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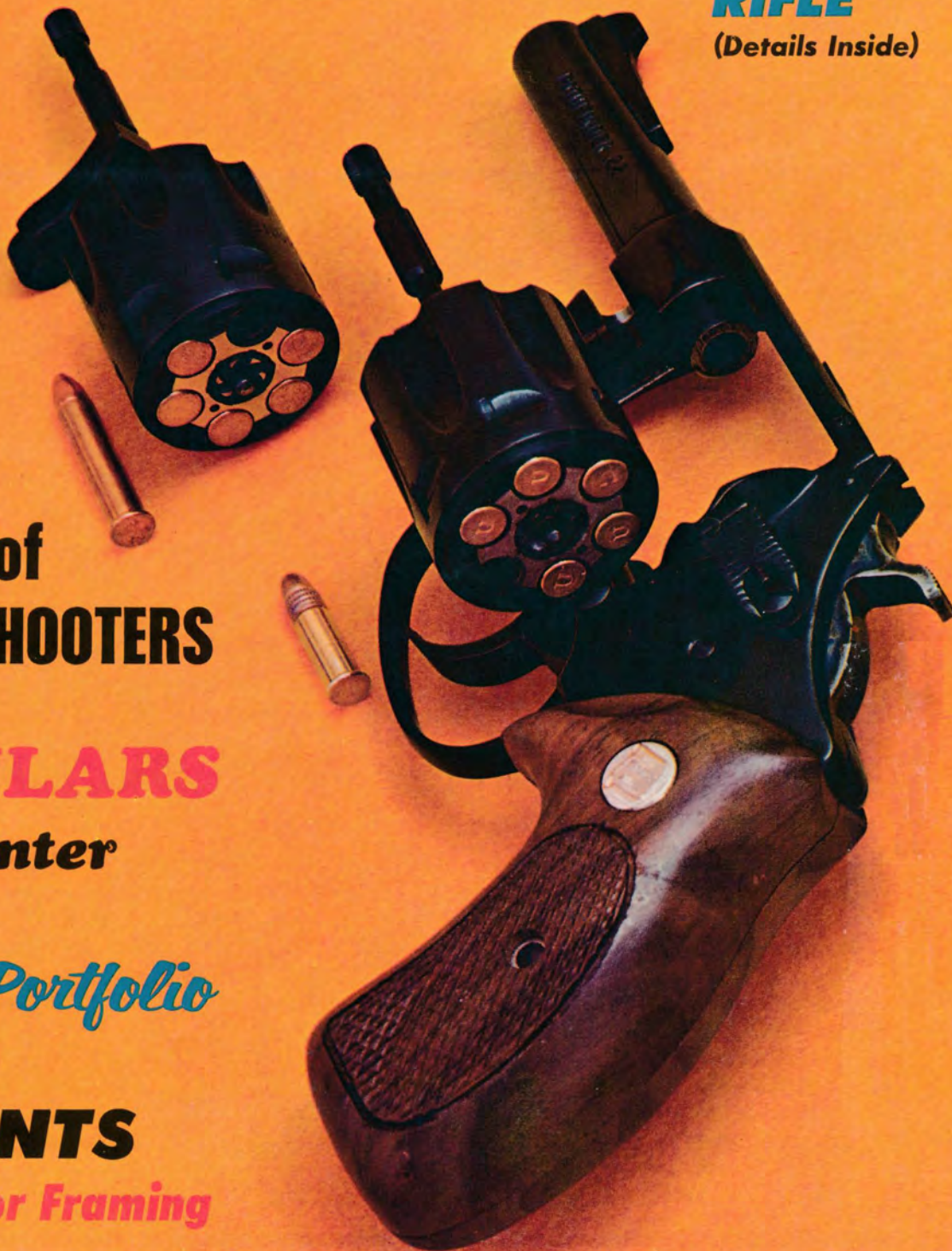
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**W**E'VE HAD quite a few letters asking for a re-cap of the 1971 winners of our "Gun of the Month" contests. Here are the names of those individuals to date: Jan.—Martin De-matteo, Metairie, La.—Safari Contest; Feb.—C. Dwight Fish, Toledo, Ohio—Weatherby Vanguard; March—Dr. J. L. Woody, Bryson City, N. C.—Harrington & Richardson Shotguns; April—B. Perno, Las Vegas, Nev.—Brown-ing shotgun; May—Howard Brenden-berg, Hamden, Conn.—Lile knife; June—Chris Pappas, Hyattsville, Md.—Parker-Hale rifle; July—Robert Gel-singer, Peoria, Ill.—Thompson/Center pistol; Aug.—Chester Murszewski, Buffalo, N. Y.—High Standard Victor .22 pistol; Sept.—Douglas Beale, In-dianapolis, Ind.—Kleinguenther shot-gun; Oct.—Capt. N. Fleig, Midwest City, Okla.—Shadow "Indy" shotgun.

More winners will be announced as the names become available.

The State of New Mexico has passed an amendment to their constitution that is of genuine interest to us. Amendment #3 was passed and adopted by the legislature Nov. 2, 1971 and reads: "No law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons." Thirteen-thousand letters went out to state sportsmen and the media sup-porting and publicizing the issue. The three largest newspapers in the state opposed it but there was good support from the TV people. The passage of Amendment #3 to the New Mexico Constitution gained by a margin of 2.6 to 1 despite the opposition.

We extend our congratulations to those who fought for passage of this Amendment and to those legislators who are open-minded enough to fur-ther guarantee the right to keep and bear arms to their N.M. constituents. One down and 49 to go!

#### THE COVER

A collector's item? Not quite, but it is a limited production Charter Arms Dual Pathfinder. Chambered for the .22LR cartridge, the extra cylinder converts it to use the .22 WRF Magnum. One of the fine products in the ever expanding line from Charter Arms. Photo by Gerry Swart.

**FEBRUARY, 1972**

Vol. XVII, No. 02-Z

George E. von Rosen  
Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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News from the...

# SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

## FIREARMS OWNERS ASK FOR JUSTICE

Last week I returned from a business trip to Asia. I had the opportunity to make a two day stop in Seoul Korea. It brought back a lot of old memories from the months I spent in Seoul during the Korean war. It also brought back a lot of memories about the men I had met during that time, and how many of their ideas are just as basic to our problems today as they had been in the Army.

General Douglas MacArthur was one of the individuals I had the great honor to have contact with. He was a man who knew this world can be a damn lousy place at times. He knew that there are dirty jobs that have to be done, and sometimes it is very necessary to destroy many people to complete these jobs, but always with the knowledge that in the long run you are saving more lives than you are losing. He had the courage to look the ugly side of reality in the face and go out and get finished results, instead of vainly looking for comfortable safe solutions that do not and never will exist.

We are fortunate that 1972 is an election year and we can bring some pressure on Congress and the President through our votes. We need some of General MacArthur's bold straight-to-the-point thinking applied in our Congress. And we need Congressmen who are not afraid to attack the heart of a problem and come up with a workable solution. We at SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA know that our country has a very serious and growing problem with the misuse of firearms. For the past three years Congress has been looking for some easy solution, some panacea, some miracle cure-all, which will make the firearms problem disappear forever. But the misuse of firearms is very serious and the end solution will require an equally serious counter action.

Everyone who has read the facts connected with the misuse of firearms knows that 90% of the cases come from a very small segment of the population. This segment has a long history of violent crime and attacks against the public interest. But for years Congress has completely ignored these facts and enacted laws primarily designed to restrict ALL firearms owners rather than just the trouble makers. In my opinion, they have been moral cowards and spineless weaklings for not having the guts to attack the heart of the problem. And the heart of the firearms problem rests with a handfull of human scum and human garbage.

The firearms laws Congress has passed to-date make no sense in comparison to our other laws. For example, drunken drivers kill over

20,000 people a year. Many times those involved with firearms. And we have the right kind of laws for drunken drivers. If a person is convicted he may be sent to jail for a year. But on the other hand, if we had the firearms type of law applied to drunks then the courts would not severely punish the drunk driver but would instead ban the sale of liquor to all people. Including the ones who are man enough to handle their own drinking and never have any problems. Congress, rather than put away the small group of trouble-makers is instead trying to impose an aggravating prohibition on firearms for everyone. And it is only aggravating to we honest citizens who obey the laws. The scum that cause firearms problems care less about registration of firearms, because they never will and never have followed any law that they can break.

Some anti-firearms nuts keep saying that the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA does not want any kind of action. That is not true! We want action, and we want action against the scum, the bums and the dope addicts who are causing the firearms problem. The only kind of real problems are people problems. And our chicken Congress has never had the backbone to take care of them.

My old memories of General MacArthur were like a breath of very fresh air. What a pleasure it was to deal with a man who was not afraid to make decisions, who was willing to crack a few eggs to get the job done, and who always went to the heart of the problem. I'm sure that if General MacArthur had the firearms problem to solve he would get it taken care of in a few years. He would start by sending everyone convicted of firearms misuse to jail. And once they were free the mere possession of even one cartridge would be enough to send them back to jail. In the city slums, where most of the scum live, the possession of any kind of firearm would be banned for everyone in those areas. And in a few years we would have no firearms problem because the problem people would be in jail.

In this election year the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA is working to get rid of the bleeding heart half-measure, half-spined do-little Congressmen. And replace them with men who will grind the trouble-makers into the ground as they deserve, and leave honest firearms owners in peace as we deserve. All we ask is punishment for the firearms violators, and freedom for honest firearms owners. Is that really so much to ask? If you believe in our philosophy then you can help by joining the S.C.A. Fill out the postage paid envelope opposite this page and mail it today. You will be doing the right thing.

Col. Edward Becker

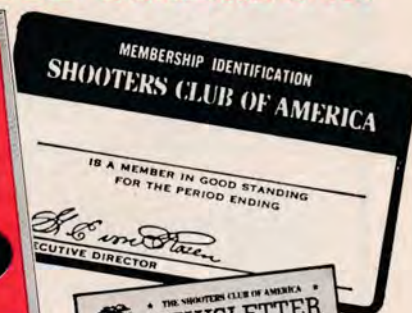
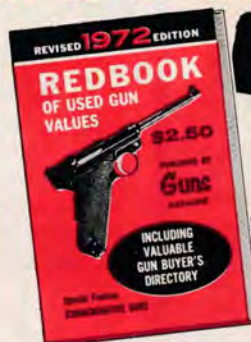
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# CROSSFIRE

## Pro-Gun Library

Everyone knows that there is a great need to inform the public and reverse the anti-gun, anti-sportsman propaganda so prevalent today. My contribution to this effort is quite simple and, in its own little way, does help to dispell the anti-gun rantings.

I subscribe to a number of sporting and gun magazines and I found that I was keeping all of my back issues for reference. Then the realization struck me that I was, in fact, not using the books for reference and that they were just being stuffed in a bookshelf after the first reading.

I contacted my local library and offered my past issues along with the assurance that the new issues would be passed on as soon as I finished them. They were most grateful and the next day the current issues were on the magazine reading rack and the older issues were kept in boxes for reference use.

I have been very pleased with the reception of these magazines by both the staff and the patrons of the library. When I received another magazine subscription offer I ordered it and had it delivered to the library. I'm not sure, but I believe this last subscription to be tax deductible.

At one time the library had a lot of anti-gun material on hand. Now we have a lot of pro-gun literature available to the public. This has been easy to accomplish and only requires a monthly visit to the library to drop off the recent issues.

R. M. Waters  
Des Plaines, Ill.

## .350 Rem.

I read with interest your November, 1971 article on the .350 Remington by Mason Williams. Recently I went out shooting with a friend who owns a Model 700 BDL Remington in .350 Rem. Magnum. I fired three rounds at a Bliss Titus Four-Square target at 100 yards and those rounds went into

a little under an inch!

Later that afternoon I again fired three rounds and the same thing happened. That rifle will really shoot! Thanks for presenting the facts on a superb rifle/cartridge combo.

J. W. Rockefeller  
Lincoln, Neb.

## CZ 61 Machine Pistol

In your August, 1971 issue it was pointed out in Jan Stevenson's column on handguns, that the Czechs, and designers like Miska, have remained in the forefront of double action handguns. This might have been applied to your article in the same issue on the Mini-Submachine gun, as the same group, Bruno Z, have been producing the CZ machine pistol for over six years. It makes the Ingram look like a very rough and very late-on-the-LIW-market poor man's copy.

The CZ 61 Machine Pistol uses the 7.65mm cartridge, weighs 3.38 pounds fully loaded with 20 rounds in a double-column magazine, fires 750 rounds per minute and sells for about \$85.00. With the shoulder stock folded, the gun is about 10½" long. May I suggest you review this first-class LIW which is produced by the same firm that produced the design for the BREN.

Ross Lulley  
St. Vincent  
West Indies

## SKS

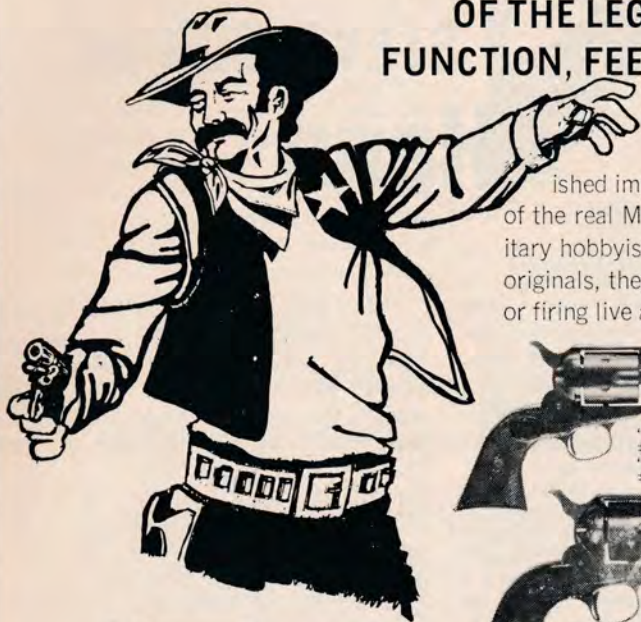
Your article in the December, 1971 issue, "Chicom SKS-Newest War Trophy," is excellent. I used one of those guns while in Viet Nam for two years in preference to the M-16 and it gave me fine service, especially considering the lack of care it was subjected to. Rarely, if ever did I clean the gun and it just kept on throwing rounds where I wanted them. Unfortunately I didn't bring the gun home with me; now I wish I had it.

Ron Bowers  
Visalia, Mich.



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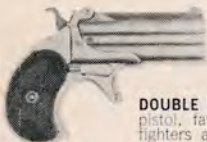
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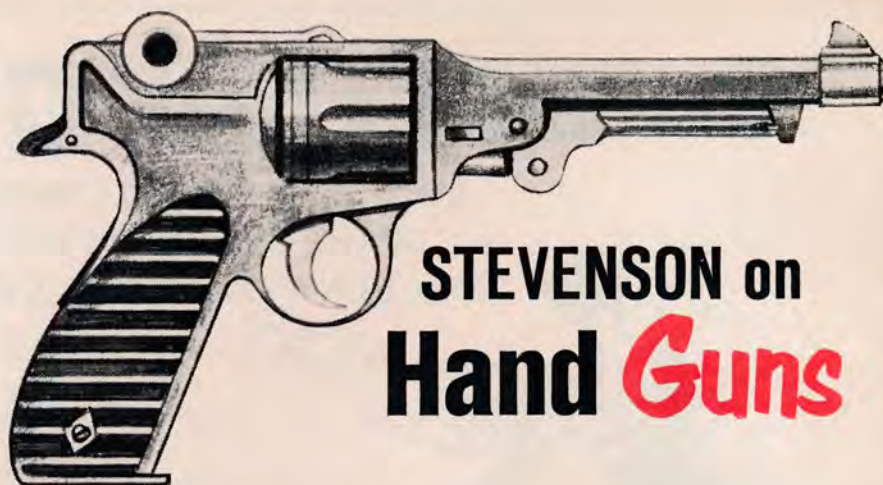
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## STEVENSON on Hand Guns

**I**F YOU VENTURE into their watchwork guts, double action revolvers are incredibly complex. Fitting and adjusting them is a job for a highly skilled craftsman, and a side-lock double, I have on respectable authority, is an easier gun to build than the d.a. .38 that rides the hip of the cop on the corner. Yet from without, from the shooter's point of view, the revolver is simplicity itself; there's a prominent and self-evident latch on the side which serves to open the cylinder, and that's as far as one's technical education really need go. As for safety and handling, the d.a. wheelgun is an open book; it is entirely unambiguous. A glance at the cylinder will show if it's loaded or not. If the hammer is down, it's safe, and if the hammer is cocked it's dangerous as hell. No more need be asked.

Not so the self loader. It abounds with latches, switches, levers, buttons, and knobs, the function of each of which must be understood if the gun is to be properly, safely, and effectively manipulated. Moreover, from make to make and model to model, the presence, form, and location of the various controls varies tremendously. While it would not be correct to say that each gun is a law unto itself in this respect, certainly the situation is sufficiently complex that no article can hope to transmit enough information to enable you to pick up a strange semi-auto in perfect confidence that you'll recognize at a glance how it operates; I still encounter them quite frequently that keep me befuddled for awhile, and when it comes to takedown, some are quite inscrutable. Nonetheless, it would seem entirely possible to establish enough general guidelines to let you examine in a perfectly safe manner any pistol which might come to hand, and to decipher its controls after a bit of examination without fear of putting persons or property in jeopardy in the meantime.

If the gun is strange to you, there's a good chance it belongs to someone else, in which case of course you should never handle it without first asking the owner's permission. By all means ask him also to make the gun safe and to explain how it operates before you lay hands on it. It is discourteous to put someone else in the embarrassing predicament of watching a guest fumbling confusedly with his gun, wondering if and when he should intervene.

But it may happen that you are quite alone with an exotic piece of ordnance—one that turned up in your late father's footlocker, for instance, or one brought to you for examination by someone unfamiliar with handguns. These should be approached gingerly. If the gun is unfamiliar to you, pick it up by the grip, taking care to stay well away from the trigger, and lay it on the desk with the muzzle pointing to the wall. Now is the time to turn to the bookshelf. If the piece is one of the eighty-two handguns covered in the two-volume *NRA Illustrated Firearms Assembly Handbook*, you are certainly in luck, for there will be an exploded view, a parts list, disassembly instructions, and a few paragraphs of historical background. At \$2.50 postpaid to NRA members (each volume), these books are a phenomenal bargain, and should be in every shooter's library. And you will be well ahead of the game if you have read the seven handgun articles in the *NRA's Illustrated Firearms Handling Handbook* (\$1.75 postpaid to members, and we assume that you are a member; otherwise, take remedial action immediately). If, as happens commonly enough, the gun is not in the NRA books, look it up in the W. H. B. Smith's *Book of Pistols and Revolvers*. Most handguns will be entered at least cursorily somewhere within its 758 pages, and at this point any information helps. Other books with functioning and disassembly data



are Smith & Smith's *Small Arms of the World*, Sgt.-Maj. Frank Moyers' *Special Forces Foreign Weapons Handbook*, and Shelley Braverman's *The Firearms Encyclopedia*.

If you draw a blank at the bookshelf, you will just have to feel your way with the weapon. The first thing of course is to check to see if it is loaded, and the first step in this process is to pull the magazine.

This is a bit subtler than it appears. The temptation is to pull back the slide or bolt and peer in at the chamber. If the magazine was empty to start with, well and good. But if the chamber was empty and the magazine loaded, you will probably have to let the slide run forward again, and now you have a cocked and fully loaded pistol in hand—quite a bit worse off than you were before, for you still have to figure out how to remove the magazine.

It is best then to assume that the chamber is loaded, without verifying this hypothesis until later, and to make the removal of the magazine the first order of business.

Except in the case of some freak pistols, such as the 1887 Clair, which had a tubular magazine in the butt, the location and construction of the magazine will be obvious at a glance. Most modern semi-autos will have a removable box magazine housed in the pistol grip. The Walther GSP and OsP .22 target pistols, with removable



Walther OSP.

box magazine located ahead of the trigger guard, are exceptions. Many older semi-autos, such as the 1896 Mauser "broomhandle," the Mannlicher 1903, the 1910 Bergmann-Bayard, and the Charola-Anitua, have the magazine, either removable or non-removable, housed in front of the trigger guard. If the magazine is removable, the latch will ordinarily be a pivot type, located within the trigger guard, or a crossbolt on the magazine housing. The 8mm Simplex of circa 1902 has a pivot type latch on the front wall of the magazine housing. In any event, the thing has to be somewhere near the magazine.

The early Bergmanns (Models 1894, '95, '96, No's 2 and 3, etc.) have a forward mounted magazine which accepts an en-bloc clip, and opens up by swinging the right sidewall of the

(Continued on page 70)

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# HANDLOADING BENCH

By C. GEORGE CHARLES

DICK LEE, of Lee Engineering, maker of the classic Lee Loader and many simple, low-cost handloading accessories, has shown up with a new batch of goodies. This time it is low-cost bullet molds.

Rather than the traditional, machined, cast-iron blocks and alignment pins, Lee has taken a unique approach. He uses ribbed aluminum extrusions, mating ribs and grooves performing the alignment function. Blocks are formed by simply cutting off lengths from long bars; certainly much less costly than machining chunks of iron.

On their inner (joining) faces the blocks are embossed shallowly with a diamond pattern which functions as a series of passages to "vent" excess air from the cavity as molten lead enters. Old-timers will remember the days (not really so long ago) when some smooth-face molds often required very meticulous cutting of vents with a needle-file in order to get good bullets.

Lee mold cutoff plates and handles are fairly conventional; devoid of frills, completely functional.

Our limited (thus far) experience with several new Lee molds has been good. I won't compare them with \$35 H&G molds, but for their price of \$8.98, they do well indeed. With more and more people casting their own bullets, this will be a good item.

Bonanza Sports Manufacturing Company has issued a new catalog of its entire line of handloading tools and gear. Not the least of its contents are two new items. First (on the catalog cover) is the new Model M magnetically-damped powder and bullet scale at \$17.50 list. Capacity is 505 grains, and this is a conventional beam balance with 5-grain graduations to 500 grains left of beam pivot; 1/10-grain graduations to 5 grains right of pivot. Two sliding poises (weights) and a non-magnetic, square ambidextrous weighing pan. The magnetic damper

does not stop and hold the beam, rather, it simply slows oscillation to speed scale use. Base of the scale is bright red "Cyclac" plastic, of no-tip design. The beam knife-edge pivots ride on polished agate V-bearings and are sufficiently hard that no beam lifter or other unloading device is required.

The second item is a very simple fixed-charge, rotating-drum powder measure for pistol-load charges up to 8.4 grains of Bullseye. Called the "Bullseye" measure, it goes for \$14.95. Charge weights are changed by replacing rotors which are offered in 2.5, 2.7, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.3, 5.5, and 8.4 grains capacity of Bullseye. One rotor of your choice with the measure; extras at \$1.50 each in sizes just noted, or blank with pilot hole for fellows who want a non-standard charge.

The balance of the Bonanza line remains much the same, though it does contain unique items like the CO-AX and M-68 press. If you'll look at these and several of the other items you'll note they differ substantially from traditional design. Our good friend C. E. Purdie is no copier; he believes in original thought and design.

Then, there is another new item bearing the Lee name. Called simply "Lubricating and Resizer Kit," it's a simple, functional, low-cost outfit for lubricating and sizing lead bullets cast in Lee molds.

It won't interest the fellow who runs a \$400 progressive tool to crank out several hundred rounds per hour, but can be a life-saver for the handloader who needs only 50-100 rounds per week.

It consists of a lube tray, cake cutter, resizing die and punch, and a stick of Hodgdon's bullet lubricant. The method used is as old as handloading itself—stand bullets on their bases in the tray; melt lube to cover bullet grooves; let harden; press cake cutter down over bullets to remove from lube. That takes care of lubri-



cating—then, simply press or drive lubed bullets through the sizing die with the punch provided.

Though apparently slow, this method still allows over 100 bullets per hour to be processed, discounting the time needed for the melted lubricant to harden. It is simple and effective, and does as good a job as a \$50 lube-sizing machine—and the price is a mere \$5.98.

Lee also now offers a steel lead-melting pot and a casting ladle at \$1.48 each. Use the pot on mama's kitchen range, or over a propane torch or old gasoline blowtorch—even your Coleman camp stove—and bullets will be as good as from a \$40 electric furnace.

• • •

Little is heard these days of the .300 Savage, though a good many rifles chambered for it are still in use. Fifty years old now and outshone by the .308 Winchester, nobody looks at the orphaned .300 any more—no one, that is, except the thousands of people whose rifles are chambered for it.

One of the human foibles that irritates the hell out of me, is the tendency to condemn that with which one is not familiar. Over the years I've been told many times "xxx.300 Savage is difficult to reload." Whatever that means.

Hogwash—the Savage .300 is a simple, rimless, bottle-neck case; no more, no less difficult of reloading than the .30-06, .308 or others of the type. The people who perpetuate the story have just never tried it.

In today's popular short barrels, the .300 isn't outclassed as much as many would have you believe. The .308 will drive the same bullet faster, since it holds more powder, but out to a couple hundred yards, the difference is of little significance for typical deer hunting.

Take the 150 grain pointed bullet as an example. The .300 will give it 2650-plus fps from a 24" barrel when fueled with 39.0–40.0 grains of IMR 3031; the same amount of long-gone HV2; 42.0

grains of IMR 4064; etc. And it does it without exceeding 45,000–46,000 psi chamber pressure. The highly-touted .308 Winchester squeezes out a 200 fps margin over the .300, but uses nearly 15–25% more powder to do it, and pushes pressures to 50,000 psi.

With 180-grain bullets—preferred by many for typical timber hunting—the .300 winds up at 2400–2450 fps with 37.0 grains 3031 or 41.0–42.0 grains of 4320, and pressures remain at or under 45,000 psi. Loaded to the same pressures, the .308 adds a mere 50 fps or so to that. Kicking pressures up to 49,000–50,000 psi only gives the .308 about 100 fps edge over the .300.

With Speer 200 grain RN/SP bullets, the .308 churns up around 2450 fps at working pressure. The .300 produces 2250 fps from 35.0–26.0 grains of 3031 at hardly over 44,000 psi.

In spite of all this, Lord only knows how many .300 owners have rushed to trade for .308's over the past score of years. Letters I've gotten indicate quite a bunch did so, and repeat correspondence indicates quite a few noted no improvement in effect on game. They had been gulled into expecting .30-06 ballistics and regretted letting go their .300's in exchange for so little gain.

The .300 is often derided for its short neck and sharp shoulder, yet look at the bragged-about .300 Winchester Magnum and similar more modern rounds that ape it in this respect. The longer neck and gentler shoulder slope of the .308 were added purely to meet feeding requirements in fast-firing automatic weapons—hardly of interest to the sporting rifleman.

In fact, the .308-cum-7.62x51mm NATO derived directly from the .300 Savage. Virtually all the changes from the latter were in the interest of auto-weapons use, nothing more.

So, if you've got—or can get—a good .300 Savage, use it and load for it. Like as not, neither you nor your target will ever see any difference between it and the .308.



### "Curios or Relics"

Of interest to the commemorative collector, in a letter to Don Mitchell of Colt's, the Internal Revenue Service has outlined their ruling on Commemoratives. The letter states Commemoratives issued since the Alabama Sesquicentennial Scout are classified as "Curios or relics" and lists the following issues:

1969 Issues—Golden Spike Scout; Kansas Trail Series—Shawnee Trail Scout; World War I Series—Meuse-Argonne, .45 Auto; World War I Series—Meuse-Argonne Deluxe; World War I Series—Meuse-Argonne Special Deluxe; Arkansas Territory Sesquicentennial Scout; Lawman Series .45 SAA Wild Bill Hickok; Lawman Series Wild Bill Hickok Scout; California Bicentennial Scout.

1970 Issues—Kansas Fort Series - Ft. Hayes Scout; Kansas Fort Series - Ft. Larned Scout; Maine Sesquicentennial Scout; World War II Series - European Theater; World War II Series - Pacific Theater; Lawman Series - Wyatt Earp Frontier Scout; Lawman Series - Wyatt Earp Model P, .45 caliber; Texas Ranger Model P, .45 caliber; Missouri Sesquicentennial Frontier Scout; Missouri Sesquicentennial Model P, .45 caliber; Fort Riley Frontier Scout; Fort Scott Frontier Scout.

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# POINT BLANK



By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

**T**HE TEMERITY of the Savage Arms Corporation in re-introducing the venerable .250-3000 cartridge is enough to warm the cockles of your heart. In the face of such cartridges as the .243, the 6 mm Rem., the .240 Weatherby, and here more lately the .25-06, you have to have guts to give life and breath to an old timer like the .250 Savage. All the ammo companies still load the round but none of the arms makers any longer offer a chambering 'mongst current models. No one except the intrepid Savage crew!

In 1960, Savage celebrated its 1,000,000th Model 99 rifle. More of these have been made in .250-3000 caliber than any other. The cartridge was designed by Charles Newton and offered to Savage in 1913. The advent of the .243 Winchester and the .244 Remington, not to mention the stab in the back from that forerunner the .257 Roberts, wrote "finis" to the career of this dandy little cartridge. During its heyday it was chambered in both the Model 54 and the Model 70 rifles, as well as a host of European made firearms. Even today the FN Mauser is still available for the round, and any number of our custom barrel makers will produce a tube in the caliber if you ask them. Of course they may be pretty shook over the request but I suspect they can dust off some long out-of-use reamers for the bunty little number.

Roy Chapman Andrews, sturdy explorer of Outer Mongolia, used a Savage .250 to kill Asian sheep and one time shot four raiders out of the saddle as these bandits tried to ride him down. Charley "Bwana" Cotter, a colorful American big game hunter who went to Africa in 1912 for a 9-month safari and returned the next year to make it his home, killed lion, buffalo and rhino with the Savage and its peewee 87-grain bullet. There have been those who claimed Cotter was simply ignorant and didn't know any better than to try these major species with such an inadequate cartridge but

the fact remains that he did it. He finally blew up the .250 he was using by shooting a hippo from a boat. The hippo turned the boat over and Cotter was thrown into the water. He waded ashore, mad and intent on finishing off the beast. He snapped off a shot at the big bull and the rifle exploded. Cotter had neglected to empty all the water out of the bore before he fired.

Newton always contended that he had worked up the .250-3000 with a 100-grain bullet, but after he sold the proprietary rights of manufacture to Savage they reduced the weight of the bullet to 87 grains so they could get 3,000 feet per second muzzle velocity out of it. This made the round the fastest going. It was not until 1933 that Peters Cartridge Co. came along with a 100-grain slug. Now Remington offers only this bullet weight in the .250 loading. Winchester-Western still retain the 87-grain slug. The 100-grain is better; it drives along at 2820 fps and indicates 1760 ft. lb. ME. The 87-grain goes 3030 fps and has 1770 ft. lb. ME.

In 1912, a year before the .250 bowed onto the stage, Savage and Charles Newton collaborated on a forerunner of the cartridge. This was the .22 Hi-Power, a load that was made up on the .25-35 Winchester hull and a sort of oddball bullet, the 70-grain .228" diameter softpoint slug. The first Savage 99 I ever owned was the .22 Hi-Power. It had a special semi-heavy tube on it of 26 inches. The 99 in this caliber was offered sometimes with 20-inch, other times with 22-inch barrels, and was made extremely light and in takedown configuration if you wanted it. The M99 I possessed was a solid frame but with a splintery stock, too low in comb, too thin in comb and with a pint-size forestock that ended in a schnabel. This was in the early 30's and it was not long after that until the .22 Hi-Power faded from the scene.

My first M99 in .250-3000 was a takedown. It had a flimsy 22-inch

(Continued on page 63)



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# 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

**C. George Charles—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

## Loose Bullets

I would like to know if a loose bullet in an unfired cartridge will affect the performance of the cartridge, in regard to accuracy and velocity.

P. H. Dunkins  
Mt. Airy, N.C.

The degree and type of bullet loose-ness described in your letter is not necessarily detrimental to performance if it is loaded at low to moderate velocities. The powders generally used in those ranges will ignite and burn efficiently without the added resistance of a tightly and heavily crimped bullet. However, in dealing with heavy loads of slow-burning powder, a very tight assembly of bullet to case is necessary to provide the resistance required to obtain good uniform ignition and combustion of the powder. G.C.N.

## Whitneyville Revolver

I have found a gun that I can find no history on. It is marked "Whitneyville Armory CT. U.S.A." and it is a .22 seven shot. The frame is made of brass and has walnut grips. The gun

is in good working condition with only a few rough scratches on it. Can you tell me something about this gun?

Othel Wilkins  
Buckingham, Ill.

Your Whitney Arms Company revolver, called the Whitneyville Armory Revolver, was made in three calibers, all rim fire. They are: .22, .32 and .38. All had the spur trigger and other than a slight difference in size, they were identical. It was a commercially-made, non-military revolver. From your description, I would estimate the collector's value to be approximately \$65.00 to \$70.00 R.M.

## "Guttersnipe"

In your June, 1971 article regarding ".45 Auto Accessories," you mentioned a special one-piece combat sight for that gun. Where can I locate such a sight?

F. Jay  
Zephyr Grove, N.Y.

The one-piece sight referred to in my article on .45 Auto accessories is called "Guttersnipe" and may be ordered from Seventrees Ltd., 315 West



38th, New York, N.Y. Write that company for latest prices, details and delivery schedule. G.C.N.

### Thuer Conversion

How do I identify a true Thuer Conversion on a Colt 1860 Army Model .44? What should a Colt of this type be worth in very good condition?

Emil Ripoli

Gig Harbor, Wash.

Without viewing a number of true Thuer Conversion Colts, it is almost impossible to identify which is an honest conversion and which is a modern reproduction. I would suggest your showing it to a knowledgeable Colt collector and getting his opinion, and then get another. Value of a true Thuer Conversion depends of course on its honesty and condition. R.M.

### .25 Auto Loads

I am interested in loading for the .25 ACP. I do not like full metal jacketed bullets so I have made a mold for it. It throws a nice 49 grain bullet. I am now trying to get a set of dies for it, but if I can't, I'll make a set. My only problem is that I can't find loading data.

John Schmitt  
Webster, N.Y.

Loading data is a bit scarce for the .25 ACP cartridge. With your 49 grain bullet, I would suggest that you start with 1.1 grains of Hercules Bullseye powder. If this does not produce reliable functioning, then work upward in 0.1 grain increments, but do not under any circumstances exceed 1.5 grains. Somewhere around 1.3 to 1.4 grains should give satisfactory results. As for dies, try RCBS, Box 1919, Oroville, Calif. 95965. G.C.N.

### .350 Rigby

I have a .350 Rigby Magnum Mauser in excellent condition. The rifle has been examined by several so-called experts and the opinion is that the gun is 100% complete, right down to the replacement ivory-tipped sight housed in the pistol grip cap. The word "Safe" is inlaid with what is apparently gold and the wood is a top grade of fiddleback with very precise checkering. What is the value of this gun and is it very rare?

R. C. Halabura  
Saskatoon, Sask.

If as described as to condition and the action of your gun is actually a Magnum Mauser action, your Rigby should be worth about \$400.00 to \$450.00 to a serious collector. S.B.

### Williamson Derringer

I have just purchased a gun that I

would like to identify. It is between .32 and .36 caliber and has the inscription, "D. Willimasons Patent, U.S.A. January 5, 1864." The gun has a cylinder which holds six shots and is of the derringer type. Can you tell me its value.

Thomas Fashbough  
Elkhart, Ind.

Your derringer is the Williamson's Derringer patented Oct. 2, 1866 in New York. It is of .41 Rim Fire caliber and originally came with an auxiliary chamber for percussion firing. It's collector's value will run between \$50.00 and \$100.00 depending upon condition. R.M.

### 1863 Spencer

I am the owner of an 1863 Spencer rifle and the gun is in excellent condition. I believe it is .52 caliber and would like to know if there is any place I can get ammunition for this gun.

Gerald Paulson  
Lake Stockholm, N.J.

Ammunition for the Spencer rifle has not been made for over seventy-five years and consequently the only sources of such ammunition are those dealers specializing in collector's cartridges. They demand prices of .75 cents to one dollar per cartridge! If one insists on being able to shoot a Spencer, then it is possible to alter the breech block and firing mechanism to center-fire, then to form special cases out of .348 Winchester brass. Once this is done center-fire cartridges can be made up and safely fired in the gun. Personally, I don't think it is worth the effort. G.C.N.

### Trap/Skeet Barrels

I am a GI stationed in Germany and due to the great opportunity of buying guns at very reasonable prices here, I plan to get a Beretta BL-5 over/under with an extra set of barrels so that I can have a skeet and trap set-up in one gun. Can you tell me the stock dimensions I would need on this gun in order to shoot both events with the same gun.

Michael Rosendahl  
APO N.Y.

I am sorry to tell you that skeet and trap barrels on the same stock are not the ideal combination that they might seem. A trap gun is longer and straighter than most skeet guns and conversely the skeet gun is shorter and has more drop. Most skeet stocks have 14" length of pull while trap guns run 14-3/8" to 14-1/2" length of pull. Most skeet guns run about 1-5/8" drop at comb to 2-1/2" drop at heel,

(Continued on page 56)

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



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\*U.S. Patents 3,345,949/3,069,748/3,003,420 Canada, 1963.



## .17 Cal. Rod

A cleaning rod for the peewee calibers, the .17 and the 5 mm Rem, is something of a problem. I tried all my local sporting goods emporiums without any luck. I then made up a rod from a .125" welding rod but this was a poor substitute. H&R, who was the first company to offer the .17 cal, provided a rod and I got one of them. But there were no scratch brushes. And the seventeen demands a lot of brushing to keep it clean. Now John Dewey, a gunsmith and barrel-maker from Clinton Corners, N.Y. has resolved my problem. He has a new rod that is a real duzy. It is made from a solid steel shaft with a ball-bearing handle. The rod has no joints and is threaded to accept the rod tip, scratch brush or slotted end. This Dewey rod is coated with a plastic which is made by DuPont and carries the somewhat exotic name of SURYLN®. This coating will not crack, chip, or peel. It is highly resistant to flexing and does not pick up chips or bits of metal fouling during the cleaning operation. It is impervious to oils and chemicals and repeated tests with acetone indicates it will not dissolve or wash away. The rod comes equipped with a jag tip. For the small calibers the jag is much better than the slotted head. Dewey has also thoughtfully provided a good supply of .17 cal. brass scratch brushes. These are just as important as the rod itself. This new rod, and indeed the brushes, works quite as well in the 5 mm (.20 cal.) Rem. as it does in the .17 caliber. Price is on the high side but beggars can't be choosers. You may reach John Dewey at Clinton Corners. *Col. Charles Askins*

## Merkle Shotgun

The first Winchester Model 70 I had converted to left-hand was done by J. J. Jenkins of Los Angeles. This gunsmith was one of the first to make this switchover. Later on he specialized in conversions of the Enfield

# GUN RACK

Model 1917 to the portside. Now Jenkins is the sole importer of the best thought-of shotgun in Germany, the Merkel. This old-line scattergun has the original superposed action, a lockup that is notable for great strength and simplicity. There are two under lugs and a Kersten crossbolt to breech it up. Merkel, located at Suhl, specializes in O/U guns but also makes a pair of side-by-side doubles, and express rifles. There are a series of grades, commencing with the Model 200E and extending to the Model 303E which sells for \$2,150. Jenkins sent me for trial, his own Model 201E which has a going figure of \$759. It is a skeet gun.

I took this prize out to my skeet club and promptly broke 100 targets with it. I had been shooting a Perazzi and running 96 with it. And before it a Zoli with the same percentages. The Merkel looked awfully good.

It has 26-inch barrels, bored Skeet and Skeet, a raised vent rib of 11/32" width, with two Bradley white beads, a stock which measures 14" length of pull, 1 1/2" drop at comb x 2 1/4" at the heel, with a down pitch of 2 inches. The single selective trigger has a sweet clean pull of 3 1/4 pounds for both pulls. The triggers are entirely mechanical, there is no setting of the second by the recoil of the first. The gun carries side signal pegs to indicate when it is cocked.

The action is a boxlock, a somewhat standard type of receiver for the Merkel. It is chromium finished inside and out with tasteful English scroll engraving. The selective automatic ejectors pop out the empties with a strong heave and the action opens and closes with a sweet snap. The Merkel action is the strongest on a superposed shotgun. It would easily withstand pressures three times over normal. This is an exceedingly fine shotgun highly prized on the Continent but not too well known, unfortunately, over here. *Col. Charles Askins*



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Joseph Kautzky, Sr., inventor of the 1910 single trigger for double barrel shotguns.

By JOHN E. KAUTZKY

THE AIR WAS STILL that day in the Iowa summer of 1937—just right for blasting clay pigeons on the trapshooting range. Hundreds of spectators had come to the Fort Dodge Gun Club grounds from all corners of the state and surrounding areas of the Great Plains to witness a celebrated birthday trapshoot in honor of famed gunsmith, Joseph Kautzky Sr.

Among the positioned trapshooters lined up at their respective firing posts in five-man squads were Joseph Kautzky Sr.'s two sons, Rudy and Joe Kautzky Jr. Standing alongside her father waiting to give the command, "Pull!" was Marie Kautzky, his famous trapshooting daughter who had achieved state and national trapshooting honors.

Joseph Kautzky Sr. that day outshot his two younger sons and 96 other trapshooters. The 75-year old Austrian-born gunsmith-trapshooter stood near the top among 100 contestants, bringing down 147 targets out of 150—a remarkable score for a man of his years. But Marie Kautzky had done even better, breaking 148 targets out of a possible 150.

Though the elder Kautzky has since passed on, cherished memories of a great trapshooting era in the history of the

# A DYNASTY OF

United States are keen in the memory of the Kautzky fifth generation.

The highlights that distinguished Joseph Kautzky Sr.'s memorable career as a renowned trapshooter began in 1908. William Howard Taft, a Republican, had just defeated William Jennings Bryan, Democrat, to become President of the United States while Wilbur Wright's flight in France revolutionized European aviation.

On October 10th and 11th of that same year Joseph Kautzky, entered a registered trapshoot in the country town of Jewell, Iowa. The program consisted of 200-16 yard targets each day. The last 53 targets of the first days 200 he broke straight. He went on to shatter all of the 200 targets the second day to establish a worlds record of 253 straight.

Concerning this historic trapshooting period my father, Rudy Kautzky, commented:

"It was during this trapshooting era that gun clubs continued to spring up throughout the United States. Dad travelled to each trap event by train because automobiles in those days were scarce. Dad bought his first car in 1914. In 1911 at a registered trapshoot at Omaha, Nebraska he broke 180 targets straight which was the longest amateur run that year according to A.T.A. records.

From all over the state and country, trapshooters soon began to inquire about his background—asking questions and discovering for themselves about that "old country love" he possessed for the design and repair of firearms. There were many occasions when my brother, Joe Jr., and sister Marie and I would see our father return home from each trapshoot with several guns from trapshooters who wanted him to give his special attention to the alteration, repair, and refinishing of their personal firearms."

For a number of years the Dupont Powder Company offered a reward of a solid gold watch fob to any trapshooter who would break fifty or more consecutive clay targets in a registered trapshoot using Dupont gun powder. If the same trapshooter again would break fifty or more clay targets in a row, after he had won the gold watch fob, Dupont would then award a solid gold bar engraved with the number of straight targets broken which was attachable to the original watch fob. Joseph Kautzky Sr. won so many of these gold bars that his watch fob grew too long to wear. He then had a bracelet made of a number of these gold bars which he presented to his daughter, Marie.

Today these gold watch fobs, with the additional gold bars, remain in the possession of the Kautzky family. Each bar represents 50 or more straight broken targets in registered trap shoots.

It was in the latter part of this era that Marie Kautzky, under her father's tutelage and expert guidance, was destined to achieve trapshooting fame.

During 1923, while Harding had succeeded Calvin Coolidge as president, Marie Kautzky became high lady in the Grand American Handicap trapshoot competition at Van-



# STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

dalia, Ohio. In 1940 she was a runner-up in the Grand American national ladies trapshooting championship, and one year later Marie Kautzky won the Grand American National ladies championship title. During the years 1923 through 1947 Marie Kautzky was an eighteen-time winner of the Iowa ladies trapshooting championship. Marie has since retired from competition and is married to Mr. R. H. Grant of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Two years after the introduction of Henry Ford's Model T car, Joseph Sr. invented the single trigger for double barrel shotguns. This was in 1910. This single trigger mechanism was much more simple and satisfactory than its only competitor. The exclusive single trigger mechanism which had already been on the market was made by the Hunter Arms Company but was at the time available only on L.C. Smith guns.

"Dad built his single trigger into more than 600 guns," Joe Jr., explained. "The guns were shipped to him for his new trigger mechanism and many of the factory owned guns were sent as far as Australia and the Phillipine Islands."

Grandfather's contribution to the gunsmithing world was sought out by numerous sportsmen throughout the United States. Among his prominent customers was the world famous bandmaster and march composer, John Phillip Sousa. Sousa's personal collection of guns were altered and repaired by the elder Kautzky, and some of them were fitted with the new Kautzky single-trigger.

In the year 1914 the Kautzky single trigger patent was sold to the Ansley H. Fox gun company of Germantown, Pennsylvania. The sale helped to provide food, clothing, and shelter for his family of 5 offspring. After the sale was signed and completed Joe Sr. spent several months at the Ansley H. Fox gun factory in Germantown, Pennsylvania supervising and training Fox gunmakers to build his single trigger device.

According to the earliest family records, our family scene takes place in Bohemia, near the village of Ritschka, around the year 1800.

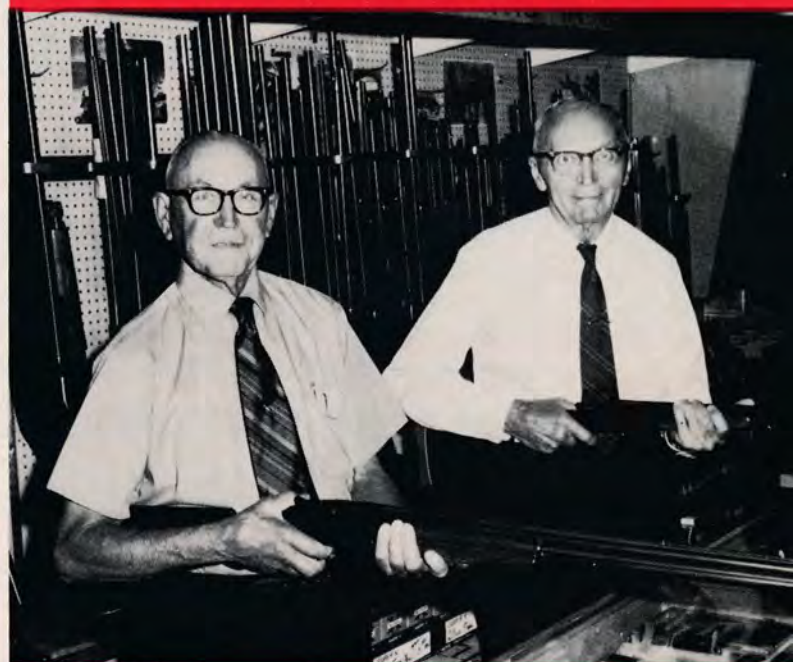
A young peasant gentleman by the name of Adalbert Kautzky was employed as a "Leibjager," or hunting companion, to the count and countess Kolowrat of Reichenau. Hunting rights in this part of the world were reserved to only those of the nobility, the royalty, and the rich.

Adalbert Kautzky's position as a hunting companion to the count required expert marksmanship. His duties kept him at the side of the count during his hunting days, protecting the count from danger in the event the count's own bullet failed to hit the mark.

Adalbert was not only an expert marksman but also a skilled mechanic in the manufacture of shotguns and rifles. Consequently he was well able to keep the count's personal hunting equipment in perfect shooting condition for his hunting trips over the estate which consisted of thousands



Marie Kautzky, Joseph's trapshooting daughter who won many awards herself. Note the fishing gear in the foreground, guns at the rear. A 1937 photo.



Rudy Kautzky, left, and Joe Jr. are shown in the modern Kautzky sporting goods store. Both men are skilled gunsmiths and still do some gun repairs.



of acres of rich farmland surrounded by countless square miles of towering pine forest.

Adalbert Kautzky remained in the service of the count and countess for several years and was held in high esteem by them both. Within a few years Adalbert married the maid of the countess and was rewarded by the court with building materials for their home.

Adalbert later became the father of four sons who mastered their father's gunsmithing trade as did their sons in turn, and the succeeding Kautzky generations of gunsmiths that followed.

Family records show that in this traditional family lineage, Adalbert Kautzky was the great grandfather of Joseph Kautzky Sr., the fourth generation, who was born in Rokitz, Austria, in 1862. Joseph Sr., in turn received from his father special tutelage in this difficult art of gunsmithing. At the age of thirteen, Joseph Sr.'s father placed him in a large gunmaking establishment in Vienna, Austria. It was here that he learned the art of engraving and other advanced skills of the gunmaker's art which his father was less qualified to teach.

Before completing the apprenticeship at the Vienna school each student gunsmith was required to build a "gun masterpiece." Joseph Sr. made his drawings of the general gun design, of each engraving design, and finally one com-

pleted drawing for each individual gun part. He then commenced to build the gun as drawn.

The masterful firearms that Joseph Sr. built became the property of the school as payment for his tuition. Many of the firearms made by students were sold to Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria.

Joseph Sr. remained several years in Vienna. After completing his apprenticeship, he returned to his home in Rokitz, Austria and there took over the operation of his father's gun shop, and later married. Soon his father and mother passed away.

In Rokitz, three of his five children were born, Anna, Joe Jr., and Pauline.

A few years later Joseph Sr.'s two sisters and three brothers moved to America and settled near Des Moines, Iowa. They continually wrote their brother about their newly adopted homeland—especially how everyone possessed complete freedom and liberty to hunt and fish.

Begun in 1898, this sixteen gauge shotgun was never completed. It is a hammerless model and the tang is bent to allow work on the locks and interior portions of the action. Note the rough cold-chisel marks left on the barrel swells.



Made in 1897, this 16 gauge hammer gun has very smooth, flowing lines with fine checkering, engraving. Completely hand made!

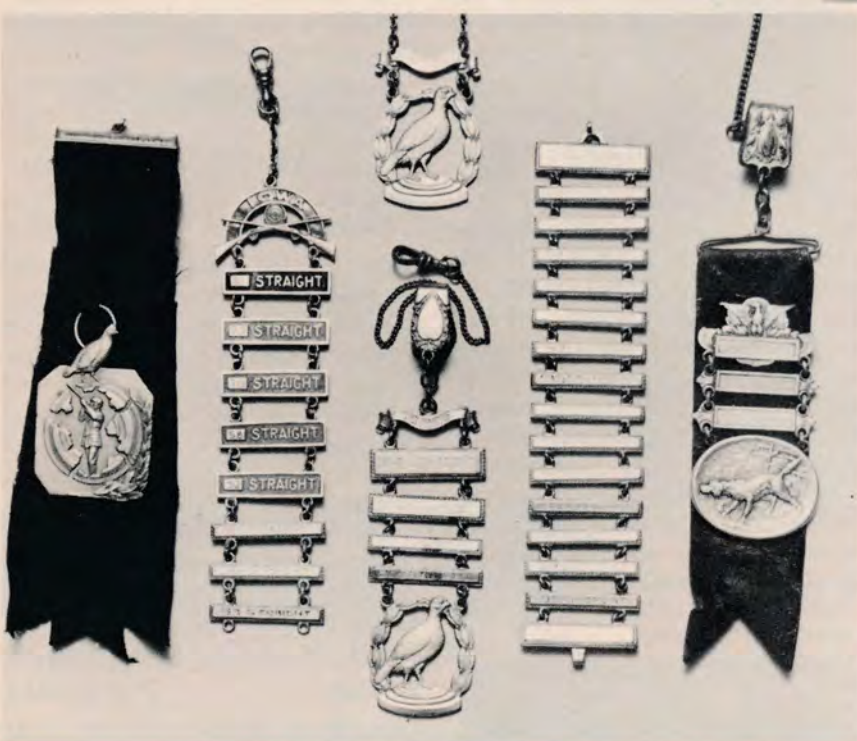


Another 16 gauge, this one made in 1895, shows different treatment of the stock, action and forearm. Note damascus pattern.





In 1893, at the age of thirty-one, Joe Sr. sold everything he possessed, except his tools and a few sets of blank shot gun barrels, and he and his wife and their three children left their homeland and came to America. The money he had accumulated was barely enough to sustain his family so his brothers and sisters kindly loaned him enough to meet his material needs until he could find a suitable location to open up a gun shop. Joseph Sr.'s first place of business was located in the small town of Perry, Iowa, and his home was built on an acreage about a mile west of town. As he was not yet known by his neighbors in the surrounding community and because he was not able to keep busy with gun repair work, he selected a set of his 16 gauge Damascus steel barrels and proceeded to design his first hand-made shotgun made here in America. This 1895, 16 gauge hammer model weighed about seven pounds. The 16 gauge, at that time, was the most popular gauge in Europe for



Joseph Sr. won so many gold watch fobs and gold bars in registered shoots that the array was too long to wear. Above left are some of those he won. Above right is Kautzky with some of his long run trophies. Note that the shotgun he is holding has a single trigger, is hammerless and has a unique forearm design. Kautzky presented his daughter with a bracelet made of his gold bar awards.



shooting game birds and small game animals.

It took Joseph Sr. about one year to complete this shotgun. The gun sold immediately and remained in the purchaser's possession for the rest of his life, giving the owner many long years of faithful and dependable service. After the owner passed away his wife refused to part with the gun because her husband had so loved and cherished it. Only after the wife passed away was it possible for the Kautzky family to persuade the heirs to part with the gun. It is still in the possession of the Kautzky family in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Between 1895 and 1897 two other guns, a twelve gauge hammerless double barrel and another sixteen gauge ham-

mer gun were made by Joseph Sr. However, the twelve gauge gun has not been traceable through the years. It is hoped that this particular firearm may someday be located and come into the Kautzky family possession. The sixteen gauge is owned by the family of Kautzky Sr.'s brother. All of Joe Sr.'s handmade guns are identified with his name and hometown neatly engraved on the gun lock plates. Some of his guns were made in Rokitz, Austria, others in Perry, Iowa and one was handmade in Fort Dodge.

During 1897 a group of professional businessmen from Fort Dodge came to Kautzky Sr.'s gun shop and persuaded him to move to Fort Dodge because that location offered him a greater opportunity to (Continued on page 60)



# PISTOLS THAT NEVER WERE

By G. N. LIBBY

**A**DOLF HITLER and the National Socialist German Labor Party seized control of the Reich Cabinet on January 30, 1933. Hitler, while undoubtedly mentally deranged, did exhibit a political genius for fanning the fires of extreme German nationalism. He exploited the myth of German ethnic superiority and created a culture of symbolism. The Swastika, the Roman salute, the uniform, the Teutonic dagger and finally the military handgun became badges of honor and symbols of loyalty and status.

The combat effectiveness of the handgun has proven to be questionable. The mass produced submachine gun and assault rifle, with their stamped parts, have been found to be deadlier and cheaper weapons. In Nazi

Germany the semi-automatic pistol was far more than a simple tool of combat. The authority of the German officer and non-commissioned officer was typified by the sidearm he wore. I feel certain that the officers and men of the Heer, Waffen SS, Luftwaffe and Kriegsmarine carried more pistols than any military units before or since. This was the era of the military handgun.

The quantities and varieties of pistols carried by the German forces were astounding. From the period 1933 to 1945, over five million semi-automatic pistols were issued to German military and paramilitary forces. Approximately one-half of these weapons were manufactured in the Fatherland. Total production figures of these famous Nazi handguns are subsequently listed:

MODEL	TOTAL PROCURED
P-38	1,200,000
Luger	920,000
Mauser HSC	225,000
Sauer 38H	200,000
Walther PP	200,000
Walther PPK	150,000
Walther HP	10,000

The German small arms industry was unable to produce handguns at an accelerated rate comparable to the rapid expansion of the German Armed Forces. The German Procurement Offices turned to two alternate sources. They purchased from allies and sympathetic neutrals a limited number of handguns. The Germans, interestingly enough, have always held a particularly high regard for Spanish weapons, and from Franco's Fascist Spain came an assortment of Astras and Stars:

MODEL	TOTAL PROCURED
Astra 200 (6.35 mm)	1,500
Astra 400 (9 mm Bayard)	6,000
Astra 300 (7.65 mm)	22,390
Astra 300 (9 mm Kurz)	63,000

The Armand Gavage was an ungainly gun with poor balance and bad pointing characteristics. This one has the Nazi proofs and could have been used by a lower official.





Astra 600 (9 mm Luger) 10,450  
 Star B (9 mm Luger) 35,000

Hungary furnished the Model 1937 pistol on two separate procurement contracts approaching 100,000 pieces.

With the German political acquisition of Austria and Czechoslovakia, and finally the armed invasion of Poland, a new source of handguns was made available. Utilizing captured equipment and often times conscripted labor, small arms factories in a half-dozen occupied countries began turning out handguns for the German Armed Forces. Approximately one-half

of all handguns utilized by the Germans were from these foreign sources. Total production figures are listed:

COUNTRY	TOTAL PROCURED
Czech. (CZ-27—7.65mm)	475,000
Poland (Radom—9mm Luger)	380,000
Belgium (Browning 1922—7.65mm/9mm Kurz)	363,200
Belgium (High Power—9mm Luger)	319,000
France (Unique 17—7.65mm)	56,000
France (MAB D—7.65mm)	53,000
France (1935 A—7.65mm LONG)	40,000
France (Kriegsmodel—7.65mm)	25,000
Norway (1914—11.25mm)	7,000
France (MAB A—6.35mm)	1,130

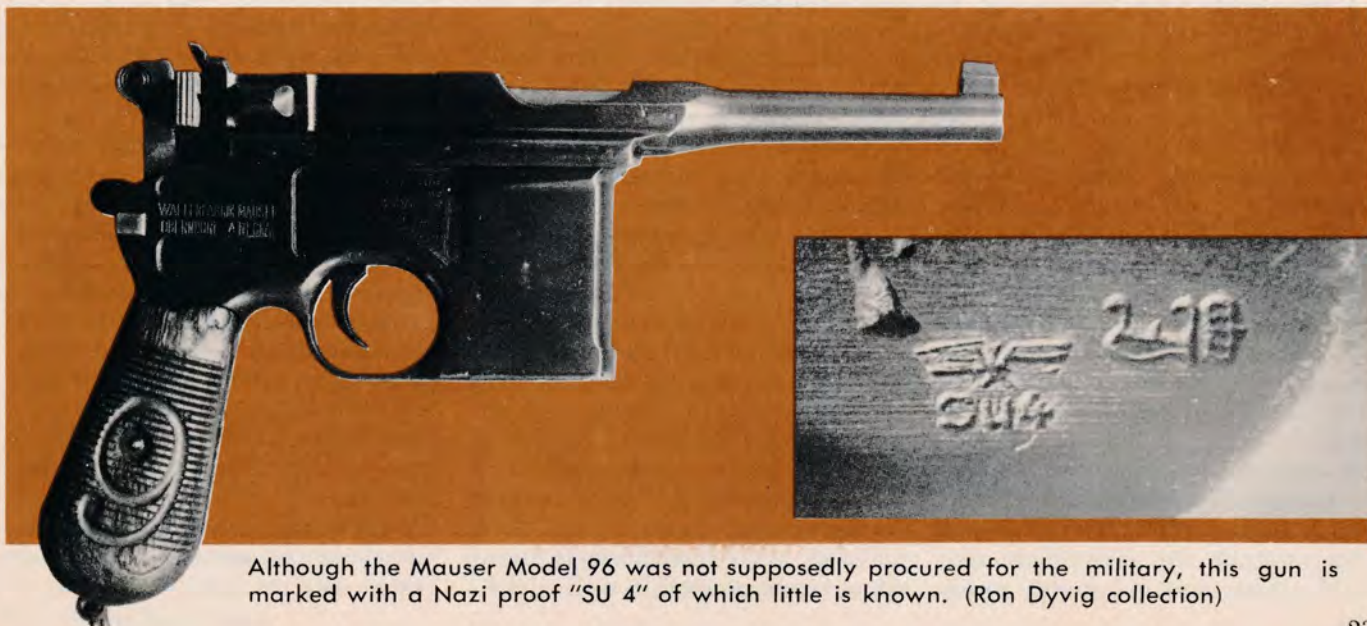
The weapons listed above repre-

sented over 25 specific types with untold intra-model variations and were chambered for more than a half-dozen different calibers. The weapons manufactured in Germany have been well documented within a variety of specialty texts. Major Whittington's book, *German Pistols and Holsters, 1934-1945* has provided a wealth of information on German proof marks, acceptance stamps and an accurate itemization and description of the pistols produced in occupied countries. The German arms Juggernaut still has a few puzzling mysteries. The following three pistols were very probably utilized by German Forces in WW II but the why and where are still in the category of educated guesses.

The ugly appearance of the Armand Gavage 7.65mm pistol is exceeded only by its atrocious grip and balance. This little Belgian pistol exhibits three Nazi military proofs but no acceptance stamps. Examples of this weapon with a serial number range of 1100 to 4127 have been encountered indicating a total production of at least a few thousand pieces. The Germans, in their nationalistic furor, uniformed and armed many of the lesser bureaucrats. Possible a postal inspector, a railway guard, or a customs official carried the Armand Gavage with pride. It is doubtful if any of the (Continued on page 56)



Tokarev pistol with an extra-length barrel, lacking the lanyard ring. No Nazi proofs are present on the pistol. Left: Note the three small gas ports drilled to compensate for the more powerful 9mm cartridge.



Although the Mauser Model 96 was not supposedly procured for the military, this gun is marked with a Nazi proof "SU 4" of which little is known. (Ron Dyvig collection)





The "Wizard of Cranford" examining one of his latest creations, a cut-down Browning Hi-Power.

## By MASON WILLIAMS

**J**UST AS EVERY car nut has his special shop or gas station where he can have things done to his car that no self-respecting manufacturer would do, lots of handgun nuts go to custom gunsmiths so that they can end up owning the only "Brash-Tailed-Rot-Hammered" pistol in existence. Just as there are headshrinkers among doctors, there are a select few pistol shrinkers and pistol enlargers among gunsmiths. "The Wonderful Wizard of Cranford" told me confidentially that he learned to shrink pistols by enlarging them—something about parts and sections being left over. If you don't understand this neither do I, but who is supposed to understand a Wizard?

I have just spent a wild, wonderful day sitting in the midst of the most motley assortment of special, custom

handguns I have ever seen. My host was Austin Behlert, 33 Herming Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016 and, because of his willingness to tackle any job that intrigues him, I have named him the "Wonderful Wizard of Cranford." There are only a handful of men in this country who can do the things he can do to a handgun—preferably pistols. Being a shooter he knows handguns. Having a shop that would be right at home in the Colt or Smith & Wesson plant, he has the capabilities of doing anything that strikes his fancy. Perhaps I should not say that. Let's rephrase it to read, do anything that his customers would like done providing no one else in the country will do it! His jobs are pretty much a one-of-a-kind proposition. Production work leaves him cold.

Austin is fortunate in having his son Frank working with him to handle the

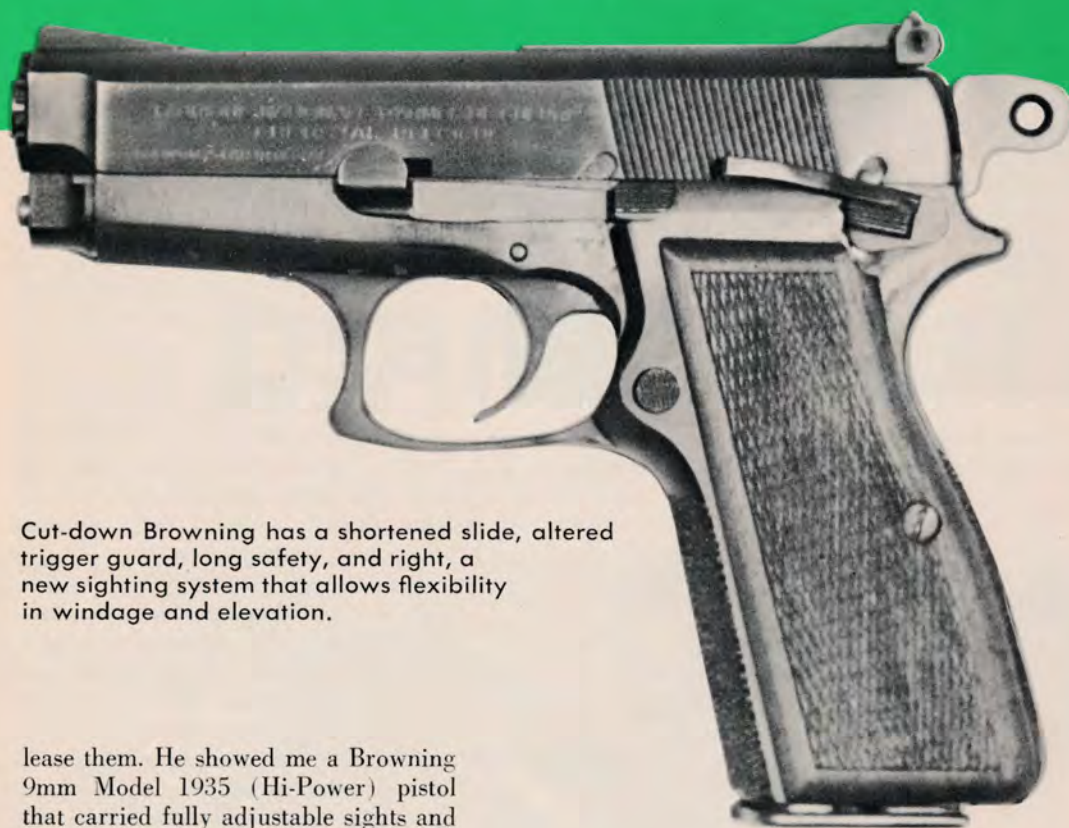
more or less routine work and to create the only father and son gunsmithing team in the country—as far as I know. This leaves Austin in a position to sit and listen to ideas and wild thoughts about what could be done to a certain pistol.

What amazes me about the man is his versatility. I saw and shot .22 caliber match pistols that he had "created" that compare favorably with the finest imports specifically designed for International Match shooting. I shot a snub nose Colt Model 1911 that was so small, so compact and so well balanced that its owner, a Federal Agent, could carry it all day long, perfectly concealed and yet ready for action. Recoil? It handled beautifully and reliably.

Behlert knows what these men are up against and unless his pistols shoot reliably and accurately he will not re-



# THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF CRANFORD



Cut-down Browning has a shortened slide, altered trigger guard, long safety, and right, a new sighting system that allows flexibility in windage and elevation.



lease them. He showed me a Browning 9mm Model 1935 (Hi-Power) pistol that carried fully adjustable sights and which was not much larger than a Walther PP in .380. This sparked a four way discussion that could end in my eating my hat.

I have known Austin Behlert for a good many years, primarily as a shooter going way back to the days when I shot in Registered NRA Matches all over the country. When he goes to a match he usually spends most of his time working on fellow shooters handguns and I have seen him miss a match because he wanted to make certain that a fellow competitor's handgun was right. Today, he has racked up so many trophies and medals that he really doesn't care, but back in the old days few shooters appreciated his sacrifices. But those that did now form a hard core of loyal customers whose

numbers keep increasing every year. His son Frank has been shooting for many years and, not too long ago, held every Junior Pistol Record in the book. So it appears that the ability to make a statement and then back it by saying "I know because I have done it" runs in the family.

During a shooter's travel up the ladder of success, there are times when he may want to try something—just an idea—but no one will do the work for him. After being turned down by all the normal, sane, intelligent gunsmiths, these shooters usually turn up knocking at Austin Behlert's door. As I said before, if the idea interests him, the

job gets done. Routine work and things available throughout the country will not move him. He is literally a gun nut's specialized gunsmith! Some of his pet items are oversize and right and left hand safeties for Colt Model 1911 and Browning Model 1935 pistols. Heavy slide and long slide Match .45 pistols are one of his specialties as are match, heavy barrel High Standard pistols in caliber .22 long rifle.

Conversely, he takes an inordinate delight in "shrinking" a big Colt





This hand-held comparison shows the size of both the cut-down .45, in the left hand, and the "snubby" Hi-Power in the right. Both Handy!



Whacked-off .45 Colt still shows the basic familiar lines that it once had. Note the "long" safety. The rear sight as installed by Behlert gives the shooter all the windage and elevation he can use plus the rugged durability for years of hard, rough-tumble service.



The Bobcat from the rear, showing stippling of grip.

Model 1911 pistol down to something no one would believe and the doggone things actually work as well as the original factory pistols. His re-worked Brownings are fantastic. His ability to do these jobs gives Police Officers and Agents terrific fire power combined with minimum size and weight, yet these pistols retain the inherent strength of all steel handguns.

In his thirty years of shooting and traveling and meeting with handgunners, Austin has stored away a tremendous fund of practical information and it continually amazes me to listen to him talk to gun nuts. Right now he is trying to make a liar out of me and I have a feeling he will ram my hat right down my throat. The last time I saw him I dropped a couple of ideas in his lap and the other day he called to say that he wanted to bring up THAT 9mm Browning pistol that he had "touched up a bit" to see if I liked it! It should be pretty much a one-of-a-kind.

But pictures speak louder than words so I will let the products of the "Wonderful Wizard of Cranford" speak for themselves. Costs? Prices? Not half as much as you would expect for straight hand, custom work. Give him a ring and find out for yourself. His telephone number is 201-276-9645. One last detail. Austin will actually tell you when you can expect to get back your handgun. Try that on the next gunsmith you talk to about special work!







## TEST REPORT

# COLT'S DIAMONDBACK



Top: The two-hand combat hold with Mustang grips provides for stable shooting. Double-action recovery and lock time are short due to favorable weight distribution and small-scale design of the Colt D frame. Above: Open for business, the Diamondback is shown here with a Hunt Multi-Loader and six 158 grain swaged lead RN service rounds and Mustang grips. The nickel finish is not only attractive, but is quite durable and needs minimal care.

By JAMES D. MASON

SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION in 1965, Colt's Diamondback revolver has filled a unique spot in the array of handguns available to shooters. Offered in .38 Special and .22 LR calibers, its particular size, weight, and balance qualify this handgun for a wide variety of applications. In this regard, the Diamondback may be one of the most unsung handguns on the market today.

For the past several months I have been using a 4-inch barreled .38 caliber Diamondback for combat shooting. The performance of this revolver has impressed me and changed many previous notions regarding the choice of handguns and pistol calibers. The handling characteristics and quality of this little gun make it worthy of serious consideration. While the idea of using a small frame .38 revolver for combat shooting would convulse most knowledgeable handgunners, the Diamondback has several unique virtues that qualify it quite well for the demanding activity of combat shooting.

The 4-inch Diamondback has an overall length of  $8\frac{3}{8}$  inches and weighs in at 29 ounces. This is about an inch shorter and 6-10 ounces lighter than revolvers of comparable barrel length made on .41 caliber frames. The Colt D-frame is tailored for .38 caliber applications, but the strength of this small frame and cylinder handle the hottest .38 Special loads. And, unlike other small frame .38's, its cylinder holds a full 6-rounds.

Grip size of the Diamondback is rather unique. It is man-sized enough for all but the very largest hands, yet not





Guy Hogue, retired L.A.P.D. shooting instructor, makes this handsome grip for the Diamondback. Hand-filling palm swells and a generous recoil shoulder provide tremendous comfort and control with heavy loads in this gun. They are quite good looking, too.

so large as to feel awkward in the smallest hands. The medium sized hand will feel much at home, fully capable of dominating the grip, an important factor in successful handgun shooting. The finger length from the backstrap shoulder to the trigger should not be so long as to cause the shooter to "stretch" his forefinger to reach the trigger comfortably in DA position.

Too long a reach will result in the shooter adjusting his handhold around to the side of the grip in order to acquire the trigger during double-action shooting. Such a compensation reduces trigger finger strength and control during double action manipulation. Wrist strength is also diminished, contributing to inadequate support of the revolver and horizontal spread of groups for the shooter who cannot physically dominate the grip of his handgun. Grip size that is perfect for formal single-action target work may be all wrong for DA combat shooting. The Diamondback offers a variety of pull lengths depending on the particular grips used on this handgun. I have found that a backstrap-to-trigger length of around 3-inches is just about right for my medium-sized hand.

The shape and circumference of the grip is important, too. Custom grips can compensate for the peculiarities of

individual hands. Most factory grips are wrong for DA shooting, especially where rapid recovery from recoil is a problem. All fingers should be able to curl around the grip. Factory stocks are notoriously fat at the bottom where they should be slim, and too slim behind the trigger guard where they should be fat. Distension of the little and third fingers on factory stocks can cost as much as 20-30 pounds of gripping pressure needed to control the gun. Curled fingertips should not be able to touch the heel of the shooting hand or be more than 1-inch separated from the heel. The little finger should be able to apply full gripping force to help counter muzzle rise during recoil. Again, the .38 frame of the Diamondback offers considerable flexibility in all these dimensions.

During the test period for the Diamondback I used three designs of custom grips. Each of these designs has particular advantages for different hand sizes and applications. The best all-around grip tried was the mustang designed for small-frame Colt revolvers. The beautiful rosewood and walnut specimens sent by Al Lang of Mustang Firearms, Inc. (Box 449, Sunnymead, Calif., 92388), seem to make the best compromise for hand-filling fit and critical dimensions as to length, girth, and pull distance. The rather short 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch pull length facilitated trigger control and rapid fire DA, where some shooters tend to contract the trigger for a second shot before it has gone all the way forward. The Mustang grip has well-defined finger notches which are objected to by many combat shooters. I have thin fingers and this feature is not objectionable from my point-of-view.

The Herrett's (Box 741, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301) Shooting Ace service style grip was given a workout on the Diamondback. This grip combines a number of desirable features for small-frame handguns. It is easy to grab out of the holster, and the generous field of checkering makes it stable during recoil. The general dimensions are adaptable to small-handed shooters and to the fair sex, while ample wood is present on the backstrap to distribute recoil force from stout loads. This grip is somewhat more easily concealed than the Mustang set but its girth is too small to provide the best grounds for a solid two-hand hold. The Shooting Ace improved my point-shooting scores significantly with the Diamondback compared to factory stocks.

Guy Hogue (Box 1001, Cambria,



Herrett's service Shooting Ace stocks are concealable and aided point shooting compared to the standard factory stocks. Cut-away view shows the distribution of wood along the back strap that fills the hand and absorbs recoil energy. The generous field of checkering also aids in holding onto the gun during rapid fire strings. The general dimensions of the grips are adaptable to small-handed shooters and to the fair sex, making them quite popular. The Shooting Ace improved the author's point-shooting scores significantly with the Diamondback, compared to factory-supplied stocks.





Regular hammer spur on the Diamondback (left) is much too wide and long, says Mason. The hammer on the right shows the bobbled length and trimmed sides as described in the text for better control.



Equipment used by the author during his tests of the Diamondback includes an Eldon Carl holster rig by Triple K. He found the Mustang grips the best of three styles tested for combat shooting, for his needs.

CA. 93428) started turning out custom stocks this past year. His combat model for the Diamondback functions effectively, providing contoured hand-filling palm swells that promote consistent positioning of the gun. These stocks are more concealable than the Mustang set, but are a bit short for the most comfortable hold with my hand. All other functional and esthetic aspects of these grips are superb and workmanship is outstanding.

Diamondbacks are available in nickel finish. Ordinarily one thinks of the Lone Ranger, Tom Mix, or Hopalong Cassidy when talk turns to nickel-plated handguns. Tom Feiereisen, Colt's West Coast rep, talked me into using one of the shiny models for this lengthy trial. I was skeptical, even somewhat embarrassed at the prospect of showing up at a shoot with a "dude" handgun. As a capper, when the gun arrived I proudly approached my wife to show her the prize. I held the box before her and removed the lid. She gazed at the glistening jewel for a minute and then looked up at me and said, "It looks like a cap pistol!"

But Tom increased the incentive by having Colt's master assembler Don Tedford completely tune the gun to perfection. All aspects of timing were carefully checked. Trigger pull and all articulating surfaces were honed.

One of the main objections to nickel-

finished guns is the bright sights. These were replaced with regular blued sights along with a blue trigger and a standard finished hammer, much the same as Colt's nickel-finished Mark III Trooper revolvers. These changes made the gun quite practical to use and good-looking besides. Nickel finish is impervious to sweat and most common corrosive materials. The gun looks a little dirty after a shooting session but easily

cleans up with a few deft strokes of a wiping cloth and nitro solvent. I would prefer a dull or matte nickel finish all over the gun, but the bright nickel is still quite handsome and functional.

The regular target-type serrated hammer spur furnished with the gun is a bit too generous for combat work. Removal of about three of the serrations from the end of the hammer and filing down the (Continued on page 72)

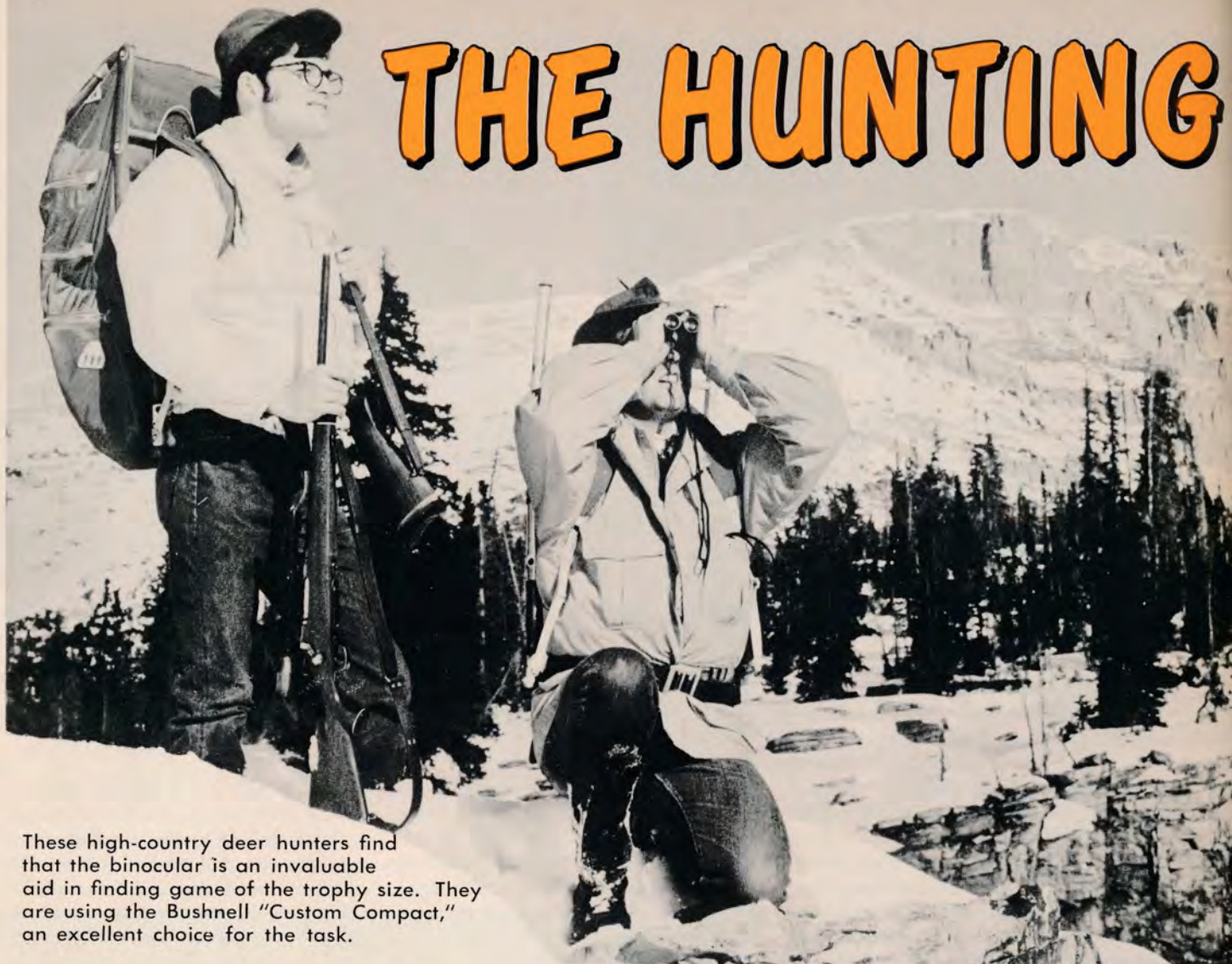
## BALLISTIC DATA

BRAND	BULLET	M.V.	M.E.	Vel. Variance	GROUP SIZE
<b>Super Vel</b>	<b>110 JHP</b>	<b>1131 fps</b>	<b>311 fp</b>	<b>75 fps</b>	<b>3.25"</b>
<b>Norma</b>	<b>110 JHP</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2.75</b>
<b>Speer</b>	<b>125 JRNSP</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2.50</b>
<b>Speer</b>	<b>140 JHP</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4.25</b>
<b>Speer</b>	<b>146 JHP</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3.50</b>
<b>Speer</b>	<b>158 JRNSP</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>3.75</b>
<b>Speer</b>	<b>158 RN lead</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3.50</b>
<b>Super Vel</b>	<b>158 SWC lead</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4.25</b>
<b>Speer</b>	<b>148 HBWC</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1.50</b>
<b>Speer</b>	<b>Shotshell</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>

Data readings taken on an Avtron K233 with K101 photo screens set five feet O.C. Velocities calculated 2.5 feet from muzzle. All rounds shot from 4" barrel. Group sizes recorded from 25 yards.



# THE HUNTING



These high-country deer hunters find that the binocular is an invaluable aid in finding game of the trophy size. They are using the Bushnell "Custom Compact," an excellent choice for the task.

WHEN I FIRST BEGAN hunting, I owned the barest minimum of equipment: a rifle, a shotgun, a knife, and some "too old to be worn for anything else" clothing. With that first hunting budget binoculars were only something to dream about, along with custom-built guns and Harris tweed shooting jackets.

Now, several years later, I *still* don't own any custom-made firearms and my hunting wardrobe continues to lack Scottish tweeds—but I *do* own several good pair of binoculars. For I found that while a hunter can get along without fancy clothes and \$1,000 guns, binoculars are a real necessity.

As a matter of fact, I carry at least one pair with me on all my hunts—whether the quarry be antelope, deer or ducks. I even tote a compact pair in my shirt pocket when hunting grouse and pheasants.

I could relate countless examples of how binoculars have helped me find both furred and feathered game under difficult conditions. And I could point to several trophies that would never have been taken without the help of hunting glasses. No wonder that I (along with many other experienced hunters) consider a good pair of binoculars second in importance only to the rifle used in deer or big-game hunting.

And while the upland gunner *can* get along without

them, excellent use can be made of a small pair to scout likely spots without alarming feeding birds that may be in the area.

Basically, a pair of binoculars lets you cover more ground than you could on foot in a given period of time, with considerably less effort. Add to this the fact that binoculars let you view game without disturbing it and give you the opportunity of examining the terrain to plan the most effective possible approach before you begin your stalk, and you can see why experienced hunters are so taken by these handy optical aids.

Binoculars are made in a dazzling array of styles, sizes, magnification and price. Some are suitable for hunting—some are not. So how does a sportsman go about selecting the best glass for his needs?

All binoculars are differentiated by a pair of numbers separated by the letter "x." The first number of the pair designates the power, and the second indicates the diameter of the front (objective) lens in millimeters. Thus, a pair of 7X35 binoculars would be of 7 power (magnifies the image 7 times), with an objective lens measuring 35 mm in diameter. This pair of numbers also gives you the key to the light-gathering capabilities of the binocular. By dividing the magnification (7 in this case) into the diameter of the objective lens (35 mm), you can determine the diameter of



# BINOCULAR

By CLAIR F. REES

the exit pupil—5 mm in this example.

The larger the exit pupil of a binocular, the better its light-gathering capability—thus, 7X50 binoculars, with an exit pupil measuring 7.1 mm, are often called “night glasses” because they gather the maximum amount of light that the human eye can use (in near-darkness, the iris diaphragm of a man’s eye measures approximately 7 mm in diameter; in bright daylight conditions it measures only 3 mm or so).

Because of the limited capability of the human eye to accept only certain amounts of light under different viewing conditions, a binocular having an exit pupil measuring 3.75 mm or so (such as an 8X30 glass would have) would be more than adequate for most hunting needs. In fact they would be a much better choice for the hunter than the 7X50’s mentioned earlier because, as a general rule, the larger the objective lens, the heavier and bulkier the binocular.

One other word about power: most “hunting binoculars” fall into the 6 to 10 power range, and the majority of hunters favor the 7X35 binocular. Why not buy a 9 or 10 power glass—or one even more powerful? The problem is that the higher the magnification, the more difficult it is to hold binoculars steady. And “hunting glasses” will often be put to use while the owner is still panting from the exertion of climbing that last mountain.

Experience has shown that 7X35’s offer about as much power as the average viewer can use effectively without some kind of support, and are probably the best choice for all-around use. However, many experienced nimrods learn to use 9X or 10X binoculars to good advantage—often by making use of some kind of a rest—and prefer these higher-powered glasses for serious hunting where game is likely to be viewed at extreme ranges.

There are other factors to consider when buying a binocular, such as field of view, lens coating (to reduce reflection), bulk, weight, quality and price. Of these, perhaps the most important are quality and price. The old saw, “you get what you pay for,” is particularly true with binoculars. To get top quality, you’ll have to pay top money—up to several hundred dollars, depending on the type of glass purchased.

On the other hand, there are some good values available for well under a hundred dollars for the budget-minded hunter.

But generally, you should buy the best quality glass that you can afford. A good binocular is truly a lifetime investment, and the difference between a cheap pair and a more expensive pair is usually well worth the added cost.

What are some of the choices available? While there are a great many makes and models to choose from, any of the following would be good bets for the hunter.

Bushnell is one of the best-known makers of binoculars, and their “Custom” line of glasses is well known among sportsmen. Less well known, perhaps, is a relatively new binocular that is particularly suited to the gunner.

This is a 6 power ultra-compact glass (also available in 7



The Tasco No. 150 “Safari” roof prism 8X32’s offer compactness and excellent quality for the \$50.00 range.



Nikon, famous for their 35mm cameras, offer great value in their glasses such as the 8X30. These offer center- and right eye-focusing capabilities for clear images.





The Herter's "Hudson Bay" 7X35 glasses offer acceptable quality in the \$40.00 class.

power) known, appropriately enough, as the "Custom Compact." These 6X25 binoculars weigh a bare 11-ounces and are small enough ( $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches high) to be easily tucked into a shirt pocket. I have been using a pair of these handy glasses for the past three years, and I no longer go afield without them. They are as handy in the duck blind as in the mountains.

The "Custom Compacts" I have give really exceptional viewing quality—surpassing that offered by many full-sized binoculars I have used. I know of no other type of binocular that surpasses these high-quality shirt pocket glasses in fitting the everyday needs of the average hunter. These binoculars sell for around \$70 and are well worth the price.

Two other manufacturers also offer high-quality compact binoculars of this general type. Carl Zeiss offers an 8X20 binocular the stands less than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and weighs an unbelievable  $4\frac{3}{4}$  ounces. However, these glasses have two minor drawbacks—they must be unfolded for use (their cigarette-pack carrying size is obtained through use of a special hinge that allows them to be folded up), and they have a relatively small 2.5 mm exit pupil that limits their use under marginal light conditions. Price, \$119.

The other manufacturer, Nikon, is better known for their fine 35 mm cameras, but they also make equally fine binoculars—including an ultra-compact design available in 6X18, 7X21, and 8X24 power designations. These tiny top-quality glasses weigh from 8 to 14 ounces (depending on magnification) and measure from 2.9 to 3.6 inches in height.

Going up the size scale slightly, there are several binocu-

lars that won't quite fit into a shirt pocket, but are small and light enough to be carried in a jacket pocket or around the neck all day. One of these is the Zeiss 8X30 "Dialyt," weighing 19 ounces and measuring  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height. Zeiss uses a roof prism arrangement in this glass to elimi-



Bushnell's shockproof, waterproof "Expo."



nate the bulk of conventional prism binoculars. This is a first-quality glass, and is tabbed at \$279.

Another binocular featuring roof prisms is the top-rated Leitz "Trinovids." These are made in 7X35, 8X32 and 10X40 magnifications, and are well liked by hunters because of their compact size and weather resistance. Sheep hunters and others concerned with picking out trophy heads at long distance particularly favor the 10X40 model, which weighs only 20 ounces and measures 5½ inches in height—tiny for such a high-powered glass. Price, about \$250.

Yet another glass utilizing a roof prism arrangement is the Tasco Model 150 "Safari 1." This 8X32 binocular weighs in at 20 ounces and has rubber eyepieces that roll back to accommodate eyeglass wearers. One unusual feature of this binocular (and the Leitz "Trinovids" described earlier) is the separate knobs on opposite ends of the center hinge, each of which controls the focus of a single barrel of the binocular, giving individual focusing rather than the more common center focusing arrangement. I've used a pair and they give a sharp, clear picture. These good-looking Japanese-made glasses retail at \$150.

No binocular review would be complete without some mention of Bausch & Lomb, one of the most famous names in the optical business. Their line of standard prism binoculars, ranging from the 6X30 through the 9X35 glass, with both individual- and center-focus models available, represents very high quality, indeed. In fact, E. J. Fierle, general manager of B&L's consumer products division, may not be overstating his case when he says, "The hunter requires a glass that will show detail clearly even when weather and light conditions are poor. He needs one so good optically that it will readily pick out an animal whose coloring blends into the background. There is nothing on the market . . . which will do that as well as a Bausch & Lomb."

Suffice it to say that while Bausch & Lomb binoculars are anything but cheap, a pair should give top-quality service for several lifetimes.

While it's a good idea to buy the best quality binocular



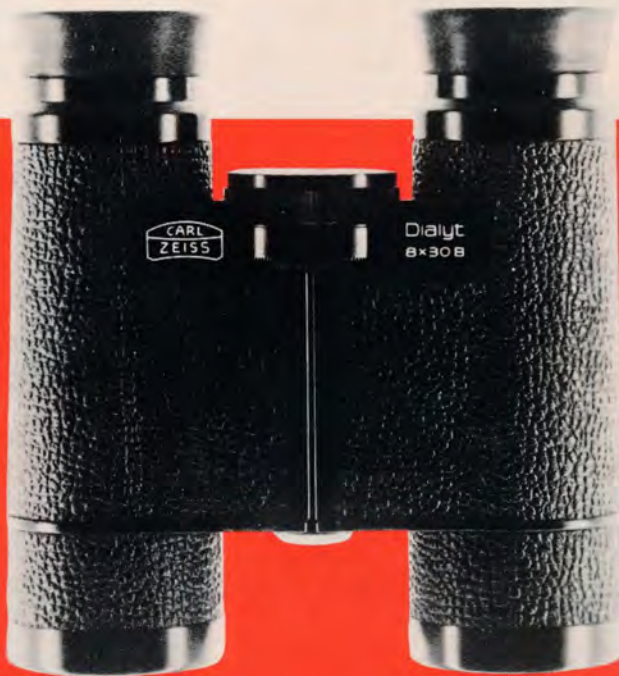
While binoculars may appear simple on the outside, there is more to them than meets the eye, as can be seen in this section view showing the prisms and lenses involved in image transmission.

you can afford, there are some budget-priced glasses that will give reasonable service for most hunting conditions. One truly unique glass in this category is the brand-new Bushnell "Expo" model—a fiberglass-body 8X30 binocular that is shockproof and waterproof—in fact it floats, which makes it a natural for use in the duck marsh.

I've tried this lightweight (12-ounce) binocular and was highly pleased with its optical performance—especially considering its \$29.95 price tag. I even took Bushnell at their word when they said it was shockproof, and dropped it a half-dozen times from belt height onto a hard floor. I'll admit to being surprised when (Continued on page 74)



Top quality Bausch & Lomb 7X50's.



Excellent Zeiss "Dialyt" 8X30 glasses.



# INSTALLING

## Guns DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT

By JIM CARMICHEL

soned, would be perfect for long range varmint potting. Alas, however, the only double set trigger equipped rifles I could find were of foreign origin chambered for weird-sounding cartridges which were hard to come by and no good for varmint shooting anyway. So, taking the only route known to me at the time, I traded dearly for a set-trigger equipped German sporter and sent it to be rebarreled to the then wildcat .22-250 cartridge.

When the newly rebarreled rifle arrived it was suddenly a whole new ballgame. Busting varmints and assorted other critters way out yonder was ridiculously easy. I'd just cock the rear trigger, line up the crosshairs on old Mr. Crow, gently stroke the front trigger and there would be nothing left but fog and feathers.

I immediately wanted more rifles with set triggers but the big problem with this was that European made rifles with set triggers were mighty expensive, even in those days. Thus the only other choice I had was to equip

**B**ACK WHEN I was just discovering the joys of varmint shooting one of the chief problems with which I had to contend was trying to squeeze off a three hundred yard shot at a crow without muscling the crosshairs off the target. Finely adjustable single triggers with pulls that measure in ounces were unknown then, at least to me, and the factory original triggers on my Mausers and Springfields left a lot to be desired.

Clearly, what was needed was a trigger mechanism that would fire at the slightest touch but the only triggers of this sort I'd ever seen, aside from vintage "Kentucky" rifles with "hair" triggers, were the double set triggers on finely made European sporting rifles. These triggers could be adjusted so fine that only a whisper of a touch would set them off. This type of trigger, I rea-





# DOUBLE SET TRIGGERS

my collection of rifles with double set triggers of my own manufacture. Or, at least, I thought this was my only alternative. After some days of sawing, filing, polishing and fitting I had succeeded in making and installing what might have been termed set triggers (but they did work) but in the process I also reached the decision my first set of handmade set triggers would also be my last.

As luck would have it, about two weeks after my attempt at making set triggers I came across an ad for ready-built, ready to install set triggers. The price, as I remember, was something like six dollars. My immediate reaction was complete elation at having located a source for ready made triggers and utter despair at all the time and effort I'd wasted only a couple of weeks before. At any rate, within a short time I'd installed these ready made triggers not only on all of my varmint rifles but on those of my shooting buddies as well.

Set triggers not only eliminate much of the bad shooting caused by poor trigger control or "jerking" but also

tend to lend a certain flair and distinction to a sporting arm. Thus when we planned the current GUNS "Do-IT-Yourself" series on making a European type sporter it was only natural that we include a chapter on installing double set triggers.

Even if you're not planning on making your own classy sporter at this time, you probably have a Mauser of some designation or other that could be upgraded by the addition of set triggers. They aren't expensive and they are easy to install. Working time takes only about one evening and the only tools you'll need are a drill with a small bit, a couple of files and a scrap of sandpaper or steel wool. A hand-held grinding tool such as the Dremel Moto-Tool is mighty handy and speeds things up a bit if you happen to own one. Of course you'll also need the set trigger mechanism and parts for the conversion. These are available from Brownells, Montezuma, Iowa 50171. The conversion kit, complete with all the parts you'll need, sells for \$15.85. Though these triggers are commonly available for '98 and FN Mauser only,

they can, with a little modification, be made to work on Springfields, P-14 and M-17 Enfields and a few other makes and models.

Virtually (Continued on page 68)



11



12



13



14

1. Here's everything needed for the double set trigger installation. From top: Mauser action, original sear, kicker arm which replaces the original trigger sear assembly, trigger guard unit, and the double set trigger mechanism.
2. Top view of the un-altered trigger guard showing the channel where the trigger mechanism will fit.
3. Detail of the channel after the original trigger slot has been filed to the full width of the channel. Opening has also been enlarged front and rear and the rear edge is cut on an angle to match the shape of the trigger mechanism body.
4. Another view of the channel opening.
5. Same as #3, but seen from the other side.
6. The Dremel being used to grind out the opening in the trigger guard.
7. Doing it by hand, using a file to widen the trigger slot. Tip of the file has already battered the guard bow.
9. Using a slightly rounded needle file to take off the rough edges.
10. Detail of the inside of the bow after light polishing. Only a light hairline crack shows.
11. Top view of the re-assembled trigger mechanism as installed in the guard.
12. Bottom view of the installed set triggers.
13. Detail of the kicker arm in the sear mechanism. Kicker arm must operate freely!
14. Detail of the complete mechanism showing the relationship of the kicker arm to the trigger mechanism. When adjusting the trigger for the desired weight, don't adjust the pull too light as this can be dangerous. Adjust the weight so you can "feel" the trigger when touching off a round.



# Guns Color Gallery

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES we have reproduced seven of our most popular four-color selections from the past. Quite often readers write requesting re-prints of the covers or inside color without type so that they may be framed and displayed. Here then are the most asked for photos from recent issues suitable for those purposes.

On page 37 (facing page) is the cover of our December, 1970 issue showing a cut-away of the fine Sauer "Trophy" double action revolver. This gun has the look and feel of the fine Smith & Wesson K-38 Masterpiece and is basically the same gun updated and simplified. The gun comes in two models and is imported by Hawes Firearms Co. Since it's introduction, the Sauer revolver has been a popular choice among handgunners in either .22 or .38 caliber. Photo by Walter L. Rickell.

The gun on page 38, from our February, 1971 cover, may not be the finest example of a Colt 1851 Navy, but it did set the stage for a three part series by Jim Serven telling the story of Colt percussion pistols through graphic examples of cased sets. Samuel Colt believed that a fine pistol deserved more than a cardboard box and the beautiful guns that came in equally beautiful wooden cases attested to that fact. Variations galore exist in this vein and collectors of cased Colts face a never-ending challenge. Photo by Gerry Swart.

Gracing our August, 1971 cover is a customized Colt Trooper Mark III (page 39). Introduced in 1969, the Trooper Mark III was the first Colt pistol to be manufactured in the new Colt plant. In fact, the new facility was built for the manufacture of this new gun. Famed gunsmith Armand Swenson gave this gun his artistic touches and finished it in a satin chrome. The grips are by Fuzzy Farant of West Covina, California. Photo by Walter L. Rickell.

Featured on our September, 1971 cover (page 40) is a handsome pair of English duelling pistols complete with case and all the accessories. The guns were made by T. J. Mortimer of London in 1855. This set is in exceptionally fine condition, but when one considers that these guns, and others of their class, did not get every day use and were

supposedly used only on occasion, it is not so surprising. Ideally the duelling pistol was used for just one purpose, that of duelling, and those that had them were generally of the more affluent class who took pride in their possessions, preserving them through the years. Photo by Dick Friske.

For the May, 1971 cover we presented the Volcanic pistol (page 41) that was made from 1855 to 1858. The Volcanic system was one of the most significant design improvements in the transitional period of American firearms. It was originally named the "Smith and Wesson" at the date of introduction in 1854 and was produced both as a rifle and pistol. In July, 1855 it was renamed the "Volcanic." Photo by Dr. R. L. Moore.

On page 42 are four guns taken from "The Heritage of Nickel-Plated Firearms" in our October, 1971 issue. While the use of silver plating on guns was very fashionable in the mid-1800's, the finish did not withstand hard use and guns so plated had to be looked after to keep the finish intact. Nickel plating was, then, the answer to the problem. Shown top to bottom: Nickel replaced silver on the Tiffany engraved Colts, such as the cartridge conversion of the 1860 Army, first used by Colt on the 1851 conversion of the 1851 Navy Model, Colt Single Action Army model and the Smith and Wesson Schofield "U.S." models.

Page 43 illustrates one answer to Colt's problem of converting the many percussion guns on hand to the new self-contained cartridge system; the Richard's conversion of the Colt Model 1860 Army revolver from "The Birth of Colt's Breechloaders" (September, 1971). This fine example of the conversion to .44 caliber Center Fire shows some of the original nickel finish still remaining. It is shown with a box of the original U.S. Cartridge Co. ammunition. Photo by Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr. from his collection.









8 Goodrich's Revolver  
CARTRIDGES.  
SPECIALLY FOR COLT'S PATENT  
REVOLVING BOLTAR Pistol.  
15 Cash Cartridges  
MANUFACTURED BY GOODRICH & CO. NEW YORK





















Calibre.



50  
CENTRAL FIRE METALLIC CARTRIDGES  
FOR  
BREECH-LOADING  
COLT'S NEW  
**ARMY REVOLVER,**  
MANUFACTURED BY  
THE UNITED STATES CARTRIDGE CO.,  
LOWELL, MASS.  
THESE SHELLS CAN BE RELOADED MANY TIMES.



# The age of the Colt

Wrap your hand around the grips and put yourself right back through history. When Colt's fabled Single Action Army became man's constant companion on the trail and by lonely campsites. You'll feel the same confidence, the same pride of possession as did those early pioneers. These two single action revolvers are exact counterparts of the "Peacemaker", that "gun that won the West." See the new Peacemaker .22 and New Frontier .22 at your Colt's Registered Dealer.







### NEW FRONTIER .22

New, steel frame, .22 caliber version of the Colt Single Action Army Frontier Model. "Flat-top" New Frontier configuration features serrated ramp front sight and fully adjustable rear sight for windage and elevation. (The original Single Action Army was also offered in a target-sighted version in 1888.)

Available with extra .22 Rimfire Magnum cylinder, easily interchangeable. *Specifications*

Frame: Steel construction and color case-hardened, with blued barrel and cylinder.

Barrel lengths: 4¾", 6" or 7½"

Sights: Ramp front sight with serrated ramp; fully adjustable rear sights

Grips: American eagle style—black hard rubber

Options: Western style holster with safety strap, in black or russet leather and in plain or basket-weave finish

Retail Price: \$79.00 (7½" barrel, \$89.00)\*

### PEACEMAKER .22

A new, steel frame, .22 caliber version of the Single Action Army. Incorporates all the classic features of the famed centerfire "Peacemaker," including color case-hardened frame and new smooth action, much improved over the original. The new Peacemaker .22 is also available with interchangeable .22 Rimfire Magnum cylinder. So with one gun and the optional cylinder, you can do both plinking and casual shooting as well as varmint shooting.

#### *Specifications*

Frame: Steel construction and color case-hardened frame with blued barrel and cylinder

Barrel lengths: 4¾", 6" or 7½"

Sights: Fixed blade front sight

Grips: American eagle style—black hard rubber

Options: Colt's Western style holster with safety strap. In black or russet leather, and in plain or basket-weave finish

Retail Price: \$69.50 (7½" barrel \$77.50)\*

See both of these rimfire versions of the Single Action Army at your nearby Colt's Registered Dealer.

\*Prices subject to change without notice.

Colt Industries  Colt's Small Arms Division  
Hartford, Conn. 06102



### U.S. Cartridge Co. Collection of Firearms (WE, Inc., \$6.00)

Every collector likes to see other collections of guns and there are always a few pieces in a collection that will be of more interest than others. Around the turn of the century the U.S. Cartridge Co. bought, on auction, a collection of firearms, mostly from A.E. Brooks of Hartford, Conn. The collection was placed in display cases at the main office of the company in Lowell, Mass. and over the next twenty years many pieces were added to it. This became one of the most famous arms collection in the country. Every type of major firearm from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I were in the collection, plus many other intriguing war relics such as cannon, and cross-bows. Then, in the 1920's when the first post-war recession hit, the company needed money, so the collection went on the auction block. This book is a catalog of what was sold at the auction. The publishers have added the selling prices of the individual guns to the book, which has been out of print for quite some time.

There are 55 plates of pictures depicting the collection and entries have been made by separating the collection into two groups; handguns and long-guns. Each gun is described in some detail as to manufacture, action, period of use, function and markings. The prices paid for these guns make one sick at heart in this day of "big bucks". For instance, a Sharp Model 1863 carbine in .52 caliber went for \$4.00, a Remington .56 caliber carbine went for \$4.00, and a Colt's Telescope Revolving Rifle in .36 caliber went for \$90.00! Ah, those were the days. Relive the auction with this book and guess at how much some of these guns would be worth today. An excellent book. H.A.M.

#### Pack and Rifle

By Philip Holden

(Available from N.Z. Sporting Books, P.O. Box 13302, Christchurch, New Zealand, \$6.75)

As late as ten years ago, New Zealand had quite a problem with overpopulation of deer, tahr, chamois and wild goats. These animals were causing damage to the native and exotic pine

forests, crops, pastures and worst of all, serious erosion in the high country. In order to control the animals, the New Zealand Forest Service was hiring deer hunters to cull the crop, thus the name deer cullers. Philip Holden entered the service in such a capacity, somehow managing to survive the rigorous deer hunter school, and then spent the next seven years as a professional government hunter.

His experiences included red deer mainly, but his adventures after rusa, sika and sambar also make extremely good reading. In his dedication of the book, Holden says, "My story is as accurate as I have been able to make it. The talk between the hunters is pretty much 'as is'. When I describe a deer as doing a certain thing you can be sure it did just that. And if I mention a stream—well, it's still there, and the water will be clear and cool to the touch. Above all though, I hope that those who know the life well will enjoy the book; for it's their story as much as mine."

The style of writing and the expressions used are all very refreshing and the book reads very easily. This is certainly enjoyable reading from a country that is still unspoiled by progress and game abounds. We liked it and think you will also. H.A.M.

### Special Forces Combat Firing Techniques

By Frank A. Moyer and Robert J. Scroggie

(Paladin Press, \$12.95)

For the small arms (military types) enthusiast, this book covers them all with excellent photographs of both guns and uniforms. The two men who composed this book have probably logged as many hours between them in firing foreign military small arms as any other two men in the Armed Forces. Both have been involved in extensive testing and evaluation of military small arms sometime during their military careers and are still deeply involved in it with the Treasury Department.

The book covers the latest doctrine on combat firing of U.S. and foreign assault rifles, machine rifles, submachine guns, light machine guns, and shoulder stocked pistols, both full and semi-auto. Nearly every country that ever used weapons in this classification is covered in some way, including some of the latest developments in this field, such as the Ingram Model 11, Model 10 and the latest sound suppressor equipment.

This hard bound book makes an excellent photo and technical research and reference source. Definitely required reading. H.A.M.



# TEACHING THE YOUNG... FIREARMS SAFETY!

By F. LELAND ELAM



When going over a fence, one hunter should go over empty-handed and the guns should be passed over the obstacle by the second hunter. These youngsters learned to never climb with a gun in hand.

When hunting alone, if going over or through a fence, teach the young hunters to place the gun on the ground with the muzzle pointing away from them and in a position that allows them to retrieve the gun without getting in front of the muzzle.

Far right: The wrong way to go over or through a fence is to lean the gun against the wire or post. It could fall and discharge. It's worth risking a little dirt on the gun rather than shooting yourself or someone else.

“MAYBE SOME DAY I’ll take you hunting, son. First, you’ll have to learn how to handle a gun properly and safely. Be patient. When dad gets a little spare time I’ll teach you the fundamentals and then . . .”

But it never happened, even though I knew that sooner or later the average youngster who gets an itchy trigger finger from a natural curiosity and interest in guns, will get his hands on one.

Richard, since his middle teens, determinedly stuck to his conviction that every father should know how to use a gun safely and should teach his children to do the same, both boys and girls. He felt most instruction must be “in the field action.”

During high school and college years, he found friends with whom he could go hunting, and he took every advantage of it. When he married he got a real break. His father-in-law and his sons were avid hunters of pheasant, dove and quail. Richard bought a shotgun and joined them, and he received a first class education in hunting safety and marksmanship.

Eventually his wife Betty gave birth





to twins, a boy and a girl, whom they named Stephen and Nancy.

It was at the age of eight that both began to show interest in guns and wanted to go hunting. This was a time for which Richard had been waiting. He put to work a plan he had for their gun safety education. Nearly all the program called for in the field activity.

He felt the best results would come from education given on the grounds where they would be hunting later. The plan was devised to cover every phase of safety he could find out about. The entire program was keyed to three words—seeing, hearing, and touching as they apply to gun safety.

There was a complete understanding with Nancy and Stephen that the law would not allow them to get a state hunting license until they were 12 years old, and thus they would not be able to hunt before that legal time.

The program was set up to be administered in five stages, each stage comprising a year. The first and second stages or hunting seasons, Stephen and Nancy would go into the field with hunters, but with no guns of their own. The third and fourth years they would go into the field with unloaded guns, and would do no shooting. The fifth year they would take the state hunting test, get their license, and go into the field with loaded guns to hunt.

The first year's schooling was designed primarily for them to observe and ask questions. It was explained that guns were unloaded before being placed in the car because it is possible that the gun could go off and either shoot someone or damage the car. It was revealed they were put into the car muzzle first to keep the muzzle from

pointing at anyone. Why was this necessary when unloaded, they wanted to know? They were told that a gun should never be pointed at anyone, even if it was unloaded.

In the field they were assigned to walk 10 to 15 feet behind the men carrying the guns. This would be their position in the field for four years. They were advised to save their questions for a get together after the hunting trip. They had two primary questions. Why did the hunters walk spread-out in a straight line across the field? Why did only one man shoot at a pheasant at one time?

They were told both actions were for safety. By walking in a line they were less likely to shoot one another, and that only one man shot at the pheasant at a time because more than one shooting might result in an injury to another hunter. It was pointed out the man on the left carried his gun pointed to the left and shot at birds only on that side, that the center man carried his gun pointed straight ahead and shot only the birds to the front, and the man on the right carried his gun to the right and shot at only birds on that side.

At the end of the season an oral review was held to help them remember what they had seen and heard. Records were kept of all things they were told so oral tests could be given later. This was the practice after each season.

The second season the first action was an oral review of what they had learned 12 months before. At this point they learned they must treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun, and that this must be a cardinal rule. They were shown that one should always carry the gun so they can control the direction of the muzzle, even if one should stumble. They were told to never hunt with anyone who carries his gun with the safety off, to never leave the gun unattended unless it is unloaded, set it in a safe place, and never point the gun at anything you do not wish to shoot.

When the hunt was over they had added to their knowledge, and they knew they should carry the gun with the trigger finger outside the trigger guard, and never try to shoot a lodged bullet out of a gun barrel. They were told to keep the action open while examining any gun, or when handing the gun from one person to another.

It was demonstrated how they should, before loading (*Continued on page 67*)



Top: The correct way to load a gun into the car or truck is to make sure the muzzle is pointing in a safe direction, away from anything that shouldn't be shot.

Above: The incorrect way to load the gun into the vehicle. With the gun pointing at him, Stephen is certainly courting disaster.





# REGISTRATION, AND A "RANGER"



**Don't say it  
can't happen here  
because it did!**

**F**IREARMS registration and firearms confiscation are now American issues which are debated by pointing to foreign examples. Proponents of registration claim that confiscation is not part of their plan. They point to England and to Canada as being good examples. Opponents claim that registration breeds confiscation. They point to Greece, Germany, Norway and, now, Ceylon and they could point to Australia in 1942 if they wished.

All these are foreign examples. Yet, there is a good, home-grown example and I'm going to give it by pointing to the state of Hawaii and a nickel-plated, single-action, spur-trigger, .32 Rim-Fire, Hopkins & Allen "Ranger No. 2."

The revolver's undistinguished active life began during the North-West Rebellion in Canada in 1885. A storekeeper near the town of Prince Albert heard of the defeat of the Northwest Mounted Police by the Metis and Indian rebels at nearby Duck Lake and

felt that if the rebels were that powerful then it was time for ordinary citizens to arm for the defense of life, property and the Crown. The rebellion was put down that same year and the clerk, fortunately, never had to use the shiny little revolver. He kept the weapon, without interference from his government.

The clerk later moved to San Francisco and, still later, he, his family, with a new son and the same old revolver, moved to Honolulu in the Territory of Hawaii.

The firearms laws of the Territory then were essentially the same as those on the books of the State now. The very word "Territory" was used as late as 1968 in some sections of the Hawaii Revised Laws. Section 157-2 requires "Every person arriving in the Territory, . . ." to register all ". . . firearms of any description, whether usable or unusable, serviceable or unserviceable, modern or antique, . . ." There are no exceptions. I once had to register a Type 1790 British Sea Service flintlock pistol made in 1803. (I also feel obliged to add that the police officers at the registry were invariably courteous and efficient.)

There are two more sections of the Territorial laws still in effect under Statehood and which affected the little revolver from the Mainland. Section 157-31 (c) states that any firearm may be seized in time of ". . . national emergency or crisis." The power to declare such emergency or crisis is delegated by Section 157-32. The Governor, The Commanding General of the U. S. Army, Pacific and the Commandant of the 14th Naval District may so declare, and confiscate firearms, at their sole discretion. The thinking behind such laws dates back to the days of the Hawaiian Republic, set up by the commercial interests at the cost of Queen Lilioukalani's throne. Photo-



# CONFISCATION, NO. 2"

By W.H.J. CHAMBERLAIN

graphs in the Hawaii Archives show that a truly splendid variety of arms were used by both sides in the counter-revolution: Merwin-Hulberts, Sharps-Borchardts, Remington Rolling-Blocks and Krupp breech-loading cannon.

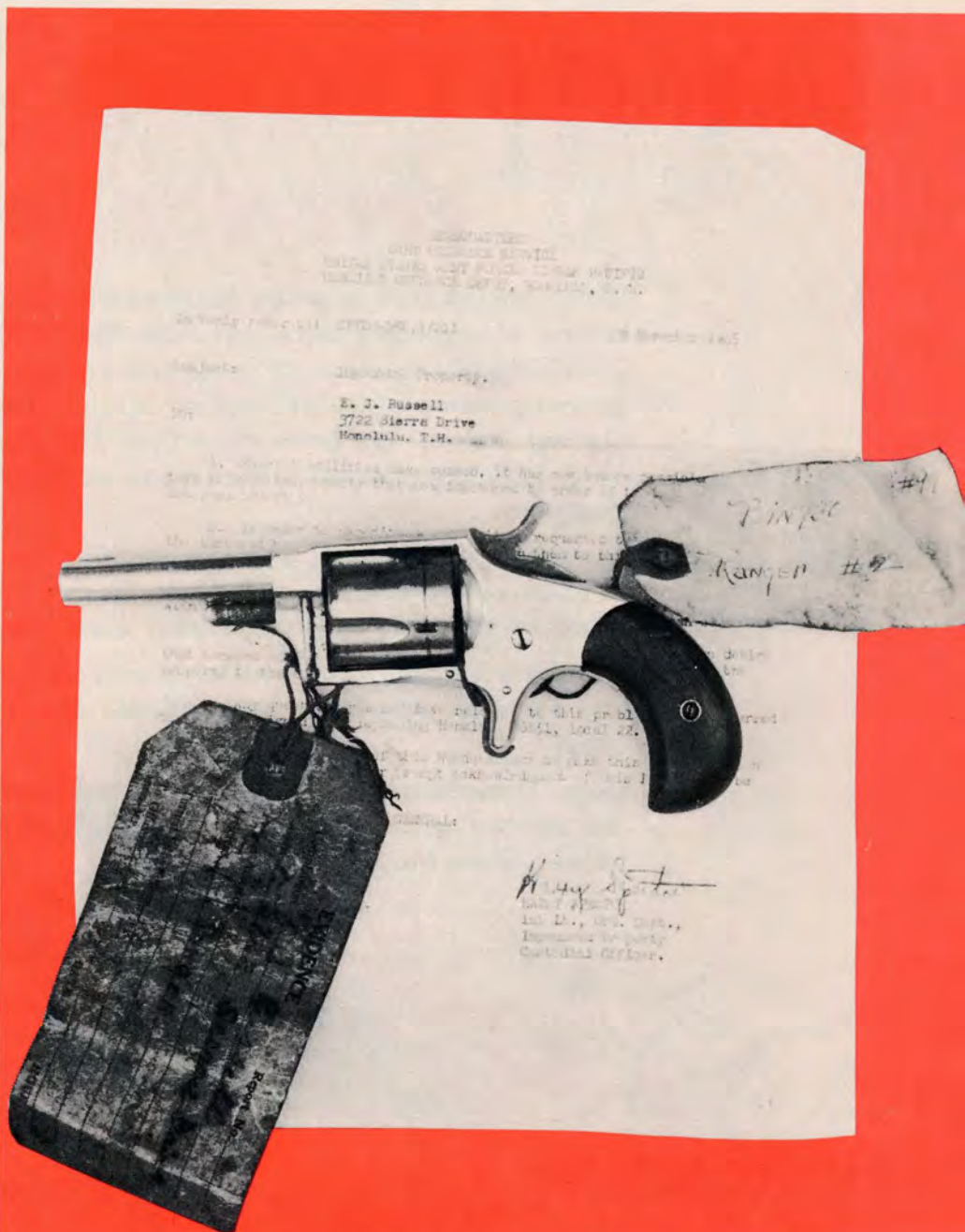
That was the legal situation when the Japanese attacked in 1941. The revolver was now owned by the American son of the Canadian store-keeper and the revolver was registered. The Commanding General, U. S. Army, Pacific, placed the Territory under martial law and the revolver was confiscated.

For a lack of more appropriate blank forms, an "evidence" form was made out by the police showing the owner as "complainant" and the Ranger No. 2 .32 Rim-Fire as the "person arrested." It became the 99th occupant of the 730th bin full of such "persons."

On 8 November, 1945, "hostilities having ceased," the owner was still minding his own business at his old address and was told to come and fetch the little gun if he still wanted it.

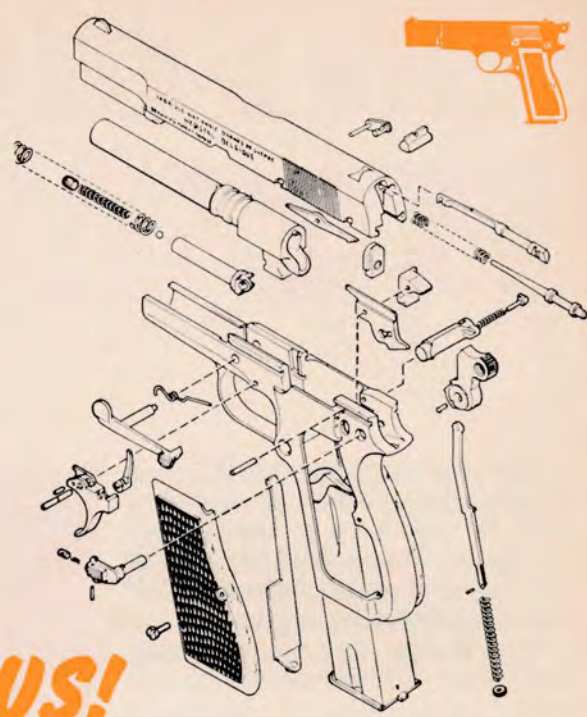
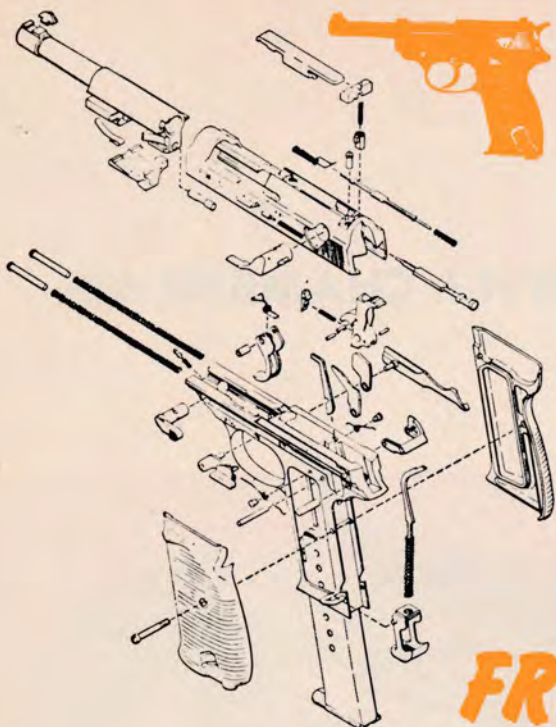
There are, of course, some differences between the situation then and now in Hawaii and the rest of the United States. In 1941, the legal government reacted to the tangible fact of armed foreign attack. From the 1960's onwards, shifting groups of private persons have been reacting with knee-jerks to unproven social theories about typical Americans.

It's the similarities that interest me, however. Both the confiscation of the puny, obsolete, registered revolver then, and the theories about registration now show a basic fear and distrust of the citizenry by those who claim to lead it. In both cases, universal registration of firearms under criminal penalties is the result of that distrust and fear. And, in one case, registration DID lead to confiscation, right here in these United States.



Hopkins & Allen .32 Rim Fire confiscated in Honolulu due to the declaration of martial law in 1941 and impounded by the Office of Internal Security. The gun was finally returned November 8, 1945.





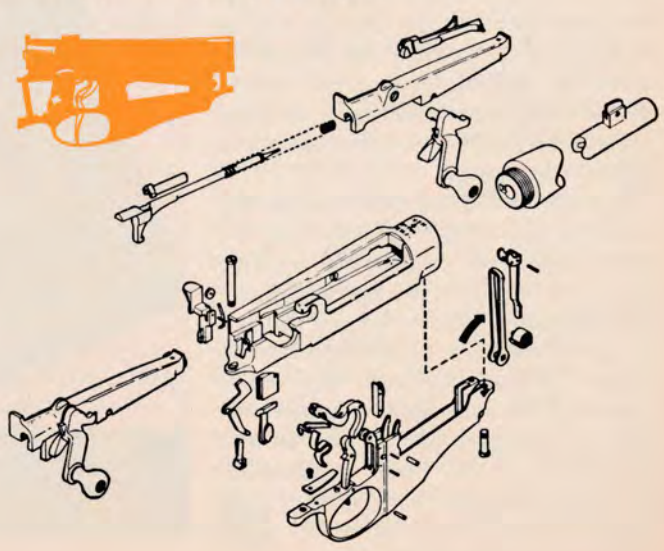
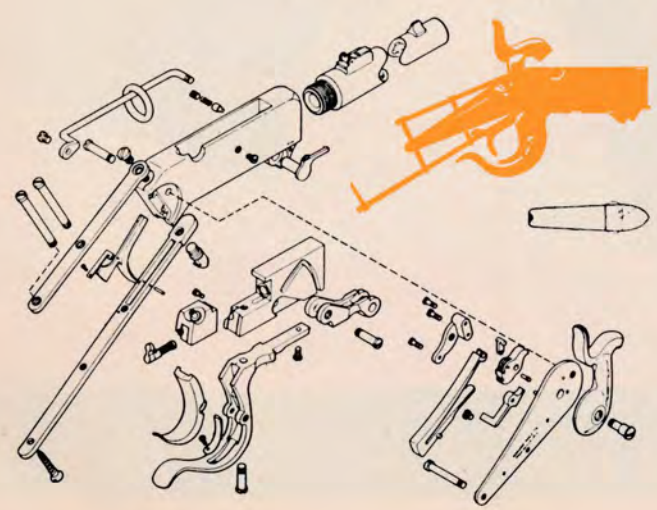
## **FREE BONUS!**

**GUNS MAGAZINE** is proud to present to its readers a collection of exploded drawings from the **FIREARMS ENCYCLOPEDIA**. Every issue of **GUNS** will contain at least two drawings complete with detailed assembly and disassembly instructions. We have more than 100 drawings available, covering modern and antique handguns, rifles and shotguns.

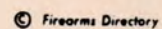
Each page is complete, with the drawing on one side and descriptive material on the back. Binder holes are indicated so that you may start your own loose leaf book.

These drawings will be available only in **GUNS Magazine**, and extra pages will not be available. Don't miss a single copy!

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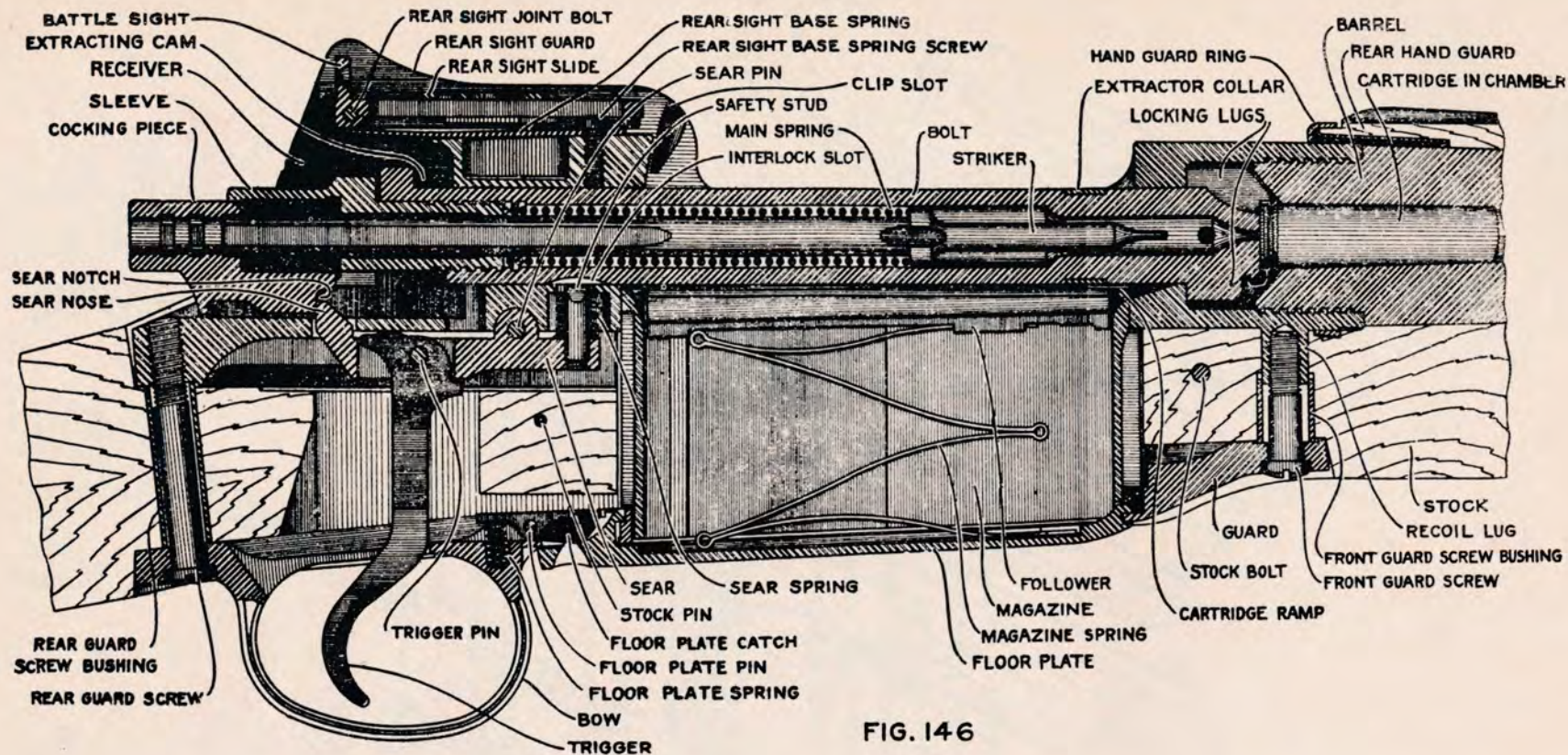


FIG. 146



FIG. 1

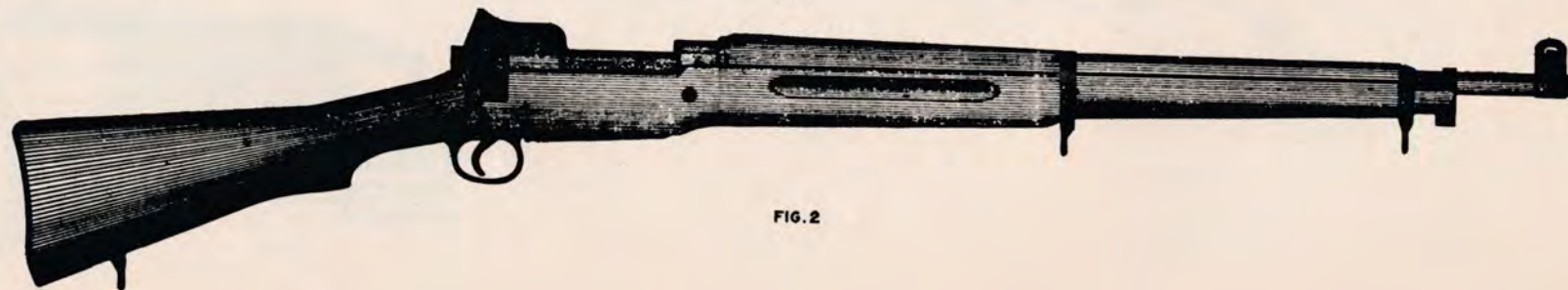
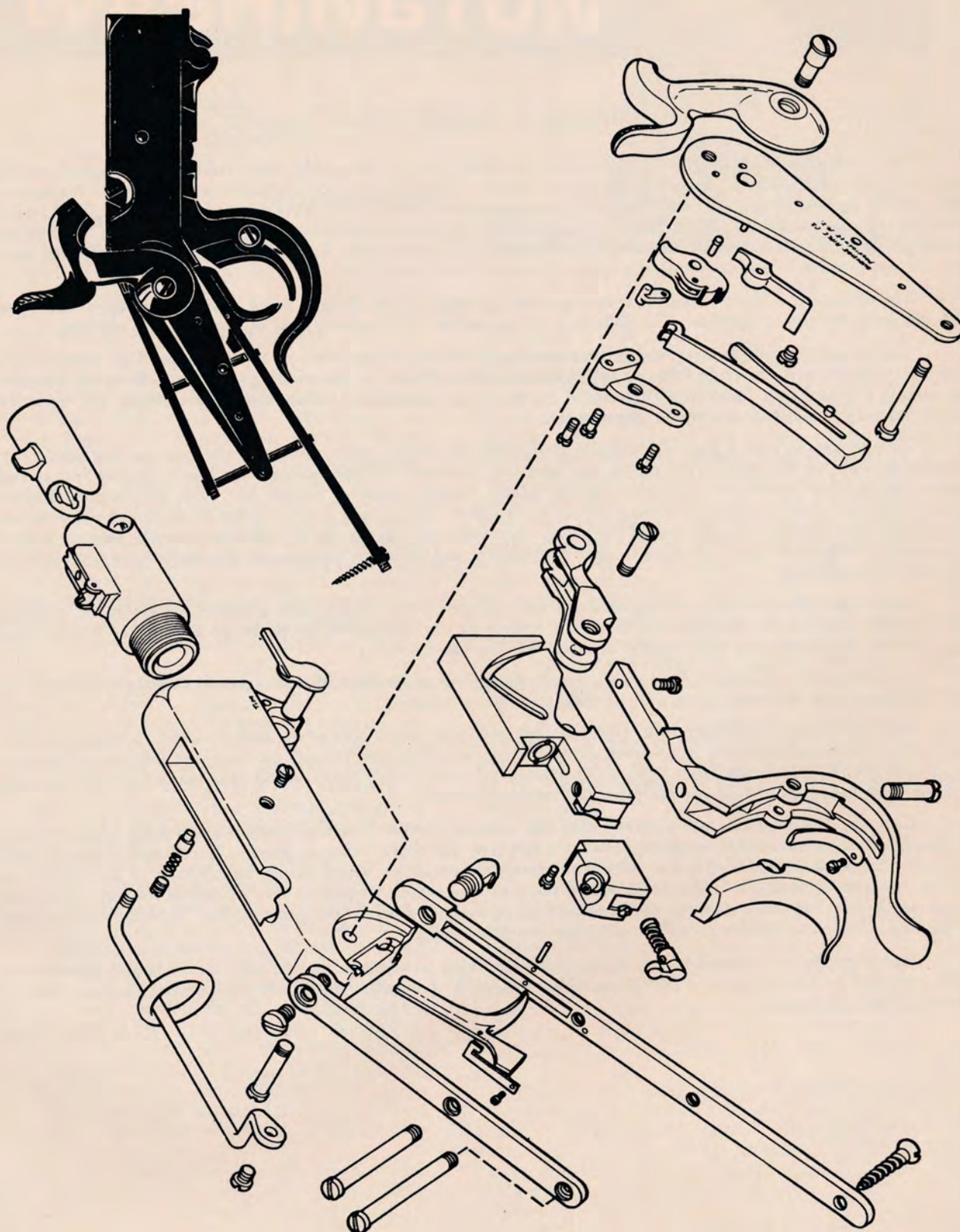


FIG. 2







## BURNSIDE'S CARBINE—Cal. .54

The basic idea of this carbine was patented in 1856 by A. E. Burnside, later famous as a general in the Civil War, and perhaps better known to the general public as the inventor of a whisker style named in his honor. Much of the success of the arm was due to the improvements added by G. P. Foster of Providence, R. I., who manufactured most of the 55,567 carbines of this pattern bought by the Union during the war. Over 21,000,000 cartridges were manufactured for this weapon, which was a favorite of the Federal cavalry trooper. After the war, the arm retained considerable popularity in the West until the late 1870's.

The carbine is a breech-loading, lever operated, pivoting block design, using a special metallic cartridge with separate percussion ignition. The influence of the earlier Hall pattern used in the service is obvious.

The functioning of the arm cannot be understood without a description of the cartridge. This comprised a thin, brass case tapering sharply from an expanded extraction flange at the mouth to a narrow base. The mouth was tightly crimped over the conical bullet and the base was pierced to admit the primer flame, the aperture sometimes being sealed by a nitrated paper wafer.

To operate the arm it was necessary to half-cock the lock to relieve hammer pressure on the nipple. By pressing forward on the latch in the guard, the lever was unlocked and opened forward. The block was thus swung backwards and downwards on its pivot under the barrel breech, rotating almost 85°. The cartridge was then dropped into the chamber and the lever returned to its place. The closing action of the block forced the front of the cartridge flange into a counterbore of the barrel, forming a secure gas seal. It was necessary to prime the nipple, (large size musket caps were used to insure ignition), and pull the hammer of the back-action side lock to full cock before firing.

On opening the breech, a spring activated rear plunger in the block gave primary extraction by pushing the cartridge forward. In the post-war models a spring ejector acting on the cartridge flange was added. This was patented by Foster, and was tripped by a knuckle on the pivot.

A number of variations will be encountered, depending on the date of manufacture. Barrels vary from 22" -26" in length, with different sights. No full rifle types were made.

*Field Stripping:* Half-cock lock. Unscrew lock retaining screw and pivot lock forward to disengage forward tenon from receiver. Pry out spring extension of the pivot pin, (found on the right side under barrel), and rotate 90°. Withdraw pin from right which frees block and lever. Note: These instructions cover the most common type. Some Burnside's vary in pivot pin locking system.

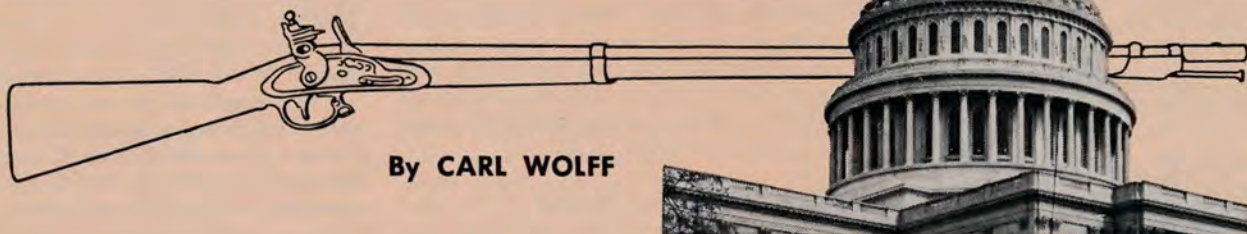
*General:* The Burnside was a sturdy arm and reasonably free from the flarebacks and jams due to fouling so common to the combustible cartridge breech loaders like the Starr, Sharps, Joslyn, Merrill and Cosmopolitan carbines. Hence, its popularity. It was subject to extraction problems which made the addition of the ejector in 1866 a doubtful feature. The main fault was in the thin case which frequently tore off below the rim, the entire flange accompanying the bullet up the bore and being swaged down in the process. The Burnside was thus one of the first arms to use jacketed bullets, although unintentionally.

*Warning:* Do not attempt to fire a Burnside with loose powder and ball. There is a wide gap between the block face and the barrel intended for the cartridge flange. A dangerous blow-back will occur when no case is present to seal this space.

P. A. MIRANDA



# OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

One thing we can say about Senator Birch Bayh (D., Ind.), he knows who his friends are. Not since the days of Tom Dodd, the former Chairman of the same Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee which Bayh now heads, has this GUNS contributor witnessed such manipulation of the legislative process.

The legislative hearings started, would you believe, on a non-existent bill the senator would soon introduce "to ban .22 and .25 caliber pistols and revolvers which have no sporting use." When the bill was at last introduced it covered all small, self-defense type weapons, regardless of quality or caliber.

Present law prohibits importation of handguns unless, among other things, there is a showing "to the satisfaction of the Secretary" (of the Treasury) that such imports are "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." This is the so-called "sporting purpose" test.

No such restriction or test is imposed on firearms of domestic manufacture. To the extent that the Bayh bill seeks to apply the same standards to both imports and domestic manufacture, it has the support of shooting sportsmen and the firearms fraternity. However, it is the words of the 1968 Act, "particularly suitable for sporting purposes," which are objectionable. Many believe that there is a way to bring objectivity into such a standard, and that the time to do it is now when domestic firearms are coming under new regulations.

Serious questions arise as to the "sporting purpose" test standing alone as being too restrictive, and wholly

contrary to and in violation of the clearly declared purposes of the same Gun Control Act of 1968. The very first section of that Act reads in part: "The Congress hereby declares that . . . it is not the purpose of this title to place any undue or unnecessary Federal restrictions or burdens on law-abiding citizens with respect to the acquisition, possession, or use of firearms appropriate to the purpose of hunting, trap-shooting, target shooting, personal protection, or any other lawful activity, and that this title is not intended to discourage or eliminate the private ownership or use of firearms by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes."

To limit such firearms, of both domestic and foreign origin, to those "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes," is to disregard a substantial and important portion of the Declaration.

Here is the point: No longer can it be an effort to merely correct discriminatory treatment as between domestic and foreign-made guns presently in the law. It opens up the entire subject of general firearms-control legislation.

What about "personal protection?" Under the Bayh bill, this is rejected as a reason for owning a handgun. His measure would ban the sale of handguns particularly suitable for this purpose.

What about those who now have quality handguns which do not meet the "sporting purpose" test? This has not even been hinted at in the legislative process thus far. However, it is clear they would have no resale or trade-in value.



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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Continued from page 15)

while trap guns usually are in the area of 1-½" drop at comb and no more than 2" at the heel. Pitch should not be too important to you and will vary from gun to gun, but is on the average of two inches. Most people who do try the skeet/trap combo use skeet dimensions and then shoot over trap targets rather than holding under them as would be the case with a gun of trap dimensions. D.M.

### Colt "Artillery Model"

I have a Colt SA that is in like new condition. It is tight with slightly worn back straps and wear marks on the trigger area. It has about 90 per cent of its original finish. It is .45 caliber, 1873 Model, 5½" barrel with black checkered grips and the Colt emblem is oval and raised. It has no lanyard ring on the bottom of the grips. Serial number is 312884. Can you tell me approximately when this gun was made and what it is worth.

Thomas LeMond  
Kent, Ohio

Your Colt SA "Artillery Model" 5½" serial number 312884 was made in 1910. In that year just 4,000 of the

Single Action Model were manufactured by Colt. In the condition you have stated, this gun should be worth around \$225.00. R.O.A.

### Marlin 1881

I have the opportunity to buy a Marlin Model 1881 with octagon barrel, full length magazine, straight grip and double set triggers. It is a top-ejector type and I would judge the barrel to be 26" or 28" long, of the standard weight. The caliber is .40-60. Can you tell me the value of this rifle and what the status of Marlin rifles is on the collector market.

Dennis Frost  
Brier, Wash.

For some reason, unless the Marlin rifle is in exceptionally fine condition and/or factory engraved, collector's values for Marlin rifles just don't seem to be as high as Winchesters. The only standard grade Marlins that seem to have any collector's value are the large calibers like the .45-70 model. I would estimate your described Marlin to have a collector's value of approximately \$95.00 to \$125.00. R.M.

## THE PISTOLS THAT NEVER WERE

(Continued from page 23)

combat units would have been favorably impressed with the pistol.

A Russian Tokarev in 9 mm parabellum? Strange, but true! The Tokarev pictured is most certainly chambered for the 9mm Luger cartridge indicating German utilization of this weapon. The odd length barrel is serially numbered to the gun and has three minute gas ports. The Tokarev clip will take 9mm Luger ammunition without modification. Since it is a locked breech weapon, it would probably be safe for the more powerful cartridge with a heavier recoil spring and the gas ports. The pistol bears no German markings. German forces "blitzkrieged" into Russia in June of 1941; subsequently, Stalin issued his famous scorched earth policy. The initial German advances were so spectacular that it may be assumed that at least some light industry, possibly in Kiev or Kursk, was seized intact. It is only logical that the Ger-

mans would then start handgun production as they had in so many occupied countries. Apparently wishing to avoid still another non-standard caliber, a limited amount of re-tooling was accomplished to permit production of a Tokarev in 9mm Luger. It is possible that these guns were manufactured to arm General Vlasov's forces. Russian forces fighting with the Germans at one time numbered in excess of 427,000 troops. A limited amount of captured equipment, the delay caused by the re-tooling, and the fluid Eastern front all may have contributed to a very limited production of the 9mm Tokarev. The Germans did convert some Russian small arms to 9mm Luger; the Russian sub-machine gun (PPSH-41) was re-chambered to 9mm Luger by the Nazis, and it utilized a Schmeisser MP38/40 magazine welded in position replacing the Russian drum magazine. It is also possible that the



hard-pressed Russians may have seized large stores of 9mm ammunition and re-chambered a limited number of weapons to take advantage of these supplies. I feel that this is doubtful.

The final mystery weapon is a Nazi marked "Broomhandle" Mauser. Whittington states, "The Mauser model 1896 semi-automatic pistol was not procured by the Military during this period." I feel this statement should be modified to "rarely issued to German forces." A former Wehrmacht veteran armed with his trusty Walther PP in 7.65 mm tells of firing at, and hitting, a heavily coated Russian Partisan with minimal detrimental effects. He then drew a M-96 Mauser from the German arms room and carried it for the remainder of his service on the Eastern Front. The pistol pictured is a 1920 rework "Red Nine" Mauser. The pistol exhibits a German definitive proof on the left side of the chamber, an imperial eagle on the front of the magazine well, and police markings on the front grip strap. On the right side of the chamber, it has the Nazi proof "SU 4". The significance of the "SU 4" proof remains a mystery.

The Germans did issue the "SchnellFeuer" (Full-Auto) version

Mauser to selected SS units. The "SchnellFeuer" is not a true M-96 design but a re-design of 1932. Upwards of 100,000 "SchnellFeuer" were produced in the 1932-1942 period. A very few of these pistols carried the spread eagle Swastika proof on the left diagonal chamber flat. Semi-automatic M-96 production probably ceased in the mid-1930's. It is possible that in the early 1930's, as military and political groups merged, a limited number of semi-automatic M-96's were procured and officially proofed. A second 1920 "Red Nine" bearing a Norwegian Army acceptance proof and the mysterious Nazi "SU-4" marking has been documented.

As stated, the comments on the ancestry of these three pistols is primarily educated guesswork. Any additional information which would more accurately identify the history of these weapons would be greatly appreciated. I feel certain that many a German Ordnance officer who was faced with maintenance and supply parts responsibility for 30 different pistols in a half-dozen different calibers produced in eight to ten countries turned to his bottle of schnapps or volunteered for the Eastern Front.



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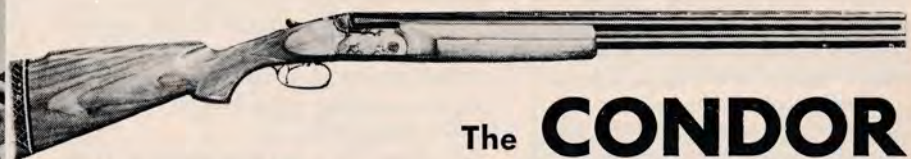
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Why doesn't someone print a Trap and Skeet Digest or Bible? Reader Vernon P. Betz of Reisterstown, Maryland poses this thought-provoking question in a recent letter.

He is a reasonably typical convert to the clay target games of trap and skeet, having hunted all the game in his state then being converted to skeet via gunnery school in WWII, and more recently added the trap sport.

Reader Betz points out that in a recent issue of GUNS, there were ads for just about every form of digest or bible, but not for the games which are dearest to his heart.

He points out that it is indeed a monumental task to find all the rules, catalogs, pictures, diagrams, how-to items, etc., that are interesting and vital to a fast-growing army of clay target shooters and would-be shooters. I agree with Mr. Betz. Some of the letters from other readers send me searching through a pile of books, pamphlets and catalogs to come up with an answer, and the answer often does not come easily or quickly.

Mr. Betz's clay target digest would include pictures of some of the great professional and amateur shooters in the game, along with bits of shooting advice from each.

He plugs for a catalog showing trap and skeet guns exclusively, and other sections devoted entirely to shooting accessories used by trap and skeet gunners.

His digest would ideally include pictures and stories from both the Grand American and the Skeet Nationals. These would make for very pleasant reading over the years and during days when shooting is impossible.

One of his most important suggestions is the inclusion of a national directory of trap and skeet clubs, complete with pictures, and directions for locating the club.

Far too few people, even those in

the game, realize how vital are the gun club listings and locations.

I have spent too many hours trying to find the location of a shoot and/or gun club, even as important as a state shoot, and found that too few people even realize the club exists, much less knowing how to direct someone there.

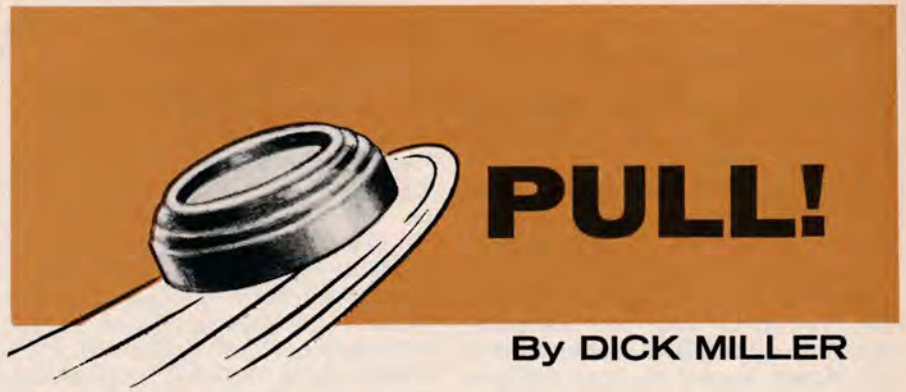
Many years ago I wrote an article in TRAP & FIELD detailing some of my misadventures in trying to find a gun club, along with similar fruitless searches by other shooters, and with some pardonable pride noticed that thereafter many gun clubs did add detailed directions to their location in printed programs. Directions in the programs help a lot, but the programs don't always reach all the people who would like to shoot if they could only find the club.

In about 1959, I caused a gun club directory listing of just four of the Chicago area's trap and skeet clubs to be printed in the magazine section of the Sunday Chicago DAILY NEWS. Personnel at these clubs told me they were literally swamped by people who said they either did not know the clubs existed, or if they were aware of the clubs, did not know they were open to all shooters.

I'm still amazed and dismayed by the number of people I meet, even in the shooting trade, who are not aware of clubs in a trade area, or if they are aware of them, don't know where they are. In my opinion, printing the club directory alone would justify publication of TRAP & SKEET DIGEST.

A clay target digest or bible should also include all the rules for all the clay target games, along with field diagrams and equipment listings. Not long ago, I found that this information is not easy to put together in one package, when a reader wrote for the kind of information needed to set up a club within a small area, and from scratch.

Naturally, a clay target digest or



**By DICK MILLER**



bible would include all the records in every facet of the sports. Some biographical data to supplement the cold record facts would make interesting reading.

Reader Betz suggests the inclusion of shot shell reloading information in his ideal trap and skeet digest because of the great part reloading plays in the clay target games, and I agree with him. I would like to see included in the digest a section on the International aspects of the game, with some pages devoted to the ISU and Olympic games. Pictures and biographical data in this section would recognize some shooters who brought honors to their country, and whose exploits for the most part have been very poorly publicized and documented.

This section would not be complete without some copy on the contribution made to clay target shooting by the Advanced Marksmanship Units of the various military services. Their dedication and contributions to the games are too often unchronicled and unsung.

Shooter Betz, I'm sure, and I certainly, do not denigrate the efforts of many organizations, clubs, and companies who offer excellent publications covering most of the material that should be included in a digest or bible of the clay target sports. He feels, and I agree with him, that there is a real need and market for one publication which puts it all together under one cover.

If you agree, tell someone about it. You might even tell a lot of people about it.

Another sharp-eyed reader, Mr. F. R. "Bob" Farrell, of Ogden, Utah takes me to task for a comment I made in my September, 1971 PULL column.

The offending paragraph read like this . . . "Another of trap's most hallowed traditions is that no big or well-known shooter has ever won the Grand American Handicap. This tradition, like many others, is not quite true, because Mark Arie, whose career is legendary, did win the big one in 1923 with a 96 from 23 yards. No nationally known gunner has turned the trick since. Some have been very close, even as close as runner-up, but our memories don't often include runner-ups. . . ."

Bob Farrell avers that my memory is faulty too, because the great Char-

ley A. (Sparrow) Young won the big one in 1926 with one hundred straight from twenty-three yards, and he can prove it because he saw him do it.

Bob Farrell, you are right! Would you believe that if the cold pages of the record book had listed the 1926 Grand American Handicap winner as "Sparrow" Young, instead of the formal C. A. Young, of Springfield, Ohio, I would have avoided the error in my September column, and have set the record straight, which I'm now glad to do. Reader Farrell adds the information that Young picked up the nickname "Sparrow" from his skill on live birds, which adds a little human interest to the black and white pages of the record book. This is some of the type of information I would like to see in a clay target digest as a part of the biographical material on the winners and record holders.

This clay target game is a fascinating one, not only in the States but world-wide. I recently received a letter from a gun club secretary in South Africa, asking me to suggest some books on clay target gunning which might help his countrymen. He also asked me to put him in touch with an American shooting coach of sufficient stature and skills to upgrade the performance of South African shooters over the traps.

I answered his letter as best I could, and made some suggestions. Would it not have been great if I had been able to send him a copy of the publication Vernon Betz suggests!

If I was a juvenile offender in Santa Clara County, California, I would make a point of being very, very polite to juvenile probation officer Dan Bonillas from San Jose.

Bonillas came up with what very well might be the single top shooting performance for the year of 1971, when he won high-over-all, all-around, 200 birds singles championships, the Las Vegas Handicap, runner-up in the Mint Handicap and Class AA championship in the introductory doubles at the Del Webb Fall Trapshoot in Las Vegas.

If he had done as well at the tables as he did over the traps, Las Vegas might never have been the same. In any case, Bonillas will have to shoot awfully, awfully good in 1972 to top that performance and so will everyone else!

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## DYNASTY OF STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

(Continued from page 21)

practice his gunsmithing profession.

Fort Dodge was a larger community, but, since economic conditions in the community or in the country at that time were not good, people had little money to spend. The elder Kautzky had his family to provide for, so another gun making job was begun and completed in 1897. While this work was in progress, and in order to obtain badly needed money during the interim, he decided to raffle off his gun. This he accomplished by selling chances at 50¢ each. He received \$40.00 for his gun work. But remember, fifty cents in those days would buy a considerable amount of food and clothing.

Joseph Sr.'s gun won through the raffle was also a 16-gauge double, hammer shot gun. The winner used the firearm for several years. Later it found its way into the hands of a family with two boys who learned to shoot and hunt with it. The Kautzky family was later to regain possession of it while the maker was still living. Joseph Sr. refinished the gun once he got it back and today it is still one of the family's proud possessions.

A year later in 1898, Joseph Sr. started work on another sixteen gauge hammerless gun, forging the frame and building into the gun hammers, firing pins, and main springs. However, his reputation for quality gunsmithing had spread throughout the Fort Dodge area and he was unable to devote his full time to the completion of this gun. Today the unfinished frame and mechanism remain in the Kautzky family as a souvenir possession.

After the family photographs were taken for this article, I asked my father, Rudy Kautzky, if he would provide us with a description of his father's gun shop. The following is how he recalls it:

"His gun shop consisted of a bench of firm and rigid construction with a medium size well-made vise, and on it were wood chisels of all shapes and sizes for his gun stock work, as well as many checkering tools. Dad was also an artist in the practice of checkering the wood of his guns as well as in making stocks and forearms. He had boxes of steel-cutting chisels of various shapes and sizes, chamber cutting reamers for all gauges of shot-guns and an assortment of rifling

tools. He also had reamers for boring barrels and to produce a variation of chokes. All of the tools were made by himself, his father, and the grandfather before him.

"After coming over from Austria, Dad acquired a tread power lathe and a forge similar to those used by horse shoers and blacksmiths. The lathe took care of his drilling and boring and screw turning. The forge was necessary for the hardening and tempering of springs and an assortment of other gun parts, also for case-hardening screws and other parts. Steel tempering is an art all of its own, and he knew it to perfection. Close by the forge he had a heavy anvil and a large hammer for shaping hot iron from the forge. There was also a smaller anvil on his bench. He had a rack of files of all shapes, sizes, and descriptions for his steel cutting and wood shaping. There were a variety of screw drivers lining his gun bench that were of varying lengths and sizes.

"Inside his gun shop was a large coal stove for winter heat and a few odd chairs for his hunter and fishermen friends to share and swap their favorite hunting and fishing yarns together.

"The area surrounding Fort Dodge had a great many sloughs and swamps and was a haven for wild ducks. One morning about 3:00 A.M. Dad and a close friend boarded a passenger train to go duck hunting. The swamp they planned to hunt on was about 30 miles from town. The conductor agreed to run the train at a slow speed so they both could drop themselves off near the shooting grounds. Dad jumped off the train in the dark and had to run a short distance to regain and keep his balance. He had taken but a few steps when he ran directly into an iron switch post. Fortunately he was only bruised and shaken up, but the shot gun struck the post and bent the barrels down about two inches at the muzzle.

When it became light enough to see, he removed the barrels and straightened them by striking them carefully on a nearby fence post. He hunted the rest of that day with the repaired gun. This is an example of how well he knew the art of gunmaking and gunsmithing.

(Continued on page 62)



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"Dad also assumed the responsibilities in organizing the Fort Dodge Gun Club, setting up and caring for traps, and clubhouses, keeping the gun club active, and arranging tournaments and club trapshoots until his death. He was a member of the Iowa State Trapshooters Association and served in the official position as secretary for several years. When the American Trapshooting Association was formed, accurate records were kept of all scores and of each participating shooter to register in A.T.A. registered tournaments. From 1908 to 1915 he was among the 50 high amateurs in the United States, for five of those seven years."

It was soon after that memorable 1937 birthday trapshoot given in his honor that Joseph Sr.'s health forced him to give up his gun bench. Finally he had to put away the tools too. On August 31, 1938, he died of cancer at the age of seventy-six.

The original Kautzky gun shop described by my father became better known in the Fort Dodge community as time went on. My uncle, Joe Kautzky Jr., started to learn gun repair work from his father at about 14 years of age. Later, in 1912, my father Rudy, at 17 years of age, began to learn the gunsmithing trade. The firm name then became known as "Joe

Kautzky & Sons."

Gradually through the years the gun shop became equipped with modern electric equipment instead of the hand made tools used by the elder Kautzky. Rudy services and repairs guns at his father's bench using an electric lathe, an electric drill press, and works with welding, brazing, and fine grinding equipment.

No guns have been hand made since Joseph Sr. made his last 16 gauge gun in 1897.

The gun shop was the beginning of the Kautzky Sporting Goods Company which expanded and developed into a large and exclusive sporting goods store. In 1946 a factory was set up to manufacture the famous Kautzky "Lazy Ike" fishing lure. The Kautzky gun shop has continued in operation as an integral part of the Kautzky Sporting Goods store.

The family sold the "Lazy Ike" factory in 1961 and sold the retail sporting goods store and gun shop in 1966.

My father, Rudy, my uncle, Joe Kautzky Jr., and my aunt, Marie Kautzky Grant are now retired.

Although retired, my father still enjoys spending some of his leisure hours working on special gun repair jobs and in this way carries on the traditional Kautzky firearms service.



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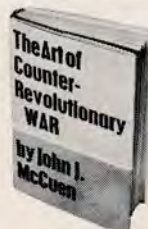


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## POINT BLANK: COL. CHARLES ASKINS

(Continued from page 12)

barrel, a crescent shaped buttplate, very thin stock and a forend fashioned after an English uplands scattergun. You could not keep the rifle in zero because of that take-apart feature. Every time you tore it down to clean it the sights had to be re-zeroed. I finally had a local auto mechanic run a bead of brazing metal around the joint between barrel and receiver. After that it would stay in zero but it was not a particularly accurate rifle.

There probably isn't anyone who is more fond of the Model 99 rifle than me. The 99 and the .250-3000 cartridge are synonymous; when you think of one you think of the other. The fine sleek lines of the 99 and the fact that the lever was just as handy for the southpaw as for the right-hander really endeared the gun to me. I have owned, altogether, eleven Model 99 Savages. I have two at the moment. I have shot the .250 cartridge in the old Winchester Model 54 rifle and found it superbly accurate. I have never owned a Model 70 chambered for the round. By the time the M70 came along I was intent on bigger calibers than the twenty-five. I am sure it shot very well in the 70, no doubt better even than in the older M54. I have owned the Model 20 Savage bolt action, the first attempts by Savage to break into the bolt gun field; also the Model 40, both chambered for the .250-3000. I never liked either rifle as much as a succession of Model 99's that I possessed.

The M99 rifle is unquestionably the most ideal saddle-carry gun ever developed. The smoothly streamlined action with its total lack of knobs, corners, shoulders or projections ideally suits it to horseback carry. Altho it is now three-quarters of a century in being, it still has no equal when it comes to sliding in and out of a saddle sheath.

In the Border Patrol, along the Tex-Mex frontier, I packed a 99 in .250-3000 caliber. I had fetched the rifle along with me when I quit the U.S. Forest Service and swung over to the Patrol. I had shot a lot of game with the .250 by that time. This includes bear, elk, mule, deer and antelope. If someone had told me the dinky little 87-grain bullet was not adequate I'd have been like Bwana

Cotter and simply ignored 'em. I knew it was the last answer.

First in Montana and later in New Mexico, I shot the .250, a total of three years in which I came to have a lot of regard for the rifle and its cartridge. There was a lot of game to be shot but not much money for store-bought ammo, so I reloaded with a Lyman nut-cracker tool. I loaded a 60-grain .25-20 bullet at 2960 fps with 20.7 grains #2400 powder; and the same bullet with 29 grains HiVel No. 3 for 3460 fps MV. I also loaded an 80-grain cast bullet with gas check with HiVel #3 for an estimated 3,000 fps. With an 87-grain Western Tool & Copper Works bullet I regularly loaded 40.4 grains #15½ powder for 3,000 fps; and a 100-grain bullet from the same manufacturer, with 33 grains HiVel #2 for 2860 fps MV. WCTW also offered a 115-grain bullet which I tried extensively. It would take 38 grains No. 15½ powder and turn up 2730 fps. While the 99 in .250 almost always was offered in 20" or 22" barrels the Model 99R which I had was equipped with a 24-inch tube. This made a better balanced and better shooting rifle and I liked it the best of the many 99's I have owned.

(Continued on page 66)

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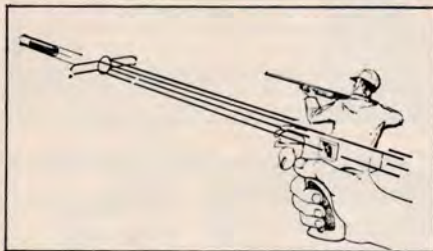
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(Continued from page 63)

The .250-3000 cartridge has earned a niche for itself in the hearts of shooting men everywhere but it has also gained a sort of left-handed fame. The .22-250 wildcat, legitimized by Remington in 1965, is based on the .250 Savage casing. Just when it was first made up as a wildcat is pretty much lost in the mists of time but it is likely that some enterprising wildcat-ter had tried the combination of necking down the .250 case to .22 caliber at least before 1920. The resulting round is very probably the most popular wildcat of them all! Another credit to the time honored .250-3000 cartridge.

The Savage was no bargain to load for. Whenever I was stoking up a full charge load I had to full-length resize the cases. If you did not you would have extraction troubles even though the cases had been fired in no other rifle. The trouble was in the extraction system of the 99. It is on a one-for-one basis with no fulcrum being exerted as you can do with a turning-bolt rifle. The breechblock moves rearward and all the force on the extractor is applied directly. If the casing tends to be a little sticky and you exert a lot of English on the lever you will pull the extractor claw over the rim of the case; or pull it through the cannellure itself. Then the only recourse is a ramrod from the muzzle. When empties are full length resized, if full power loads are fired very much, they soon give up the ghost.

The action is well enclosed and gathers little sand. I rode across the southern end of New Mexico, a paltry gallop of 150 miles, hugging the inter-

national boundary fence and did this winter and summer. During the shank end of the winters we would fight sand storms which might blow for 3 or 4 days. The Savage withstood this treatment with no problems from sand in the action scarcely at all. One time we got into a rootin' tootin' good gunfight at night, and up close, like, say, twenty steps apart. While reloading the Model 99 in the darkness I jammed the spool-type magazine and I did such a thorough job of it I could not work the jam loose until the next morning and in good daylight. This was an exceedingly embarrassing situation with bullets kicking sand in my face and twigs from the mesquite where I was hunkered down being clipped and falling on my hat. I was pretty unhappy with the .250 after that episode and was careful not to carry it after dark when it looked like we might have a brush with the contrabandista.

I have owned the Model F, the Model K, the Model EG, the Model R and the RS. It was not until the Model R came along that Savage really learned how to build a decent stock for the rifle. This one had a big full-sized main butt with a shotgun type rear end and a comfortable pistol grip. The R and the RS both have quite comfortable forestocks, as well, and are tapped for scope mounts. The Savage, fortunately, takes a scope very handily and the glass can be mounted quite low and still permit fast reloading. I took two Savage rifles to Spain with me, one the .250-3000 and the other a .300. I had both of them restocked of finest Pyrennes walnut in Eibar while I was living there. I shot the .250 more than the .300 and with it killed the big European red stag, called the "hirsch" in Germany, roebuck, chamois, wild boar and that Spanish oddity, the ibex. I was shooting factory cartridges, the 100-grain loading, which is better for game bigger than white-tail deer.

The latest .250-3000, the Savage Model 99A is a throwback to older models like the Model H which had a straight stock, a schnabel forend, no checkering and a 22" barrel. It is supposed to be for saddle carry and has a set of open sights which are supposed to appeal to your man on horseback. It would have been a lot better to have chambered the Model C, DL, E, or F for the .250 cartridge as these are well stocked, heavier rifles that would have done the cartridge full justice. But to have it back in any form is a token of esteem for a fine old cartridge that may be a trifle decadent but still has its uses.



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## HUNTER SAFETY AND THE YOUNG

(Continued from page 47)

the gun, operate the action to be sure the trigger mechanism is functioning properly to set the safety in the "on" position and try to pull the trigger, then release the safety. They learned that if the striker falls when the safety is released, the gun needs repairing.

After coming in from the field they were given unloaded guns and were allowed to demonstrate what they had been told in the field. Surprisingly, and encouragingly, they knew the answer to nearly every question.

The result of this and oral tests was proof that they were ready to carry an unloaded gun in the field during the third hunting season.

The beginning of the season saw another oral review of the things they had studied the previous two years. To further impress upon them what a shotgun will do, each of them were allowed to shoot at a fair sized cardboard box a few feet distant. They saw how the box was torn up and they knew then what would happen to a person if hit by a blast from a shotgun. They also found how hard a shotgun will kick. They had seen birds go down from shot but they had never realized the hunter was far enough away that the shot scattered and did not tear them apart.

During this season a program was brought forth that told them many of the things they should not do. These safety factors were considered as important as the positive things. Some of them are completely negative, but others have a positive side also. Steps taken were to explain and, in some instances, demonstrate what should not be done, as follows:

1. Don't shoot at an item floating on water. Bullets will ricochet and possibly injure a person or animal, or damage property.

2. Don't lean your gun against a fence when going through or over it. If you are alone lay the gun on the ground under the fence, with the muzzle pointing away from where you will go through or over the fence. If you are with someone, one person should go to the other side of the fence and both guns should be handed to him before the second hunter goes to the other side.

3. Don't climb into a tree while handling a gun. It is dangerous.

4. Don't climb around on boulders, walls, or bridge railings. A fall can cause a gun to go off.

5. When you decide to rest don't lean a gun against a tree or building.

Sit down against the tree or building and hold the gun in front of you, resting the butt on the ground, with the muzzle pointed to the sky.

6. Don't walk along the edge of an embankment. You may fall.

7. Don't use a fence as a hand hold to keep you balanced in awkward positions. It can break and end in disaster.

8. Don't put the muzzle in contact with the ground. Soil can plug the barrel and when you shoot the gun can blow up, with serious injury to you.

9. Don't shoot from a moving vehicle. It is dangerous and in many states against the law.

10. Don't put the gun into the car or hunting vehicle with the muzzle pointing toward you. It may go off.

11. Don't put a loaded gun in a car. Always unload it.

At the end of the first gun-in-hand season the students were taken into the field several times and given personalized action instructions that had

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been difficult to give when hunting. This brought out most of the important rules for handling guns safely in the field.

On the first trip Nancy and Stephen were told to do whatever came to mind, even though they knew it was wrong. It was definitely determined that the guns were unloaded before they were allowed to do this. Motion pictures were taken of their actions and were used later in what was called "people to people" classes. The correct things they did were pointed out and they were congratulated on having done them. The incorrect things they did were also pointed out and were discussed in great detail as to why they were the wrong things to do while carrying a gun. In the field, after the pictures were taken, great care was taken to see that they did everything properly.

At the beginning of the fourth hunting season they were put through an oral and action examination before they marched into the field with unloaded guns and again followed the men with live guns, and watched them hunt pheasants, using only the best kind of gun manners.

They were told, and a program that illustrated it, was put into effect pointing out they should never aim until they knew for sure what they were shooting at. During the action they found out the "something" seen coming out of the brush was a person. To let that person know that it was safe, one should always point their gun to the ground, and break the gun if possible.

A few weeks after the end of the fourth season they were twelve years old. They were put through another combination oral and action test. Being eligible now, they took steps to obtain a junior hunting license. But before they could apply for it the law required them to take a gun and


hunting safety test presented by the California Fish and Game Department and The National Rifle Assn. It was a four hour test, with one hour given over to the handling of a gun and three hours on a written test. Stephen and Nancy came in 100%, not missing a question or proper gun handling action.

Richard was quite interested in taking care of their natural curiosity about guns so they would not be secretly trying to handle them around home. The program worked out well in accomplishing this. It took care of their curiosity and it was determined for sure that in four years of training they never pulled a gun out to fuss with it, or to show it to other kids. That accomplishment in itself was well worth all the effort.

When they were 15 years old, with three seasons of hunting behind them, Stephen and Nancy were presented with new pump shotguns by Richard. Nancy received a 20 gauge and Stephen a 12 gauge.

That American youths are fascinated by firearms and are curious about them is not unnatural. Our school books and national legends exploit such rifle-bearing heroes as Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone, Kit Carson, and many other Indian-fighting explorers, and have fired youthful imagination.

Firearms have been a part of our country's history from the Pilgrims to the morning's newspaper. In modern times the influence of the so-called comics has been largely responsible with interesting kids in guns. The television programs have also pushed hard at gun lure.

Fathers! Teach your children to handle guns safely and be blessed by undying gratitude from your wife, the children, and the public at large. Its a fine feeling. You will have done much to eliminate gun pollution. 

## INSTALLING DOUBLE SET TRIGGERS

(Continued from page 35)

every Mauser you're liable to find, be it military or commercial, will have a milled channel in the inside surface of the trigger guard's rear extension. The purpose of this channel is to remove weight. For over a half-century and, regardless of manufacturer, the dimensions of this cut have remained remarkably uniform. This is very fortunate for our purposes because the presence of this channel eliminates most of our work. All we have to do is enlarge this channel enough to make

room for the set trigger mechanism.

The first step, after disassembling the trigger mechanism, is to measure the width of the channel to see how close the trigger body comes to a perfect fit. As a rule, the trigger body or housing will be a trifle wide in order to make allowances for variations in the width of the channel in different rifles. This is easily corrected by either slimming down the trigger body itself or widening the channel.

Also the slot for the original trigger



will have to be widened to the full width of the channel. This is done easily enough by inserting the tip of a file into the slot and "having at it." The guard bow will restrict your work with the file somewhat but as the guards are made of mild steel the work goes pretty quickly. You can avoid banging and scuffing the inside of the guard bow by wrapping it with a protective layer of tape.

With the trigger slot cut to full width and the channel widened (or the trigger body slimmed, as the case may be), you can begin fitting the mechanism into the guard. In most cases the trigger slot will have to be extended both fore and aft and you will also notice that the trigger mechanism is beveled on the rear edge. This makes it necessary to cut a corresponding angle at the rear of the slot. Make haste slowly here as you don't want to cut too much and have an unsightly gap between the two parts. Just cut a little, try the fit and cut again.

When the mechanism is fully inletted it is secured in place by small pins in each end. Simply drill a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (or thereabouts) hole through the side of the guard extension right on through the trigger body. But be sure to keep the holes at the extreme ends so as to miss the moving parts of the trigger mechanism. Now make a couple of pins out of small nails, welding rod or whatever you can find and drive them into the holes. Dress up the sides with a file and it will look very fine.

The contour on the underside of the trigger mechanism is designed to match the inside curve of the trigger guard bow and usually matches up for a pretty close fit. A little dressing-up may be in order, however, to get the two parts perfectly matched. A slightly rounded needle file is fine for this but even a narrow flat file will do in a pinch. Next wrap a piece of 220 grit sandpaper around the file and give the inside of the bow a good polishing. You'll be surprised at the close metal-to-metal fit—only a faint hairline is noticeable. Now lay on a final polish with a bit of steel wool, apply some cold blue to the bright areas and no one will ever know this isn't a factory job.

Now remove the pins, take out the trigger body and reassemble the complete mechanism, being sure to clean out all the dust and grit that has accumulated in the slots and contours of the trigger body while you were at work. While you're at it you may as well adjust the triggers; the small screw between the triggers is the adjustment for weight of pull. Turn it in (clockwise) to lighten the pull and back it out for a heavier pull. Some

folks tend to adjust the triggers to a too light weight of pull and as a result trigger function is unreliable and even unsafe. It is best to adjust the triggers so you can distinctly "feel" the trigger as you touch it off.

Next step is installing the "kicker" arm. Simply remove the original trigger and install the kicker in its place. This is done by driving out the pin that holds the trigger in place, nothing else is changed. Make sure the kicker is operating freely without any bind. With the rifle cocked press upward on the kicker arm, the firing pin should release and fall. If there is any tendency to bind it can be corrected by removing the kicker and polishing or stoning the sides a little.

Now check the operation of the entire mechanism by attaching the complete trigger guard unit to the action and securing it in place with the action screws. With the bolt closed and cocked (rifle unloaded of course) set the rear trigger and "touch-off" the front one. If everything is working right the rear trigger arm will fly up and strike the kicker which, in turn, will release the sear and allow the striker to fall. If it fails to work try again but this time observe the trigger arm to make sure it is hitting the kicker. If not, check for foreign material in the mechanism which may be blocking the movement. Also you might check again to make sure the kicker arm is working freely.

If both the mechanism and the kicker seem to be operating properly but the rifle still won't fire it is probably because the trigger arm is too close to the kicker arm. This is corrected by filing away some of the hump on the lower extension of the kicker arm. This "hump," by the way, is made oversize to allow for this final adjustment. Keep in mind, however, that when the action and trigger guard are in the stock they will be separated by a sixteenth-of-an-inch or so and this may be just the amount of clearance needed.

A final word of caution is in order before using set triggers: Since the pull required to fire set triggers may be only a fraction of an ounce they take a bit of getting used to. Practice by "dry firing" the triggers. It is not necessary to cock the bolt to dry fire with set triggers since they function independently of the actual firing mechanism. Also, by simply pulling the front trigger the rifle will fire as if it were equipped with an ordinary single trigger. This is helpful if you're wearing gloves or at such times when single trigger function is best.

One does not carry a rifle with the triggers in the set position. Only after the sights are on the target is the rear

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Once you get the hang of set triggers and find that you are free of the old trigger squeeze burden you'll have to think up some other excuses for those misses. But then there may

(Continued from page 9)

Most pistols with non-detachable



magazines, whether the feed device be located in the grip or ahead of the trigger guard, were meant to be loaded with stripper clips, and the charger guides—a set of ears milled into the top of the slide or upper receiver at the rear of the ejection port—will be immediately visible. The bolt or slide was held open on the last shot by the magazine follower, and to reload, the gunner inserted a Springfield-type stripper clip into the charger guides, then rammed the cartridges down into the magazine with his thumb. As soon as the follower started downwards, ahead of the incoming cartridges, the clip, held in the guides, took over the task of holding the bolt back. With the magazine fully

You've probably noticed the ugly military trigger guard bow on the action shown in our illustrations and wondered what can be done to improve its looks. In the next issue we will completely remove this unsightly bow and replace it with a gracefully curving shotgun style trigger guard.



Model 1907 Roth-Steyr

If no cartridge release is in evidence, an internal-magazine pistol can, of course, be unloaded by repeatedly jacking the slide, and cycling each cartridge through the chamber.



It need scarcely be said that this wants doing with the muzzle pointed some direction which would without question contain an accidental discharge.



Model 1912 Steyr Hahn.

The 1893 Borchardt, forerunner of the Luger, was the first pistol to employ a removable, box-type magazine housed within the grip of the gun. It also introduced an excellent pushbutton-type magazine release, located high on the left side of the receiver, just behind the trigger, which we find today employed on the Luger, the Walther PP and PPK, the Colt Government Model and its myriad variations and copies, the Tokarev, the Smith & Wesson M 39, the Browning G.P., the French MAC 50, nearly all Spanish pistols, and a legion of others.



Beretta Model 1935.

Even more popular than the Borchardt release is the heel-of-butt type magazine latch such as that used on the P-38. This is a pivoting hook located on the underside of the grip, to the rear of the magazine base, and is tensioned either by the bottom end of the mainspring or by a separate spring. The hook-like portion engaged the bottom rear corner of the magazine to block it in place. It takes two hands to remove the magazine from a gun so rigged. As the right hand grips the pistol in normal fashion (with the index finger *outside* of the trigger guard), the thumb of the left hand rocks the magazine latch back while the left index finger pulls downward on the toe or lip of the magazine. This arrangement will be found on approximately half of the military automatics, on the great majority of pocket

and belt pistols, on most U.S. semi-auto plinkers, and on many target pistols.

A system common enough to mention is the crossbolt magazine latch mounted low and to the rear on the left grip panel. The earliest pistol I've noticed using such an arrangement is the 9mm M1910 Glisenti, an Italian service pistol. In the interests of technical accuracy we should confess that the Glisenti latch is a pivoting lever type, but for our purposes, which is to find the thing and make it work, it is well classified as a low, grip-mounted crossbolt. The Glisenti latch is checked and contoured to blend chameleon-like into the lower rear corner of the left grip panel so perfectly that you might easily overlook it if you didn't already know it was there, or if you didn't know, having already checked unsuccessfully for a high frame-mounted pushbutton and a heel-of-butt hook latch, that here was a third very likely location to look at. And that is the approach we are trying to get across. The Warner Arms Corp. "Infallible" Model of circa 1914, or rather most examples which I have seen, also uses a crossbolt in this location; so do the very widely distributed Beretta 70-series pistols, and the Models 950 951, and 20 by the same firm.

These three: high, frame mounted pushbutton; low, grip mounted crossbolt; and heel-of-butt hook type, are the most commonly encountered magazine latches. There are, of course, as always, a host of weirdos, several of which we shall mention to indicate what might show up from time to time.

The Model 1913 Campo-Giro 9mm, the first Spanish service automatic, used a pedal-type latch located to the rear of the trigger guard (between

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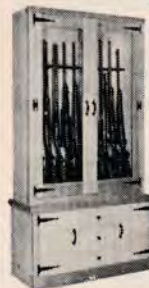
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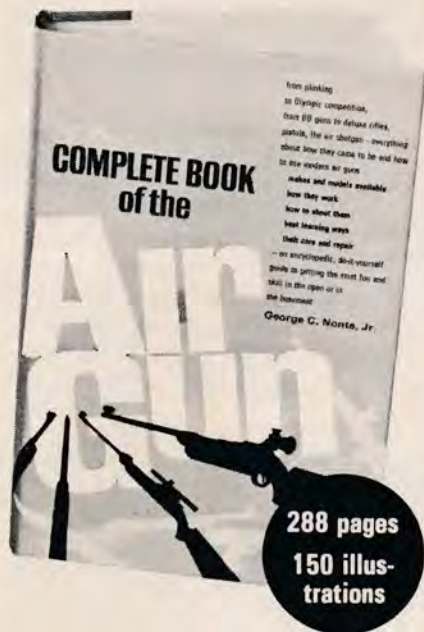
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the guard and the frontstrap); it was rocked to the right to drop the magazine. The 1913/1916 Model moved the pedal down to the bottom left side of the grip; it was pivoted downward to operate.



Czech Model 1952 service pistol.

Most of Manufrance's "Le Francais" series used a latch integral with the magazine baseplate, which keyed into recesses milled into the underside of the grip frame. To release the magazine, a pair of checkered ears on either side of the baseplate had to be tugged forward. Generally they are very reluctant to budge, and a good deal of sweat and profanity are required to persuade them to come forth.

The Savage semi-autos mount the magazine latch in the bottom of the frontstrap, as do the more recent High Standard target pistols.

And then there are others. The 1903 and 1907 Clement pistols, for instance, used a pushbutton magazine release located about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way down the backstrap—no rock-hard grip with this gun. The 1908 Clement opted, sensibly if tardily, for a low crossbolt, which was carried over on the 1909 and 1912 models.

With the magazine finally out of the gun, you are well on the way to making the piece safe. Shuck the cartridges out and reinsert the empty magazine into the gun. Now is the moment to jack back the slide or bolt to check the chamber, for with the empty magazine in place, the probability is that the slide will remain open at its rearmost limit of travel.

To have taken a previously unknown pistol in hand, made it safe, and doped out the feed system with its attendant latches and gadgetry, is a not insignificant accomplishment. Next month we'll see where one goes from there.



## COLT DIAMONDBACK

(Continued from page 29)

sides make a more functional shape. The deep serrations are preferred to checking and seem to provide a more positive thumb hold. The front sight blade is integral milled with the rib on the Diamondback and cannot be changed to blue. Instead, I blacked out the whole top of the rib and front sight with a flat black metal primer. This finish holds fairly well on the sandblasted surface of the vent rib, but it is not as practical as chemical bluing would be.

The Diamondback points wonderfully well in combat shooting. The husky frame members, heavy vent rib, and solid shroud on the barrel place the balance point of the gun right above the trigger finger. Such a heavy barrel in comparison to the rest of the mass of the frame makes the Diamondback quite stable in recoil for its relatively light total weight. Shooting even heavy .38 Special loads posed no adverse recoil control problems. The favorable balance of this handgun slows muzzle reaction to stout loads making it controllable both in recoil and in recovery from successive rapid shots. No other light frame .38 revolver that I have shot performs nearly as well. This gun is no overgrown

Police Positive as some people think. It was conceived and executed as a  $\frac{7}{8}$  scale Python, and its breeding is true.

The DA pull on my Diamondback is smooth and consistent; it does not have the noticeable increase in spring tension found on larger Colt models. Due to the smaller scale of the action, hammer fall distance and lock time are superior to most larger scaled .38 revolvers. The short hammer fall gives the shooter a particular advantage over larger revolvers in rapid fire strings. I have been able to hold four-to-five inch groups at 7 yards firing 6 rounds in 2 to 2½ seconds. As with any revolver however, there are variations between factory guns. Some actions are smoother than others. Serious shooters will do well to invest a few dollars in competent gunsmithing to have their revolvers conditioned for the best performance.

One particular design feature, in my opinion, needs correcting on this gun. The radius of the trigger shape is too short. If the trigger was straighter and less curved it would give more choice as to trigger finger placement, more leverage on DA pull, and more room for chubby trigger fingers. Since I have thin fingers, my complaint prob-







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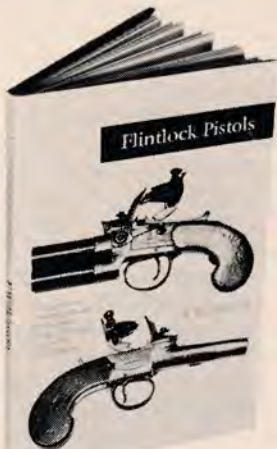
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The selling price of \$135 has always been a barrier to potential purchasers of the Diamondback. Buyers seldom fully realize or appreciate the quality differences in handguns. The finish, fit, and amount of machining done on these little guns is comparable to much more expensive handguns. It

might be more realistic to compare the Diamondback to its big brother, the Python that sells-out at \$190 a copy.

The kit-gun angle for the Diamondback is not well known. A handy, handsome 2 1/2-inch barrel version is available in .38 Special as well as .22 L.R. Either the short barrel or four-inch version fits neatly into a belt holster or fishing tackle box for the sportsman who is only an occasional shooter. In .22 caliber the 4-inch version makes a good ladies gun, a high quality plinker, or an economical matched practice gun for the .38 caliber combat shooter.

The combination of Diamondback revolver and .38 Special cartridge holds more possibilities than most shooters would expect from a small frame revolver. But, then, why not find out for yourself? 

## HUNTING BINOCULARS

(Continued from page 33)


the prisms stayed in place and viewing quality remained unimpaired after the test. In my opinion, these are the ideal glasses for someone who is likely to give his binoculars rough treatment (including Scout-age kids). They seem to stand up under punishment (Bushnell guarantees them for one year), and at less than \$30 their accidental loss or breakage wouldn't be a major financial blow to anyone.

Another low-priced glass I've been using is the Herter's Hudson Bay 7X35 model. At \$40.95, this binocular obviously isn't in the same class as the Zeiss, Bausch & Lomb and other

more expensive makes. On the other hand, it does offer acceptable optical quality to the hunter on a budget.

Two other manufacturers offering relatively low-priced binoculars of at least reasonable quality are Tasco and Swift. And Bushnell markets a "Sportview" economy line from \$29.95 with 1-year warranties in addition to its selection of more expensive, better-quality glasses with 5- and 20-year warranties.

A point of caution if you're considering an economy priced binocular: be sure to check it out thoroughly before making the purchase, as quality control is one area in which the manufacturer has likely economized in order to offer his product at a lower cost. You don't need to be an optician to spot some of the more common problems in such glasses—misalignment will cause your eyes to water when looking through the lenses at a distant object for 20 seconds or so (and will give you a splitting headache during extended use afield). Too, if the image is clear in the center of the viewing area, but fuzzy at the outer edges, ask to see another pair. And if you do buy an "economy-priced" pair (\$30 minimum), treat them gently, for they are more likely to jar out of alignment than their higher-priced counterparts.

If you are an outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, you owe it to yourself to own at least one pair of binoculars. Buy the best you can afford—or even one a tiny bit better than you think you can afford—and you'll never regret their purchase. 



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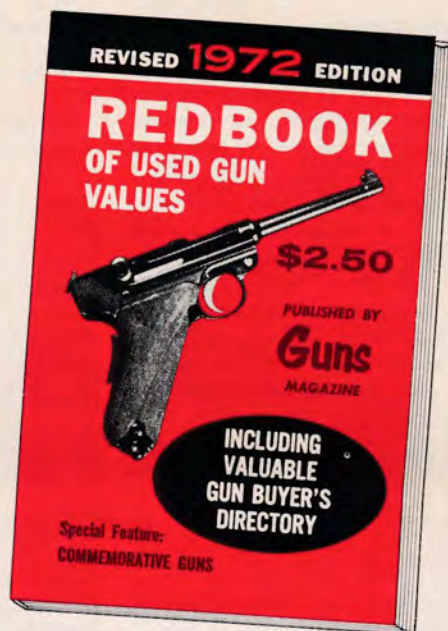
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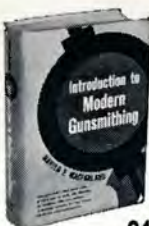
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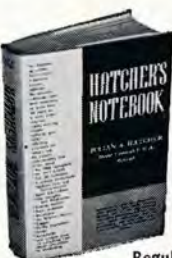
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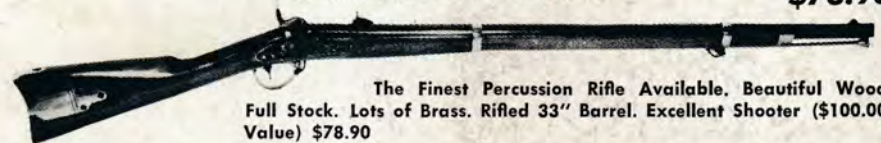
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