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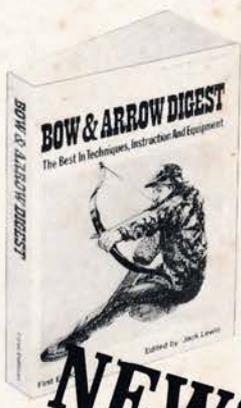


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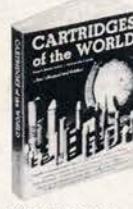
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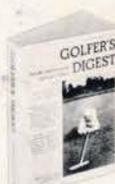
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Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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SITTING in the White House on March 25th, I listened as Administration officials explained their position on gun control. The subject was handguns, and the specific problem was the vast numbers of "Saturday Night Specials" now being manufactured and sold in the U.S. At the table, the three administration representatives—Gordon Liddy, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury; Donald Santarelli, Associate Deputy Attorney General; and Henry Cashen, Assistant to the President—reaffirmed their position against the several handgun proposals pending in Congress, that is, they are against any sort of registration and, of course against any ban on the sale or manufacture of handguns. They also indicated that the administration would support bills which would amend—not repeal—the Gun Control Act of 1968.

On the subject of some sort of control of the cheap handguns, the Administration admitted that they were in the process of testing all types of handguns to see if some sort of quality standards could be imposed which would eliminate those which are unsafe. We will have to wait and see just what kind of proposal comes out of this test program, but it is apparent that the Administration wants the support of the shooting sportsman if the proposal is acceptable to them.

As I sat there, I must admit that I missed a lot of the conversation. My thoughts kept going back to Washington meetings during the Johnson administration, and I wondered if the shooters would accept the fact that we do have an administration which is not anti-gun; one that is willing to sit down and discuss the problem and listen to ideas—or would they look back to the 60's and reject anything to come out of the White House? I am certain that we will never get the simplistic proposals we want—repeal of the GCA and mandatory penalty laws rather than more gun controls—out of this administration. But we will, I am sure, get help from them in combatting registration and confiscation proposals, and we should take advantage of any help we can get. Who knows what direction the feelings of the next administration—if Nixon should be defeated—will take?

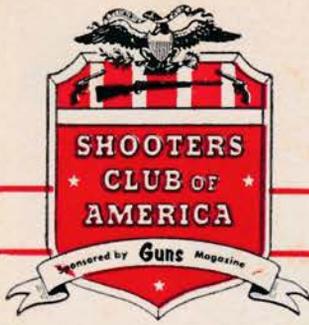
THE COVER

The venerable Krag, shown here with original sling, and bayonet. Details in the article on page 32. Photo by Albert Hout.



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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

There is a very amusing and informative book on the market called "How to lie with Statistics." It is written in a light hearted manner but is never the less accurate in its description of propaganda techniques used to manipulate facts, figures and statistics. After looking at the President's Violence Commission report I'm sure the Commission used every trick in this book.

The Commission's final conclusions were that the Federal Government should ban the sale of all handguns, and it is implied that handguns already in circulation should be collected. The report states that there are 100 million modern firearms in current use. The report also states that 25 million of these are handguns. The Commission reports that three-quarters of all homicides are committed with handguns.

This is where the statistical propaganda starts to come into play. The general impression left by the report is that 25 million handguns are used illegally. That is a staggering figure and the immediate reaction of most people is serious alarm. But the trick is this; the 25 million refers to homicides and not handguns. And if you read the report carefully you see they are talking about 6,000 homicides for the year in question. So in reality what you have is NOT 18 million handguns used illegally as the report implies, but 4,500 handguns. The real facts are that only .018 per cent of all modern handguns were used in homicides, but 99.98% are not. That is quite a difference from the original impression the commission tried to sell.

The SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA has been explaining to Congress for the last three years that 99.9% of all firearms are used by honest conscientious sportsman. And it is only a small per cent of less than 1/10 of 1% that is causing all the trouble. But a few groups in Washington keep coming up with the proposal that all handgun sales should be stopped and all firearms holders should have their handguns taken. They want the 99.9% to suffer for the .01%. Does that make any sense?

The statistics as arranged and the conclusions drawn from these figures by the Commission on Violence are as queer as a three

dollar bill. It is an insult to every sportsman to find that people in our government are using our tax money for a communist type propaganda smear. Words cannot be found to describe these low Washington boot lickers.

It is time to call a spade a spade. After spending years in Washington and talking with many of the people who are proposing a ban on handguns, the overriding motive I see for their action is their own advancement and aggrandizement. They know that if the government was suckered into collecting guns it would take billions of dollars and last for years. The present Commission members and people in that circle are on the ground floor, and if there was a big ground swell they would be on top. This is the classic route for fast easy advancement in the government. I've seen it first hand a dozen times in the Army and in Washington. You start with ten men on a commission and a few years later you have a big department, and the original men who started it are the department heads and set for life. Most of these new departments have served some kind of need, but this one on gun confiscation is ridiculous.

The whole idea of confiscating handguns to reduce crime is propaganda. As has been pointed out in this column before, there are already millions of handguns and reloading machines in circulation. Even if all sales of handguns were stopped today, there would still be enough to supply a black market for many years. And as already pointed out in another previous column, the illegal manufacture of crude but very effective weapons is a relatively easy proposition. These two points are more for armed crime in general. To take gun manufacturing and link it with homicides is a basic lie in itself. Most homicides are either crimes of passion or professional killings. The figures from Europe where they have restricted guns prove that the lack of open firearms sales has little effect on the homicide rate with before and after findings.

Help the Shooters Club of America stop these bureaucrats from their power grab in Washington. Tomorrow might be to late, fill in the envelope on this page and send it in today.

Col. E. R. Becker

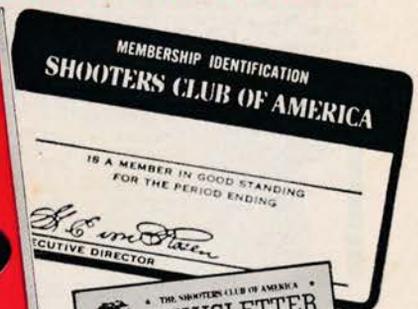
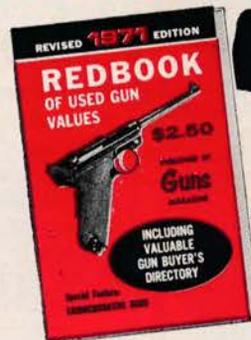
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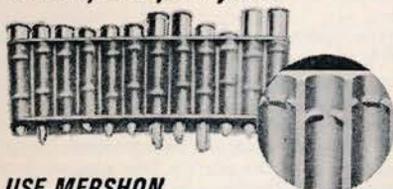


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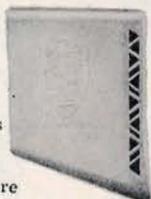
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As recipient of the January Safari contest for a hunt at the Y. O. Ranch, I wish to thank you not only because I won, but simply for offering such a prize. I would like you to know I have never in all my 28 years won anything, so it was a thrill, to say the least. Since I was allowed to bring my wife with me you made a life-long fan. She thought the Y.O. was beautiful. I killed a terrific ram and our guide plus the entire staff at the Y.O. were as helpful and friendly as humanly possible.

We both enjoyed the company of Col. Askins and a more amiable and interesting hunting companion could hardly be found. The chance to meet and talk with Col. Askins, to me, was one of the trip's highlights. Many thanks.

Martin DeMatteo
Metairie, La.

Handgunning Notes . . .

It took me several issues to wake up and take a startled closer look at the really special gun heading the regular article "Stevenson on Hand Guns." The artist must have had a lot of fun incorporating as many mutually contradictory features as possible. Or was the game to include features of interest to people involved in all aspects of handgunning? The only thing I can see that he left out was a big adjustable rear sight hanging off the end of the rear toggle link.

This is another example of why I think yours is the most interesting magazine in the gun field.

John R. Ledbetter, Jr.
Rogersville, Ala.

Well, Stevenson did it again; his article in your April issue was "Right On." It is about time some law enforcement officials started to wake up and realize that the automatic pistol is far superior in many ways over the wheel gun. I carry the Browning 9mm which, fully loaded with a round in the chamber, has a 14 round capacity. In addition to this you can remove the

clip and still have a round in the chamber and not be able to fire due to the clip safety which is engaged.

Keep up the good work and let's have more articles like this. You forgot to mention that the Romeoville, Illinois police department also uses the Model 39.

James Newins
Chicago, Ill.

On the other hand . . .

In Jan Stevenson's rather shaky case for the semi-automatic pistol as a defense weapon (April GUNS), he fails to make any mention at all of jams or misfires. Admittedly, neither is common with modern guns and ammunition, but they do happen occasionally, and the peace officer can be rendered very dead in a gunfight while using both hands to clear a malfunctioning automatic. Also, in any caliber other than the underservedly popular .45 ACP, the full-jacketed, round nose bullets which most automatics must use to function properly are the least efficient man-stoppers it is possible to devise.

As Mr. Stevenson so much as admits, the semi-auto is the bane of reloaders. Not only does it throw its brass into weeds, holes and dark corners, it mangles it in the process. Nor is it any good for informal target shooting or plinking, in center fire models, since reduced loads will often fail to function the action and must be loaded one at a time.

It seems to me no big mystery why the European police forces are returning to revolvers as service weapons. They have tried the automatic, found it wanting for the above reasons and probably many others, and concluded, along with many of the rest of us, that at the present time, anyway, the wheelgun is still a superior all-around weapon. The semi-auto, it seems to me, is rather exclusively a military pistol, and always has been.

William P. White
Wayne, Pa.

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By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

WHEN THE last M-1 service rifle was manufactured in 1957, it ended a 21-year span in which the arm piled up a record never before attained by any military weapon. During two major wars it performed with a degree of success which stamps it as probably the most dependable firearm ever used by troops in battle. When the rifle was displaced by the M-14, a so-called improved version, the latter might well have been dubbed the M-1A1 for it was only a slightly altered copy of the original. It took the ordnance corps sixteen years to birth the M-14 and all they had when they labored so mightily was an M-1 which held a 20-shot magazine instead of an 8-round clip.

The M-1 appeared on the scene just in time to be given its baptism of fire in our greatest war. It was an unknown quantity and whether it would stand up to the travail of modern war was speculative. Adopted in 1936, it caused a tremendous amount of dissension on the part of the old Indian fighters who were quite certain a semi-auto rifle in the hands of our soldiery could never be supported supply-wise because of the great expenditure of cartridges. We had never fought a war with a self-loading shoulder arm, and direful were the predictions that it would fill up with mud and sand and never function reliably.

The M-1 took the war in stride. It fought from the hedgerows of France to the sands of Iwo Jima and it never missed a stutter. It took rain, snow, mud, sand, abuse and neglect and continued to fire. There has never been a more wholly reliable military weapon. Before it was phased out we had made five and a half millions. Most of these we have given away to dubious allies around the world. These have fallen into the hands of almost as many enemies and the Viet Cong have not a few of them, being gifts of the French.

The M-1 was the branchchild of John Garand, a long-time employee of Springfield Armory. Garand, a French-Canadian who had a lot of inventive genius, commenced on a self-loading rifle in 1920. His first at-

tempt was a semi-auto that was functioned in part by primer actuation. The idea was not exactly new with Garand, it had been developed during the first world war, but his scheme was an improvement as he intended to use the standard .30-06 casing. Theretofore the system had required a special cartridge and primer.

The Garand development was based on the set-back of the primer of about three-one-hundredths of an inch. This was not much movement but it was enough, impinging on the firing pin as it did, to cause this to unlock the breech. There remained enough residual pressure in the bore to complete the unlocking motion of the breech-bolt. The action functioned quite well until the army changed powders, dropping the old pyro propellant which was relatively fast burning for the newer, progressive burning improved military powder. This new change ruined the reliability of the Garand development. He dropped his experimentation in this direction and went to gas.

In 1928 he came along with another forerunner of the M-1. This was his first gas-actuated arm. Instead of following the lead of other inventors of the time he did not tap the barrel and draw off gas through a port. Instead he put a cap over the muzzle and the gas, when it passed the muzzle and entered this cap, was diverted in small part and there impinged on the piston. Again, as with his primer-actuated automatic, this was not altogether original. Soren Bang, a Danish firearms designer had developed a muzzle cap in 1911 which was a take-off on one first whumped up by the famous machine gun designer, Hiram Maxim. The Bang gas-cap was movable, and the cap designed by Garand was immobile. The trial of this gas system was short lived so far as Garand was concerned. He soon abandoned it for the more conventional gas port near the muzzle of the piece.

While Garand was busy with his rifle other inventors were equally occupied. Chief among these was the
(Continued on page 10)



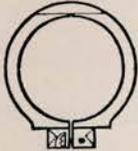
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(Continued from page 8)

extraordinary J. D. Pedersen, who had been working on a self-loading rifle and at the same time was very strongly advocating that the military should abandon the .30 caliber and go to a .276 caliber. So convincing were the Pedersen arguments in favor of the .276, that the Army held a series of tests in 1929 and the Pedersen cartridge looked so good that the military decided to adopt it.

Garand had made his latest rifle, with a gas port close to the muzzle, in the .276 caliber. During a series of competitive tests at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Garand was tops. Pedersen had his rifle there, a novel shooting iron which had a breech which worked not unlike the Luger pistol. It had a toggle joint and no locking lugs at all. It was a strong and practical design but the ordnance board had given the nod to the Garand. Some 20 rifles were made and put in the hands of the troops for an extended field test. About that time Gen. MacArthur, who was Chief-of-Staff, threw a monkey wrench into the selection business. He said the tests were all a mistake, done without his approval, and there would be no switch to the .276 caliber. We'd just stick with the .30 which was the smallest size that could be depended on to surely kill an enemy. Things moved slowly forty years ago. From the tests of 1929 until the somewhat momentous decision of the chief-of-staff had taken three years.

Garand was not dismayed, maybe some word had sifted down that the .276 was not going to be approved by the head of the army. At any rate, our inventor simply switched his current offering to the .30 caliber and went along with the further refinement of the rifle. In January, 1936 it was adopted as the standard service weapon and was dubbed the M-1.

From 1937 when production was cranked up until the M-1 was declared obsolete in 1957, a total of 5½ million were manufactured. These were made by Springfield Armory and the Winchester Arms Co. Also in the picture was International Harvester and Harrington & Richardson. Because of its background in the production of the M-1, this latter company got the contract to manufacture the M-14 when it replaced the original arm. After the war the M-1 was made by both the Beretta and the Breda companies in Italy. These rifles were supplied to the Italian army and were sold in considerable numbers to Indonesia and Denmark.

The Beretta Co. made some 6 variations of the M-1. These changes earned the rifle a new designation. It

was dubbed the BM-59, and was, among other modifications, chambered for the 7.62mm NATO cartridge. The rifle was altered to accept magazines of 15, 20 and 25 rounds, with the 20-round clip standard. The barrel was shortened to 19.3 inches, a selector button was incorporated so the rifle could be fired either semi-auto or full-auto, there was a folding metal buttstock, full pistol grip, folding bipod, an adaption to accept a short bayonet, and a grenade launcher attachment. In still another version, there was a heavy barrel model which was intended to be used to replace the BAR. The Italian army adopted the BM-59 and made attempts to interest other NATO armies in the adoption of the modernized arm.

The problem after our adoption of the 7.62mm NATO round was what to do with the M-1 rifle which was chambered for the older .30-06 round. The M-14, when it came along, was chambered for the shorter cartridge but the question of the million or more M-1's then in existence was a perplexing one. The Navy neatly solved this equation by developing a sleeve insert which was driven into the forward end of the chamber and thus nearly took up the ½-inch of excess space that existed there. This modification was quite successful. Occasionally the sleeve would loosen and come out with an extracted round but this was a relatively infrequent occurrence and on the whole, the practicality of the Navy development was quite sound.

The Army as a whole refused to accept the sleeving arrangement and this was probably because we were giving the M-1 away in such numbers that the Pentagon very probably concluded that there was, in fact, no problem. I was in Vietnam in 1956-57 as chief advisor to the whole VN army on marksmanship. These little people were armed with the M-1. I examined thousands of bores, dropped a bullet into the muzzle, and otherwise passed judgment on the condition of the loaned arms. It was pitiful. The rifles had been loaned to the French during their bruhaha with the Viet Minh, a bloodletting which extended from 1946 to 1954, and had then been acquired by the Vietnamese. Most of the barrels were rusted, eroded, corroded and pretty generally worthless. It was discussed by the mission the advisability of re-barreling them, and finally concluded that it would be too costly. The Vietnamese army today has the M-16. The older M-1 has been passed down to the village forces with a lot of them in the hands of the North Vietnamese

(Continued on page 72)

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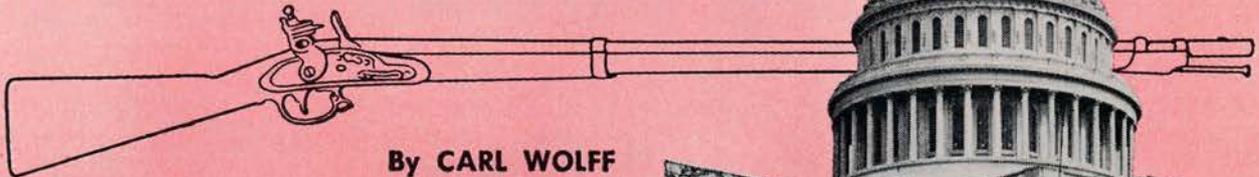
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

In an unusual and historic court action, the Humane Society of the United States successfully blocked public hunting this past season in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. The legal ramifications make it a national issue.

Unless the Court action is reversed, more suits will mean the end of public hunting on federal property. Unless the reversal is speedy, hundreds of such actions will be taken next year. Last year there were some 180 hunts on federal refuges.

The obvious attack on such cases brought by anti-hunting would be to document the amounts of money hunters have been taxed to support such refuges. This was apparently not done in the New Jersey case. The U.S. Department of the Interior maintained that the deer herd in the refuge had to be trimmed and that its proposed plan of allowing 150 licensed hunters into the refuge to do the job was "the appropriate method."

Some observers here in Washington say the Department of Interior wanted to lose the case. Singled out in issue has been Robert Scott, Chief of Interior's Division of Wildlife Refuges. He is being quoted as opposing hunting on wildlife refuges.

The anti-hunting groups in New Jersey attacked the hunt "because of the great suffering to animals that would almost certainly accompany the hunt." While conceding that the deer herd needed reduction, they first urged Interior to use professional hunters. Next the anti-hunters retained Dr. Helmut Buechner, senior ecologist of the Smithsonian Institution, to inspect the Great Swamp refuge and report on whether a culling of the deer was

absolutely necessary, and if it had to be done so quickly. Dr. Buechner reported that culling was needed but a delay of another year would not "irreparably damage the foliage and environment." Apparently there was no importance attached to whether the deer would suffer during the winter when the area would be over-grazed.

The anti-hunters also just happened to find a report from Interior recommending the use of limited numbers of expert riflemen as "the best way to trim a herd." Argued, too, was that it was the declared policy of the U.S. government to be humane in animal welfare matters and that the hunt would violate that policy.

Statistics were cited to show that amateur hunting of the kind proposed usually produced about a fifty percent "clean kill." That meant, according to the anti-gunners, about fifty percent of the deer would be merely wounded "receiving grievous and painful injuries."

Interior contended that alternative known means had been considered, but it had decided the public hunt was the appropriate method. Government attorneys argued it would be "impracticable" to use sharpshooters because hunting is a recognizable sport throughout the world and "has been a tradition in America before the white man came."

Federal Judge John Sirica ruled for the anti-hunters, granting a temporary restraining order that halted the hunt for the season. The government did appeal the decision, but it was upheld by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Commenting on the case, here in Washington, was Humane Society President, John A. Hoyt. "It is a small but significant step," (Continued on page 17)

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

JUST IN CASE you haven't heard it already, Hornady Manufacturing has bought Pacific Gun Sight Company. The Hornady outfit, ramrodded by our good friend Joyce Hornady, has long been known far and wide among handloaders as a most excellent independent producer of fine bullets for the handloader. Through the majority of its early years, Hornady produced only jacketed rifle bullets, but in just the past couple or three years has added an extensive line of handgun types, most of which are specifically designed to give good expansion in animal tissue at typical handgun velocities. The most recent addition to the line is an odd-looking, stubby, truncated-cone, jacketed expanding bullet weighing 185 grains for the .45 Automatic. While it may look unusual, it can be driven plenty fast at safe pressures—up to a good bit over 1,000 fps—and expands well at that speed.

All of the recent additions to the Hornady line make it now one of the most extensive (if not *the* most extensive) available today—including every rifle caliber from .17 to .458, and pistol calibers from .357 through .45. If you can't find something in that line to suit you, you must be awfully hard to please.

Hornady's acquisition of Pacific leads us to believe we will see a good bit more of the latter in the very near future. Pacific is next to the oldest loading tool company still in existence and introduced many of the features we find as standard on today's tools. For example, the open-front, C-type press; the 7/8 x 14-thread dies in the form we have today; the swinging primer arm; and a good many other items were all pioneered by Pacific long ago—well before a good many of you readers were born. The simple, strong, and economical C-press and interchangeable dies and shell holders have probably done more to popularize handloading than anything else. Before that, every maker had his own die and shell holder design and there

was no interchangeability.

• • •

Every now and then we get inquiries about developing handloads in popular big-game rifle calibers, but for use on varmints. It appears that with today's proliferation of very fine cartridges intended purely for varmint-busting, many of the younger or less-experienced shooters have come to believe that the bigger bores simply won't do well in that field. Nothing could be farther from the truth. You lads who have been with us only a decade or so won't remember that before the advent of the .22 Remington and all that was to follow, there was only *one* factory cartridge available that was really suitable for long-range varminting—the late lamented .220 Swift, than which even today there is no whicher. Though rifles are no longer made domestically for it, the old .220 *still* claims the highest muzzle velocity of any standard factory-loaded cartridge, over 4,100 fps. The only other choices we had were the diminutive .22 Hornet with its limited range, or to use the bigger hunting calibers. Considering that damn few people could afford to ante up the cost of a new M-70 Winchester .220 just to use for varmints, most of us cooked up some rather decent, fast-stepping varmint loads for things like the .257 Roberts, .270 Winchester, .30-06, and even the 7mm and 8mm Mauser. Excellent bullets for those purposes are still available, and the cartridges haven't lost a bit of their ability to explode prairie dogs, jack rabbits, coyotes, and all manner of similar targets if you've a good barrel to launch them.

Let's take a look at some old loading data cards and see just what did (and will) work.

.30-06:

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(Continued on page 16)

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inch barrel with excellent accuracy. Also used pulled 110 gr. .30 Carbine FMJ bullets with the same charges and less accuracy—and out to a bit past 150 yards they blew up just about as well as soft points.

125 gr. (Speer, I think) bullet and 53.0 gr. of 3031 developing a bit over 3200 fps and capable of consistent hits on prairie dogs to 200 yards or more.

.270 Winchester:

100 gr. Speer bullet and 53.0 gr. of 4064, producing 3400 fps and extremely explosive kills.

130 gr. factory bullet with 56.0 gr. of 4350, producing a bit over 3100 fps and excellent accuracy, but it didn't open up well enough on varmints at long range.

7mm Mauser:

130 gr. Speer bullet and 46.5 gr. of 4064, cranking 3000 fps; also 45.0 gr. of 3031 for the same results.

.257 Roberts:

87 gr. Speer bullet and 44.0 gr. of 4320 for just over 3000 fps and superb accuracy.

.300 H. & H. Magnum:

I didn't use it, but some of the boys got over 3700 fps from 26-inch barrels using the 110 gr. Speer bullet and 77-78 gr. of 4350. Velocity dropped off fast, but anything hit while it was still up over about 3400 fps simply exploded into a red mist.

8mm Mauser:

Hardly ever considered a varmint caliber, this one gave me excellent results with the early Speer 125 gr. bullet and 52.5 gr. of 3031. This produced just a hair over 3000 fps and excellent accuracy.

.30-30 Winchester:

Some handloaders who didn't have a more potent bolt-action rifle even stepped up their .30-30's for varmints with the 110 gr. bullet and 35.0 gr. of 3031 for a velocity of about 2700 fps in the long-barrel rifle, somewhat less in the stubby 20" carbine.

So, as can be seen, it isn't really necessary to go out and spend a bundle just for a varmint rifle. Many of the older bigbores will really do quite a creditable job if you make the effort to load them properly. If you'll root around and locate some of the older handloading manuals of, say, the early 1950's or before, you'll find plenty of varmint-type loading data for all manner of cartridges not often used for that purpose today.

Incidentally, those old loading manuals are getting scarce these days. Some of them were not printed in

large quantity, and if you run across one you don't have, it would be a good idea to pick it up. Not only do they have value today because of their scarcity, they contain a good deal of loading information not found in the more recent books. In them you'll find lots of loading data for cartridges since discontinued, as well as plenty of loads for powders that are no longer made. This sort of material can be valuable for reference in the future—who knows when you might come up with a gun in a discontinued caliber or a 25-pound keg of a forgotten powder?

Now and then people ask about handloading the smallest of the autopistol cartridges—the .25 and .32 ACP. They can be reloaded, just like any other pistol caliber, but the diminutive size of cases and bullets makes it a bit of a chore. Standard factory made jacketed bullets are available for both from W-W and R-P but hardly anywhere else. Lyman mold #308252 throws the correct plain-base cast bullet (77gr.) for the .32 and duplicates factory ballistics with 2.2 gr. of Bullseye. In the .25 you'll have to settle for the factory jacketed bullet or cobble up a mold of your own; the correct weight is 50 grains. Use 1.4 gr. of Bullseye.

Don't try to increase the above powder charges. Both loads given produce chamber pressures in the 15,000 psi range, and that is all a very large percentage of the guns in those calibers can stand, especially the .25's. These two pipsqueak cartridges simply are not adaptable to "magnumizing," and any attempts to do so can only lead to trouble. You can, however, increase their effectiveness very slightly by using the softest bullets possible and drilling them to hollow-point form. If you must have more than that, swap the gun off for something bigger and more powerful. To my way of thinking, either caliber is only a very little bit better than no gun at all. Incidentally, at last count, RCBS did still offer three-unit die sets and shell holders in both calibers, though I'll bet few have been sold.

Muzzle-loading shooters are always looking for more convenient ways to speed up (and clean up) loading procedures. One popular device aimed at this is the "plastic cartridge" or charger sold by Dixie Gun Works and other suppliers. Its just a molded plastic cup into which the measured powder charge is poured; then either closed with a plastic cap, or stoppered with the bullet. Handy as this gadget is, its fairly expensive, all things considered.

Much more economical are the plastic tube and cap sets sold by Brownell's, Inc. Clear, semi-rigid plastic tube is cut to the desired length with scissors, then capped. Works fine just to hold powder charges and costs maybe two cents each once you've made them up. For use as "cartridges," with the bullet in one end; choose tubing *smaller* than bullet diameter. Then, warm up a piece of tapered metal rod and press it into the open end to expand it to fit snugly on the bullet. Get the rod just hot enough to soften the plastic and the job is quick and easy.

Finicky shooters who handload on the range will find these home-brewed plastic vials fine for carrying pre-measured (weighed) powder charges afield. It sure beats trying to set up a measure or scale at the range, where wind and dust play havoc.

OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 12)

he said, "toward the day when decisions affecting the nation's animals will be considered and dealt with humanely and intelligently. We are most encouraged that the courts have shown such concern for animal life in this case. The Interior Department's plan was basically intended to give pleasure to hunters and this, by any standard, is not a legitimate purpose in a government conservation project."

Taking sharp objection is Morgan Norval, National Director of the Firearms Lobby of America. He has persuaded a half-dozen of the hunters who were selected for the hunt-that-did-not-take-place to participate in the class action on behalf of themselves and the remaining hunters selected. The FLA is providing the legal counsel and fees involved. Norval's address is 415 2d St., N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002.

Mr. Norval has also been writing to members of Congress. "I feel that the American sportsman should close ranks and join us in the fight to eliminate this threat to our sport of hunting," he told this GUNS contributor.

In another related action—if you enjoy the ABC TV program "The American Sportsman," less this year it is because humane societies have forced substantial changes in its format. ABC has put the major emphasis on ecological problems and conservation this coming season. Pressure is being put on ABC and program sponsors "not to depict the scenes of violence and animal slaughter that have been featured so prominently in the past."

The fast new member of a famous family.



The fastest BB rifle made. Crosman's new Powermatic 500. 50 shots as fast as you can pull the trigger. A semi-auto BB repeater. Gives you 100 shots from just one CO₂ powerlet. A high quality gun with checkered hand-finished stock. Has a quick, positive safety. Reliable "O" ring free valve design. A grooved receiver for scope (optional, about \$11.00) and peep sights. Field sights, adjustable windage and elevation. See the Powermatic 500 at your sporting goods department or store.



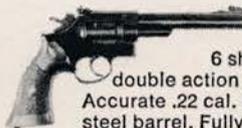
Powermaster 760
Most popular BB rifle made. Powerful short stroke, high compression pump action. BB reservoir holds 180 Crosman Super BB's. Shoots .177 cal. Super Pells®, too. Scope optional.



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Most powerful Pellgun® rifle. Single shot .22 cal. high compression pump-action. Selective power. Hardwood stock. Scope optional.



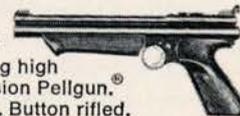
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Perfect replica. 22 shot BB repeater. Fast. Easy slide-action cocking.



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Single shot CO₂ .22 cal. Pellgun® pistol. Fully adjustable sights. High and low power adjustment.
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Self cocking high compression Pellgun®. .22 cal. Button rifled. Adjustable sights. Cross bolt safety.

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GUNS SAFARI



Prior to the hunt getting under way, DeMatteo and senior guide Harvey Goff sight-in the Weatherby .240 and make sure that everything is in order. The shot was expected to be in the vicinity of 200-300 yards.

A TEXAS ranch covering 125 square miles, every foot of it prime game country, filled with not only the native whitetail deer but also turkey, javelina, quail and along with these local species such fascinating exotics as India's blackbuck, Japanese Sika deer, Aoudad sheep from the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, eland, oryx and zebra from Kenya, Fallow deer from the European Mediterranean, Axis deer from central states of India, also known as Chital and now quite scarce on their native heath—that is the YO Ranch of Mountain Home, Texas. A hunting paradise where you may hunt any day of the year.

Located in the Edwards Plateau country of south central Texas, the YO is 107 miles North-West of San Antonio. The ranch headquarters is 8 miles off paved State highway #41, and within its more than 1200 miles of fences are a total of 1560 miles of roads and trails, 55 windmills and as many tanks, 42 cowboys and big game

guides, 102 gas-burning vehicles, 200 saddle horses, about 8,000 cattle including one of the largest herds of Texas longhorns in existence anywhere, a fair size town at the ranch headquarters, an all-weather landing strip of 4200 feet, and accommodations for 50 guests any time of the year. The YO, now in the third generation of family ownership, belongs to Charley Schreiner. His general manager is Bob Snow, Jr. The ranch advertises hunting year-long on a "No Game—No Pay" basis. Fall before last the Remington Company acted as hosts to 32 firearms writers at the ranch. During a single day of hunting every one of the gun writers killed a buck that went 8 points or better. Along with this bag there were 10 Remington officials on hand and each of them took a buck. It is estimated the YO contains, within its 125 square miles, not less than 25,000 whitetail deer.

It was only logical that when GUNS decided to stage a hunting safari the

YO would be selected. The January issue of GUNS announced the safari and all the subscriber had to do was to submit his name. The drawing was won by Martin DeMatteo, New Orleans, La. Martin is a part-time student in pre-medical school and a pharmaceutical supply salesman 'tween classes. He is married to a lovely little redhead, Dottie, who sells insurance. They have been married 8 years, Martin is 28 and Dottie is 26. They have 6 children. Guns are a passion with our lucky winner and he has done considerable hunting. He was on the YO four years ago. The rifle he fetched along for the GUNS safari was the Weatherby .240 Magnum equipped with a Leupold 3X-9X with the taper CPC crosswires sighted in for 200 yards. The ammo was standard Norma with the 85-gr. bullet.

The GUNS safari called for the stalking and taking of a Corsican ram. These game animals have been imported from the islands of Corsica and Sardinia, are about 30 inches at the shoulder and will weigh about 100 pounds. The horns are extremely handsome, making a complete curl, not unlike our North American wild sheep, and with a long beard which commences under the chin and reaches to the brisket. The head, when mounted, is an extraordinarily fine trophy. The rams range from a creamy white through gray and brown to complete black. When introduced beside the Barbados sheep of the West Indies, crosses frequently occur and this does nothing to detract from the splendid appearance of the prize.

The Nowotny Taxidermy Co., San Antonio, Texas, as a part of the safari package, will mount the Corsican ram for Martin DeMatteo. The Nowotny touch is measurable with the best in the country and I send all my trophies there. At the moment he has all the hides, heads and horns from my African trek last year.

The YO, during whitetail season has

Charles
Askins

By Col. CHARLES ASKINS

regularly employed 25 guides. Senior guide among these is Harvey Goff who has been steering sportsmen over the broad acres of the Schreiner homestead for the past dozen years. Harvey is my favorite white hunter. I asked that he be assigned to Martin for his trophy hunt. This was done. The DeMatteos, Martin and Dottie, arrived at the YO and were put up in the Sam Houston guest cabin. These are VIP quarters. That afternoon, after getting acquainted, Goff took the huntsman down to the rifle range and checked out the Weatherby. It was right on the button for the expected 200-300 yard shot. The next morning, directly after a hearty breakfast at the Chuckwagon, the hunting got under way.

The area holding the Corsican game was a long way from the headquarters. The party had scarcely quit the main buildings when a flock of turkeys was sighted. The great birds scurried up the mountain quickly placing the cover of the cedars between themselves and the moving vehicle. Rounding a gentle



Harvey Goff, left, Hal Swiggett, center, pro hunter for the YO Ranch, and Martin DeMatteo, winner of the GUNS MAGAZINE Safari Contest.

bend in the trail scattered oryx trotted aside. This game is not hunted. On another mile one herd after another of India blackbuck raced the car, the handsome little bucks sporting some of the most appealing horn displays of any game animal. Whitetails sought cover at every turn and Fallow deer peered curiously. After eight or ten miles of travel the hunter and his guide had at last reached the country of their game.

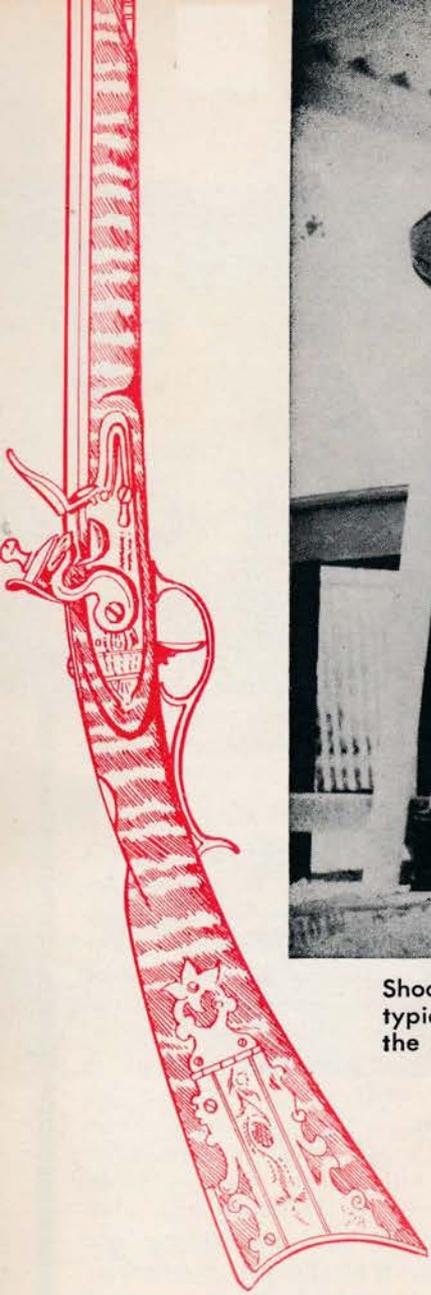
The Corsican ram is wild, canny and fleet of foot. Goff found a herd which

contained three good heads but the rams would not hold. They headed for dense cover and were lost. A second band was eventually found and after long study with the glasses at a great distance the guide decided the band did not hold a really good trophy head.

Finally after another hour and a half of steady search a small group consisting mostly of old rams was located. The stalk was begun and after getting within three hundred yards. Goff turned to DeMatteo and whispered, "That big ram with the light streak down his flank is the one for us." Martin nodded. The pair maneuvered closer and were finally only about 125 yards from the game. DeMatteo took aim, the Weatherby spoke. The handsome Corsican took about a dozen steps and fell dead, shot through and through. The bullet had clipped the top of the lungs and penetrated the far shoulder. "I am a happy man!" beamed the GUNS safari winner. 



Col. Askins, left, with DeMatteo and his handsome Corsican ram that was taken with one shot from about 125 yards. Ram was shot through the top of the lungs and took only a dozen steps before going down to the Weatherby .240. Nice trophy!



Shooting under the newly-constructed firing-line roof, these two shooters are typical of what the shoot-out involved; the new versus the old. Surprisingly, the muzzle loaders did quite well against the modern rifles and calibers used.

MENOMONEE

By JOHN H. HARDING

THE GAME wasn't called because of rain but it certainly was modified extensively. The name of the game being a shoot-out between the antique arms of the Smoky Hollow Muzzle Loaders of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the modern rifles used by the suburban Menomonee Falls Gun Club.

Despite the inclement weather, the 1970 meet, the third of the three annual encounters, was a "fun shoot", as were the first two. Bob Zellmer, past president of the Muzzle Loaders admits they lost. But matter-of-factly blames some of it on a strong, rain-laden cross wind. A rain which canceled out three events held in previous contests.

The yearly competition goes back to 1967 (there was no match in 1968) and the Menomonee Falls Diamond Jubilee. Searching for something of a

frontier or antique nature (the theme of the celebration) Zellmer, who headed the shooting entertainment for the affair, conceived the idea of old versus new weapons. "Something other than just poking a hole in the target, thing," Zellmer explains. "It was a spectators' shoot. Something for the public to see." The competitors shot at balloons and clay pigeons at 50 yards. When they hit the target it would break and the viewers could see what was going on. There was even a "Painting Shoot". As Zellmer tells it: "The target is made of plywood. It's about 18 inches in diameter and there are animals painted on it. A tack is placed in the wood where the heart would be. Five men from each club fire a round apiece. The closest man to the tack takes the painting. If clubs compete for group, it's string measurement around the bullet." The Muzzle Loaders have al-

ways won this event. Zellmer calls it, "One of our shoots."

The first meet consisted of 7 matches, with the Muzzle Loaders using percussion and flint lock rifles and pistols, while the Falls club employed modern weapons but were restricted to iron sights. The initial match consisted of 100 yards from bench rest (rifle), five shots per man. The Falls Club won handily, 483 points to 429. The 50 yard offhand rifle at swinging clay pigeons went to the Falls club.

The 25 yard pistol at targets, 5 shots per man, wasn't even close. The Muzzle Loaders were overwhelmed 299 to 134 points. However, the Muzzle Loaders declare unanimously, this is the match at which they are at the greatest disadvantage. Some of the members have built their own pistols. Most use single-shot or six-shot Army or Navy reproduction revolvers that generally fall

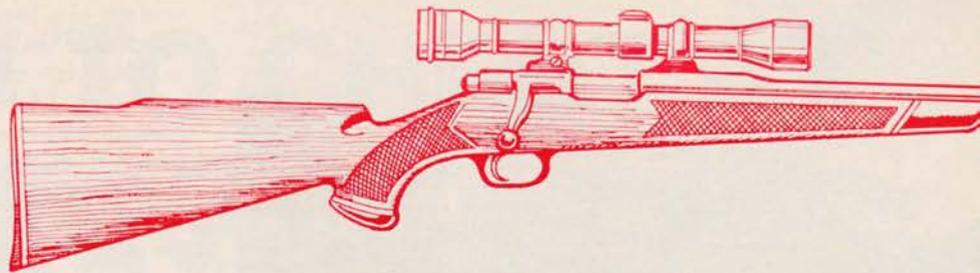
into the Civil War category. The reproductions have poor accuracy and they were firing against powerful Army .45's and some .38 revolvers.

Match number 4, 100 yard offhand rifle, 5 shots per man, went to the Falls, a close 449 to 433. Zellmer attributes this loss somewhat to the benefits the modern rifle has over a long range. Says he, "The longer the range, the greater the drawback. If it's real windy, we're at a complete disadvantage. Couple it with rain (as happened in 1970) and we're way off."

The fifth match that jubilee year, a 50 yard offhand rifle at swinging balloons, was taken by the Muzzle Loaders.

Next came the painted animal target, 50 yard offhand rifle, 5 shots, each club using string measurements. Again the Muzzle Loaders.

Match seven, the last, had an interesting, if not humorous sidelight. Won by the Muzzle Loaders (but in a bizarre fashion) it consisted of 25 yard pistol at clay pigeons in a 2" x 4" rack. Bill Deuchars, as he fired, shattered the board holding the pigeons, break-



ing all the birds in the process. Although the Falls club tried to duplicate his feat by hitting the wood, their high velocity bullets merely pierced the wood instead of demolishing it. And there's only one way of breaking all the pigeons at once—a low velocity round ball. (But then, these are fun matches.)

The 1969 competition between the two clubs was held in mid-July. Much like its predecessor, it consisted of 7 events; the 100 yard bench, 100 yard offhand, 50 yard offhand, pistol slow and rapid fire, animal paintings and trap (five birds). The Falls club, true to the nature of its arms, took the 100 yard bench, the 100 yard offhand, pis-

tol slow fire and the five bird trap shoot.

The Muzzle Loaders shot their way to victory in their favorite events, the fifty yard offhand and the animal painting; they tied with pistol rapid fire, an unexpectedly pleasant development.

Bob Zellmer fired the winning 130 high aggregate, a scant point ahead of G. Murphy of the Falls.

The 1970 meet has to be rated as the two clubs' finest hour. Almost an inch of wind-lashed rain had fallen that September Sunday. Even by noon, with the opening match set for one o'clock, it was uncertain whether the shoot would be held. The few early arrivals were sighting in. Rain has little effect on the modern rifle except the markman's vision is cut by darkness. The piece does not have to be sighted in to accommodate for climatic conditions. But to muzzle loading weapons, it can be disastrous. Zellmer elaborates: "We fire a couple of caps or primers to dry out the oil used in the previous cleaning from the nipple and barrel. This is always done, regardless of weather. However, with the cross wind driving the heavy rain at about a 45 degree angle, that was something else. Most of us were sighted in for a calm, clear day. My ball seemed to be hit by the raindrops and it would drift low and to the left. As a result I had a group or pattern in that direction which I had to compensate for. That's where the Kentucky windage comes in, you compensate to put the group back on target. I was lucky. I have an original Kentucky with a peep sight while the others have open sights. It gives me the ad-

FUN SHOOT



Since a good portion of the Muzzle Loaders used home-made guns as well as new manufacture Army and Navy models, accuracy was not on a par with the modern .38's and .45's. Accordingly, the Falls group overwhelmed them in the pistol shoots.



Ah, the smell of burning powder and the thunderous roar of the muzzle loader touching-off! Wearing a coonskin cap and buckskins, Lawrence Schmeckel is firing a percussion rifle he built himself. Bench firing a rifle is quite different than hand-holding it as the points of contact and support have more of an effect on accuracy than most people realize. Therefore, "Kentucky windage" must be used to put the little lead ball where it rightfully belongs.

vantage of a longer sighting radius. My sights are further apart than the length of the barrel. This reduces error."

Other club members agree with Zellmer on drift. Comments one, "A heavy wind, any strong cross wind and you have to pick up Kentucky windage. You may be 6 to 8 inches from the target if the wind isn't steady. And if it gusts, you'll be all over the place."

Then too, there's the problem of dampness. Although the powder is not actually wet, it picks up moisture as you carry or load it and it fires slow. A streak of fire more than a foot long can be seen coming from the barrel. "You don't have that sharp crack like you would on a dry day," Zellmer notes. "It throws everybody off; nobody does well."

The Muzzle Loaders can't recall an instance since they were incorporated in 1947, at which time there were 10 members, that they have ever fired in such a disheartening environment. (There are 50 members today with a closed membership of 60 while the Falls gun club, founded in 1951 with 35 charter members, has a closed membership of 250. Any son of a member who reaches the age of 21 can join and approximately 12 have done this, so there are about 262 members now.) Were it not for the covered firing range erected by the Falls gun club in the spring of 1970 at a cost of \$3,100 and the protection it offered, there would have been no meet. The fifty yard events, the pistol match and the trap shoot were abandoned because they would have taken place on the exposed south section of the range.

As in previous meets, the opening was signalled by the firing of a $\frac{1}{3}$ scale cannon patterned after a 1751 Revolutionary War six pound model. Owner Bill Deuchars who purchased the barrel and made the carriage, towed it into position under the metal canopy and fired several rounds at a headsized rock 100 yards downrange. A second cannon built by Muzzle Loader Dennis Newhauser was then wheeled into place. A simple (Continued on page 63)



Two contestants of the shoot-out standing with one of the "painted targets" used in the meet. The target is about 18 inches in diameter and there are animals painted on it. Where the heart would be on each animal, a tack is placed in the wood and five men from each club fire a round apiece. The closest man to the tack takes the painting. The Muzzle Loaders have always won it.

HOW TO CHEAT AT PLINKING

By NEIL SMITH

OLD SAYINGS are a rotten guide to living. As Sir Isaac Newton might have observed, "For every maxim there is an equal but opposite maxim." Sir Isaac was right. As one old saw has it, "Cheaters never prosper." But possibly more to the point, "Nice guys finish last." Which brings us to the subject of today's lecture: plinking and how to cheat at it.

The majority of us, from the 200-straight skeet champion to the humblest poacher, first made the acquaintance of firearms through plinking. Benchrest shooters may scoff, but what do they know, going around shooting benchrests?

Plinking has been with us since dimmest antiquity. Those guys who killed off the mastadons and saber-tooth tigers—you think they spent all their time hunting? Hell no! If the only practice they ever got was on the job, they probably didn't live very long; wounded super-elephants may be hazardous to your health. It is reasonable to assume that Homo Erectus, if you'll pardon the expression, spent considerable time out at the range with the old woomera, sharpening up his throwing arm, and making up the same lame excuses for missing that we use today. Only they sounded new then.

Slowly, plinking began to assume a distinguished historical tradition. The Romans were the first in the game to think big. They plank with boulders, hurled from Massive Catapults which, despite popular belief, is not an infectious disease. Gauls, Helvetii, and Germans were the usual plinkees. Occasionally Roman armies plank at each other, hence the saying "Plink unto others as you would have them plink unto you." (It sounds more impressive in Latin.)

The Romans were never content to



What to do if you can't arrange to be born far-sighted. This method doesn't help much but you can "amaze your friends" with it. Guns are both Walther PP's, one in .22 and the other in .380. Elaborate double holster rig was made by the author during off-plinking hours.

rest on their laurels. Or their hardys, for that matter. They were continually striving for originality. When Hannibal came along with his animal act, the Romans, engaging in a little guerilla warfare of their own, captured his brother Hasdrubal. They couldn't think of anything funnier to do, so they decapitated him and catapulted his noggin into Hannibal's camp. This so demoralized the general that he went to Carthage and retired. Which puts kind of a different light on the old saying "Quit while you're ahead."

In recent times, interest in plinking has grown. Consider Rodin's unrivaled masterpiece of sculpture: "The Plinker." And wasn't it the philosopher Descartes who said "I plink, therefore I am?"

In the New World, Daniel Boone was a reknowned shooter. Also, he was probably the first to cheat at plinking. One day he was captured by a band of Hostile Savages. No, these were not rifles with excessive headspace, they were noble redmen who had heard what a mighty hunter he was. He was

given a little FFg, one rifle ball, and a long list of game to bring back or face grave consequences. It was a hair raising problem. Daniel strode off into the forest. Hiding behind a thicket—it wouldn't have done much good to hide behind a thicket—he cut the rifle ball into several pieces, divided up the powder appropriately, and returned later, to the Indians' surprise, with all the game on the list. What explanation he gave his hosts goes unrecorded, but it must have been the hunting story of all time.

This story was an inspiration when it came time to teach Dad the ballistic arts. The custom was to give the kid a .22 rifle, one shell, and tell him "Come back with a rabbit, or don't come back at all." I don't know if it actually taught him anything, except maybe how to make his own bow and arrow, but Daniel's trick certainly wouldn't work. Dividing up a rimfire cartridge is perilous in the extreme. It may have been the start of the Population Explosion. At any rate, those who succeeded on their hunt became

fine shooters. Those who didn't became the Lost Generation. Those who tried chopping-up the shell became gun writers.

Daddy's city cousin was down in the dumps. He was down there shooting rats. This is no longer possible because the only rat you'll find down there now is the mayor's brother-in-law. He has a sanitary landfill contract.

Thus there has arrived today the necessity of inventing new plinking games and new ways to cheat at them. But first, let us survey the basic elements of this most ancient and honored sport.

Dust is the plinker's friend. It is not necessarily the plinker's wife's friend—she does the laundry. The only time matrimony and firearms seem to go naturally together is at those white shotgun affairs we hear about. However, in shooting as in marriage, one learns as much from his mistakes as from his successes. Only in marriage does one have to go on and on hearing about those mistakes. Dust tells the shooter he has missed, and by how



Cheating at "can-can"—aim for the middle can and pray they all fall!



Down-in-the-mouth, front view. The author swears miss was intentional, purely for educational purposes but nobody believes him. That's funny!



It really doesn't matter what you shoot, as long as something comes out the barrel with some degree of accuracy. This is the Iver Johnson ".22 Super Shot" circa 1933. Millions of young men learned to shoot by plinking with this type of gun and others quite similar to it. The .22 caliber round is the traditional round with which to plink, but as with everything else, prices are going up. The author also likes to roll his own .25's and .32's as they require so little powder that he can shoot centerfires almost as cheaply as the rimfire ammo.



Smith & Wesson New Departure Safety Hammerless in .32 S&W. While this gun is quite inadequate for self-defense, it is a fine plinking gun and round. It is cheap to reload and the author uses .32 ACP dies. This particular revolver was made in 1891 and it still shoots straight enough for plinking uses. Plinkers don't have to be new guns.



Good plinking equipment needn't be expensive. Pocket plinking pistols, top to bottom: Walther TP .25, ancient Ortgies .25, Browning .25 ACP. Ortgies isn't made anymore, other two are banned because of GCA '68.



A solid shooting position is this modified Weaver stance, for instance. Good position is a definite aid to plinking, especially for those long range shots. Gun is Walther .22. Author points out girl is spoken for.

much, thus determining the magnitude of his excuse.

When dust gets wet, it becomes mud. Our local range is famous for its mud. The short walk from bench to target and back can add twenty-five pounds to each foot. You'll leave tracks like the Abominable Snowman, but what a set of leg muscles you'll develop.

Muddy feet are great for picking up stray cartridge cases. During the monsoon season (no bag limit) the cases fill up with mud, hence our local expression "adobe wadcutter."

Another significant weather condition is wind. It has two uses: First, it is foremost among handy excuses for missing. Around here, a five-mile-per-hour breeze is good for a five foot miss, ten mph for ten feet, and so on. Range is of no importance. Excuses of this kind are measured in footmiles (ft./mi.) The wind is so bad at our range that one has to test it to see whether it is practical to shoot at all. This is done simply. Insert a common brass cleaning rod at the breech end of the gun. Hold the gun vertically and push the rod up until five or six inches emerge at the muzzle. If you can get the rod back out, conditions are perfect. If you can't, they're fair. If the barrel bends, go home.

A second use for wind becomes apparent when the beer can you shot at charges back at you. This steadies the nerves for hunting dangerous game. When comes the day that *bullets* start blowing back at me, I'm gonna quit shooting altogether and get one of those cross-armed jackets my wife is always threatening to knit me.

Whole articles have been written on choice of weapons for plinking. Suffice it to say that two major decisions must be made before the shooting starts.

First choice is between automatics and revolvers. I'll not add more fuel to that fire, it's a matter of personal preference. Personally, I prefer autos, although they do have one disadvantage: they fling brass all over the territory, and seldom do any two cases go the same place. But that's alright, I'm prematurely fat anyway, and bending exercises are good for that. Of course sorting .25 ACP brass out of the litter of .22 shells does tend toward eye-strain, but that keeps my optometrist in groceries. The point is, shoot what you're comfortable with. I haven't seen a gun yet, pistol or revolver, that won't jam up just when you're trying to impress somebody.

The second (Continued on page 52)

BROWNING'S

THERE IS A NEW lever-action high-powered rifle by the Browning Company. It seems altogether fitting and proper that this oldline outfit would have a lever model among their offerings. After all, the best Winchester lever action rifles were invented by the immortal John Browning. This new model does have a forerunner, however, the .22 caliber BLR appeared a couple of years ago. It is a lever, but beyond that bears little resemblance to this latest number.

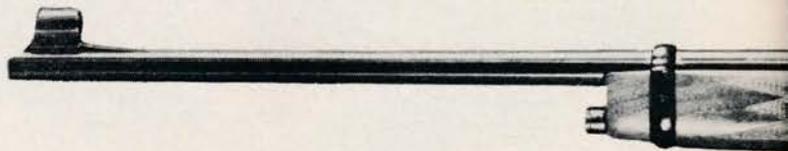
Lever-action rifles are popular. Savage has leaned heavily on their bread-and-butter gun—the sturdy Model 99—for almost three-quarters century. Marlin has lever rifles, both centerfire and rim, and these antedate even the Savage. Winchester sells a pair of levers, the old and the new. The more antiquated is the Model 94 while the 88 represents the new. Both are quite popular. The Model 94 sells like beer at a fireman's picnic and when it isn't being peddled as the standard article, it is dressed up with a bit of gold trim, a medallion or two and dubbed the Buffalo Bill commemorative, or the '66 commemorative, or the Dodge City re-

union model and it then goes like hot blubber to hungry Eskimos. The fact that Browning has now gotten into the act with a lever action of its own is easily understandable.

We get a surprisingly large number of letters from lever-action fans who want to rebarrel the old rifle to the .300 Weatherby magnum or the .270 Winchester or the 8 mm Mauser. It is a shock and a disappointment to them when you have to explain that the action isn't long enough nor strong enough to handle these cartridges. The enthusiasm for the old action is strong and enduring. When Winchester dropped the Model 1895 it was chambered for the .30-06 and was a low blow to the aficionados. The '06 had all the thump and power they were seeking. The advent of the Model 88, some 15 years ago, was hailed with

delight. It was chambered, among other calibers, for the .308 which is virtually as good as the old '06.

The 88 resolved some of the problems inherent in the lever action. The bolt locked up at the front end and the rifle loaded with a separate box magazine. The older lever guns latched up at the back end of the bolt and this made the action too springy; and the tubular magazine made it mandatory that the ammo contain only blunt-nosed bullets. The possibility of a spitzer point touching off the primer on the cartridge in front, while the two rested in the tube, was too acute to be



The new Browning mounted with the Browning scope and bridge-type mount makes a nice unit. Weight of the combo is only 8 lbs.



The addition of the Browning 5X scope in the Browning mount did little harm to the handling characteristics and quick maneuverability of the little rifle when used on horseback.

NEW SADDLE GUN

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS



worth the gamble and these were out.

The new Browning likewise resolves these problems very neatly. The bolt has a separate head which offers a total of 8 locking lugs and this together with a recessed bolt-face insures that the breech is firmly and sturdily closed. The bolt is round in configuration, and operates on the old rack-and-pinion principle. The under side carries the rack and the pinion is an integral part of the lever itself. The resulting operation is smoothly efficient. The lever moves only 60% of the usual throw which makes it quite speedy.

The separate box magazine holds 4 rounds, with a 5th in the chamber, and passes through an opening in the floor of the receiver. It is held in place by a strong, positive latch. By the adoption of the separate clip any modern load may be fired. Whether with spire-point bullets, soft point or hard nose,

The BLR bolt operates on the rack-and-pinion principle that makes it very smooth and sure. The lever moves a total of 60 degrees for fast, positive operation. The trigger moves with lever, eliminating pinched fingers.

it does not matter to the Browning.

The new Browning, to be known as the BLR (for Browning Lever Rifle) has the same designation as the .22 caliber BLR. It is currently chambered for the .243 and the .308 cartridges. Undoubtedly other calibers will be added as time goes on. The action is of such length as to take the whole family of short cartridges, that is, the .22-250, .284 Win., 6.5 Rem. Magnum,

.350 Rem. Magnum and the .358 Win. Undoubtedly others of these excellent rounds will be added.

The BLR is the brainchild of the versatile Bruce Browning, chief of firearms design for the company. Bruce, grandson of the amazing John and brother of the current president who is also named John, whumped up the rifle some five years ago. It was shown off at the (Continued on page 54)



Separate box magazine is an excellent design permitting the use of any type bullet. This is something that can't be done in tube fed guns.



Wide hammer spur gives easy accessibility when scope is mounted. Also scope can be mounted low on the receiver and a cheek-piece is not needed.



GUNS and the LAW

Non-Lethal Weapons, Part II

IN THE mid-sixties, millions of TV viewers witnessed some very disturbing police-looter confrontations. In a number of riot instances, hampered by political restraints, police were forbidden, or not given sufficient authority, to forcibly restrain hordes of looters who were operating openly in their presence. The resulting spectacle was revolting to most citizens, especially to those of the great, then unnamed, silent majority. In one of the more televised incidents in a large eastern seaboard city, hordes of looters, men, women, children, were viewed carting away TV sets, liquor, electrical appliances, etc., while groups of humiliated and frustrated police on the opposite side of the street stood helplessly by. Although property rights are among the most ancient and sacred of civilized man, the police officers armed with short batons and revolvers, were not permitted to intervene by the city authorities. It was mistakenly believed that any violent or aggressive police action would further inflame the situation and escalate city wide violence, etc. Since then, similar confrontations have proven that prompt, aggressive police action at the *outset* to arrest, restrain, or disperse the rioters and looters is the correct tactical response. Massive tear gas concentrations are also now a proven means of discouraging such lawless acts. However, in many cases, the need for additional effective, individual police armament that can disperse, restrain or punish individual criminal and rioter looter acts is most apparent.

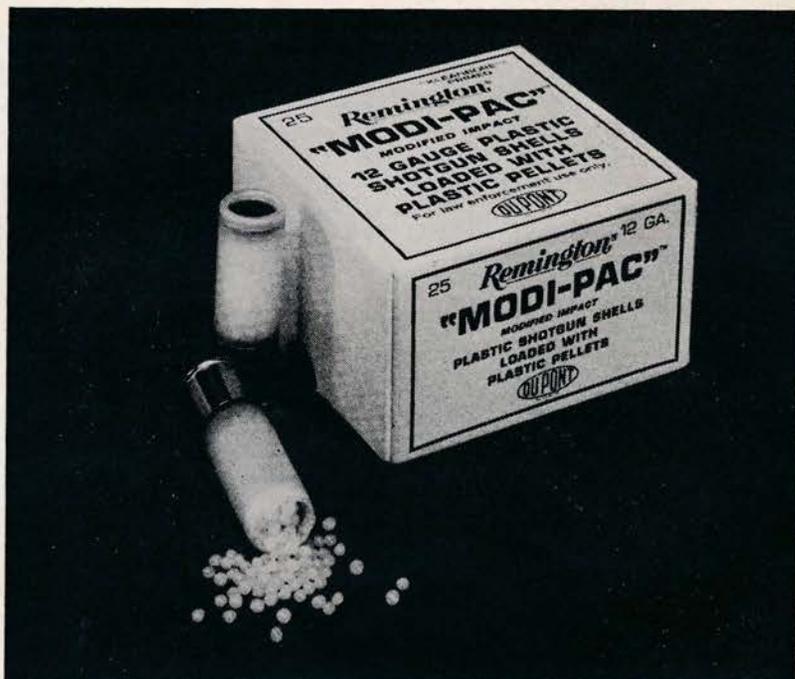
THE RADIUS OF DETERRENCE

A firearm in the policeman's hand, in times past, had a deterrent value when it appeared and could clearly be seen by rioters. Generally, this is no longer true. Lethal weapons such as

the handgun, shotgun, and rifle now have, in many situations, an almost zero deterrent value due to the official restrictions placed on their employment, that are also well known to most rioters. Even shots fired over the heads of rioters are now generally considered to have only a limited deterrent value. New restrictions added to the basic army manual on riot control (FM 19-15) states that "live ammunition may be used only under extreme circumstances, aimed fire by selected marksmen under specific order by the commander against individual snipers or in self defense is permitted. Unit firepower at snipers or massed rioters is forbidden due to danger to innocent civilians," etc. The new manual also cautions against use of bare bayonets where troops are in

contact with crowds because of hazards to non-violent participants or comrades. A review of recent "after action" reports of the British Army Operations in Belfast, Ireland, reflects a similar tightening up of the ground rules whereby gunfire can be employed against rioting civilians. The military has now finally adopted the same position that has long been a part of civil law enforcement riot control philosophy.

Armed with the wooden riot baton or Shok Baton, the officer has a weapon that he can use with his own discretion as to deterrent force when in direct contact with rioters. The Mace® provides an extension of his deterrence range to 15-30 feet under ideal conditions. It follows then that limitations on the use of firearms and



These modified compact shot shells are sold by Remington only to law enforcement agencies. Each round contains approximately 320 (¼ oz.) irregular shaped, distinctive, plastic pellets.



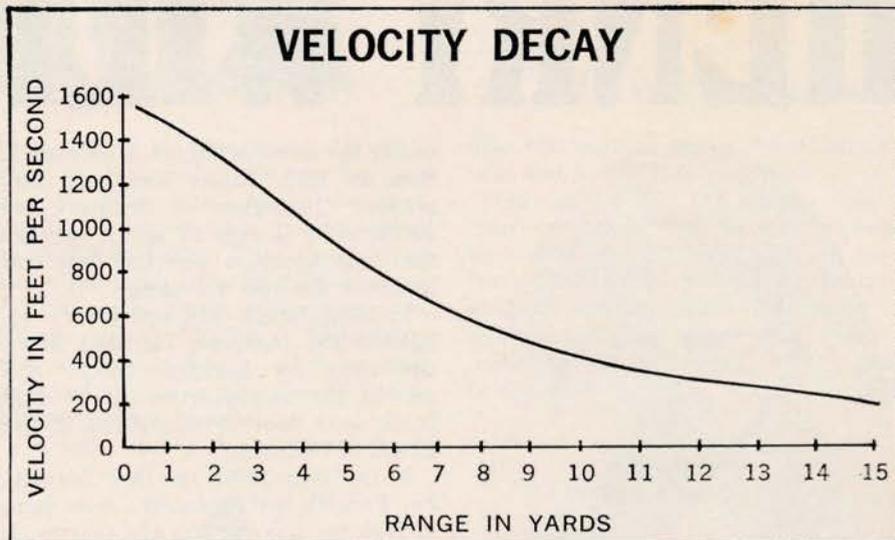
By COL. REX APPLIGATE

the type of individual weapons that are now publicly acceptable in the hands of the police (soon to be adopted by the Guard) places those police in direct contact with rioters (armed with batons, Mace, etc.) at a *distinct disadvantage*. In most violent riot situations the rocks, bricks and bottles and other missiles are thrown by the rioters from ranges *beyond the radius of deterrence of these individual police weapons*. This has resulted in, and will continue to cause, many Guard and police casualties. For this reason, shields, body armor, and helmets with face pieces have now become almost mandatory riot protective equipment.

Although riots must be broken up by offensive police or military action, individual non-lethal type armament in their current possession is either too limited in range or restricted in tactical use to the point that many times only defensive action can be undertaken. This is especially true in the early phases of contact when the mob is more easily dispersed. Defensive or passive action by riot police in the face of rock throwing mobs, leads to more police casualties, and usually to more escalation of violence and rioter self incitation to additional violent acts.

TEAR GAS

A tear gas barrage is the current most logical and effective non-lethal means to be used in mob dispersal. There are now many means of delivering it against rioters. However, in many riot situations, especially where the mob is composed of small dispersed groups, tear gas concentrations are not too effective. In mass confrontation situations, tear gas often causes dispersal into smaller violence-prone groups that still have to be apprehended by offensive police patrolling



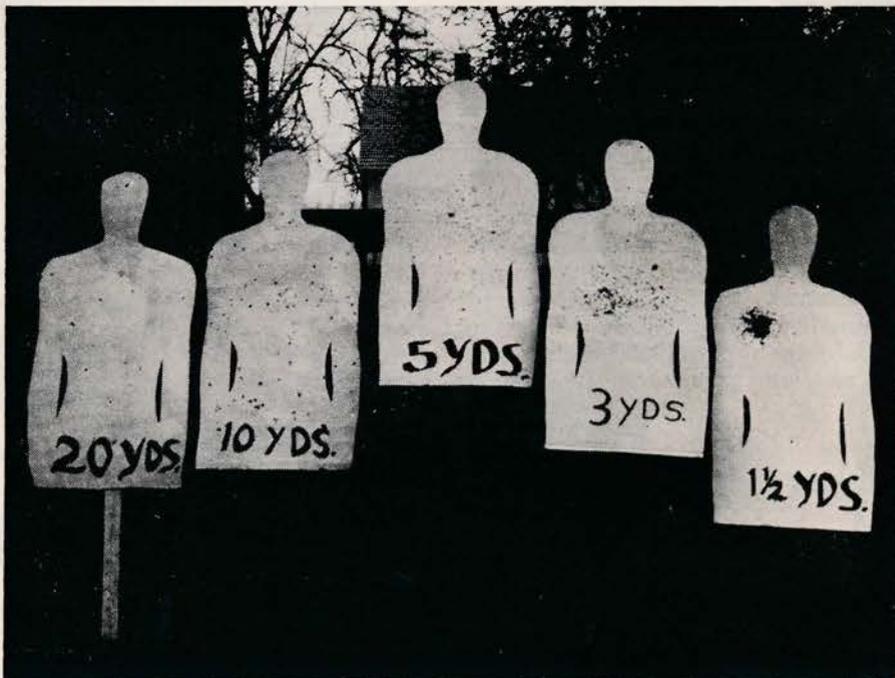
or action. Tear gas is no respecter of persons and is subject to wind and climatic conditions. This also limits its employment in many urban areas where innocents and rioters are equally affected. Fire hoses and water cannons are likewise limited in their tactical scope in fluid riot situations.

The development of non-lethal, individual issue, riot weaponry that will increase the radius of deterrence beyond rioter missile throwing range is urgently needed. This weaponry should be such that the officer can employ it freely, using his own judgment with few restrictions. Generally, it should enable selective employment at individual rioters at ranges of 100-

300 feet. The deterrent or punishing effect should be such that the affected rioter is either temporarily incapacitated or discouraged psychologically, or physically, from further violent acts. The weapons to follow represent present and past production and development approaches to the deterrence and other tactical riot and individual weaponry aspects.

SPECIAL LOADINGS FOR CONVENTIONAL POLICE WEAPONS

One means of increasing police weaponry options is to provide them with special issue ammunition for use
(Continued on page 55)



These $\frac{3}{8}$ " corrugated box-type cardboard silhouettes illustrate spread and penetration of Modi-Pac light-weight pellets at different ranges.

HENRY WILKINSON



ON HENRY NOCK'S death in 1804, James Wilkinson, having been bequeathed the sum of "100 pounds sterling" and stock in trade of the business, complied with his father-in-law's wishes to keep the business going. For the previous 10 years, James had been Nock's foreman and responsible for the workshops, and in the year when Henry Nock became Master of the Gunmakers' Company, undertook the day to day affairs.

In 1794, Ann Wilkinson had borne James a son who was christened Henry after his great grandfather. Henry received a far more liberal education than either his father or his grandfather due to the increased prosperity of the company during the Napoleonic wars. In 1820, James took his son into partnership and traded

under the name of James Wilkinson & Son. In 1821, James had been appointed Gunmaker in Ordinary for Scotland by George IV and it appears that this occasion was the first and last time the title was used.

In 1824, James died and Henry inherited the business. He shut down the shop on Ludgate Street and moved his headquarters to 27 Pall Mall, next door to the offices of the Board of Ordnance.

In the early 1800s, the Rev. Alexander Forsyth had patented a new form of lock for the ignition of firearms. It was not, however, until later that the Government became interested in this new system and instituted trials. These trials were carried out by the Ordnance Select Committee, to whom all inventions for military weapons were submitted. The Select committee consisted of rather conservative and aged Artillery Officers who had in the past made many mistakes and were anxious not to make any more. When asked by the Board of Ordnance for advice, having heard that the French were being equipped with percussion weapons, they thought it better to say nothing than risk being wrong again.

Finally, George Lovell, the storekeeper at the Government Manufactory at Enfield, showed the Board that this new system was more efficient and less costly than flint.

A Percussion Committee was set up to examine all the systems submitted by the gunmakers. Henry Wilkinson had in the meanwhile been experimenting with wadding for fowling pieces which he perfected in about 1824 and marketed under the name of "Elastic Concave Wadding." The noted sportsman P. Hawker wrote a testimonial for Henry concerning the new wadding. Between 1832 and 1834, Henry had switched his interest to

shells for the Navy. These were tried with some success in 1835 and in 1840 he was called to Woolwich to continue his experiments.

Another notable improvement to firearms was Wilkinson's "Counter Parabolic Breeching" which he had designed sometime in the 1830s. In 1835, under the patronage of Sir Richard Hussey Vivian, the Master General of the Ordnance, he designed and submitted a double barreled carbine named after the Master General. The carbine was intended for use in Ireland as a constabulary weapon. After trials, however, another design was chosen. Henry supplied a number of these carbines to private customers. In 1839, Henry took out a patent for his most revolutionary invention yet, the underhammer principle. The main feature of the system was the small number of moving parts, the cheapness of construction and the ease of repair. The new system was tried against others but was rejected, even though the guns fitted with the new underhammer lock had fired up to 100 rounds a day without "mishap or failure." It was felt by the Committee that the cap would be liable to fall off.

Henry Wilkinson sent one of his muskets to the Emperor of Russia, who rewarded him with a diamond ring, which from the will of Henry he left to his eldest son, the Rev. Henry James Wilkinson, when he died in 1861.

In 1852, Henry again put forward ideas for the improvement of the soldiers arm. A trial between the leading gunmakers was arranged in 1852 and



Wilkinson rifle submitted for the trials of 1852 had no barrel bands on the forestock.

GUNMAKER

By R.J. WILKINSON-LATHAM

although there was no outright winner, several features of the guns tried were incorporated in the 1853 Enfield rifle, the first general issue rifle to the British Army.

In 1835, Henry had been persuaded by his friend Professor Faraday to lecture at the Royal Institution on warlike machines of the ancients and this encouraged him to write his first book, *Engines of War* which was published in 1841. Henry received many honors during this period, being made a member of the Royal Society of Arts, a member of the Society of Antiquaries and an Honorary member of the United Service Institution. He also received the Gold medal of the Royal Society on two occasions, one for a maroon lock and the other for oil for chronometers. He was also on the committee for the Great Exhibition of 1851.

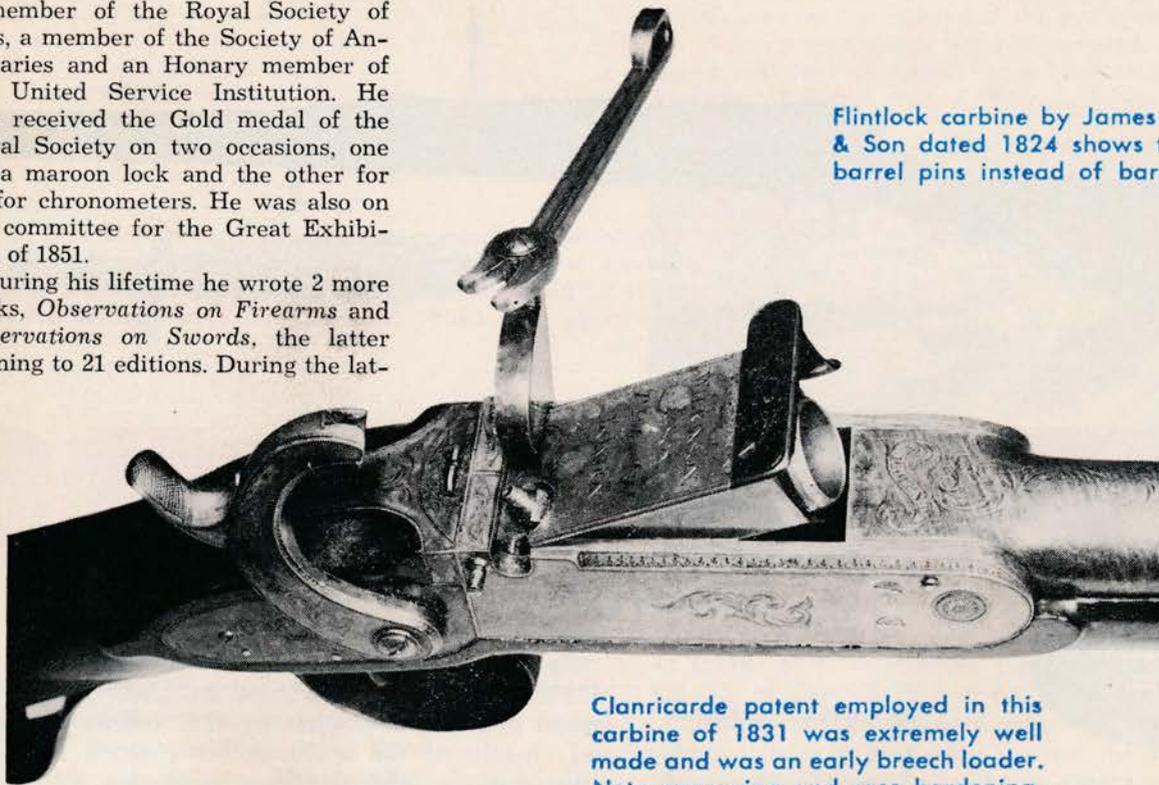
During his lifetime he wrote 2 more books, *Observations on Firearms* and *Observations on Swords*, the latter running to 21 editions. During the lat-

ter period of his life, Henry started to take an interest in swords. He had seen the poor quality of the swords in use by the army and was convinced he could do better. This soon proved to be the case. Officers started to ask for swords by name, not just a sword. People would ask for a "Wilkinson" and soon Henry had a full order book and had started a new line to add to his gunmaking business.

In 1861, Henry died and the busi-

ness was carried on by John Latham, who had joined Henry in 1845.

Throughout his life, Henry had a thirst for knowledge. He was not content with the ordinary and his note book is full of information on various subjects ranging from electricity to photography and from gun experiments to the properties of copper.



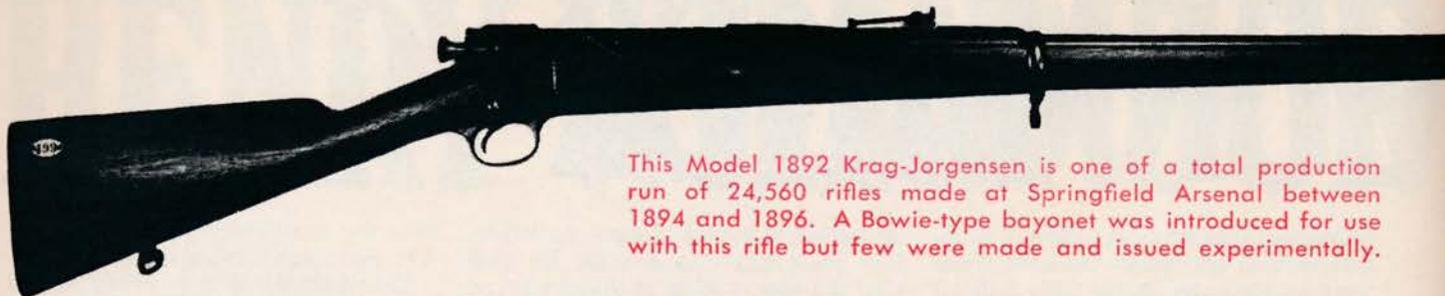
Flintlock carbine by James Wilkinson & Son dated 1824 shows the use of barrel pins instead of barrel bands.

Clanricarde patent employed in this carbine of 1831 was extremely well made and was an early breech loader. Note engraving and case hardening.



This double-barreled elephant gun was a 10 bore made in 1832 and carried sling "swivels" on stock and forearm.

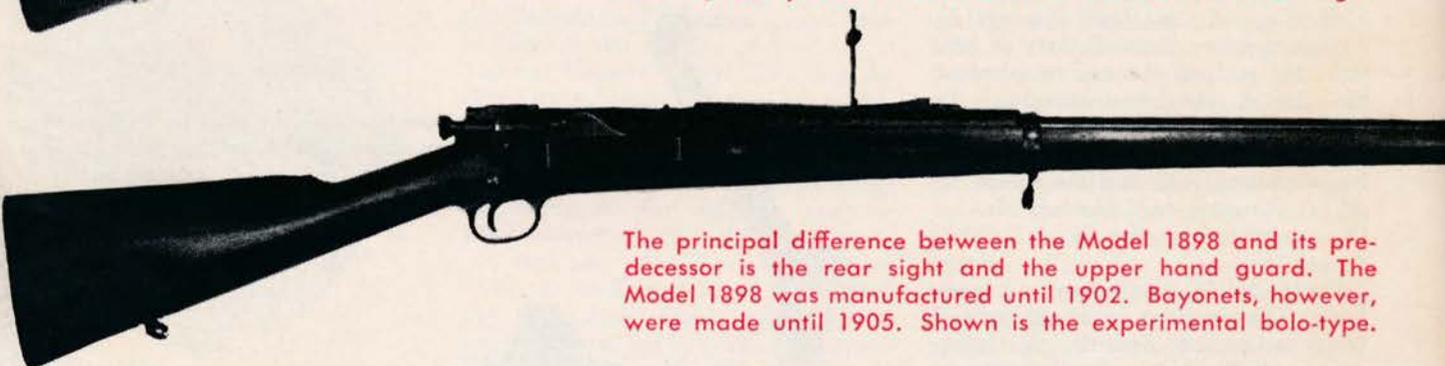




This Model 1892 Krag-Jorgensen is one of a total production run of 24,560 rifles made at Springfield Arsenal between 1894 and 1896. A Bowie-type bayonet was introduced for use with this rifle but few were made and issued experimentally.



The Model 1896 was shorter and lighter and muzzle velocity was reduced. Cleaning rod was placed in the butt, and the hand guard extended over the receiver ring. The hump in the hand guard protected the drift-lock lever on the rear sight.



The principal difference between the Model 1898 and its predecessor is the rear sight and the upper hand guard. The Model 1898 was manufactured until 1902. Bayonets, however, were made until 1905. Shown is the experimental bolo-type.

THE KRAG

COVER
STORY

By ALBERT P. HOUT

IN 1888, Ole H. Krag, Master-General-in-Charge of Konigsberg Manufactory (the "Springfield Armory" of Norway) in collaboration with Eric Jorgensen, a civilian employee of Konigsberg, developed a magazine rifle that was one of fifty-three arms submitted and tested by a board of American Army officers appointed in 1890 to select a magazine rifle to replace the .45-70

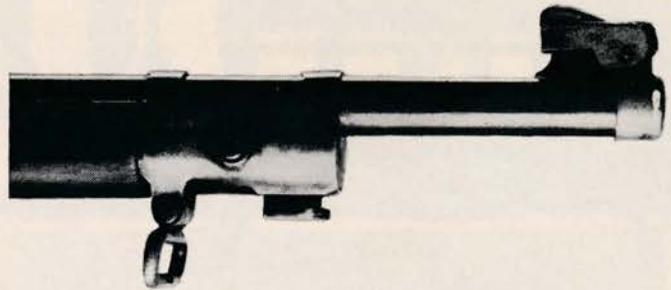
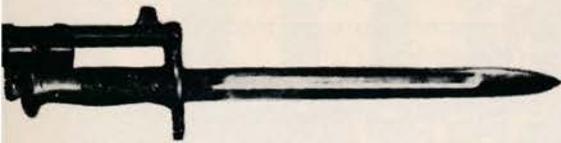
"trapdoor" Springfield.

The first U.S. model Krag was designated as the M1892. This weapon was based on the Krag-Jorgensen system modified somewhat by U.S. ordnance officers and chambered for a .30 caliber rimmed cartridge, rather than the original 6.5mm Norwegian.

The Krag-Jorgensen was manufactured by the U.S. government at Springfield arsenal, and the inventors received \$1.00 for each Krag produced. As there were approximately 442,800 rifles and 63,100 carbines manufactured, Krag and Jorgensen received a pretty penny for their invention.



The Model 1896 carbine has a 22-inch barrel and weighs about eight pounds. The first Krag carbines were issued in March 1896 and about one in every five Krags are carbines. Springfield arsenal devoted about two months of each year to the production of these carbines.



The Krag muzzle cover, made out of stamped brass, was designed to keep dirt and mud out of the barrel. With it in place, rifles no longer had to be carried muzzle down during inclement weather to keep the barrel dry.

When using the cut-off, thus making the rifle a single-shot, soldiers would often stick cartridges between the fingers of the free hand much as back-alley crap shooters hold paper money. The full magazine of five rounds was held in reserve in the event of a charge by the enemy. Web slings were introduced when it was found that leather rotted too quickly in the steaming climates of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.



RIFLE

The regular army—the 4th U.S. Infantry, to be precise—were the first to receive the new rifle. These men were proud of their new weapon, and they had every right to be, for it was a long, slim beauty.

The stock, conventional black walnut, was oil finished; the bolt and sleeve were polished steel, topped by an extractor spring bright blue in color. The side-plate, barrel, and receiver were dark blue, and the box-magazine carried the rich greys, blues, and browns of case-hardening.

The rifle was not light (it weighs about 9.5 pounds without the bayonet), but neither was it excessively heavy when compared with other U.S. martial long arms.

The Krag-Jorgensen was caliber .30, and it used a rimmed cartridge, known variously as .30 Army, .30 Government, or .30-40 Krag. Many early cartridge cases were made at Frankford Arsenal, and they were tin-plated to prevent chemical reaction of the powder. Plated cases are now highly sought after by cartridge collectors, and are worth from 60 to 80 cents apiece.

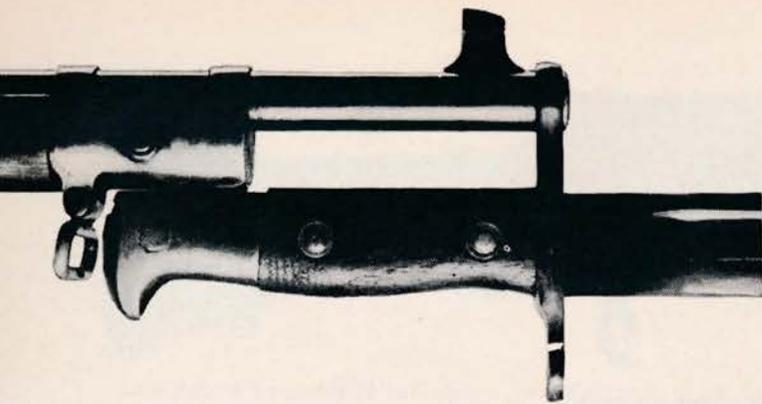
The cupro-nickel bullet (some of the early bullets were steel-plated) measured .308 in diameter and weighed 220 grains. It was round-nosed, and the 35 to

42 grains of nitro-cellulose powder gave it a muzzle velocity of about 2,000 feet per second.

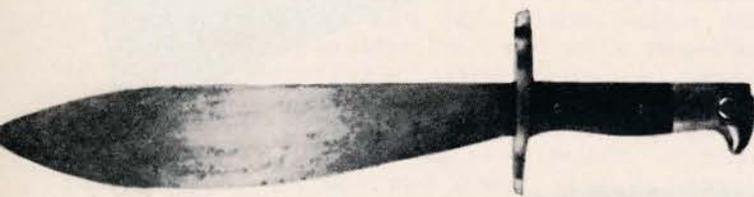
Loading the Krag was a simple operation. All the soldier had to do was open the box on the side, drop in five cartridges, and slap it shut with his hand. A cut-off on the left side of the receiver could be thumbed up or down (according to the model), thus enabling the soldier to fire cartridges one at the time, leaving a full magazine to fall back on in cases of emergency.

The Model 1892 and succeeding models (there were six in all: three long arms: Model 1892, 1896, and 1898; and three carbines: Models 1896, 1898, and 1899) was the first U.S. Rifle to have wood covering the upper half of the barrel. It ran up to the second band, and it was sorely needed for the speed of the small bullet and the heat from the new smokeless powder made the barrel too hot to touch when fired rapidly. The wood should have been extended to the first band—as indeed it was on the Model 1903 Springfield that followed the Krag—for many were the soldiers who left flesh from the left hand hanging on the exposed part of the barrel when bayonet fighting followed the rapid firing that preceded it.

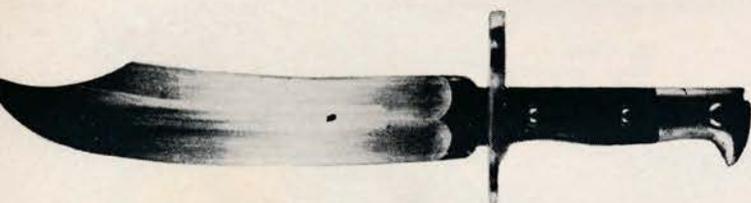
The U.S. Model 1892 Krag-Jorgensen was also the



The Krag was the first U.S. martial long arm to use a short blade, knife-type bayonet fastened under the barrel. It was patterned after the Swiss Schmidt-Rubin bayonet. Krag bayonets were blued until 1895.



Experimental bolo-type bayonet blade.



Experimental Bowie-type bayonet blade.

first U.S. rifle to use a dagger-type bayonet attached under the barrel. No provisions were made for attaching a bayonet to the carbine.

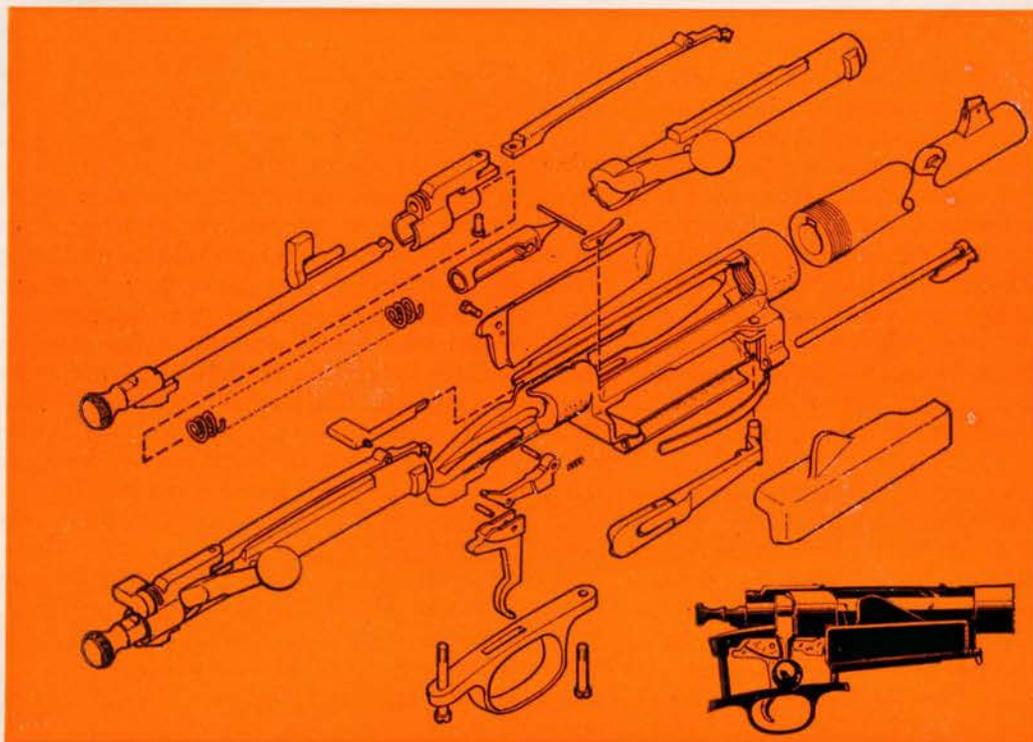
During the ten years it was the official weapon of the Army, Krags were used in the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Boxer Rebellion, and the last pitched battle between the U.S. Army and the American Indian.

For today's collector and shooter, few military weapons offer as much. Not only are the various rifle and carbine models still available, but they are reasonably priced. \$75 to \$100 will buy a long Krag in NRA good condition. Carbines, because of the fewer numbers made, are a little higher.

The Krag, moreover, can easily be converted to an excellent sporter by shortening the barrel and fore-end and fitting a sporting front sight. Carbines make excellent sporters "as issued" simply by replacing the front sight. Unfortunately though, many Krags have poor bores because of the corrosive priming that was used at that time. It might be wise to mention here that because of the bolting system (the Krag bolt has only one locking lug) and the fact that the Krag was manufactured before modern-day steels and heat treating processes were developed, it is best to use only loads adapted for this gun.

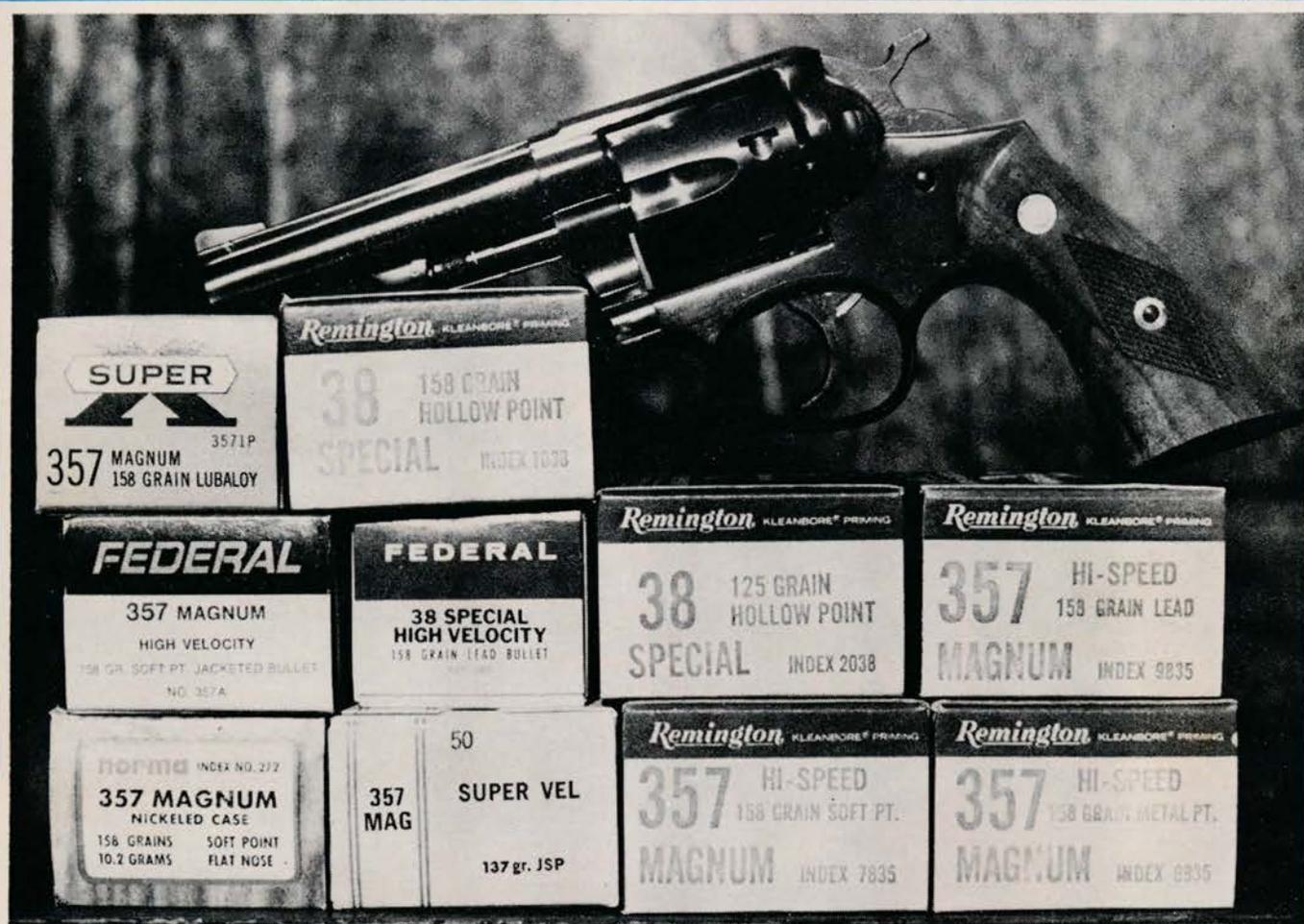
Krag bayonets, also, provide a great deal of interest; for they, like Luger pistols, are dated. Many collectors try to get one of each date (1892-1905). For the advanced bayonet collector there are "cadet" models (a shorter version of the standard knife-type bayonet) and bayonets with bolo- and bowie-type blades.

All in all, the Krag seems to have a little something for everyone.



THE RUGER

SECURITY-SIX



Shown with the Ruger Security-Six above, are some of the ten different kinds and types of ammunition that it digested without problems. Gun was taken to the Smith & Wesson Police Training Academy for testing and about 500 rounds of different ammunition were pumped through it. Gun was highly praised.

By MASON WILLIAMS

IT IS always a pleasure to test and evaluate Ruger firearms because they appear to have more than their share of honest, tough design and workmanship; and the new Ruger .357 Magnum, double action revolver is no exception. What is unusual is its looks and design. At first glance it would appear to be a single action revolver of perhaps .32 caliber, making it possibly the smallest .357 Magnum handgun on the market today. In the past, probably due to Dick Tracy, the .357 revolver has been considered a huge, potent weapon. Much of this reasoning may be traced back to the middle 1930's when the .357 first appeared and, in those days it was THE most potent revolver/cartridge combination. In addition, the .357 Magnum handgun was large—a big brute of a gun. This image has carried over into the 1970's and that is possibly why the new Ruger Security Six comes as such a surprise.

Another surprise is the fact that this revolver does not have a side plate, giving the frame considerably more

strength than that of a conventional revolver with its cut-out frame. This permits Ruger to produce a small, tough, extremely strong receiver that can safely handle the entire line of .357 Magnum cartridges. This frame carries the single action revolver swells directly behind the cylinder opening to add weight and to give the revolver a sound, good, solid feel.

The wonders of investment casting enable Ruger to use the finest steels in the Security-Six and it looks as if most component parts have been investment cast—except for the barrel—and then highly polished and blued. Workmanship and fit are typical of Ruger quality. Yet the price is only \$89.95 with fixed sights.

Field stripping the Security Six is quite an experience the first time. The company furnishes a small, short pin that I threw away when I unpacked the revolver. I thought it was a piece of scrap metal. It isn't, so look for it and hang onto it. When I realized what I had thrown away I simply picked up a paper clip as a substitute.

First of all, the head of the grip screw has been de-

signed to take the rim of a .38 Special or .357 Magnum cartridge. Unscrew the grip screw, tap the revolver and the grips will usually fall off. Cock the hammer. Insert the pin into the hole

in the hammer spring guide that now extends beyond the plate. Pull the trigger and lift out the hammer spring and guide. Push out the hammer pin using the head of the hammer spring

guide. Note that it has a plate on the right end that fits into a corresponding recess in the side of the frame. Pull the trigger, then pull out the hammer.

Using the hammer spring assembly, insert the heavy metal end inside the frame and press down on the plunger at the rear of the trigger assembly. Push in on this plunger and the entire trigger assembly will drop out the bottom of the frame.

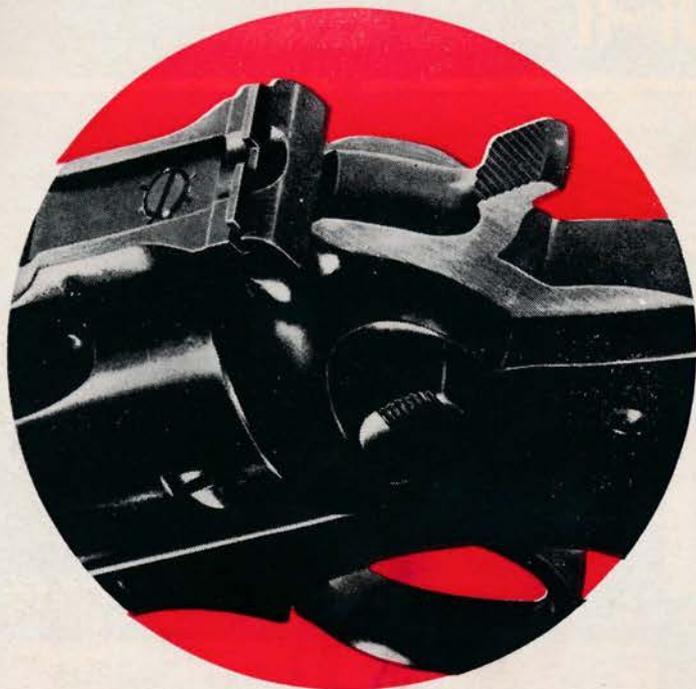
Press inward on the cylinder latch, swing out the cylinder and pull it forward and out of the front of the frame. Remove the cylinder stop from the bottom of the frame. You can now inspect, clean, oil all of the "innards." I do not recommend further stripping of the trigger assembly.

To reassemble, replace the cylinder stop, insert the cylinder assembly into the front of the frame and close and lock the cylinder. Fit the front end of the trigger assembly into its notch and bring the rear of the trigger assembly up to within half an inch of being closed. STOP!! Here is where we all go wrong the first time. First make certain that the hammer block is in place and not jammed beneath the bottom of the cylinder lock. Pull the trigger part way back and watch the hand slip into its cut in the recoil plate. This is where it belongs. As you exert pressure on the rear of the trigger assembly to move it up into the frame be sure to keep the hand forward and to the right. If necessary use a paper c'ip to move the hand into place. When all looks right, snap the rear of the trigger assembly into the bottom of the frame. Try the trigger. It should move easily. If not, the hand is jammed and it will be necessary to drive out the rear of the trigger assembly and try again.

Next pull the trigger, drop in the hammer, and lock it in place with the hammer pin. Fit the hammer spring and guide into place, cock the hammer, pull out the pin or paper clip, pull the trigger, replace the grips and the revolver is ready to fire.

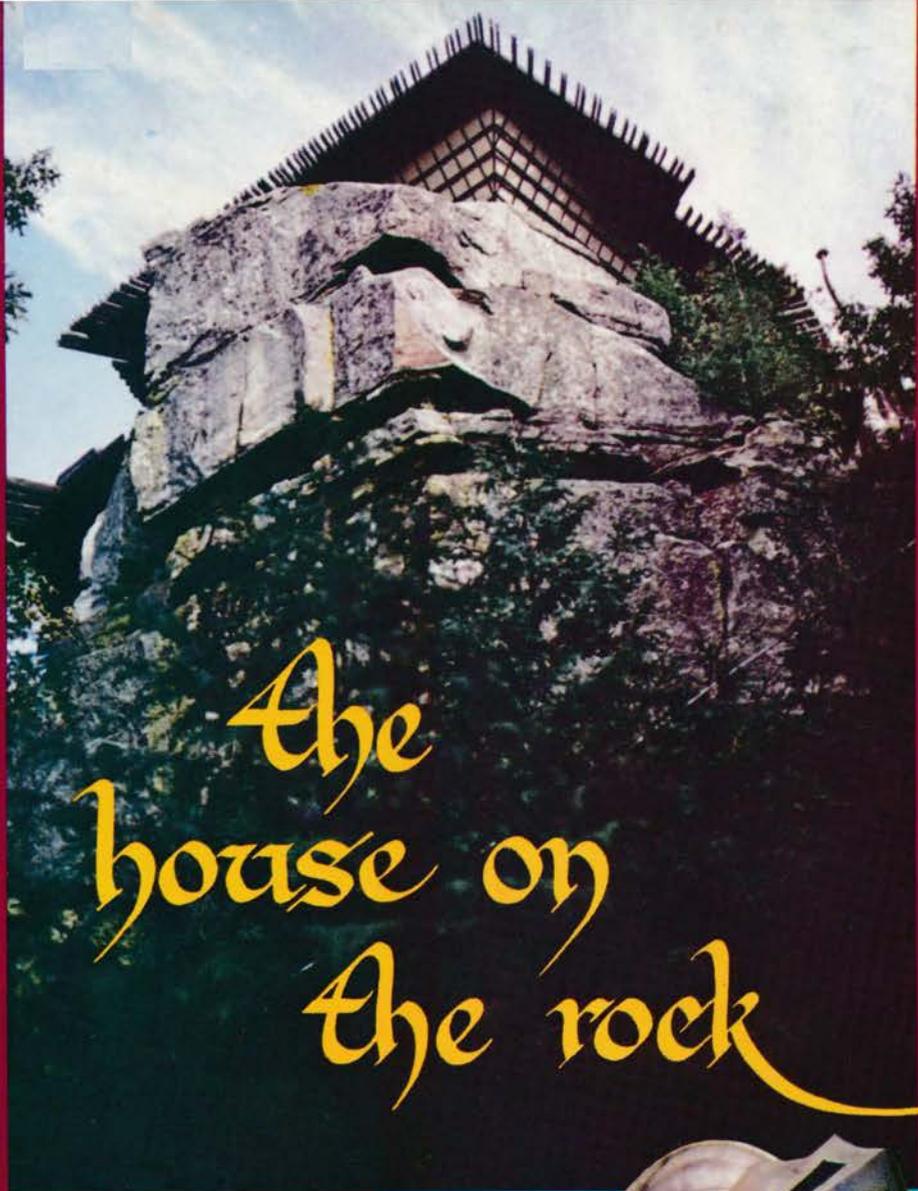
Once you know how to handle the field stripping it is quite easy and you can strip, clean and reassemble the revolver in less than five minutes and do a good job of it without having any pins or springs going "Boooinggg" all over the room. This is a lovely little revolver to work with.

The hammer does not strike the firing pin. The firing pin is activated by the hammer (Continued on page 61)



Cylinder latch is conveniently located in the left cylinder swell. Hammer and trigger are wide for excellent control and the adjustable rear sight is well worth a few extra dollars.



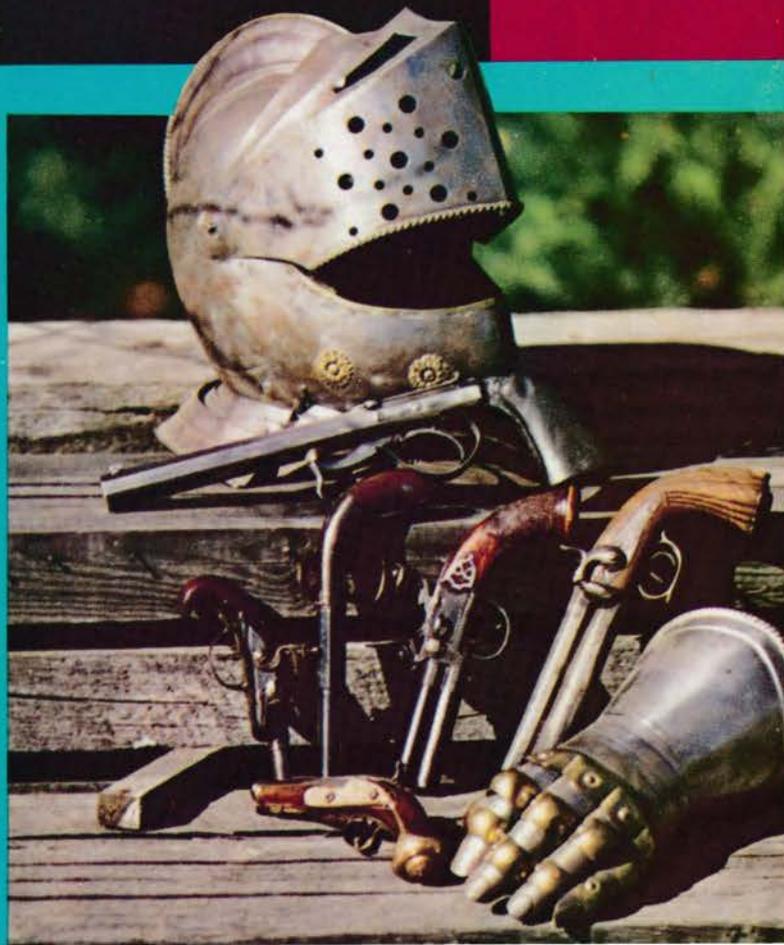


The house on the rock

By GEORGE MARS CASSIDY

ONE OF the most unique settings for a gun collection is located in southwestern Wisconsin, about 30 miles west of the state capitol of Madison. High atop a massive outcropping of rock is a house of extraordinary design. Built of rock and native timbers, the house, in its four levels and 13 rooms, has awed visitors since 1966, when it was opened to the public. Combining natural beauty with architectural expression, each of the rooms gives a feeling of the outdoors, with live trees growing through ceilings and miniature waterfalls splashing through indoor gardens. Huge canted windows bring all of the beauty of the valley below right into the rooms.

Since the House on the Rock has become one of Wisconsin's most popular tourist attractions, many new features have been added, the latest is "Streets of Yesterday," with buildings and furnishings of the 1890's.





A fantastic collection of Steam engines are the beginning of an Industrial Museum; and if nostalgia turns you on, there is a collection of music boxes and nickelodeons that will keep you fascinated for some time.

But we are interested in guns, and if we'll pass through the Garden Room and the Music Room, we soon come to the Mill House with its 32-foot long fireplace—the largest in the world—and as we turn a corner we spot a glass-covered wall filled with only a part of the gun collection. On these pages, we can show only a small part of this collection, but enough, I think, to demonstrate the fact that it is a collection well worth seeing.

The gun collection is almost as unique as the building which houses it. It is a collection for those who wish to admire old guns; not especially for those who want to study them. The reason is that few of them are identified, except in the most general way. You will find no catalog of the guns displayed, nor will you find definitive information on any individual piece. Thus this collection is not so much for the serious student of firearms as it is for those who enjoy looking at handsome gun decoration and intricate mechanisms. Still, the advanced collector can enjoy this collection as much as anyone, for in it he will find some striking examples of museum quality firearms which reflect not only historical associations, but periods in the development



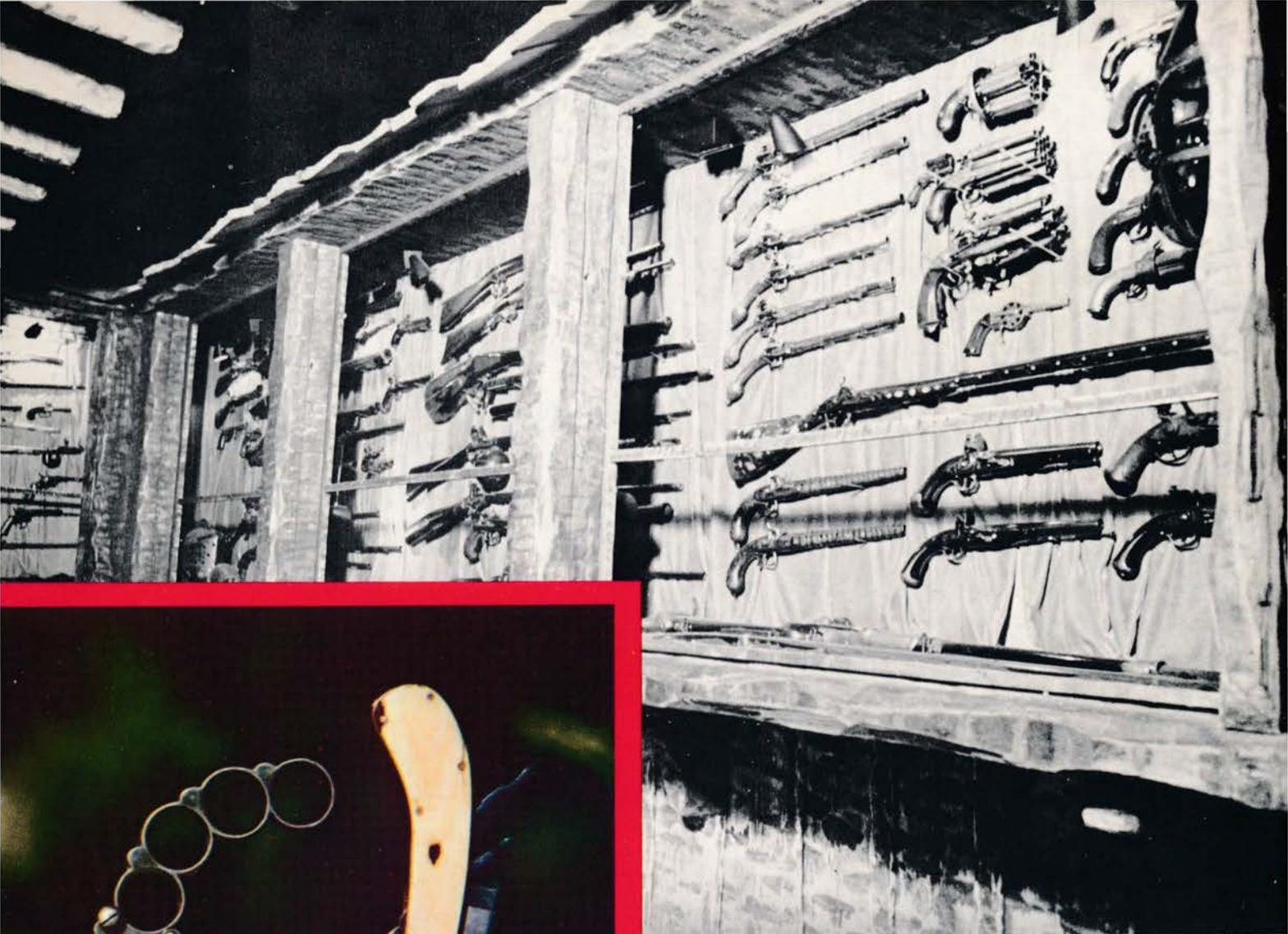
The Man Behind the "House"

There are many amazing things about the House on the Rock, but perhaps the most amazing is the fact that it was built almost entirely by its owner, Mr. Alex Jordan, a sculptor from Madison, Wisconsin. More than 20 years ago, he first discovered the windswept Deershelter Rock, and he was so impressed, he decided to build a week-end retreat and studio there. Until 1952, when electricity finally came to the house, he carried the rocks 75 feet to the top on his back and in bushel baskets. Now the new additions are built by construction machinery, but the directions are those of Alex Jordan, who saw his dream castle become a reality; one that he now shares with thousands each year.

of firearms running from the early matchlocks through the multi-barreled flintlocks, and up to semi-modern metallic cartridge models.

It is evident that this collection was amassed with no particular plan in mind except, perhaps, that the pieces should be unusual in appearance if they were not historically significant. Thus, you'll find a fine Harper's Ferry flintlock pistol next to a pocket-knife/pistol bearing the name "NON XLL." You'll also find a rare ivory-stocked double barrel flintlock

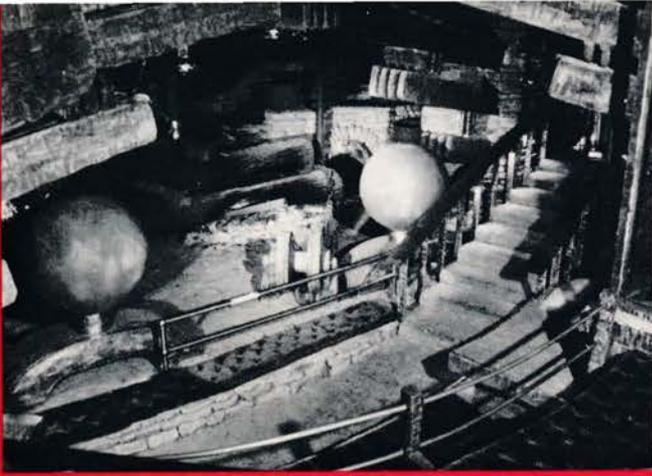
pistol next to an obviously hand-made tinder lighter, and a National .41 Derringer flanked by a group of multi-barrel flintlock pistols with anywhere from two to 30 barrels. If early air guns interest you, there are several in this collection that are quite unique. Actually, there are a number of fine firearms in this collection that will interest those who are students of the rare and the significant. However, the over-all collection appears to be a portrayal of items more likely found in Winant's "Fire-



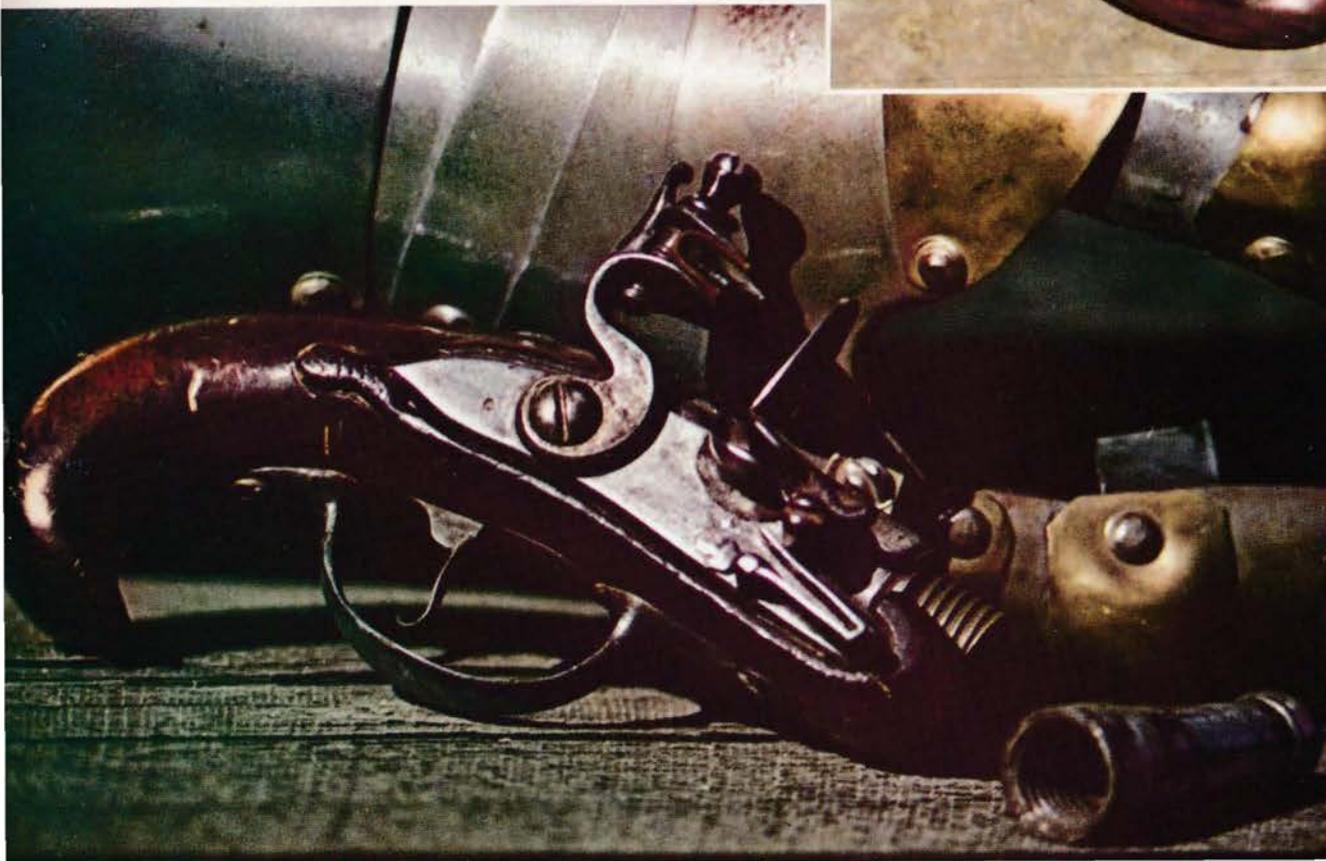
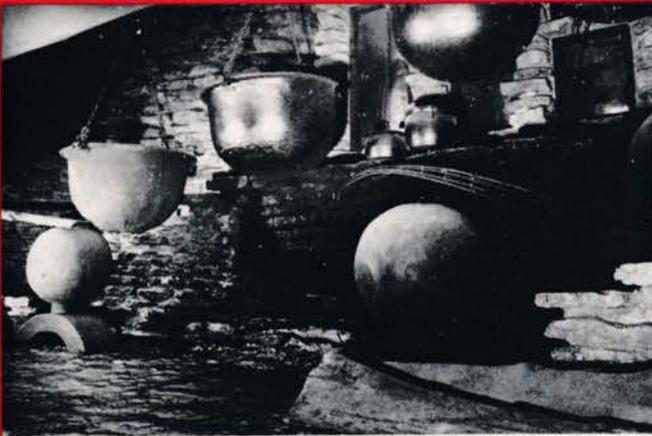
arms Curiosa" than in any of the more technical books which catalog models and variations for the advanced collector. It is, in my opinion, a fun collection, and one that can be enjoyed by both the serious collector and the layman.

One of the nice parts about visiting The House on the Rock with a family, is that while you stand in front of the display cases filled with firearms, your wife will probably be just as intent as she studies the collection of antique glassware in the woman's lounge or the nostalgic collection of dolls and toys found in the Doll House. Meanwhile, the kids will be fascinated with the mechanical banks, or the goat named Lucifer who grazes on the roof of the Mill House, keeping the grass trimmed.

If you happen to be in the vicinity of Spring Green, Wisconsin this summer, be sure to stop in at the House on the Rock. I am sure that you'll find it well worth your while. If you're camping out, there are two fine State Parks nearby, Governor Dodge State Park and Tower Hill. There is an admission fee, but considering what you get for your money now days, it is a real bargain. Be sure to tell them that you read about The House on the Rock in GUNS Magazine. □



Left: One of the wall cases holding the gun collection. Above: In the mill House is the world's largest fireplace. Below: Another fireplace, with giant kettles, in Gate House.





The Presidential Astra

Almost

Emblem of the Spanish Govt. is finely done as is the seal of the United States on left grip.

**Truly Presidential material,
this little Cub is a mate to Eisenhower's pistol.**

By HAROLD A. MURTZ

GOOD THINGS come in small packages, according to an old adage. This was the case about three years ago when a Southern gun trader and buyer acquired a gold plated and engraved Astra "Cub" in .22 Short caliber.

Such a beautifully executed piece surely could not have been done by a run-of-the-mill engraver and certainly wouldn't have been done for the open market. These were the thoughts of the owner, Dr. Rupert H. Bramblett (Bramblett-Howell Building, Cumming, Georgia). Many fine firearms had passed through his hands, but none quite like

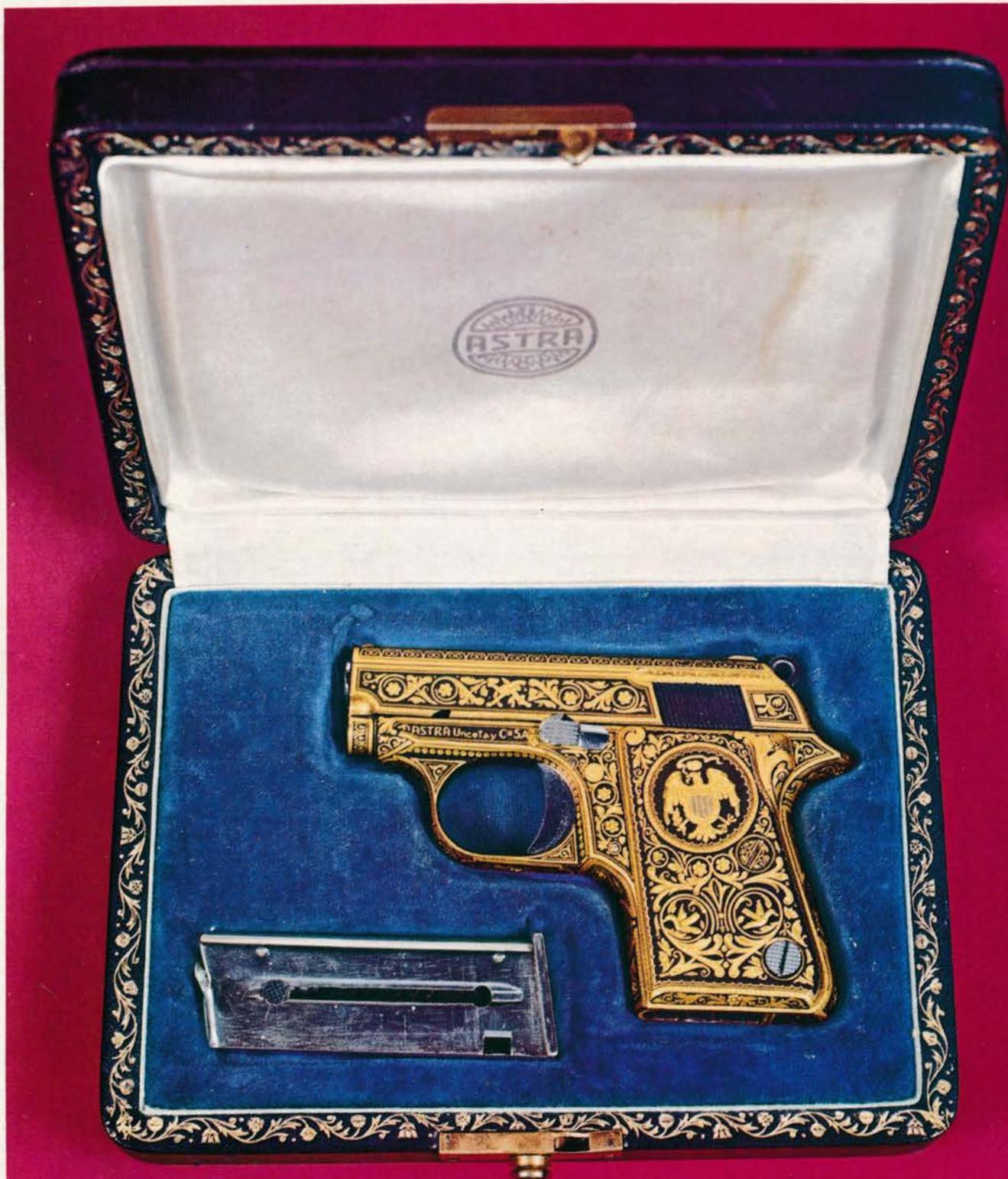
this little Astra. To find out just where this gem came from, Dr. Bramblett wrote to the Astra factory in Spain and received a reply to the effect that the gun, #69274, was made in May, 1956 and was sent to Firearms International Corporation in Washington on May 21, 1956. All the gold engraving was done at the Astra factory. From the letter from Astra: "With regard to the destination of the guns preceding and following yours, we are able to give this reply: No. 69273—Gold engraved Astra Cub pistol, caliber .22. Manufactured in March, 1956 and delivered to the Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores (Spanish Foreign Office) on March 26, 1956, undoubtedly for an official gift. No. 69275—Engraved and silver-plated Astra Cub pistol,

caliber .22. Was manufactured in January, 1957 and sent, on October 26, 1957, to the firm of Gustav Genschow GmbH, of Hamburg, Germany."

Following-up on the letter from the Astra factory, Dr. Bramblett gambled that Cub number 69273 was presented to President Dwight D. Eisenhower as Astra had mentioned that the gun was "undoubtedly for an official gift." On November 23, 1967 he wrote to General Eisenhower at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania inquiring about the Cub preceding his. In that letter he said, "I have recently acquired

a beautiful gold engraved Astra Cub .22 caliber automatic, serial number 69273. It is my belief that an identical gold engraved pistol serial number 69273 was presented to you, probably as an official gift from the Government of Spain in 1957."

The gamble paid-off and a letter was received from General Eisenhower's Executive Assistant, Robert L. Schultz, a short time later. From Schultz came this reply: "In the absence of General Eisenhower, I have been asked to respond to your letter of November (Continued on page 58)





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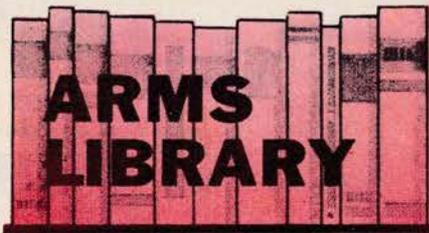
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Hunt The Far Mountain
By Keith Severinsen
(A. H. Reed, \$6.00)

Available from N. Z. Sporting Books,
P. O. Box 13302, Christchurch, New
Zealand.

Although the United States is full of hunting opportunities, there are many others in different parts of the world. One such attractive hunting ground is that of New Zealand, in the world "down under." *Hunt the Far Mountain* is the story of many hunting stories by the author who has guided many hunters of all nationalities through the wilds of this beautiful country. He introduces the reader to every kind of hunting trophy that New Zealand has to offer—from the magnificent wapiti of Fiordland to the wild sheep and goats of the East Coast of the North Island. As for deer, including whitetail, rusa, sika, and sambar, he has hunted every one of them, not to mention wild boar and the swift wallabies.

This is a refreshing book written in a slightly different dialect of the English language. Humor abounds as Severinsen relates some very funny tales of past hunts and the hunters he has guided. New Zealand is a beautiful but rugged country and the author describes the harshness of favorite hunting grounds very thoroughly. Over 15 pages of photographs get his point across very well.

This book is a joy to read as it documents hunting in that country to a "T". It is highly recommended reading for the hunter or the outdoorsman interested in hunting in another country; even for the casual "once-a-year" hunter here in the States. H.A.M.

Rocky Mountain Warden
By Frank Calkins
(Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., \$6.95)

There is a special breed of men, there always has been and always will be, that have a feeling for nature, to include animals, apart from the city born and bred "slicker." Those that live close to "Mother Nature" by choice genuinely enjoy that way of life in a way that cannot be totally

described in words, spoken or written. It is just a feeling.

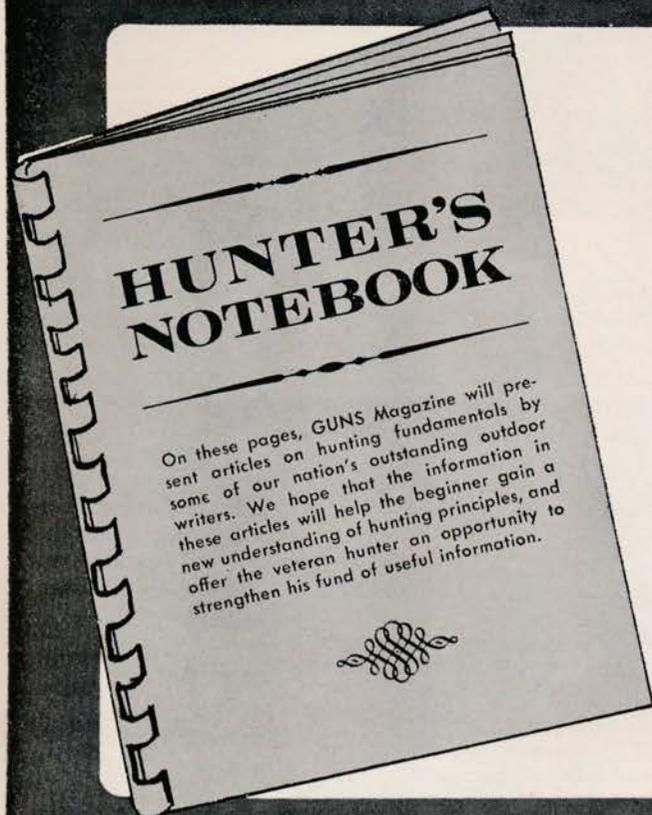
When Frank Calkins arrived at his first assignment in northeastern Utah, he came in a pickup truck with a weathered horse van, a sense of humor and a naturalist's conscience in tow. This is the story of his generous, good, tough life as a game protector, learning the hazards and rewards as well as the ways of the Rocky Mountain wilderness. He learned the hard way from that tough and knowledgeable paragon of game wardens, on a beat that was measured in hundreds of square miles, many of them standing on end.

Calkins has a truthful, believable and natural tact for telling it like it is. There is a quality of "earthiness" to his writing that makes it all fun to read as well as putting the reader right next to his side, in either the old rocker or in the field. For the naturalist, adventurer or outdoorsman, this book is just the ticket. H.A.M.

Smith And Wesson 1857-1945
By Robert J. Neal and Roy G. Jinks
(A.S. Barnes and Co., \$25.00)

In all the years that gun collectors have been at it, one company's products have largely been ignored by writers of documentary tomes and technical publications almost to exclusion. This is especially strange, taking into account the size and importance of Smith & Wesson's products throughout the formative years of this great country. Up until now, no book has been available which presented to the student of arms the statistics of these remarkable guns. Not only did S&W guns play an important part in the development of our country's frontiers, but they also helped to develop other nations, young and old, around the world as well as the firearms industry itself. Smith & Wesson developed the first practical cartridge revolver that led the way for other U.S. arms makers, as well as those of foreign origin. S&W was highly successful in the domestic market, but was unable for one reason or another to secure the massive government contracts enjoyed by other great American arms manufacturers.

This book is probably the greatest piece ever written on this company's products and it not only covers their guns, but also handcuffs, accessories, experimental models that never reached full production status, as well as loading tools and other non-gun-related products. The authors are the nation's foremost collectors of Smith & Wesson pieces and have completely
(Continued on page 70)



Getting To Know Your Rifle

By JON R. SUNDRA

Know just what your rifle will do with factory and handloaded ammo as well as with scope and iron sights. Emergencies do arise!

ACQUIRING a new hunting rifle is a little like acquiring a new friend. What you get out of the "relationship" is comensurate with what you're willing to put into it.

Perhaps that opening statement sounds a little strange, but the fact remains that the most competent hunter is usually the one who knows his rifle and its performance characteristics inside and out. Since each rifle is different, getting to really know it takes time, effort, and a systematic approach not only at the loading bench but, more importantly, at the shooting bench as well.

The first order of business should be to ascertain what our new musket will do with factory ammo. Although I'm assuming most readers are handloaders, it is always a good idea to know exactly what we can expect from factory fodder in the event we find we've lost or forgotten our handloads (don't snicker, it happens!) This is especially true if we plan to load a bullet weight other than those available in a factory load thus having a different trajectory.

So, rather than buying unprimed brass I always pick up two or three boxes of factory ammo before heading for the range. I've yet to see a rifle that will shoot right out of the box as well as it will after 40 to 60 rounds

have been run through it; so, besides serving as a source of brass, the factory stuff will also polish up those microscopic tool marks and burrs that will enable the tube to deliver the kind of accuracy we can expect later on during handload development.

If I find the factory loads giving satisfactory hunting accuracy, I make a note of the bullet weight and brand for future reference. I also save about 10 of these factory rounds for use later. After I have decided on a handload I then dig them out and compare impact points with that of my handloads. In the event I find myself in the situation mentioned earlier and am forced to use factory ammo, I know what kind to buy and what changes in sighting, if any, will be necessary.

Now that we know what factory ammo will do and we have some empty brass, we can now get down to the serious business of finding the "right" load.

Ideally, our new rifle will shoot the bullet of our choice with MOA (Minute of Angle, about 1" at 100 yards) accuracy propelled by the powder giving the highest velocity within acceptable pressure limits and from cases that chamber and extract like a knife through butter. Unfortunately, though, all these attributes are seldom

found in any one rifle/cartridge combination and we usually end up having to content ourselves with some sort of compromise.

Since we're discussing hunting rifles rather than target or varmint jobs, we're actually more concerned with consistency rather than accuracy. Contrary to popular belief, the two are not synonymous—at least not when couched in the hunting concept. The hunter is far better off with a gun that will punch 1½" groups exactly where it's supposed to and do it month after month rather than a temperamental tackdriver. Besides, the most accurate loads are usually found at those velocity levels far below maximum. For a paper puncher this is fine, but in a hunting rifle we want to take advantage of all the velocity we can get within safe pressure limitations. There's little sense in buying a 7 mm Remington Magnum, for example, if we end up loading it down to 7x57 velocities.

Since it is not the purpose of this opus to go into any handloading techniques, let it suffice to say that the development of a hunting load should be restricted to using those powders giving the highest velocities. Comparing data derived from several sources will show what powders are best suited. Powder choice is relatively

limited if you're loading a magnum having a low-expansion ratio such as the .264 Winchester, 7 MM Remington, etc. since there are few powders slow enough for them. If, on the other hand, you're stuffing a well balanced cartridge like the .308 Winchester, powder choice is extremely varied since it burns so many of them so well. In Speer's new Manual #8, for example, the greatest spread among the maximum loads listed for 8 different powders in the 165 grain loadings is only 72 fps.!

Because each rifle has different capabilities, it's difficult to say that any specific level of performance should be the criteria but I'll go out on a limb and say that a fullpower load that can deliver around 1½ MOA is not too hard to achieve in today's modern bolt action rifles. Although you could probably find something more accurate in a reduced load, this is just one of those compromises I mentioned earlier.

Another compromise often made but one that is unnecessary has to do with the resizing of brass. Many times I've seen where someone recommends that only full-length resized cases should be used for hunting loads because of their reliable feeding, chambering, and extraction. This is especially true, they say, if you're going after the beasties that bite back where you could require a quick second shot.

Now I'll agree with the reasoning behind the aforementioned recommendation but do we really have to restrict ourselves to the full-length resized cases that normally cannot equal the accuracy potential provided by those that have been neck sized only? Definitely not; we can have our cake and eat it too.

Neck sized brass will chamber in a bolt action rifle as easily as a fully resized hull as long as it has been fired only once after full length resizing. All load development should be done with the more accurate, fire formed cases. Chambering and extraction will become difficult after the frequent firing and reloading you'll be doing while working out loads but don't worry about it. This is simply a result of the brass gradually losing its ability to "spring back" from the chamber walls. After two or three reloadings the rounds begin to fit the chamber so snugly that closing or opening the bolt becomes increasingly difficult. But, again, this is only during load development work on the local shooting range so it's of no consequence.

When a hunting load has been decided on, simply full-length resize your brass or, better yet, get a new box of unprimed cases (same brand

you've been using, naturally), load them up and fire from them. Now you're ready to neck-size and load up a batch of hunting loads which will fit your chamber like a glove, shoot as accurately and to the same point of impact as they did on the range, and will still chamber and extract as smoothly as a factory load.

Backing out a full length resizing die to partial-resize a case is another way to achieve a good chamber fit but is not nearly as desirable as using a special neck sizing die. For one thing, you're always going to size the case to some extent depending on the amount of body taper. Also, a hunting round should have the bullet seated firmly and partial sizing does not allow taking full advantage of the already too short necks on most of our modern cartridges.

Of course the preceding applies only to bolt action rifles. If you're using a lever, pump, or semi-auto you're stuck with having to full length resize your cases to insure proper functioning.

Backtracking a bit now and returning to load testing procedures, one of the first things we want to know about a rifle is whether or not it will maintain its zero as the barrel heats up. More often than not a rifle will shift its point of impact—sometimes as much as two or three inches—as the tube warms. The reason for this is that during the manufacturing process in which the barrel is bored and turned, more than half the original metal is cut away. Although the steel is stress relieved, the removal of vast amounts of surrounding steel often puts a set in the finished product

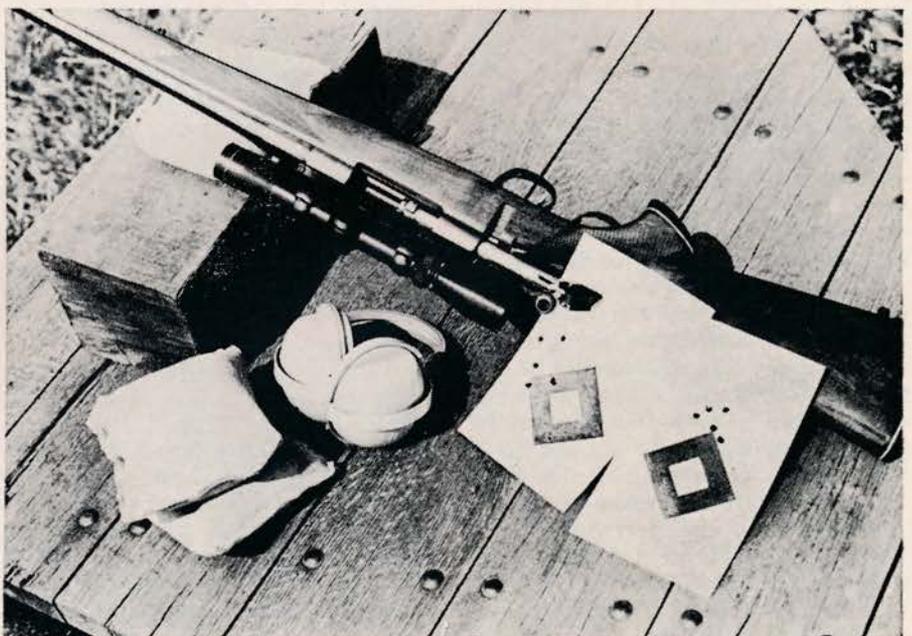


Making sure the iron sights are on the mark is a good idea should the scope be damaged and unusable.

which requires straightening. Barrel makers such as Federal Firearms of Oakdale, Pa. and G. R. Douglas of Charleston, West Virginia distinguish their unstraightened barrels by designating them as "premium grade" and charging a few dollars more for them over the standard grade. The major arms manufacturers, of course, make no such differentiation. Theoretically, both straightened and unstraightened tubes are capable of the same accuracy but only when cold.

To find out whether a barrel is going to shift impact point is simply a matter of shooting five shots at least five minutes apart and then comparing that group with one fired in rapid succession. After doing this a few times you'll know whether or not impact point and/or grouping ability are affected. If so, you'll have to restrict all load testing to cold barrel shooting to get the real story on how well and where your rifle is going to place that all-important first shot.

And while we're on the subject of
(Continued on page 60)



Target at left shows where factory loads grouped compared to handloads at right. Know just what factory loads can do in case of an emergency.

SAVE THAT CARDBOARD

By RICHARD L. BAKER

I THREW the box away years ago because it was falling apart." Many a gun collector has heard these words at one time or another from the seller of an interesting pistol specimen. Little did the fellow realize that he had thrown away at least a few dollars and possibly a great deal more.

Many people just cannot believe that a box could add anything to the value of a gun. Every year an old complete package is broken up because of the owner's lack of knowledge concerning that old tattered piece of cardboard. The fact is that much more interest is drawn to the pistol with its original box, even if in poor condition. There are even some collectors who specialize only in cardboard boxed pistols. The box is part of the package that the modern day gun collector is after and it will always add to the value of the gun.

Of course the box existed originally simply for shipping and protection and for most people it was the first item after the purchase to be disposed of. Sometimes it was kept to store the pistol in which accounts for a well used pistol in its original box today. As usual, the greater number of an item sold, the greater the survival rate. Consequently, with boxed revolvers an Iver Johnson or Colt is more common than a Hopkins & Allen.

Most boxed pistols encountered today are of the post 1900 period with the pre-1900 specimens being much scarcer if not rare. This could be attributed to several causes with, of course, time being a prime factor. In the 1800's a pistol was considered a tool and no reason was seen to keep the cardboard box it came in.

At the turn of the century there was quite a lot of crime and no strict gun laws. Consequently, many pistols were sold to average citizens for protection only to be put in a dresser drawer in the house. These account for many of the boxed specimens that turn up today. A topbreak revolver



This boxed Savage .32 automatic was purchased in 1913, originally, and it came with a manual, brush, extra magazine, sample vials of "3 in 1 Oil" and a half filled box of Savage ammunition when recently found. Note fit of the box, indicating the correct make and model is in it.

could be purchased in those days for about \$5 and an automatic pistol for about \$15. Of course the revolver is found more often today because of the greater quantity sold at the low price. The boxed automatics are usually confined to the popular Colts with other brands such as Savage, H & R and Remington running far behind. Other automatics of the pre-WWI period such as the S & W .35 and the Infallible .32 are very rare with their original box.

Some of the pistols of yesteryear also had other material such as an instruction flyer and brush and manual packed with them. These types of extras add much to the package and should always be kept together with it. A real find for the collector is the pistol, such as the pictured .32 Savage automatic, in its original box with all accessories. This specimen came with the box, manual, brush, extra magazine, sample vials of "3 in 1," and

a half filled box of Savage ammunition. The entire package came from a family estate and was originally purchased in 1913.

Of course the gun's desirability and condition are the prime determining factor of value but the original box and accessories can often raise the price substantially. For instance, I recently saw a fine little Colt .25 automatic that would easily bring \$65 by itself. However, this particular one was in its original box with brush, instruction sheet, and fifty-five year old purchase receipt. It sold quickly for \$110.

An old pistol box is almost always made of a fairly cheap cardboard and it doesn't take much handling to cause the seams to split. Time has its effect too, with the result that old boxes are rarely found in perfect condition. In most cases they are missing pieces, labels, and are broken open at the corners. The box construction usually

BOX!

consists of a pasteboard type cardboard with cloth or paper reinforcements at the corners. Often this is covered by a pebble grain paper.

The cardboard pistol box alone is even in demand among collectors. At times they can bring quite respectable prices and are usually wanted to mate with a corresponding pistol. It is this demand that can cause headaches for the average collector. Some people will immediately buy a boxed pistol simply because it has an old box with it and they assume it is original. However, because of the interest in boxed guns it is not at all unusual to find a mismatching of guns with their correct box. A recent check of several gun shops revealed several such combinations as well as witnessing the sale of a 4" barrel Colt Police Positive .32 that was in the long box of a .22 Woodsman automatic. Even part of the label remained with the word "automatic" legible. However, the combination looked impressive with the old maroon colored box and the buyer probably figured he was getting



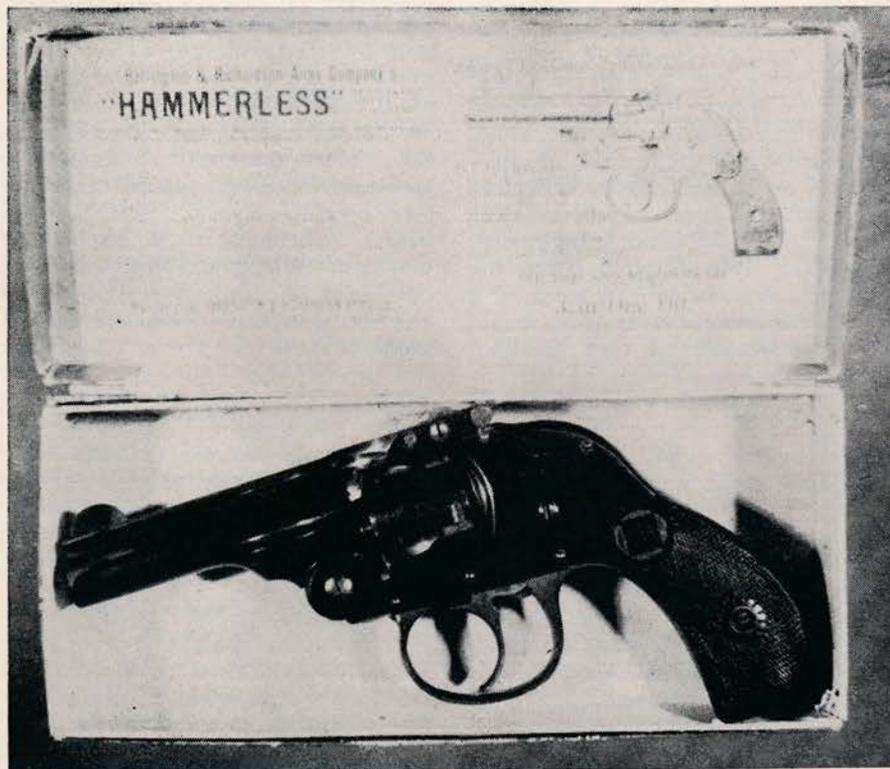
Because so many of these type guns were made, the survival rate for gun and box is great and quite a few can be found. This is an Iver Johnson .32 top break, circa 1904. Note the close fit of the gun to the box.

quite a bargain with the \$25 premium he was paying. I suspect the dealer had mated the pair simply to sell the pistol as it was of no great interest by itself. Many dealers try to find empty boxes to mate up with pistols in good condition simply to give them

considerably more sales appeal.

It is this type of mismatching of guns and boxes that the serious buyer should look out for. Nothing can beat personal knowledge about a particular pistol make and model when a boxed specimen is encountered. Often times however, it is a model you are not familiar with. In such a case the first step is to examine the box for any markings or labels that connect it with the gun. The gun should look correct for the box, that is a small pistol was never packaged in a long box. In fact, the box was usually made as small as possible to provide better support. The one place to always check on an old pistol box is on the bottom. Many manufacturers used to write the serial number of the pistol there in pencil. Sometimes the number is very faded or oil stained but will show up if the box is held at an angle in sunlight. Years ago a slanted style of penmanship was used that is seldom seen today. If the numbers on the bottom do not have this slant style examine the box very carefully for signs of erasure. Some dealers and collectors encounter a numbered box only and mate it with an appropriate specimen by erasing the old number and renumbering it to match their pistol. Be wary if you see traces of an erasure on the bottom. Such a combination is still desirable if the price is reasonable but don't pay a lot extra for a mismatched box

(Continued on page 62)



This H & R "Hammerless" .32 revolver, circa 1905 is in the correct box although the serial number (if it is there) may not match the gun.

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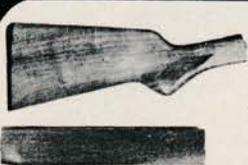
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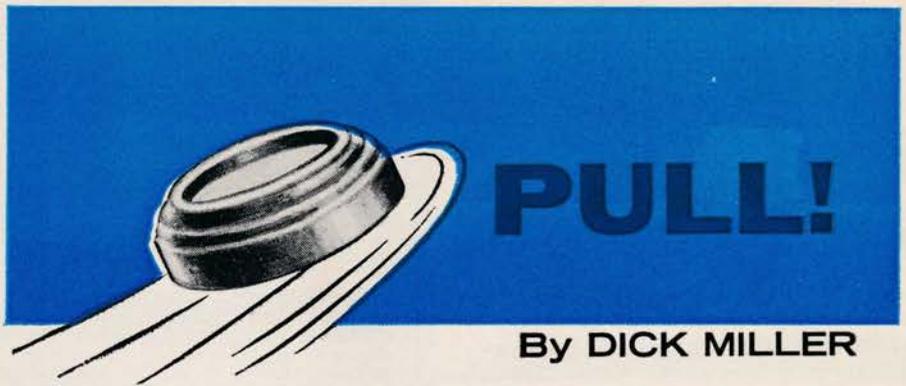
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By **DICK MILLER**

WHAT GOOD IS a book on shooting?" is a question which popped up during a clubhouse porch gabfest at the Arizona Trap & Skeet Club near Mesa, Arizona. In the context of his remarks, the shooter who said those words was phrasing them more as a commentary than the question which I implied for them. His feeling was that no book on shooting, no matter how good, nor by whom it was written could possibly help the shooter once he or she had taken his or her place on the post and called for a shot. In a very narrow technical sense, this shooter's negative attitude was probably justified. Very little that a shooter might have read, or heard, could be of value once the shooter has called for a shot, or after the target has been released.

The computer-like section of the human brain is remarkably complex and efficient, but it just isn't that good. Few, if any, brains are so constituted that they can in a split millisecond digest all the needed information, act on it, and convey the message to the physical members which must complete the act of firing a shot.

But, the reason that I posed the shooter's remarks in the form of a question is because there is a current spate of books on both trap and skeet shooting by some shooters with impeccable credentials. Few followers of the clay target games need any introduction to such names as Lee Braun, Fred Missildine, and Barney Hartmann, all of whom currently have books on clay target shooting in circulation. New shooters buy these books in the hope of greatly improving their scores, and veteran shooters buy the books hoping that some advice or gimmick will get them as little as one or two more targets.

One of the reasons for my conclusion that books and articles on shooting do help stems from my own experiences during thirteen years of writing this column in GUNS. During

those years I have occasionally given specific instructions for shooting from each post on the trap field, or on the skeet field. In other columns, I have discussed some specifics such as lead, swing, follow-through and other key aspects of breaking clay targets. After each of these columns, I have had letters or verbal comment from shooters saying that something I had said solved a specific problem for them.

Very few clay target shooters, no matter how inexperienced, have consistent problems with every post or every shot. The rankest beginner usually finds a few shots which he or she can easily hit, and which pose no problem for them. But, almost every trap or skeet shooter at some time during his or her career experiences a real hang-up on one or two posts. During my own early years at trap, post five reduced me to a quaking coward, until I was told how to handle it, after which it became a breeze. During my early skeet years, I once shot sixteen consecutive scores of 24 because of the high-house target on doubles at post six. I solved this dilemma by bringing a case of shells to that post and shooting until I learned how to break that target. One line in a good book could have solved the problem more quickly and certainly less expensively.

Almost every problem on a specific trap or skeet post derives from a violation by the shooter of some basic such as foot position, muzzle hold, or swing. Each of the writers I mentioned earlier covers these situations in detail, usually with charts or diagrams.

For an example of a specific problem, my own agonies on post five were due to the fact that for some reason, I was pointing my left foot at the trap house, and practically facing it, which caused me to have to push my gun at a sharp right angle, rather than swing with it. It is a fact of life that you can't push a gun as fast as

you can swing it. Any good book on trap would have pin-pointed the problem for me as soon as I saw the diagram for position on post five.

In one of my PULL columns a few years ago, I happened to mention the tendency of many beginning skeet gunners to turn their bodies too far back toward the high house on post two, and to start their swing too far back toward the house. Every book on skeet discusses and diagrams this common problem.

AFTER that column appeared, a shooter wrote me that he was just about to give up skeet because of his problems with post two, but that after reading the column, he went out and won a shoot and was happily back in the game.

A shooter once walked up to me during the Grand, and told me I was responsible for his being at the Grand, and still a trapshooter. He said that he was disgusted with the game, had sold his gun, and had given up. After reading a PULL column on how high to hold above the house, he realized that he had been handicapping himself by holding too low. He then bought his old gun back, and his scores had improved enough to justify a trip to the Grand. He won a trophy, too!

It is just such quirks as these, and others, that any good book or article on shooting can help solve. Very often, the value of a whole book can be found in one line, one paragraph, or one picture which solves a specific problem. It is true that much of the solution to the problem must take place before the shooter calls for the bird or pulls the trigger. But, the book can help in all the preparations before the act of calling for the target or firing the shot.

Another amusing incident took place at the Mesa gun club, which involves some of the basics of shooting. My wife was sitting on the porch watching me and another shooter coach the wife of a mutual friend through her first two rounds of trapshooting ever. An experienced feminine shooter also sitting on the porch commented within earshot of my wife that men couldn't teach women to shoot because they wouldn't insist that the gal throw back her derriere, and throw forward her overhang. About this time, I was able to persuade our friend's wife that she had to pull back her fanny and throw her shoulders forward, about which time she started hitting a string of targets.

It is true that the biggest problem to overcome in teaching most women and children to shoot is that they

have a tendency to lean back from the gun rather than into it. This problem is compounded by the fact that when they lean backward from the gun stock, they not only don't hit many targets, but the recoil of the gun punishes them unnecessarily. When a shooter is leaning away from the gun, the recoil catches him off balance, and socks him on the shoulder rather than shoving the shoulder gently rearward.

When a beginning shooter leans away from the gunstock, his or her line of sight is rarely down the sighting plane of either rib or plain barrel. I tried to make this point clear to students in my Sportsmen's Service Bureau Teen Hunter Club classes by explaining that a rifle had both a front and a rear sight, and that both must be in alignment to hit the target. I would then explain that each individual came equipped with the rear sight on a shotgun, their own eye, which must also be aligned with the front sight on a shotgun (or on the same plane) in order to hit a target.

Before they were allowed to shoot at a moving target, I had them go through a position exercise, which I have described in this column in the past, to make sure that they were indeed looking down the barrel. Looking down the barrel on the correct plane is an absolute necessity if the target is to be hit, with either rifle or shotgun. And, the correct alignment comes a lot easier if the body is bent forward from the waist rather than backing away from the gun.

THE gal gunner who made the comment about the problems of men teaching women to shoot later told me that she had been coached by the great Cliff Doughman, who had an interesting gimmick for achieving the bent-forward position from his students. She said that during her first lesson, Cliff held a gun about three feet in front of her, and told her to keep her feet in place, but to reach forward far enough to grab the gun. This produced an exaggerated leaning forward position, but it achieved the desired results. As a woman, girl, or youngster gains experience they learn to control the gun better, and the forward position need not be so extreme. But it is very helpful in the beginning for the kids and gals, because it not only results in broken targets but helps negate recoil, both of which are very important to the beginner (and the coach).

Yes, there are a lot of good tips to be had from books on shooting, no matter how basic. After all, it is usually a violation of the most basic rules that causes missed shots.

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PLINKING: THE MOST POPULAR GAME!

(Continued from page 25)

choice involves rimfire vs. centerfire. It's traditional to plink with .22, but it's also traditional for prices to increase faster than my bankroll. Small calibers often require so little powder and lead you can actually shoot for less money than with rimfire. I have my share of rimfire guns, but it's very satisfying to plink with .25 and .32 ACP that you've rolled yourself. Don't accept the offhand condemnations of writers who have not given these and other small pistol cartridges the full measure of time and effort they reserve for .45 ACP, .38 Special and the over-rated .357 Magnum.

Plinking games and their "solutions" may be divided into three categories: 1. Variations on "Kick-the-Can", 2. Those deriving from the "Near Miss Effect", and 3. Those related to "Ballistic Overkill".

The simplest Kick-the-Can game is

to set up a tin can and shoot at it. Equipment consists of said can, a firearm, some appropriate ammunition, and a suitable place to shoot. This last item is getting scarcer every day, but perhaps over the long run, Planned Parenthood will take care of that. Please remember that glass bottles make good targets but poor footing. I have the scars to prove it.

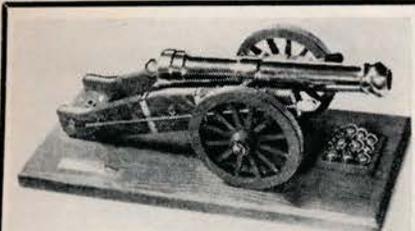
It is extremely important to pick a well-used, pre-plunk tin can. The more ventilated, the better. Should you miss, you can insist your bullet went through one of the holes. No one will challenge your excuse; they will want to remember it for themselves.

One cheats at this game by aiming slightly below the mark. Three outcomes are probable: You will shoot high, hitting the can; you will shoot to one side, nicking it or you will hit the ground, blasting up larger particles which will strike the can knocking it down. If you compromise, hitting the bottom edge, it will whirl into the air, impressing everyone, including yourself. When the can is already down, aim low toward one end. This will produce an eye-pleasing end-over-end effect.

For a competitive variation, several people take turns shooting. With each hit the range increases. As a person misses, he drops out, producing a winner at the end. This is good motivation to cheat, especially if losers buy the drinks. Do not drink while shooting. Some people think this is a good way to produce empties for targets, but others view it as a good way to acquire an extra navel. You may drink while writing, though. I often do.

Can-can is a game for autopistols. Place one can atop another, shoot out the bottom one, and follow up in the same spot to catch the second one as it falls. This may sound impossible, but it probably is. The only way to cheat is to aim for the juncture of the two cans, follow up so quickly no one can tell the difference, and pray. You'll probably be caught if you move your lips. Machine guns are nice for this game, but illegal.

Down-in-the-mouth is a whole different kettle of fish. Or bottle of bleach, as that is what makes the best target. Make sure the bottle is empty;



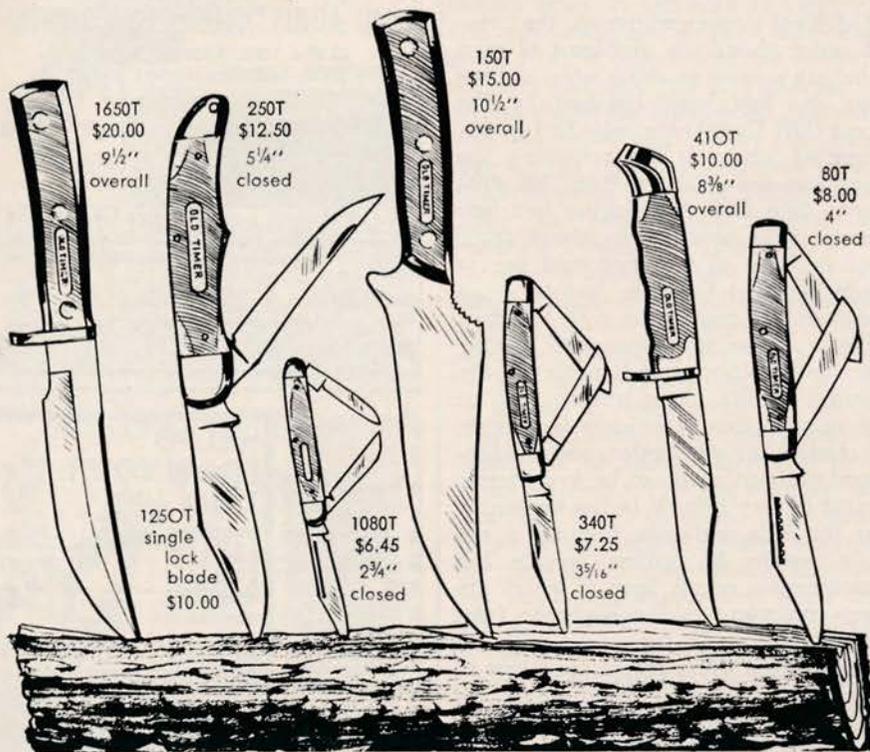
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standing too close to a full one and firing will ruin a great tan. Point the open bottle-mouth directly at yourself and try to put a hole in the bottom without marking the neck. Since, as I said, you learn from your mistakes, plastic bottles are better than glass. They don't shatter, and they show the magnitude of your error. This trick is much easier than it sounds—something about the eye finding the centers of circles better than anything else. Or something. Masochists—try this game at 100 yards.

Kick-the-Can games usually involve shooting toward the ground which, without a dependable backstop, can be hazardous on account of ricochets. You will notice also, that I do not advise shooting at objects floating on water. It's a tempting prospect, but perilous for the above reasons, squared.

One interesting sidelight to plinking is the Near Miss Effect. A close hit under extreme conditions is, for some reason, far more exciting than solid bullseyes under ideal circumstances. There are, however, certain prerequisites: always, use the smallest, lightest, shortest barreled pistol you can get your fingers around. A Browning, Ortgies, or Walther .25 will do nicely. They'll provide your audience with a most impressive muzzle-blast and in addition, will inflict upon the uninitiated a surprisingly sharp, painful recoil. Recall what Sir Isaac said about action and reaction; compare the weight of the pistol to the weight of the bullet it fires. The Browning, in its solid steel version weighs less than ten ounces and moves a 50 grain bullet. By comparison, I once had one of the smaller .22's, an Astra, that tipped at thirteen and shot 29 grain slugs. It didn't recoil at all. After a round or two with a really small .25, quite a few people are ready to give up and go back to .44 Magnum.

Assume the stablest position you can. The Weaver sitting position is excellent if you can find something to prop up against. It is the best way to shoot small pistols as there isn't enough barrel on them to rest on a teabag. No one will chide you for shooting two-handed when you only have three quarters of an inch of rifling going for you.

Shoot the longest ranges available. If the ball even gets down seventy-five or a hundred yards, hardened pistol veterans will gasp. The limitations of small pistol cartridges have been so oversold that any performance at all surprises most people. This is dangerous because some tend to think of pocket-pistols as toys. They

are not.

Arrange to be born far-sighted. I took this advice, and believe me, when you can hit things other people can't even see, they react. You may even claim a hit and there's no one to call your bluff.

Ballistic Overkill must be used with discretion. I have read about people who shoot tomato soup, cans of paint, watermelons, kumquats, bananas and pot roasts. To this I say "Shame!" Haven't you heard that people are starving in India? In fact, people are starving in Colorado, and I'm one of them. The only time you'll catch me shooting at groceries is when they're on four legs, in season, and presenting an easy profile shot. Less wasteful things, such as dish-soap bottles filled with colored water, water-filled balloons and coffee cans with plastic lids provide just as spectacular an effect. An old standby for zippiest calibers is a two-gallon mimeograph ink can.

One unusual target is a can of U. S. Army Surplus emergency water. Yes, among other dubious timekillers, the Army puts up pickled water. At any rate, a nickel can of G. I. water should never be confused with commercial Instant Water. With that, you simply add water and serve.

Finally, aerial targets of a breakable nature may be dispatched with .22 birdshot. This is unethical, so make sure your target disintegrates completely, leaving no shot-peppered evidence. If anyone question the manliness of a shooter who leaves behind frilly cases, just tell 'em in your best John Wayne voice that your loads are so hot they split hell out of the brass. If some smart-aleck asks since when did you start reloading rimfire, hit him with your purse.

There it is. We've covered about everything, plinking-wise. Sad but true, my wife refuses to let me shoot cigarettes out of her mouth, and my brother won't hold a bottle cap between his knees. They don't seem to have any confidence in me. It's probably all for the best, though. I wouldn't know whether to file that under Near Miss Effect or Ballistic Overkill.

Anyway, when all is said and done, there is only one all-time classical plinking target. Hail to the Beer Can! Hail yes!

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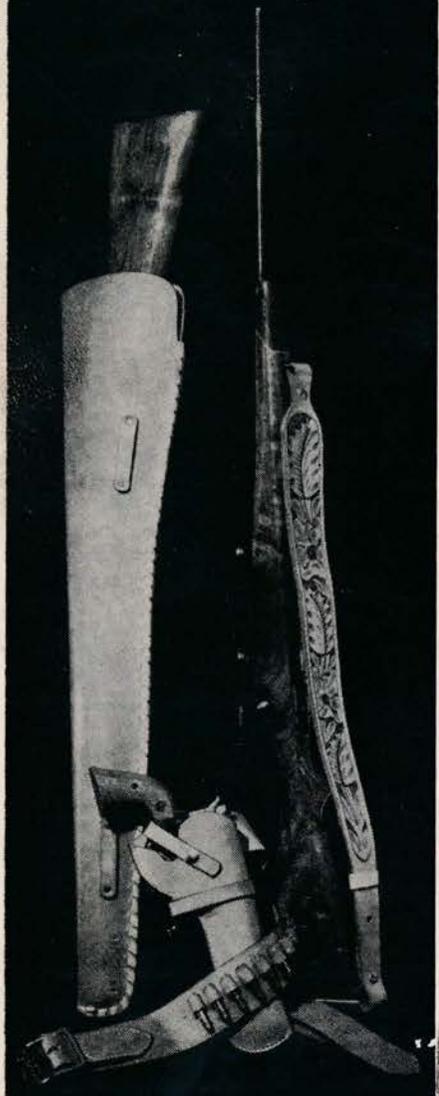
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BROWNING BLR: A VERY FINE SADDLE GUN

(Continued from page 27)

national sports show and promised as long ago as four years. Instead of going to Fabrique Nationale of Belgium to manufacture the rifle, the company that has always made Browning arms, the decision was made to manufacture it right here. Thompson-Ramo-Woolridge, makers of the M-14 service rifle were approached, and it looked like the gun was in the mill. But Browning was unhappy with the TRW effort and production did not get under way. Meanwhile a scaled down version of the rifle was made up by Bruce Browning, this the .22 BLR, but this time the company went to Japan to have it made.

Now, finally, the rifle is in manufacture. And by FN of Herstal, the old firm that has always made Browning arms. A superb outfit with a world of know-how in the production of firearms and most especially Brownings.

The BLR is a saddle gun. It has a 20-inch barrel, a weight of seven pounds, an overall length of less than forty inches, and it is sleek, streamlined and fast-handling. It slips into a scabbard and out again like a knife through hot axle grease. The sights are open, the rear adjustable for elevation and windage, the front a gold bead covered with a detachable hood. Radius is 18 inches. The receiver is solid on top, with side ejection, and is tapped for a scope mount. I added a Browning 5X Widefield scope in Browning mount to my test rifle and the addition does little to harm the quick maneuverability of the rifle on horseback.

The outside hammer is easily reached beneath the scope and has a big broad spur which gives lots of surface to the thumb. The firing pin is the inertia type and there is a safety notch on the hammer. The trigger is a functional part of the lever and rises and falls with it; this eliminates pinching your finger as the lever closes rapidly. The pull is an involved one of considerable linkage but it is respectably clean and breaks at 4 pounds, 4 ounces. The stock attaches to the receiver with a huge through-bolt and sports a comfortable recoil pad and some very ordinary impressed

checkering. There is no pistol grip. Length of pull is $13\frac{5}{8}$ inches which is about right for the average hombre. With the Browning Widefield scope in place the drop from line of sight to point of comb is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This is considerable but not too much to prevent a good comfortable aim. The stock has no Monte Carlo nor cheek-piece; just plain Jane. The forestock is also held to the receiver by a through-bolt. It is checkered by the rolled-on process. It is beefy enough to give a good secure feel and there are no sling swivels.

The barrel is a waspy little affair, measuring but .5469 inches at the muzzle and only twenty inches in length. I had some doubts about that tube when I fired the rifle. Because this is strictly a hunting rifle the first 3 shots are the critical ones. If the hunter cannot deck his game with three rounds he'd better quit. I shot the BLR in 3-shot tests. The first group, shot from a bench, using some old Federal .308 fodder filled with the 180-grain Hi-Shok bullet produced a group of 2 inches at 100 yards. Now two minutes of angle from a lever action hunting rifle with a barrel as thin as a string of spaghetti is not bad!

The next 3-shot cluster also dropped into two inches. Again I was not unhappy. I let the little rifle cool for 15 minutes and tried another 3-shot cluster. This fell into a sweet 1-inch group. Wow! I then turned the rifle over to Bradley Mills, a hotrock at my range, and he proceeded to fire up an unbelievable $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch groupment. This spoke well for both the rifle and the old Federal cartridges. Finally I shot another 3-shot test and it plopped into one inch. I was satisfied and happy with the performance.

Afterward I ran 20 rounds through the rifle at rapid fire. It functioned perfectly altho the rifle requires an old hand on the lever to be sure it loads. Sometimes it takes a real slam to move the first round out of the magazine. Anyone who has shot Winchester and Savage lever guns will find that the new BLR is a cinch.

The company should sell this new number with a spare magazine as standard issue. If the huntsman gets

far up on the mountain and chances to lose his only clip he then has a single-shot arm. If Browning does not offer a spare clip then the discerning should be sure he buys one and packs it along in a pouch at the belt or in a shooting coat pocket. Single shot rifles are OK but it is a lot better to insure you get the full 5 rounds. The magazine extends below the bottom of the receiver, like the old Winchester Model 95 lever gun, and also like it makes one-hand carry awkward. There will, no doubt, be those who cut the magazine off, thus sacrificing a round or two, and making the rifle more comfortable to carry, more streamlined and pretty of appearance. The test rifle had a magazine latch

which worked very stiff. It required two-handed treatment to remove the clip. The latch is countersunk in fore-stock and receiver and is thus protected from being tripped inadvertently. There was certainly no danger of this on the rifle shipped me!

This is a handsome, light, handy and thoroughly modern lever action rifle. As a southpaw I am an old handler of this type of shooting iron. The new Browning pleases me very much. Chambered for two of our most modern and popular cartridges, pleasingly accurate, sturdy and surefire of action, this new rifle is bound to hold a vast appeal to that large segment of our shooting public who are enthusiastic for the lever gun.

GUNS AND THE LAW: NON-LETHAL CROWD CONTROL

(Continued from page 29)

in their side arms and riot guns. However police use of non-lethal loadings in conventional appearing weapons also presents some tactical problems. The psychological deterrent value of the gun muzzle, and muzzle blast, plus the physically punishing impact of non-lethal pellets is recognized. However, rioter counter action must always be considered. When a seemingly lethal shotgun or handgun is used to deliver a less than lethal round, it can incite rioters to greater violence. They may have no way of knowing the true nature of the loadings. If they are armed, they may retaliate and initiate lethal gunfire on police ranks. Decisions on the employment of non-lethal rounds, fired from conventional weapons, must always consider this potential, tactical repercussion effect.

ROCK SALT

Over the years various attempts have been made to develop non-lethal loads for shotshells. Most of these loads evolved around the use of the 12 gauge shot shell loaded with pellets or substances that have a low weight specific gravity (as compared with lead and steel shot) enabling a drastic reduction in range and penetration.

The earliest approach to this problem was the storied rock salt load used by the farmer protecting his watermelon patch. The farmer replaced the lead shot in his black powder shotshell with rock salt, pur-

chased from the local feed store. These loads are said to have worked at close ranges but their effect was probably more psychological, than real.

Rock salt is composed of natural, hard, small, crystalline particles of sodium chloride, mined from natural beds or formations. Loaded into a shot shell it has no specific ballistic characteristic due to the irregular size and shaped particles. Furthermore, due to its brittle nature, at other than point blank ranges, the explosive and thrust force of the propellant powder pulverizes the particles into a harmless dust form, lacking both range and penetration. Police have resorted to locally loaded rock salt shells in years past with indifferent success. In the mid-sixties a rioting student at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, was killed by a police rock salt load fired at him from almost muzzle contact range. Some years ago the writer discussed the possibility of an improved rock salt type load with the late Major General Julian Hatcher. It was mutually agreed that to be practical such a load would probably have to consist of round, moulded barium salt pellets. To date such a development, or commercial load has yet to appear on the law enforcement scene.

GLASS SHOT

In the December 1967 issue of this magazine, the writer discussed the idea of using tempered glass shot for

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shotgun riot loads. This possibility was an outgrowth of a search by the ammunition industry for a shotshell load that would eliminate the huge loss occurring each year when thousands of ducks die due to lead poisoning. Col. Ellis Lea reported in this article on some preliminary tests using tempered glass shot loads. The powder charge, size of shot and wad pressure were not finalized, however it was evident that at 25 yards, (street ranges) glass shot pellets in numbers 2, 3, and 4 sizes had a definite "stinging" deterrent effect combined with a limited penetration capability; thus providing a lesser degree of lethal, or dangerous force, than the police use of fine bird shot, fired directly at rioters. This line of development is being further pursued as police still have a definite need for less than lethal shot shell loads that are effective deterrents at across-the-street ranges.

THE REMINGTON MODI-PAC SHOTSHELL

Remington Arms has just recently announced the availability of the first commercially produced shotshell for police use in situations requiring a limited deterrent force. The performance characteristic of the shell provides close range protection to law officers themselves and a mid-range deterrent to those threatening public safety and property. Danger to uninvolved bystanders, at 20-25 yards is practically nil.

This new Remington round, sold only to law enforcement, is loaded with light, rice shaped pellets. The pellets are formed of polyethylene plastic and are approximately the size of No. 5 shot. The Modi-Pac shell has a white translucent body, a roll crimp and a red wad. It's extreme light weight and external appearance make it sufficiently different from regular rounds to prevent mistaking one type from the other, even in the dark. Due to low breech pressure these new loads will not function in auto loading weapons and are best employed in top-break, bolt-action and pump shotguns.

The useful deterrent range is from 3-15 yards. At ranges of 20-25 yards the plastic pellets will not penetrate a single sheet of newspaper. At distances under three yards the pellets would have a high degree of stopping

power and could be lethal. Remington recommends that the shells not be used above the knee level so as to achieve the maximum non-injurious deterrent effect. Used at night, the muzzle blast has additional, definite, psychological impact.

Although over the years a great deal of experimentations have been conducted on non-lethal shotshell loads, fear of police misuse of these types of rounds, with a consequent liability has heretofore caused a certain amount of restraint on development. The Remington Arms Company has long been foremost in development of arms and ammunition tailored to police needs. It is hoped that their Modi-Pac round will soon be followed by another deterrent type police load with longer street range capability.

NON-LETHAL HANDGUN LOADS

There has long been a police and civilian need for a commercially available, tested and proven handgun load, that would be limited in range, less than lethal in most situations and still maintain a definite deterrent effect. A number of hand loaders have come up with their own solutions to the problem. Of late, the press has carried many articles on the training and arming of the new Sky Marshalls now flying the airlines as a deterrent to skyjacking. The air marshals are reportedly carrying low velocity, pure lead hollow point ammunition to minimize danger to the aircraft and innocent passengers.

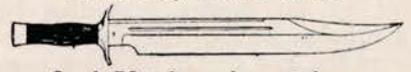
All available and known loads in this category are now being further investigated at Federal levels. This includes plastic bullets, shot loadings, soft material loads and hollow based bullets, rubber projectiles, etc. Flame-thrower type loads, noxious and irritant gas charges and tranquilizer darts are also under renewed scrutiny. Most research and development so far seems to have been directed toward those situations most likely to be encountered by a plain-clothes officer, or civilian, carrying a snub-nosed concealed weapon.

The need for a less than lethal handgun load is further augmented by the increasing legal liability of both the law officer, or the civilian, who shoots a criminal or innocent bystander by intent or accident. Many

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responsible citizens indicate an unwillingness to inflict a fatal wound even in a self-defense situation. Their fear of consequences of the use of a handgun in such situations is often felt to be greater than their need. Unfortunately, skill in the use of the revolver at close range is usually lacking on the part of most citizens and too many police. Excessive ranges and penetrations of commercial loads plus excessive recoil help create such accuracy problems. Draw and shoot tests indicate that, under tension, many police as well as citizens claiming expertise in arms, cannot hit a moving man size target at less than ten feet. All of these negative factors have directed some research and development toward entirely replacing the handgun as a police weapon, irrespective of vehement police opposition and despite the fact that no tactically acceptable substitute has emerged. One company is now trying to interest the police and general public in a newly designed, short and medium range, non lethal, CO₂ weapon in the handgun configuration category.

Sometime ago I received from Mr. Martin Boxer, (400 Kneeland Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.) an obviously concerned citizen, hand loader and gun enthusiast, his latest approaches to the less lethal, handgun loads. He stated that he had done a considerable amount of research on the problem, trying over 500 different loadings. He came to the conclusion that the best load for a snub nose revolver should produce a psychological as well as a physical deterrent effect and that the basic load should consist of a very heavy powder charge and a light weight projectile. The person on the receiving end of the round would be subject to head splitting noise and muzzle flame accompanied by pain and bleeding from the light weight projectile, etc.

Mr. Boxer has recommended three basic hand loads that he has tested to his own satisfaction. Neither Mr. Boxer nor the writer can assume any responsibility or liability for these loads but they represent development directions similar to other research projects now underway in both the official and private sector.

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(Continued on page 60)

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(Continued from page 43)

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23rd and advise you that your report is true and the pistol is now in the Eisenhower Museum in Abelen, Kansas."

With those facts in mind, Dr. Bramblett called the Museum and talked with the Museum Curator about the gun. He then sent photos to the Curator, J. Earl Endacott, for comparison and got this reply: "We have compared the photos of your Astra Cub .22 pistol with the one presented to General Eisenhower by the Spanish Government. Yours is an exact duplicate with the consecutive #69273 on ours." The information on the pistol in the Museum was listed as: "Pistol, caliber .22 Short—beautifully inlaid with gold—outstanding workmanship. Sent to the President by the manufacturer, Astra Unceta & Co. of Guernica, Vizcaya, Spain. Presented to President Eisenhower, April 20, 1956 by His Excellency De Areilza, Ambassador from Spain."

The lineage of the pistol preceding Bramblett's was now complete. But, what of this pistol numbered 69274? In

a letter to Mr. Jan Winter, President of Firearms International, Bramblett inquired as to how Mr. Winter got the pistol and that the gun was quite likely his as it bears the initials "J.W." In reply, Mr. Winter stated that he "received the pistol from an executive of Astra who has since died." He received the pistol in September, 1956.

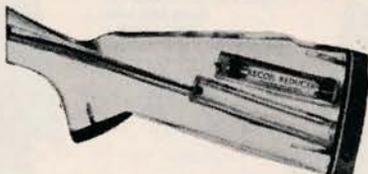
History complete. Just why Jan Winter would part with such a superb piece remains unanswered as does the future of the Cub. As can be seen in the accompanying photographs of the gun, the craftsmanship is truly outstanding. On the left grip, the great seal of the United States appears, and on the right, the emblem of the Spanish Government. Just out of sight on the backstrap are the initials "J.W." that led Bramblett to Jan Winter. In its blue velvet-lined case, the gun is an eye-catcher "extraordinaire" that really gets the adrenaline flowing. It's almost too beautiful to handle. A tip of the hat to Astra for a job well done!

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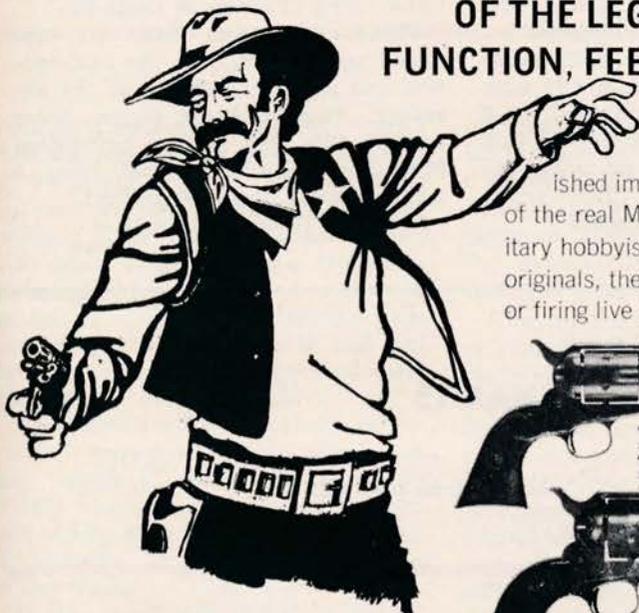
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Use 9 grains bullseye, 1/8 over powder filler wad. Insert Hogdon half-jacket open end up then fill round with non-hardening plumbers putty. **BOXER LOAD No. 3 - .38 Special.**

Load a Speer .38 Cal. plastic plinker bullet using 12 grains of Bullseye.

These and similar loads are best aimed when possible at the mid-section and lower extremities of the assailant. At point blank ranges, these rounds, like that of the Remington Modi-Pac Shotgun, could have a possible lethal or blinding effect.

(To be continued)

HUNTERS NOTEBOOK: KNOW YOUR RIFLE'S HABITS

(Continued from page 47)

the first shot, remember that all that load development and sighting in was done with a fouled barrel. I've seen more than one nimrod prepare for a big hunting trip by thoroughly scrubbing the bore and then pushing a solvent-soaked patch through it for "protection." In theory this sounds great especially if the usual adverse weather conditions occur in the gamefields. However, a bore coated with oil or solvent will not place the first or even the second shot where you expect it. I've seen "wet" barrels push pills three inches out of zero at 100 yards. That's a miss or worse, a wounded animal, out at 300 yards.

If you feel the bore needs a cleaning, go to it. But after using bore brush and solvent make sure you keep running patches through until they come out as dry and clean as they were before you shoved them through. A perfectly dry barrel should place those first shots right where it's supposed to. As an extra precaution, however, I always make one more trip to the range to fire fouling shots before leaving on a hunt.

Since the vast majority of new rifles

purchased today are immediately mated with a scope of some sort, the iron sights still furnished on most factory guns are neglected. All too often the rifle isn't even fired until a scope is put on and most fellows couldn't tell you if their smokepole is, in fact, zeroed in with its iron sights much less where it will shoot at any given range. Compared to a scope, any scope, an open sight is almost crude but it's foolish not to take advantage of its back-up potential in the event a scope is put out of commission by a fall or some other mishap. If your rifle is equipped with iron sights, it will only take a short time and a few rounds of ammo to make sure it is zeroed in properly. If you ever find yourself in the gamefields with a smashed scope you'll be mighty glad you have some recourse.

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(Continued from page 36)

striking a hammer block that transmits the force of the blow to the rear of the firing pin, but only when the hammer has fallen from the rearward position. The hammer block comes into place only when the trigger is pulled all the way, either single action or double action. If the hammer falls from any other position it will fall upon the rear of the frame and cannot possibly fire the revolver.

The sights are fixed making this revolver a good one for the outdoorsman who wants a small, rugged, lightweight handgun. The barrel is four inches long with a slim, clean contour. Other barrel lengths and weights are in the works.

Is this small size and light weight desirable? To find out I took the revolver to the Smith and Wesson Police Training Academy and, during the ten day session on Lethal Weaponry, this Ruger Security-Six and many other makes of handguns were fired by Officers from all over the country. About five hundred rounds of all types of .38 Special and .357 Magnum ammunition were put through the Security-Six because of the interest it stirred up. Officers would stop and stare at it, pick it up, look it over, fire it, fire it again, wander off and continue to come back to fire it. The ability of this handgun to handle all types of ammunition continually surprised these men and dispelled any doubts about the small size and light weight being liabilities. One of the drawbacks of any revolver with fixed sights is that with many types and styles of ammunition on the market today that may be fired in the Ruger Security Six, each type requires a different sight setting but, with fixed sights, it is not possible to compensate for the varying points of bullet impact. The longer a bullet is in the barrel, the more recoil will affect its point of impact so that a wad cutter, low velocity load will usually place the bullet higher on target than Remington's High Velocity 158 grain jacketed, soft point bullet because it spends less time in the barrel due to the much higher velocity.

To illustrate this point, I took seven different types of ammunition and fired one shot from each box at a tar-

get from twenty five yards. Note that the vertical spread measures just under eleven inches. The low shot is the Super Vel 110 grain High Velocity .357 Magnum loading and the high shot is the Federal 158 grain .38 Special, standard velocity load.

How can the average handgun owner compensate for these variations in point of bullet impact? If he shoots target, then he should purchase .38 Special wad cutter cartridges. My Security-Six puts the bullet from this load right into the black. If the shooter wishes to hunt big game, then he should turn to perhaps the High Velocity Remington 158 grain jacketed, soft point ammunition and either cut down or build up the front sight to place the bullet precisely where he wants it to go at the average distance at which he will hunt. If the shooter does not want to bother with this he can buy a Ruger Security-Six with adjustable sights for a few dollars extra.

Fortunately, I had sufficient ammunition so that I could run over four hundred additional rounds through this revolver during firing tests here on my ranges and at no time did I encounter any problems. I fired single action slow fire, double action and fast combat-type shooting using both low velocity and high velocity factory ammunition. I put a couple of boxes of my high velocity handloads through this handgun. Still no problems, not even in the handling when firing double action with high velocity, heavy bullet loads. Even though recoil is severe, the shape of the grips and the frame soften the shock of recoil so that there is no pounding of the web of the hand and no consequent soreness. I had no trouble with functioning or with build up of powder or lubricant.

In my opinion, this is an excellent revolver and a darn good buy for the money. It gives the shooter a powerful, lightweight, well designed and reliable revolver that can handle all types of ammunition from .38 wad cutters to the most powerful .357 Magnum cartridges. Visit your local dealer and look at one, pick it up, handle it and see what I mean!

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CARDBOARD BOX: EXTRA VALUE IN THE END

(Continued from page 49)

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with an erasure. A knowledgeable collector or dealer will spot it right off and you will be lucky to get your money out of it in a sale. Some fakers are very good while others are quite obvious. One 1910 era boxed revolver was even observed with the serial number written in ball point over an obvious erasure.

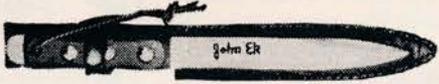
Most old original pistol boxes are in need of some sort of repair. Even the worst one can be restored by the serious collector to some resemblance of its original condition to complement

the pistol. The box may be in pieces or have only two sides and part of a cover but it is part of the original package. Never discard even the worst one.

The repair of a box in poor condition is not difficult as long as a little care is exercised. The only items needed are some toothpicks, glue and a roll of "Magic Mending Tape." The most important rule to remember is to never use tape where glue can be used. The first step is to study the pieces and try to mate the torn edges, much like assembling a jigsaw puzzle. Form the foundation by using the tape to join the torn edge joints back together. It is best to always tape on the inside if possible so the tape does not show. Sometimes because of oil stains or strength the tape will have to be applied to the outside. Try to avoid layer upon layer of tape as one or two judiciously placed pieces will make quite a strong joint. The "Magic Mending Tape" is excellent for this purpose and will not turn brown and come loose with age like the old cellophane tape. After applying the tape go over it with a smooth object such as the edge of a nickel to press it down firm and eliminate any air bubbles.

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If there are loose cloth or paper reinforcing strips at the corners glue them down. Use a toothpick to apply and spread the glue. The pebble-grain paper outer covering usually has flaps hanging loose. Very carefully use a toothpick to lift these up and apply glue using another toothpick. Do the same with any loose labels. Be careful not to apply too much glue as it will squeeze out and stain the paper. All loose flaps and pieces should be glued down as they will otherwise be torn off and lost if the box is handled.

Sometimes a box is found that somebody tried to repair years ago and the outside is almost completely covered with old cellophane or paper tape. Don't try to remove any tape unless it is loose. If it is loose carefully pry it off using a sharp knife. However, let me warn you that quite often the tape is loose at the ends but will still have a firm bond further in. Unless extreme care is taken it will pull a large piece of the outer paper

covering with it and leave a spot of bare pasteboard showing. It is better to have the old badly taped repair than to ruin the box trying to get it off.

A pistol/box combination does not have to be old to be of collectors interest. The Whitney .22, Kimball automatic, and Dardick pistol appeared after 1955 and are scarce today with boxes. A boxed Colt Marshall .38 revolver, circa 1956, is actually rare among collectors. More recently the Ruger Hawkeye single shot pistol of 1963 is seldom found with its original box.

It is interesting, too, that there are variations in pistol boxes just like

there are variations in pistols. Often times the manufacturer will change the label, style, color, symbol, or sometimes even the name of the pistol. The result is that some box variations were of short life and quite scarce.

If you buy a new pistol tomorrow the box will probably not add to the value while the pistol is in production. However, once production has been discontinued, the original box with the gun certainly will add to the value. It might just pay you to put that new cardboard pistol box and instructions up in the attic or garage instead of throwing them away. At least tomorrow's gun collector will appreciate it.



FUN-SHOOT: THE NEW VERSUS OLD

(Continued from page 22)

piece, it comprises a barrel mounted on a carriage similar to a naval cannon, circa 1812. Several more balls were fired at the rock and a total of three hits were registered by both guns.

The preliminaries over, the shoot got underway. A variety of arms were used by both clubs. Speaking for the Muzzle Loaders, Bob Zellmer says: "We shoot several originals. There's my Kentucky and one or two others. The others shoot purchased or self-built reproductions which include .58 caliber Civil War muskets. The weapons fall into two classes, military and civilian. Mine's civilian."

Zellmer elaborates on the originals and their consistent ability to outshoot the reproductions. "I'm acquainted with my gun and as a result I shoot well. But more than that, it has the original twist. They broach the rifling in a reproduction and there is stress and strain in the metal, while an original was annealed in the forge and more time taken in rifling. Not that an original can outshoot a modern, however."

He gives constant practice the credit for the Muzzle Loaders' consistently good showing against modern arms in the 50 yard off-hand. "We (the Smoky Hollows) very seldom have 100 yard matches." Zellmer also mentions, "The Falls club is used to the bench and they don't shoot as regularly as we do." An additional difference in bench rest shooting is the muzzle loader is not supported in the same place as it would be when it's used offhand. "We shoot differently," Zell-

mer asserts. "In other words, if a fellow shoots off-hand and supports the gun in the middle with the left hand, then when he puts it on the bench, it may be supported from 6 to 8 inches from the end of the barrel. This will change your entire pattern, your whole shot group. A lot of guys don't realize this. That's why we have such difficulty on the bench."

The will to win is also stressed by Zellmer. "You can't overlook it. Also I think we're a closer knit group." (He doesn't blame his poor showing in the 1970 offhand matches on his original. "It was the 'jerk' on the trigger, as they say," he confesses.)

Members of the Falls gun club use center fire weapons. Calibers vary: .308, .30-06, .375, etc. Many are deer rifles.

A modification of the scoring rules is necessary to accommodate the variation in musket ball size (.30 to .69 or .70 caliber). Normally, any shot scoring or scratching a target line would be considered the next one higher. "Whereas," Zellmer illustrates, "we score the center of the bullet. This is the point of contact, in or out of the line." The smaller .30 caliber ball could be in the same spot as the large .70 caliber. But if it weren't for centerline measurement, the larger caliber could conceivably scratch a line and give a higher score. "That's why center-line measurement is a must in muzzle loading," Zellmer emphasizes.

The meet started with the 100-yard bench and concluded two hours later with the 100-yard offhand. A normal

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shoot-out runs about 3½ hours. Being their annual "fun" get-together, as in the past, the families of many of the members were present with picnic lunches and the usual modicum of childish bedlam. They watched the action through the wide clubhouse windows facing the range.

Queried afterward on the possibility of such a shoot-out becoming part of their national meet, the Muzzle Loaders felt it highly improbable. They reflected on one of their members who, with a companion, once competed against 8 muskets in a timed event to break 30 clay pigeons on a board. Using the M-1, a semi-automatic, the pair barely nosed out the muskets. The Muzzle Loaders contend it takes the massed firepower of

7 or 8 muskets to equal two modern semiautomatics. And breaking clay pigeons is a Smoky Hollow's specialty. No, they agree, because of the many divergencies between weapons, it's not likely to happen.

Unfortunately the scores of the two teams will never be compared except for Zellmer's cryptic statement, "We lost by a good 100 points." The score keeper for the Smoky Hollow gun club inadvertently sent its score sheet through the various cycles of his wife's automatic washer in the pocket of his shirt. So, like the fifty yard events and the pistol match, it, too, was "washed out". But then, it is a "fun shoot". And there's always next year, the Muzzle Loaders warn.

—The Guns Magazine—

Panel of Experts

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
George E. Virgines—Fast Draw
P.O. Box 2014, Northlake, Illinois 60614
Maj. R. O. Ackerman—Black Powder Shooting
9627 Arvada Ave. NE, Dept. Q, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
Dick Miller—Trap & Skeet
Casa Correo Sta., P.O. Box 21276, Dept. Q, Concord, Calif. 95421

Colt .36 Revolver

A member of my family recently found a Colt Revolver Caliber .36 cap & ball in the attic. It is in pretty good shape considering it has been in the original holster loaded for the last 100 years.

The serial number is 11,360 with the

barrel marked "Address Saml. Colt New York U.S. America. The back strap is engraved "M.W.C. Barclay 121 Regt, P.V." (Penna. Volunteers I found out.)

This man was killed at Fredericksburg, Va. on Dec. 13, 1862. If a bona fide decendant of this man wants to buy it the lady may sell it.

Do these old guns have much value other than sentimental?

We are pretty sure the lady's Great Grandfather killed this man possibly. She does not want any direct letters for this reason. I doubt if any one knows who shot who in the 1862 battle of Fredericksburg. I doubt if the people knew themselves that cold day in December.

William B. Moncurr, M.D.
Richmond, Va.

From your description I would guess that your revolver is a Colt Navy Model and with its engraved backstrap I would definitely value this more than just the average Colt Navy. Without knowing its condition it would be difficult to place a collectors price on same but the average Navy Model today will bring at least \$150.00, and with your inscribed backstrap I would add at least another 50% to same. If your condition is better than average or in excellent condition, price will go up accordingly and substantially.—R.M.

Steyr-Krag

I own a Norwegian Krag that is marked "Steyr-1897" on the receiver bridge. The serial number is #253 and it is in 6.5x55 caliber. Please give me any information you might have on this weapon.

Roy M. Browning
O'Fallon, Mo.

After the "acceptance" of the design by the Norwegian Government, manufacture of the first lot of 20,000 Model 1894 Krags was farmed out to the Osterreichische Waffenbrik Gesellschaft, Steyr, Austria. In 1897 a second lot of 9,000 rifles was ordered from Steyr; yours is evidently one of this latter order.

Value of your gun would depend largely on condition—in very good to excellent condition, in and out, it would run about \$45.00.—S.B.

Firearms Mechanisms

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

Robert F. Pelter
Joliet, Illinois

One of the finest books showing the mechanics of percussion and flintlock pistols and rifles is U.S. Military Firearms by Major James E. Hicks. This book shows all working mechanisms from the 1776 Musket to the U.S. Carbine (Continued on next page)

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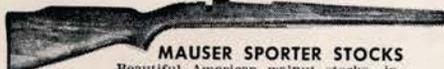
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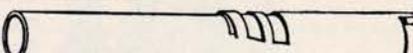


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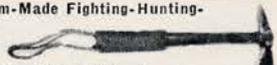
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P-38 Action

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

Dale Pierce
 Ames, Iowa

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

Brown Bess

I would appreciate any information you could give me on a Brown Bess rifle I have. Also it's value. The lock-plate is marked "Lacy & Co.", the barrel is marked "Bank of England".

Stanley Lampack
 Sacramento, Calif.

Current collector's value for an excellent condition 39-inch barrel model Brown Bess flintlock rifle is anywhere from \$275 to \$400. The barrel marking of your Bess with it's Bank of England makes for a very interesting item and I think in many ways would enhance it's value considerably.—R.M.

Spencer Shotgun

I have a double barrel shotgun with the name Spencer Gun Co. The shotgun has thirty inch steel barrels and both are full choke. The shotgun is in 12 gauge. The wood is solid but has scars on the forearm and the stock has small chips off right next to receiver.

It is in good shooting condition and
 (Continued on page 71)

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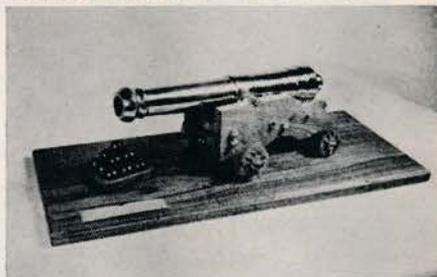
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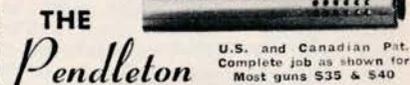
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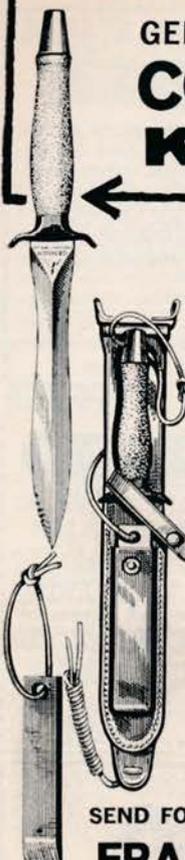
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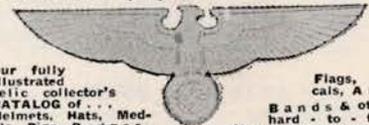
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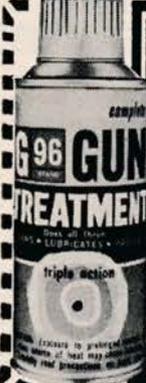
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**ARMS
LIBRARY**

(Continued from page 45)

remedied this void by combining all the previous data and research on individual models with extensive new information they uncovered in the examination of actual pieces in the archives of Smith & Wesson. There are well over 300 photographs which will enable the reader to identify any Smith & Wesson model and 90 X-rays (radiographs) of selected models. The book fills a gap in the history of firearms and should prove of inestimable value to the serious collector. Put this one on your "required reading" list, for sure. H.A.M.

Single Shot Rifles and Actions
By Frank de Haas
(Digest Books, \$7.95)

Put up in the traditional "Gun Digest" format, "Single Shot Rifles and Actions" covers over 60 different single shot actions and rifles and the history and development of them in a very thorough manner. There are excellent sectional drawings with parts nomenclatures for nearly every piece covered with excellent photos of representative pieces showing their original state as well as some that have been re-worked into modern varmint types.

The author writes in a very easy to understand language that nearly every enthusiast will be able to comprehend. He divides the book into four sections that cover the subject quite well. They are: "Major U.S. Rifles"; "Minor U.S. Rifles"; "European Rifles"; and "Modern Rifles." For the gunsmith who is interested in converting single shot actions into hot shooting varminters, de Haas also includes a goodly dose of gunsmithing information gained over the years through personal experience. Set triggers are covered in considerable length and seven distinct types are studied in detail. These include all three of the Winchester set triggers used on the Model 85 Single Shot actions, the two Remington set triggers, the Stevens double set trigger and a German 4-lever set trigger. Most of this information, as well as much of the book, has not been published previously.

There is a sort of fascination with the single shot action that captivates both young and old as it has for many, many years. This book is one of the best yet seen on this highly interesting subject and we highly recommend it. H.A.M.

Game Animals In New Zealand
By Gordon Roberts
(Reed Books, \$5.25)

Available from N. Z. Sporting Books, P. O. Box 13302, Christchurch, New Zealand.

In *Game Animals in New Zealand*, the wildlife enthusiast, nature student, hunter and the photographer will find a wealth of interest. The pictures of wild, live animals in their natural and often remote habitats are top quality. Basically, this is what this book is all about. It gives some of the background of the animals pictured, each in a separate chapter, and tells where the best hunting for them can be had. The animals listed are: Red Deer; Wapiti; Fallow Deer; Chamois; Thar; Wallaby; Wild Pig; Goat; Sika Deer; Whitetail (Virginia) Deer; Sambur Deer; Rusa Deer. Also there is a chapter on "The Photography of Game Animals" giving basic information on the types of equipment used for this superb book.

Every chapter is filled with full color pictures as well as some black and whites that highlight the pages. The text is lively and to the point and it includes geographical information for those who make the mountains of New Zealand their playground. It gives an excellent idea of the wilds and the animals to be found in that country. For hunters and animal lovers, this book will be a delight. H.A.M.

A Treasury of African Hunting
Edited by Peter Barrett
(Winchester Press \$25.00)

Hunting in Africa has fascinated hunters for many years. There is something magical about the sights and sounds of that continent—a big bull elephant crashing through the brush, great herds of wildebeasts and zebra shuffling across the desert; or a hungry lioness stalking her prey. All this and more is captured in this book featuring the accounts of writers like Jack O'Connor, Warren Page, William Fisher, Pete Brown and many more. In all of its 26 chapters it tells the story of hunting in Africa, all of Africa. Photography is excellent and really conveys the feelings of the hunters as they are caught with the animals and different trophies.

Africa is changing every day and some predict that civilization will, by the end of the century, destroy much of the wilderness. This book is a permanent record of how it is to hunt and live on safari in the African bush. Wonderful reading for sportsmen of all types. H.A.M.

PANEL OF EXPERTS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 66)

the Serial No. is 6430. I would appreciate any information you can give me on this particular shotgun.

Keneth Burger
Chebanse, Ill.

Spencer Gun Company was a name used by the old Folsom Arms Company as a brand name for one of the many popular priced shotguns they merchandised more than a half-century ago.

Before using a gun of this type that is more than fifty years old, I would urge you to have it carefully checked by a competent gunsmith.—S.B.

"Bridge" Double

I have a double barrel 12 gauge shotgun made by "Bridge Gun Co.", serial # 10-2374. When was the gun built? Is there any company that would have parts for this gun? Has it any value?

Eldon Warren
Comanche, Texas

"Bridge Gun Company" was a trade name used by the Shapleigh Hardware Company of St. Louis, Missouri on guns made for them by contract with others.

Your gun was made a half-century or more ago and I know of no source for parts for it. Unless your gun is highly decorated, its value would not exceed \$25-30.00 as a representative specimen to a collector.—S.B.

"Gestapo" P-38

At a recent gun show I noticed a strange variation of the P-38. The owner described it as the "Gestapo Model". It had a very short barrel and certain parts appeared to be made of brass. The slide had no unusual markings for a wartime P-38. Is it a variation, a phony, or what?

William J. Dye, Jr.
East St. Louis, Ill.

There are a few "short barrel" P-38s floating around with 2 5/8" barrels and front sights in the forward receiver arch; when, why and by whom they were made is controversial—The "made for Gestapo" story, I think, is nonsense; far more likely is the "I gotta have something different" syndrome.

Your reference "certain parts seem to be made of brass" has me intrigued; what parts?—S.B.

Shot Shells

Is it possible to use .410 shotgun shells, after proper shortening, for shot rounds in a .45 Long Colt revolver? If not, can you recommend a good shot load for this gun?

G. M. Braz
Chassell, Mich.

It is not practical to use .410 shotshells, even when shortened, in .45 Colt revolvers. The much greater thickness of the case wall and head preclude getting in enough powder and shot to produce a satisfactory load. In addition the much thinner rim of the shotshell case produces a condition of excess headspace.

The simplest method is to simply use standard .45 Colt cases, a charge of 3.5 grains of Bullseye and the Remco (1404 Whitesboro Ct., Utica, N. Y., 13502) Shot-Cap made for .45 Colt caliber. Alternatively, use the same case and powder charge, then seat a .45 caliber gas check open side down over the powder, fill the case to within 7/16" of the mouth with shot, then seat and crimp in place a second .45 caliber gas check.—G.C.N.

Numrich Conversion

I recently bought a .45-70 rifle with the Numrich conversion barrel on a 1902 Remington Rolling Block action. This is a fine conversion and the gun is mild mannered, but, it shoots like the rainbow. Could I safely shoot loads listed for the .45-90 Win. using Hornady 300 grain slugs? I'd like to sight it in at 200 yards.

George Schmitz
Waterloo, Iowa

Yes, you may safely use .45-90 caliber loading data in your Rolling Block .45-70 rifle—providing the bullet is seated sufficiently shallow that it does not compress the powder charge.

Frankly, I think you will find that the mid-range trajectory height of the 300 grain bullet zeroed for 200 yards will be rather high for any practical use.—G.C.N.

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POINT BLANK: THE M1 GARAND

(Continued from page 10)

who in turn give them over to the Viet Cong. Worn out more than a decade ago, it can be imagined what the condition of these venerable old muskets is today!

The M-1 is usually concluded to have lived out its life span with virtually no modifications being made to it. When the army changes a basic piece it tacks on the letter "A" with the number of the change. For example the Springfield rifle, when it was altered by Remington to speed up manufacture became the "1903A3." The M-1 never suffered any of these changes of designation. For all that there were a good many variations, but these were usually experimental in nature and were never made in quantity. When a rifle is in the experimental stage before it has been adopted as standard it is given a "T" designation, the "T" showing it is in test. The M-1 was changed a number of times and in this case was designated with an "E" for experimental.

The M-1E5 rifle, as example, had a folding stock and an 18-inch barrel. During firing tests the muzzle blast was found too severe altho accuracy was not adversely effected by the reduction in tube dimension. In July, 1945, just shortly before the end of hostilities in the Pacific, that theatre asked for 30,000 shortened M-1 rifles. It was decided to make up these rifles on the M-1E5 barreled action, but instead of the folding stock the regular butt would be supplied. An order was placed for 15,000 of the new shortened weapons and the rifle was tentatively dubbed the T-26, with an 18-inch barrel. The end of hostilities put an end to the contract. If there are any of these rifles in existence outside, possibly military museums, I have never seen any of them.

The M-1E2, as well as the M-1E6 and E7 are all sniper rifles. The first with a Weaver 330 scope in a Stith mount; the second—the E6—with some small modifications to permit mounting an offset scope. It retained the iron sights. The E7 was the finalized version of the sniper's rifle. It was standardized in June, 1944, as the M-1C model. It had, sometimes the Weaver scope, the Lyman Alaskan, and the Griffin and Howe scope mount. There was a laced-on cheek-piece and six months after its inauguration a flash hider was added.

The M-1E8 was another sniper's

variation. This was a substitute standard and is sometimes designated as the M-1D rifle. It had a scope mount made by Springfield Armory, the laced-on cheekpiece which was made of leather, and the removable flash hider. If you have been wondering about the gaps in this description of the variations in the M-1, let me explain that the M-1E1, E2, E3 and E4, were minor changes which in one case had to do with a more gradual cam angle in the operating rod; another was a roller lug attached to the bolt lug and with a slightly altered cam angle on the operating rod. The third, the E4, had a gas cut-off expansion system as opposed to the straight gas impinging system of the standard M-1. These modifications were never put in production.

The last and final M-1 was the National Match Model. It was a specially selected and meticulously assembled rifle intended for match target shooting. The first of these was manufactured in 1953 and the last was put together in 1959. It should be noted that the regular manufacture of the M-1 was concluded in 1957. These NM rifles were special purpose arms and were made only at Springfield Armory for Camp Perry and other ranking tourneys. The armory continued to rebuild the NM grade rifle until 1963. These were rebarreled, bolts were sometimes replaced, stocks were occasionally removed and refitted, and other improvements accomplished to bring the rifles to that degree of precision needed for match use. A total of 22,393 were manufactured. While these M-1's were under manufacture there was also a program of calling in to the armory a better grade of M-1 which was carefully inspected and thereafter completely worked over to upgrade it to the NM class. These rifles had new match barrels installed, new bolts, new stocks, carefully adjusted triggers and other refinements to make them suitable for target work. The reworked M-1 was quite on a par with the newly turned version. From 1954 until '63, when this program was pinched out, a total of 23,457 rifles were refurbished and issued as the M-1 NM grade arm.

Springfield Armory glass bedded the receiver on the NM rifle when the conversion process was commenced to improve the accuracy. Along with this a special gas cylinder was designed

and adopted. This cylinder, it will be recollected, has as an integral part, the front sight. It was made to minimum tolerances and tightly fitted on the barrel. The barrel itself was air gauged and bores could not exceed .3015" and groove diameter must not go over .3095". The armory laid a good deal of stress on barrel straightness and developed a gauge which, when passed through the bore, was capable of measurements within 42 seconds of angle. To be selected for the NM rifle, a bore had to be no worse than 2 minutes 23 seconds anywhere throughout its length. This is a high degree of straightness. Stocks were carefully selected and care was used to moisture proof the wood. A great deal of attention was given to the trigger pull and this was adjusted to a 4½ to 6 pound letoff. The front sight was replaced with a somewhat narrower post. It measured only .065". The rear sight was refined to provide ½-minute changes and a hooded aperture of either .0595" or .052" were available. Before issue to the national matches, all NM grade rifles were fired from a cradle, or as it is called a "targeting fixture." Minimum acceptance figures were 30 shots at 100 yards into a 3.5" group.

During WW-2, I had a succession of M-1 rifles. Throughout the African campaign, thence into Sicily, and finally through all the campaigns on the continent I invariably selected an M-1 in preference to the lighter and more handy .30 Carbine. As the battlefield recovery officer for II Army Corps in Tunisia and Sicily, the M-1 was a far more practical choice. In Europe it was infinitely the better arm. I even found the time to do some hunting with the gun in Africa and in the Hurtgen Forest.

It was a good rifle. Demanding a minimum of care and protection, it could always be depended upon to fire. It was too heavy, clumsy and slow to swing and point but on the other hand it was mild of recoil, accurate and reliable. One of the worst faults was the design of the 8-shot clip. This had to be shot dry before you could reload. Either that or pop the partially used clip out of the rifle and load with a fresh one. This was an extravagant waste of ammo and you seldom did that. But you could get into situations where you would shoot 5 shots, have only 3 remaining rounds in the rifle, and then either have a choice of dumping the remaining three cartridges, or going ahead with a rifle that was more than half empty. It was a serious fault of the M-1.

I shot roebuck and hirsch with the rifle, dubbing the hardnose bullets off

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with a file until the lead was exposed. It swung like a fence railing, felt awkward and slow in the hands, and pointed badly. But on offhand shots it had enough weight and a forward balance so that it held with steady assurance.

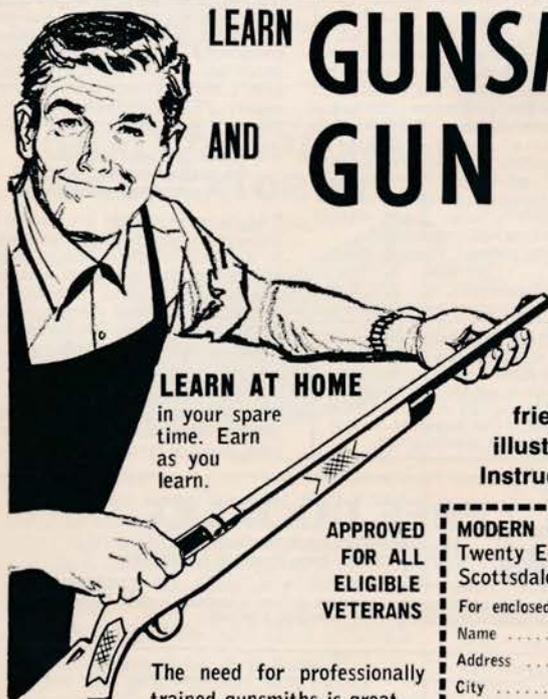
On Thanksgiving, 1944, the 28th Division got a terribly bloody nose trying to capture the village of Schmidt in the Hurtgen Forest. I came along later to gather up the busted up tanks and other ordnance and during the reconnaissance of the battlefield, I picked up an M-1 which had been carried by one of the "Bucket of Blood" Division boys. I carried the rifle, which was in good condition, all winter and in the spring when our offensive carried us to the banks of the Roer River, I holed up in a two story house which gave me a marvelous view of the other bank of the stream. The Wehrmacht was in the town across the water. The Nazis, to slow our advance, had opened the headgates above the town and flooded the river. We waited for the waters to subside before the crossing.

From my vantage point on the second floor of the abandoned dwelling, I caught occasional glimpses of the enemy. Things were pretty quiet and front line troops tend to get careless when the shooting simmers down. I had pulled an old divan up within a few feet of the window and laid the 28th Division rifle over the padded back. I estimated that the range from the main street of the village across the Roer was 325 yards. I had dropped back a couple of miles and sighted in for that yardage. Now I waited.

After an hour or so I got a shot. Whether it was a hit or not I could not be sure. The next day I got two shots and one of these was a bullseye. On the third day I took my position and was intrigued by the Wehrmacht version of our jeep, a Volkswagen built for military use. It slowly toiled across the street intersection and I let drive at the two figures in it. Then all hell broke loose!

Mortar rounds commenced to fall in front of the house and behind it. I beat a retreat out of the upstairs before a round came through the roof. I huddled in the basement until the shelling pinched out. I had stung the enemy with my sniping and he had set up a bait for me. In thinking it over, I concluded the little VW had been towed across the street intersection to draw me out. The mortars were all set up and waiting, and when I let drive the enemy knew with fair certainty where I was holed up. The barrage followed and when it eased off a bit I legged it out of there.

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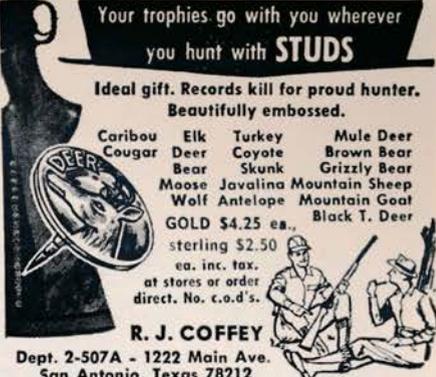
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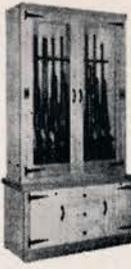
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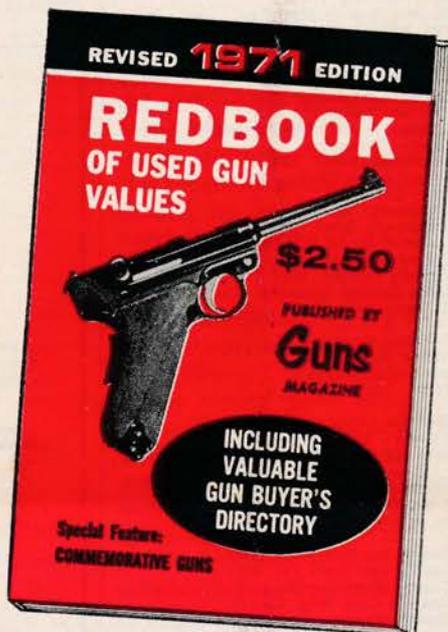
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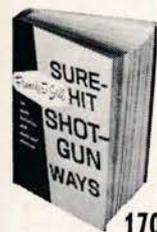
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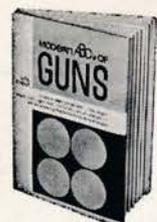
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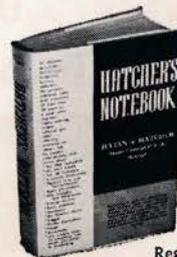
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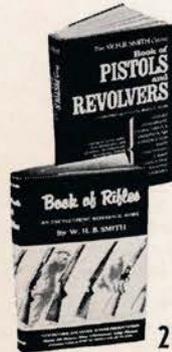
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