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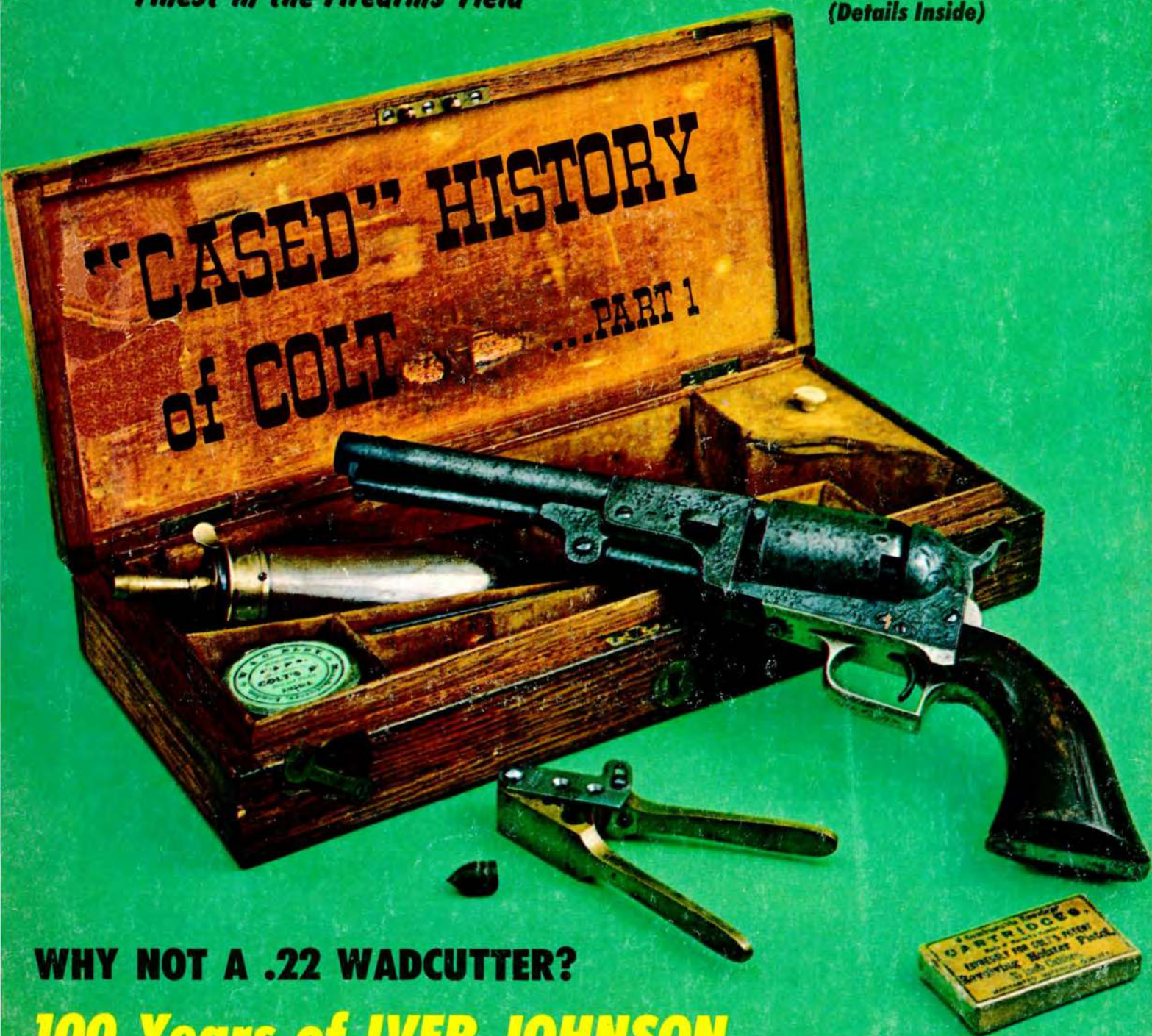
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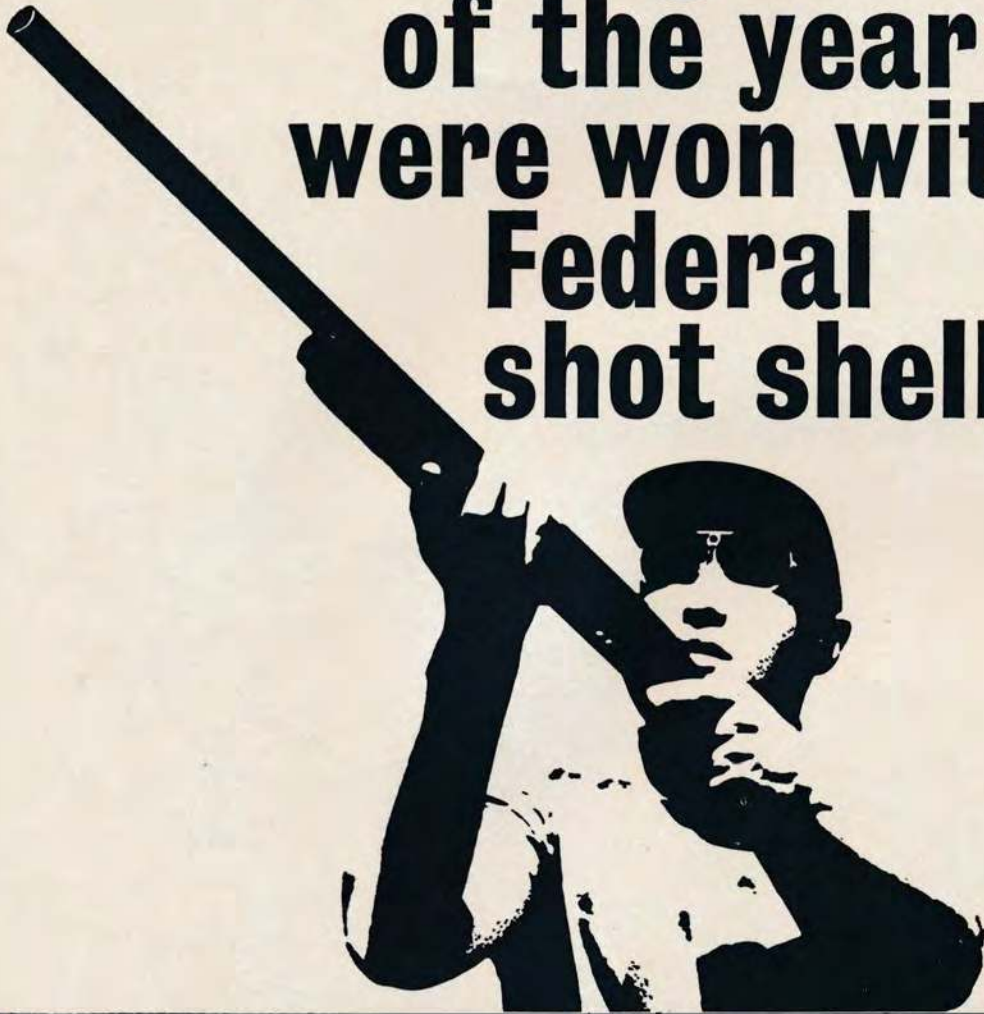


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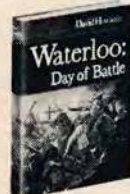
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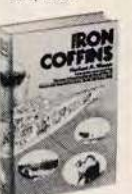
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FEBRUARY, 1971

Vol. XVII, No. 01-2

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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I WOULD like each reader to take a good hard look at this issue, and—if you feel so inclined—drop me a note on what features you like, which you don't like, and any suggestions you may have on how we can improve the coverage in the magazine. Please, no nit-picking or impossible propositions; just tell me what you think of the articles in general, and what you would like to see in up-coming issues. It's your magazine, and it should reflect your interests.

After years of hard work on the part of Rep. John Dingell, Senator Philip Hart, and many more supporting legislators, H.R. 12475 is now law, having been signed by President Nixon in November. What this means is that the 10 per cent excise tax on handguns, which has been going into the general revenue, is now available for wildlife restoration, hunter safety programs, and optional range construction. But, the hard part is still to come, and it means hard work for all shooters. You and I must see to it that our states take advantage of this money and institute programs based upon it. It will do nobody any good if, after all of the hard work, only a few progressive states put up matching funds and get the programs and range installations for their shooters. Write your state officials—legislators, game and fish departments, etc., and let's get something for the money we have available to us! An important function of every sportsman or gun club, from now on, will be to get their membership behind state programs; and they will be better able to do this if they have the support of every shooter in the area. If you don't already belong to a club such as this, don't you think that this is the time to at least get acquainted with the organizations in your locality?

THE COVER

It may not be in mint condition, but this handsome Colt, with its fitted case, exemplifies the theme of the latest Serven series which begins in this issue. The series will tell the history of Colt through graphic examples of cased sets. Part I begins on page 20. The cover photograph was taken by Gerry Swart of Chicago.



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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

Ask anyone in the shooting sports, "Who is our worst enemy?" and the odds are he will say either "Senator Thomas Dodd!" or "The blankety-blank news media!" But in either case he would be only partly right. The powerful legislators and the privacy-invasive newspapers are only a symptom of the larger threat to our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms. They make the laws and slant the news to fit their own selfish purposes, but they could not do so without the support of a great number of people who vote them into office and are foolish enough to believe everything they read in the newspapers. They are the real offenders.

The radical-liberal, left-leaning cowards and the hippie peaceniks who support such candidates and buy those newspapers are the ones who cause the laws to be passed against the sale of arms. They are the ones who out of their own fear and ignorance of conspiracies and plots and riots are running scared. When politicians and newspapers across the country paint horrendous pictures of nationwide plots and riot leaders and snipers with huge caches of arms, it would be almost laughable if it were not so serious. Every in-depth study of such events, including one by the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA, disclosed no proof of any plot, nationwide or local, or any vast accumulation of weapons by cowardly snipers. One U.S. News & World Report story went so far as to report eight police killed in various incidents. Investigators found that four of these were individual murders of police by criminals they encountered in individual crimes or arrests, definitely not a result of any plot or ambush. Actually, in 23 out of 25 cases where sniping was reported, no policemen were killed. These facts speak for themselves.

The big question is, of course, "What can be done about it?" Unfortunately, the answer is not simple. Gun dealers can merely not advertise in newspapers that support these so-called liberals and radical-left politicians. But the sportsmen and collectors and hobbyists whose rights are abrogated do not have the power, in most cases, to do any immediate good. The gun lobby in Washington is effective, but the process is slow. There is another way, however. Consider what would happen if every one of the 20,000,000 gun owners in America suddenly stopped buying the newspapers that supported the anti-gun politicians, and even stopped buying the products and services advertised in those newspapers. Who would be screaming that it was all a mistake?

That's right! Those same products of the mass media that are as hypocritical as the politicians who suddenly seem never to have heard of gun laws when election time rolls around. This is the only really effective way to protect our rights; by exercising our even more fundamental right of choice in what we buy and who we buy it from. The mass media exists only because of the money they make by advertising, and they can only keep advertisers if they produce results. With a concentrated campaign led by THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA and other pro-gun organizations throughout the country, the economic pressure that can be applied may bring an end to the distorted statistics and emotional fallacies that they use against America's legitimate shooting sportsmen.

In the case of the do-gooder politicians, it is fortunate that the Nixon administration is outspokenly opposed to additional firearms restrictions. But although GUNS MAGAZINE and others in the field do keep you posted as to which of the politicians in Washington pose a threat to our freedom, it is also important to find out who in your own state and city is or is not in favor of gun control laws. When you support them accordingly and actively, with contributions and campaign participation, then the hypocrites in public office will start wondering why all the clean-cut, American youth of the country are supporting their opponents, and all they can get are a few unwashed, long-haired, radicals who lose more votes than they get.

This will work. It is true that when you cut off the head of a snake the body will die. But politics is more like a snake with too many heads, and each head represents a voter for an anti-gun politician, or an advertiser in a muckraking newspaper, or even your neighbor who is frightened of guns and is scared of you because you own one and know how to use it. The problem must be attacked at the roots, at the individuals who support, through ignorance or apathy or hatred of the American way of life, those that would destroy it slowly, by taking away one Constitutional right after another. And let them be warned that those of influence who have been afraid to speak out on our side are finding their voice, and are now going to be heard.

Make your voice a part of the new order. Join the S.C.A. today. Use the handy return envelope opposite this page, and you will be helping us aid those rallying to our cause!

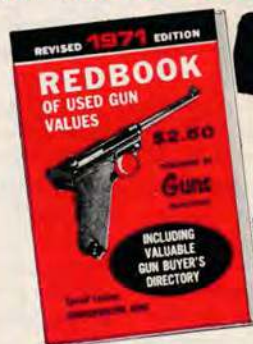
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Super Vel Comments

I enjoyed Mr. Lovitz's article on the Super Vel ammunition, (Oct. 1970) was interested to note that he gave both muzzle velocity and pressure data in many instances. However, I think it only proper to point out a few glaring errors in his account.

He mentions a Smith & Wesson Model 51 which isn't strong enough in the breech for Super Vel .380's. Might this be due to the fact that, prior to the introduction of their single action and double-action 9mm. autos (they started out with both, you know!), the biggest Smith & Wesson autos were chambered, first for the .35 Smith & Wesson Auto, and later the .32 ACP? Is it possible he refers to the REMINGTON Model 51, which was made in .380 caliber?

I was interested to learn that a .41 Magnum has only "a little more than half" the recoil of the .41 Magnum! It was my understanding that recoil was a function of inertia, and that the momentum of gun and bullet were identical—that is, bullet weight times bullet velocity equals gun weight times gun velocity. Since the Smith & Wesson Model 29 .44 and the Model 57 .41 weigh within an ounce of one another, and the .41 bullet weighs $\frac{7}{8}$ ths as much as the .44 slug, with substantially the same m.v.—how can recoil of the .41 be "only a little more than half" of the .44's recoil? Heck, the Model 27 .357 Magnum kicks nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ rds as much, and the .41 falls closer to the .44 in punch than it does the .357 Magnum!

I agree with Mr. Lovitz that Super Vel is "building a fire" under the other ammo makers. The handgunner is the orphan step-child of the firearms industry, taking what ammo he can get while W-W and R-P court the rifleman with yet newer and dizzier offerings. Super Vel is the only

American firm that offers soft point and hollow point ammo for autos, and definitely pioneered such bullets for revolvers. And Winington and Remchester? Only for the .44 Magnum—and only after Bill Ruger made it a carbine cartridge!

John W. Rockefeller
Lincoln, Neb.

Almost As Good?

I really enjoyed the article "Pocket Pistols at 100 Yards" by Neil Smith. As a pistol buff, I read all the articles I can find on them and this boy Neil Smith is almost as good as Skeeter Skelton when it comes to telling it like it is. Keep up the good work on your fine magazine.

J. P. Curtis
Livermore, Calif.

Remington Says . . .

In reply to Mr. Louis Overbo, Wrangell, Alaska:

"In the October 1970 issue of Guns Magazine we read the reply to your inquiry on lightening the trigger pull on a Remington Model 760 trigger.

The manner of shortening the engagement, plus stoning and slightly reducing the angle of engagement, makes us very apprehensive. If any of these parts are altered, Remington can no longer accept the warranty responsibility for the rifle.

The only safe way to reduce the trigger pull to our recommended minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds is by having a qualified gunsmith who has demonstrated a knowledge of the Model 760 rifle adjust the sear spring using a technique that is called "bump setting." In Alaska, the Remington recommended gunsmith is Howard's Gun Shop, 528 Fifth Ave., Anchorage."

R. F. Kelly
Remington Arms Co.

Colt's Patent

The article, "Colt's Mystery Patent," by Richard Baker (October 1970) appears to do much toward clearing up a mystery that has puzzled Colt and automatic pistol collectors for years.

Previous speculation that Colt's placed the Wright patent date on their .25 caliber automatic simply to "pretend" that protection existed for the design of the little gun has been shown to be incorrect. I had always felt that this theory was unlikely, since any such fakery would be easily challenged by any competitor, and could not withstand a contest in court.

Now, Mr. Baker has shown that the Wright patent was necessary to the .25 auto design, and was taken quite seriously by Colt's.

But, Mr. Wright's patent may have played a far greater role in the Colt automatic pistol development. As Mr. Baker points out, the early Browning patents show a pivoting trigger, and we know that prototype guns were made following those patent drawings.

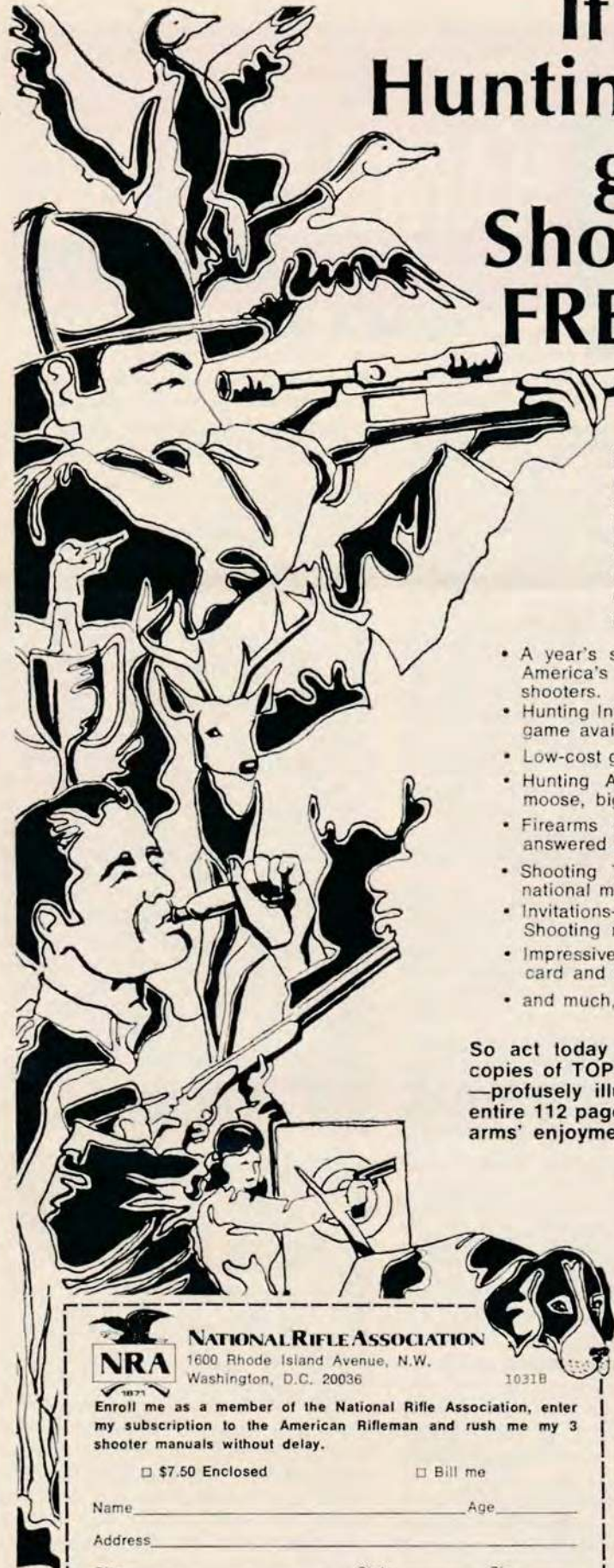
Is it possible that it was the Wright patent that caused the change by Colt's to a sliding trigger? Colt's had made prototype pistols with the pivoting trigger, and was ready to go into production. Somehow, the company became aware (or was made aware) of Mr. Wright's earlier patent. Very probably Colt's, under the guidance of their very able attorney, Carl Ehbets, set out to obtain rights to the 1896 patent. Meanwhile, so as not to delay start of production, they changed their own pistol design to use a sliding trigger.

The sliding trigger proved satisfactory (perhaps better than a pivoting trigger since takedown is easier), so Colt's continued its use even after the acquisition of the Wright patent. When the .25 automatic was ready for production the rights to the 1896 patent had been acquired, so a pivoting trigger could be used. And of course Colt's made sure that the Wright patent date was stamped on the .25, not for some pretense, but because that patent was protection for an important part of the gun's design.

Automatic pistol collectors are indebted to Mr. Baker for his research in helping to lift the veil from "Colt's mystery patent." Far from being an obscure patent, the Wright patent may have caused, by its very existence, a radical change in Colt automatic pistol design.

I am sure we have not heard the last of Mr. Wright and the August 25, 1896 patent in the field of automatic pistol collecting.

James E. Keenan
Middletown, Maryland



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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

A TIME OR TWO in this column I've mentioned the necessity for having your fired cases clean before reloading them. As a matter of fact, even new, unfired brass can benefit from light cleaning before being run through your costly, highly-polished dies. Why even new cases? Well, they pick up grit and fuzz from the low-grade cardboard boxes in which they are packed, as well as abrasive dust and grit which works its way in through the loosely closed boxes. Most warehouses are dusty places and that dust alone can scratch hard steel if carried into your resizing dies. You don't resize new cases? You'd better if you want uniform necks; they are often dented or bent, and need chamfering, anyway.

New cases are easily wiped off with a very lightly oiled cloth. Fired cases, on the other hand are not so easily cleaned. There are dozens of methods, from wire-brushing to chemical dips. All possess more disadvantages than I like, and are surpassed in convenience and results by tumbling. When properly done, tumbling removes from the case all grease, dirt, grit, powder residue, etc., *inside and out*. Improperly done, it is either ineffective or may actually weaken the case.

When too-soft tumbling medium is used, only surface dirt will be removed from the outside and the inside will get little cleaning at all. If medium of too large a size is used, case interiors won't be cleaned at all, and the outside will be given a scratchy finish rather than a smooth polish. If a harsh medium such as cut steel shot and/or an acid solution is used, critical dimensions may be altered, such as neck thickness and primer pocket size.

So, safe and effective tumble-cleaning begins with a proper medium and, of course, a tumbler. I've used all sorts of tumblers, from home-built nail keg rigs to industrial equipment and concrete mixers. All will do a good job if lined with a resilient

material to prevent nicking and scarring the brass, but are generally too large and costly for the average handloader.

For those reasons we were glad to see J & G Rifle Ranch, Turner, Montana, offer special models of rock (gem) tumblers for case cleaning. Reasonably priced, from \$19.95 up, these tumblers will handle up to several hundred cases at one time and are reasonably quiet in operation. Unless one is custom-loading in rather large lots, no greater capacity is needed. During the several months I've been using the J & G RR-supplied tumblers made by, of all names, "Thumbler," I've made a habit of dumping the day's production of fired cases right in the drum. Then, the tumbler is switched on to run unattended all night. By morning the cases are clean and bright, inside and out. In fact, the external finish is brighter than new. At the cost of only a minute or two each evening, any accumulation of dirty fired cases is avoided. Next morning the hum of the motor reminds me as I enter the office to switch it off and put the clean cases away.

This will doubtless increase case life since when clean cases are put away in sealed boxes they won't corrode as often happens otherwise. By sealing the boxes with masking tape, I'm assured the cases will be free of contamination when it is decided to size and load them. No grit to spoil dies, and hardly any lubricant is required because of the smooth, clean exterior surface. More later on that lubricant.

The two keys to our success with the J & G tumblers are in the rubber-lined drums and the tumbling medium supplied. The drums protect the cases from any external damage and seal tightly to avoid spillage. The medium is ground nut hulls which have only a very mild abrasive action—just enough to slowly chew away dirt and corrosion without wearing away case metal. Alone, the nut hulls will clean



cases well, but do little polishing. J & G hulls are treated with a red polishing rouge. This material puts a high polish on the brass, just as a rouge cloth does on belt buckles and buttons.

Granulation size of the medium is small enough that it will freely enter case mouths of .22 caliber and larger. Consequently, it cleans the inside of the case as well as the outside. This eliminates powder residue and also insures a grit-free neck. The latter is important in securing uniform bullet pull. It also greatly reduces the effort required to properly expand case necks. In many instances, the latter will actually eliminate the need for lubrication during neck expansion. You get these benefits free simply by tumbling the cases.

Tumbling should always be done before resizing; it is during this operation that dirty, gritty cases ruin dies. However, there are differing opinions on whether tumbling should come before or after decapping. Before avoids having tumbling medium stick in the flash holes where it must be punched out before repriming (really no great problem). After decapping, tumbling serves to do a fine job of cleaning primer pockets. In a manner of speaking, I suppose you pay your money and you take your choice. As for me, I often do it both ways: tumble first enough to clean outside of case; then lubricate and resize and decap; then tumble again until primer pockets and interior are clean and all traces of lubricant are removed. The latter is expedited by a couple teaspoons of lighter fluid or solvent dumped into the medium. This procedure isn't as lengthy as it might seem and produces perfectly clean and dry resized cases ready for loading. No worry about lubricant contaminating the powder charge or killing the primer. This is also the very best condition in which cases not to be reloaded immediately can be stored. Put away thus in sealed boxes, they can't deteriorate at all. No doubt you've noticed more than one batch of cases turned green and black and deeply pitted from being cached while damp and dirty. Often after a few years they will be too badly pitted and weakened for full-charge use. Not so if you tumble, resize and decap, then tumble again before putting them away.

The question sometimes arises about tumbling nicked cases. Many handloaders seem to fear enough tumbling to clean them will destroy the plating. Not so. I have run nicked .38 Special and .45 ACP cases 18 hours continuously to check this and the plating appeared as sound as ever. Generally, far less tumbling is neces-

sary to clean nicked cases since corrosion doesn't enter the picture and other debris clings only lightly. An hour's tumbling usually does the job well on nicked cases.

Of course, the nut hull/rouge medium will eventually break down somewhat and take longer to do the job. When that happens, J & G Rifle Ranch offers a liquid rouge mixture that is added to restore cleaning and polishing effectiveness. Even that, though, won't keep the same batch of hulls going forever. Eventually the individual granules are worn to smooth irregular shapes with no cutting edges. When that happens, buy new stuff—it doesn't cost much.

Quite a few people use hardwood sawdust for tumbling, but what is usually found at the local lumber yard or millwork shop isn't the genuine article and takes forever to clean cases properly. It also leaves dust all over the cases unless used moist. Genuine hardwood sawdust, which will work fairly well, is harder to get than J & G's tumbling medium unless you happen to be near a plant making whiskey barrels or fine furniture. It's easier in the end to simply order a supply of the nut hull/rouge medium—and it works better.

Incidentally, you handgunners might be interested to know that J & G Rifle Ranch normally has an excellent stock of Smith & Wesson pistols and revolvers. They will accept direct orders, then arrange shipment through a bonafide dealer in your area. I know of many a shooter who has gotten S & W guns in this way when they were impossible to find locally.

Just before this was written, we fired our first ammunition loaded with the new Sierra HCP (hollow cavity point) 90 grain 9mm (.355") bullet. Though the sample was small, this bullet gave indications of excellent performance. The load used was 7.0 grains of Unique in Norma 9mm Parabellum cases, fired in a standard Smith & Wesson M39 auto. We'll have a full report based on more firing in different guns at a later date.



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By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

TRADING for a used gun represents a good risk. The chances of coming off with a good useable shooting iron are excellent. The lemons are few and with even a modicum of guns savvy the swapper can spot the junkers and avoid them. GUNS publishes the "Red Book of Used Gun Values" which is an invaluable guide in deciding what the true worth of any model may be. Before you get to hoss-trading be sure you have a copy of this text. It sells for \$2.50 and is revised annually.

In looking at the used gun the most important thing to check on is the condition of the barrel. That tube determines whether the arm is accurate and unless it shows a substantial amount of life remaining the musket isn't worth much. The rifle barrel should be clean and shining. If it is dark and sooty looking use a rod and a cleaning patch and scrub it out. If it still shows a murky interior it is in bad shape and I would not want it.

If you have access to a borescope, use it to examine the interior of the barrel. If you cannot find a borescope then hold the tube up to a strong light, preferably a natural one, and minutely study the lands of the bore. These should be clean and upstanding and the shoulders should be sharply defined. Just ahead of the chamber look particularly for a washed out appearance. The hot magnums erode the lands at this point and it is not hard to spot. Observe, searchingly, the bottoms of the grooves against the lands. If there are dark shadows here, a splotchy appearance that appears grainy and rough, this is indication of erosion.

While I can be quite arbitrary about how I want the bore to look on the preferred firearm, the facts are if the gun really appeals to me I am apt to swap for it even tho the barrel may look pretty well shot. If the price is a real bargain I always keep in mind that a new tube will not cost more than fifty bucks and this sometimes persuades me to trade even tho I know that something less than half the life of the barrel remains. You

should keep this in mind if you find a rifle that is a genuine steal and yet the lands look pretty well washed out.

Everyone is concerned about headspace when he is offered a strange rifle. If the offered trade is a standard model such as a Winchester, Remington, Savage or Weatherby the possibilities of excessive headspace are virtually nil. If the gun, on the other hand, is an import of some obscure name, or maybe has been put together with an action from one source, a barrel from another and a stock from still a third then there wants to be some concern about the headspace. If you can get to a gunsmith who can headspace the piece it is advisable to do this.

If it cannot be headspaced then you will have to use your own judgment. If the rifle appears to be in good shape, with a clean bore and clean chamber, a bolt with serial number that matches the receiver and an examination of the locking lugs shows them in good condition, I would not be too concerned about the headspace. The chances are it is perfectly okay.

While looking at the locking lugs also have a glance at the face of the bolt. Is the firing pin hole round and true? How much protrusion does the firing pin have? The hole should not be excessive in diameter and must be round. If the pin has too much protrusion it will puncture primers; if it does not have enough you will get misfires. This is an important point of consideration. Check the face of the bolt for hairline cracks. And look at the lugs for this same possibility. Occasionally on worked-over military surplus models the bolt handle is cut off, reshaped, and then welded to the bolt body at the new angle. Check along the weld to be sure the handle is not breaking away from the bolt body. I am left-handed and this happens occasionally with conversion jobs I have done.

How is the trigger pull? It should be clean and sweet and ought to break at 4 lbs. without any noticeable creep, movement, or over-travel. If the pull is too hard, raspy or longish

it will be impossible to shoot. If, on the other hand it is set at 2¼ lbs. then it is too light and can be dangerous. The safety should function perfectly. Put it on, press on the trigger, then release the safety. Sometimes they fire with this simple test. Put the safety on and then rap the butt smartly on the floor. Be sure the safety holds under this test.

Sometimes the stock is split. These breaks usually occur where they cannot be readily seen. Like in the recoil shoulder. Pull the action out of the stock and look at the mortise in the stock which accept the recoil lug. Not only should it be sound but it ought to show evidence that the lug is bearing tightly against it. Check the mortise for the tang of the receiver. If recoil is not taken up by the recoil shoulder it may fall in the tang mortise and if it does it will split the stock at this point.

Observe where the barrel is bedded in the stock. Some barrels are bedded full length, others are bedded for 3-4 inches ahead of the receiver ring; still others are bedded at the receiver ring and again at the forend tip. If the barrel touches the stock at irregular places you may be sure the rifle will not group its shots in anything smaller than a 10-gallon hat.

This discussion, up to this point, has been mostly concerned with bolt action bargains. There are others. The lever guns, the slide action repeaters and the autoloaders. Everything I've said about checking bore and chamber applies equally well to them. The face of the breechblock should be searchingly inspected and a close check should be made with a good magnifying glass of the lockup. Too, you want to examine the firing pin hole and the firing pin, checking for roundness and protrusion.

A source of trouble with the lever, pump and automatics is poor extraction. The extractor gets worn or the ejector chips off on the corners and then trouble ensues. On the old lever gun the cartridge carrier sometimes gets out of time and when the fresh cartridge is lifted out of the magazine it carries too high and the nose of the cartridge strikes the 12 o'clock point on the barrel breech. Or the magazine cutoff is faulty and permits two cartridges to slip out of the magazine instead of only one. These things may only be discovered by loading the rifle and operating the action.

Even a gunsmith in inspecting a used rifle can miss faults. But few indeed fail to turn up if you take the bargain out and fire it. This is particularly necessary if the gun is a self-loader. No amount of visual inspection will sometimes disclose trou-

bles with the self-starters. I would not consider any automatic unless I was permitted to shoot it. Feed problems, extraction and ejection malfunctions, failures to fire and other misfortunes crop up with the autos and the only way you can surely spot them is to burn powder. If the owner won't let you shoot his prize than you don't want it!

Headspace on the lever, the pump and the automatics, is not, in my experience ever much of a problem. It does not develop for the fact that the rifles are not shot enough to develop excessive headspace. This fault comes from many years of heavy shooting and also through using a lot of overloads, as when handloading. The lever, pump and autoloader are hunting arms and the ordinary owner fires them comparatively little. For that reason they seldom have any excess in this area.

I do not put much store by the outside appearance of the trade gun. It may look like a dog with the bluing gone and the stock pretty badly marred. This isn't any indication of a lack of good useability. The blued finish on any of our shooting irons is awfully thin and it wears mighty fast. The same is true of stock finish. It is usually the lacquered kind with a high gloss finish and it resists the hard knocks of the hunting country very poorly. Both the blued metal parts and the wooden ones can be pretty easily redone. I would not judge any rifle not a good swap just because it looked like it had been up the trail too many times.

A common trading item is the rifle with the Mauser action. The best Mauser is the one made by Fabrique Nationale of Belgium and imported by Browning. Another good one is the Mauser manufactured by Husqvarna and imported by Tradewinds, Inc. Still a third is the original Mauser as manufactured by Mauserwerke of Oberndorf. This latter is fetched into this country by Interarms Corp. There are many others. Some are suspects on the score of softness. A soft receiver will hold a standard load alright but over a period of shooting the recesses in the receiver ring set back. If the lugs on the bolt are too soft these will do the same. This develops excessive headspace which can finally become dangerous. There are a miscellany of old Mauser rifles and actions floating around. The best is the Model 98. The others range through the Model 1888, the 89, the 91, the 1893 and the 1895. I would not want any save the 98 in a trade I made.

There are also Model 1917 Enfield and Pattern 14 rifles kicking around.

(Continued on page 70)

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STEVENSON on Hand Guns

WHAT GOOD is the double action semi-auto pistol? Our own Col. Charles Askins has stated many times over that the single action self feeder became as passé as the pepperbox from the moment the Wehrmacht adopted the P38. As an airborne officer who stared down the unhealthy end of the Walther product for the duration of the fracas, his opinion bears weight. Col. Jeff Cooper, on the other hand, says the double action is a fad, a nuisance, that it interferes with the practical efficiency of the pistol. Col. Cooper too, has been on both ends of combat handguns and can handle his end far better than most. If you're the type who takes things on authority, choose your expert. If you reserve your opinion, here's how it looks from betwixt the crossfire.

First, for what we're not interested in. This isn't the place to retread the old revolver vs. automatic hassle. Nor do we care to compare the merits of one cartridge with another, no matter what gun they're for. The question here is simply: which is better, a single action semi-auto pistol, or a similar gun in double action, assuming they're to be used for defensive purposes.

Single action guns have to be manually cocked for the first shot. If the chamber is carried empty, the slide has to be hauled back and released, thus cocking the hammer or striker and loading the chamber at the same time. If the chamber is carried loaded, the hammer has to be thumbcocked before the first shot can be launched. Neither method is inherently speedy, although U.S. sentries and French police, who are required to carry the chamber empty, have of necessity become proficient at slide-jacking and the best of them can get a shot off from the leather within a second. Some Mexican police, whose regula-

tions require them to carry the hammer down on a loaded chamber, have gotten quite artful at thumbcocking. They carry .45's or .38 Supers in an open-topped crossdraw rig so canted that the thumb wipes the hammer to full cock more or less naturally. I haven't tried their holster, but this technique is fatally awkward from a right hip rig. When this didn't pan, I tried fanning the hammer to full cock with my left hand, but that proved no sort of breakthrough.

Either way you manipulate a single action, then—jacking the slide or cocking the hammer—is relatively slow, rather awkward, and apt to be fumbled. But that's all smokescreen, because no one performs either ritual unless forced to do so by bureaucratic coercion. The single action autoloader, for serious purposes, is carried cocked and locked; that is with the chamber loaded, the hammer at full cock, and the manual safety on.

If the safety lever is well positioned, as it is on the Colt Government Model, on most of the Spanish automatics, and on post-1969 Berettas, this is a very fast system. The thumb falls naturally onto the safety lever as the gun is gripped, and depresses it as the weapon begins to line up on target. No time whatever is lost, there is



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no fumbling or searching, and no gun of whatever type is faster than a cocked and locked automatic for the first shot.



The S&W Model 39 is of the double action type and is a very fine gun.

If the safety is properly designed, constructed, and fitted, a cocked and locked carry is quite safe. For most Spanish automatics, moreover, which do not have inertial firing pins, hence can't be safely carried with the hammer down on a loaded chamber, cocked and locked is the only alternative to carrying with an empty chamber.

The Browning Hi-Power has a well positioned but poorly shaped thumb safety. It's apt to be missed in haste, and wants extending both forward and outward to make it useable. The safety on the SIG P210 is well shaped but is set too far forward and is impossibly stiff. It needs extending rearward and smoothing up. The crossbolt safety on the Beretta M951 Brigadier was a bother, and has recently been replaced by a Colt-like thumblever which makes this fine and accurate gun as fast as any for the first shot.

If double action doesn't offer a faster first shot, what's going for it? Safety.

The classic comparison is the S&W Model 39 vs. the Colt Government Model. The Colt has a single action

trigger, the thumb safety blocks the sear to hold the hammer at full cock, and there is no magazine safety. The Model 39 has a double action trigger, a Walther type hammer-trip safety, and a magazine disconnect. It is virtually impossible for a trained man to have an accident with this weapon. Fools will manage, but no gun is more thoroughly engineered for safety in handling. It is, in fact, safer in some respects to use and handle than a double action revolver, as well as being more convenient and offering vastly greater firepower. These were some of the reasons which led to its adoption by the Illinois State Police and the Covina (Calif.) Police.

When a trooper comes off duty, he takes the magazine out and puts it in his pocket, rendering the gun thereby completely safe. The chamber stays loaded, but the cartridge therein cannot be fired while the magazine is out of the gun. When the officer goes back on duty he simply reinserts the loaded magazine. That's all the manipulation the gun needs or gets.

There's no need ever to touch the trigger except to fire. If the hammer winds up cocked and another shot is unneeded, just depress the safety lever—the hammer will fall against the steel wall of the safety shaft, interposed between it and the firing pin head. If the chamber is empty and wants loading, flick on the safety first—the hammer will ride the slide to rest. The trigger therefore has one function only—to discharge the gun—and should be touched for no other purpose. Finally, with the hammer habitually carried uncocked it takes a long, fairly heavy, and quite deliberate pull-through on the trigger to fire. No accidental discharges with this combination.

If you are responsible for arming, training, and answering for the actions of 1500 men, these factors yield needed peace of mind. If you're only responsible for yourself, what are you losing?

The .45 would give you the chance to stay in the game, to cover someone if need be while changing an empty or nearly empty magazine. The Smith in such circumstances is worthless. The Colt would permit you to make the weapon safe while changing positions, yet still have it cocked and ready for a fast, accurate shot when needed. The Smith requires thumbcocking (a luxury in time) or starting over again double action (a sacrifice of accuracy) each time the safety is applied, and thereby might tempt one to run about with it cocked and dangerous on even more dangerous occasions.

Aside from this (and the acknowledged superiority of the .45 cartridge

as a manstopper), going to the Government Model merely gives you a sackful of safety hazards that need constant thought and attention. If you drop the magazine, remember the round lurking in the chamber. If you clear the chamber, God help you if you forgot to remove the magazine



The old standby is the .45 Auto of the single action type of trigger. first. Every time you operate the slide the hammer winds up cocked and dangerous, and the only way to get it down is to pull the trigger. Meanwhile the left thumb had better be there to block it. (The hammer can of course be lowered with one hand, but two are better if circumstances permit). In the minds of many, the advantages of the system are well worth the relative danger.

Of course the relative safety factors of these two guns don't derive unerringly from their trigger mechanisms. Not all d.a.'s have magazine discon-

nectors. (The Walther PP series, TPH, and P-38; the Beretta Models 20 and 90; and the Astra Constable, do not.) Many single actions, such as the Browning Hi-Power and the SIG 210, on the other hand, do have magazine safeties. Not all d.a.'s have hammer-trip safeties. (The Mauser HSc, Erma KGP 70, and Beretta's Models 20 and 90 all leave the hammers at full cock when the safety is applied. Indeed, some d.a. autos, such as the Heckler & Koch HK 4, are in my opinion considerably less safe to handle than many s.a.'s. But the comparison between the 1911 and the Model 39, the two most serious weapons of their respective types, has some validity nevertheless.

Problems of safety in handling though are peripheral to the pistol's purpose, which is to deliver fast, accurate shots. How do the two types compare on this essential point? Sometimes it's more a problem of the individual gun than of overall type. A bad double action is bad, whether it's found on a revolver or an automatic. Postwar Walthers are a prominent offender. The geometry or construction of the mechanism seems to pile all the resistance into the first 1/8" of trigger travel, and the remaining double action stroke is pure, disastrous backlash. Walther seems to have recognized this problem, and the last few

(Continued on page 68)

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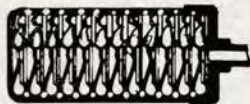


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1. Each question should be sent directly to the panel member best suited to solve your problem. Mail questions directly to the expert at the address shown below.
2. Each question—only one question per letter, please—must be accompanied by a self-addressed 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
P.O. Box 499, Wilmette, Ill. 60091
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
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P.O. Box 2014, Northlake, Illinois 60614
Maj. R. O. Ackerman—Black Powder Shooting
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Dick Miller—Trap & Skeet
Casa Correo Sta., P.O. Box 21276, Dept. Q, Concord, Calif. 95421

7.5 French Ammo

Late last year I obtained a 7.5 mm French rifle. It has an NRA excellent bore and throws pretty good groups with no signs of "keyholing" using military surplus ammo. I have just started in the handloading hobby, and I have not found any loading information or dies listed for this caliber. Could you help me with this problem?

Mike Bailey
Cleveland, Tenn.

No tested loading data has been published for the 7.5mm French military cartridge. You can, however, use top .308 Winchester loads in it with safety. By this I mean use .308 Winchester loading data in 7.5mm French cases. Do not attempt to fire .308 ammunition in the French rifle. Standard .308 data will produce slightly reduced velocities in the somewhat larger capacity French case.

You have probably noticed that your French military cases are loaded with Berdan type primers. I do not believe you'll be able to obtain the correct primers in this country and, even if you do, loading such cases will

be a considerable chore. Instead, I suggest you obtain Boxer-primed 7.5mm Swiss cases from Norma-Precision. These cases may then be resized in a 7.5mm French full-length die and reloaded in the usual fashion. —G.N.

.45 Auto Safe Loads

What would be safe loads in a Colt Gold Cup cal. .45 using Lyman bullet 454424 cast weight 258 gr. bullet sized .451? Dummy rounds will work manually with an overall length of 1.220. Philip B. Sharpe lists seating depth of .356. What would be the pressure with the bullet seated .373? I would like to use Unique powder.

W. O. Elliff, Jr.
Pittsburg, Kan.

You may use up to 7.0 grains of Hercules Unique powder with Lyman bullet #454424 (sized to proper diameter) in your Colt Gold Cup pistol. Seven grains of Unique represents a hot but safe load and unless you are concerned with maximum power, I recommend you cut back to 6 grains. Generally, any charge over 5 grains

(Continued on page 70)



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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

One of the real "no-no's" under the federal firearms laws is the possession of fully-automatic weapons or the importation of military surplus. Another federal law prohibits firearms on Capitol Hill. And, all unregistered firearms are unlawful in Washington, D. C.

The guys here in Congress who passed the laws should know! Right? Wrong! On October 21 the press disclosed that agents of the Internal Revenue Service were picking up AK-47 assault rifles. According to one report, "The IRS arranged for military men, presumably weapons specialists, to pick up the illegal weapons on Capitol Hill. The servicemen brought along a special carrying case, so the Chinese guns could be lugged out of the building without alarming legislators and tourists."

What happened was this: The President sent a "fact-finding mission" to Vietnam last June following the American troops going into Cambodia. Some members of the mission were presented with AK-47's as war souvenirs. Some of these were members of Congress who passed the anti-gun law of 1968.

Following are the names of those on the mission who were presented with these weapons: White House Aides Herbert Klein and Bryce Harlow; Senators Cannon (Nev.), Tower (Tex.), Murphy (Calif.), McIntyre (N.H.); Congressmen W. Bray (Ind.), M. Price (Ill.), O. C. Fisher (Tex.), W. Whitehurst (Va.); Governors Love (Colo), Shaffer (Pa.), and McNair (S.C.).

Also brought back was a sniper rifle and an AK-47 later presented to the

President. Because he is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the President seems to be the only one who has not violated one or more federal gun laws.

Let us all hope that the boys at IRS will be equally compassionate with the John Doe citizen collectors who unknowingly violate the federal firearms laws!

Shooters, it's up to you. President Nixon has signed into law a federal program that can provide a national network of shooting ranges. It is up to you to encourage your state governments to act.

The purpose of the law is to provide funds to be used by the states to carry out programs supporting hunter safety. The source of the fund is the 10 percent tax collected on the sale of handguns. Until now, unlike the 11% tax collected on long guns and ammunition, the handgun tax has gone into general revenue funds. (The 11% tax has long been earmarked for wildlife and conservation.) The new law makes up to 50%, or \$2.5 million, of the taxes collected on handguns available for the construction of shooting ranges.

But this does not tell the complete story. The federal funds will be made available to state governments through the Department of the Interior on a cost-share basis for approved projects. The federal share will be 75% and the state's share 25%. If the funds are not used to build rifle ranges they will go for other purposes.

Today, 41 states have hunter safety programs. Of (Continued on page 59)

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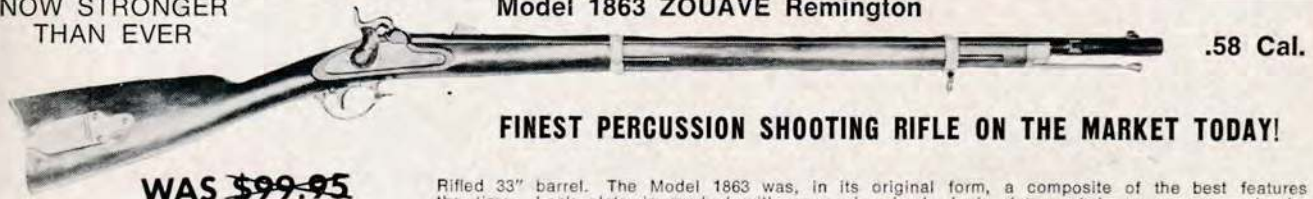
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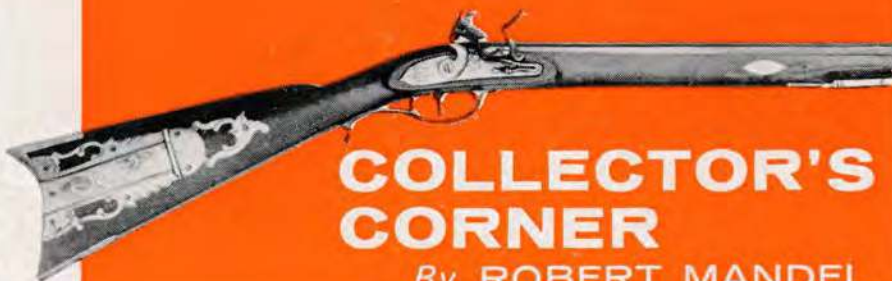
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COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By ROBERT MANDEL

NEW COLLECTOR RULINGS

ACCORDING TO Chapter 53 of the Code, the term "firearm" shall not include an antique firearm or any device (other than a machine gun or destructive device) which, although designed as a weapon, the Secretary or his delegate finds by reason of the date of its manufacture, value, design or other characteristics is primarily a collector's item and is not likely to be used as a weapon.

Under IRS Ruling 70-517 it has been determined that the following original items are not firearms for purposes of the Code:

Borchardt Model 1893, caliber 7.63mm pistol with accompanying stock.

Bergmann Model 1897, caliber 7.65 (7.8)mm pistol with accompanying shoulder stock.

Bergmann self-loading pistol, Mars Model 1903 with accompanying shoulder stock.

Quackenbush Bicycle Rifle with telescopic wire stock, .22 caliber.

Military type Nambu pistol, Model 1904, caliber 8mm Nambu (Riku Shiki Nambu Kenju) with shoulder stock.

J. Stevens "hunter's pet" pocket rifles with accompanying shoulder stock (except those chambered for shotgun ammunition).

Frank Wesson Bicycle Rifle with accompanying shoulder stock.

The Shatuck "Unique" palm gun in

.22 and .32 caliber rimfire manufactured by O. F. Mossberg.

The "Little All Right" palm pistol, .22 caliber rimfire patented by Edward Boardman and Andrew Peavy, January 18, 1876.

The Protector palm gun, .32 rimfire, extra short, patented by Jacques Turbiaux, Patent No. 732644.

The Chicago palm pistol, caliber .32 rimfire extra short.

The Tribuzio "Squeezer" invented by Catallo Turbiaux of Turin, Italy, caliber 8mm short.

Gaulois palm squeezer, 8mm short.

The Merveilleux squeezer, 8mm short and 6mm.

The Taylor "Fur Getter" manufactured by F. C. Taylor Fur Company, St. Louis, Missouri, .22 caliber rimfire.

Hamilton Rifle Model 7.

Hamilton Model 11.

Hamilton Model 15.

Hamilton Model 19.

Hamilton Model 23.

Hamilton Model 27 and 027.

Hamilton Model 31.

Hamilton Model 35.

Hamilton Model 39.

Hamilton Model 43.

All handguns manufactured in or before 1898 (not including replicas thereof) and not capable of shooting fixed shotgun shells, accompanied by attached or attachable shoulder stock.

HUNTER ORANGE

Red is no longer the safest color for a hunter to wear in the woods.

Science has come up with a color which is reducing hunting accidents each year. It's hunter orange. This fluorescent color was labeled "most visible" after tests by the United States Army, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Game. Hunter orange stood out like a beacon in situations where other colors blended into the background. During the hours of dusk and dawn, when other colors tend to fade, hunter orange is highly visible.

Massachusetts, Maine, Colorado and Iowa have made hunter orange clothing mandatory for big game hunters. These states have greatly reduced accidents in the "mistaken for game" and "in the line of fire" accident categories.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation urges upland and big game hunters to give hunter orange a try this season. It's a courtesy for other hunters.

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"CASED" HISTORY of COLT ...PART 1

By JAMES E.
SERVEN

Samuel Colt believed that a fine pistol deserved more than a cardboard box.

A PICTORIAL presentation showing how the various models of Colt pistols were put up in attractive hardwood cases conveys the story best, but a moderate amount of supporting text is needed to fill in useful background information.

When the Patent Arms Mfg. Co. was organized and manufacture of Colt's patent arms undertaken in 1836 at Paterson, New Jersey, repeating caplock arms were a novelty. Sam Colt was a showman, somewhat ahead of his time in merchandising methods. He reasoned that if an aura of value was created by putting a piece of jewelry in a velvet box, the impression of real worth could be created for his arms by framing them nicely in a handsome hardwood box or case.

There was also a practical reason in furnishing sturdy cases for Colt caplock arms. The indispensable loading accessories could be neatly stored with the arm and thus

would always be immediately available when needed.

Almost complete uniformity is found in the pistol cases supplied with Colt's Paterson-made arms. They were of varnished mahogany and fitted with a beveled lid into which a name plate of brass or silver was inlaid. Brass hinges and a recessed lock with key escutcheon completed the hardware. The locked case was no doubt useful in keeping the pistols from the eyes of curious children.

The bottoms of these cases were made of thick soft wood so that they could be moderately scooped out in places to receive the bulge of the grip, the cylinders and the powder flask. The case was lined with a dark cloth. Unlike most later Colt cases, the Paterson model cases had no partitions. Such things as the capper, mould, combination loading tool, and cleaning rod were held in place by metal guides.

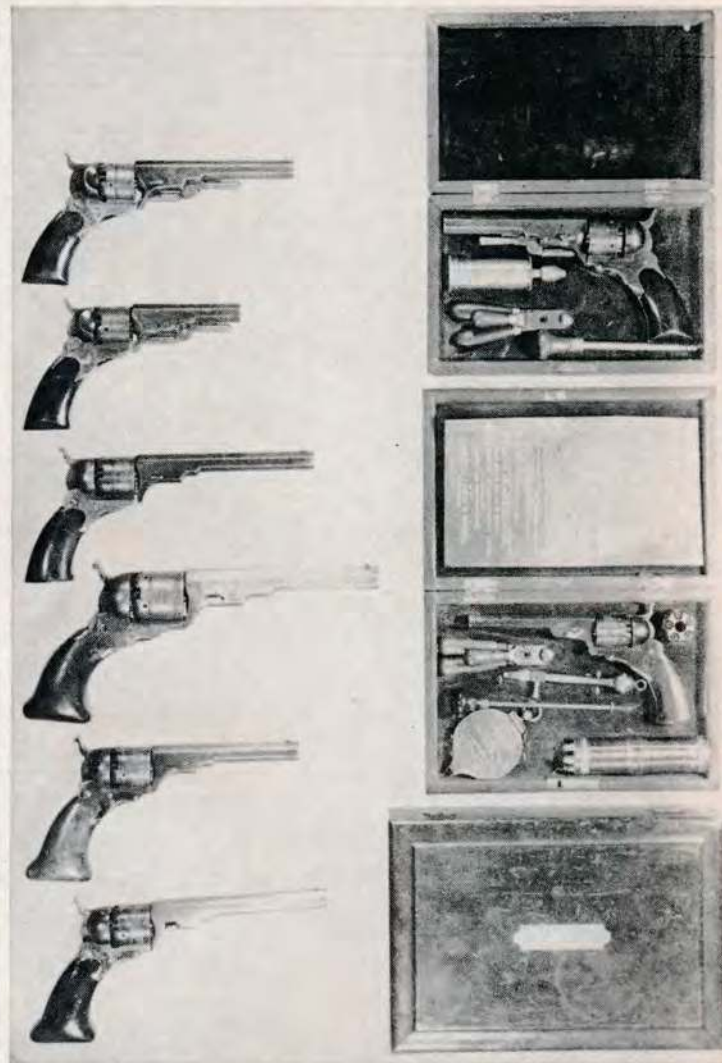
Paterson Colt pistols are easily recognized by their folding triggers. They were made in pocket, belt and holster



A typical American casing of the .44 caliber Dagoon pistol (third model). The cases were of varnished mahogany or other hardwood with cloth covered partitions.



A good specimen of the Paterson-made Colt belt model pistol in its case. Accessories include the powder flask, cleaning rod, bullet mold and extra cylinder.



A group of the folding-trigger Colt pistols made at Paterson, N.J. The cased pocket pistol (top) has an attached loading lever and is therefore equipped with different loose accessories than the pocket model below. At bottom, an example of the beveled lid with metal name plate used for the Paterson cases. Note accessories in cases.

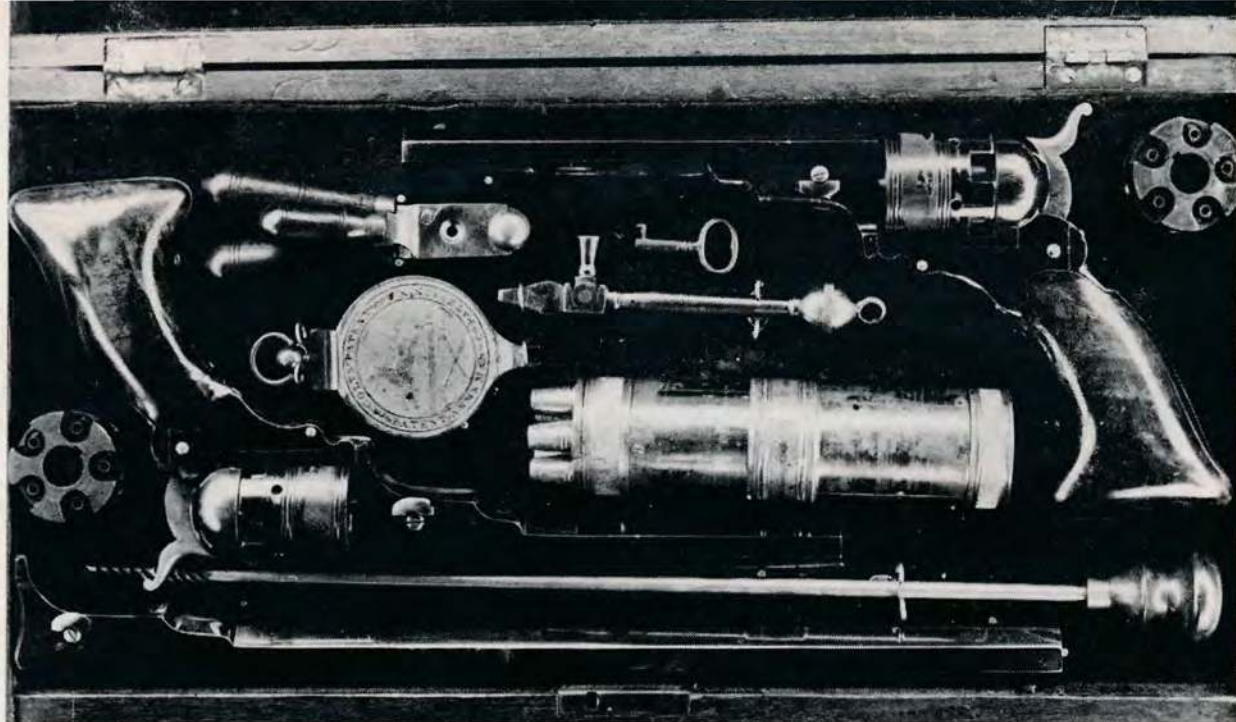
sizes and calibers were .28, .31, .34 and .36. Cylinders were roll engraved. The engraving for smaller pistols depicted centaurs while the big .36 caliber pistol, called a "Texas" model, was engraved with a stagecoach holdup scene. The combination ball and powder flask discharged five charges of powder or balls at one time, the same number as chambers in the pistol's cylinder. The three-handled bullet mould may be the first mould to use a side-swinging sprue cutter.

There were lean years for Samuel Colt between 1842, when the Paterson factory failed, and 1847 when he received an order from the government for 1000 heavy six-shooters for use in the Mexican War.

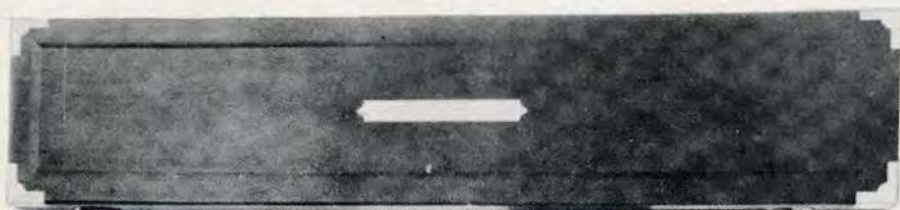
Pistols made under this contract, negotiated for the government by Capt. Samuel H. Walker, were made for Colt by Eli Whitney at Whitneyville, Conn. They are generally known as Colt's "Whitneyville-Walker" dragoon pis-

tol. Made strictly for military use, with a long 9" barrel and weighing over 4 pounds, these pistols were not put up in cases. Only one cased "Whitneyville-Walker" Colt has been found, and that was specially cased and sold by Blunt & Syms, New York, gun dealers of that period. Tom Weston, well-known merchant of Mexico City, had a few miniature pistols made up, copying exactly the Blunt & Syms casing. These miniatures are now scarce and bring a substantial price.

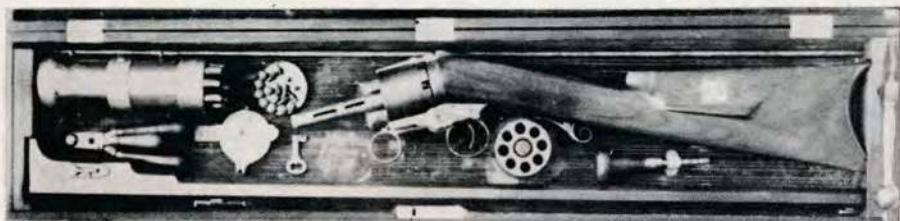
Colt's "Whitneyville-Walker" pistol was the first of a series of big pistols made for the U. S. Dragoons or mounted riflemen. Beginning in 1843, dragoon pistols in slightly different form were turned out at a factory Samuel Colt established in Hartford, Conn. These .44 caliber six-shooters and a .31 pocket model, made without a loading lever and called the "Little Dagoon" were the models that really started Samuel Colt along the road to a great man-



This rare cased pair of Colt-Paterson pistols has the full complement of accessories, plus an extra-long target or hunting barrel included.



The cases for Paterson-made Colt rifles followed closely the design used for the pistols but had metal bound corners to strengthen the lid.



Bottom, left: Colt's "book" cases usually are given some appropriate title or inscription. Center: The "book" pistol case as viewed from the front with lid closed. Below: When the lid is closed, the "book" could easily be mistaken. Very few were made. In this one, a "Little Dragoon" in .31 caliber is housed.





An English casing in which the arrangement of partitions and pattern of accessories varies somewhat from the American counterparts. The wood chosen for English cases was customarily oak. Note cover label.

ufacturing success. The big dragoon pistols were produced with some minor changes until 1860 while the "Little Dragoon" was discontinued in a year or two in favor of the 1849 Model, a very similar pocket pistol but made with an attached loading lever.

The construction of the big dragoon Army pistols was relatively uniform during their dozen years or so of production. The round, six-shot cylinders bore an engraving of horsemen in a fight with Indians. At first the trigger guards had a straight-back contour and this was later changed to a rounded contour front and back. The locking slots on the periphery of the cylinder were changed from oval to rectangular, providing a more secure locking and better alignment. A V-shaped mainspring was discarded for a straight spring. A few of the pistols in later production were made with an 8" barrel instead of the standard

7½" round barrel, and some pistols had provision made in the recoil shield and butt strap for attachment of a shoulder stock (which Colt called a carbine breech).

Colt's first Hartford pocket model was made in 3", 4", 5" and 6" barrel lengths. The brass trigger guard, as in the first big dragoon pistols, had a straight-back contour. The barrels were octagon and the round five-shot cylinder showed a roll engraving of horsemen pursuing Indians; the cylinder had oval locking slots, a shape changed to rectangular in all later Colt percussion pistols except the little 1855 sidehammer model which had an entirely different locking system.

After only a year or so of operations in Hartford, Colt had progressed rapidly to the threshold of producing two of his most popular models. The story of these new models in picture and text will follow.

1ST LUGER SHOOTING



What could be more fun than shooting a Luger in competition and shooting against nothing but other Lugers?

THE FIRST ANNUAL Luger shootout took place on September 6, 1970, at the Scarsdale Shooting Range, Scarsdale, Louisiana, which is located just outside the city limits of grand old New Orleans. The competition was open to the general public, and anyone who possessed a genuine P. 08 Luger could participate. The event was sponsored and officially scored by New Orleans Arms Co. There were two shooting events and trophies were awarded to the top three scores in each event. A trophy was also presented for the most unusual Luger displayed at the competition.

Luger collectors as well as competitors were present for the competition and there were enough Lugers seen at the event to arm a small army. The collectors were in abundance as they sensed the possibility that one of the competitors or other collectors might be persuaded to sell or trade one of their prized Lugers. Some of the more serious competitors brought as many as five Lugers of various barrel lengths for the shoot. Lugers seen during the day were: pre-World War I DWM Commercials, WWI Crown Erfurt Militaries, WWI DWM 4-inch Militaries, WWI 6-inch Navals, WWI 8-inch DWM Artilleries, post WWI DWM 1920 Commercials, WWII Mauser Militaries coded S/42, 42, BYF, and last but not least a 1940 Krieghoff Air Force Luger.

The first business of the day was registration for the shooting events. When registration was completed the rules committee presented the rules governing the competition. During the shoot only Lugers manufactured before 1946 could be used. The first event would be shot at 15 yards, 20 shots: 10 slow fire followed by 10 shots rapid fire. The second event to be fired at 25 yards, again shooting 20 shots. Having finished with the registration and the rules, the firing line was then opened for 30 minutes of practice for those who wished to sharpen their shooting eye before the competition began.

The first event at 15 yards started promptly at 10:00 A. M. and when the last shot had been fired and all the smoke had cleared these contestants were the winners:

1st Place: Norman Davis 146X200 shooting a 1920 DWM Commercial.

2nd Place: Bill Heslin 139X200 shooting a 1915 DWM Military.

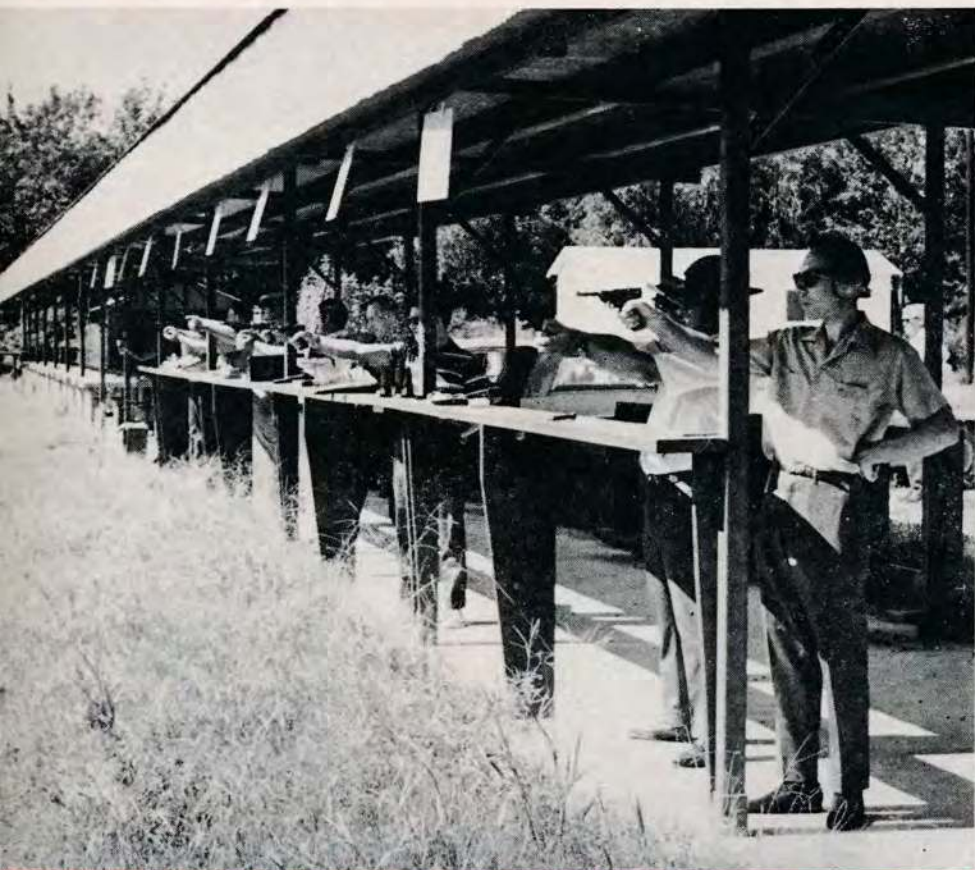
3rd Place: Joe Sullen 111X200 shooting a Mauser S/42 1937 Military.

After the first event was over there was a break in the action for lunch and to reposition the targets at 25 yards for the second event. The winners of the second event at 25 yards were:

1st Place: Lyn McKenzie 135X200 shooting a 1908

MATCH

By H. W. HESLIN, JR.



This was the way the firing line looked during the actual second event of the competition. Author is the third shooter from right. Although none of the scores were outstanding, they were good from the standpoint that they were shot with unaltered, issue Lugers.

DWM Commercial.

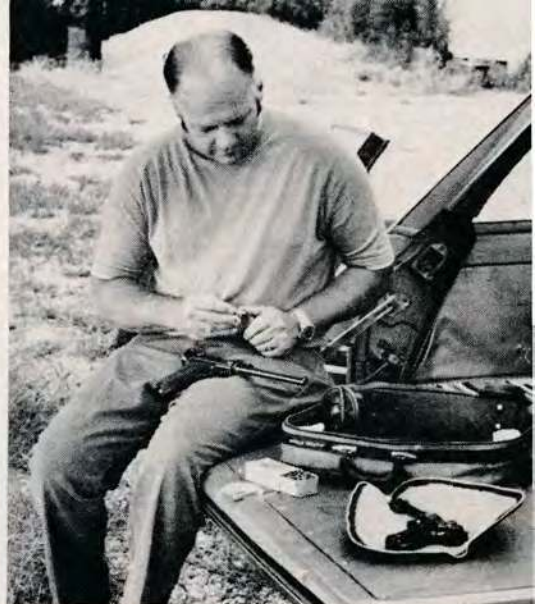
2nd Place: Norman Davis 113X200 shooting a 1920 DWM Commercial.

3rd Place: Bill Heslin 109X200 shooting a 1915 DWM Military.

The scores of the contestants in the two events while not staggering are quite respectable considering the fact that the Luger was produced primarily as a military sidearm and not as a target pistol. Also all the Lugers that were used in the shoot were in their original production state and not altered in any way to increase their shooting capabilities.

The shooting events completed, the trophies were presented to the winners by Arthur Turner of New Orleans Arms Co. The award for the most unusual Luger displayed was presented to Micheal Reese for his U. S. Test Trials 1900 American Eagle Luger.

Everyone who attended the event enjoyed themselves thoroughly and are looking forward to the shoot next year. George Luger would be proud to know that so many people still treasured the pistol he invented over 70 years ago.



One of the contestants readies his equipment before the first event.



This 1917 Erfurt Artillery model was used with an Erma .22 caliber conversion unit for the matches.

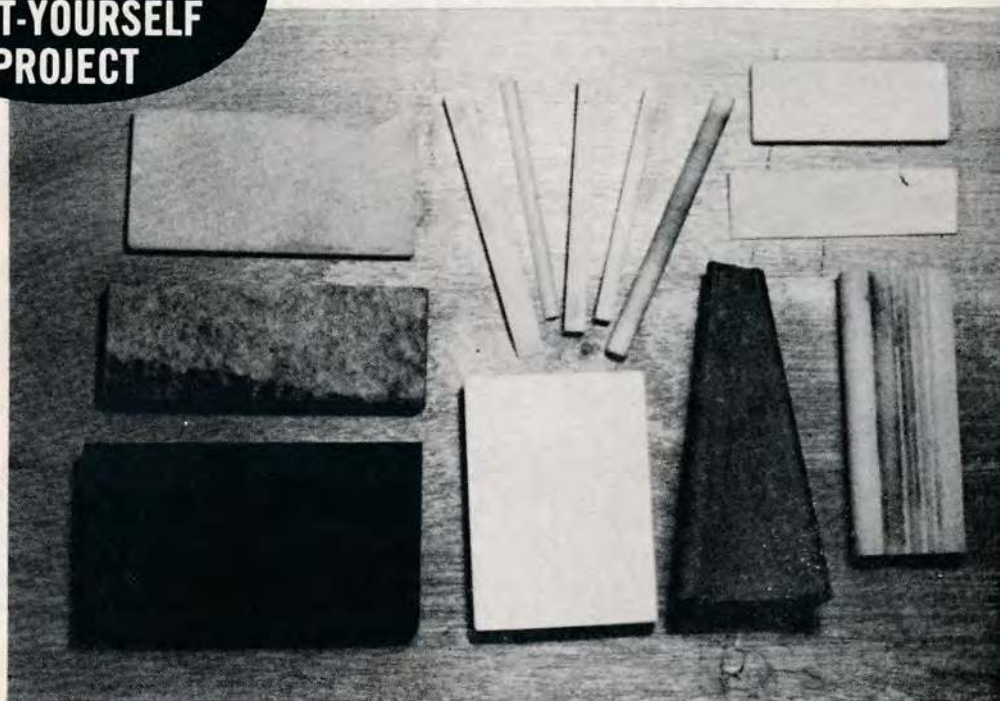


The winners with their trophies, standing from left: Arthur Turner, official scorer; Norman Davis; Lyn McKenzie. Kneeling, fom left: Joe Sullen; Bill Heslin, author; and Michael Reese.

SHARPENING KNIVES AND SHOP TOOLS

By JIM CARMICHEL

Guns DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT



Surprisingly enough, there is a great variety of sharpening stones to be had. Many are of the belief that one stone does all, but this is not so. At the right of center is the Norton India oilstone with curved surfaces for the stoning of curved gouges that come in handy for stock alterations.

IT WAS MORE than a few years ago, back when I was in the seventh or eighth grade in school, but the memory is as fresh as though it were only yesterday. One of my classmates had pulled a knife from his pocket, opened the blade and casually began shaving the hair from his arm. I was fascinated.

"How did you get that knife so sharp?" I asked.

"Can't tell you."

"Why not?"

"My Granddaddy showed me how to get this knife as sharp as a razor but I can't tell anybody because it's a family secret."

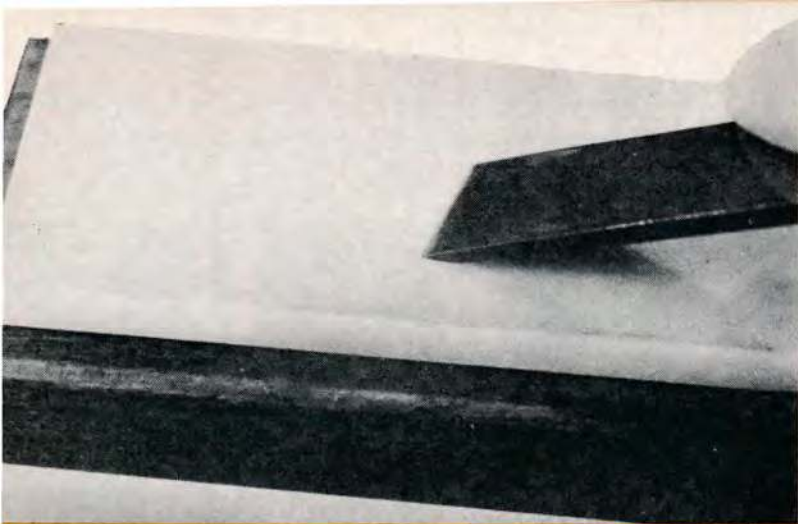
I was dejected almost to tears. I would have given almost anything to have been able to sharpen a knife like

that but now it looked as though I'd never learn because it was a closely guarded family secret. Nonetheless I resolved to learn to sharpen a knife to razor keenness. Within a few weeks of asking questions of all the old timers in the community, plus a bit of experimenting on my own, I learned not one but several ways of honing a blade to hair-splitting sharpness. Each of the old timers who shared his "secret" formula with me was of the opinion that he alone possessed the ultimate technique of knife sharpening. Thus their demonstrations were accompanied by considerable ritual and the prescribed honing fluids ranged from stagnant water from a hollowed-out gum stump to common spit laced with a variety of chewing tobaccos and snuffs.

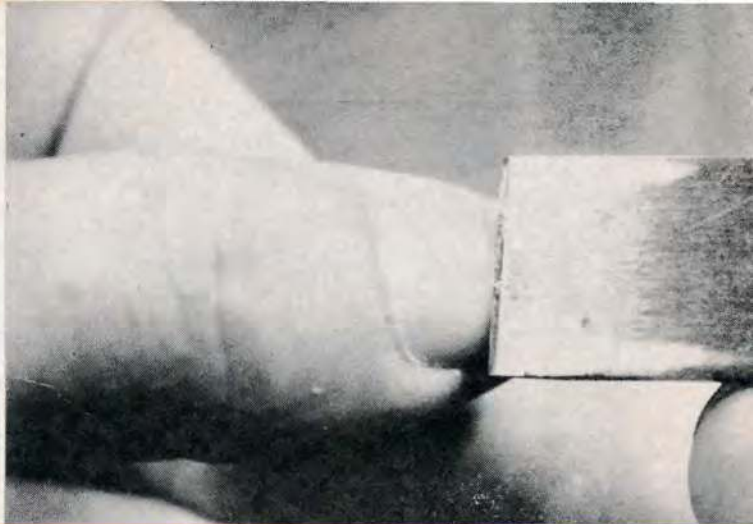
One old fellow whom I'll never forget went into considerable detail with his demonstration of knife sharpening then promptly dulled the edge on a rusty bolt "Because," he administered, "It's a sin to have a knife that sharp."

One thing I did learn for sure though, is that there are any number of ways to sharpen a cutting tool.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that putting a fine edge on a piece of steel is as mysterious to some people as it was to me as a schoolboy. As a result many otherwise fine knives, chisels and carving tools are giving only half service and their owners are producing not nearly so fine a quality of work as they might otherwise be capable of doing. In truth, getting a razor-fine edge on a cutting tool isn't at all



Straight edge chisel is sharpened with a simple back and forth motion on the oilstone. Keep the angle the same with even downward pressure or edges will round.



The sign of a wire edge. Note how the blade is shaving a tiny sliver off of the finger nail. This is remedied by honing blade on leather.

difficult, nor does it take much time. All you need is a proper technique and the right sharpening stone for the job. Here's how to go about it.

First, the sharpening stone; for general gunsmithing work such as stock-making and related woodcarving one needs to be concerned with only two or possibly three grades of stone. These include the Washita or Soft Arkansas, the Hard Arkansas and the India stone, the only artificial stone of the three. Actually there is no exact grading system for Arkansas stones. Being a natural mineral (Novaculite), it is found in different densities or hardnesses from the soft, open grained Washita to the hard, fine grained blue-black Arkansas.

The synthetic India stone generally has inferior sharpening qualities to a good Arkansas stone but is still useful to the home craftsman because it is available in a useful shape for sharpening curved chisels. Too, it is less expensive than a natural Arkansas stone.

Generally speaking, the softer, coarser grained stones are faster cutting than the harder stones. At the same time however, the coarser stones impart a characteristic roughness to the edge of the blade which limits the final degree of sharpness possible with that particular stone. In other words, a soft stone will get an edge just so sharp and no more, regardless of how much care and effort you put forth.

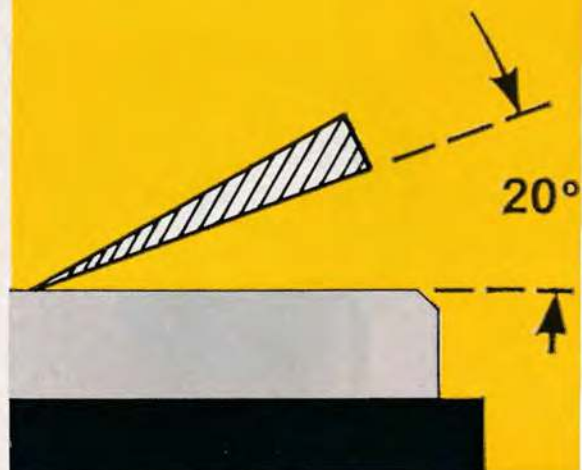
The comparison is like sanding a piece of wood with coarse but fast cutting 80 grit sandpaper—no matter how hard you try it will leave scratches on the wood. If you use a powerful magnifying glass to observe the edge of a



Left: This hunting knife is sharpened by moving the blade from left to right across the stone. Also the blade is pulled to the rear so that the point will be sharpened too. Right: Now do the same thing for the other side of the knife blade, drawing from right to left.

blade which has been sharpened with a soft stone you will observe that the edge appears somewhat rough and jagged with the roughness matching the grain size of the stone. Thus if a greater degree of sharpness is required, a harder, finer grained stone must be used.

It would seem, in light of the above, that the smart thing to do is to use only a fine cut, hard Arkansas stone for all your sharpening. Unfortunately, the hard stones cut so slow that it would take a mighty long time to bring a dull blade to a fine edge. Therefore, one must think in terms of two stones for a single sharpening job or better yet, a compromise medium-soft stone called a Washita/Soft Arkansas such as marketed (Continued on page 50)



One important reminder is to keep the blade at a constant angle of about 20 degrees while stoning it.

WHY NOT A .22 R.F.

It was 1934 when Remington introduced the "squarehead."
Is this the right time to try it again?

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING? Exciting perhaps, but this story concerns itself with a .22 rimfire cartridge that was "new" back in 1934. If you have ever wished for a .22 wadcutter bullet (and who hasn't) then you will certainly find some answers in these pages. You might even end up with a few left over questions. Are you ready?

If we flip back the pages of time real quick, we can whip past three and a half decades and even tack on a couple of years. It seems that a number of shooters who fired target handguns were bothering the folks who make ammunition. They felt that if these companies could make bullets that would cut a clean round hole for a .38 caliber target revolver; then it should be just as easy to make a .22 caliber wadcutter. Most of the letters made it sound so very simple and they

all seemed to end with the same question; "So why dontcha?"

Many of the writers claimed that they had cut off the "round part" on the front of a bullet and chambered it in their hand gun and fired it. "That proves it," they raved, "That bullet went right down and plunked a big fat hole right through the target." They further expounded that it sure would be nice to have the factories make some .22 wadcutter ammunition for the target shooters.

Yes, those shooters had a point. Full diameter holes are easy to see. They offer a bonanza in scoring convenience, and they loom large through the spotting scope. All in favor say aye! As you read this you are probably drooling over the thought of chucking your chambers with a cylinder full of these squareheads and punching out a bullfull of huge holes.

I can only agree with you. It sure would be great.

In the Remington camp a man by the name of W. E. Witsel was busily seeking out the answer. Mr. Witsel carried the title of Ballistic Engineer and knew a few things that the letter writers didn't know. First, he knew a helluva lot about ammunition. Second, he knew that a flat point bullet wasn't too doggone stable and most of all, he knew that it wouldn't be as simple to manufacture such a cartridge as the proponents made it sound. However, the wadcutter fans had one big thing in their favor. Witsel was with them all the way. That's one of the signs of a good engineer; he enjoys a challenge.

Mr. Witsel sat down with some of the other thinkers and doers and they discussed the problems. Was it practical? Was it workable? Would there be enough demand for such a cartridge to make the whole thing worth the time and effort? They asked each other these questions and many more. When they were finished, they put all the "yes'es" and "no's" on a scale to see how they balanced out and the yes'es won. They won by the barest



OLD WAY



NEW WAY

When the new loading was introduced, part of the Remington advertising campaign was to show the differences in targets shot with regular and wadcutter ammunition; the wadcutter round making the clean, round hole.

This close-up of the 1934 offering shows some of the detail of the bullet. Shell was primarily intended for indoor use with revolvers.



WADCUTTER?

By HARRY O. DEAN

of margins and here is why. Such a bullet is mainly for pistols but here again, not all pistols could handle it. The automatics would certainly give trouble in feeding a square nosed bullet into the chamber from the magazine. Only in cylinder guns could the wadcutter really stand out. This would definitely narrow down the potential market for such a cartridge since saleability is one of the most important considerations when production of a new item is contemplated. However, it was decided to try the wadcutter .22 and Witsel and his team came up with a nice looking sharp shoulder .22 bullet.

The new bullet was pretty much of a two-diameter lead cylinder with a weight of 40 grains. The major diameter of this projectile was .2235 inch in the section rotated by the lands. The bullet was inside lubricated and displayed two heavy and one light rolled cannalure on the exposed full diameter portion. Ahead of this came an abrupt step to a minor cylinder diameter of about .2035 inch. Then came the sharp shoulder followed by a very short section that would have been a pointed cone, had it not been abruptly terminated in a flat point. If ever a wadcutter bullet was handsome, this one certainly was! The dimensions had been carefully planned and tested to arrive at this precise design which would consistently cut a .223 inch hole in target paper. A group fired with this pretty projectile appeared to have been pierced with a paper punch rather than a pistol!

Subsequent tests proved that the standard velocity level would not give a stable delivery to the target. Some keyholing (Continued on page 72)



A search through old photos by the author produced this photo of himself and the sentinel crow described in the text. He discovered what a lot of other shooters had overlooked: the use of the "squarehead" in the hunting rifle.



Had it not been for haying for a living, history may have had another hero fall into its ranks.

THE 17 DAY HERO

By E. L. REEDSTROM

NO OTHER SINGLE EVENT in American history ever captured the public imagination more completely than "Custer's Last Stand." It came to symbolize all the chivalrous grit and determination that went into the winning of the West. Most Americans are familiar with the fact that our Army in the field did go down to devastating defeat at the hands of the Indians. Beyond that, little is actually known about the Custer debacle. There has been good reason for this lack of knowledge, as only a few facilities existed in 1876 for the accurate reporting of historical events as they occurred. A newspaper reporter accompanied Custer's party, but was killed during the battle of the Little Big Horn. Had he survived and written about the campaign, days, possibly weeks would have passed before his account could have reached the public.

In the vast, untamed wilderness of south-central Montana, a region known only a decade earlier as the Great American Desert, did this battle take place. No means then existed whereby news could be sent back to civilization other than by mounted courier, and under conditions of extreme peril at that when word of Custer's defeat finally appeared in print, the facts were misconstrued to the extent that Custer and his men had been massacred. Although it was not a massacre of those who can make little or no resistance, as the term implies, it was a bloody battle between armed antagonists, after the aggressor had attacked the Indians.

The War Department did much to confuse the issues of the campaign. It is almost impossible to get a clear, concise reconstruction of this battle from existing military annals. Only a handful of present-day historical writers have clarified to any extent, the military viewpoint of the Battle of the Little Big Horn and details of the battle have re-

mained shrouded in mystery for over 90 years. One untapped lead has been uncovered in the form of a newspaper article, in the Minneapolis Tribune, dated September 8, 1876, and headlined, "Custer's Butcher."

The Pioneer Press and Tribune published an interview with an old trapper, D. H. Ridgeley, who had spent many months in the Yellowstone country. In-between trapping and trying to elude small Indian war parties, he was finally captured late in March, 1876, and brought to Sitting Bull's camp where he was kept a prisoner until the Custer fight. His furs and possessions were taken from him and mockery was made of him by the young braves because of his thin form and long whiskers. Other than that his meals were regular and animal skins provided him warmth. Ridgeley continued with details of Indians preparing for battle.

On June 25, 1876, the day of the battle . . . the Indians stood ready for the attack, many of them clambered on the side hills overhanging Custer's line of march down the Rosebud. The Indian camp was divided by a bluff or ridge, the front of which ran well down toward the Rosebud, and in the direction of the available fords on the river. The Indians had crossed the river to camp by this ford, and Custer had followed their trail down to the water's edge. From this point of observation there were only about twenty-five teepees visible to Custer. However, there were seventy-five double teepees behind the bluff, where they could not be seen by the white soldiers. Custer attacked the smaller village and was immediately met by a force of 1,500 to 2,000 Indians in regular order of battle, every movement being made in military precision. Ridgeley stood on the side of a hill where he was kept prisoner. There he had a complete view of the battle ground, which was not more than a mile and a half (Continued on page 51)



Model '66 Winchester used by Sitting Bull

THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE

September 8, 1876

is still following the northern trail on north bank of the Yellowstone.

CUSTER'S BALAKLAVA.

ACCOUNT GIVEN BY AN EYE WITNESS.
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Sept. 8.—The "Tribune Press and Tribune" publishes an interview with an old trapper named Ridgely, who has been for a long time in the Yellowstone country and claims to have witnessed the Custer massacre, being prisoner in Sitting Bull's camp, and seeing very much of the troops. He was taken over last March, and kept in the camp of the Indians ever since, until the Custer massacre. He Bull organized not to fight the whites, but to drive miners from the hills. Previous to Custer's attack for eight days watched his forces, his division in small detachments being noted with manifestations of extreme delight.

AMBUSCADES PREPARED.

Ambuscades were immediately prepared, and while the Indians stood ready for an attack, many of them clambered on the side of the bluff, overlooking Custer's line of march. The Indian camp was divided by a bluff, a point of which ran toward the west, and in the direction of one of the available fords of the river to the camp. By this ford Custer followed their trails down to the water's edge. There were but twenty-five teepees visible to Custer, but there were seventy-five teepees visible behind the bluff, not visible.

METHOD OF THE ATTACK.

Custer attacked the smaller village, and was immediately met by 1500 or 2000 Indians, in regular military precision. Ridgely movement was made with side of the hill, where he had a complete view of half in extent. Custer began the fight in the ravine, seemed to be unhorsed at the first fire. Then the soldiers retreated toward him in the rear, and were shot down with astonishing rapidity, the commanding officer falling from his horse in the middle of the engagement, which commenced at eleven A. M., and did not last more than fifty minutes.

TORTURING THE PRISONERS.

After the massacre of Custer's forces the Indians returned to camp with six soldiers as prisoners, and delirious with joy over their success. These six were tied to stakes at a wood pile in the village, and were burned to death. While the boys fired red hot arrows into their quivering flesh until they died.

Sitting Bull was met after the fight, and he exultingly remarked that he had killed many soldiers and one general, but he did not know who he was. The squaws then armed their knives with knives, visited the battle field and robbed and mutilated the bodies of the soldiers.

RENO'S DIVERSION.

While these soldiers were being burned the Indians turned their attention to a force, evidently Reno's, attacking the lower end of the village. Ridgely says Custer's command had been silenced before a shot was fired by Reno's force, which attacked the lower end of the camp about 2 P. M. The Indians returned in the evening and said the men had fought like the devils, but Ridgely says they did not make a statement of their losses.

They said the soldiers had been driven back to the lake and they tried to shoot them.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY MORNING

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

News of the Disaster to General Custer. The Indian Trust Fund Secretary, Chandler's Facts and Figures Looked Into The Implications of It.

THE INDIAN FIGHT.
WASHINGTON, July 6.—The news of the Custer massacre was the subject of much excitement here today. The general opinion is that the disaster is a temporary success, and that the Indians will now be the more vigorous in their resistance to the forces of the United States. While great admiration is expressed for the bravery of Custer, and it is believed that his death, the opinion is that it was the result of his own unparalleled

THE INDIAN BATTLE IN MONTANA.

THE CUSTER MASSACRE CONFIRMED.

Official Dispatches from Gen. Terry—The Indian War Intensified—Excitement in Army Circles—The Latest Details.

WASHINGTON, July 6.—Not until late this afternoon did the War Department receive confirmatory reports of the news published this morning of the terrible disaster in the Indian country. The absence of official advices in advance of the press reports seemed to several army officers and to friends of those who are with Custer's command as fair ground for arguing against the absolute correctness of the reports in the morning papers, but at the same time there was a profound anxiety to hear from Gen. Sherman's headquarters, where it was considered certain that the earliest reports of any engagement that might take place would be forwarded.

For this purpose Adjutant General Townsend telegraphed early in the day for news from the Indian expedition, as also did Mr. Crosby, chief clerk of the War Department. In response to the latter the following came this afternoon from Chicago, signed by Assistant Adjutant General Drinn:

"Dispatches from General Terry, dated from his camp, mouth of Big Horn, July 2, confirms the newspaper reports of a fight on the 25th of June on the Little Big Horn and of Custer's death. Gen. Terry has fallen back to his present camp. I have sent full dispatches to the Adjutant General, who will probably communicate them. I have not yet read Gen. Terry's report of the action, or a list of the casualties."

In addition to the above a dispatch was received here today from Col. Ruggles, of Gen. Terry's staff, dated St. Paul, and addressed to Gen. Crittenden, announcing the death of his son, Lieut. Crittenden, in an Indian fight. There is the utmost anxiety in all quarters for additional news of the action, and the opinion is freely expressed among officers of the army that a war of considerable duration with the Indians is inevitable, and of these successes, it is feared, will be especially those at the present time. But at this time Gen. Sherman is attending to the relief of the numbers of the army.

Rea Clark, very much since the both in the celebration of the anniversary of the battle.

moving down to get on but did not seem to be so well as when he was at the fort. The afternoon to go to the camp and to the water's edge. The afternoon to go to the camp and to the water's edge. The afternoon to go to the camp and to the water's edge.

or the morning of the day. The afternoon to go to the camp and to the water's edge. The afternoon to go to the camp and to the water's edge.

of the morning of the day. The afternoon to go to the camp and to the water's edge. The afternoon to go to the camp and to the water's edge.





**GUNS EXCLUSIVE
BLACK POWDER
SURVEY**

WHAT ARE THEY SHOOTING?

By **GEORGE C. NONTE**

THERE ARE more muzzle-loaders being made and used today than at any time in this country since the end of our Civil War. I've said that before, and I'll say it again. You lads who question that statement either live in an isolated area or aren't looking around very much. Virtually everywhere I find increasing interest in the front loaders—readers ask how to shoot them and where to get them; dealers and jobbers tell us they need more guns to meet the demand.

You might ask "Why?" and get a different answer each

time. Why *do* shooters become interested in those slow, clumsy, dirty, smokey antiques that became obsolete well over a century ago? Well, without the benefit of expert behavioral analysis of the people involved, me included, I'd say it's the same atavism that drives so many people to collecting antiques of all kinds; driving 40-year old cars; flying antique airplanes; refurbishing old houses; etc. I doubt that anyone *really* knows why people do those things, so someone invented the word "atavism" to explain it.

In any event, today there's a latent urge in most of us to associate (to "relate") with the old, the unique, the





Black powder enthusiasts "doing their thing" are using everything from exotic foreign guns to the home made target types. The wide range of shooting irons makes the sport available to everyone.



COLT 1860 Army

those wood-and-wire airplanes will cost you the price of a three-bedroom house. The 1920-ish car will bite nearly as deep, and will cost as much to keep running as groceries for a family of four. But the old-time gun? Ah, that's a different matter—you can buy a fine, newly-manufactured Civil War musket or cap-and-ball cavalry revolver for \$50 to \$100. A sporting rifle of the same period may cost even less—or a good bit more, since a wider variety is available. And operating costs—well, five bucks worth of caps, powder, and lead will keep you shooting every weekend for a month. How does that compare with an airplane or a car? Even better, you can fondle, oil, play with the gun any time you want because it's right there in the corner closet. A few minutes pleasant work after a day's shooting puts it in perfect order, compared to hours after a short ride in one of those other contraptions.

There's no wonder, then, that the millions of people who like to step back in the past a bit are choosing the muzzle-loading gun over so many other fields. Becoming for a moment a Mountain Man in the Oregon Country as you touch off Ole Betsy can match being Von Richthofen or Barney Oldfield any day.

But, really, the subject of this dissertation is not *why* we are buying muzzle loaders—it's *what*. What are the boys (and girls) shooting, and what's available; what are the good buys; what's best for your purpose?

To that end, Guns Magazine, sent out a batch of letters and forms to muzzle-loading clubs the country wide. And then the editor handed 'em all over and said, "George, figure it out and tell us what's happening."

Even a quick look makes it clear the caplock gun, be it handgun, rifle, or shotgun is far, far more popular than the flintlock. That's understandable; caps are more sure-fire, especially when it's damp, and make loading so much easier. This doesn't mean flintlocks are passe. Our figures indicate that overall there is probably one flintlock for every 7 or 8 caplock rifles. In handguns, the disparity is much greater, since so large a percentage of shooters prefer revolvers—and they are available only in caplock persuasion.

But, to get to the meat of the matter; what is most popular? The implication (Continued on page 67)

historical. Many like to drift back in the past and relive what went on long ago. Gun buffs aren't the only ones—witness the society dame who outfits her "salon" with Louis XIV furniture; the bank president who drives a 1927 Pierce-Arrow; the high-priced corporation executive who plays Red Baron in his wood-and-wire 1920's vintage biplane; and on and on far into the night. So much so that I suspect the stability of anyone who claims to have no such interest. As for me, I like muzzle loaders, wood-and-wire airplanes, and 40-year-old automobiles.

A look at those three categories just might explain why so many of us are taking up the old-time guns. One of



REMINGTON Zouave

NEW COMBAT HANDGUN....



Top, right: In comparison, the new Asp is much shorter and more compact than the standard S & W Model 39. Note the cut-out magazine and the treatment given to the rear frame area. Above: Nonte found the Asp to be comfortable to fire. Note the slide is fully back and the empty case clearing ejection port.

THE ASP hasn't a very savory reputation, having long been considered a treacherous and deadly reptile which was the agent of the beautiful Cleopatra's suicide when the world got too rough for her. Well, now, I don't know that the lowly asp—which was, after all, just another poor critter trying to get along in a tough world—really deserves all the vituperation heaped upon its head. Why does the whole world have to pick on a poor snake just because some gal clutched him to her mammaries and he did what came naturally?

I can't recall ever having made the

acquaintance of the asp of Cleo's downfall, but I have just spent a good bit of time and effort with a modern-day asp of entirely different ilk. Today's ASP can certainly be held easily in the hand, and a gal *could* do herself in with its sting. It strikes a lot farther than the reptilian variety, and its bite is infinitely more quick and potent. But, it differs in that it is completely under the control of the holder, and is intended to preserve its companion, not eliminate him (her).

The ASP of which we speak here is a compact, almost petite, light 9mm (Parabellum; Luger) auto pistol de-

signed purely for maximum concealment. It is no 50-yard target gun, nor is it something the outdoorsman would wish to take afield for potting small or large game. It is, instead, designed purely for the professional gunman, who is just as likely to be hunted as hunter and who must combine maximum power, fire power, and concealability.

Picture if you can a double-action auto no bigger and somewhat lighter than the Walther PP, Mauser HSC, and similar .32 and .380 models. Transpose that vision over the ever-popular 9mm Smith & Wesson M-39 service

THE

ASP!

By GEORGE C. NONTE, JR.



auto. There you have the ASP, delivering nearly twice the energy of any .380 pocket auto and a good deal more than the conventional .38 Special revolver cartridge so long favored among law-enforcement types. Of course, in order to produce such power, the ASP must be fed what we now call "high-performance" 9mm Parabellum ammunition with expanding bullets, rather than the usual full-jacket fodder provided by most loading companies. Thus far we've found the Super Vel 90 grain load to be the best available in this respect.

The ASP has been brought forth by Paris Theodore, proprietor of Seventrees Ltd., 315 W. 39th St., New York City, maker of fine holsters for those professional men to whom concealment of their ever-present sidearms is of paramount importance. Theodore has long favored the auto over the revolver—in particular the S & W M-39—but deplored the fact that nothing but the underpowered .380 and .32 autos were sufficiently concealable.

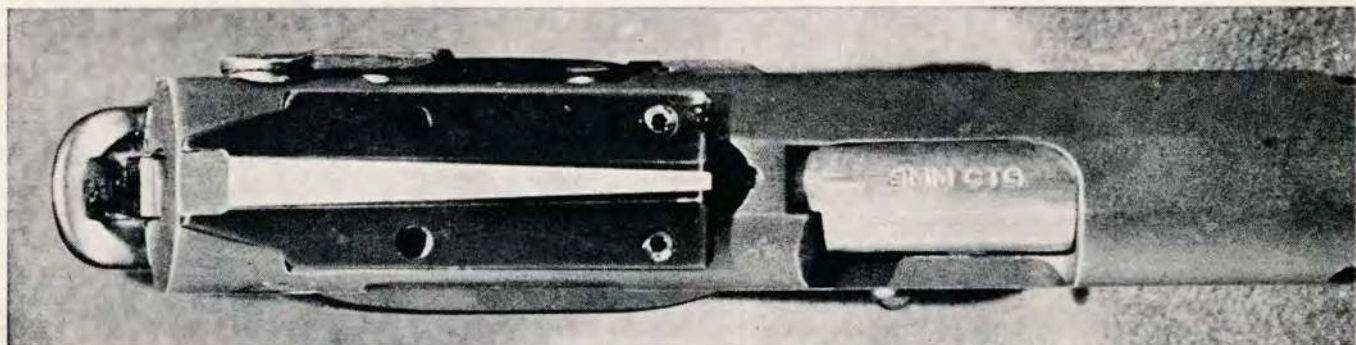
Since no existing double-action low-power design was adaptable to handle the potent 9mm Parabellum round, he chose to work the other way and re-

build the M-39 to pocket or concealable size and weight. That he was successful in this is borne out by our day-long test shooting session over in Indiana a few weeks back. That meeting was one of those three-pronged affairs that takes place at some alien location because of tight schedules of all the parties concerned. Theodore flew from New York City and I drove in to Shelbyville, Indiana, where we met Lee Jurras at the Super Vel ammunition plant. But, more of that later.

Theodore altered the M-39 in the following manner: (1) reduced barrel length to 3¼ inches and shortened the slide a comparable amount; (2) eliminated the barrel bushing à la Browning P-35; (3) shortened the captive recoil spring and guide to match slide and barrel; (4) re-profiled the barrel ahead of the locking lugs to permit free movement of the shortened slide; (5) dehorned the hammer to eliminate snagging and shortened the frame spur comparably; (6) removed the issue sights and machined the upper rear of the slide to accept a new patented combat sight (of which more later); (7) machined lightening cuts at both front



New-type combat sight used on the Asp is easy to use and is quite effective. No front sight is employed.



From above, the tapered groove of the new combat sight is clearly evident. One of the outstanding features of this sight is its simplicity. It is very effective in poor lighting conditions. Note the hammer has been shaved as well as the frame spur to prevent snagging on clothes.



Paris Theodore, designer of the Asp, has up to this point worked primarily with the design and fitting of undercover holsters.

and rear of the slide; (8) shortened the butt of the frame and the mainspring housing and partially cut away the front of the trigger guard on the right side for finger clearance; (9) shortened the magazine to fit the amputated frame and fitted it with a finger-supporting bottom piece; (10) fitted the completed gun with semi-transparent plastic stocks which permit visual determination of the number of rounds in the magazine.

The resulting combination measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ " long by $4\frac{3}{4}$ " high and weighs 20 ounces empty, 23 fully loaded with eight rounds, seven in the magazine and one in the chamber. Oh, yes, the magazine safety was disconnected, since the professional gun handler is expected to be sufficiently proficient in firearms usage to not need it and also may sometime have need of the ability to fire the lone round in the chamber while stuffing a fresh magazine into the butt. After all, magazine safeties are really for the careless uninitiated who can't remember whether there is a round in the chamber when the magazine is out. All other features of the S & W M-39 remain operative, useful, and desirable.

Having carried of personal preference a standard M-39 for many years, this scribe is well aware that it is not the most concealable hand firearm to be had. Yet, of the more powerful center-fire auto loaders, it still seems to me the best combination of power and compactness when filled with the proper fodder. It might be added that that is *not* the common full-jacket ball round supplied by most makers with bullets ranging in weight from 115 to 125 grains weight. It shoots flat and fast, but imparts little of its energy to the target.

Consequently, it was with considerable delight we learned that the ASP is fully concealable under any light, well-fitted suit coat or sport jacket in a shoulder holster, or in a hip pocket or side pants pocket, though I've never had much affection for the latter position. In addition it performed well with the so-called "hot" expanding-bullet loads.

Initial shooting into the function firing pit was with Canadian military 9mm ammunition often described as "submachine gun ammo," though it is intended equally for the standard Canadian Browning P-35 pistol. In two- and three-shot bursts, then in full-magazine (7 rounds) bursts, the ASP produced no malfunctions. No attempt was made to determine paper-punching accuracy; the gun was simply loaded, the shots fired as rapidly as possible into the pit to determine if everything worked as claimed. With the exception of a couple instances of the hammer riding down after the slide—attributable to wear on this particular gun which had already fired 7,000 rounds—functioning was perfect. It was felt advisable to use that particular ammunition inasmuch as it had been used in the development and previous test firing by the maker. Incidentally, this ammunition usually produces 31,000 to 35,000 psi chamber pressure, which is quite comparable to other foreign and domestic 9mm loads, though 33,000 is the domestic industry standard maximum average.

Of course, round nose FJ ammunition is not a real functional test for any autoloader. This is the easiest type for any auto to handle, since it doesn't inject any feeding problems. And, like I implied earlier, it is the least effective on animal targets. Consequently, we switched first to the Super Vel 112-grain soft-point load of which the same lot produced 1283 fps in a standard M-39 (4" bbl.) being used for comparison. Fifty rounds of this load were fired and no malfunctions were noted; recoil was not excessive and no handling problems were encountered. A quantity of Super Vel 90-grain hollow point loads was then laid out, and firing continued. It is established fact that this load produces more massive wounds than any other because of its unusually high velocity. Because of its short overall length, the 90-grain load is more critical in feeding than some others. Two *legitimate* malfunctions occurred during the subsequent firing of 400 rounds of the 90 grain load. Both were misfires caused by light firing pin blows, which were further caused by failure of the slide to close fully into battery as the gun became dirty from firing nearly 500 rounds without cleaning. Later, during velocity testing, one more malfunction occurred, a failure to extract, also caused by the accumulation of (Continued on page 53)



Weatherby VANGUARD

By **COL. CHARLES ASKINS**

IT WAS INEVITABLE that the Weatherby Arms Company would develop a second rifle. The new "Vanguard," as this second model is called, fills a very well recognized gap in the line. It includes all the more popular calibers not in the Weatherby magnum offering, such as the .243, the .30-06 and the .308 Win; and among the magnums it includes those hot selling cartridges like the 7mm Rem. Magnum, and .300 Win. Magnum with typical Weatherby perspicacity. While including all those calibers which sell best, he also designed a rifle which would appeal to that very considerable number of shooting men who must watch the outlay of money when they invest in a new shooting iron. The new Vanguard sells for less than two

hundred bucks; not much less, it is true, but at a most appealing \$199.50.

Roy Weatherby has had a most remarkable impact on the firearms and ammunition picture this past quarter-century. His development of the magnum rifle and cartridge has compelled the large arms-ammo companies to take notice and to commence a developmental program of their own. Weatherby, through his dynamic advancement of the family of magnum loads, has created an entirely new order of cartridge, has shown the way toward the improvement of both ballistics and firearms and has had a profound and beneficial influence on the shooting game in general. His ultra velocities have pointed up the failures



Rear of the Vanguard bolt is strongly shrouded to shield the shooter's eyes from escaping gas in the event that a primer should be punctured.



of many bullets that were never intended for the magnum velocities and this in turn has been instrumental in the improvements of our current crop of hunting and sporting bullets. His cartridges have generated higher pressures and this has contributed to improved rifle actions to withstand those elevated psi readings. The presence of this insurance-salesman-turned-rifle-maker have been so considerable, I seriously question if any individual in the game today has had the impact of this man.

In the beginning the Weatherby line was made up on the Mauser action. About 10 years ago these actions gave way to the first true Weatherby design. This was the Mark V, designed by Weatherby and made by Sauer & Sohn of Suhl, West Germany. This Mark V action features multiple locking lugs on a large diameter bolt, countersunk at its head and fluted to give smooth and easy operation. With a short-lift bolt, possible because of the multi-locking head, the action is notable for soft, friction-free operation and utter dependability. The trigger is an advanced design, adjustable for travel, weight and backlash.

What probably contributed even more to the popularity and wide acceptance of the new Weatherby, however, was not the Mark V action as much as the stock. This furniture was just as typically Weatherby-original-design as the action. It rang the bell with shooters everywhere. Characterized by an elegance of line, this racy, good looking stock was promptly copied not only by the big arms makers but by all the custom stock-makers in the country. The Weatherby stock features the conservative approach. The comb is a slope-away Monte Carlo, the cheekpiece is comfortable but unobtrusive. The pistol grip is comfortably shaped and is tastefully checkered. There is a diamond inlay, the Weatherby trademark, in the butt of the grip. The forend is squared-off somewhat, but is not rounded after older designs and has distinctive corners to it. The forend tip is invariably of a contrasting exotic wood. It is squared off and slopes forward at its very end. The finish is a gleaming, lacquered surface that does not appeal to old aficionados of the rubbed oil coating, but seems to appeal to the majority of the new breed of shooting men.



The stock of the new Vanguard rifle is quite graceful and comfortable. Squared forend and checkering add to beauty.



The bolt is removed with a conventional bolt release on the left side of receiver, which also contains the bolt stop and the ejector.



The bolt head has two large locking lugs and a countersunk face with a sturdy, claw-type extractor and guide rib which eliminates wobble.

That is the Weatherby stock and it is the most widely copied of any walnut today. If it was popularized by its inclusion on the new Mark V rifle a decade ago, it can also be said that it, in turn, did more to popularize the rifle than any other one thing.

The new Vanguard rifle is a spitting-image replica of the Mark V. Not to say that it has the same action, for it doesn't. But just to stand the two rifles up together and look at them you are immediately struck by the strong family resemblance. This is due not so much because of a similarity between the receivers, which there is, but more because of the sameness of the stocks. The barrel on the Vanguard is slick, completely without sights. It is 24 inches in length, and contours follow the familiar Mark V lines. The tube is hammer-forged and the company guarantees 3-shot groups of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or better at 100 yards. This is better than any of the other arms makers offer on a hunting rifle. It has four lands and grooves and a 1-in-10" twist. It will be chambered for the .243 Win. .308 Win. .30-60. .264 Win. Magnum, 7mm Rem. Magnum and .300 Win. Magnum. If the demand indicates the need, undoubtedly Weatherby will add other cartridges to this offering.

The action is the time-honored Mauser with some mod-

ern touches. There are two big locking lugs at the front end of the bolt which has a countersunk face. There is a sturdy claw-type extractor and the ejector, in the conventional location back in the receiver bridge, passes through the left-hand lug to strike the case rim. The striker fall is .30" and is fast and positive. The head of the striker is shrouded to shield the gunner's face from escaping gas. There is a gas port in the left wall of the receiver ring and another in the bolt behind the right lug. The bolt has been cured of the wobble so common to Mauser actions by the addition of a guide rib which eliminates cramping. The trigger is an accessory which looks suspiciously like it came from Canjar or Timney. It is adjustable, after pulling the action out of the stock, for weight of pull down to 3 pounds, length of travel and backlash. The rifle field tested had a pull which was as clean as a GP movie and broke precisely at $3\frac{1}{4}$ lb.

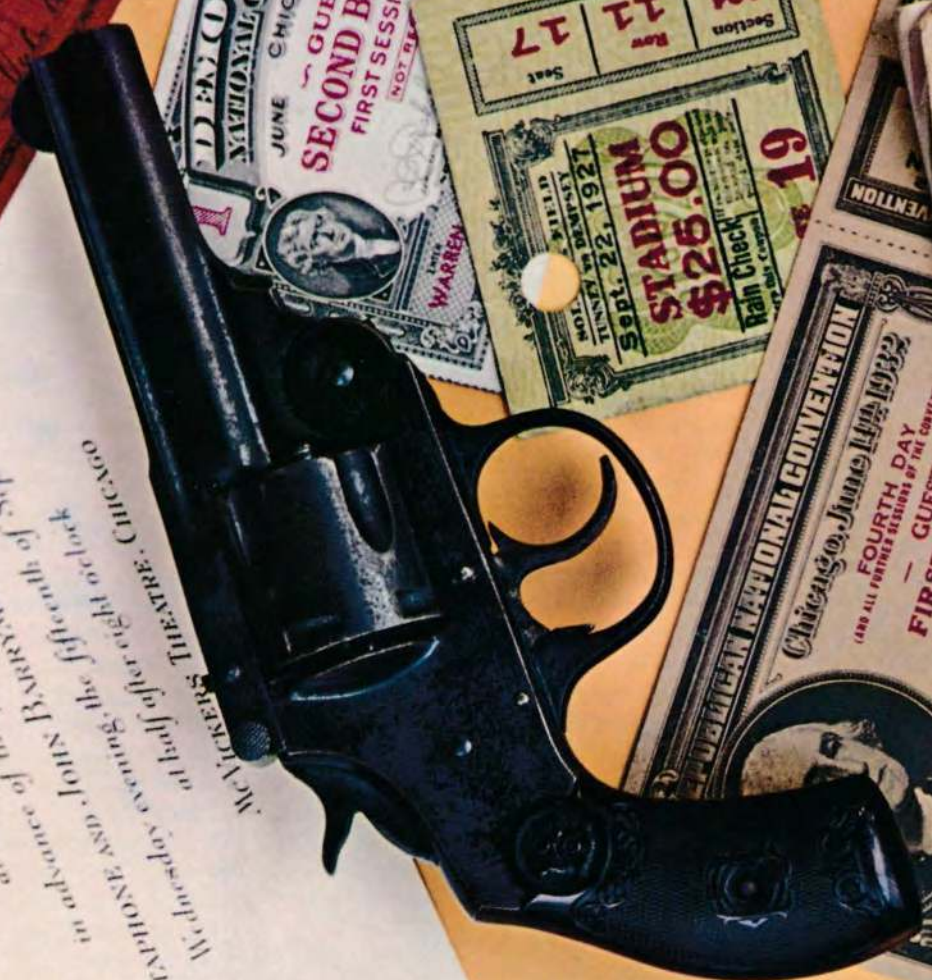
There is a side safety which locks the trigger but does not lock the bolt. This is an advantage, for the shooter can put the safety into its locked position and then unload the rifle. There is a tongue which protrudes about $\frac{1}{8}$ " rearward when the rifle is cocked. It is located under the bolt shroud and can be checked by feel at night when it cannot be seen.

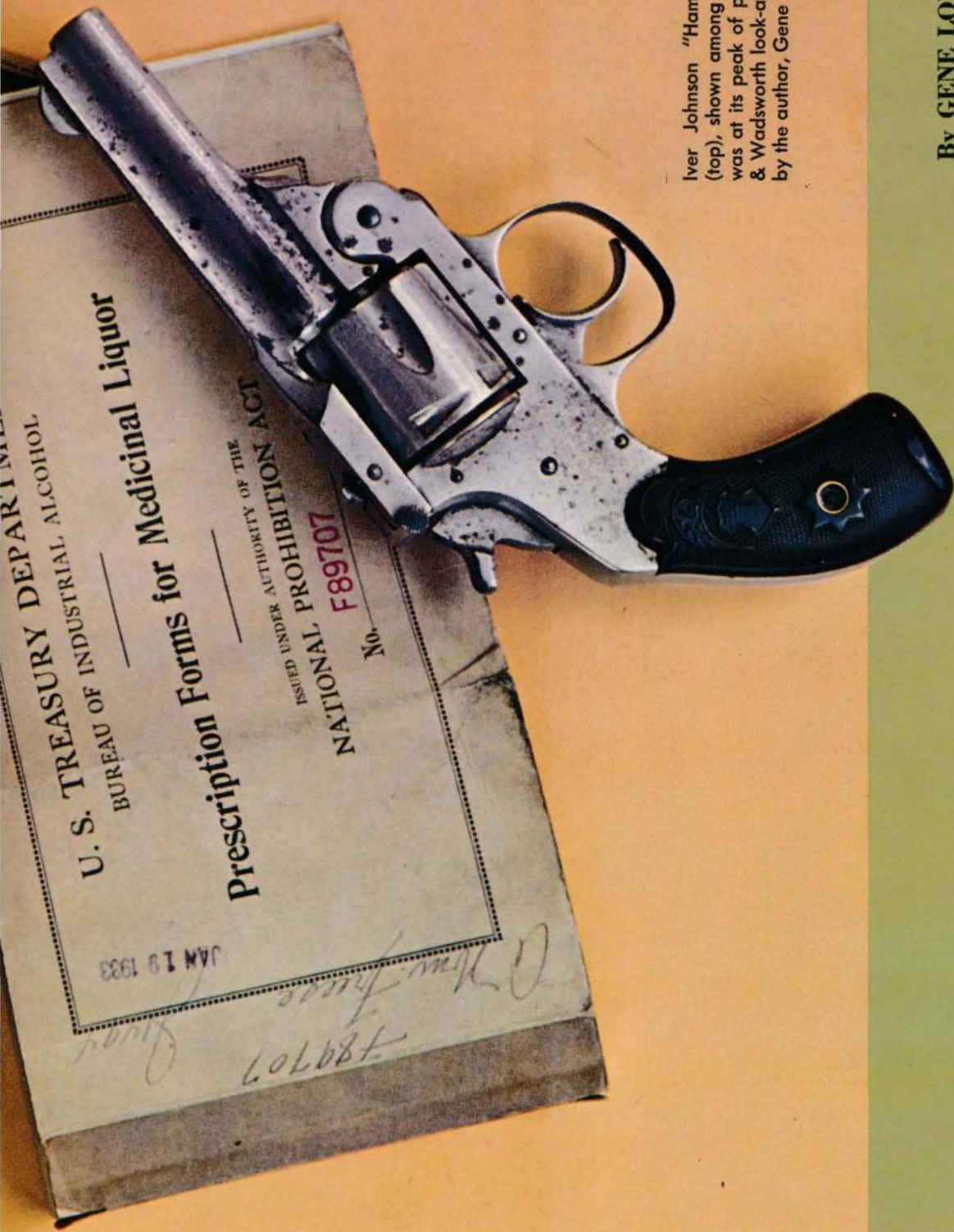
(Continued on page 58)



Equipped with the Weatherby Imperial 4X-10X scope on Buehler mounts, the rifle makes an extremely attractive combination for all-around hunting.

The Messrs Warren
request the honour of your presence
at a guest performance
of *WARRIOR* at the
McVickers Theatre, Chicago
Wednesday evening, the 15th of September
at half after eight o'clock
in advance of the public premiere
of a guest performance
of *WARRIOR* at the
McVickers Theatre, Chicago





Iver Johnson "Hammer the Hammer" revolver (top), shown among mementos of an era when it was at its peak of popularity. Below, a Forehand & Wadsworth look-alike of the same period. Photo by the author, Gene Lovitz.

By **GENE LOVITZ**

The 100 Years of **IVER JOHNSON**

THE IVER JOHNSON name has a ring of Americana matched only by the name of Sam Colt. In 1971, the Iver Johnson's Arms & Cycle Works celebrate their Centennial. From their first gun, in 1871 (the "Uncle Sam") to the present, the Johnson firm has manufactured over 8,000,000 units, ranging from revolvers to toy guns to bicycles, from handcuffs to roller skates to baby strollers, to motorcycles and shotguns. Today, their .22 "Sidewinder" and "Viking" revolvers are popular. In the future, they plan to concentrate more in the manufacture of shotguns. After 100 years, this arms manufacturer is still going strong!

The 100 Years of IVER JOHNSON

The founder, Iver Johnson, had a dream: to mass produce firearms by using automated machinery. He envisioned controlled assembly lines that would produce precision products. A hundred years ago, when most products were crafted by hand, it was a revolutionary approach.

Johnson, in partnership with Martin Bye, established gunmaking facilities in 1871 during the carpetbagger era following the Civil War. Both were widely recognized as expert mechanics and gunsmiths. Both served apprenticeships with the top gunmakers in Europe. Iver Johnson, like many others, fled his native Norway for the freedom and opportunity of America. In the United States, Johnson, along with Bye, had worked side by side with Ethan Allen (the Revolutionary War hero who had led the "Green Mountain Boys" of Vermont) when Allen was manufacturing 'cane guns' and the famous weapon of the "49-ers," the Allen & Thurber "Pepper-box."—With this background, they set up shop in two small rooms in the rear of a Church St. building in Worcester, Mass. They employed three helpers. Iver Johnson had just turned thirty.

Since muzzle-loaders were the "Magnums" in those days, the new firm of Johnson & Bye first produced a muzzle loading percussion pistol of about .50 cal., in barrel lengths of 2, 4, and 6 inches. They called their first gun the "Uncle Sam." Later that year, they produced the "Prairie." It was similar to the "Uncle" except that it was finished with a nickle frame and the blued barrels measured 2, 3, and 4 inch lengths. Before the year was out, Johnson & Bye had a complete line of handcuffs and

leg irons on the market for the police departments, and two 'snubs', the "Star Vest Pocket" in .22 RF and the "Eclipse" in .22 and .32 RF. Both were single-shot breech loading pistols with swing-out barrels of 2¼ inches, weighing only 4 oz. each.

Toward the end of their first year of business, Messrs. Johnson and Bye decided that the breech-loaders were the coming thing, since they had confidence that breech loading ammo would be improved and replace the muzzle-loaders. The "Star Vest Pocket" and "Eclipse" models became popular overnight. Hundreds of thousands of these portable little guns were sold. The success of these two models cannot be over emphasized. They were fundamental to the future success of Iver Johnson. If they had failed to sell, the company may well have gone out of business. Their vision to produce pocket breech-loaders paid off and the profits from sales were used to pay for drilling and reaming machinery they originally purchased and to purchase additional machinery.

By 1873, the business had grown and Johnson and Bye bought a nearby 5-story building. The most modern, automated screw machines were installed and they began production of the cartridge revolvers that would gain them worldwide fame. First came the 1873 "Favorite" SA revolver, in .22, .32, .38 and .44 RF. It was available in either plain or engraved models, with pearl or ivory grips. It had a fluted cylinder with an octagon barrel. Variations were later produced. The 1873 "Tycoon" had a short plain cylinder and was chambered for the "shorts" in the same calibers. The 1874 "Encore" and "Favorite Navy" models had round or semi-octagon barrels. The 1875 "Smoker" variation had a "Russian Handle" with a



Model 1879 swing-out cylinder in .38 S & W.

Are You a Menace to Criminals?

If householders were required by law to own and know how to use revolvers, burglary would cease. It is an act of good citizenship to make crime dangerous—an encouragement of crime to remain defenceless.

The IVER JOHNSON can be fired as fast as you can pull the trigger—and that's faster than you can aim—but it can not be fired unless you *do pull the trigger*. Accidental discharge is rendered absolutely impossible by the famous "Hammer the Hammer" safety device. The IVER JOHNSON is accurate, dependable, beautifully made, and above all—safe.

At Hardware and Sporting Goods Stores—\$6.00

IVER JOHNSON'S ARMS & CYCLE WORKS, 120 River Street, Pittsburg, Mass.
 New York: 211 Chambers St. Pacific Coast Branch: Phil F. Roberts Co., 121 Market St., San Francisco

IVER JOHNSON

One of the early ads appearing in a magazine demonstrating the "Hammer the Hammer" safety feature on the line of Iver Johnson revolvers.

"sheathed trigger" (trigger guard), cal. .38 S&W. Then came the 1875 "Defender" in a 2 1/4" barrel chambered for the "shorts."

A toy cap pistol was modeled after a German product and manufactured by Johnson & Bye in 1877. It not only exploded a paper cap but it also spun a top at the same time. It was an inventive idea but think of what might have started if this variety idea had been pursued—a cap pistol that not only exploded a paper cap but, for instance, played Yankee Doodle Dandie.

By the end of 1877, the first DA revolver produced by Iver Johnson, the "Old Hickory," hit the market. It was a solid frame, in .22, .32, .38 and .44 calibers. The "Eagle" sometimes is credited as the first DA made by Johnson & Bye. Documentation proves otherwise. The next year, 1878, the "Eagle," the second DA, was produced in .38 S&W. It was also the year when the first "Eureka" and "Champion" air pistols and the "Excelsior" air gun were marketed.

In 1879, the "Aurora" was introduced, a pistol designed to discharge rockets and fireworks. A line of carpentry tools was added. This was a natural move since, in the old days before IRS intervention, guns were sold in hardware stores. Ice and roller skates were also produced that year and it was also the year Johnson & Bye made their first shotgun, the "Champion Side Trap." This shotgun was the first single breech loading gun ever produced with the hammer set in the center of the frame 'tang'. It was sold in 10 and 12 gauge.

1880 brought the improved "Top Snap Champion" breech loading shotgun. It had a rebounding lock and a fore-end fastener to enable

(Continued on page 62)



Both the "Eclipse" and the "Petite" were designed as undercover or purse guns for small hands. The cigarette gives a good comparison of their sizes. "Eclipse" is shown at the top and "Petite" below.



Uncle Sam 1871



Boston Bull Dog



Model 1900



Swift Hammer D.A. 1890



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Vanguard Rifle

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Simply mail a plain post card with the required information to GUNS Magazine TODAY and you will be eligible for the February "Gun of the Month" drawing for the brand new Weatherby Vanguard Rifle. This second rifle in the Weatherby line includes all the more popular calibers not in the older Weatherby magnum offering. The action is the time-honored Mauser with some modern touches. The stock has an excellent fitting of the recoil lug, the action tang and the trigger assembly to the wood.

For additional information about the complete line of Weatherby Guns write to: Weatherby Inc., 2781 Firestone Blvd., South Gate, Calif. 90280. Ask about the new Vanguard.

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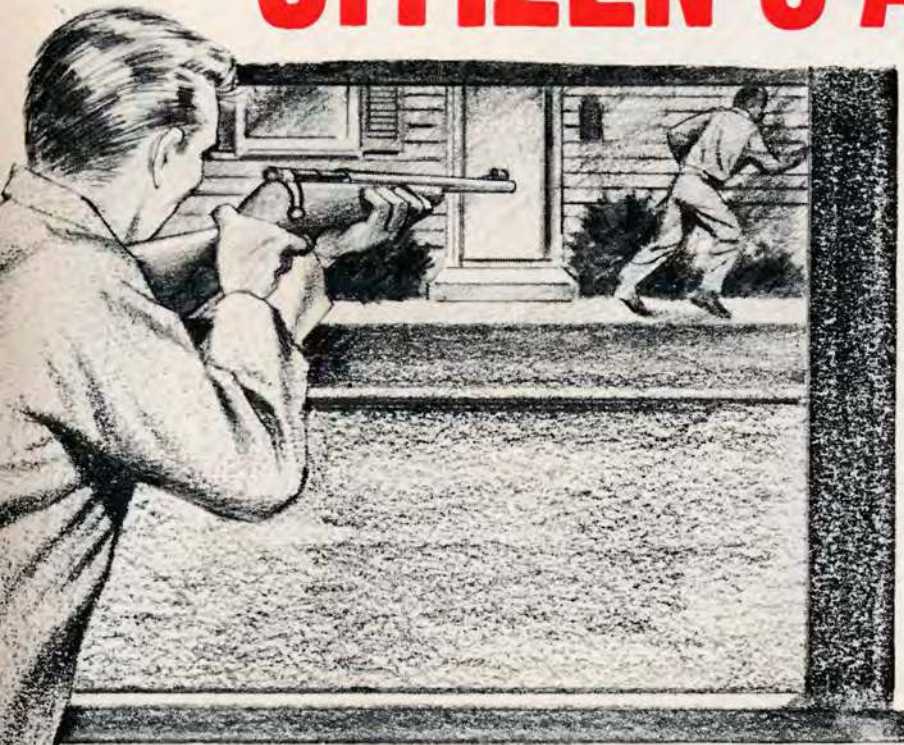
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G M FEBRUARY GUNS Magazine

SAMPLE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITIZEN'S ARREST...



*SHOULD
YOU SHOOT
TO KILL?*

By JOHN WARREN GILES

RECENTLY, in Pennsylvania, a man was convicted of murder in the second degree, and was sentenced from 2½ to 10 years. The man appealed but the judgment was affirmed.

How did this come about? During the trial, the prisoner testified that while sleeping in his home, he was awakened by a noise; he found a set of double doors on the side of his house pushed in about 8 inches which were kept from opening completely by an attached chain. When he looked out the window, he saw an unknown individual come out of an alleyway next to his home and proceed to a house across the street, where he "started fixing around the windows." The individual then ran into an alleyway as an automobile came down the street. Shortly thereafter, he saw this same individual monkeying around the windows of another house across the street. He sent his son out the back door of his house to notify the police. He then got his deer rifle, opened the front door and went out on the doorstep, intending to restrain the prowler until the police arrived. The prowler then started to run, and he yelled "Halt or I will shoot." When the prowler continued to run, he fired a shot in the direction of a tree, intending not to kill or injure the prowler, but only to frighten him. As a matter of fact, he

did kill the prowler with that one shot.

This man, now serving time in jail, might well have been you or I, and in this age of universal crime, it is extremely important for each of us to know how far we can go as private individuals, to effect the arrest of a person we see committing a felony. Can we shoot or kill the felon?

This Pennsylvania court said that this killing here was not justified and they laid down these principles: (1) that statutory expansion of crimes constituting felonies had rendered inadequate, for modern law, the common-law principle of justifying the killing of a felon to prevent his escape; (2) that, henceforth in Pennsylvania, there must be three prerequisites to justify the use of deadly force by a private person to prevent the escape of a felon. They are that the felony was either treason, murder, voluntary manslaughter, mayhem, arson, robbery, common law rape, burglary, kidnapping, assault with intent to murder, rape or rob, or a felony which normally threatens death or great bodily harm; that a felony had in fact been committed, and that the victim was the person who had committed it. Was this now prisoner supposed to call his lawyer and be advised by him as to the Pennsylvania law, before firing a shot in the prowler's direction to prevent his escape?

It would seem so to him now, as he languishes in jail.

This whole question of a private citizen's right to deter criminals is particularly serious in that if you do happen to kill an escaping felon you may be civilly liable in an action by his survivors for his wrongful death.

What is the answer and how should you proceed if you are a witness to a felony and observe the felon making his escape? Of course, you have the option of doing nothing and letting the felon escape, thereby incurring no legal liability whatsoever. But crime in this country is so rampant and dangerous that the apprehension of felons should be the active concern of all citizens. Let us look at another case in another state which has considered the problem.

In a recent case in the State of Washington, a tavern keeper was convicted of manslaughter. He had been charged with murder in the second degree. On his appeal, the Supreme Court of Washington had these observations. One evening in September, the deceased (the felon killed) a sailor in uniform, and his older male companion, travelling in an automobile, stopped near the tavern. They parked the car and each entered the tavern, although not at the same time. The dead felon (Continued on page 56)



Teal— Duck Hunter's Delight!

By BERT POPOWSKI

**These little puddle-jumpers
are one of the most delicious
members of the duck family.**

DOCTOR RICHARD CROWDER and I snuck up through the weeds on the face of a tiny western stock dam. We were trying to be as stealthy as four Indians. Beyond the dam we could hear a thin piping, somewhat reminiscent of spring peeper frogs, interspersed with equally faint and high-pitched quacks. It didn't sound like game that should attract two full-grown hunters, but we were actually after the owners of those falsetto voices.

A minute later, shotguns clenched firmly in our fists, we peeked over the top of the dam. There was a flirt of a dozen hurtling bodies, leaving the water as if it was a trampoline, and Richard and I smoked away at them. Three shots apiece later we looked at each other and grinned in astonished frustration. Not only hadn't we knocked over any game, we hadn't even cut a feather! But that's teal hunting.

Richard kept watching those feathered whizzers but I was jamming fresh loads into my Ithaca. That flock buzzed off maybe 300 yards, cut a tight circle and was barreling back at us before I had a chance to warn him to reload. At 35 yards I again emptied my Ithaca and dropped just one bird. Richard, with time enough to chamber only one shell, threw that load in a swishing swing and dropped

a one-shot double. That, also, is teal hunting.

I suppose I could claim that we were rusty after some months when our shotguns had hibernated in their cases. But any experienced teal hunter would recognize that as a howling alibi. Teal are such tiny targets that there's plenty of missing space around them and their wings beat at such a rapid pace that they look as if they're flying thrice as fast as they actually are. The combination makes for considerable confusion.

Richard and I were only two of some millions of Central and Mississippi flyway hunters who got a 1965 bonus—nine early-season days of nothing but the swallow-swift green-wing and blue-wing teal. The wee birds migrate so early that previous traditional duck seasons found most of them gone from the northern tiers of states. Too, with excellent nesting and rearing conditions during the spring and summer, teal ducks, especially the blue-winged form, produced the highest latter-day population of the entire web-footed clan. Since they can't be stockpiled the Fish and Wildlife Service sensibly offered the special season to gather in some of this waterfowl surplus. Richard and I were out there to collect a share.

Actually there are four races of teal

ducks which nest, wholly or in part, on the North American continent. Two of those wear green wing scapulars or wing patches; the standard green-wing, which is the very smallest of all ducks, and the European teal, which breeds in the north but joins Siberian relatives in migrating down the Asiatic coast, but is virtually unknown in the United States.

The other two teals both wear blue wing scapulars. These are the standard blue-wing, which is distinctly a New World species, though at least 95 per cent of them winter outside of the United States; and the cinnamon teal, which gets its name from the drakes' distinctly reddish underparts. Cinnamon teal range is confined almost entirely to west of the Rocky Mountains, though occasional rare strays are found in the Central flyway. The only cinnamon teal I've seen in the Central flyway were during the northbound spring migrations, and then only a couple of mated pairs.

The standard green-wing, blue-wing and cinnamon teal have been standard fare on the waterfowling calendar for generations but chiefly as incidental ducks, bagged while hunters were actually after larger ducks. But during the special 1965 teal season, although all three of these forms were legal, their migrations virtually guaranteed that only the usual green-

and blue-wings would be harvested.

Teal are well satisfied with the smallest random bits of water. They may be jumped from small potholes which are alive only after drenching rains or from streams or irrigation ditches so small that a man can easily step across them. On larger waters they prefer slow, shallow and meandering streams to fast water and when found on lakes they're generally close to, or on sheltered shorelines. Teal just don't like to buck either wind or current.

All teal have very similar flight and decoying habits. They're reckless little guys and often make several passes over very indifferent decoy spreads. If shot at at such times they frequently wheel right around and come back to alight amid the floating bodies of their shot relatives. In flight they tend to jam up in rather raggedly compact flocks and it is no great feat to drop two or more birds with a single shot; sometimes as many as four or five will fall. Thus, in view of today's lean limits of four birds per day, the shot-gunner has to be careful lest he have a costly "accident" in over-filling his bag limit.

Richard wasn't particularly pleased with his one-shot double. He loves to shoot and would much rather miss a few, or take his birds one by one, to filling half his limit with a single blast. So, when I complimented him on his double and mentioned he needed only one more such shot he regarded that lean prospect rather sourly.

In spite of their diminutive size—it takes an exceptional teal, very likely a fat blue-wing, to top a pound—and their piping voices, they're favorites with waterfowlers who like to eat the game they bag. During the days of more generous bag limits I've hunted with a good many oldtimers who deliberately planned a teal hunt or two for the sake of collecting a roaster-full of such delicious food. Later on in the season they'd take the big northern mallards and the larger divers. But for the finest eating ducks, they concentrated their hunts on the fortnight or two when teal were migrating through.

Every experienced hunter knows that any game eats just about as it feeds. This is particularly true of the aquatic game forms. If such fabled gourmet delights as canvasbacks and redheads have fed on mollusks they're about as vile tasting as cormorants or pelicans—both 100 per cent fish eaters. It is only when these large divers cleanse their flesh of this fish taste, by feeding on wild celery and eel grass, that they become gastronomic de-



These teal are characteristically paddling around on a very small pond.

lights. Even the common mallards, both black ducks and greenheads, when forced to feed on animal life, are rank to the discriminating human palate.

Thus the main reason for the excellence of teal flesh is that they're chiefly vegetarians. Of all teals the green-wings are the most fastidious feeders. Their regular diet consists of at least 90 per cent vegetative food, with the blue-wings averaging around 70 per cent. Like many other of the puddler or pond ducks the green-wing feeds by tipping up so it can reach submerged foods in shallow waters. But the blue-wings generally float on the surface and their food is limited by what they find there, plus what they can reach by submerging their heads and necks. All teal forms are also nimble on their feet and frequently walk ashore to feast on any fruit and mast they can find there.

Richard's eyes popped when I immediately started plucking our first teal. "Hey, I want to get some pic-



The main reason for good taste is that teal are chiefly vegetarians.

tures!" he said. "They won't look like much in the nude."

"Fire away," I said. "But keep your gun handy. This pond is so small we can shoot clear across it and it's crawling with prime teal grub. We may shortly have some callers. Just remember you're entitled to only one more one-shot double. If I'm going to pluck our ducks I intend to get my share of the shooting."

"What do I get for taking the pictures?" Richard horsetraded.

"Plucked ducks," I said. "I'll even dress 'em out, at home."

One of the rough lessons I learned some 50 years ago was that waterfowl are exceedingly hard to pluck when they're cold; i.e., largely free of their normal body temperature. Their feathers set very solidly then. But while they're warm the plumage rolls off with ridiculous ease. Plucking each bird then is thus a matter of a very few minutes.

During that era, when waterfowl limits were generous, guess who was nominated and unanimously elected to pluck the ducks and geese that were eaten at hunting camps? When I got a little older and smarter and had a gun of my own I shortened those chores by plucking the waterfowl I bagged as soon as they were retrieved. From that I learned that the chore was much simpler when the birds were warm. That also left me more time to devote to my personal hunting.

While Richard trundled off to the car to get his camera gear I thumb-

(Continued on page 54)



By DICK MILLER

THERE WAS high drama during the final fifty targets in the skeet event at the 40th World Shooting Championships at Phoenix, Arizona. There was high drama and tension every day in the World Championships, which outranked even the Olympics in the world of shooting, but the build-up and finish of the skeet championships was more visible and spine-tingling for the spectators.

The first act of the drama was unfolded when Evgeny Petrov of Russia broke the first 150 straight during the previous days shooting. A large crowd of Arizona spectators and delegations from more than sixty countries were on hand in the hope that they might be present when the medal winner, who broke 198 of 200 in the Olympics at Mexico City, broke the first official 200 straight in the biggest of all shooting championships.

Expectations rose even higher when Petrov did break his first twenty-five of the final fifty, then the crowd had to conjecture and wait until all the contestants had broken twenty-five before Petrov completed what was to be an historic skeet round.

Friendly wagering did break out when the wind quickened later in the afternoon, and the targets became even more tricky on the exposed Phoenix Trap & Skeet Club installation.

The fateful hour did arrive after what seemed an interminable wait, and Petrov polished off the 25 targets, wind or no wind. One gasp went up from the crowd when one of his last targets was barely broken, and only slowly fell into two visible pieces.

When he had broken the two hundred straight for a new world record, Mr. Petrov proved that sportsmanship is not confined to any one bloc of nations. In the Babe Ruth tradition, Petrov tipped his hat to the crowd's standing ovation, but when the ovation went over-long, he asked the crowd to be quiet so that his squad mates could finish their targets.

During a press conference after the

smashing gold medal victory, the 32-year old mechanical engineer from Moscow revealed that he became interested in shooting clay targets because of his liking for hunting elk, wild boar, and rabbit. He said (through an interpreter) that any one in the Soviet Union who wished to compete in high level international shooting events could apply for training. Petrov himself shoots about eight months of the year, excluding the cold winter months, and revealed that he shoots about ten thousand rounds per month at practice during the eight month shooting season.



The second act of the drama on the last day of clay target events in Phoenix was even more gripping and prolonged than Petrov's two hundred straight.

When all the shooting was completed, Petrov was alone at 200, but there was a gaggle of gunners deadlocked at 196. The 196 quartet included Petrov's team-mate Ioury Tsuranov from Russia, France's 20-year old star Elie Penot, Jim Tiner of the United States, and James Neville of Great Britain.

The crowd quickly warmed to the prospect of four great nations competing for the remaining medals and big hunks of national prestige. In addition, the four men in the shoot-off provided a feature writer's dream.

First of all, Tsuranov and Tiner were right handed, with Penot and Neville left-handed, which provided a rather unusual mix for this caliber championship shoot-off. The shooting styles of the four men could not have been more evenly divided if the job had been done by computer. Tsuranov and Tiner, the right handers were no-nonsense shooters who walked to the post, put their gun quickly to the hip, and called for the target with no lost time or motion.

Penot and Neville, the two southpaws, acted like the baseball cliché regarding southpaws. Both fidgeted, took many false passes with the gun, and seemingly took forever to get off their shots.

Penot was easily the sartorial sensation of the entire shoot. Like twenty-year olds in many countries, his hair was longer than most girl's, and he had to brush it from his eyes before almost every shot. He wore a brilliant tee-shirt, and a pair of striped slacks which made the famous brilliant colors of the Southwest look drab by comparison. Tsuranov and Neville wore conventional shirts and slacks, and could have passed for a club member at any skeet club in the United States. Tiner wore the colorful blazer of the United States team, but was otherwise dressed conventionally. When the fateful shootoff started, the United States and United Kingdom were united on the sidelines. Jim Tiner had to carry the albatross of a missed first target throughout the round, and Neville missed the in-comer from station seven, of all targets to miss, for disaster.

Then the dog-fight began. Tsuranov and Penot had to endure (along with the tense crowd) three more pressure-packed rounds. With the sun's shadows lengthening, it seemed as if the two men might have to shoot another day to settle the medal disposition. The door was opened for Penot when Tsuranov missed low six in the third round, but Penot obliged by missing the same target, and nothing was settled. In the final round, Penot again bobbled on station six, while Tsuranov seemed to get stronger, and ground out a perfect twenty-five for the silver medal.

The sparkling performances of Petrov and Tsuranov along with steady shooting by their team-mates, Benesh and Serov, gave Russia the team championship. The United States team of Gilbert, Morrison, Rodale, and Tiner took second. Third place went to France's team of Penot, Guadagnini, Swec, and Melinette.

The remaining countries of the seventeen nations who entered skeet

teams finished in this order: Denmark, Italy, Poland, Great Britain, Japan, Spain, Peru, Colombia, Chile, Canada, Argentina, Korea, Australia, and Venezuela.

The United States fared better in the Clay Pigeon (trap) championships with our quartet of Columbo, Krapf, Stafford and Zobell winning the team gold medal. They were followed by France, Italy, West Germany, Spain, East Germany, Great Britain, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Korea, and Australia in that order.

Three International trapgunners deadlocked at 197 of the 200 fifteen-trap layout targets, and in the resulting shoot-off, M. Carrega of France took the gold medal, and his countryman Baud annexed the silver, with the United States's fine young Larry Stafford missing one target in the second stanza of the shoot-off for third place. D. Krapf of the United States and P. Senichev of Russia were close with 195 each. Biggest disappointment of the entire 40th World Championships for many people was that no woman shooter from the host country United States entered the Ladies' International Skeet event. ISU rules require that there be ten competitors before medals may be awarded, and it is very much to the credit of Elizabeth Von Soden from West Germany, Reta Sanderlin of Canada, and Bina Avrile of Italy that they shot the difficult International skeet targets to provide an entry list, and in the process subjected themselves to much embarrassment.

Following Mrs. Korchinskaia and Nuria Ortiz were Kari Linder from Norway, Mercedes Garcia of Venezuela, Laura Fantauzzi of Italy, Ruth Jordan from West Germany, Elena Shebassheva of Russia, and Myrna Herbert of Canada.

I will have some comments on International Skeet in the United States, and especially in the matter of woman shooters, whom we have produced in other events with outstanding performances, in a future column, after I have mulled and checked some possibilities, some of which were suggested at the World Championships hosted by the NRA and Phoenix in 1970.

This column would not be complete if I failed to report with pride that personable Tom Gilbert, coach of the American skeet team, is to be honored by election to the permanent Technical Committee of the International Shooting Union, which is a signal honor for Tom and the United States.



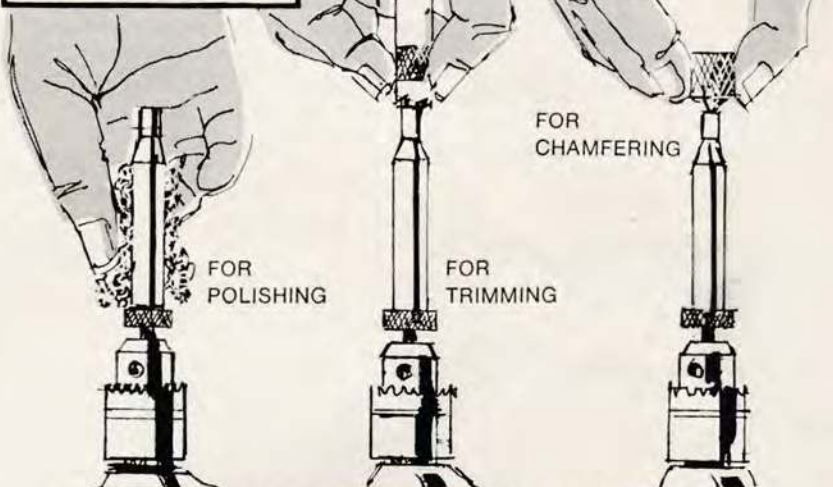
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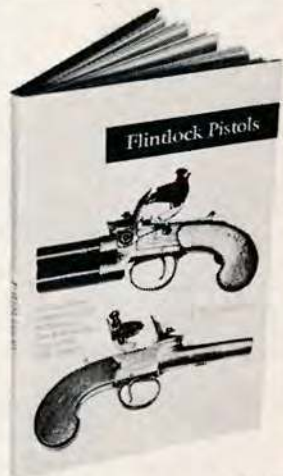
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SHARPENING KNIVES AND SHOP TOOLS

(Continued from page 27)

by Russell's Arkansas Oilstones of Fayetteville, Ark. These relatively fast cutting stones are selected for the proper hardness which will combine fast cutting action with relatively fine edge sharpening. Such a stone will get shop tools such as stocking chisels sharp enough for most jobs with the possible exception of carving tools used for extra fine relief carving.

For most sharpening jobs an oilstone two inches wide by four inches long will do, but a six inch stone is more convenient. Holding the blade at about a twenty degree angle to the stone draw it *edge first* across the face of the stone. In the same motion draw the knife toward you so that all the edge will contact the stone somewhere during the cycle. Now reverse the blade and take an identical pass in the opposite direction. Continue this back and forth action until the blade is evenly sharpened from rear to point. It is important that you maintain the same angle (or pitch) with each pass or the stone will be cutting at different places and causing a rounded edge.

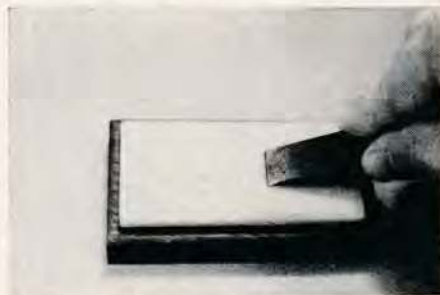


Sharpening outside edge of a gouge.

Also it is important that the stone have some type of oil or even water during the sharpening operation. The fluid will hold the metal particles in suspension and keep them from clogging up the pores in the stone. A clogged stone cuts poorly and too, the metal particles will build up in a tiny clump that will cause a nick in the blade's edge. The type of lubrication fluid is not really so important so long as *something* is used. Light oil such as gun oil is fine. Even with the best of care a stone will sometimes "load up" and require cleaning to get it back in best condition. Just give it a good scrubbing with water and a stiff brush. If it is really bad, a dash of Old Dutch will help things along.

Straight edged chisels can be sharpened up in jig time with a simple back

and forth motion on the oilstone. However be sure to sharpen from the beveled side only and at the same, or near the same, angle as the bevel. Also keep an even straight down pressure as an uneven pressure will cause the side receiving the most pressure to become somewhat rounded and you'll wind up with a



Back and forth motion on a chisel.

curved edge. If you don't like the back and forth technique a circular motion will do just as well, just watch the angle, keep the pressure even and the stone well oiled.

This sharpening from one side only will cause a fine bead or "wire edge" to build up on the edge and curl toward the side which is not being honed. This wire edge can be removed by a light pass or two with the flat side of the chisel toward the stone. It can also be removed by alternately drawing each side across a strip of clean, smooth leather. You can test for a wire edge by drawing the edge of the blade backwards across the thumbnail. A wire edge will scrape up a fine curl of whatever it is thumbnails are made of. Keep honing on the leather until the blade slides freely across the nail.

For curved gouges, Norton Abrasives Co. manufactures an India stone with a curved surface which can be used for sharpening both the inside and outside edges. As most gouges are beveled on the outside it is possible to sharpen them with a side to side motion on the concave side of the curved India stone or even on a flat Arkansas stone. The wire edge which builds up on the inside of the curve can be cleared away with a bit of leather wrapped around a dowel or, better yet, a round Arkansas stone such as available from Russell's. Sharpening curved gouges and carving tools is a tedious task and it is best to give the tool a frequent touching up with the


stone rather than let it get too dull. Then again, this is the best advice for any cutting tool.

Veining chisels can be sharpened just like you'd sharpen a flat chisel providing the bevel is on the outside. For getting at an inside bevel you'll need a knife edge slipstone to get down in the tight corner. These are also available from Russell's.

For extra sharp edges for fine carving, a bevel of less than twenty degrees will take a sharper edge. However, the lesser the angle, the more delicate the edge. Since these delicate edges do not hold an edge very well they must be sharpened more frequently and too, a hard Arkansas will

be needed to keep the kind of edge required.

All in all, the trick of knife sharpening is just getting the blade on a sharpening stone and moving it around. If there is any "secret" it is holding the blade at a constant angle and using the right stone for the job.

Finally, there is the cost of sharpening stones. At upwards of six dollars for a 6 X 2 X 3/4" soft Arkansas and twice that for a hard Arkansas, good stones cost a lot more than the common hardware store variety synthetic stones. With proper care however, a good stone will last a lifetime and become a family heirloom. 

D. H. RIDGELEY: THE 17 DAY HERO

(Continued from page 30)

from this vantage point.

Custer began the fight in a ravine near the ford, and fully one-half of the command seemed to be unhorsed at the first fire. Then the soldiers retreated toward a hill in the rear and were shot down on the way with astonishing rapidity—the commanding officer falling from his horse in the middle of the engagement.

After the massacre of Custer's force, the Indians returned to camp with six soldiers as prisoners, delirious with joy over their success. These poor men were tied to stakes at a wood pile in the village around the point of the hill, and all burned to death; the bodies dropping to the earth a blackened, roasted and hideous mass. While the flames were torturing them to death, little Indian boys fired red hot arrows into their quivering flesh. This terrible "amusement" was continued until each of the unfortunate victims had fallen a corpse. Ridgeley stated the sight was so horrible that it never could be erased from his memory. The squaws, with their children, armed themselves with knives, and proceeded to the field of battle, robbing the dead of clothing, trinkets and valuables, and mutilating the bodies in a manner too shocking and sickening for description.

While the six soldiers were being burned, the Indians turned their attention to another force attacking the lower end of the village, and this was undoubtedly the force of Major Reno.

The white soldiers were kept burn-

ing, and subjected to every imaginable torture. This continued for a time of forty-five minutes to an hour and a half. Ridgeley was not permitted to speak to them before their horrible death and he was therefore unable to say who they were. One was noticeable from his small size, grey hair and whiskers. These peculiarities may lead to the identification of one of the ill-fated prisoners.

That night, after the victories scored by the Indians on the field, many braves returned to camp to drink whiskey captured during the battle and admire their new weapons and clothing stripped from the dead. During this time, the squaws performed the duty of guarding Ridgeley and two companions. The names of the other two men were not mentioned, nor did Ridgeley state whether they were cavalymen. During that night of pandemonium, the guards became very drowsy, and at the first chance, Ridgeley and his companions



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
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fled the camp. Finding several ponies they made tracks back toward civilization . . . only to find the countryside literally crawling with Indian war parties. They came to a halt, and hid in a section of woods where for four days they lay concealed. Finding it safe for travel again, they continued on slowly and steadily, keeping well out of sight of straggling Indians. On the fifth night out, Ridgeley's pony stumbled, throwing him to the ground and breaking his arm in two places.

In coming eastward, the three men trekked north of Fort Abe Lincoln as they were afraid of encountering small war parties moving west to join Sitting Bull. After reaching Fort Abercrombie safely, one of Ridgeley's comrades became afflicted with erysipelas and died a few days later. The remaining associate of Ridgeleys rejoined his friends and family at home in northern Minnesota, never more to be heard of.

Ridgeley, still somewhat shaken by his ordeal with the Indians as well as that of the broken arm, returned to his hometown of Minneapolis. Once again among friends, one of which was Mr. Hall McCleave, of the firm of Warner & McCleave, undertakers and furniture dealers, Ridgeley told his fantastic story. Mr. McCleave insisted that the old trapper re-tell his story to the local newspaper editor and allow it to be printed, leaving out none of the atrocities he had witnessed.

In the newspaper article Ridgeley described Sitting Bull as a large man, a half-breed, and very intelligent. Owing to some injury, the right foot turned outward and the deformity affected his gait very perceptibly. He said he would drive every white man from the Black Hills, and if the soldiers came, he would stand and fight. He mentioned that Sitting Bull received regular supplies of powder and lead from Canadian traders and claimed he saw Red River carts in the Indian camp five weeks or so before

the Custer fight, loaded with ammunition. There were two chiefs in Sitting Bull's camp who were believed to be white men, and could speak English quite well. The Indians were maneuvered like little soldiers, Ridgeley goes on to say . . . and displayed a surprising knowledge of military tactics.

As a whole, Ridgeley's story surpasses any romance, but his veracity and integrity were so well vouched for that there was no reason to doubt the substantial accuracy of his narrative.



Chief Sitting Bull

The story was put to press, Sept. 8, 1876, and overnite Ridgeley was made into a legend. New York papers picked up the hair-raising story and re-printed it almost to the word. One paper, the New York Graphic printed: "There ought to be a purse raised as a testimonial to the bravery and mendacity of that alleged white man who escaped from Sitting Bull and now gives a history of the fight through a Minneapolis paper. We will keep all money sent us for that purpose." Other newspapers hailed Ridgeley as a hero, almost forgetting Custer and

his brave men who fell on the hill-sides of the Little Big Horn.

However, all good things must come to an end. Ridgeley had exactly seventeen days of unforgettable glory. On Monday evening, Sept. 25, 1876, a small column appeared in the Pioneer Press and Tribune in Minneapolis, that slightly punctured a hole in Ridgeley's story.

"To the Editors of the Pioneer Press and Tribune: I saw in your paper the other day, a statement of the trapper Ridgeley about the Custer fight on the Little Big Horn. Now, as I know this man Ridgeley well, and also knew his whereabouts since the first of July, 1875, I thought that a few words from me might be of interest to you and your many readers. Ridgeley claims he had been absent for two years on a trapping expedition. Now, Mr. Editor, he worked for me all through haying and harvesting in the summer of 1875; he left my place about the 25th of September of last year, but I saw him several times in October. He says he, with others, was captured by Indians in March last, and was still a prisoner in Sitting Bull's camp at the time of Custer's annihilation on the 25th of June. Now, I saw Ridgeley and conversed with him about the middle of April last, on the Platte River, in Morrison county, in this state; he was then at work for Hill Bros., in their logging camp on Platte River. More over I received the following letter from him early in July:

Sauk Rapids, Minn., July 3, A.D. 1876. Mr. Ward, Der Sir I wish that you Wold let me Know What the chance is Down there for Work in haying this yer, if there is a good chance and Wages I will come Down thare to Work this yer again plese let Me Know as soon as you git this good By From Your friend D. H. Ridgeley.'

Now, Mr. Editor, I am prepared to prove every statement made by me should our friend Ridgeley desire it. Why Ridgeley should invent such a story, of course is beyond my comprehension. He is of an imaginative mind, and is continually telling something to stir up a confusion. Yours Respectfully, T. A. WARD, Anoka, Minn."

That one letter from Ward to the Editor crushed any belief of Ridgeley's story from then on and it was given a lot of publicity by the newspapers. It was believed that the trapper hadn't told his story in full, that details were held back for some reason. In any event, it would be foolish to believe anything more said or printed after the Sept. 25th article, condemning Ridgeley. Had it not been for pitching hay for a living, history may have had another national hero fall into the ranks.

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A NEW COMBAT HANDGUN: THE ASP

(Continued from page 36)

dirt and fouling from so much shooting. Had the gun been cleaned and lubricated after, say, each 100 rounds, there is no doubt in my mind that the malfunctions would not have occurred—or that the probability of their occurrence would have been very low.

Note that the above-mentioned malfunctions were described as "legitimate." There were some other failures that were actually expected in view of the large number of rounds fired previously and certain amounts of wear known and recorded beforehand. They may *not* be charged to the gun and are mentioned here merely to keep the record straight. In short, it may be said in the test ASP handled both Super Vel 9mm Parabellum loads with a very high degree of reliability. It should be kept in mind that no one carrying a handgun professionally would ever even consider letting it go for over 500 rounds without cleaning; he would, in fact, clean it after any firing whatever, even if only one or two rounds.

The bulk of the shooting was done with the 90-grain Super Vel load for two reasons: It produces the most massive wounds of any 9mm load we've tested; and, there have been rumors that it does not feed reliably in some guns because of its shorter-than-standard overall length. This load is advertised as producing 1430 fps. Velocity tests conducted with the short-barreled ASP gave a 5-shot average of 1297 fps, which we might as well round off to 1300 fps and 338 fp energy. This same test lot of ammunition gave us 1353 fps in an unaltered standard M-39 and 1463 in a 6½"-barrel SIG M210 pistol. Norma 115-grain soft points produced an average of 1060 fps in the ASP, while the Super Vel 112-grain soft point produced 1223 fps in the same gun and 1283 fps in a standard M-39. All velocities taken on Oehler industrial-type, direct read-out, electronic-screen chronograph in the Super Vel laboratory by Lee Jurras and this writer.

It is interesting to note that Theodore was apprehensive about Super Vel loads in the ASP, since it had not previously been tested with them, nor had it been "tuned" to handle the 90-grain load as is sometimes necessary. Yet, the ASP test gun stuttered its

way through over 400 rounds without difficulty.

No tests of "paper-target" accuracy were made, inasmuch as the ASP is intended as a close-range combat gun. In fact, standard sights consist of a single patented sight block installed topside of the slide. As can be seen in the photos, the sighting element proper is a square notch, over an inch long, tapered from rear to front at both bottom and sides. The interior of the notch is colored yellow. The proper sight picture is with equal widths of color exposed at sides and bottom of the notch, point of aim centered in the notch. It is really quite fast after a bit of practice and there is no second sight element (the usual front blade) to get in the way. I found that with it I could readily place two-shot bursts on 6"-diameter or smaller targets out to 20-25 yards. Incidentally, the colored notch is quite visible in poor light and will probably be made more so in the future by use of a fluorescent-type paint or coating.

With most autos, my first rapid shot is likely to be a bit low, the second on target, the third a bit higher. With the ASP, the first shot was generally on point of aim, the second low, and third back on. This with 3-shot bursts, one-hand point-shooting without sights. Others might not experience this difference.

Our test ASP did not have the squared triggerguard favored by many two-hand combat shooters, but a form of this feature will be standard on the full-house conversion. It is not flat after the Swensen fashion, but slightly concave to provide maximum security without the need for check-

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ering. The frame spur below the hammer is also shortened, since the dehorned hammer no longer strikes the web of the thumb and that protection is not needed.

Seventrees Ltd. does not at this time intend offering the complete ASP as a new gun. Initially, the shortened and lightened slide/barrel unit will be sold as a "top conversion" (either outright or on an exchange basis) for customer installa-

tion on his own M-39. A complete conversion of customer-owned M-39 pistols will also be available, to include all the features we've mentioned here. It is also intended to offer the top conversion unit and the full-house ASP chambered for a special Super Vel loading of the .38 Super Auto cartridge, utilizing the 90-grain hollow point bullet at nearly 1500 fps from that stubby 3¼" barrel. Guns so converted *will not* handle the

standard .38 Super round because of its greater length.

All in all, we've seen lots of attempts at high-power, pocket-size auto pistols, including chopped-down .45 Colts and P-38's. My carefully considered opinion is that none of them offer as much in so small a package as the ASP. And, by the way, don't let people tell you that S & W aluminum alloy frame won't stand the gaff. It will. 

HUNTER'S NOTEBOOK: DUCK HUNTER'S DELIGHT

(Continued from page 47)

rolled feathers off our game. Teal mature so rapidly that pin-feathers are rarely found on them. They pluck as clean as a whistle and even the under-down can be thumb-rubbed off. But I left the wings fully feathered so game managers could determine the ages of our birds.

Richard was focusing one of his picture machines and muttering those cabalistic numbers which only good photographers know when I heard the tattletale whistling of tiny wings and the lisp "feep, feep, feep" of teal conversation. A moment later came the ripping sound of many birds hitting the water behind me.

"Don't look now but I think we have callers," I murmured. "If you had a telephoto lens hooked on I'd let you get a picture of the Old Maestro filling his limit." When I reached for my gun Richard's mouth was so wide with surprise he could have swallowed that camera. With his eyes glued to range-and view-finders he had neither seen nor heard those ducks come in.

"Wait for me!" he whispered, scrambling for his own shotgun.

This time, with our shooting better geared to the actual and not the apparent flight speed of the birds, we collected two blue-wings apiece. Actually we were lucky for it was tough staying with the birds at the edges of the flock. Yet, if we hadn't done that the risk of going over the four-bird limit would have been considerable.

One advantage of this early all-teal season was that we could carry the proper load prescription. Not that the wee ducks are hard to kill; far from it. But they are so small that only the smallest shot sizes produce dense enough patterns to regularly drop them. Any hunter who shoots such big-duck shot as 4's or 6's is almost sure to have holes in his pattern through which teal can slip unscathed, even on perfectly-held shots.

Richard was using a 20-gauge Ithaca while I stayed with my old favorite, a 12 Ithaca pump. Of course both guns obeyed the legal three-shot mandate. For loads we were shooting my pet small-target Number 9's in Remington plastic skeet loads. Although the make of shells is nowadays of scant significance, the improvement

in their patterning makes fine-shot loads definitely superior to those of a decade ago.

"Since you're going to be busy picking those birds I'll be happy to fill out your limit with that last bird," suggested Richard, a twinkle in his eye. "Then you won't have to interrupt your chores."

"You better stick to the camera," I said. "You want to get those birds on film in full costume instead of in the nude."

While Richard busied himself with his interrupted picture taking I continued my defeathering, but with an ear cocked for any more visitors. My wait was brief. A pair came sizzling in and, when I came up ahead of their second landing pass, the two birds split. I let down the flashier blue-wing drake and our first day's hunt was over.

Eight teal, even though six of them were the slightly larger blue-wings, don't crowd even an average-sized roaster. I've seen ten of them cooked simultaneously in a roaster that was a tight fit for three mallards. Using a pair of small tin snips for the feet, necks and wings I had those birds oven-ready in a half-hour after we arrived home. We saved the hearts and livers and I gave special loving attention to the small weed-seed-packed gizzards. I consider them the icing on the honeysweet meat that these little ducks provide.

That evening, when Richard's Audrey lifted off the roaster lid, six of us—including the Crowders' three young and hungry sons—sniffed that enchanting aroma so avidly that we hardly gave her room to transfer them to a serving platter. Since one teal per serving is considered minimal for people who like game, not a single teal went begging.

Richard pushed back his chair and looked at the heaps of tiny bones. "Well, that hunt was certainly a bust," he observed. "We didn't gain an inch, unless it's in our belt measurements. No meat left over for the freezer. What do you say we go again tomorrow? You need some to take home and I could get you some more

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pictures," he wheedled.

This time we had to visit three ranchland ponds to fill our two four-bird limits. Opening day shooting had scattered the flocks and made them much wavier. But the flocks were smaller, too, so we ran less risk of doubling ourselves into trouble. But by this time we'd gotten used to the effortless high lift of teal from the water and, though our shooting score improved, the hunting day was over far too quickly. But it was a lot more sport to enjoy this early-season recreation than to wait for the regular waterfowl season when the teal would be long gone.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife game managers selected some 800 of the hunters from each participating state in the two mid-continent flyways to furnish evidence and data on their kills. Each such gunner received a special envelope for a wing-collection survey to determine the age and sex of his birds. Ordinarily, if most of the teal taken are drakes and/or over a year of age, that indicates that the species is being underharvested and can easily stand more hunting pressure during the following year. A heavy kill of females, especially if most of them are young birds of the preceding spring's hatch, would indicate that hunters were cutting into the very important breeding stock. Such a survey also provides more specific migratory information, depending on whether the majority of birds bagged are of the blue-wing or green-wing form.

Our two-day bag indicated no cause for alarm about the future of teal hunting. It bore out the claim that blue-wings were the earliest migrants, at least in the area we hunted, since only four of our total were green-wings. Sex-wise, 11 of the 16 were drakes, though we made no particular effort to bag drakes but simply took those which offered the best shots. Richard and I didn't have the biological know-how to determine between young and adult birds but the sampling of only two hunters over two days probably wouldn't be significant anyway. It will take some months before the Fish and Wildlife biologists will have the full data from both flyways to use as a guide for establishing future bonus seasons.

John Madson, who writes those delightfully exhaustive books on popular North American game forms from his headquarters at Olin Farms, estimates an annual breeding population of over 4,000,000 blue-wing teal. Since the green-wings regularly migrate later, when many more of them are harvested, an educated guess on them would be about half that. But in sum total that provided a grand chance for

dedicated waterfowlers to stretch their sport: by nine days during the 1965 special teal season and, perhaps, even longer when all of the kill factors are fully assessed.

Perhaps in years to come the tiny teal will prove the opening wedge in a more intelligent utilization of all our natural game resources. Instead of being bound by the traditional short seasons, limited licenses and lean bag limits when certain species of game is occasionally in short supply we will use only one of these factors—curtailed bag limits—and have uniform seasons from year to year. This has already been used on grouse, even

during their years of cyclic decline, and it may work just as successfully on other game forms. For, as has been abundantly proven by generations of hunting, we can only utilize our game by intelligently harvesting it. Most certainly we can't stockpile it since old age, disease, predation and poaching will then automatically reduce the surplus that sporting hunting might have put on myriad dining tables.

Note: Special Teal seasons have been modified since this article was written. We suggest you check with your local game commission for the latest information.

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CITIZEN'S ARREST: SHOULD YOU SHOOT AT ALL?

(Continued from page 45)

ordered a beer, and while seated at the bar, became involved in an argument with another patron. This patron forcibly threw the deceased out the door, where he hit and slapped him. The patron's brother then forcibly ejected the dead man's companion from the tavern, saying to both of them "We don't like queers." The two patrons, who were brothers, re-entered the tavern for a few minutes. The deceased became very angry and the two brothers again went outside. The deceased then pulled a knife and cut one of the brothers on the arm, making two deep gashes, which required 28 stitches to close. The tavern keeper then called another man who was in the tavern, to call an ambulance and the sheriff, which was done. He then took his rifle from behind the bar and ran out to the car in which he found the decedent and his companion seated. The tavern keeper pointed the gun at the two men and told them to stay where they were, and that he had called the law. The decedent then broke out of the car and ran down a side street. The tavern keeper called on him to stop but he kept on run-

ning. The tavern keeper fired three shots at him. The third shot hit the decedent in the head, killing him almost instantly.

The court here observed that it has been argued that to allow laymen to use deadly weapons in attempting to capture fleeing felons presents a grave danger that innocent men may be killed. The court thought this danger is minimized by the fact that the private citizen cannot successfully use the excuse statute in defense against a manslaughter charge, simply by asserting that he thought the person fleeing had committed a felony. The court stated that the majority of states have adopted the commonlaw rule that a private citizen has the same right to use deadly force as a peace officer would have in apprehending a felon. The modern penal code, on the other hand, does not allow the use of deadly force even when it is immediately necessary to effect a lawful arrest unless the person effecting the arrest is authorized to act as a peace officer. The Washington Court goes on to say that the best rule, and the rule that it adopts, is that it is lawful for a private citizen to use deadly force in attempting to apprehend a fleeing felon in any situation where it would be lawful for a peace officer to do so. It was clear to the court that to forbid a private citizen to use deadly force upon a fleeing felon can only encourage flight, because the criminal will have nothing to lose (he will incur no additional risk) and possibly freedom to gain by attempting to escape. The court thought that a rule which encourages escape attempts presents a greater danger to society than a rule which permits laymen to use deadly weapons in attempting to uphold the law.

At common law, a private person in making an arrest for a felony, had the same authority as an officer to kill the actual felon if the latter could not otherwise be taken; but to justify a private person in killing another to prevent the latter's escape, it must be shown that a felony had in fact actually been committed by the person about to be arrested. A private person, in making an arrest, is not permitted to kill one whom he merely suspects of having committed a felony. He cannot shoot, either to kill or

wound, unless it is necessary to effect the arrest. And a private person who kills one whom he merely intended to wound in order to prevent his escape, may be held criminally responsible if he had no legal authority to make the arrest.

In a Colorado case, the defendant was convicted of murder and sentenced to the penitentiary for life. This sentence was affirmed on appeal. The defendant was a private person employed as a watchman for a slaughterhouse. He was told by his employer to go and see if someone was shooting at the pigs. If he caught the party doing the shooting to bring him in. He went over to where he heard the shots and he found fresh tracks which he followed for two or three hundred yards. He then saw a young fellow take a shot at the pigs. He called to him and he started to run. The watchman then ran after him and overtook him. The man he was pursuing levelled his gun at him with both cocks up. The watchman then called out "Don't shoot, I want to speak to you." The party he was pursuing walked backwards with his gun up and pointing toward him. The watchman struck the gun and it went off, right to the right of his face. Then the intruder started to run. The watchman then fired over his head and told him to stop, but he did not. The watchman then, when 20 feet away, fired the first shot, doing so merely to stop the man, not intending to hit him. The fleeing man then jumped into the shallow river and ran quite a distance. He then shot again intending to hit the intruder in the leg, but the intruder stumbled and fell and the bullet struck him in the head and killed him. The Appellate Court said the defendant was guilty of taking a human life, without excuse, and he went to jail for life.

In the light of all this, what should you as a private individual do to apprehend a fleeing felon when you have actually witnessed the felony which he has committed? We reluctantly conclude that regardless of your impulses of the moment, the decisions indicate that the risk to yourself is too great to use deadly force in preventing his escape. First, if you wound or kill the felon, you may be subject to trial and indictment for murder or manslaughter and you might serve a long jail term. (2) If you wound or kill the felon, you may be subjected to a civil action for wrongful death or for damages as the result of his injuries. (3) You are not under any legal duty to apprehend the felon. All this is very disappointing news at a time when crime is rampant and in some localities the

police are not able to cope with it. However, such is the state of the decisions on this subject today and the risk which you take in assuming the role of a police officer is too great as compared to the cost to you as an individual. Of course, you might be lucky. You might shoot and kill a fleeing felon and hear nothing more about it, either civilly or criminally, but then again you might ruin your whole life, with one fatal shot.

If you, as a private person, should be involved in the law as the result of using deadly force to stop a fleeing felon, your lawyer will do well to show (1) that the person you injured or killed was a complete stranger to you, (2) you did everything reasonably possible under the circumstances before you fired, to inform the victim that you were placing him under arrest, (3) that you fired a warning shot before aiming at the fleeing felon, (4) that you aimed to incapacitate, rather than to kill, (5) that the fleeing felon was obviously armed, and his attitude was one of resistance and belligerence, (6) that events proceeded quickly and without interruption from the time your attention or suspicion was aroused, to the time the shot was fired or some other kind of deadly force was employed.

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**WEATHERBY VANGUARD
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(Continued from page 39)

There is a sturdy bolt stop with which is combined the bolt release on the left side of the receiver. The bolt handle is gracefully angled rearward and offers a good handful. The bolt-body has been highly chromed and it is frictionless and remarkably easy-working. The bolt lift, unlike the Mark V, is full throw. The action has been burnished to a high degree before the bluing was applied and as a result the finish has a deep lustre which is very appealing to the discerning eye. The barrel likewise reflects this satiny finish and color. Pulled out of the stock, those portions of the barrel and action that are not visible are likewise nicely finished. The floor plate and magazine follower indicate the same careful attention to finish. The former has a sturdy latch while the latter is chromed to provide a smoother moving bolt.

An examination of the stock, once the barreled action is removed, indicates a high degree of skill in fitting



Askins fires the new Vanguard rifle into its guaranteed 1½" at 100 yds.

the recoil lug, the action tang, and the trigger assembly to the wood. The mortise for the recoil lug has been reinforced and contact was noted to be quite secure between the mortise and the lug. The stock has been lacquered throughout the inletting to shield against moisture and humidity changes. The stock is of an excellent grade of walnut, has the conventional Weatherby high lustre finish, and is made in the Weatherby plant and fitted to the barreled action there. The action and barrel are manufactured by the Howa Co. of Japan.

The test rifle sent forward by the company for field experiment was equipped with the Weatherby 4X scope in the Buehler bridge-type mount. The assembly weighed 8 pounds, 11¾ ounces, unloaded. The rifle is a .30-06, holds 5 cartridges in the magazine and a 6th in the cham-

ber. It was equipped with quick detachable sling swivels but no sling. I do not like slings so this was no disadvantage. The 13½" length of pull which includes the solid rubber recoil pad, made the rifle feel quite com-



fortable, especially for rapid fire where the gunner needs to get a firm grip on the bolt handle.

One hundred cartridges of Federal, Winchester and Peters manufacture, with bullet weights of 150 gr. and 180 gr. were shot from the bench, sitting and offhand. Half of them were slow fire and the remainder were banded out at rapid fire. There were no bobbles, no failures to load, no malfunctions on extraction or ejection. As the gun heats up the bolt does not tend to bind, but keeps on moving smoothly and easily. Recoil is mild because of the good design of the slope-away Monte Carlo comb.

At 100 yards from the bench using sandbags, the groups for 5 shots ran consistently under 2 inches. With Remington Core-lokt 180 gr. factory loads, the rifle consistently hit its guaranteed 1½" group sizes. Undoubtedly with careful handloading the Vanguard would do better than this. Possibly into a MOA for the 3-shots, and likely for five.

This rifle is a handsome, well made, sturdy, good shooting firearm. It is worthy of the Weatherby name and will serve that name proudly and well. I can find nothing to criticize about it. It is not the Mark V rifle and it is not intended to be as it is a much less costly firearm. In searching for the differences, it is more apparent in the grade of stock wood that has gone into it than in the finish or quality of the action and barrel. These appear quite on a par with the finer Mark V. Certainly for the price this is a most worthwhile offering and I would venture it will enjoy good popularity.



OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 16)

these, 17 states require graduation from hunter safety programs as a prerequisite to purchasing the first hunting license. Twenty-four states have a similar program, which is on a voluntary basis.

From 1950, over 4 million students have completed hunter-safety training courses and have been issued certificates of confidence. Today there are about 14 million licensed hunters in the United States. Of those that hunt, there are about 2.2 million under 18 years of age. At present, approximately 400,000 are successfully completing this training each year. Thus, it becomes apparent that a substantial portion of the hunting population is being sold hunting licenses each year without having received this training.

Another point to consider is that each year hunters go into the woods with new firearms of a different design, and they go with old firearms which have not been shot since last season.

According to testimony before Congress, two ranges are being lost for every new range being constructed. Many of the existing ranges are available for members only. Because public funds are used, ranges built under this program will have to be made available to the public.

The way to get new ranges built in your state is to make your voice heard by state senators, state congressmen, governors, and the state fish and game departments for wildlife restoration.

BE CAREFUL!

Gun thefts are on the rise. Many of the victims are gun dealers and collectors, but most are sportsmen. There's not much the honest, run-of-the-field hunter and shooter can do about it except insure, take certain precautions, and trust to luck.

Your guns may be fully covered in your home policy under "household contents"—but don't count on it. Check with your agent to be sure. You may even want to insure them under a special rider. In any case, be sure that an exact valuation is placed on each gun, by serial number, and that you have a full list of the serial numbers of your guns on file.

What can be done to keep guns from being stolen? Little enough—but these steps may help:

While on a hunting trip, even for the day, never leave guns or gun cases in a car where they can be seen. If you stay in a motel, always take your guns in with you at night. A thief can spot a hunter's car a mile away, and knows it's a treasure trove of guns, cameras and binoculars. We know city shooters who won't even put sportsmen's club decals on their car windows.

If you have a gun cabinet at home, place it where it can't be seen from the outside. Better yet, keep your guns hidden. We know a hunter who keeps a full gun cabinet stocked with "loaner" guns as a decoy for burglars, and his good guns are stashed elsewhere. A farmer friend keeps only his work guns at home—a couple of .22's and an old shotgun. The rest of his muskets are kept hidden with a friend in town. One of our local trapshooters, who also lives on a farm, may take his best guns with him in the trunk of his car when he leaves home for the day.

Don't keep guns where they can be seen by casual visitors in your home, and never display them to strangers. It doesn't pay to advertise. In the past two years, three of our personal friends have had all their guns stolen from their homes. In each case, it was public or semi-public knowledge that they owned good guns: 1. A well-known outdoor writer and editor who works at home; 2. A hunter who displayed his guns on the walls of his family room; 3. A businessman who received publicity as a big-game hunter.

It doesn't pay to advertise. In fact, some of this increase in gun thefts may be a reflection of all the publicity that guns and gun ownership have gotten recently. And as restrictive gun laws increase and tighten, we can expect a corresponding increase in the underworld traffic of hot guns.

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LOCKNIFE hand-finished hunting knives come in four sizes featuring hammer-forged blades of Swedish carbon tool steel, hand-ground, tempered, polished, and honed to a keen razor edge. The handle is of fiber and DuPont ZYTEL which is virtually indestructible. Locknife's unique and exclusive snap-fastener on top of the handle holds knife in sheath for convenient draw by either hand and from either side.

Locknife exclusive and foolproof belt-loop anchors sheath on belt in seconds without having to unbuckle belt. Locknife is introducing one more new exclusive feature by having an ever-ready Arkansas honing stone permanently attached and bonded to the back of sheath. Free folder: Locknife, Inc., Dept. G-2, 11717 East 23rd St., Independence, Missouri 64050.

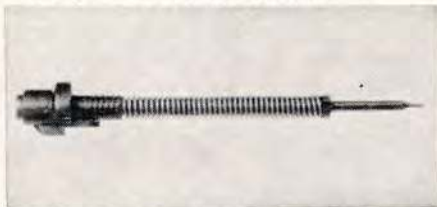
NUMRICH ARMS Corp. has a supply of Mauser low scope safeties on hand ready for immediate shipment. The new streamlined safety fits all variations of the Model '98 Mauser. Designed with the convenience of the shooter in mind, it is on the left side of the action next to the shooter's thumb for ease of operation.



Easy to install—no tools required, it works conjunctively with all standard American and European scope mounts. Price is \$3.49 each, four for \$9.99. For further information, write to Numrich Arms Corp., Dept. G-2, West Hurley, New York 12491.

SHOPPING WITH Guns

FOR YEARS Enfield actions have been recognized for their great strength, ideal for magnum conversion but scorned because of their sluggish lock time and cocking on the closing stroke.



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THE CLERKE FIRST series of 6-shot revolvers now includes a .32 S & W cal. handgun, a beefier version of the .22 cal. models from Clerke. Features include a hefty 17 oz. weight to give the shooter the right "feel" and greater control when firing. An ideal target gun, shoots either one cartridge at a time or clips off 6 shots in quick succession with great accuracy. A quick, easy-to-load swing-out cylinder chamber with positive lock and



alignment is another top notch feature. A unique "safety first" hammer block is also included. The steel barrel length is 2 1/4" with an overall length of 6 1/4". Available in steel blue finish, chrome plated, and a deluxe blued model with chrome plated cylinder, trigger and hammer. For further information, contact Clerke Recreation Products, Dept. G-2, 2040 Broadway, Santa Monica, Calif. 90404.

NEW Safariland Model 17 hi-ride "speed snap" features metal reinforced thumb break with excellent concealment. Holster can be worn both in conventional or crossdraw fashion. The unique pressure form and two piece construction makes



this both strong and very thin in profile. Plain black or brown, \$9.95, basket-weave, \$1.50, extra Safariland special suede lining \$4.95. Barrel lengths over 2", add \$1.00. Safariland Leather Products, Dept. G-2, 162 E. Monticito, Sierra Madre, Calif. 91024.

A NEW electrically-operated moving target for air guns, featuring North American animals, has been introduced by Marksman Products.

The action-packed target features a grizzly bear, wild game birds, mountain lion, timber wolf, wild deer and moose, and is ready for immediate use. The animals are moving targets which fall over



when hit. Also featured are spinning targets which show the hits and a bell target that rings when the grizzly bear is struck.

Each unit is fully assembled and constructed of a sturdy steel throughout, featuring a special BB and pellet trap to control ricochets. The target is completely safe for both indoor and outdoor use. For more information write to Marksman Products Div. Dept. G-2, P.O. Box 25396, Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

SHOPPING WITH Guns

ORIGINAL World War II German Pith Helmets in unissued condition, showing slight wear from storage are available from Potomac Arms. Complete with insignia and corps designations. An extremely rare collector's item. The supply



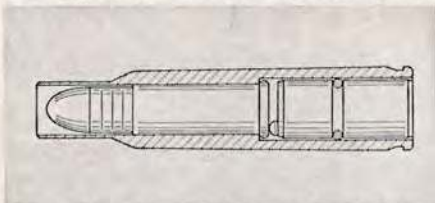
is very limited. Price is \$9.95. For further information about this and many other fine items, write to Potomac Arms Corp., Dept. G-2, P.O. Box 35, Zero Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313.

L A Distributors is now importing a new line of single action revolvers. Careful attention has been given to balance wood and construction of the "Cattleman Single Action." America's favorite hand gun has been painstakingly reproduced with old world craftsmanship.



The gun features a deep, handsome, custom blue on a precision rifled ordnance steel barrel set off by rich, color case hardening on the frame. The finely grained, genuine oil-finished grips are complemented by a highly polished brass back strap and trigger guard. Barrels are available in 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " lengths. Weight of the gun is about 2 lbs. 9 ozs. From L. A. Dist., Dept. G-2, 4 Centre Market Place, New York, N.Y. 10013.

OWNERS OF RIFLES chambered for the popular .222 Remington cartridge can now also fire .22 rimfire cartridges in their rifles as well. These highly polished steel inserts allow the .222 owner to do target practice where space is limited such as indoor basement ranges, etc. where noise and backstops are a problem. The user will also find that he can



take a lot of small game at short range without all the unnecessary blast, destruction and expense of the full-power .222 Remington cartridge. The price is \$9.50 postpaid, including a small cleaning rod and packaged in a neat cardboard box. From Sport Specialty, Dept. G-2, Box 774, Sunnyvale, Calif. 94088.

THE DOWNLITE Sleeping Robe, while light in weight and compact, will keep you warm even in temperatures below freezing. It is an ideal choice for hunting and camping trips and can serve as an extra sleeping accommodation for trailers, cottages or campers. It features the quick-exit zipper famous in all Woods Down Sleeping Robes. With a snap of the wrist you can be up and at 'em . . . a great innovation when camping in bear country.



Two Downlites will zip together to form a double. Snap tabs are sewn in for extra liner. Double air mattress pocket. Finished size complete with zipping straps and dunnage bag. Price is \$59.95. Head shelter is optional and available at \$3.95. For further information write for a free, fully illustrated catalog to Woods Bag & Canvas Co., Dept G-2, 16 Lake St., Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

NOW, POTOMAC Arms, answering collector demands, has reproduced a traditional trade Tomahawk, common to the pattern most commonly used in the late 1700's and early 1800's. It is complete with a matching frontier sheath. It is considered to be one of the finest built hatchets ever offered to the shooting and collecting fraternity. It will also make a

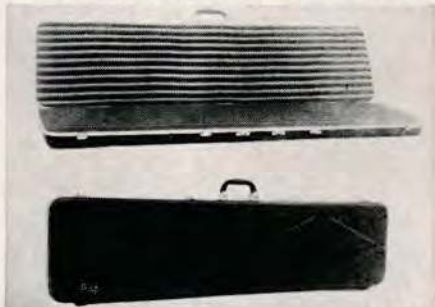


decidedly fine camp tool for the hiker, camper, hunter or fisherman, and will serve a multitude of purposes in the field. Extremely reasonably priced at \$8.95. For further information, write to Potomac Arms, Dept G-2, P.O. Box 35, Zero Prince St., Alexandria, Virginia 22313.

THE MANY OWNERS of surplus 7.5 Swiss rifles in the U.S. can now obtain all the ammunition they need from Norma-Precision. A large shipment of 7.5 x 55 loaded rounds to fit these popular Model 1911 Swiss rifles has been received by Norma-Precision direct from its factory in Sweden. These factory loads, Index No. 299, use a 180 grain soft point semi-pointed boattail bullet. They are priced at \$6.65 per box of 20 rounds. Unprimed empty cases are also available at \$2.92 per 20 from Norma-Precision, Dept. G-2, 6152 Van Ness Ave., South Lansing, N.Y. 14882.

FLAMBEAU PLASTICS CORP. announces a new line of gun cases with a "slimline" design and distinctive hardware and locks that create a look of elegant luggage.

"The Sportsman," as Flambeau's new line of gun cases is called, includes the Model 5032 two-gun case, molded of super-tough linear polyethylene for maximum protection and long life. This model, especially designed for storing



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

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*U.S. Patents 3,343,949/3,068,748/3,003,420 Canada, 1963.

IVER JOHNSON: A DREAM AMPLY FULFILLED

(Continued from page 43)

quick disassembly. The top-lever of the gun could be operated easily with either hand. The fact that Johnson was a southpaw himself no doubt had something to do with the placement of the lever.

The following year, 1881, the growing firm of Johnson & Bye brought out their own copy of a famous British revolver. They were 13 years ahead of the day Colt would reach to Britain for their Bisley. Johnson & Bye called it the "British Bull Dog." The next year this DA was improved and was named the "American Bull Dog." The Yankee Doodle version was chambered in .32 RF and CF, .38 RF and CF, and the .44 Webley CF. The "American Bull Dog" had a large choice of lengths for its octagon barrels and the cylinder carried 5 cartridges. (All the Johnson & Bye revolvers had 7-shot .22 cylinders with all other calibers having 5-shot cylinders.) In 1887 the "American Bull" was replaced by the "Boston Bull Dog." The "Boston Bull" was a nickle version and were all well made guns. Later, in 1900, the hifalutin "Boston Bull" was replaced, not by a German Shephard, but by the "Model 1900" hybrid, in .22 and .32 calibers with fluted cylinders and pearl grips.

Martin Bye sold out to Johnson in 1883 and the name of the firm was changed to Iver Johnson's Arms & Cycle Works. This was an interesting switch inasmuch as the firm had yet to produce a 'cycle' of any description. Iver Johnson, with his dark beard, did cycle to work each day, but that is hardly reason to call a firearms factory a 'cycle works.' But obviously, a bike must have been on the drawing board at the time Johnson acquired sole ownership. The first new gun manufactured by Johnson's Arms & Cycle Works was a DA .38 S&W revolver with a swing-out cylinder. It was called the "Model 1879" with respect to the year application was made for the patent. Some were bored for .32, but they were short runs. These are very valuable today.

The "Model 1879" was marked "Iver Johnson & Co. Makers, Worcester, Mass. Pat'd Nov. 4, 1879, Mar. 8, 1883." The "Model 1879" was the first DA revolver produced in the USA with a swing-out cylinder. The cylinder was affixed to an arm anchored below the barrel (see photo). By

opening the loading gate on the right side, the cylinder could be swung to the right by the rigid pivot arm, and empty shells were ejected by pushing down on the quill. There are some similar vintage Belgium and French revolvers. The "Model 1879" was called the "Police Dog."

The "Police Dog" was taken to the 'pound' in 1887 and put away. Iver Johnson was apparently as disenchanted about the limited acceptance of his swing-out as he was enchanted with canine names. Of course the hinged-frame designs were in their heyday then and it might have been simply that Johnson was too far ahead of his day with the swing-out design. Perhaps he thought they were too cumbersome. Whatever his conclusion, it is odd that he did not at least continue to produce some swing-outs, and try to improve the design. As it turned out—and is well known—Colt and S&W later jumped on this design and took over the major portion of the revolver business by refining the swing-out principle. The decision to turn thumbs down on future swing-out developments was the first major mistake made by Iver Johnson.

Johnson's native Norway adopted the Russian Nagant SA as their service revolver in 1883. A model was sent Johnson, with the suggestion that he might produce a similar weapon for the Norwegian Army. But Johnson had too many other guns on the drawing board to give the idea much consideration. Besides, Johnson had a moral commitment to himself not to make guns of war. The Nagant was sent back with a no-thanks. The newly named "Cycle Works," at the end of its first year, had yet to produce a bicycle.

It was the year 1884 that Johnson produced the "Hunt" lifesaving gun, designed to fire a projectile with a life line attached to a stranded ship. A larger rope could then be pulled aboard for use by the crew to escape. It was prompted by Johnson's principle that guns were 'life savers' rather than destroyers, "Defenders" instead of killers; the protection of Good from Evil, for life rather than death. His earlier rocket and flare guns were intended for distressed seamen in life boats for signalling. Johnson's preoccupation with bicycles was based on a desire to produce red-blooded life

thru "health and muscle" builders. Guns, to Johnson, were for the preservation of life, and were produced mainly with the police and home protection in mind. His shotguns were intended to supply food for man. Johnson refused to make guns of war. To this day, the Johnson firm has never, in its long history, manufactured military guns. During World War II, they did some sub-contracting for Colt, Johnson Auto, and for Springfield Armory. But Johnson had long been dead and sub-contracting of military orders was a demonstration of patriotism. Even so, to this day Iver Johnson's Arms holds no patents on a single military weapon, and no military weapon has ever sprung from I.J. drawing boards. Altho ideality is to be respected, especially when focused against war, this commitment not to produce military weapons was the second major mistake Johnson made. The company would be much larger today if they, like the other firearms manufactures, had accepted lucrative military contracts.

By December 1884, there still was no bicycle production at the "Arms & Cycle Works." 1885 brought forth Johnson's first bike, with a high wheel in front and a small one in the rear. It was almost odd the 'cycle' was not named the "Bow Wow" or the "American Poodle," in line with Johnson's penchant for dog monikers. . . . The I.J. "Champion Semi-Hammerless" single shotgun, in 12 gauge only, was also introduced the same year.

1886 saw a hammerless shotgun made by Johnson called the "Side Snap Champion Hammerless." It was cocked by the act of breaking down the barrel to load. More hardware specialties were introduced. The "Gem" .22 short RF were marketed in drug stores. Bike wrenches were introduced.

The DA "Swift" came out in 1890 in .38 S&W CF in two models: hammer and hammerless. The "Swift" was the first Johnson safety gun. The action could not open when the weapon was fired, making it the safest handgun on the market. Johnson's concern for the preservation of life was the guiding factor in this design. The "Swift" was the forerunner of the 'safety' revolvers Iver Johnson presently manufactures.

The "Swift" was really unique. It had an unusual slotted trigger in which was another "sub-trigger." Both had to be pulled back, together, for the action to work. The "hammerless" model had a very complicated trigger assembly. The "hammer" was the popular model, while the "hammerless" wasn't too well accepted.

The "hammerless" production was limited and is very rare today. The "Swifts" sold for \$11.00 to \$12.00 at a time the Colt SAA sold for \$13.00 while other gunmakers had guns selling for a buck.

The firm had by that time outgrown the Worcester plant. In 1891 the Johnson factory was moved to their present location, at Fitchburg, Mass., some thirty miles away. By fall, the new facility was humming at full gear. The new factory housed an enormous Forge Shop. Barrels were scaled in the Pickling Room. Two-spindle automatic drilling machines were in use, along with two- and four-spindle automatic reamers and five-spindle polishers. Johnson's Arms was the second largest industry in Fitchburg. On the factory roofs, painted in large letters the name, "IVER JOHNSON ARMORIES" appeared, although the firm continued to do business as the Iver Johnsons Arms and Cycle Works.

Since Johnson produced a special gun the year he bought out Bye, with the introduction of the first American-made swing-out, he also marked the relocation and expansion in Fitchburg with a special gun. The first gun made exclusively at Fitchburg, in 1892, was his first "Hammer the Hammer" revolver. The unique safety feature of the gun is in its hammer. It never touches the firing pin. A long steel arm called the "lifter" is connected to the trigger and reaches to the hammer. The backward movement of the hammer results in the "lifter" being lifted into position, between the hammer and firing pin. The hammer transmits its strike thru the intermediary "lifter." The "lifter" then drops back into the frame well. This feature caught on fast. The "Hammer the Hammer" slogan and trademark became universal.

The first "Hammer the Hammer" was chambered for .32 and .38 CF in 1892. A .22 RF came out in 1895. 1894 featured an "Automatic Hammerless Revolver."

Iver Johnson died in 1895 at the age of 54, leaving the reins in the hands of his son, Fred. The firm continued to use the "Owl's Head" trademark, selected by Johnson. It had been his emblem as a Chapter Mason.

The first gun produced under Fred Johnson's management was the "Model 1900," which was the successor to the "Bull Dog" models. Apparently Fred didn't have the same propensity for dog names as his father. Iver Johnson had planned to call the next model in the series, the "Bull Terrier," but Fred Johnson decided otherwise.

(Continued on page 65)

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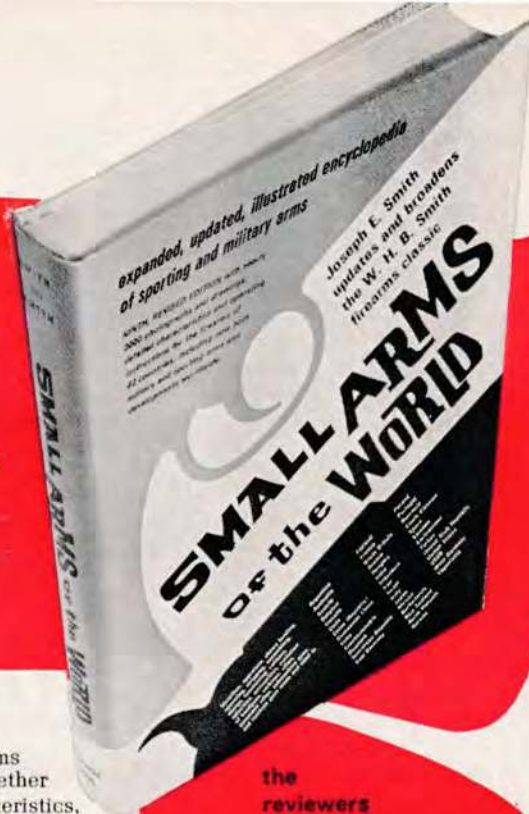
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(Continued from page 63)

1901 must have been a poor production year for bicycles at the "Arms & Cycle Works," for they named their 1901 2" belly-gun, the "Cycle." One way or another, Iver Johnson's dream to produce bikes was going to be kept afloat.

The demands for the Johnson "Hammer the Hammer" revolvers out-produced the supply. In an effort to meet the demand, the 1892 "Hammer the Hammer" revolvers were given production priority. Both the 1892 "Hammer the Hammer" models and the 1894 "Automatic Hammerless Revolvers" were discontinued in 1908 to be replaced by updated models. The 1908 versions were chambered for the .32 and .38 CF shorts. The main innovation was in the use of coiled springs throughout. (The original "Hammer the Hammer" models had leaf mainsprings.) Coiled mainsprings made tension adjustments easier, although the trigger pull suffered and became heavier. As for the .22 "Hammer the Hammer" models, the "Model 1895" was replaced by the "Model 1910." These models have evolved into today's "Model 67 Vikings." The "Model 1967" Johnson "Hammer the Hammer" revolvers are offered today in .22 only, with 8-shot cylinders. Iver Johnson would be proud of today's "Hammer the Hammer" models.

In 1902 the Forehand & Wadsworth gunmakers in Worcester, who had been neighbors of Johnson, sold out part of their business to Hopkins & Allen and to Johnson's Arms. It is known that shipments were made on the B&M railroad from F&W in Worcester to Johnson's Arms in Fitchburg, but the exact listing of contents of these shipments is unknown. My belief is that these shipments were comprised of heavy "Hammer the Hammer" machinery. If the Johnson "Hammer the Hammer" is compared with the F&W model, it is clear that the frame cut is identical, even down to machine markings. This raises the question of who was subcontracting for who. Since the F&W model was made before any similar frames were used by Johnson (1886), it would appear that the frame was the actual design of Forehand & Wadsworth. I believe F&W made these frames for Johnson between 1892 and 1902. Then, when F&W sold in 1902, this was the machinery Johnson purchased. Therefore, the firm of Forehand & Wadsworth, who also spun primers, had some influence over the I.J. silhouettes. Lincoln Wadsworth, a descendant of the Forehand & Wadsworth clan, remembers as a small boy, shipments between Worcester and Fitchburg. He was

later employed by Johnson's Arms.

In 1910 some Iver Johnsons were stamped "U.S. Revolver Co.," apparently aimed at the foreign market when the reputation of "Made in U.S.A." was at its highest. These frames were identical to those used by F&W and the Johnson "Hammer the Hammer" models and were likely produced on the acquired Forehand & Wadsworth machinery. "U.S. Revolver Co." stampings could have even been the company classification for guns made on F&W machinery... Admittedly, the F&W/Johnson connection is mainly speculative. But I feel it should be mentioned so that the reader can draw his own conclusions.

A 4 H.P. Johnson Motorcycle was introduced in 1912 and the following years brought an ever-flowing line of "Velocipedes" (bicycles), "Junioreycles" (tricycles), "Motorcycles", shot-guns, target revolvers and baby strollers. (In 1931 Johnson's arms bought the Wonder Mfg. Co. in Ohio, makers of baby walkers.) The Johnson firm also added "scooter" to the dictionary in 1931. Branch offices were busily filling orders in Hamburg, Germany, New York and San Francisco. Moscow, Russia mounted police used Johnson revolvers exclusively. Many American privates preferred and bought Johnson revolvers as extra guns during the Spanish-American War and the Boxer Rebellion in China, an ironic misuse of Iver Johnson's hopes that Johnson guns shouldn't be used for military purposes. At one time, a large percentage of the United States police preferred the Johnson revolvers.

Of all the guns I.J. produced throughout the years, the Johnson .22 "Petite" is the rarest. It was thought to be the smallest revolver ever made for regular ammo. (It resembles the Sedgley "garter pistol.") Its parts were finely crafted and less than 600 were produced. In a recent list of products manufactured by Iver Johnson's Arms from the date of its inception, sent me from I.J., I find the "Petite" is among the missing. It is an odd turn of events when a manufacturer fails to acknowledge a gun they once made and/or feels enough weren't made to warrant listing. It might be because it was considered to be an experimental model. It was designed

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as a ladies' "pocketbook protector," but the shock of firing it was probably greater than the shock of losing one's virtue. It never developed any real distribution and was quickly discontinued. In copies of the "Petite's" patent (#898,717) it is clear the weapon was patented in 1908 by its inventor Thomas F. Bowker, while the patent was applied for in 1905. Apparently Bowker then sold the rights to the Johnson firm in 1905, with Johnson introducing it in 1908. Since the updated "Hammer the Hammer" came out also in 1908, a couple could have purchased a "His" and "Hers" set of Johnson revolvers.

But there are other collector items: The "Old Hickory" and "Eagle" models are valuable. Bruce Rayeski, the world's largest Johnson handgun collector (160 revolvers), has never seen either. Of course the first guns made by Johnson & Bye, the "Uncle Sam," are worth plenty. So are the various "Bull Dogs" and "Swifts." Certain "U.S. Revolver Co." revolvers made by Johnson are valuable and so are the 1892 swing-out cylinder models, known as the "M-1879," due to the year of its patent. Then there are the "Secret Service Specials," and the M-8220 and M-855 "Knuckledusters" and the rare Spur Triggers made by Johnson for some of the early guns. A

good small collection would be to have the three basic "Hammer the Hammer" designs: the 1892/95, the 1908/10, and the 1967 models in the various calibers, lengths, grips and finishes. This "Hammer the Hammer" collection could be augmented by its 1894 and 1908 "Automatic Hammerless Revolver" counterparts.

If Johnson made a major mistake in not following thru with his swing-out cylinder and erred in not manufactur-



Bruce Rayeski has world's largest collection of Iver Johnson firearms.

ing military weapons, a third mistake might have been in not moving into the .22 semi-auto business after World War II.

The Iver Johnson's Arms & Cycle Works hasn't made a bike since World War II. But, since they were called a Cycle Works two years before they ever made a bike, it is probably par for the course to continue calling their combine a Cycle Works.

The Iver Johnson people have a proud heritage and name to live up to. They've made some real Yankee Doodle Dandies! Iver Johnson was the fountainhead, but he was active for 24 of the firm's 100 year history. His descendants must be given credit for carrying on in his tradition.

So here's to another 100 years of success! And to Iver Johnson and the good ole days.

Iver Johnson had a dream, the dream has amply been fulfilled.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author is indebted to Les Field (Centennial Arms' firearms authority), Fred Ford (Public Relations manager for Iver Johnson's Arms), A. W. Guenther (Sales Mgr., Johnson's Arms), and to Bruce Rayeski (Johnson collector) for their assistance. The B&W photography was done by Joseph J. Macewicz of Racine, Wisconsin.

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BLACK POWDER SURVEY: WHAT ARE THEY SHOOTING?

(Continued from page 33)

thereby being that the best-liked item is *the best* of its class. Let's have a look at handguns, specifically revolvers, first. In order of numbers reported in use, according to our survey, we have Navy Arms; Replica Arms; Centennial Arms; Hawes; Intercontinental Arms. And, that catch-all category "other makes" which includes original guns, home-made and custom-made items, and Lord knows what else.

In the single-shot pistol field, Bob Tingle's guns outrank all the others and total more than all other makes combined. Here, though, home-made guns far outnumber commercial guns. If I believe our figures, for every *one* shooter using a factory gun, there are ten who built their own! Amazing, in some respects, but it is really fairly simple to whittle out a stock to tie a ready-made lock and barrel together. And such a gun is generally considered home-made. It is in this category that we first see the tremendous upsurge in building your own gun.

In caplock rifles we find more variety. Out in front of the pack is Hopkins & Allen (Numrich) with its fine underhammer rifle. That gun may not win any beauty contests, but in this scribe's eye it's still the best all-around buy to be had. Navy Arms runs second with its .58 Zouave rifled musket; followed by Dixie Gun Works' numerous models together; then Bob Tingle again; with Replica Arms and Centennial Arms also reported.

Caplock rifle shooters also make a powerful big percentage of their own guns. After a good bit of pencil-scratching, it appears that for every three shooters with factory guns, five riflemen built their own. Again "other" includes quite a few guns, nearly 10% of the total, and there's no way at all we can figure out just what they are.

Flintlock riflemen are the real home-builders. Would you believe that home-made rifles outnumber all factory and "others" by 7 to 1? It's so, no matter what you think. Among the factory guns, Dixie Gun Works comes in a strong first, with Intercontinental Arms, Hopkins & Allen, and Navy Arms following in that order, then a hodgepodge of "others" and originals.

So, what does it all mean? First of all, we have to look at the figures for what they are—reports from *active* muzzle loader clubs. As such they represent the guns used by regular devoted and experienced shooters on formal ranges. They don't include the hundreds of thousands of occasional shooters or gun-owning non-shooters who aren't club members. But, this does mean that the guns coming out on top in our figures are the ones found most suitable by regular shooters who did report.

As might be expected, the better-quality guns dominate the reports we got. We know large quantities of low-cost imported muzzle loaders are sold. But, it seems that their owners only shoot occasionally (or not at all) so they don't show up on our questionnaires in any significant quantity. From personal experience we know that many people who buy the real cheap guns take one of two courses in short order: Trade for a better gun; or forget about shooting muzzle loaders altogether.

All of which brings up an important point. Is it better to begin with the cheapest gun, planning on trading up; or to go first cabin right from the start? Well, of you pick up a \$19.95 Special as your first long gun or handgun, I feel you're off to a poor start. Guns in that price range usually have poor locks, soft and poorly-fitted wood, rough bores, and a host of other defects. Sears and tumblers will be rough and soft, giving lousy trigger pulls. In such guns you'll encounter all manner of difficulties and not a few malfunctions—all of which make learning the game harder; good results are difficult to get.

After a few range sessions you'll either decide it's all too much trouble or you'll want to get a better gun. In either case, that first twenty bucks or so will have been wasted. Sop I say, why not start with a better gun and eliminate the headaches. You'll progress faster and have more fun.

And, a better gun won't cost you a month's grocery money. The simplest muzzle loader mechanism is the underhammer ("understriker" to some) design which contains only a hammer, a trigger, a mainspring doubling as a trigger guard, and an elementary



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frame on which to hang those parts. The Hopkins & Allen rifle in its several forms and calibers is a classic example of the type. For money invested it will produce more shooting fun and accuracy than any other gun available. As for price, rifle models start at about \$85, and pistol models at \$40. And, calibers range from .36 to .58, making them suitable for any purpose you might have in mind. Evidence of this gun's accuracy and reliability is the fact that many top shooters use it in preference to much more costly and impressive models they could afford if they chose. Many's the time an \$85 Hopkins and Allen wins matches over \$400 custom-made target rifles. Consequently, the Hopkins and Allen rates tops as a first muzzle loader and also gets high marks from experienced shooters.

As for caliber popularity, there are quite a few .36 to .40 rifles in use, but .44 or .45 seems to predominate among sporting types. People like the bigger hole in the target; and the larger bores are much more effective for hunting. Outside of this we have the .58 caliber rifled muskets preferred by tens of thousands of shooters who like martial arms. Among the target purists who shoot 40 pound rifles from rests, .50 and even .60 caliber bores

are not uncommon—but they constitute only a tiny fragment of the guns in use.

In the handgun line, .36 caliber is substantially the most popular. Recoil is light and little powder is required. Also, proper-size lead balls are available as 000 buckshot, thus eliminating the need for casting your own. The .44's and .45's come next and are usually preferred for hunting and by many serious target shooters. Other calibers aren't too common in handguns, though .31 revolvers are now showing up in fair numbers and are great fun for plinking.

Even the most staid individual will find himself drifting back a century or so when he steps up to the line with long-rifle charged and ready to speak. As the trigger finger tightens, the range sheds dissolve into virgin timber; the graveled firing point becomes springy forest turf; and the target is transformed into a grizzly, mad with man-smell or, maybe, a skulking scout who can't be allowed back to his band with news of your coming. And back, back, you go through the pungent smell of black powder, free of the pressures around you, oblivious to the strident clamor of Sunday traffic and all those other things you wish weren't there.



HANDGUNNING: D.A. vs. S.A. AUTOMATICS

(Continued from page 13)

guns of theirs I've examined, have spread the resistance more or less the full length of the pull. These however were excruciatingly gritty, due to a surfeit of tool marks on all action components, which must have added at least two pounds to the weight of pull. Since Walther sears are drive fitted into place in a support jig at the plant, there's little outside that can be done to improve them.

The Beretta Model 90 is an opposite case in point. The double action is laudable, but single action letoff occurs with the trigger too far forward, and the resultant backlash somewhat compromises all shots, save the first.

The accusation most often leveled at the double action automatic however is a generic one, having nothing to do with the individual model's design or construction. The d.a., we are told, cannot hold the vital first two shots together, but is foredoomed to waste one or the other of them.

It's accepted that either a double action revolver or a single action automatic can group its shots closely in fast, instinctive work, since the grip and trigger pull for all shots are identical. The double action pull of the revolver, indeed, seems an aid to some people since the long, 12-lb. stroke supposedly helps pull the gun out of recoil and steady it on target. A d.a.-only automatic—Steyr, Tezet, or Le-Français—works likewise.

The problem with most double-action automatics, which go single-action for the second and all succeeding shots, we are told, is that a grip and trigger finger position which is right for one is automatically wrong for the other, and the contrast between the long, heavy stroke of the d.a. and the light, crisp break of the s.a. is most disconcerting. Cooper calls it a "crunch-tick" feeling and it bothers him mightily.

Thinking back, I recalled an inter-

esting group I had fired with Beretta's double-action Model 20 .25 ACP. From 7 yards, hipshooting with one hand, I pumped out an entire 8-shot magazine, 1st shot double action and the rest single-action. A glance at the target found all 8 in a 4¾" cluster.

Certainly this gun, which many would regard as too small for creditable instinctive shooting, not only performed superlatively but gave no evidence of the d.a. doldrums. Still, I'd never tried to isolate the problem, if it is a problem, and now determined to do so.

I chose an out-of-the-box Model 39, and set about seeing how close it would hold 2-shot bursts. Firing was conducted from the hip at 7 yards, one handed, each 2-shot sequence commencing with the weapon holstered. Ten groups were fired with the first shot cranked off double action and the following shot tapped out s.a. A second 10-group series was fired all single-action, starting with the Model 39 cocked and holstered. For control purposes a 3rd series was fired, both shots d.a., with a Smith & Wesson 4" Combat Magnum loaded with Remington 158-gr. round nose .38 Spl. service loads.

In order to get rid of the worst of the shooter error, the two wildest groups in each series were ignored. Average spread between the two hits for the best 8 groups was 5.15" for d.a.-s.a., 4.78" for s.a.-s.a., and 5.78" for the d.a. revolver A fluke group which measured a mere ¼" between centers weighted the results in favor of the d.a.-s.a. series. Deleting the best group from each series then gives us an average dispersion for the middle 7 of 5.85 for d.a.-s.a., 5.04" s.a.-s.a., and 6.28" for the handgog wheelgun.

What does all this tell us, except that the author's hipshooting could stand work?

First, any of these systems will deliver—all 60 rounds (even the wild ones) stayed in the K5 zone of the Colt Silhouette.

Second, the revolver is the most difficult of the lot. It torques badly on recoil and either over-recovery or under-recovery will give excessive vertical dispersion. Small errors in trigger control yield gross lateral dispersion.

Third, the s.a.-only auto is slightly to be favored. Too much should not be made of this point, since its edge was only about ¾" over a half-foot spread.

I found, somewhat to my surprise, that there was no perceptible time lost between shots in the d.a.-s.a. series; there was no feeling of "shifting gears"; there was no necessity, either real or imagined, to alter my grip be-

tween the d.a. first shot and the s.a. follower. A couple of clips from 25 yards in the Weaver position substantiated this impression—d.a. automatics work for me. Maybe someone with longer fingers than mine would wind up with too much digit through the guard after the first shot. Perhaps someone with shorter fingers would have to grip too far to the right to reach the crank for the first one, but I doubt it. That would leave me "unique au monde" as the possessor of perfect fingers, fingers which chance to feel as at home on the diminutive Beretta and midframe Walther as they do on the large S&W.



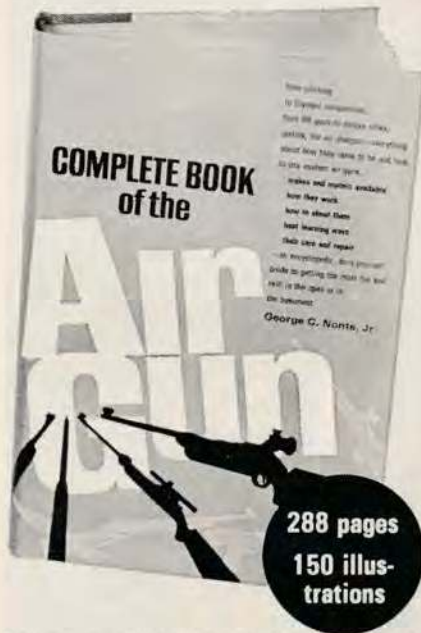
The Mauser HSc was out of production for many years. It is now imported again and proves to be very popular. Double action trigger, in .32 or .380 caliber. A fine gun! Imported by Interarms, the gun has been noted for durability, safety.

In the final analysis, the most important factors are undoubtedly psychological. Some people will never feel at ease carrying a pistol cocked and locked, no matter how safe it may be demonstrably be. They should use a double action. Others will be thrown off balance, perhaps for no real reason at all, every time the gun shifts gears between the first shot and the second. This crowd is better off with a single action all the way. A man who's been trained on one system will naturally feel adrift with the other, and much of the controversy regarding the two systems, I suspect, is the result of persons' castigating a system they've never used sufficiently to evaluate properly.

My own prejudice favors the single action. I feel better protected with it, and prefer it cocked and locked anytime a belt holster is to be worn. On the other hand, I don't favor a cocked pistol's pointing at me under any circumstances. Any gun that's worn in a pocket or groin rig should most certainly be double action. That's my breakdown. Up to PPK size—midframe 9—I want a double action. Above that size I strongly prefer a single action, but readily concede the merits and efficiency of the big d.a.'s.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS

(Continued from page 14)

will function the mechanism correctly. While I have never conducted pressure tests for the 7 grain charge, I would expect it to produce somewhat in the vicinity of 14-1500 psi.—G.N.

Moore Revolver

Recently I acquired a pocket pistol which has printed on the barrel "Moore Patent Firearms Co. Brooklyn, N. Y." The serial number is 2722. The caliber is not imprinted but is approximately .35. On the cylinder, which holds six shells, is stamped "D Williamson's Patent, January 5, 1864."

Shells are loaded through the front of the cylinder by lowering a latch on the brass engraved frame. From the shape of the cylinder bores, it seems that the shells would be rounded at the rear with a nipple primer which would protrude through a hole at the rear of the cylinder. All internal parts are stamped AA 22. The bluing shows considerable wear but otherwise the gun is in very good condition. I would appreciate any information you may have regarding this piece.

Robert Zaterka
Boylston, Mass.

Your Moore Revolver is the .30 caliber S.A. Teat Cartridge Revolver, made by Moores Firearms Company of Brooklyn, N. Y. in about 1866. It used a special cartridge with a projection at the base called a teat. Collectors value it in fine or better condition would be about \$75.00.—R.M.

Fast Draw Fan

Please send me all the suggestions on fast drawing a western rig, and the addresses of companies who publish books on this art.

Also, I am having a time on deciding which holster to buy for my Colt.
Herburt G. Allen
Ararat, Va.

I would suggest that you contact Clark H. Crussell, Secretary, Western Fast Draw Assn., 21822 Ocean Ave., Torrance, Calif. This organization has a newsletter that you can subscribe to. It features all that has to do with the sport.

If you get into competition you would have to have a Colt or other Single Action revolver in the larger caliber such as .45.—G.E.V.

Remington 721 Conversion

I have a Remington Model 721 Bolt Action rifle in .30-06 caliber. Would it be safe to convert this rifle to .30 Win. Magnum.

Allen Sharon
Livermore, Calif.

It is safe to convert your M-721 Remington to .300 Win. Magnum. The bolt face opening is a somewhat touchy operation, and a new M-700 Remington extractor must be fitted. Aside from this, chambering is all that is required. Usually the magnum cartridges will feed ok. If not, some action rail alteration might be necessary.—W.S.

POINT BLANK BY COL. CHARLES ASKINS

(Continued from page 11)

And along with these the Model 1903 Springfield. Both the 1917 and the '03 are former service rifles. The English Pattern 14 was made for the British military services. The Enfields are tremendously sturdy actions and make excellent conversions to a host of calibers including our hottest magnums. The older Springfield is something else again. Rifles of this persuasion with serial number under 800,000 of Springfield Armory manufacture are to be shunned. Rifles made by

Rock Island Arsenal with serial under 285,507, are likewise to be avoided. These receivers were brittle and quite a number have blown up with normal loads. Receivers with serials higher than these are okay for most of our cartridges altho I would not want to trade for any Springfield which had been converted to a magnum.

Finally bear in mind that the one best test of the offered swap is to take the rifle out to the range and shoot it. Nothing will tell you more about its

accuracy, the lockup, the functioning of the action, the goodness of the sights and its general condition as to crank a box of cartridges through it. If the swapper is unwilling to permit you to take his rifle and shoot it for an afternoon then I would be suspicious of both owner and gun!

It is probable that more scatterguns are swapped than rifles. Just go into any sporting goods emporium and take a gander at the used numbers offered for trade. Invariably you will see more shotguns than any others. I never back away from a proposed exchange of scatterguns because these are an even better risk than a trade of rifles. For one thing the smoothbore has a barrel that simply does not shoot out. If it has had even a modicum of care it is perfectly satisfactory. And such items as headspace, while it exists, is a minor problem. The chances are the used shotgun will look like hell on its outer surfaces for the gun in duck blinds and like spots suffers a good deal. But this is no sure indication it has been done real harm. Only the shotgun that has been used by a trap shooter or a skeetman will show a lot of firing. These bucks really wear them out. The rest of us, if we count the number of our shots per hunting season, do not seriously threaten the life of the modern smoothbore.

It is only when the swapper persists in acquiring some venerable side-by-side double that he can get a well worn shotgun. The double barrel wears at the hinge pin and this together with wear in the lockup, can leave them pretty loose. If you are set on an older double look it over with a highly critical eye!

It used to be that the standard 12 gauge chamber was only 2 5/8" and the 16 gauge was 2 1/4". The chambers have now been standardized at 2 3/4 inches. When looking over an old gun be sure you aren't dealing for a musket with one of these obsolete chambers. Among the older models are still a few damascus barrels. These are pretty rare anymore but occasionally you see one. If you are swapping for a relic, the twist or damascus tube is okay, but if you are dickering for a smoothbore you intend to shoot, then avoid these tubes. Both are dangerous with our modern loads.

Barrels should be bright and shining, free of rust, leading, pits and dents. Chambers should be the same way. The forcing cone should be clearly defined and should not be rusted or pitted. Sometimes double guns split apart and in resoldering them a misalignment occurs. It is always good insurance to take out the proposed trading property and pattern

test it. Cheaper doubles many times were misaligned at the factory and only by firing them can you spot this serious problem. Ribs are want to come unglued. Give the rib a searching examination and be sure it is firmly in place. Hairline cracks occur in the stock especially if the gun is a sideplate lock. Look out for these. A common fault is for the forend to pop off under recoil. You cannot find this unless you fire the piece. The choke of the tubes can be determined by shooting. Regardless of the markings on each tube it is always better to pattern test the gun to really pin down just what kind of patterns it throws.

When I am swapping shotguns the models I like best to deal in are the pump repeaters and the automatics. Both represent excellent risk. Very little goes haywire with either shotgun. The slide action sometimes busts an operating rod, extractors tend to crystallize, ejectors chip around the corners, and the barrel gets pretty wobbly in the receiver but these are not too serious faults. A few dollars for parts will make them completely serviceable again. As for the sloppy joint betwixt barrel and receiver on most of our takedown pumpguns there is an adjusting ring on the barrel which will eliminate all the looseness. Those few scatterguns of the slide action type that have non-takedown actions are completely okay for you never have this problem. I am thinking now of the Mossberg and the High Standard.

A well used pump has a lot going for it because the many shots fired simply makes the action function smoothly. I like 'em that way. I well remember picking up an old Remington Model 31 pump repeater that had seen a lot of mileage. You could point the muzzle skyward, unlock the bolt latch and the action would fall open of its own weight. What a joy it was to shoot!

An ancient Model 12 Winchester pump I have will do the same thing. It has seen many years of field useage and has never developed any pains except to break an operating rod. The Model 12 sometimes gets out of time and the shell carrier will lift either too early or too late. Only by shuffling a few cartridges through the magazine can you spot this fault. It is common to not just the Model 12, but to all repeaters.

Among the autoloaders there is no more sturdy gun than the Browning. Made and sold for a great many years by Remington as the Model 11, now peddled by Savage, and still a most active item in the Browning Arms Co. sales effort, this fine old cornsheller

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This long-needed treatment of gun language goes beyond mere definition to explain, picture, and relate the common, the hard-to-understand, the often misused terminology of firearms, ammunition, accessories, and gun-fixing techniques. For the historically curious it reflects how many of the terms came to be known as they are today.

Terms and phrases are listed according to the major category word and cross references appear continuously. Secondary references are commonplace, and refer you to other entries that will expand your understanding of a particular subject. The clear-cut definitions are presented fully under the term most closely understood to be the correct technical term. For instance, most of you have probably heard of a *blue pill*. The correct technical term is, of course, *proofload* and if you looked up *blue pill* you would find an entry which refers you to the more accurate technical term.

What about trade names? When a particular product—because of its long and respected usage—has come to be referred to universally whenever that item, regardless of manufacturer, is discussed, that trade name has become a part of gun language and as such is included. An example is *Luger*, often used when describing pistols of similar design.

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simply goes on and on! A single Browning automatic during World War II at an air force base where aerial gunnery was taught, was fired a half-million rounds. It had a few spare parts added but not many. It is an indication of the rugged dependability of this old timer.

The Browning (or Model 11) sometimes splits the forestock; this is because of improper pressure by the magazine cap. Occasionally the locking lug will develop hairline cracks. And this also occurs in the locking recess in the barrel extension. The gun wants to be torn down and these two points should be examined with a magnifying glass. I have seen receivers crack at the back of the ejection port but it is pretty rare. Too, extractors will sometimes pop off, ejectors crystallize and hammers do the same. But, by and large, this is one of the best swap items you'll find among used shotguns.

The Browning over/under is another tough one. I own seven of these shotguns and have never had any trouble with any of them. One gun is 30 years old. Other than to get dirt in the single trigger and cause it to malfunction temporarily I have never had any problems with any of them. Here of late I have heard of ribs popping off. This happened on O/U's that were fired at skeet where a lot of shooting goes on. The Browning superposed represents a whale of a good trade.

Some of the over/unders that lock up into the face of the standing breech such as the Beretta, Purdy, Woodward, Boss, Westley Richards and others have firing pins set at acute angles because of the shallowness of the receiver. A firing pin which does not strike the primer from directly behind it is very apt to get misfires. This happens with these expensive over/unders on occasion. If you are considering a top-and-bottom model be sure and take it out and bang off a box of shells to check on reliability.

This not only will give you pretty definite evidence of the reliability of ignition but will also tell you whether the barrels are aligned together. Sometimes in soldering the two tubes together the maker gets one to hit dead on but the other shoots off by the apple orchard. This is not an uncommon fault and cannot be found except by firing at a pattern sheet. Shooting will also show you how the ejectors function. Both should throw the empties together and these should clear the gun by 6 or 8 feet. If the shotgun has a single trigger the firing will also indicate any bad faults of doubling. Nothing is more disconcerting than to pull the trigger once and have both barrels go off! Only by shooting can you spot these little eccentricities of the preferred fowling piece.



.22 WADCUTTER SHALL WE TRY IT AGAIN?

(Continued from page 29)

was evident. Next move? Get it there faster! The loading was changed from the copper cased standard velocity to the brass cased high velocity round. The new round worked better at a velocity level of about 1300 feet per second (in rifles). This brought the pistol velocity up to about 1060 F.P.S. and the tipping bullet problem was reduced. This is the way the cartridge was finally put on the market. It was called "The Remington Kleanbore .22 Indoor Target Sharp Shoulder Cartridge."

The new cartridge was announced about February of 1934 and met with a mixed reception. Some hailed it as the greatest little pistol round ever devised. Others assailed it as an unstable, wobble nosed tumbler that often insisted on going thru the target sideways! They were both right. It did, indeed, shoot most beautifully in many guns. However, there were some handguns that simply could not

stabilize this bullet. These shooters would stroll down to the target to observe some clean cut round holes mingled with some assorted oval holes and occasionally a hilarious square-cornered oblong hole where the bullet had, in all truth, gone through sideways! What pained these shooters most was that the shooter next to them might be showing off a bull full of perfectly formed, clean-cut wadcutter holes of .22 caliber. There were also some real scoring problems. If your bullet hole is oval, should the scorer insert his plug to favor the higher or lower ring?

The Remington Sharp Shoulder ammunition was marketed for a few years but, as sales began to sag, the company announced that they were going to discontinue production. I was in my late teens when I read a brief notice to this effect in the "Dope Bag" section of the "Rifleman." This made me sit up and take notice because I

had discovered what a few other shooters had also observed by trying the wadcutters in their rifles. The little flatpoints were great small game hunting loads! The following Saturday I shopped around town to buy up all the .22 Remington wadcutters I could afford. All I could find was one carton of 500 and five single boxes. A total of seven hundred fifty rounds! At that time I had discovered that the bullets keyholed at 50 yards from my Remington #4 rolling block with its worn barrel. They shot well in a Stevens 056 sporter and were excellent in my highly accurate Mossberg M-35 single shot target rifle. This latter rifle, which sold for less than fifteen dollars in those days, had been extolled by gun writer E. C. Crossman as unusually accurate for such a low price gun. It had a $1\frac{3}{16}$ " heavy barrel full target stock with cheekpiece and a single shot bolt action. Mine carried a four power scope and using the Remington wadcutters, had accounted for crow, woodchucks and squirrels. I used my little hoard of ammunition sparingly and found it to be quite accurate in rifles and the flat nose seemed to give a good shock effect when they smacked into chucks at ranges no greater than 100 yards. I never tried to stretch the distance with these bullets because I felt that they must surely lose velocity quite rapidly.

I do recall one instance where I pushed one beyond 100 yards. A chubby chuck had ducked into his den and I had stalked to within about 65 yards of his hole to register the results of his curiosity. I figured that when he hiked his head, I would ream the wax out of his ears with the Remington wadcutter. In a few moments, old fur face hove his head and shoulders into view but my eye had also caught the motion of a large crow that had swooped down on the opposite side of the hedgerow. He alighted on a fencepost, tucked his wings and commenced to peruse the general area. He was a good bit farther away than the chuck and it appeared that he was the lookout for a flock of crows in the field beyond my view . . . there is nothing more confusing to a flock of crows than to dust off their sentinel. They walk around without talking to one another for days. They concur that if you can't trust the lookout, you sure can't trust any common crow! The sudden appearance of this large licorice leader had changed priorities. I eased the heavy barrel Mossberg around to cover the crow. Because of the increased distance, hard to judge because of bushes between us, I took a strip of light between the cross hair and the high edge of the crow's back

and pressed one off. The Remington flathead struck in the neck. The big crow tumbled to the ground and two stray black feathers followed him down. I turned back to the chuck. He was still out, but as I fumbled to reload the single shot, he lowered himself, probably laughing. I paced to the fallen crow and found it close to 125 yards. The unseen flock had risen and was still screaming disparaging remarks about the poor quality of the help.

Yes, the Remington Sharp Shoulder .22 wadcutter was a highly interesting cartridge. It was a good looking round that could either delight or disappoint the shooter. I only fired them from a pistol on one occasion and they did not keyhole. In my rifles they did very well as hunting loads. Perhaps the time is ripe to again consider a .22 wadcutter bullet. The same reasons for wanting one are still there. The pistol shooters like big fat holes that are easy to spot and score. Should the design be altered a little? Would a hollow base improve stability? We have all kinds of questions. Which ammunition company would like to come up with the answers? I think that a good .22 wadcutter can be designed and manufactured and I think it would sell. All those in favor . . . reach for your pen!



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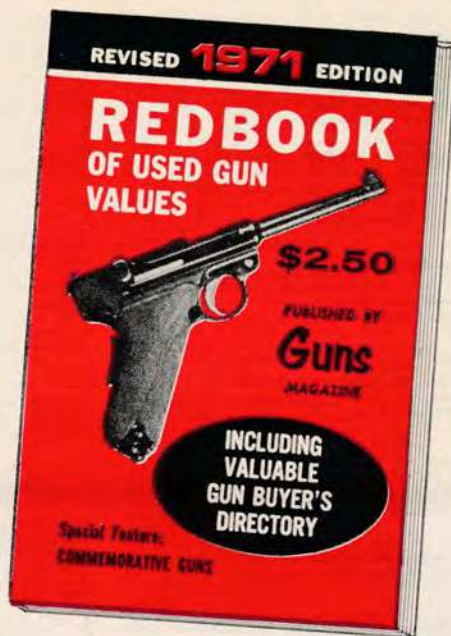
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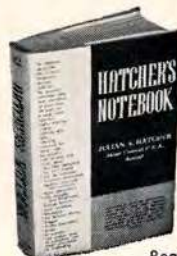
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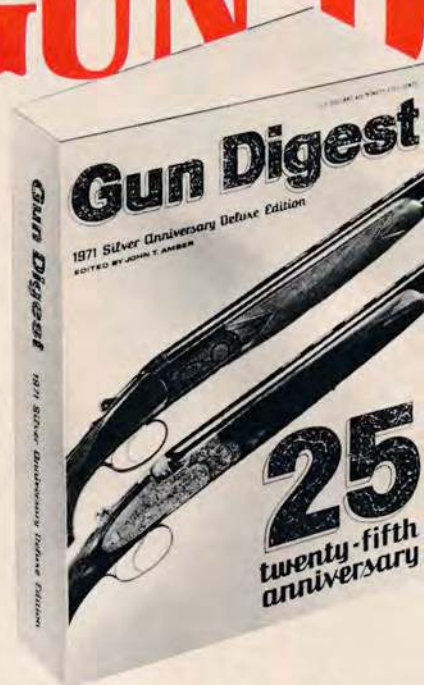
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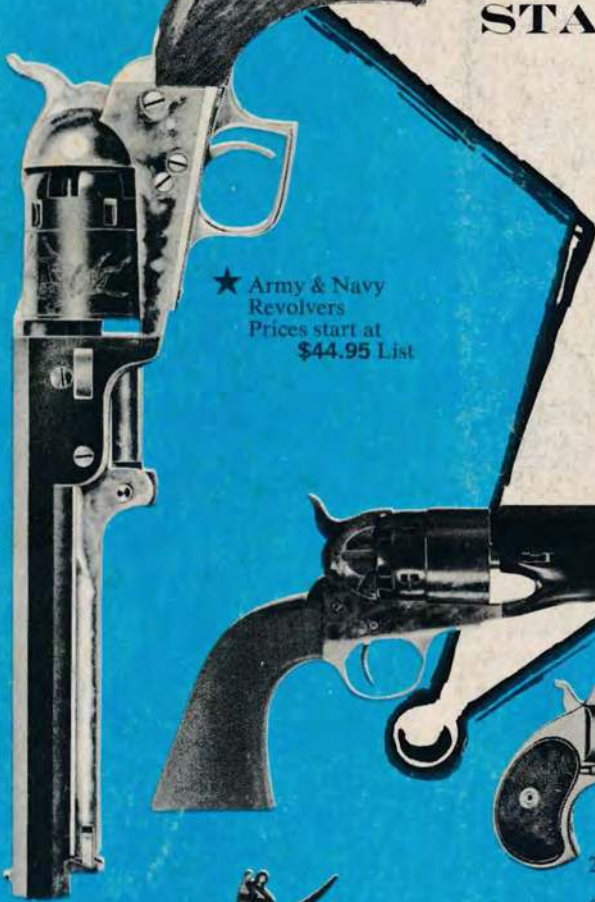
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