.

There are three main branches of the North American turkey family: the Eastern strain, which averages largest, up to nearly 30 pounds in good habitat; the mountain-loving Merriam strain which is big at 20 pounds; and the river-bottom Rio Grande type, the smallest and most elusive of the clan, which very rarely gets up to 15 pounds in live weight. It was the Merriam strain which we hunted and few of them were up to the maximum weight cited. Their size,



along with their native elusiveness, made for just about as fancy hunting as any whitetail buck provides.

Before the next season rolled around I'd done more testing of reduced rifle loads than I'd done before in any five years. Since full-jacketed bullets were legally *verboden*, and were available in few deer calibers and in no varmint types, I had my work cut out for me. But it was a chore I enjoyed and it has paid great dividends since.

The .222 is my favorite for lesser varmints, which gave me a grand chance to test my reduced turkey loads on prairie dogs, jackrabbits and woodchucks. My test rifle was a very accurate Sako, fitted with a Bushnell four-power scope on high Sako mounts. This featherweight outfit had proved itself on deer and antelope with full-velocity commercial and handloads. But it certainly needed some reduction of its sting to make it an equally neat killer on turkeys.

I tried some hand-made full-jacketed bullets on varmints, solely to study their meat-damaging results. But, when loaded to the normal 3,200 foot-seconds in 50-grain weight, or 3,000 for 55-grain bullets, they were

still too destructive for turkey use. They performed admirably on shots through the rib cages of jacks and chucks. But when the heavy-meat portions were hit such velocities did nearly as much damage as soft-points.

The next step was to make up some heavy-jacketed bullets with only a pinpoint of core exposed. I had noted that the typical thin jackets, so favored by many varmint hunters, had occasionally blown up when they hit jacks on full-length body shots. Even the full-jacketed experimental bullets did this. But when I used thick jackets those tougher bullets showed some lessening of meat damage, even when they were soft-pointed.

From reading about much earlier turkey hunting in the Southwest, where rifles were, and are, almost invariably used, I knew that the practically obsolete .25-20 and .32-20 had been heavily favored. Loaded with 86 and 100-grain bullets, respectively, they reached such meager muzzle velocities as 1,460 and 1,290 foot-seconds. That's not much smack on target compared to modern varmint cartridges but both calibers had devotees who would use nothing else on turkeys.

The main difference between these two oldtimers and modern-day .22 Long Rifle loads is bullet weight. The .22 magnum is a fine turkey killer where it is legal. So I reasoned that if I could get my .222 handloads slowed down to the 1,700 to 2,000 foot-second level I'd have a very deadly turkey load, yet one which wasn't overly meat destructive. At that velocity range I'd have to resign myself to the loss of most of the flat-trajectory features of the .222. But at those speeds the average soft-nosed varmint-type bullets ought to hold together very nicely to produce on-the-spot kills.

The problem of wind-drift, often a significant factor at top velocities, actually solved itself. At the velocities I envisioned, the .222 bullets would drift midway between the .22 long rifle and the .22 magnum rim-fires. In the shelter of hilly country on birds of turkey size that would be insignificant since the 1,700-to-2,000 foot-second bullets would then be exceeding only the first sonic barrier—the velocity of sound in air, which is approximately 1,180 feet-per-second at sea level at 70 degrees Fahren-

(Continued on page 67)





# OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

By CARL WOLFF



## DODD TO HOLD MORE ANTI-GUN HEARINGS

This spring, Senator Thomas J. Dodd (D.-Conn.), announced he will investigate what he called "the firearms lobby's influence in killing the public information film that would explain to sportsmen the operation of the Gun Control Act of 1968."

This film was originally exposed in our GUNS Magazine column. It was pointed out that the film, paid for by the taxpayers, was full of sex and violence but offered little information about the Gun Control Act.

The man who was responsible for the removal of the film was Congressman John Dingell (D.-Mich.). It will be interesting to know how Mr. Dodd will get around investigating a fellow member of Congress from the other side of the legislative body. Each body has the obligation and responsibility of keeping their own houses in order.

Two days after Dodd made this announcement the Senate authorized the Delinquency Subcommittee \$257,500 to carry on its work for another year. During the last session the subcommittee had \$250,000, of which approximately \$246,441 was spent. However, Senator John Williams (D.-N.J.) objected to the authorization on the grounds the subcommittee had not "accomplished very much, based on what is happening in the country."

"Is it not about time we get legislation instead of continued grandstand hearings and a television show?" asked Senator Williams. Another senator objecting to the authorization was Harold Hughes (D.-Iowa). He, like Mr.

Williams, asserted the Dodd Subcommittee was already investigating areas outside its jurisdiction.

The Delinquency Subcommittee, it was disclosed, has plans to investigate drug abuse by members of the Armed Forces. Senator Hughes pointed out that it could not prescribe laws that affect the military.

Next to jump on the Dodd authorization was Senator Allen Ellender (D.-La.). "The amount asked for is \$257,000," he said. "This is how the subcommittee is perpetuating itself. It is just adding more and more work for itself within this field."

Those of the press can recall this is how the Dodd subcommittee got into the anti-gun legislation field some nine years ago. So-called "Saturday Night Specials," or cheap handguns were being sold to juveniles. Responsible for firearms legislation in the Senate at that time was the Commerce Committee. Senator Dodd got the Chairman of that Committee, Warren Magnuson (D.-Wash.) to refer the legislation to him. This is how the 1968 Gun Control Act was forced through Congress.

Members of the shooting fraternity distrust Mr. Dodd. They feel that legislation originally supported by sportsmen organizations and introduced in Congress by Senator Dodd was abandoned by the Senator in favor of more burdensome measures, and so they had a double-cross pulled by the Senator from Connecticut. What assurance do they have that another double-cross will not be pulled?



## ASSAULT RIFLES

(Continued from page 35)

During the early 1950's in the U. S., Eugene Stoner, working with Arma-lite Corp., developed a new pistonless gas system which feeds gas directly into the bolt mechanism. One part of the bolt functions as a cylinder, the other as a piston and eliminates the conventional gas system while retaining its advantages. The resulting rifle was the AR-10, introduced at about the time of the M14 and FAL. It was not adopted by any Nation, though much lighter than contemporary arms and featuring non-corrosive metals and inert plastics with their obvious advantages.

Stoner spun off the AR-10 with a reduced-scale version of the same mechanism, chambered for a variation of the .22 Remington cartridge. The smaller cartridge made for a smaller and lighter weapon, well under six pounds, empty, without combat accessories—four pounds lighter than some contemporary full-power and intermediate-cartridge arms. Stoner's reasoning was simple—.22 caliber bullets could approach the larger calibers in lethality by being driven at velocities in the 32-3300 fps range, even though they did not possess nearly as much kinetic energy. This approach was subject to much, much controversy, but was eventually vindicated

in Vietnamese combat. The reduced-scale AR-10 was designated AR-15 by Arma-lite and first tested by the U.S. military establishment in the late 1950's, and finally purchased in quantity as the M16 in the mid-1960's. Since that time, the gun's reception has been quite good, aside from the usual de-bugging that occurs with any new weapon.

The success of the M16 has been sufficient to produce several follow-on designs embodying the same cartridge and general characteristics. Among them are .223 caliber SIG, FAL, and CETME reduced-scale versions of 7.62mm guns, as well as a new independent design by Arma-lite and a later design by Stoner by way of Cadillac Gage Company.

At this time, the eventual fate of the M16 and similar weapons cannot be predicted. Nevertheless, the gun and cartridge do represent the highest development of a new type which was conceived with the birth of the machine gun, and born with the acceptance of the automatic rifle. And, it has come fully of age, now shouldering the fighting man's burden in battles around the Globe. Anything that replaces our modern Assault Rifle must be very good, indeed.



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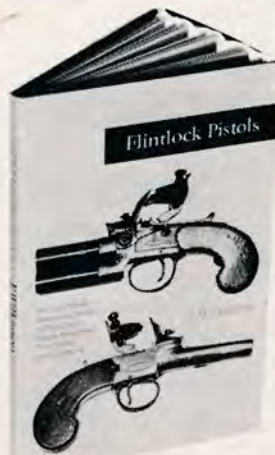
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by F. Wilkinson

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# PULL!

By DICK MILLER

**L**EAQUE SHOOTING OFFERS clay target clubs their one greatest potential for increased activity, exposure, and revenue. This is not to say that there are not already existing large numbers of thriving shooting leagues, many of which have been in operation for a number of years. It is true that almost every existing trap and skeet club on this continent could provide facilities for league shooting, and it is equally true that only a small percentage of clubs do include league shooting in their programs.

Trap and skeet clubs do not sell trap and skeet shooting to their members and/or guests.

Trap and skeet clubs sell fun, recreation, and an opportunity for personal fulfillment, recognition, and competition to their members and guests. As merchants and/or purveyors of the foregoing, trap and skeet clubs are in direct competition with all other recreation activities. What disturbs me is that far too many trap and skeet clubs are open only one or two days of the week. That is to say that they are fulfilling the purpose for which they exist as little as one seventh of the time.

During a decade in which there is intense demand for space, time, and recreation, an organization that is operating at one seventh of its capacity surely has to be operating at a distinct disadvantage. One of the most attractive aspects for league shooting to a gun club is that the league need not take away any of the member's recreation time. If the club offers open shooting on week-ends, league shooting can fill as many nights of the week as the area has potential for leagues.

Your gun club is not lighted for night shooting? The answer to that objection is simple. The additional targets thrown for league shooting would easily and quickly pay for installation of lights, which also become an added shooting bonus for existing members.

Who are prospects for forming shooting leagues? Just about any group of people are prospects for a

shooting league. If your club is located near an industrial area, the answer is obvious. Highly successful industrial shooting leagues have been around for almost as long as the clay target sports. In non-industrial areas, or near smaller towns and cities, leagues can be made up of retail stores, civic clubs, church groups, professional people (i.e.-doctors, lawyers, dentists, etc.) lodge groups, schools, law enforcement agencies, etc.

My own retail sporting goods store experience proved to me that in any community, there are people who would like to crack a few clay targets, but are reluctant to invade the lair of the polished shooter. League shooting offers these people a chance to enjoy the games in the company and presence of their peers, none of whom knew any more in the beginning than they do.

There is another plus factor in the increase of shooting leagues that ought not be overlooked. The battle for sensible gun control legislation in this country will finally be won by the group with the greatest appeal to the presently non-committed citizen. The present anti-gun forces are not likely to change their stripes, and the pro-gun contingent can be expected to remain pro gun. If existing gun clubs can attract additional thousands or hundreds of thousands to the shooting sports via the medium of shooting leagues, more numbers can be subtracted from the neutral or non-committed, and added to the pro-gun side.

So, if your gun club does not now offer league shooting, why doesn't it? It could be that all that is lacking is for a member to propose league shooting at a meeting of the club.

• • •

1970 offers the shooting buff a very rare opportunity to combine a spectacular vacation with seeing the world's finest shooters perform, in the 40th World Shooting Championships at Phoenix, Arizona October 12 through October 26. Or, if the October dates won't fit your vacation schedule, only a slightly less spectacular shoot-

ing event will be the NRA International Championships on the same ranges July 13-26.

Some of the most spectacularly beautiful and unusual scenic areas of the world are within a few hours driving time of Phoenix. The Grand Canyon is about 250 miles north of Phoenix. The Painted Desert, a tremendous area of magnificent colored and unusual rock formations, is also about 250 miles from Phoenix. In the same general area is the Petrified Forest National Park, featuring prehistoric trees, some of them as long as 250 feet, turned into many colored stone.

Farther to the northeast is Canyon de Chelly National Monument, with deep gorges and sheer canyon walls as high as 1,000 feet. In another direction, 250 miles southeast of Phoenix is the Chiricahua National Monument, a region of unusual and beautiful rock formations produced by ages of erosion, and sometimes called "A Wonderland of Rocks". Meteor Crater, showing the effect on the ground when a huge meteor struck long years ago, is a little over 200 miles from Phoenix. Oak Creek Canyon is about 100 miles from Phoenix. Many people think it rivals the Grand Canyon for beauty (including my wife and me) with its many flame-colored cliffs and buttes. The Sunset Crater National Monument, a gorgeously colored volcanic eruption dating back 1100 years is a little over 150 miles from Phoenix. If you need dams and lakes to make your vacation complete, Glen Canyon Dam, largest of all man-made lakes, is 290 miles north of Phoenix. Hoover Dam, 270 miles northwest of Phoenix, dams the mighty Colorado river and forms the great Lake Meade.

With these distances in mind, you can alternate between watching shooting events which interest you, and on the same vacation period see some of the most gorgeous and spectacular scenery anywhere in the world (and out of this world).

On the technical side for the shooter, several new shooting events will be conducted at the 40th World Shooting Championships. None of the new events fall into the realm of clay target shooting which is the province of this column, so I will mention them only briefly for your possible interest.

The Running Game Events will include the Individual World Championship over the 60-shot course, of 30 shots normal run and 30 shots fast run. Previously, this event consisted of only 20 normal and 20 fast runs. The Running Boar Event with mixed timing runs will be fired here for the first time at a World Championship. This consists of 40 shots, 20 normal,



and 20 fast runs, planned for 10-shot series, with an equal number of normal and fast runs in a distribution unknown to the shooter. This is an optional team event.

The Standard Pistol Match was approved in principle at Weisbaden and in detail at Bologna. This event is a 25 meter event with .22 caliber pistol. The Air Pistol Match allows any kind of air or CO2 pistol of .177 caliber. Pistol must not weigh over 3.3 pounds, and trigger pull must be at least 1.1 pounds, and a set trigger is not allowed. Match consists of 40 shots in 90 minutes.

Naturally, the matches will include both international trap and skeet. All clay target events will be fired at the Phoenix Trap and Skeet Club, now managed by Cliff Doughman, who needs no introduction to many of our readers. All clay targets in the games will be a brilliant "hunter orange" which in itself might provide something shooters will like to see.

The Phono-pull release which was not delivered in time for the 1969 warm-up games in Phoenix is in place and will be used. This could be worth a trip to see in action. Water cooling devices are being installed at each of the four clay pigeon ranges. These will be put in a convenient location so that shooters who desire to cool their shotgun barrels may do so as they move from one end of the firing line to the other. As I mentioned in an earlier column, some American shooters still find it too much for them to hose down a beautiful gun with water so that the barrels can be kept cool.

Why not come and see for yourself? You will never forget the experience, and may never get another opportunity to see a World Shooting Championship in the United States.

Incidentally, the weather during October in Phoenix is beautiful. July in Phoenix is warm, in fact, it's downright hot, so you might want to keep this in mind.

## HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 12)

base bullets will then seat easily. It no longer becomes necessary to carefully balance bullets on the case mouth on the way into the seating die; the bullet base will enter the case perhaps  $\frac{1}{64}$ " to  $\frac{1}{32}$ " and stay in place of its own accord. It's a big help, except with boat-tails which enter freely.

• • •

Incidentally, if you're looking for a cheap, large capacity pot in which to melt and blend bullet metal, check your local scrapyards. Cast iron pipe caps in large sizes can often be had reasonably. They come in all sizes and an 8" cap will hold nearly 50 pounds of lead. It will work fine over a plumber's gas furnace or the largest burner of a gas kitchen range, though it does take awhile to get warmed up.

When salvaging scrap lead, especially wheel weights, make a rough basket of stainless steel mesh to fit inside the pot. Rig some means of keeping it down on the bottom of the pot or it will float to the top. Then, when the lead is fluid, lift out the basket and with it will come all rocks, steel clips, bullet jackets, and other unwanted scrap. This saves much time ordinarily spent in skimming and plucking out junk. For casting excess lead into ingots, gouge or saw V-grooves in an oak 24X. Pour in the lead, then chop into convenient lengths when cool.

The bit above about the slug loads reminds me of a tremendous hassle I see every year just before the hunting

seasons. It's often brought to my attention more or less forcibly by people phoning me to plead for help in finding items of outdoor gear. By waiting until the last minute, they find various suppliers short in different sizes or makes and otherwise unable to deliver soon enough. So don't get the idea that right now is too early to check your gear and make a list of what you'll need next season.

One of the best sources of hunting and camping and cold weather clothing (summer gear, too, of course) in our neck of the woods is Hinman Outfitters, 1217 W. Glen, Peoria, Illinois, 61614. The owner, Bob Hinman happens to be a good friend of mine, and the outfit is located next door to my own office. Consequently, I can truthfully say I know both products and service rather well. Bob handles everything from Sid Bell's Sterling Silver game jewelry up through pack frames, tentage, boots, knives, clothing, and you name it. Outfitters' well illustrated catalog is to be had for the asking. It lists many items Bob has personally selected to meet the field needs he knows so well. It contains not only products, but articles by such notables as Warren Page and John Jobson on selecting the gear best suited to your needs.

Now's the time to start thinking; why not order a copy of Hinman Outfitters catalog and get on the stick to eliminate those last-minute shortages and rushes.

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## WHALING GUNS

(Continued from page 39)

considerably more than we had paid for them in New Bedford.

"The tonite bombs for the darting guns were made differently than were the shoulder gun bombs. The tonite bombs were in one piece. We couldn't take them apart. The shoulder gun bombs could be taken apart. We would reload them with a new primer cap and powder in the early spring after the fall hunting so they would be more certain to fire when we went after the whales in the spring in the leads in the ice. We used an eight-second fuse for the spring hunts when the ice was around. Every second would count. We wanted the bombs to explode as soon as possible so the whale wouldn't go under the ice. They would try to do so.

"We'd get right up on the backs of the whale with the canoe. We'd use the darting gun first to get the harpoon and line into the whale, then follow up with the shoulder gun.

"The darting gun would be on the starboard side. The weapon could be quickly picked up, then as we'd put down the darting gun we'd pick up the shoulder gun from port side and fire

it. The darting gun would be on port side and the shoulder gun on the starboard if the gunner was left handed. Usually a darting gun shot was followed up by a shoulder gun shot and these shots would 'turn them up' in about a 15-minute period.

"There was lots of excitement during the few seconds we were on top of the whale and firing the darting gun and shoulder gun. Sometimes the whale would, after being hit, head for the ice and bump into it and bounce back about 20 feet."

These writers can testify that, though there is less hunting these days, Mr. Morris' description of the excitement of "the old days" still fits.

The weapons have constituted some of the most valued possessions of the Eskimos and have been largely handed down from father to son as family heirlooms in much the same way as old muzzle-loading rifles were handed down in other American homes.

Most of the muzzle-loaders have become decorations for the mantel, but the Eskimos' shoulder and darting guns still bring home the meat. Just as collectors have induced other families

in other states to part with the heirlooms, so have they talked many Eskimos out of theirs.



One well-known North Country weapons collector estimates that there are perhaps two dozen of the old shoulder guns and as many darting guns remaining in the whole of Alaska, an area more than one-fifth the size of the rest of the nation. These weapons are largely along the Arctic coast. One reason the old ones remain in fairly good shape is that they are made of a bronze composition that does not deteriorate in salt spray, although the inner workings of the simple lock mechanism frequently are "frozen" because they are iron. The authors' guns weigh approximately 27 pounds. Even so, the "kick" from these shoulder guns is so lethal that most are fired from the hip position which spins the shooter several points on the compass.



Fortunately for the Eskimos, there is a source of supply for both the new weapons and their bombs. The supplier is R. W. Meininger of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who calls his business "Naval Company."

Mr. Meininger has been making guns and projectiles since 1901 and finds the work in his small factory interesting, profitable and deeply satisfying, especially when he learns that the Eskimos of far away Alaska are celebrating a nalukatak or whale festival because they bagged some of the huge mammals with his weapons.

The lucky gun nut who acquires one of the old shoulder guns or darting guns will have reason to hold a nalukatak of his own. The whaling guns are rare ones and, like many other weapons, represent an important epoch in American history—when the words "Thar She Blows" meant real adventure on Arctic and other seas.



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## BERETTA TARGET PISTOLS

(Continued from page 21)

the strength of large crates of Olympic medals, were exporting still larger crates of their Tula-built Margolin rapid-fire pistols.

This was the competition Beretta faced, and all things considered, the Model 80 looks very, very good indeed. The gun consists of two main units. The aluminum frame carries the grips, magazine, trigger, sear, and hammer, while the upper assembly mounts the barrel, weight tube, sights, and bolt in an integral unit.

The upper housing—receiver we'll call it—is a massive steel structure, carrying the barrel midway between an enormous rib and a tube into which lead weights may be inserted and secured by a set screw, thus adjusting the heft and balance to the tastes of the individual shooter. The rear of the receiver is drilled to form a tunnel within which the bolt travels.

Using a bolt rather than the conventional slide has several advantages. The tortuous and expensive machining and fitting of frame rails and slide tracks is obviated, resulting in as good a gun at a lower price. Moreover, the one-piece barrel receiver unit makes an ideal sight mount, without the jury-rigged look of a rib extension, or the worry of a shift in impact when removing and replacing a bridge type rear sight base.

The drawback is that a bolt's usually a bother to jack back. That was what always ruled out the Ruger MK I as a using pistol for me—the sharply machined cocking ears always felt as if they wanted to lacerate my fingers, and I don't put up with pain if it can be avoided. I avoided it with a Smith & Wesson M 41. No such annoyance with the Beretta. The cocking ears seem less abrasive than Ruger's, and the well calculated bolt-hammer cams and relatively light springwork all make it a pleasure to operate.

The exposed hammer is something I approve of, and serves as the ultimate cocking indicator. Unfortunately there's not enough spur to permit either safe or convenient thumb cocking or uncocking, and the combination of having it but not being able to use it is somewhat frustrating.

The tang is unusually long, and completely eliminates hammer bite, while offering at the same time a bit of vertical support to the hand. Contrary to the current fad in the States, the grip angle is anything but .45-ish, and indeed is a considerable way

steeper than the Hämmerli's handle. In order to get the Model 80's muzzle low enough to put the front sight in the notch, the tendons over the top of the wrist have to be stretched taut. Beretta has something here others have forgotten.

I was hefting a brace of duelling pistols the other day when the truth dawned. No flash or frosting on these guns—they were the genuine article. The sights were rudimentary, but were doubtless all the Code Duello allowed. They were unbelievably muzzle-heavy, and my first thought was "I'd drop shots down to about knee level with this thing." I lowered the old pistol then brought it up quickly on target. The sights came up in perfect alignment, again, and again, and again. There wasn't the slightest correction to be made in the sight picture, not a fraction of a second wasted. The incredibly heavy muzzle automatically stretched the wrist tendons as far as they would go, and at that point the stock angle put the sights in perfect taw. The efficiency of this century-old death dealer was a bit chilling. It was designed for a specific task, and performed it flawlessly.

Beretta has hit on the same combination with the Model 80, and it makes excellent logic. The Rapid Fire match is essentially a duelling course. The gun is brought up to eye level from a 45 degree angle, and any time frittered finding the front sight helps you to the bottom of the score sheet.

Trigger pull is also vitally important, and on the Model 80 it's superb. The searage is as direct as is possible on a selfloading pistol. The trigger pivots when pressed, pulling the drawbar forward. The drawbar engages the sear precisely on a level with the hammer notch and simply tips it forward out of the notch. The Europeans favor a mushy pull with perceptible trigger travel. This permits incredibly light pulls with a generous sear-notch engagement for safety's sake and lets them feel the gun going off. If you accept this philosophy, the Beretta's trigger is hard to fault. It's light, smooth, and a hex screw in the front-strap, adjustable through the magazine well when the stocks are removed, serves as a trigger stop to eliminate backlash.

Unlike its more expensive competitors, the Model 80 features a non-vented barrel, but depends on a large single-port muzzle brake and its am-

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ple forward tare to keep the snout down. I would guess that Beretta felt that for the price tag they had in mind, they couldn't abide the engineering aggravation it takes to make a vented barrel pistol feed reliably, and a reputation for reliability was to be desired above all else.

Perhaps they succeeded. The Model 80, like the other rapid fire pistols I've shot, seems to let the front sight rise in the notch for about half its height during recoil, and some shooters dote on its reliability. One Italian competitive shooter I spoke to told me his Model 80 had eaten close onto 50,000 rounds with no malfunction of any sort.

I can't personally believe any .22 selfloader will go that far without a stoppage, but it's on such testimonials that reputations are built, and they are rarely entirely unjust.

The particular Model 80 I shot jammed repeatedly with the lot of RWS ammo being used. The cartridge simply wasn't strong enough to function the gun. With Fiocchi, the only other brand at hand, the gun operated flawlessly, and was a joy to shoot.

At 25 meters (82 feet) the Model 80 would contentedly group five shots inside an inch from bench rest as long as the shooter stayed cool. Typical

groups were 5 in 7/8" and 4 in 3/4" with one thrown an inch out. From off-hand, rapid fire, I put five shots into precisely 1", which may be par for the gun but for me it's unfortunately much better than average.

Were I a rapid fire shooter of championship timber, perhaps I could pick faults with this gun. I'm not and I can't. It seems to me a first class target pistol, excellent in every respect, and my only gripe is that drifting pins to strip the thing are a bit bothersome. Convenience has its price though. The Model 80 retails for \$146 in Europe, and its Swiss and German-built competition peer down from the rather rarified \$200 stratum. If the ISU rapid-fire game ever catches on in the U.S., this is the gun I'll start with.

### MODEL 76

Hämmerli is the only European pistol maker who ever went after the vast U.S. market with a first class auto-pistol in .22 LR, but their Model 208 was priced out of reach for all but the idle rich, and thus is rarely seen. The International Shooting Union, meeting in Bologna in September 1967, adopted what's known as the Standard Pistol Match. This was an entirely new course for the European

shooter, and for the first time he found a need for a .22 LR in his pistol box.

Beretta, with a two-continent market standing in front of them, decided it was time to get deeper into the target pistol business. Their Model 76 was first shown to European gunwriters in the summer of '68.

The 76 wasn't as all-out an effort as the 80 had been. Beretta wasn't inclined to tool up for an entirely new pistol, so they chose their 70-series frame and action and did everything they could to make it acceptable.

The action is a good one; the trigger pivots at the top and attaches to the drawbar, which operates on the left side of the frame, at the bottom for maximum leverage. A shoulder atop the trigger bar abuts a tooth on the sear beneath the sear axis pin. Pressing the trigger then pushes the drawbar to the rear, pivoting the sear out of the hammer full-cock notch. This is a straightforward and excellent arrangement, and permits as crisp and unchanging a trigger pull as is possible on a semi auto.

The sample I fired had 1/8" of slack, then broke cleanly and crisply with sometimes an almost imperceptible creep. There was a slight backlash as well. I never object to trigger slack,

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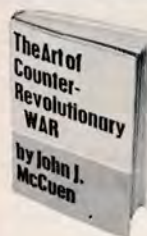


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and class the pull on this pistol as quite acceptable. If I bought it I wouldn't feel it needed cleaning up. But Beretta would be well advised to inspect carefully for creep and backlash, because a target pistol simply must have a fine trigger. Pull weight is factory set in a 38-49 oz. range.

The sight picture is excellent. The 1/8" front post is standard, and properly fills the square rear notch for target shooting. Beretta thoughtfully includes alternate 1/16" and 5/64" front posts in the package, but the gesture is lost since either of these would leave far too much light in the notch for target work. It's fine the way it comes. The rear unit is fully adjustable, although windage corrections are rather tiresome since two screws—one on either side—have to be manipulated.

Unlike the hammer on the Model 80, that on the 76 is there to be used. It's a hurr-type, borrowed from the pocket-70's, but is well serrated, stands clear, and is safe and easy to operate with either hand.

Prototype 76's carried the well-known Beretta cross bolt safety, but production guns are being fitted with a newly designed safety which henceforth will be standard on all Beretta pistols. This is a thumblever, and in location, conception, and function it's nearly identical to that on the 1911 .45. It blocks the sear, and is both positive and convenient. The Model 76, like the Model 80, has a slide (or bolt) holdopen with an external release lever as all target guns should.

The barrel and frame engagement lugs are steel, semi-permanently mounted in a massive, slab sided, cast, non-ferrous housing which is both decorative and functional. It's formed as a flat, matted rib atop and extends backwards over the slide to mount the rear sight. The mass and bulk of the barrel housing makes the gun markedly muzzle heavy, a virtue experienced shooters will appreciate and inexperienced ones will profit from.

The mounting lug on the underside of the barrel near the breech end measures one inch in length and is machined to form a rail on each side. The entire barrel-sleeve assembly is slid backwards onto the frame as the lug rails mate with grooves in the

solid portion of the frame ahead of the magazine well and over the trigger. The transverse shaft of the disassembly lever permits joining or separating these parts when it's flat face is upward. When the barrel assembly is in place on the frame, pivoting the disassembly lever downwards rolls the cylindrical portion of the shaft up in front of a matching shoulder on the underside of the lug, thus denying the barrel assembly forward travel. The disassembly lever itself is blocked from turning by the lower edge of the slide, save when the slide is held partway back to align a cutout with the lever for deliberate disassembly.

The disassembly lever shaft, when engaged doesn't actively tension the barrel lug. Thus the rigidity of the barrel-frame union is entirely dependent on the precision with which the lug rails and receiver grooves are machined. They are precise, down almost to zero tolerances. I've seen many 70-series pistols which required considerable stimulation with a mallet against the rear of the slide to persuade the barrel to come free. The question is to what extent the wear of repeated disassembly and reassembly will loosen this initially chummy connection, and what effect such loosening, if it takes place, will have on accuracy.

As for how accuracy is for starters, it's passing good. I didn't have time to fire the M76 nearly as much as I would have liked to. This particular pistol, in my hands, with Winchester MK III (the only ammo tried) wanted to group in just a shade over an inch at 25 meters. Typical 5-shot groups were 5 in 1 3/16" and 4 in 1" with a called flier. Two other groups had 4 in 1 1/4" with three touching and the fifth thrown—probably my fault. All this from the bench.

For offhand shooting, the pistol's prime purpose, the grips will be a limiting factor. The issue handles are molded black plastic, and like most ambidextrous stocks are sadly inadequate in either hand. The reach is shortish, and a palm swell is desperately needed. The choice at present is between gambling a few dollars on Beretta's optional equipment woods, or junking the plastics and going for custom grips. Considering



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the price of the gun, I'd rule out the latter and either chance Beretta's walnuts or wait for a U.S. gripmaker to come through with semi-production stocks for this pistol, and then fling plastic wood on either wherever they felt lacking.

The 76 gave no malfunctions of any sort during my stint with it. Two French gunwriters who tested the pistol fairly extensively on different occasions both told me they'd had no functional problems whatever. Looks like she'll feed and eject with the best of them.

Beretta's 76 doesn't aspire to com-  
pete with top-of-the-line target guns.

On the other hand, with decent stocks, it has the heft, balance, sights, and trigger to turn in excellent scores. An aspiring pistoleer who wasn't quite sure if target shooting was his thing could start with the M 76 without having either invested a frightening sum or burdened himself with second rate equipment. If the game grabbed him he could shoot up an awful heap of cartridges before feeling the need for a better gun.

Beretta is definitely and at last in the target pistol business with a pair of guns which fill the distinct need for first-class equipment at a moderate-to-low price.



## HAWKEN, PART II

(Continued from page 24)

the Hawken guns, also making both double barrel shotguns and shotgun-rifle combination guns. The double barrel guns marked J. P. Gemmer are fairly common, however not too many are found at existing gun shows.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Gemmer offered his services to the government. He was granted the rank of Corporal, and served as a gunsmith in the Government arsenal in St. Louis. At the close of the Civil War, Gemmer was well aware of the per-  
sistent competition of the breech loader from the start. His skillful sporterizing of the Spencer carbine is an indication that he was conscious of the need to keep pace with the industry. The "Hawken" rifle was still in demand for western adventurers, but the market slowly gave way to the better breech loaders. Gemmer's ability as a gunsmith cannot be doubted. By using the Spencer action and tubular magazine feature, he built rifles on the Hawken lines, but with the Spencer's firepower. There can be little question that Gemmer had much access to government machine tools while serving as gunsmith during the war years. One such rifle has appeared in a collection in Arizona, a Spencer-Hawken, stamped on the top barrel flat, "J. P. Hawken, St. Louis." It is interesting to note that until such a time as the breech-loaders could equal the ballistic performance of the Hawken, they could not completely replace it.

At the Missouri Historical Museum, in St. Louis, a number of arms are displayed showing examples of Gemmer's skill. The collection shows one very interesting "Hawkenized" treat-  
ment, originally, a trap-door Springfield rifle, that was completely rebuilt, except for lock and breech. In place

of the original hammer, a Hawken hammer was fitted—modified at the nose in order to strike a firing pin rather than a percussion cap. Chambered for the .45-70 Government cartridge, the breech remains the same, but the barrel is octagonal and is fitted with an under-rib and guides for a cleaning rod. The conventional Hawken half-stock pattern is obvious, with double set triggers and scroll guard of iron. It seems apparent that Gemmer's breech loading adaptation to the Hawken style is an indication of his loyalty to the traditional Hawken rifle reputation.

Other items on display in the Mis-  
souri Historical Museum are rifles that appear to be the regular Hawken "Mountain Rifle." A closer look will show the rifles were made into breech loading cartridge guns chambered for the rim-fire, bottle-necked .46 caliber Spencer cartridge. Both rifles are marked on the top barrel flat, "J. P. Gemmer St. Louis Pat. applied for". These hand-made guns could not be sold at a profit in competition with machine-made guns, so production was soon dropped. Many shotguns marked "J. P. Gemmer, St. Louis" are displayed, some of which were made in England.

The superb workmanship and care given to Gemmer's rifles at this transi-  
tion period could not successfully compete with mass production guns. Working by hand and with antiquated tools, Gemmer was soon forced to bow to larger businesses. Still employing a handful of skilled artisans in wood working and metal, Gemmer main-  
tained the business to serve the grow-  
ing number of gun "cranks" who were testing and seeking to improve the cartridge guns of the period. Before Gemmer retired and gave up the busi-



ness, the shop was frequently visited by old Sam Hawken, spinning many tales of early St. Louis. Sam, still proud of his Rocky Mountain gun, even tried his hand in making one last fine specimen of a Hawken percussion rifle. Today this piece is displayed at the Jefferson Memorial Museum in St. Louis. After retiring from his gun business at nearly 70 years of age, Sam lived much of the time with his daughter, Mrs. Fred Colburn, at his country home, 11 miles west of St. Louis. He lived to the ripe old age of 92. On May 9, 1884 he died at his home and was buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis. Thus closing the final page of two outstanding gunsmiths in America's history.

Gemmer later re-organized his business to serve his customers as a custom gunsmith and supplier of ammunition. Soon he expanded these services into one of the major wholesale houses in the sporting goods line.

While Gemmer built rifles of his own design, differing from the Hawken style, he stamped these with his name, "J. P. Gemmer, St. Louis." The rifles he produced in the Hawken tradition, were marked, "S. Hawken." While still carrying on business at 700 North 3rd Street, Gemmer entered re-

tirement in 1915, finally closing the doors of one of the oldest firearms businesses in the United States at that time. It was not until October, 1919, that John Philip Gemmer died in St. Louis, and was buried close to an old friend, Sam Hawken, at Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Hardly much has been said of the shotgun on the early frontier, mostly because of the lack of information. The Hawken shop did stock and sell shotguns during and after the fur trading period. All the St. Louis gunmakers, including Hawken, imported barrels and locks from England for such guns that were made in this country. There are no shotguns known to have been marked "Hawken," probably because he did not want to stamp his name on anything he couldn't guarantee.

The Hawken rifle was the most noted, most desirable firearm for nearly half a century preceding the Civil War. Mountain men, trappers, explorers, and Indian fighters claimed that the Hawken was the best to be had. The majority of these "buckskinners" would have no other rifle if it was possible to get a "Hawken . . . the big St. Louis gun."

## RIGHT AND JOY

(Continued from page 25)

day, a man is skirting a dismal swamp, sweating buckets and swatting flies big as birds. He cradles a short, big-mouthed carbine in his arms and he has just about decided he might as well go home when a boar as solid as a house comes charging out of a patch of brush that a moment ago you would have sworn could not hide a housecat. The hunter fires, works the bolt, fires again, and the boar crumples. The hunter walks over, his rifle at the ready, and looks down at those murderous tusks. He shudders.

. . . . . The three barefooted young boys are in an orange grove with a .22, at noon. They shoot two pigeons, and clean them. Then one of them gathers wood and builds a fire, the other goes to fetch freshly baked bread and the third picks ripe oranges. They roast the pigeons over the fire and eat them, finish the hot bread, eat the oranges. In their eagerness, they have forgotten to bring salt, but it does not matter. They grow up, they travel, they eat in the most fashionable and elegant restaurants in the world, but none of them will ever forget that meal in a shady grove, of game they hunted and cooked them-

selves, of hot fresh home-baked bread, of oranges peeled with their hunting knives.

. . . . . Two men are sitting in a boat hidden in some reeds. It is dawn. It is cold. It is raining stair rods. One of the men, who is a doctor, is softly swearing with a pure, clinical detachment, and a command of the language that has his companion goggle-eyed with wonder. Suddenly, in the



distance, a skein of geese comes into view, and suddenly there is no cold, there is no rain, the dark is light enough and the doctor is silent as the birds swoop in and the guns come up.

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have to write out a check like the national debt to get a great deal of enjoyment from guns. The ability of find pleasure in unexpected quarters is indeed one of the great rewards of shooting.

Among the guns I remember with a great deal of nostalgia have been princes of the gunmaker's art such as "best" English doubles—shotgun and rifle—a De luxe Winchester Model 70 (made before it was decided that machine-stamped checkering and free-floating barrels would enhance its appearance and performance), and various Smith & Wessons, both inherited and acquired. And yet, one of my favorite guns was a little Mossberg .22 carbine with a four-power scope. From rest this little 'toy' could put slugs into the same hole at thirty-five yards until you got bored. Considering the limitations of scope, barrel length, high-speed ammunition, production bedding, and the sloppy trigger pull, I think this a remarkable achievement. No, the stock was not walnut, nor was it hand-rubbed. No, the 'mechanicals', as the English would say, were not drop-forged; as a matter of fact, I distinctly remember an odor of plastic around the trigger guard. No, it was not a candidate for any beauty prizes. All it did was shoot up a storm when you wanted it to; but then the Mossbergs have always taken pride in giving you the most for your money.

Another gun that did yeoman service was a Mauser 7x57 of indeterminate Anglo-German origin that spoke for a fair amount of wild boar in its time. A birthday present from my brother, it had a 24-inch, semi-octagonal barrel which, considering the otherwise lightweight construction, struck me as a bit excessive. It could shoot, Lord could it shoot, open sights and all, but a certain memorable day, when I had to go into heavy brush to finish up a large and misanthropic boar that had been wounded by someone, cured me of the idea that the perfect woods rifle had a 24 inch barrel and double set triggers. And yet I learned from it that an 'obsolete' cartridge like the 7x57, not loaded up to the speed of light but firing a bullet of proper construction and excellent sectional density, would be more than enough to handle any but the most elephantine game at hunting ranges.

Twenty years ago, when I started scattergunning, the guns you could get at a price the average (broke) student could afford were repeaters of one kind or another, and having no one to advise me I bought an automatic that, including variable-choke

device, weighed a good 8¼ pounds. This for walking up on partridges! Since I don't weigh much more than that myself, I got the predictable results with it. However my brother had a light sixteen over-and-under which I borrowed whenever he wasn't using it. Unfortunately, he is as enthusiastic a gun nut as I know, and we went shooting together, so there was not much mileage to be got out of that, but it gave me a taste for light doubles that I have had ever since. So I am just, for my first gun in eleven years, buying a twenty over-and-under, bored modified and improved, 26 inch barrels, straight 'English' stock, and double triggers, thank you very much. It is a plain gun, solid, but with a varnished stock and a trigger pull that leaves something to be desired. The very enthusiastic and helpful salesman\* has offered to put a decent finish on it for me, but I want to do it myself, and polish up the trigger to the precision of pull that is an integral part of the joy of shooting. It will then no longer be a machine made by machines but a beloved pet at least partly made by me to my requirements, and when it speaks, it will speak with my voice.

There is a skeet range on the outskirts of Rome and there, God willing and the weather good, I intend to get my eye, timing and follow-through into shape. When that time comes, it will be time enough for me to think of ordering a Boss or Woodward.



Who knows, one of these days I may once again walk up through the wet stubble with my heart pounding in anticipation, the gun held lightly in the hands, sweeping the scene with my eyes and waiting for that never-to-be-forgotten explosion of the bird rocketing into the sky.

Major Maydon spoke for all of us: "For the game itself, it is the best: there is no other. If you have tried it, you know. If you haven't, life is still young."

\*One of the rewards of shooting is being welcomed in good gunshops all over the world. In another article I have mentioned a Geneva gunshop. I have had similar experiences in Vienna, in Rome, in Washington, D.C., and in London.





## 16 GAUGE

(Continued from page 27)

There have been other sixteen gauge guns. My father was a confirmed user of the Browning Sweet Sixteen, the automatic on the original Browning pattern and a most rugged and dependable shooting arm. He had a whole succession of these selfloaders and thought so well of them that he persuaded various of his shooting cronies to buy that model. Despite his cordial regard for the Sweet Sixteen the truth is his favorite 16 was a fine Ithaca double. This was a quality grade gun made especially for him by Lou Smith. It had 30-inch barrels with raised vent rib, the tubes bored full choke, with a Monte Carlo comb and cheekpiece, a beavertail forend, selected walnut in stock and forestock, single trigger, and a weight of 7 pounds. This gun is now in the hands of Elmer Keith who says it will pattern 90 per cent.

In writing about the sixteen gauge in his book, "Modern Shotguns and Loads", my father has this to say: "One-and-one-eighth ounces of shot is an ideal charge for all-around shooting. It was ideal in the 12 and is just as good in the sixteen. For duck shooting this load falls very few yards short of the twelve, with maximum loads and like degree of choke in both guns. This same sixteen bore will kill ducks uniformly at 50 yards and generally at 55 yards and it is at the same time, with an open barrel the very best uplands gun possible to procure. What the sixteen will not do on quail and snipe, loaded with 1½ ounces of shot, is not to be done. And at the same time the arm would be a pound lighter than a twelve for the same cartridge energy, and far more handy, with of course less weight of ammunition to burden the coat pocket. For my own use, if I could own but one gun, that would be a 16 bore, 6¾ pounds weight, 30-inch barrels, one bored modified and the other full choke, and then I'd say, "Get thee behind me Satan for you cannot tempt me any further".

Virtually all our big companies manufacture the sixteen. Winchester offers it in the Model 21, a custom-turned job, and it is also to be had in the popular new Model 1400 autoloader, at a weight of 6¾ lb which is an excellent heft. There is, as well, the Model 1200 pump repeater with even less weight, 6½ pounds. Remington, likewise, chambers the superb Model 1100 autoloader in 16; and along with it the sturdy Model 870 pump gun. The 1100 is easily the most

popular automatic on the market. The Browning still provides the Sweet Sixteen in their old original version; and that other old timer, the Ithaca Model 37 pump repeater, is still sold in 16 gauge.

There is a gaggle of sixteens from Savage-Stevens-Fox. Best of these is the excellent Fox double barrel, a fine scattergun at a weight of 6¾ pounds and a variety of borings in either 26" or 28-inch barrel lengths. This time-tried side-by-side has a counterpart, built a little less fancy, and with the Stevens name. There are also pumps and single barrels, all in the 16 boring.

The Mossberg Model 500 pump chambers the 16 among the other gauges; and Sears and Wards, the big mail-order tycoons, have guns in pump-action, doubles, single-barrel and even one autoloader for the cartridge. Among the imported shotguns we find that the Charles Daly Co. imports a side-by-side from Italy, Richland has another from Spain and so does Atlas. There are few over/unders. The only importer fetches in the Czech-made Brno in the superposed model. There is a Beretta single-barrel, a Davidson double, and a Ferlach double.

It is obvious that there is considerable demand for the sixteen. An indication of this is the variety of loads which can be had in the gauge. It used to be, a half-century ago, the 16 was standardized at 2½ drams of powder and 1 ounce of shot. This was pretty much a pipsqueak and since then the load has been lifted to 2¾ drams equivalent of powder and 1½ oz. of shot. This is an exceptionally good performer and is most especially effective on uplands game.

The peewee 1-oz load is still made but it is best used by someone who is particularly allergic to recoil. If the gunner is going to stick with this lightweight he'd be better off to switch to a 20 bore. I do most of my shooting with either the 2¾ dram or the 3 dram load and, of course, 1½ oz. of shot. This is the standard 12 gauge target load and I find I can swap back and forth between the 12 and the 16 and find that leads on game or clay targets is precisely the same.

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(Continued on page 63)

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is available in either blue or nickel finish. Sights are fixed, ramp front, square notch rear and the grips are of impact resistant plastic. Suggested retail price for the blue finished model is \$46.50. The nickel model is \$55.50, from Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Mass. 01101

HANG BILLY THE KID in your gun room, bar, den or office. Now available are authentic reproductions of legendary Wanted Posters in handsome stressed wood frames. Each poster has been researched and authenticated by the world famous Boot Hill Museum of Dodge City.



Each is printed on the finest parchment and mounted in a 11" x 14" frame. Available posters are Billy the Kid, Jesse James, Black Bart and The Dalton Gang. Only \$7.95 each or two for \$15.00 from Boot Hill Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 4, Evanston, Illinois 60204.

NOW IN THE OFFING from Nelson Brand is the Cobra knife. Closed, it is a practical all-purpose knife with a four inch blade. Open, it is ready for anything with a flick of the wrist extending the blade to a full 8 inches. The Cobra has a high carbon steel blade, tempered and honed to a fine and un-yielding edge. Blade locks in place at 4" and 8" positions yet flicks easily from one position to the other. Flat, rugged and compact with handles of bone and brass. Leather sheath with metal tip included. Only \$6.95 from Nelson Brand, P.O. Box 1023, Dept. G-6, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024.

# SHOPPING WITH Guns

A QUALITY PROTECTIVE gun case is the best thing for transporting your guns. The all new Wally Taber Safari Model from Protecto Plastics is designed to hold two standard firearms, two rifles with scopes, or a rifle and a shotgun—or any combination you desire. Available in three colors, gray, tan and red. Measures 12½" x 52½" x 3½". Weight is 12 pounds. For more information write Protecto Plastics, Inc., P.O. Box 68, 201 Alpha Road, Wind Gap, Pa. 18091

NUMRICH ARMS now offers a ventilated rib for do-it-yourselfers. Ribs are available in either 26" or 30" lengths. Both sizes have enough surplus stock so that they may be custom fitted to any barrel length within 3" to 3½" of their length.



Made of quality gun steel, supplied in a custom blue with a matted non-glare top surface. Price of the kit is \$9.95 from Numrich Arms Corp., Broadway, West Hurley, New York 12491

THIS NEW FLOOR lamp shows three of your favorite guns at their best. Thick felt pads protect the stocks and barrels. Brass overhead lamp with natural bur-lap shade swivels to any position. The hand turned birch post hides the cord



for the lamp. Available in honey tone maple, antique pine or walnut. Completely finished \$31.95, unfinished, \$28.95 from Yield House, North Conway, New Hampshire 03860

TO PROTECT THAT very valuable sense of hearing, David Clark, Inc. has introduced two new models of Straightaway Hearing Protectors. Model 30-A (light headband pressure) for light noises, and Model 35-A (heavier headband pressure) for heavy noise areas. They are made



of high impact plastic and are lightweight, rugged and resistant to heat and cold. These can be worn over the head, behind the head or under the chin. For complete information contact David Clark Co., Dept. G-6, 360 Franklin St., Worcester, Mass.

FOR HUNTING, target shooting, storage, the new Creed shell pouch should be a favorite with anyone who uses a .22.

The pouch is well made of soft black leather, is lined, has a sturdy belt loop



and opens with a patented spring action cam. It measures 4" x 6" and holds 250 rounds of .22 shells. Keeps shells clean and lint free. For more information write Creed Enterprises, Arcadia, California.



# SHOPPING WITH Guns

GET INTO THE exciting world of treasure hunting with the Conquistador mineral-metal locator. This unit features single-tuning and selector control, two special multi-coil TR loops, long life jeweled bearing meter with colored face and many more outstanding features to



make it one of the finest detectors on the market. Find coins, old guns, antiques and curios underground, hidden in the walls of your house, anywhere. Only \$295.00 from The Association, P.O. Box 412, Oscoda, Mich. 48750

TASCO HAS announced the introduction of a complete line of high-powered target and varmint riflescopes that sell for considerably less than competitive models. Leader of the new line is the Model 705 that features zoom powers from 6



to 18X. All lenses are fully coated. Mounts have click adjustments and recoil spring. Full details available from Tasco, 1075 N.W. 71st Street, Miami, Florida 33138

THE WINCHESTER "Marksman", new shooting glasses created for the sportsman give greater vision with a 12 Base lens.

Made of Lexon®, the new glasses are 50 times stronger than required by Federal Specifications. Lens passes Connecticut sunglass standard 40-183 and utilizes the best yellow or gray coloring for sharper vision. Packed in an attractive individual box. Retail price—\$3.00 Bachmann Bros., Inc., Philadelphia, Pa.

INSPECTING the condition of a rifle barrel is just one of the many hobby, home and on-the-job applications for the new Speck-O-Lite. Fiberoptic light tube (about the thickness of a spaghetti strand) can be inserted where a normal flashlight or



penlight won't reach. Flexible 12" light tube may be tied in a knot without damage; transmits illumination at full intensity. Penlight, fiberoptic light tube and batteries complete from Kurz-Kasch, Inc., 1421 S. Broadway, Dayton, Ohio. All for \$3.29.

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NEW FROM BROWNING is the BL-22 lever action .22 caliber rifle. The new rifle weighs 5 pounds, has an overall length of 36¾ inches with a 20 inch barrel. The main feature of this new gun is that the lever travels in a short arc of only 33 degrees, permitting the shooter to keep a grip on the stock while



throwing the lever to full cock. The rear sight is a fully adjustable folding leaf; front is a raised bead. Ammunition is tube fed by a magazine under the barrel, and the gun digests 15 Long Rifles, 17 Longs or 22 Shorts. Available in two grades. Grade I—\$67.50, Grade II—\$84.50 from your Browning dealer.

CHARLES DALY has announced the availability of a new riflescope line called "Grand Slam." Three different reticles are available. These scopes are constructed of one sturdy piece instead of three. Special rubber O-rings at all critical points make the Grand Slam absolutely impervious to water and moisture. Every scope is filled with nitrogen



gas then sealed by fusion. The result is a crystal clear fog-free image, regardless of temperature fluctuation. Available in most popular powers. For more information write Charles Daly, Inc., 246 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, California 90211



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(Continued from page 59)

I cannot find any basis in fact for this theory. The full choke sixteen barrel narrows to .635" and the 12 to .695" but despite this greater constriction the pattern sheet indicates percentages just as high for the smaller gun, with distribution quite as satisfactory.

All the big ammo manufacturers offer identical loadings for the 16. These commence with the 2½ dram load with 1 oz. of shot. And then get progressively better up through 2¾ drams equivalent to 3 drams and ¾ to a real magnum loading of 3½ drams equivalent. The shot load for this last buster is a full 1¼ oz. of shot. This is a good hefty charge in the 12 gauge and when shot in a sixteen of less than 7 pounds weight will belt you some! Everyone also offers a buck-shot loading of No. 1 Buck which contains 12 pellets; there is also a slug load, handling a 7/8 oz. ball.

Shot sizes range from 2's to 9's, depending on the loading. The big shot such as 2's and 4's, are limited to the magnum charges of powder. The more pleasant charges, the 2¾ dram and 3 dram powder loads, with the 1½ oz. of shot offer 6's, 7½, 8's and 9's. These cartridges offer the most, in my opinion, in the smaller shot sizes. I have tried 2's and 4's and neither pellet looks very impressive. I do not like to go to anything larger than 5's in the sixteen. The gun handles 6's very well indeed but 7½ is more nearly ideal. The sixteen is an upland gun, and while it will kill ducks right along with the 12 at distances under 50 yards, it is still more ideally the medicine for ringnecks, Chukars, Huns, grouse, quail, doves and snipe—along with cottontails and squirrels.

In keeping with the trend which developed directly after WW-II to provide magnum loads in all the gauges, the 16 had to have its Big Bertha charges. The 20, in accord with this trend went, like the 12, to a 3 inch casing. Why this was not essayed with the sixteen I cannot understand. The manufacturers decided to stick with the 2¾ inch shell and into it they poured a magnum charge of powder and ball. Had the cartridge been lengthened another ¼ inch, it would have improved performance without necessarily stepping up either a greater weight of propellant or pellets.

Patterns with the 3½ dram and 1¼-oz. loadings sometimes look good and other times are pretty erratic; it depends on the shotgun. One barrel will indicate good distribution and high percentages and another will do poorly. Older shotguns are usually over-choked and these invariably do not look good with the magnum car-

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tridges. The new 16, such guns as the Remington 1100 and the Winchester 1200, both with less constriction produce good results. The lighter loads—with my favorite the 3 drams of powder with 1 1/8 oz. of No. 7 1/2—is a real duzy! It shoots well in every sixteen I have tested and I could live with it for all my uplands hunting.

The sixteen faces a somewhat dubious future. It has been steadily fading for a long time. A popular gun in the South, it is now being replaced by the 20 bore. This is because the 20 gauge cartridge now offers the same identical range of loadings as you get in the sixteen. And at the other end, the 12 gauge can be loaded down to fully encompass the 16. So on the one hand the shotgunner can shoot the 20 and do everything with it virtually that can be done with the 16 and do this with a gun which will weigh less than the larger arm. It used to be that the 16 ran about a pound lighter than the 12. This isn't true anymore. The shooter who is wedded to the sixteen must search around pretty carefully to get a gun that is lighter than a companion twelve. The latter can now be had at 6 3/4 or 7 pounds just like the sixteen. So the weight advantage is simply nonexistent.

As for lighter and/or cheaper cartridges this doesn't hold either. A case of 16's will weigh 53 pounds and a box of cartridges will cost \$3.10. A case of 12's loaded with 1 1/8 oz. shot and a 3 1/4 dram charge of powder will weigh 55 lbs and cost \$3.30 per box. Not much inducement there to go to the smaller gauge.

The sixteen has always been popular in Europe, at least in some spots. The Germans are confirmed users of the intermediate gauge; and so are the Belgians, French and the Czechs. In England, Spain, Italy and Portugal the 12 is the predominant gun. We are importing great numbers of shotguns from the Continent these days, but it is significant that only small numbers are in the 16 gauge. This is due to the marked trend in this country to shy away from the gauge. In the beginning it was decided by the organizers of skeet that the four gauges, the 12, 20, 28 and .410, would be standardized. The elimination of the 16 hurt its popularity. Of course it can be fired in all the 12 gauge events but this is a rare sight indeed.

The manufacturers are pretty tight-lipped about the percentages of guns they sell by gauge. However, an educated guess would indicate that 50% of all sales are in the 12 gauge; 25% goes to the 20 bore; 15% is for the 16; and the remaining 10% falls to the .410 and the 28 gauge. The 16 has been steadily losing ground to the 20 over the past two decades. That this trend will continue is entirely in the cards.

That the sixteen might disappear entirely, just as the 10 bore has done, is a distinct possibility. Despite the fact that it is a completely practical shotgun—versatile, flexible, handy and useable—those gauges above and below it can do everything that it can accomplish; all of which places the shotgun in a pretty precarious position so far as its future is concerned.



## CUSTOM 9MM

(Continued from page 30)

wanted to keep the lines as originally designed. For combat shooters needing to hang a second hand around the pistol, a squared and checkered trigger guard is a must. It is also a Swenson trade-mark.

Next, the front and back straps get 30-lines-to-the-inch checkering that makes for a non-abrasive but positive holding surface for the shooting hand. Swenson then mills the rear of the slide with serrations to match those on the hammer and sight. This serves as a reflection baffle and adds that custom look that attracts eyes on the range.

The barrel has five hard-metal positioners welded on to match positioners in the slide. This holds the barrel tightly during firing and is the greatest single improvement for tighter grouping.

Next, the trigger receives an anti-

backlash pin and the sear engagement is reduced by rebuilding the hammer and strut. Just about every Browning that comes into the shop has its magazine disconnect removed to allow it to be fired with less effort. That also allows the gun to be single loaded and fired without a magazine, as well as making dry firing easy.

Famous for his ambidextrous combat safety catch, Swenson will install it or a one-sided, checkered, long-surface safety. He recommends the ambidextrous for anyone who will use the gun in a real combat situation. I chose to have the left side safety combat version. I now wish I had the thing put on both sides. The big mistake with dealing with Swenson is not asking him to do enough. Rushing the gun back to him for a bit of this or that often takes months. I haven't had the patience to do it.



Swenson offers three surfaces for the slide top, the best being a hand-matted, bordered non-glare finish that he does generally while watching TV in his livingroom. He couldn't do it any better in his shop, and the hand matting is a tedious job. He keys and silver brazes the front sight to the slide. I got his serrated combat blade which works well for me. On my military model he created a custom base that allows the insertion of a wide variety of commercially available adjustable or fixed sights. He favors the rugged low mount Micro with 5/32nd notch to match the same width blade. He doesn't recommend a white outline aperture, and I saw no combat guns so equipped.

All rough contours are now faired with both machine and hand tools. The smooth surfaces are vapor blasted. The clip chute is beveled and polished for no-hang-up loading with both hardball and lead bullets. You can have magazines chromed for care-free use, and he does leather-pad each one at no charge when requested. This makes magazine-stuffing a joy. Swenson's magazine pads not only make ramming the thirteen-round clip into the grip fast and positive, but reduces magazine damage during combat course shooting. The magazine is often left to drop on the ground (or concrete pavement) while another is loaded. He says he could make a fancy tooled pad, but that after a few drops it would look like the ones he puts on now. The Browning magazine floorplate release spring can be reached through a hole left in the pad.

Swenson is keen on hard chromed handguns. He says they wear better, are almost totally corrosion proof, and don't add any more dazzle to the gun than a well done high-polish blue job. Many of the Brownings leaving the

shop had the silvery hard chrome finish, and I envied them their carefree appearance. Mine was given a quality blue job that so far has worked well. The next time I'll get a hard chromed version just to see how well this finish works out. Swenson reports most of his hard chromed .45's and Brownings go to Southeast Asia combat troops and pilots.

Few autos leave the Swenson shop without many sessions at an indoor range nearby. Swenson spends nearly every afternoon shooting his nearly-finished and finished guns. Before the gun is shipped back to its owner, a five-shot group is made with specified ammunition (mine was trained to digest and group with the Super Vel 90 grain hollowpoint load). When the group is an inch or less—and many are, the target—signed and witnessed—is airmailed out. When the owner is pleased, the gun is shipped. On the average, two boxes of shells go through each one; often it will take 200 or more rounds to make the necessary adjustments and get a one-inch cluster at 25 yards. Unlike the .45 ammo, which he handloads, all 9mm/m ammo is factory loaded. He can get almost any kind, including the Super Vel and Norma police loadings.

What does a typical combat accuracy job cost? Mine wasn't typical, but he suggested this list as a start:

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Swenson has a lot to say about the Browning High-Power as a combat gun, rating it far superior to the M-39 Smith & Wesson 9m/m auto for a variety of reasons. Obviously the greater ammunition capacity is the first consideration. But Swenson feels in the long run the Browning will hold up better with factory hardball ammunition, some of it quite hot. He feels 500 rounds through both guns will leave the Smith & Wesson loose and with perhaps a headspace problem. He does not feel the double action advantage is an asset to a combat shooter, as the trigger pull is not crisp and there appears to be no difference in shooting time between them when an M-39 shooter and a skilled Browning shooter can get off the first shot.

"Next to the Colt .45 auto, the Browning is the greatest combat handgun," Swenson says. "Although the .45 points a bit better, can be beefed up and accurized more effectively, and shoots a more potent cartridge, the Browning comes in right behind with its 14 shots. The 9m/m loading beats any .38 revolver for power, and with more than twice as many shots beats it in fire-power. With a magazine in the gun and three in your pocket you have more than a box of shells working for you—fast!"

"Although the 9m/m Luger round is a terrific long range pistol cartridge," Swenson goes on, "the pistol, like the .45 auto is basically a short-range defensive weapon, and it must bow to the .45 auto as king in this field." Swenson says the heavy bullet of the .45 fired from an accurized colt government model auto has no peer in the combat field, and in the hands of a good man is equal to the Browning on the combat course.

"If a guy is going to do a lot of shooting and has the 9m/m in mind, he has to seriously consider the Browning. The Smith Model 39 will develop hammer and extractor problems, will shoot loose, and with its two locking lugs can't be expected or customized to work much better." One of the main reasons, Swenson feels, that U.S. police departments haven't gone to the Browning is its foreign (Belgium) manufacture. When the 9m/m was being considered, they had to go to the Smith and Wesson, which gave them little of the advantage of the auto pistol over a revolver, in a .38 calibre bore.

Talking to the combat shooters who drop in and out of Swenson's shop during the working day, one feels that all of them are really .45 shooters trying something novel. All of them say they like the Browning on the combat

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course but would carry a .45 auto for defense. All of them are very good with both guns, putting two-shot combat groups in inch-size clusters regularly. The Browning will be part of every combat shooter's kit eventually. It's men like Swenson who are making it acceptable to the serious shooter.

My Browning arrived by air parcel post four days after I wrote to tell Swenson the sample target looked great. It had four hits in one ragged hole, and the fifth shot within the one-inch desired.

A check of the local ammo sources revealed there was no Super Vel 9m/m in Anchorage and possibly none in Alaska. I wanted to shoot, so after getting an airmail letter off to Lee Jurras of Super Vel, asking where I could get some of his hot hollowpoints, I went to the Izaak Walton range with one box each of everything the stores had. There were the 124 grain full case Remingtons, 115 grain full case Western loads, a 116 grain full jacketed Norma, and a 115 grain Norma hollowpoint that looked wicked and effective.

The Browning did much better with all the ammo than it had before the rejuvenation program began a year before. A lucky discovery was that the Western 115 grain full cased bullets grouped into the black at 25 yards as if the gun was built for them.

These were shot from a sand bag rest with dead still air. The Norma and Remington full jacketed bullets came into group in about three inches. The Norma hollowpoints were a disappointment in that they failed to group at center, and were scattered vertically into four inches to the left of the bull.

The exposed lead hollowpoint noses smeared as they were rammed from the magazine into the chamber. Swenson's glass-like chute offered no resistance that I could see, but there was a definite smear. In a close range combat situation, this would not be a problem as the group was fair enough.

But when Lee Jurras came up with three boxes of 9m/m 90 grain hollowpoints in a Fairbanks warehouse, I found out what the gun will really do. The hot pills, moving downrange at about 1400 FPS, went into their prescribed inch, with little strain, dead center.

With snow on the ground here, handloading will be a problem until the Gardena pistolsmith comes up with a 9m/m cartridge magnet that I can rake through the white stuff. Jurras followed up his kindness with a hundred rounds of 90 grain bullets and a suggestion for 9 grains of Unique to match his factory loading. It's enough to make a guy get on his hands and knees.

## TURKEY LOADS

(Continued from page 47)

heit and somewhat less at higher elevations.

To minimize all variants I decided to concentrate on 40-, 45-, 50- and 55-grain Speer bullets, all of which I'd previously used in full-velocity loads. Too, because 4198 is probably as fine a powder as can be found for the small .222 cases, I decided to stay with that.

For medium-capacity cases—of the

Savage .250, Roberts .257, .300 Savage, the .308 and some others of that class—2400 would likely give excellent results in reduced loads. And with the military level calibers, ranging from the .270, 8mm, .30-06, and up to the .300 magnums, 4064 would be my choice for reduced loads. Other handloaders might have their own pet powders but these are my choices.

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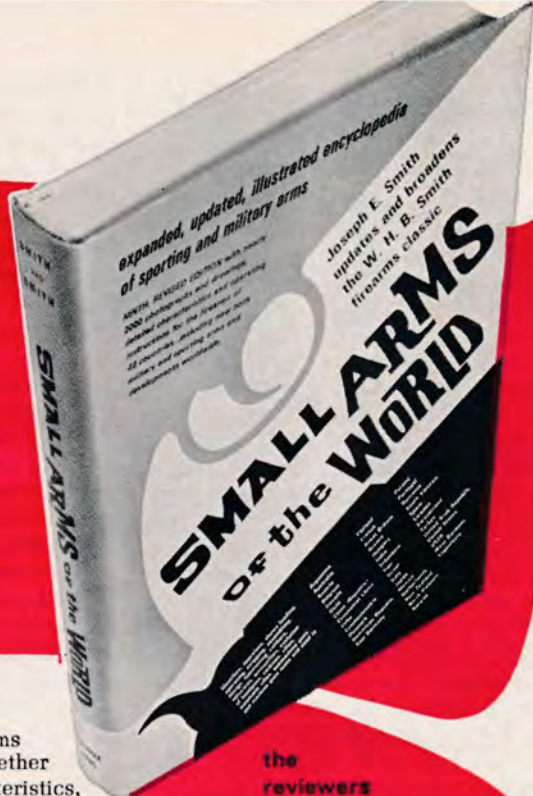
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4198 behind 40, 45, 50 and 55 grain Speer bullets, respectively, in the .222 I estimated all four were very close to the same velocity level of 2,000 foot-seconds. With nine of each of these handloads I ran a careful accuracy check on separate inch-square aiming stickers at 100 yards. No attempt was made to bring all four loadings to the same point of impact. I merely wanted to find the tightest groups, leading to top field accuracy.

I held for one corner of the aiming points, from solid benchrest, firing only three-shot groups at a very leisurely pace for two reasons: first, to have the barrel relatively cool for each shot since turkeys don't often allow more than one shot before they take off, running or flying; and, second, to minimize both physical and optical fatigue which leads to boredom and, in turn, to careless holds.

I may be classed as an accuracy outlaw when I contend that I see no advantage in five-shot groups over three-shot ones. Five-shot groups are realistic. This all stems back to basic triangulation where three shots permit any hunter to determine the vertical and horizontal dispersal of any group. Firing an added two shots, just for the sake of a five-shot group, is utterly meaningless. Anyone testing any substantial quantity of ammunition is bound to become weary and just fire five-shot groups to get them over with as soon as possible with scant attention to the best possible hold on each shot.

With the points of impact established I set the scope for a median of the four loadings and set out for some test shooting of jackrabbits and woodchucks. Actually I fired a minimum of two cartridges of each loading, at least one for each species, but chose my targets at angles which killed instantly but gave good indication of bullet effect on meaty tissues. I saw no significant advantage in having many kills to examine. What I wanted were ideal kills, not a great number of them.

The tough-hided chucks absorbed these loads nicely, showing no massive meat damage when I traced bullet paths through their solid meat portions. Though I expected this damage to increase on the softer-fleshed jacks the reverse was actually true. Only when bones intruded in the strike zone was such increased damage evident. But, evidently, the thinner hides and lighter bones of jacks offered less resistance than the tougher hides and stronger bones of

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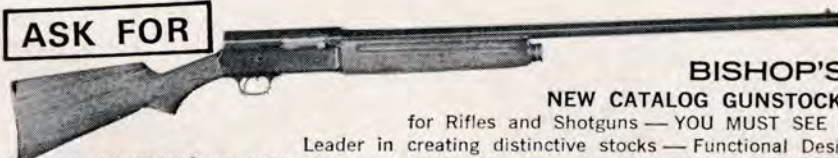
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chucks. I figured that hollow turkey bones were more nearly identical to jack bones than chuck bones and loaded accordingly.

This test shooting made me select the 50-grain Speer bullet ahead of 13 grains of 4198, for further experimental shooting and to set the scope for point-blank holds at 100 yards. I used that combination throughout the summer, adding prairie dogs, magpies and crows to my list of test varmints. Meat destruction on them was insignificant and I began to envision a neatly killed gobbler when the autumn turkey season opened.

My next guinea pig was my elder son's .270. I tested 20 grains of 4198 behind 100-grain Speer hollow-points but those were more destructive of meat tissue than I wanted. So I settled on 22 grains of the same powder behind 130-grain Hornadys and the results satisfied me.

It's very doubtful if hollow-points are ever advisable for turkey loads, even when fired at moderate velocities. I've used many of them on winter jackrabbits, intended for sale to mink and fox farms, and the results were often ghastly. Even when used in .22 rimfire magnums the results weren't ideal. But on any edible game of the turkey size, I'd never recommend their use in any centerfire caliber since, even with hard cores in thick jackets, they surpass soft-points in destructiveness.

During this experimenting I corresponded with several turkey hunters who used rifles on their game. All of them were enthusiastic about the reduced loads they'd tried and agreed with my theory that 2,000 fps should be the peak of muzzle velocity. But virtually all were reluctant to comment on using rifles ranging from the .270 to the various .30 calibers for turkeys. And, when I mentioned working up a reduced load for the .300 Weatherby magnum they plainly shuddered at the thought. I'm sure some of them thought I'd eaten loco weed.

J. Paul Udy of Bluefield, West Virginia, furnished three loads he and hunting friends had successfully used. Two of these consisted of 12 grains of 4198 behind either 55 or 60 grain bullets, yielding respective muzzle velocities of 1,900 and 1,750 fps. The third, 20 grains of 4895 behind an 85 grain Sierra spitzer bullet in a Remington .244 had very neatly bagged a 26½-pound gobbler of the Eastern turkey strain.

After some hunters had written me that they considered the .300 Weatherby magnum far far too much rifle for turkeys, I reckon I just got ob-

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stinate about it. I had sound reason  
for going ahead. Black Hills deer and  
turkey seasons frequently overlap.  
Thus I could easily envision myself  
in a situation where a Thanksgiving  
turkey was far handier than venison.  
Shots at our native whitetails are  
generally around 100 yards. Since  
deer don't own huge life tenacity it  
would seem that a reduced load, suit-  
able for turkeys, would probably also  
nicely put them down.

I finally settled on 35 grains of an  
old favorite, 4064, with various 180-  
grain bullets—Nosler, Hornady, Speer,  
Remington, Winchester and others.  
Test shooting finally selected the  
strongly-constructed Nosler as ideal  
for my purpose. Whether turkeys or  
deer showed up I figured I had the  
proper medicine for them.

The final proof of all this load jug-  
gling was that I've since seen four  
turkeys and six deer shot with re-  
duced loads, all of them very cleanly  
killed and with insignificant meat  
damage. During just three days of a  
recent joint turkey-deer season six  
of us collected three turkeys and four  
deer, all with reduced loads. I wasn't  
much interested in the deer, though  
only one of them was shot twice. But  
here are the observed results of our  
three turkey kills.

The .222 Sako, loaded with 13 grains  
of 4198 pushing a 55-grain Speer soft-  
point, accounted for a 15-pound gob-  
bler on a direct broadside shot at ap-  
proximately 75 yards. The bullet  
pierced the lungs, without injuring  
wings or backbone, yet knocked the  
bird down in its tracks. He spun  
around on his breast, wings thresh-  
ing, but never got back to his feet.  
Both entry and exit holes were per-  
fectly clean and showed no discern-  
ible expansion or disintegration of the  
bullet.

The .308, loaded with 30 grains of  
Hi Vel 2 behind a 150-grain Speer  
flat-nose soft-point, took a 14-pound  
gobbler on a direct frontal hit at over  
125 yards. The bullet struck a mite  
below the fork of the wishbone and  
ripped out a three-inch section of  
backbone about four inches ahead of  
the root of the tail. The bird dropped  
out of sight of the hunter at the shot,  
on a thick litter of pine needles. Al-  
though post-shot behavior thus  
couldn't be observed, the orderliness  
of the needles and the location of  
blood sign beneath and beside the  
carcass indicated that he merely  
spread his wings when hit and died  
instantly.

Naturally the bird that gave me the  
greatest personal satisfaction was my  
own, shot with the .300 Weatherby  
magnum. Maybe I didn't give that 18-  
pounder every sporting chance. But,

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frankly, after two seasons of dry runs, I was a little turkey hungry. He was the biggest gobbler in a flock of 18 birds; and was partially bent over, feeding, when hit.

The bullet hit beside the root of the tail, ranged forward the length of the body just under the backbone, and emerged at the base of the neck. His wings flew outward, he fell forward, his tail raised in a rigid quivering fan and that was it. The range was 103 paces, almost an exact 100 yards, since the shot was across a very shallow valley. Meat damage was negligible, though his liver and one lung were in shreds along the path where that 180-grain Nosler had chuffed through.

The various factors contributing to bullet deceleration must be kept firmly in mind when working up reduced loads. The lighter the bullet the more

rapidly its velocity drops off due to air resistance. There are additional factors: the bullet's shape—whether spitzer, flat-nosed, round-nosed or boatailed; and its sectional density in relation to its caliber. The use of slow versus fast burning powders is a factor too, but a minor one. You just have to experiment and test various loads until you find one which is stable, accurate, doesn't expand too rapidly on impact and spans the minimum-maximum range at which you plan to use it. Reduced velocity automatically increases looping trajectory so range must be more accurately estimated for killing hits except on very short shots. Your scope will also have to be adjusted for some selected median range.

The muzzle velocity of such reduced loads is important only in fig-

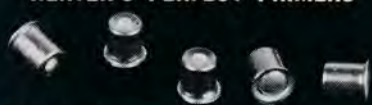
uring the residual velocity at point of impact, after the bullet has been in flight for perhaps 100 yards. Since all our scopes were rezeroed in at that range, and all our deer and turkey shots were close to that distance, my estimate of the bullet velocity was also estimated at the 100-yard mark.

50-gr. in .222	.....1,550
55-gr. in .222	.....1,600
100-gr. in Savage .250	.....1,700
85-gr. in Rem. .244	.....1,600
130-gr. in .270	.....1,750
180-gr. in .308	.....1,700
180-gr. in .300 magnum	....1,750

These and comparable loads should be further reduced for use on grouse and other birds occasionally taken for camp fare on big game hunts. But, as cited, they're excellent turkey and deer killers up to around 150 yards.



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## MAUSER HSC

(Continued from page 37)

the Safe position, the pistol cannot fire because as the manual safety rotates into Safe it carries the rear of the firing pin up above the impact area of the hammer face allowing the hammer to fall safely upon a solid block of steel. The HSc may be carried with hammer at full cock and the safety ON, but I prefer to pull the trigger. The hammer falls and the first couple of times that the shooter does this he is justifiably uneasy. Obviously, the pistol cannot possibly discharge the cartridge because the hammer face strikes the steel block far below the rear of the firing pin but it is still hair raising! With the hammer now in the down position, move the manual safety up. This drops the rear of the firing pin onto the top of the hammer so that the pistol remains completely safe with the hammer resting upon a solid block of steel. As long as the safety is off, the double action mechanism will function the hammer in the same manner as in a revolver. Pull the trigger and fire the pistol. With the hammer down and the safety in the Safe position, the hammer may be pulled back part way by the trigger but then the rearward motion of the trigger stops, blocked by an internal safety device. For this reason, it is advisable to carry the HSc with the hammer down and the safety in the OFF position. This enables the shooter to draw and fire without any additional motions of any kind.

Mausers has incorporated a little gimmick into the mechanism that allows the shooter to draw the pistol

and fire it either double action or single action. He pulls back on the trigger in the conventional double action way until he feels a slight hesitation. At this point the hammer is about all the way back and almost ready to fall. The shooter can continue a fast pull through on the trigger which will fire the pistol double action. Or the shooter may "hold" the trigger at this point and, taking careful aim, fire the pistol as in single action.

It may come as a surprise to many readers to learn that, after firing four different types of factory .380 ACP ammunition, I consider the new HSc to be the most accurate pocket pistol I have ever fired. Like all of these little automatics, mine had a definite preference for one make of ammunition—Super Vel's 88 grain load. Next in line was the Norma No. 260 cartridges. Following that came the Remington's No. 1238 followed by Winchester's W380AP. At no time did I encounter any malfunctions despite the close fitting of all parts.

In my opinion, the Mauser HSc, as currently produced, is one of the finest and most modern small size pistols on the market. If anything, Mauser has improved and toughened up the new pistol to give the shooter the finest in finish, design, workmanship and reliability. I venture to predict that this HSc will start to really push around competition and it is a pleasure to see an automatic of this quality made available to shooters in this country. It comes in 32 ACP and 380 ACP. Retail is \$110.00.





## POINT BLANK

(Continued from page 17)

better. Now the top-drawer benchrest ordnance will have a big, heavy, exceedingly stiff barrel of only 20 inches.

Today's marksman demands a short, light and handy rifle. It has a lot going for it on the score of portability but sight radius is really hurt. The scope sight has pretty well eliminated this problem. The scope wholly disregards the matter of sighting radius and so too can the gunner. The shortened rifle is a handy thing in the brush but it has some drawbacks. As for instance, the lack of length up front means the muzzle blast is closer to the shooter's ear and this ain't pleasant! It also reduces the weight of the rifle and this makes it kick all the more. This, together with the stubbed-off muzzle tending to rise with a consequent blow to the chops, proves that you can't exactly have your cake and eat it too.

As gun barrels, both shotgun and rifle, grow steadily shorter, there is a question of just where this trend will

finally stop. Like the miniskirt there is a point beyond which neither may go. Federal law places a minimum length of 18 inches on the shotgun barrel and 16 inches on the rifle. We have edged closer and closer to these cut-off points the last few years.

• • •

Once, during a 10-year period, I fired away 334,000 pistol cartridges by count. I was the instructor of firearms for the Border Patrol during this time, a member of the Patrol pistol team, and the shooting represented both practice and demonstration. This firing made me deaf. I did the most of the powder burning without any protection to my ears at all. Later on, noting some loss of acuity I commenced to plug my ears with wetted cleaning patches, with the head end of the .38 cartridge, and finally with wooden plugs. The wetted patch shields the ear from only about 10 to 15 decibels of sound. When I discarded these makeshifts and went to rubber plugs the sound thus elimi-

nated did not amount to more than 20 decibels.

Sound, as it reaches the ear, is measured in decibels. The normal human ear can assimilate about 80 decibels without being damaged. The human voice generates approximately 60 decibels, and autos passing on a busy highway will turn up 80 db. of sound. Rock bands oftentimes hit 120 db. and this is the very reason a considerable number of these musicians are losing their hearing.

On the skeet range where we habitually shoot mild target loads, the 12 gauge shotgun will churn up 140 decibels of sound. A rifle like the .30'06 will deliver 155 db. When the unprotected ear is hit with sound of this intensity the organ is done permanent hurt. In this db. range, referred to as "white noise," the span extends across the entire audible sound spectrum. Vibrations may extend from 20 through 12,000 cycles per second. A normal ear can detect sound waves ranging in frequency from 50 through 18,000 cycles per second.

Human speech ranges from 500 to 3500 cycles per second and those old gunners who are beginning to slip a bit find difficulty in picking up a frequency around 4,000 cps. This accounts for the inability to hear every-



DOYLE WILLIAMS  
TWICE WORLD CHAMPION

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.**



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thing that is said in a crowd, or when there is some over-riding clamor such as the noise from aircraft engines. You may be able to hear a mouse run across the bedroom floor when everything is dead quiet at night and then not get all the chit-chat from the table at a big dinner.

Two kinds of ear protectors are offered shooters. The first of these is the soft-rubber ear plug which is usually built around an aluminum base. The better types have a valve within them which opens to ordinary conversation but closes instantly to the report of a firearm. The fact that the valve remains in the open position most of the time tends to relieve inner ear pressures and is a very necessary feature. The second kind of ear protector is the muff type. This device,



comparatively new, shuts out something around 40 decibels of sound and is quite effective. We can tolerate 80 db. of sound, when the level rises to 90 db. then the ear commences to be harmed. The shielding of 40 db. by the earmuff type of protector, especially when we have reports in the 150 db. range, is quite advisable. The only drawback to the earmuff is that it is difficult to carry on a normal conversation with the muffs in place. Some times the shooter will not catch the commands given on the firing line and this is a real nuisance. There is, too, an occasional gunner who finds his sense of equilibrium is adversely effected by sealing off the ears as these protectors do. Air pressure cannot be regulated and troubles then ensue. The shooter should experiment with the several types and find those that are comfortable and secure and then be quite religious about the use of them.

• • •

In this country we have something over one hundred firearms engravers. These artisans have their troubles. None more difficult than the fact that they must work in metals which are many times made of an alloyed steel which contains both chrome and molybdenum. These glass-hard metals must be engraved without annealing or softening the steel. Before the turn of the century engravers had a much easier time of it. The firearm receiver, if it was steel, was a much softer va-

riety and usually the engraver got in his licks before it was tempered.

History indicates that weapons were engraved as early as the Roman empire. The first engraving of firearms came along about the fourteenth century. In Rome, coins were struck from hand-engraved dies which show a high degree of artistry. In China wooden plates were engraved and prints made from them about 500 AD. Engraving has spread to every civilized country and interest in engraved firearms was never higher than it is today.

It is estimated that there are about 125 engravers in this country and as many as 300 on the Continent. Of this number there isn't more than 15% over here and the same percentage in Europe who do really top quality work. We have some of the best artisans right here at home. Besides ourselves, the best craftsmen are found in Spain, Belgium, West Germany, Austria and England. And if you want to get right down to the nitty-gritty, the West Germans and ourselves are the very best. Some of the most shoddy engraving comes from Japan and Mexico, but there is also some fine engraving done in Japan these days.

A most handsome addition to the engraved firearm is the inlay. This is done in one of the precious metals and not only contributes immeasurably to the appearance of the gun but also adds a good deal to the value.

The inlaid animal is first made by cutting out the outline of the creature and then the edges are undercut in the gun itself to hold the figure. The inlay after having been cut to size is peened into the space provided, forcing the metal into the undercut sides after which it is cut and carved to shape. An inlay made in this manner will never come loose.

Jack Prudhomme, one of the top ranking engravers in this country, makes a specialty of inlays in precious metals. He has the rare ability to make his carved animal inlays literally live and breathe—they look that lifelike. Prudhomme, who hails from Shreveport, La., might well have been an artist in oils or a sculptor. A great deal of the same talent is required to do game animals, a pointing dog, a winging bobwhite quail, or other game scene in gold and silver.

Besides being one of our leading engravers, Prudhomme, is a most interesting bucko because he was first a professional wrestler. He tired of bending bones and after WW-II he journeyed off to West Germany where he studied for several years before he returned to the USA and commenced to turn out his marvelous work.





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