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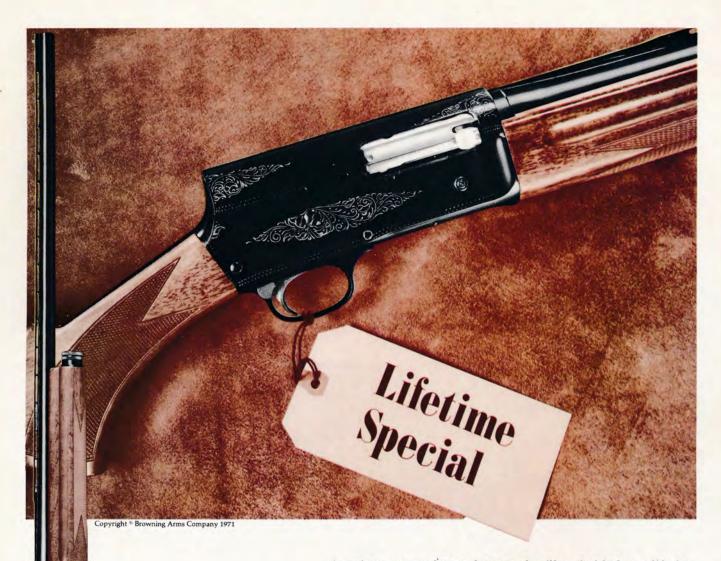
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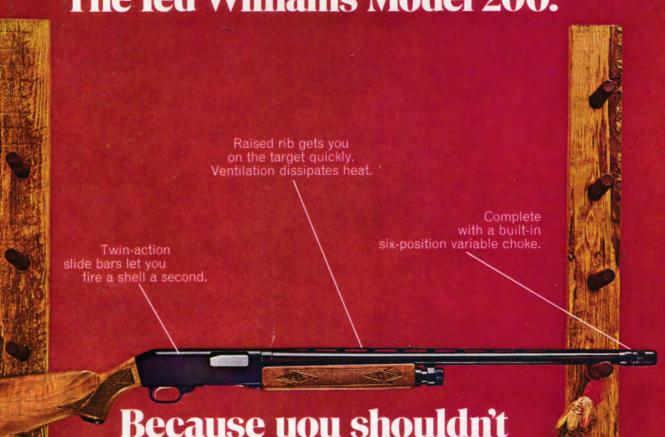
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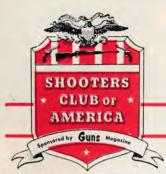
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News from the ... **SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA**

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

FEDERAL FIREARMS AGENTS SHOOTING NRA & SCA MEMBERS

REVISED 1971 EDITION

I have lived in Washington, D.C. on and off again for almost six years. And during that time it was my observation that most people working for the Federal law enforcement agencies were real nuts. Half of them sit around reading James Bond comic books and looking at Eliot Ness re-runs. They like to think of themselves as super-secret agents in a world full of Goldfingers. Their attempts to pretend something significant from the usual trivial Government paper shuffling is amusing. But recently in Maryland the Federal Firearms Division provoked an incident of such irresponsible, outrageous and mindless cruelty as has been my great displeasure to hear about in a long, long time.

Kenyon F. Ballew of Silver Springs Maryland is a known collector of antique guns, a life member of the National Rifle Association, a local Boy Scout leader for his community, and a member of SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA. Apparently Mr. Ballew had a few souvenir empty handgrenade casings in his home, as many old Army people have- including myself. In the Maryland-Washington area the Federal Firearms Division started a scare campaign because of the Capital bombings, and told everyone to report any neighbor, fellow worker, or friend who had illegal weapons. (Re-minds you of Russia dosen't it?) Someone reported Mr. Ballew had his house full of handgrenades. So, Firearms Division agents got a warrant and on June 7th raided the Ballew home. He was in the bath tub at the time and Mrs. Ballew was in her nightgown. Mrs. Ballew said she heard "a violent beating" at the door. She was partially dressed, so rather than open the door in the middle of the night, she asked who was on the other side. The response she said was "unintelligible shouts and banging and demands to open up". She ran to the bedroom and grabbed one of the guns open up. She ran to the bedroom and grabbed one of the guns from her husband's collection. Her husband jumped out of the bathtub and took an antique cap'n ball revolver off the front room wall. He had just finished loading it when Mrs. Ballew looked out from the bedroom as the front door was smashed open by a batter-ing ram. She said men in sweat shirts who had beards, with pis-tols and shotguns in their hands, rushed through the splinted door. She screamed in terror and thought they were "hippies or racket-ers" that ware going to kill them. She heard two shots and her eers that were going to kill them. She heard two shots and her husband began to slump over, his muzzle loader went off into the floor with a flash of light and he fell critically wounded. After that, 20 armed men swarmed into the house and proceeded to tear it apart in a search for grenades.

The end result was that Mr. Ballew was badly wounded, and the Federal agents seized four empty grenade casings plus his whole collection of muzzle loaders. In affidavits filed with Judge Meat-yard to obtain the warrant, Federal Agent Mr. Davis said he "be-lieved" that grenades were in the Ballew home on the basis of reports from "confidential reliable sources". And the United States Attorney for Maryland, Mr. George Beall said about the raid, "legally the agents are on very solid ground. From our point of view they did nothing extraordinary, nothing reckless, nothing culpable, and nothing wrong." The end result was that Mr. Ballew was badly wounded, and the

This is just one example of the despicable way firearms agents have been pushing little people around, and in this case almost killing one of our members. Recently I have heard many stories of individual private firearms owners being approached by disguised agents who wanted to buy a gun and when the owner sold it he was immediately arrested for selling firearms without a Federal license. Immediately arrested for selling hrearms without a Federal hiense. This whole approach by the Federal Firearms Division makes me sick to my stomach. Every night I keep thinking about the many brave and good men I've known who died in battle so their family and friends would not have to live under a Police State. Most of them were willing to pay the price because they thought their home would be safe from having the door kicked in during the night on some phony pretext. I wonder what our dead soldiers of WWII would say if they saw the things that are going on today?

If Federal agents can continue to obtain warrants from magistrates based on this kind of claptrap, and execute such warrants in this deplorable fashion, then we firearms collectors are in serious trouble. We have friends in Congress who can provide more safe-guards for innocent citizens, but like everything else it takes money and the raised voices of many people. That is why you and your friends must join and support the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMER-ICA. Some firearms owners still think they can remain silent. But remember, just three short years ago the Federal Firearms Division was almost unknown, and now they are shooting down NRA and SCA members in their own homes. Where will it end for you in the next three years if we do not all act today? Fill out the handy postage-paid return envelope opposite this page and mail it today. You are doing the right thing.

Col. E. Becker SUPPORT YOUR RIGHT TO OWN AND USE FIREARMS!

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1972 GUNS ANNUAL

IF YOU picked up this copy of GUNS on the newsstand, you probably noticed that the 1972 edition of GUNS ANNUAL was nearby. Aside from the complete listing of what's new in guns from all the manufacturers, there are four more guns being given away in our contest as well as highly interesting articles for everybody. Be sure to pick up a copy as soon as you can, you'll be glad you did.

. . .

A DAY OF OUR OWN

On June 23, 1971 Senator McIntyre introduced a joint resolution to the Senate that really makes sense. Mr. McIntyre got it all down when he said, ". . . in the congestion and the complexities, the tensions and frustrations of today's life, the need for outdoor recreation—the opportunity to 'get away from it all'—has become of crucial importance and there are few pursuits providing a better chance for healthy exercise, peaceful solitude, and appreciation of the great outdoors than hunting and fishing." He has resolved that the President declare the fourth Saturday of each September as "National Hunting and Fishing Day." It would certainly be nice to have our own day dedicated to those things we like to do the best.

Black powder shooters are concerned at the recent announcement by Dupont that they will no longer manufacture black powder. Many feel that the supply of imported black powder is not sufficient to fill the needs of the ever-growing number of shooters, and they are petitioning Dupont to continue the manufacture.

Wouldn't this be the appropriate time for one or the other of the powder manufacturers to announce the manufacture of a practical bulk smokeless powder which would work in our cap and ball and flintlock arms?

THE COVER

Custom K-22 Hornet rifle built by Roy Gradle has an engraved Sharps-Borchardt action, French walnut stock and a Lyman scope. Photo by Jeffrey Kurtzeman. Sammy Davis, Jr. photo courtesy of ABC-TV.

OCTOBER, 1971

Vol. XVII, No. 01-10 George E. von Rosen Publisher



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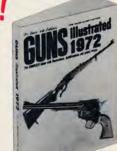
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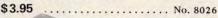
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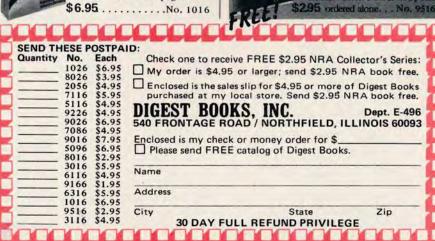
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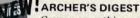
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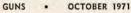
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the record straight. Excerpts follow: "A little simple research or a phone call would have told him (George Virgines) that my fast draw rigs are made by Andy Anderson of Andy Anderson's Gun Fighter Holsters, 6110 Vineland Avenue, North Hollywood, Calif. 91606, and have been since I started in the picture business.

Anderson Holsters

In the June, 1971 issue of GUNS

George Virgines answered a letter

from a reader inquiring of the maker

of the holster worn by James Drury

while appearing on both THE VIR-

GINIAN and THE MEN FROM SHI-

LOH. In his reply, Mr. Virgines men-

tioned that the holster may have been

made by either Alphonso or Arvo

Ojalla, when in fact, it was made by

Andy Anderson. Subsequently, we re-

ceived a letter from Mr. Drury setting

Without casting any aspersions, I get my holsters made at Anderson's because they are the very best obtainable, both in quality and workmanship, in the business and I believe in using the best obtainable materials in everything I do."

Our apologies to both Mr. Drury and Mr. Anderson for this situation. Deadlines being what they are, there isn't always time to completely validate information given our panel members and they do the best possible job with the materials at hand.

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> Patricia Stengel Evanston, Ill.

Henry Wilkinson

CROSSFIRE

"Henry Wilkinson Gunmaker" by R. J. Wilkinson-Latham (July, GUNS) is along parallel lines with the "Underhammer Guns & Henry Wilkinson" by R.J. Wilkinson-Latham in the April 1971 British Guns Review which showed pictures of the 1839 underhammer gun. I was very impressed by the ruggedness and simplicity of this gun. It's too bad you didn't illustrate this gun in your article. Otherwise, it was a very fine piece and extremely interesting.

Virgil Garnett Spiceland, Ind.

Australian Wildlife

Over the past few years I have, together with my friends, made a collection of color slides of what Australia is really like, together with slide maps of the areas where we have been. Slides show Kangaroo, pig, crocodiles and alligator, as well as shark, salmon, trout and so on through the range of the hunter's dream. To accompany these slides, we have a tape story to tell you about these places, where they can be found, and telling too, the story of what makes up sporting Australia. We call it, "Discover The Last Frontier."

These slides and tapes are available to any club secretary or group who would like to have them. We do this as a service and charge only the nominal amount that the duplicate slides in the story cost as well as the tape and the postage. This comes to a total of \$35.00.

We shall be delighted to hear from any clubs or groups who would like to write us. Last time we wrote in similar vein we were swamped with requests and it took us a week or two to get extra duplicate sets made. So, if you do write and it takes a week or two, please be patient with us.

Don Meller 49 Rundle Street South Australia 5000

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POINT BLANK

THERE PROBABLY isn't a more popular shot size for ducks than No. 6. And this is especially true when the game is shot over decoys. Of course there are those who swear by 5's, not only for birds taken out of a blind, but also on those flight lines where the webfeet work between grain fields and resting waters. Whenever anything is published on the proper shot sizes for our wildfowl, whether in story or factory brochure, these shot sizes are invariably mentioned.

Then you have these rare characters who shun all the common sizes of pellets and insist that you must hit em with a great many shot. Like in a load of 7½. These fellows are not too common and I for one am not inclined to agree with them. I have seen their efforts in the marshes and performance is never quite up to the stories they bandy about. Here of late we've been getting still another advocate. This is the gunner who won't shoot ducks with anything save 4's. Now, usually, we reserve these big pellets for game like Canadas. It is generally a choice of either 4's or 2's when the goose hunter goes afield. It used to be that BB's had certain aficionados but the number has shrunk of late years.

Opinions are always highly colored and whether to shoot 7½, 6s', 5's, or 4's, has been in the past a highly subjective matter. It has remained for the Illinois Natural History Survey and Winchester-Western to perform a real service for shooters by conducting a lengthy research project at Nilo Farms to really pin down which shot is best.

Nilo Farms, the W-W game development laboratory, raises mallards. These birds are released from a 30foot tower about 1,000 yards from the lake where they are fed. Before the flighted game pitches downward to the lake it must top a hill crest and just beneath this crest are a series of blinds. The flight patterns of the birds are so well established that the green heads wing past the blinds at distances of 35, 40, 50 and 65 yards.

Two sizes of shot pellets were tested on these flighted mallards, No. 6 and No. 4 shot. Frank Bellrose of the Natural History Survey, comments, "At 35 yards there was no obvious difference in the effectiveness of No. 4 and No. 6 shot but as the range increased the disparity between the two shot sizes widened, with the No. 4 becoming the more effective. With ducks centered in the pattern of the No. 4's, crippling did not appear to be an important factor until the range exceeded 50 yards. With No. 6, crippling appeared to become an important consideration at ranges beyond 40 yards.

"At the four ranges where the testing was done, 35, 40, 50 and 65 yards, the ducks were hit with substantially larger numbers of 6's than of 4's. However, penetration of No. 4 shot into the body cavities of the ducks was greatly superior to 6's. For example the 40-yard average for hits was 5.7 No. 4 pellets, as compared to 8.8 No. 6 shot. Of these, 68% of the 4's penetrated into the body cavities as compared to only 41% of the 6's.

"This is because the heavier No. 4 pellet has significantly greater striking force. These 5.7 No. 4 pellets hit a duck with 25.6 ft. lbs. of energy at 40 yards. The average of 8.8 No. 6 pellets deliver only 21.1 ft. lbs. of energy.

"A more realistic way of looking at this energy factor is in terms of the punch that the pellets deliver within the body cavity of the duck". Bellrose calls this the "internal impact product" and it is obtained by multiplying the number of pellets in the body cavity by the weight of each pellet.

The results show a higher internal impact product for No. 6 shot at 35 yards, but a higher internal impact for 4's at 40, 50 and 65 yards.

John Madson, a ranking conservationist at Nilo, in commenting on the illuminating series of tests, says, "These experiments indicated to our satisfaction that 4's are superior to 6's for duck shooting at 35 yards and beyond. And that includes a lot of duck shooting".

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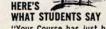
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HANDLOADING

BY C. GEORGE CHARLES

YOU LADS who like to shoot the old-time black powder numbers would do well to take a look at the latest Dixie Gun Works catalog. Therein will be found listings of the last of the Connecticut Cartridge Company's special cartridge cases. No more will be made, but DGW has a fair inventory of the calibers listed. Among those still available are the .33 .401 and Winchester, .45-2-4/10 Sharps, and the venerable .50-70 U.S. Prices range upward to \$9 per box of 20, but that isn't bad when the scarcity of original brass is considered. Better get what you need now.

This new DGW catalog is the biggest ever and contains more muzzle loading and black powder items than you imagined in existence. There are well over 300 profusely illustrated pages. Quite a change from the few mimeographed sheets Turner Kirkland was putting out about 15 years ago. And, I like the way he prices this catalog—"\$2.00, or send \$3.00 if you like this book." Best get one, just for reference if nothing else.

And, also speaking of black powder and the like, B. E. Hodgdon has just put out "Hodgdon's New Black Powder Data Manual No. 1." Not a very thick manual, it contains several pages of general dope on both muzzle loading and breechloading with black powder, then gives over to page after page of loading data and velocity figures-all for black powder only. This includes virtually all of the old, obsolete black powder metallic cartridges. In addition, there are tables of loads for just about any caliber or type muzzle loader you might want -from the Hall breechloading carbine and Brown Bess smoothbore musket up through cap-and-ball revolvers and scatterguns of all gauges.

By the time you read this, the new manual should be at your local handloading shop at a ridiculously low price.

. . .

Some time back, it was stated in another well-known shooting maga-

zine that high-velocity jacketed bullets greatly reduced barrel life in modern handguns. The impression was given that the bore of a gun like the .357 Magnum would be "shot out" in as little as 5,000 rounds.

Obviously, hot, jacketed handloads are rougher on the bore than leadbullet loads. Nevertheless, I've examined more than a few .357's which had been fired in excess of 10,000 to 15,000 rounds with jacketed-bullet loads developing 30,000 psi or more chamber pressure. All those barrels were still perfectly serviceable. On the other hand, I've looked at guns with over 50,000 rounds of lead-bullet loads through them and found their barrels just like new—a little loose in other areas, but the bores were still perfect.

As far as I am concerned, the question is rather academic. Sure, jacketed bullets wear the bore more than lead —but if 15,000 full-charge jacketed .357 Magnums don't produce visible evidence of bore wear, why worry? Stop and figure out how long it would take you to wear out a barrel at that rate. It's a rare bird who will shoot 1,000 full-charge magnum loads in a year. In any event, I wouldn't get excited about wearing out a .357, .41, or .44 Maggie barrel, even if you shoot nothing but jacketed-bullet loads.

• • •

Maybe you feel it's too early to think about shotgun slug loads for fall deer hunting. Not so. By the time you get all the goodies together, get loads brewed up, and take time to target your gun(s), it will be opening day again.

Slugs aren't difficult to load; they just require special treatment if best results—and that means accuracy are to be obtained.

As far as tools are concerned, you'll need some means of applying a good, stiff roll crimp. Usually there's no point in buying a complete roll-crimp loader, considering the quantity of loads involved. The low-cost Lyman crimp head in a drill press or portable

(Continued on page 19)

Why a Lyman black powder handgun?

The answer is simple. There just wasn't a black powder handgun around you could depend on for quality, shootability and accuracy.

So, we're introducing two guns you *can* depend on. The new Army .44 Revolver and the new Navy .36 Revolver. The work horses of Civil War sidearms. We've combined space age steel and manufacturing tolerances with the revolutionary Remington top strap design and reinforced frame. The result is a pair of handguns made for the shooter. Safe, durable and accurate. No other replica can match them.

And if you look close, you'll see the small details that make them the best *looking* black powder handguns. Like the snug fit of the real walnut grips against the frame, or the high polished metal finishes. And in addition, each gun is given a complete going over by our gunsmith before it goes out. So if there's a flaw, we'll find it. Not you.

We've even included a booklet detailing the cleaning and maintenance of the guns. To help you keep them flawless. We're proud of the fact that we've been serving the black powder shooter since 1878. And that's a big part of the reason why we've done everything possible to make our first guns the best looking, best shooting black powder handgun replicas you can buy. Bar none.

And they're just the start of our increased black powder services. Watch for more. Check out the new Army and the new Navy. There are no other replicas like them. Discover all the reasons why for yourself. Lyman-



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The Vanguard makes its debut in the following calibers (right hand models only): .243 Win.; .264 Win. Mag.; 7mm Rem. Mag.; .308 Win.; .30-06 and .300 Win. Mag.

For full information on the new Vanguard write to Weatherby, Inc., 2781 E. Firestone Blvd., South Gate, California 90280.



The sole survivor



High Standard Model 8104 pump shotgun

Joe Benner, Olympic Gold Medal Winner, tells the story.

"We wanted to find out just how much punishment pump action shotguns could take. So we conducted a test for toughness at a leading military installation to find out which would turn out to be the best all-around gun for performance and durability.

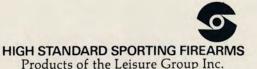
"We fired 28 different models of pump action shotguns for seven days, 100 rounds per hour for a total of 10,000 rounds. Twelve gauge magnum loads were used throughout, until either a full 10,000 rounds had been expended, or the gun had stopped working.

"As soon as one of the pump guns gave up, we threw it on top of the other 'wash-outs' until the mound began to look like a woodpile.

"When the smoke settled, the Sole Survivor was the High Standard pump."

Your shotgun must work right, must work every time, no matter how many rounds you have squeezed off in the field or on the range. Proven ruggedness and dependability — that's what counts and that's what we build into our line of pump shotguns (12, 20, 28, & .410 gau.).

Look us over. You won't be disappointed!





The most famous of all cap-and-ball revolvers is back. After 98 years, Colt's resumes production of the original 1851 Navy. The same gun "Wild Bill" Hickok used to carve a niche for himself in American history. Go back with him to desolate Rock Creek Station where he singlehandedly outfought the McCanles gang with a brace of Navys. Heft one at your Colt's Registered Dealer.

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THE GENUINE COLT 1851 NAVY. Manufactured to the same high quality standards as it was 98 years ago. With the same comfortable grip that fits any hand. And the same perfect balance, velvet-smooth action and square back trigger guard (rarest of all 1851 Navy's). Now you can enjoy the thrill and the challenge of percussion shooting with the original 1851 Navy. You no longer have to settle for an imitation. The serial numbers resume at the point where Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manu facturing Company left off 98 years ago.

Specifications: Caliber: .36 Barrel: 7½", octagonal Weight: 40 ounces No. of shots: Six Finish: Barrel, Cylinder: Blue, navy

scene engraving by W.L. Ormsby on cylinder. *Rammer and frame:* color case-hardened. *Backstrap, Triggerguard:* silver-plated Grips: One piece American black walnut

Overall length: 13"



(Continued from page 14)

electric drill will do fine, as will the old-style, hand-cranked crimpers still floating around.

Cases may be paper—after all, they worked fine for lo, these many years, so they can't be all bad—but skivedmouth plastics will crimp well.

Of the several types of slugs on the market, the traditional hollow-base, rifled type gives the most trouble. This is due to the relative fragility of the thin-wall, hollow base, which is easily deformed upon firing. Solidbase types like the Brenneke don't present this problem.

The least damage results when the base of the slug is supported solidly against propellent gas thrust. This is best accomplished by capping the filler wad column with two .135-inch or .200-inch Nitro card wads, then seating the slug directly upon them. Do not then—as has been recommended in the past—fill the base hollow with bullet lube, grease, Crisco, or other material. To do so will produce erratic results.

The loading process is simple, and except for the roll crimps, all operations may be carried out on almost any shotshelf loader. Hercules Unique powder gives excellent results, a charge of 28 grains producing 1600 fps velocity and a safe 10,000 psi chamber pressure with the standard 12-gauge rifled slug. Size cases full length, including head; reprime, and charge with powder. Seat a cup-type plastic gas-seal over-powder wad with approximately 50 pounds pressure. I use the Alcan PGS wad, but any similar type will do. Seat a wad column of one 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch filler wad (waxed fiber such as Alcan is fine) topped by two .135-inch or .200-inch hard nitro card wads. Seat the slug by hand, then crimp. Some wad column adjustment will be needed to allow proper crimp. Crimping should force the slug downward somewhat, compressing the wad column 1/32-inch to 1/16-inch.

When crimping paper shells, make certain the mouths are in good condition, adding a little beeswax if necessary to insure a firm crimp. Best results will be had if only once-fired or new shells are used. Since few slug loads are used, this presents no economic hardship.

Slug loads assembled as described will shoot fully as well—sometimes better—than the standard factory load. If obtaining rifled slugs is a problem, Lyman still sells the hollow-base mold for casting them, and the swaging set for producing the external rifling on the cast slug. For all practical purposes, the smooth, as-cast slug will shoot nearly as accurately as the rifled version.

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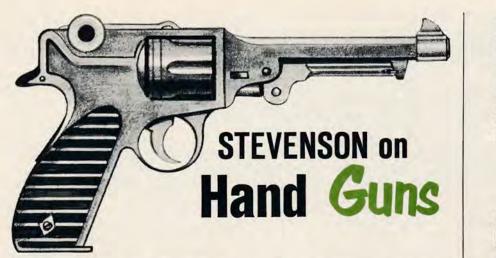
But craftsmanship such as this does not preclude the most modern of innovations. The receivers of the Beretta BL over & unders are unparalleled. Among other attributes, their design is such that no underlugs are required, allowing the receivers of the Beretta twelve gauge guns to be as slim as those of most other twenty gauges, while the receivers of our twenty and twenty-eight gauge guns are even slimmer still. The result is a series of over & unders unsurpassed for superb balance, light weight, and crisp handling.

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GUNS . OCTOBER 1971

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"DLINKING," were it in my dictionary, would be entered between "Plimsoll mark" and "plinth," but it's not there. Obviously the lexicographers are oblivious to this pastime which is a rightful contender to the title of America's National Sport, and in truth even we, its practitioners, are pretty foggy about the origins of the word. The only etymological hypothesis I can put forth is to recall that Mrs. Adolph Topperwein, wife of the great exhibition shooter of the early part of the century, and no duff with a gun in her own right, was known as "Plinky" to her friends. Mrs. Topperwein had a passion for impromptu targets, and preferred them in the air. Spying a block of wood or such, she would call to a companion, "Throw it up and I'll plink it", hence her nickname. Likely she coined the term, and at any rate the word does have an unmistakable onomatopoeic flavor.

But how does one justify nominating plinking as our National Sport? First on the basis of popularity, and second on the fact that no other game is so attune, it seems to me, to the temper of the times.

Who plinks? Virtually everyone who owns a gun, at one time or another, and that bulks up to millions on millions of people. If the NRA's membership committee could contrive to enroll every plinker from Atlantic City to Seattle you'd see Congress marching to a different drum. But plinkers are an individualistic bunch, and so far not even Social Security has managed to sign them all up. Some would claim that plinkers, as a group, buy more guns and burn more powder than any other segment of the shooting fraternity. I'm inclined to believe the first assertion and to doubt the second, but there's no denying that the ammo factories would in time cry poverty if plinkers ever staged a boycott.

In an era which puts primary em-

phasis on the individual, on unfettered freedom of choice, on unsructtured participation rather than either competition, teamwork, or spectator status, plinking is the ideal sport. For it has no rules save those of courtesy and common sense. It has no prerequisites save access to a bit of the outdoors. It requires no specialized equipment; if you don't have a gun you can make a slingshot and still claim to be plinking. Plinking then is a supremely individualistic sport; it can be whatever you care to make it. The only real object, within the limits of safe gun handling, is pleasure. If it's not fun, it's not plinking. What follows then is mostly a personal statement, points of view I've distilled out of two decades of rigorous plinking which may suggest some alternate ruts if you're tired of the one you're in.

Over the years I've plinked with any gun I could carry, from a flintlock to a BAR, and with a couple that took two guys to tote. But since this is a handgun column, we'll narrow the field accordingly. Not long ago I read a short article by a chap who claimed that the only fit pistol for plinking was a heavy, match target grade .22 LR. Anything else, to his notion, was not worth hell room. Big bores were impossible to keep in ammo, and guns of lesser heft and quality were frustratingly inaccurate. I've gotten too much pleasure from plinking with oddball ordnance to subscribe fully to this view, but there are elements to his thinking which make a great deal of sense.

Much of rural America, I sometimes think, could profitably be mined for lead. Certainly most of us, when we get outdoors, tend to expend cartridges in vaster heaps than we had intended, and unless you have access to a Star loader, there are only two practical ways to go. One of course is the rimfire, and the other is the cap and ball. The sheer time required to



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GUNS



load a percussion revolver will keep your ammo consumption within quite modest limits. For those with limited budgets, or an interest in American history, plinking with a replica muzzle loader can be both pleasurable and highly enlightening.

Many of the targets you'll pick for plinking will require very precise accuracy to hit, and this does put a premium on the quality of the equipment. I have a weakness for clipping weeds and decapitating dandilions, and hitting the stalk permits no lateral error at all. Bouncing tin cans requires bullet placement exactly where the can touches the ground, thus a vertical error of nearly zero. It follows therefore that adjustable sights on a plinking pistol, the way I choose to plink, are much to be desired. Kentucky windage or Tennessee elevation, since the holdoff required varies with the range, is much too imprecise a system to live with. If your gun does not have adjustable sights, then, the only thing to be done is to fall to with file and drift and sight it in. I prefer to sight my guns dead on at 25 meters. Depending on the trajectory of the cartridge and your shooting habits, you may find some other range more congenial, but whatever it may be, a center hold is obligatory; a six o'clock hold is useable only in formal target shooting.

Colonel Townsend Whelen once said, "Only accurate rifles are interesting," and the same holds very much true for handguns. An inaccurate pistol, since it negates whatever skill the shooter may possess, can only lead to frustration and disillusionment. And the shooter himself, by choosing targets which are really much more difficult than they appear at first glance, will hasten this process. It follows then, to my way of thinking, that the plinker should use the best equipment he can afford. And no matter what gun he uses, it should be carefully sighted in and the shooter should know the limits of his skill with it. This requires preliminary work on paper before you hasten afield to engage targets of opportunity. If your paper target group at 25 yards won't hide under a coffee tin, trying to hit orange juice cans at that range will be hopeless. When plinking, by all means shoot to the limit of your skill, but don't waste ego and ammo on impossible shots. If you miss two or three successive shots you are simply too far from the target. Either move up closer, find a bigger target, or shoot more carefully and deliberately.

Bill Jordan, probably the finest practical revolver shot alive (and a lifetime master with the target iron as well) can, it is reliably reported, pick off aspirin tablets at 10 feet with his .357, firing from the hip, and do this almost without fail. At the same range, same style, same gun, I can generally connect with a soup can. Moreover I intend to stay with cans of such size until I quit missing them. Cutting the air a handspan either side of a Saint Joseph's would teach me nothing.

Underlying these words is some sort of Puritan ethic which says that plinking should be a means of selfimprovement, that "wasting" ammunition is to be frowned on, that "nonproductive" shots should be eschewed in favor of those which contribute directly to the learning process. Pushed to the limit, this sort of attitude would turn play back into work. Nevertheless, I heartily subscribe to at least a halfway application of this philosophy. Far too much ammo is very frankly wasted in plinking; too many guys go to the boonies and do nothing but further ingrain bad shooting habits. For some, incessant misses bring disillusionment and cause them to give up shooting. Others remember only the hits and develop a ludicrously inflated sense of their handgunning prowess. In the case of police officers in particular, this can later lead to trying a shot in the line of duty which should never have been attempted. Thus a certain minimum of shooting must always be done at paper targets, for paper tells the truth in a way plinking never will.

Using paper groups as a benchmark of your ability, however, plinking can, if intelligently conducted, be turned into a very pleasurable way to build skill. That is what I try to make of it. I think about each shot beforehand, figure the odds, and concentrate on trigger squeeze and sight alignment. A hit means everything went right; a miss usually tells you nothing unless you can read it. For that reason I like a background that will register the bullet impact.

One of my favorite plinking spots is a vertical clay bank flecked with pebbles a half inch to an inch in diameter. A hit will shatter the stone in most gratifying fashion, while misses are recorded in the clay quite exactly. For practicing hip shooting, I use the same bank, and ignore the pebbles. There's room to scratch a half dozen 1-foot by 2-foot rectangles side by side, and these serve as makeshift silhouettes. For the novice who wants to learn instinctive shooting, such a set-up is ideal. I might note that I've never gotten any backsplatter from

(Continued on page 45)

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Back in 1946, we introduced a scope called the K4. It soon became the world's best-selling hunting scope. It still is. Because we knew which features to improve and which to leave alone.

Through the years, we added other models. A K2.5, K3, K6, and so on. Plus four very sophisticated variables.

We worked on the inside of the scope too. Weatherproof sealing was perfected. The optics were refined for more brightness. We even built in a shockproofing system that can handle more recoil than any magnum rifle develops.

We made improvements everywhere. Well, almost everywhere. The tube is still tough, true, honest steel. Just like it was back in 1946. It's not that we're against progress. We just never found anything better.

In fact, we're so old fashioned we still form, polish, buff, and gun-blue the tube by hand. The same way a few cranky old gunsmiths still build fine custom guns.

If you're thinking this kind of old-fashioned quality is expensive, you're right. A handcrafted, steel-tubed Weaver K or V model will cost you \$29.95 and up. That's the price of progress. Or lack of it.



For free full-color catalog, write: W. R. Weaver Company, Dept. 43, El Paso, Texas 79915.



Pacific's new "Pakit Tool" uses silent screw-action for all operations. Here, the author is shown priming the case by the easy screw-in method that is noiseless.



Lyman's "old reliable" No. 310 reloading tool is one known to many reloaders. This is an old tool with five dies instead of the present four-die set. Works well!



By JOHN W. ROCKEFELLER

I T WOULD NOT SEEM that there would be much need for the little hand-type loading tools in this day of powerful bench presses and multi-station shotshell loaders. After all, the big rigs *are* more efficient, for they possess both more speed and more leverage than the little tools.

But the fact remains that there is a demand for compact reloading tools, a definite need that must be fulfilled. Some shooters, myself included, simply do not have the space for a fully equipped workshop, dominated by a large wooden workbench and a full array of heavy tools. Rather we need a compact little tool that fits in a dresser drawer or a tool box when not in use, that we can lay out and use on the dining room table after the little woman has cleared away the supper dishes.

At the present time, there are four major manufacturers of these handy little loading tools. These include Lee Custom Engineering Co. of Hartford, Wisconsin; Lyman Gun Sight Corporation of Middlefield, Connecticut; Pacific Gunsight Company of Lincoln, Nebraska; and Pak Tool Company, formerly W. H. English, of Seattle, Washington.

Perhaps the best known of the portable loaders is the little Lee Loader, which comes in a black and red cardboard box and retails for a mere \$9.95. This tool is available to load shotshells, rifle, or handgun loads, and comes complete with everything needed to do the job. Well, nearly everything. In addition to the tool itself, you will also need a light plastic-headed hammer, which should set you back about a buck more.

I personally feel that the little Lee Loader is the greatest boon to the once-a-year hunter since smokeless powder.



Lee's priming tool is available as an acessory for regular Lee Loaders or as a standard component for the Target Model loader. This is a very handy accessory.



The Lyman Ideal #310 tool with the cartridge holder between the handles. Current sets combine decapping and muzzle resizing (neck sizing) in one die alone.

LOADING TOOLS

For the casual reloader or the shooter who has limited space, these portable loading tools are just the ticket.

Centerfire rifle ammo and shotgun shells are expensive, and all too many hunters never shoot their guns except during the hunting season each fall. They are, as a result, rather miserable shots and wound a lot of game.

Why don't they shoot? Because they can't take the bite of the two bits a bang tariff on centerfire factory ammo for rifles, or maybe fifteen cents for shotshells. Well, they no longer have any excuse! The Lee Loader is quite inexpensive, only a ten-spot, is easily understood and used by any man who can read English and *follow directions*.

My first experience was with a Lee Loader, and under conditions pretty much as stated above. I had bought myself a couple of slide-action shotguns, a J.C. Higgins 12 gauge and an Ithaca Featherweight 16 gauge, and realized that I needed practice if I were to become even a fair wingshot. So, I bought two Lee Loaders, along with the necessary powder, shot, primers, and wads.

The Lee Loaders were not perfect, of course, and I had some trouble with my handloads. For one thing, I had bought a lot of paper cases, "range pick-ups" that had been fired in somebody else's gun. The Lee Loader does not resize the brass head of the case, so every so often I would shuck the gun, pull the trigger—and nothing would happen. Then I would have to give a little extra "push" to the slide handle to lock the breechblock, before I could fire the gun.

Plastic shells proved difficult. Naturally the little Lee tool possesses no leverage to assist in crimping and, while I had their little crimp starters to *start* the crimp, I just lacked the brute force to finish a good solid crimp. Winchester Mark V shells give the least trouble in this respect. Remington SP's were difficult, and Federals were the worst of all.

Still and all, the Lee Loader (Continued on page 69)



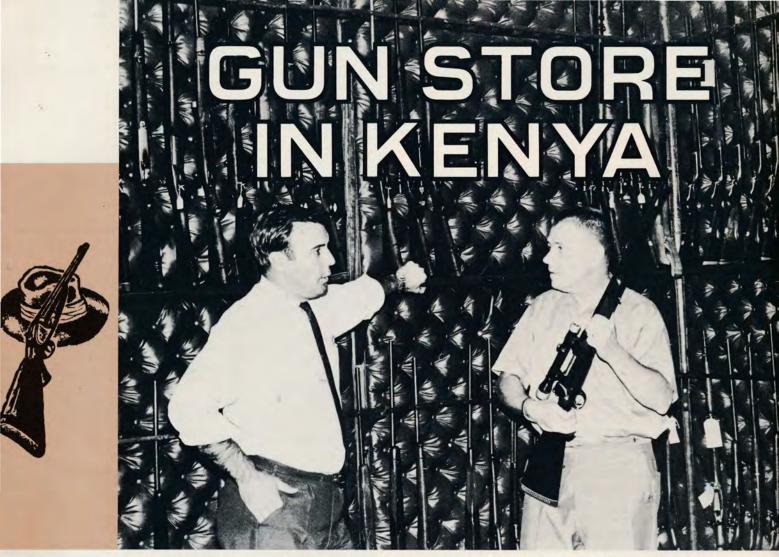
The Pacific "Measuring Kit" in operation. Extra charge tube is the Belding & Mull "Visible" measure. It is fully interchangeable with tube provided by Pacific.



This side view of the W.H. English "Pak Tool" shows the linkage of the toggle system and the shell holder in place. This is the most expensive of the portables.



Pacific "Packit Tool." Clockwise the parts are: primer and bullet seating tool; neck sizing tool; charge cup; decapping rod; shell holder; and in center is die body.



Author John Reese, right, interviewing Andy Anderson, Kenya Bunduki Manager, in the gun vault of the world famous store. Stringent federal laws in the Republic of Kenya require all firearms not actually in use be kept under lock and key. Rather than move the guns out of the vault every day for displays, the customers are taken into it to examine the guns.

F OR THE BIG GAME hunter, perhaps the most famous gun store in the world is a rather modest establishment in the heart of Nairobi, Kenya, known as Kenya Bunduki, Ltd.

There is little doubt that a preponderance of all game shot in East Africa over the past 35 years was taken with guns sold or leased from Kenya Bunduki, which in Swahili, the lingua franca of East Africa, means "Kenya Guns". The shop, which sets directly across Kimathi street from the fabled New Stanley Hotel, was founded in the mid-1930's by the famous John A. Hunter and a man named Shaw and was known until 1966 as Shaw and Hunter, Ltd. In its earlier days the shop served as an auxiliary to a safari service. Now, for the past four or five years the shop is out of the safari business and sells or leases guns and ammunition and other hunting equipment.

It comes as no surprise to learn that the handsome, affable manager of Kenya Bunduki is a former soldier and policeman. He is Andy Anderson, a trim, rugged 36-year-old Englishman who came to Africa in 1955 and served as a policeman on the national police force for five years. He has been with Kenya Bunduki now for 10 years and has built the business to the point where it is turning over about 100,000 Kenya pounds, or approximately \$250,000 dollars a year.

The cool, shaded interior of Kenya Bunduki is a gun nut's dream. The variety of makes and calibers of weapons is tremendous and the prices are reasonable. Even though suspicious NEMYA BUIDUKI NEMYA BUIDUKI NEMYA BUIDUKI

By JOHN A. REESE, JR.

Kenya Bunduki Limited, largest and most famous gun store in Kenya and East Africa, is on Kimathi Street in downtown Nairobi. The store is outfitter for 90% of the hunting safaris for Kenya. It was started by Shaw and Hunter and it has been in business for over 50 years now. Several thousand guns are in the store at any given time. These are new, used, leased and stored guns.

Wilson Mwangi, Senior Salesman and Clerk, right, shows a scoped rifle to a browser. Mwangi is the senior employee in years of service and is well respected in the area.

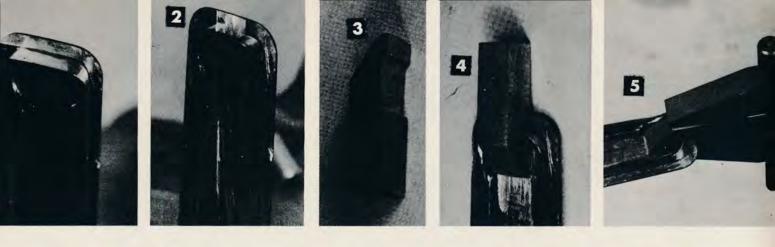
hunters might smell self-interest or collusion, most professional hunters honestly go along with Anderson in advising foreigners going on safari not to bring more than one favorite weapon and hire the rest from Kenya Bunduki. There you can get virtually any weapon you need on a weekly rental rate that will be one of the smallest expenses of your safari. For example, hunters can have a .22 rifle for \$7 a week, a shotgun at the same rate, a scoped medium rifle (that means something in the .30 caliber bracket) for \$11 a week and a heavy rifle (.375 H. & H. magnum, .458 Winchester, or a .470, .500 or .500-.465 double) for \$14 per week. None of the heavy rifles are scoped, because most shots are taken under 50 yards.

By far the most popular heavy rifle is the Winchester African .458 magnum. Professional hunters like its rugged dependability and its cost is a quarter or a third of the price of a

double rifle. The .458 cartridge has earned itself an outstanding name in East Africa, and Kenya Bunduki sells a lot of that ammo. In fact, Anderson finds U.S. ammo to be generally the best, with Remington and Winchester outselling most other brands.

Kenya, a new nation with a violent, if short, period of emergence into autonomy from the British colonial empire, has very tight gun controls. Anderson estimates that as much as 50 percent of his time goes into control measures. Many, many hours are spent filling out forms and records. And so it must be, because the loss of a single weapon or any major quantity of ammunition could result in Kenya Bunduki being closed down indefinitely. Consequently, daily inventories are made, painstaking records are kept, no gun leaves the store unless the detailed government forms are properly filled out, certified and presented. Further, all weapons and ammo are locked up nightly in something that looks like the Bank of England vault, with double steel doors and locks.

It was also interesting to hear what Anderson had to say about the impact of the U. S. Gun Control Act of 1968. Since that went into effect, Kenya Bunduki has lost a great many sales because of delays in delivery, caused by the little understood and voluminous paper- (Continued on page 48)



MAKE A HINGED FLOORPLATE

BEGINNING with this issue, and continuing for the next few months, this do-it-yourself series will feature a unique and (we hope) more meaningful approach to gunsmithing for the amateur craftsman.

This month, we discuss, in words and pictures, how to make and install a hinged floorplate. In following months we will make a European type lever release for a rifle floorplate, install double set triggers, fit a gracefully curving shotgun style trigger guard to a rifle, checker steel, forge and shape a bolt handle, style a sporter stock and add some classic features to your favorite rifle.

If you begin now with a barreled action of, say, Mauser or Springfield design and work along, issue by issue, you will wind up with an exceedingly handsome European type sporter with all the nice little extras that represent fine gunsmithing and spell q-u-a-l-i-t-y.

However, if you are not interested in building a deluxe sporter at this time, but wish only to upgrade the gun you may already own, then you will find that each installment of this series is a complete unit within itself and may be applied to a great number of different firearms in a number of different ways with no dependence whatever on preceeding or following articles.

A hinged floorplate is not only a handsome addition that adds both distinction and that certain look of quality to any rifle but is a very practical one as well. Rather than jumping out and getting itself scuffed up as most unmodified Mauser, Enfield, Springfield, etc., floorplates are want to do when you press the release button, a hindged floorplate swings open nicely and allows you to unload the magazine without having to deal with a slaphappy jack-in-the-box.

Since a hinged floorplate is a feature usually found only on the more expensive guns one might assume that there is considerable work involving intricate machinery. Such is not the case, however. As the illustrations show the only tools needed are a couple of files, a drill and a torch. Timewise the whole project fits very nicely into a single evening.

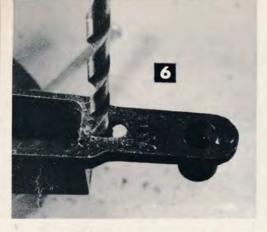
Begin work by inspecting the floorplate you wish to convert. Notice how it clips into the trigger guard assembly and is held in place by narrow lips which fit into slots at either end of the magazine well. The first step is to file these lips off. Do not cut away the moulding where the lips were as the front moulding will serve as a hinge support and both the front and rear mouldings help align the floorplate with the trigger guard assembly.

The hinge bar shown in the illustrations was made from a piece of $\frac{3}{8}''$ keystock about an inch long. Key stock was chosen because it is nice and square, is easy to file and blues nicely. Mostly, however, it was chosen because there happened to be a piece handy when we started work on this project. Actually most anything will do so long as it is about 1/4" square or a bit larger. Just select something that is reasonably tough but easily filed and will blue properly. If there is any question about the "blueability" of any given piece of metal, try a drop of cold blue. If the cold blue works okay you can figure it will take hot blue also. But for that matter, cold blue will do fine for this project anyway.

Next file a notch in the lip moulding just wide enough for the hinge bar. If you carefully center the notch it will go a long way toward eliminating any alignment difficulties later on.

Upon fitting the hinge bar into the notch you will find that while the bar rests squarely on the flat edge inside the floorplate some extra support is needed. Thus the hinge bar itself should be notched until there is an extension or "foot" extending down into the milled-out recess on the inside of the footplate. Be sure to cut the forward edge of this notch square and sharp so that it fits against the forward edge of the floorplate without any sign of a gap.

The next step is to solder the hinge bar to the plate. Our technique was to simply sandwich a thin piece of ribbon silver solder between the two parts, clamp everything together and then heat the whole works until the solder ran. Actually a good union with cold (lead-tin) solder will be strong enough and be even less trouble. Keep in mind, however, that hot-bath type blueing will play hell with cold solder. Cold







GUNS DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT

By JIM CARMICHEL

blueing causes no problem.

A possible alternative to silver solder is "Force-44" solder such as sold by Brownell's Inc., Montezuma, Iowa. "Force-44" melts at a relatively low temperature but yet resists hot bath blueing.

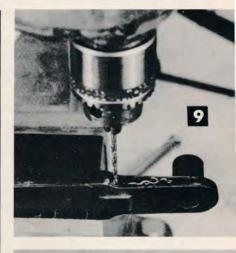
With the hinge bar in place the next step is to cut a recess for it in the forward extension of the guard assembly. Though this is mainly a task for the files, a lot of excess bulk can be gotten out of the way in a hurry with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " drill. Simply drill a couple of holes, side by side, where the hinge bar will eventually fit, then drill a third hole angling up through the magazine wall. This takes care of opening up the slot and leaves only a bit of dressing-up with the files.

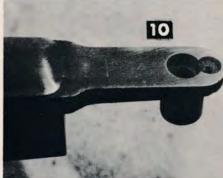
After squaring up the corners of the slot and evening the walls you can start fitting the hinge bar. Naturally, the closer the fit the better the finished product will look, so take it slow and easy here.

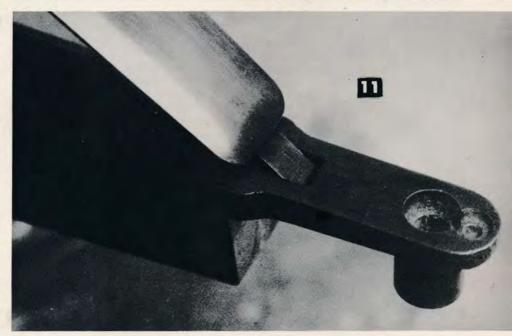
Fitting the hinge bar into the slot is nothing more complicated than the good old fashioned cut-and-try method. Simply open up the sides of the slot until the bar can be wiggled in place. Don't worry if it seems a bit too tight —it'll loosen up with a bit of use. Just try to make the fit as snug as you can.

Along about here you'll probably find that the hinge bar is a little too long for the slot you've cut. So, cutting only a little at a time, trim back the bar (Continued on page 62)

Detail of the inside, forward end of floorplate showing moulding after the closing lip has been filed off. 2. The notch is cut in front moulding for the hinge bar. Remember to work slowly and carefully for the best results. 3. Hinge bar in it's rough form. 4. Detail of the hinge bar in position. Note how the lip moulding helps support the bar. Also note how notch cut in hinge bar itself overlaps floorplate edging. 5. Hinge bar is clamped in place for soldering. 6. Using a drill to rough-out the metal where the hinge is to be fitted speeds the progress of the project. Both the drill and the floorplate must be held tightly for this phase. 7. Careful drilling at an angle opens up the magazine well to accept the hinge bar. 8. Using a file to further open the slot for the hinge. The sharper the file, the better and easier the work. 9. Detail of drilling the hole for the hinge pin. Use of a metal punch to mark the spot prevents the drill from wandering. 10. The finished hinge after using files and emery paper to shape it. Be careful not to damage the floorplate! 11. Floorplate hinge in the open position. Looks, works great.







ARE FIREARMS CONTROLS EFFECTIVE?

By COLIN GREENWOOD

O VER THE PAST FEW YEARS there has been a tremendous increase in the use of firearms by criminals. The statistics issued by the Home Office show an alarming state of affairs and anyone with experience in the field will realise that the true figures are considerably greater. The statistics relate to the known crimes in which firearms were involved. To the figures must be added an indeterminate number of crimes in which firearms were carried, but the fact has not come to light.

For example, many housebreakers now carry firearms habitually, but the fact is revealed in only a small number of cases. The purpose of this article is to examine the rise in armed crime and to speculate about why the present rigid and strict system of firearms controls has failed in its primary purpose, for failed it has, as the figures will show.

The number of indictable offences known to the police in England and Wales in which firearms were involved is reported as:

1961	552	(107)
1962	588	(122)
1963	578	(144)
1964	731	(215)
1965	1140	(318)
1966	1511	(404)
1967	2337	-
1968	2500	-

The figures in brackets indicate the number of those offences in which the weapon used was a shotgun, sawn off or otherwise. Regrettably, the figures do not appear to have been broken down further. Undoubtedly air weapons, which are virtually free of controls, have featured in some recorded crimes. Clearly, pistols form a substantial proportion of the weapons used and rifles can reasonably be said to be the least used class of weapon, although they too have featured in some cases. It is unfortunate that no distinction appears to have been made between normal shotguns and sawn off shotguns, the latter having been subjected to a firearm certificate procedure for many years.

The system of controls varies according to the class of weapon involved. Broadly speaking, rifles, pistols and sawn off shotguns are subject to the very strict firearm certificate procedure in which an application to

EDITOR'S NOTE

The following article was brought to our attention by John Amber, editor of the Gun Digest, who is reprinting it in his latest, 26th, edition. The article appeared in the British magazine, "Security World," October, 1969, and is reproduced here by permission of the editor.

The author, Colin Greenwood, is a Chief Inspector of Police in England, and he has been a member of police forces there since 1954.

Every anti-gun legislator has said; "Look at England. . ." This article should give them a real insight into how well the gun laws in England work—or do not work.

possess weapons is made to the Chief Officer of Police and, if the certificate is granted, full details of all weapons and ammunition are entered in the certificate. Sales of weapons are notified to the police.

An applicant for a firearms certificate must show that he has good reason for requiring the weapon and is subjected to the closest scrutiny. Shotgun controls are less stringent. An applicant for a shotgun certificate merely has to satisfy conditions about his character and antecedents. No record of weapons is shown in the certificate and no notification of sales need be given to the police. In this context it is important to note that a shotgun with barrels less than 24 inches in length is deemed not to be a shotgun for the purpose of the controls, but is subject to the firearm certificate procedure. With the exception of a very small number of the most powerful weapons, air weapons are virtually free from controls.

Controls on pistols were introduced in 1903 but in their present form they. along with controls on rifles and sawn off shotguns, date from 1937. For 32 years pistols have been subjected to the strictest controls and yet it is an indisputable fact that a confirmed criminal, even though he may be prohibited by law from possessing firearms, can and does buy whatever weapon he wants with the greatest ease. There are countless examples to illustrate the point. Go back to 1952 and the well known case of Craig and Bentley who were convicted for the murder of P. C. Miles. Only a year earlier Craig, who allegedly fired the fatal shot, had been fined for possessing a .455 Webley revolver without a certificate. At his trial he said that in the previous five years he had had between 40 and 50 firearms through his hands. Where had he got them? Swapped or bought them from boys at school. He also said that he had made two of the weapons himself. And this was a boy of 16, prohibited by law from acquiring weapons.

Harry Roberts, who was convicted for his part in the Shepherd's Bush murder of three police officers in 1966, was found to have a small arsenal of weapons. According to the evidence at his trial, his previous record was such as to make him prohibited for life from possessing firearms. Where did he get them? In 1967 a Greek Cypriot was convicted of selling three pistols, a Luger, a Colt and an Enfield to Roberts. Needless to say, this man also held them illegally.

In July 1968 a man appeared in profile on Independent Television, setting himself up as a killer available for hire. He produced a Luger pistol and ammunition to support this. Unfortunately for him he was recognised by a police officer who had previously dealt with him. At his trial he was said to have 14 previous convictions including one in 1947 when he was sent to prison for 14 years for shooting with intent to resist arrest. Where did he get his gun? According to his own evidence he had been approached a few days before the programme and he had simply gone into a West End club and bought the gun for 30 pounds (Sterling)-literally over the bar. It is of some significance that, despite his record, this man was fined 50 pounds and given a suspended six months prison sentence. There may have been special features in this case, but such a sentence is hardly likely to make other criminals surrender their guns for fear of retribution.

Where did these and the thousands of other firearms illegally in circulation originate? The answer can only be speculative, but they certainly did not come directly from the holders of firearm certificates whose weapons are checked regularly by the police. Many are wartime souvenirs which have not been surrendered in the various amnesties (note how frequently the Luger features). There is no doubt that substantial numbers of weapons are illegally brought into this country from abroad and dockside areas are a good place to start if one wishes to buy a weapon 'off ticket'.

Some weapons are stolen from military sources and a limited number are stolen from dealers and private individuals, but these latter thefts may not present a true picture. Frequently the weapons stolen from gunsmiths or private houses are very valuable, shotguns valued at over 1,000 pounds, and many are stolen for their cash value rather than for use as weapons. Whatever the source, these illegal firearms are quite freely available to the criminal who has a little cash and the right contacts.

S ince the war, over 186,000 weapons have been surrendered in various amnesties, but this represents only a small part of the illegal weapons in circulation. Surely no one is so naive as to think that the hardened criminal is going to surrender his weapon in an amnesty? Those who took weapons along to the police were, by and large, perfectly respectable people. The criminals and less respectable element were not tempted by the magnanimous offer to relieve them of a possibly valuable and frequently valued weapon. Undoubtedly many such weapons remain in circulation.

Shooting sports tend to remain out of the public eye, probably as a result of the absence of spectator appeal, yet they form a substantial national and international sporting activity. At a conservative estimate some threequarters of a million people in this country take an active part in one type of shooting or another. Ownership of firearms by these people, who have had to prove their eligibility for certificates and have been subjected to the closest scrutiny by the police, presents no problem at all. The mere fact that a person applies to the police for a certificate is evidence of his good intentions. There is no case on record of anyone applying for a firearm certificate to enable him to commit an armed robbery and it is submitted that there is not one shred of evidence to suggest that the absence of a firearm certificate prevented a single criminal carrying a gun.

In addition to the burden of firearm certificates the police and the shooting public had the questionable burden of shotgun certificates thrust upon them in 1967. Examination of statistics shows that shotguns featured in under one third of the cases during the period when they were completely uncontrolled.

Strict controls on the legitimate purchase of pistols for some 30 years have not in any noticeable way prevented criminals from obtaining and using them, yet there appear to be

those who hope that the less stringent and more easily evaded shotgun certificate procedure will materially affect the criminal use of that class of weapon. At least two chief constables expressed their doubts on this score in their last annual reports and the Home Office itself had very considerable doubts at least until 1965 when the then Home Secretary, Sir Frank Soskice said, 'There are probably at least half a million shotguns in legitimate use throughout the country and the burden which certification would put on the police and the users would not be justified by the benefits which would result.' However, by late 1966, the Home Office had changed its tune, though one can see little factual justification for such an about-face, and Mr. Jenkins was introducing shotgun controls in the Criminal Justice Act. The 600,000 shotgun certificates represent a tremendous amount of police time and effort and a lot of inconvenience for honest, respectable citizens, for it is only these who have applied for certificates. There are undoubtedly thousands of shotguns in the hands of persons who do not hold a certificate and the police effort involved in issuing certificates has not affected them.

It must be accepted that the hardened criminal who has armed himself is unlikely to surrender his gun voluntarily: it has become one of the tools of his trade and one which has made his job easier. However, consider for a moment the man who brought home a Luger at the end of the war (and there are many of these still about). He has it illegally and has failed to surrender it in the various amnesties. He knows that if he goes to the police the gun will be confiscated and he will probably be prosecuted.

If the pistol is in good condition it is worth around 20 pounds and in any event he probably has rather an attachment to it. However, if he is short of money, he may be tempted to sell it, and if it is stolen he cannot report the fact to the police. It would be far better to make it clear that any application for a firearm certificate would be sympathetically dealt with and if, for some good reason it was impossible to grant a certificate, he would be permitted to sell it to a dealer for its full market value. Once the pistol is on record, either in a firearm certificate or in a dealer's register, illegal dealings become very difficult if the proper police checks are made.

The proposition raised here is that the problem does not lie in the lawfully held weapons, but in those illegally held despite the controls. Yet almost the whole of the police effort is directed to vetting the countless forms filled in by honest citizens. In considering the rate of armed crime in relation to the numbers of weapons in legitimate hands, it is interesting to note the situation in Switzerland which has the largest number of firearms in relation to population of any country in the world (including the U.S.A.). Virtually every male Swiss is a member of the armed forces and keeps his weapons at home. Guns in every home, and yet a recent enquiry elicited the information that armed crime was so rare that it was not recorded separately in the very comprehensive criminal statistics. Was not this the case in this country not too many years ago?

Each rise in the rate of armed crime has led to calls for the further tightening of existing controls on firearms. This appears to be a simple solution to the problem, but even a cursory examination shows that it is no solution at all. To direct all the legislative and police effort towards the legitimate firearms user is not only ineffective, but dangerous, in that it tends to hide the real problems under the veil of a simple solution. A hardened criminal found in possession of a firearm whilst prohibited by law faces no greater penalty than does the otherwise decent person who has retained a wartime souvenir and frequently the penalties imposed by the courts show that they have treated the case as a mere technical breach and not as the serious matter that it really is.

An examination of the figures tabulated shows that 1964 was the start of the real escalation. Why? Certainly it had nothing to do with any firearms controls which remained unchanged since 1937 (though they were to be tightened slightly in 1965). Certainly it had nothing to do with any sudden increase in the availability of illegal firearms. The guns had always been there, but the criminal had previously carried them only rarely. Could it be that in 1964 the campaign to abolish capital punishment was at its height and that executions had, in effect, already stopped even though the legislation did not get through Parliament until the following year?

There can be no doubt that reasonable firearms controls which are acceptable to the shooting community can help reduce the casual use of firearms in crime and may help re-(Continued on page 60)

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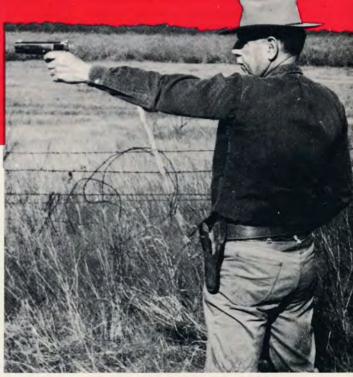
THE .38 SUPER... BEST OF THE BIG AUTO PISTOLS

By Col. CHARLES ASKINS

OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS I've owned a whole saddle bag full of automatic pistols. All the best ones have been the .45 M1911, the 9 mm Parabellum, and the .38 Super. This latter shooting iron is tops among the group. Better because it is the most powerful of our selfloaders. The 130-grain slug is pushed along at 1300 fps and turns up 475 ft. lbs. of muzzle poosh. I have owned 5 Colts for the Super round, some of them in standard frame and others in the lightweight Commander. Besides these I've had 2 Star autos, dead ringer for the M1911 on the outside: and the Astra 400 and the Llama.

The .38 Super is the best of the military cartridges. Originally it was designed for the Army but the board elected to go along with the .45 ACP. More is the pity. The most popular military round is the 9 mm but in any field test between it and the .38 Super, the latter will clearly outdistance it. Not only in the pistol but in the tommy gun, too.

The 1300 fps MV which is standard with the factory 130-grain bullet puts the cartridge ahead of anything loaded by any of the companies. The bullet is a full metal patch and has been designed not so much for performance as for surety in feeding. The round nose is long on penetration and short on punch. The ammo people have never seen fit to offer anything save this one loading. I used to file the point until the lead was exposed and then drill a $\frac{7}{32}$ "



Because of it's ballistic qualities, Askins feels the .38 Super is an excellent field gun. He has bagged jacks, armadillo and many others with it.

hole into the lead. This worked very well and the bullet would then upset at its velocity and mushroom quite effectively.

Ordinarily the Colt will take a bullet that runs .356"; the 9 mm runs only 355" but I have found that it shoots



The .38 Super Colt as loaded by Super Vel. Velocity is 1420 with the 107 grain bullet.



Tested on 34" pine boards, the Super Vel loads tore out the backing with a fine example of power and penetration.



Shooting at the Colt silhouette targets at the 100 yard range, the .38 Super did quite well.



Some of Askins' .38 Super guns. Left is the Colt Commander, center is the Special Colt Gold Cup, and right is a cut-down Govt. Model.

very well in the several Super autos I have owned. At times during the past the companies have made 9 mm hollowpoint ammo with flat nose and truncated cone and these bullets, when you can get them, always perform well in the .38 auto. During WW-II, I uncovered a huge quantity of Wehrmacht 9 mm ammo. Among other loadings was a quantity with a 92-grain bullet. I took this with me and after I got home again I pulled these bullets and loaded them in the .38 Super with 7.7 grains of Unique and this gave me 1410 fps muzzle velocity. Accuracy was good, recoil was light and on game the bullet killed well.

During four years spent in Spain, I shot the Star, Llama, and the Astra autos. The guns are all made for export and are chambered for the .38 Super. In the Spanish military the Star is the standard sidearm. It is chambered for the 9 mm Bayard, a cartridge almost identical to the .38 Super. The 9 mm Bayard, sometimes called the "9 mm Largo," headspaces on the mouth of the case while the .38 Super has a semi-rim, but the Astra will digest either. Spanish ballistics for this kissin' cousin call for a 116grain full metal case bullet which is driven at 1280 fps MV and delivers 420 ft. Ibs. of ME. Bonifacio Echeverria y Cia, manufacturers of the Star, also make a tommy gun for the 9 mm Bayard. The bullet runs .355" and to get performance out of it on game I habitually filed back the jacket until the leaden core was exposed, and then drilled into the lead to get the slug to expand. This worked very well.

There is still another Continental cartridge that is a dead ringer for the .38 Super. This is the 9 mm Steyr, loaded for the military Steyr pistol. It runs .355" weighs 116 grains, drives along at 1250 fps and indicates 400 ft. lbs. of muzzle energy. The ammo was Austrian loaded during WW-II, and the pistol was only made in that country at the Steyr Works. Since the end of hostilities the only guns and cartridges have been military surplus. I owned a Steyr auto briefly, while living on the Continent but the scarcity of ammo dissuaded me from keeping the gun. It shot very well and both the weapon and the cartridge are advanced design.

I have always felt that the good popularity of the .38 Super has been done a lot of harm by the indifference of the manufacturers of the cartridge. The sole offering has never been anything more than the 130-grain bullet, a round designed strictly from the standpoint of good feeding and with little consideration given to performance on live targets. The fact that the slug is driven 1300 feet per second is its sole claim to fame. Despite the shortcomings of the bullet, I was sold on the possibilities of the cartridge a long time ago. It was obvious, however, that to get anything like the full potential out of the pistol it would be necessary to find a better bullet.

In my search I sometimes cast the Lyman #356402, which weighs 121 grains and has a flat point and a truncated-cone configuration. This slug, when loaded ahead of 7.1 grains of Unique, will produce 1400 fps MV. The bullet has to be cast very hard and when this is done the leading is not excessive. Another Lyman bullet is the 133-grain, #358480, which has a flat point. When loaded with 6.9 grains Unique it will hit *(Continued on page 54)*



Lee Jurras of Super Vel, shown here in the test lab, is the one man responsible for the renewed interest in the .38 Super cartridge by the larger companies.



The new Mauser Parabellum rivals it's prewar predecessors in quality and performance.



Field stripped, the Mauser Parabellum shows the very traditional parts. It is obvious that there have been no cost-cutting shortcuts used to produce this pistol.

THE MAUSER PARABELLUM PISTOL

BACK IN 1930, Mauser took over the manufacture of the .30 caliber and 9 m/m Parabellum pistol that, even in those days, was possibly the most famous automatic pistol in the world. In this country, it was known as the Luger, after its originator and designer George Luger. Elsewhere in the world, the name Parabellum stuck with it—meaning "For War." Regardless of what it was called, this piece of machinery is probably the only handgun that has real eyecatching sex-appeal. Only the Luger can be related to a woman; a beautiful, sexy, lovely woman, not young, not old, but just the right age. I have seen hardened handgun shooters pick up a Luger and get that look in their eyes ... One old crusty Westerner looked over one of my Lugers for quite a while with an expression of wonderment on his face. Then turning to me, "Goddam that's beautiful! Does it also shoot?"

By the time the Russians, on one hand and the Allies on the other, had finished with Germany after the last war, the Luger was a thing of the past. As collectors repeatedly told me, "they can never afford to bring back the Luger." It has always been a difficult and expensive handgun to manufacture, but back in the days when Georg Luger designed it, hand labor was possibly the cheapest part of the weapon. A Luger could only be built a certain way, and in its close to fifty years of commercial production this was the way it was produced.

Several years ago when Mauser was tentatively testing the American market with its new bolt action rifle, I heard rumors that the Luger might be brought back. Friends of mine in recent years returned from Germany to tell me of the first production Lugers they had seen. No one knew the selling price or the delivery dates but they had seen the pistols. And so things went on until I received a phone call from Interarms, Ltd., Alexandria, Virginia, telling me that Mauser was going back into Luger production but it would be quite some time before any of these pistols would be available. About two years ago a couple of "special" Mauser Lugers were shown at a jobber show and some people made a big thing of it. All this died down, as these things

Two old designs are re-born using modern materials and craftsmanship.



By MASON WILLIAMS

ROSSI .22 CALIBER GALLERY RIFLE

BACK IN THE DAYS when shoot-ing was considered a genteel sport and hundreds of thousands of dollars were wagered on shooting matches with audiences numbered in the thousands, and when Annie Oakley rode and shot before the crowned heads of Europe, Winchester brought out the Model 1890 Slide Action Repeater rifle in caliber .22 Rim Fire. I believe that this pump action rifle can claim to be the most popular rifle of its type ever manufactured. It was reliable, rugged and never seemed to wear out. Anyone over forty should be able to remember the shooting gallerys at all the State and County Fairs and even in New York City along Third Avenue's shooting gallery where this slide action Winchester reigned supreme. This octagonal barrelled rifle is still widely used today even though it was superceeded by the Model 06 and by the Model 62. The latter Models had round barrels but retained the same basic action that was unique.

Breech lock-up took place when the heavy lugs on either side of the front of the breech dropped into corresponding cuts in the receiver walls. It was possible to fire this little rifle rapidly and accurately. It's popularity became world wide and Winchester really hit the jack-pot with this Browning-designed rifle. It has not been manufactured for many years.

All of a sudden, a couple of years ago, rumors spread that the Model 62 would be duplicated and brought back onto the market by Rossi of Sao Paulo, Brazil. At that time I actually saw and handled one of the early models. Then they disappeared only to emerge once again early this year as production rifles imported by Firearms International, 4837 Kirby Hill Road, Washington, D. C.

Unlike many South American imports, this rifle is well finished, finely fitted and the action has been smooth from the start. I consider this rifle, at \$79.95, to be one of the best buys on the market today not only for the old time, nostalgic shooter like myself, but for the modern person who wants a compact, functional, reliable pumpaction .22 that does not look as if it had been squeezed out of tin stamp-

Left: Looking for all the world like the old Winchester Model 62, the new Rossi is one of the best buys for the money. Below: While this gun is no target rifle, this typical off-hand 25-yard group is respectable.





This twenty-five yard, twelve shot group fired with the .30 caliber Mauser will attest to the great accuracy of the high velocity cartridge.

will when premature, until abruptly the phone rang again and this time the Lugers were actually, physically here in quantity. They were first shown by Interarms, Ltd., at the NRA Convention in Washington D. C. in April of this year.

Having been a dabbler in Lugers for many years, I was definitely curious about these new handguns because I knew the quality that stood behind the Mauser name and yet, in recent years, I had been let down too many times by cheap reproductions of fine firearms. Would Mauser produce the pistol as a quality item and fix the price accordingly? In my mind, this was the key to the whole situation. The answer is YES! The Mauser Parabellum caliber .30 retails for \$268.00, thus automatically reflecting both the problems inherent in the manufacture of this mechanism and the quality built into it.

What does it look like? Obviously, at quick glance it is a caliber .30 Parabellum. The novice and the handgun shooter will probably go no further into the situation accepting the irrevocable fact that they own a Luger. The collector will go out of his mind trying to decide just what Mauser was trying to do when they produced this particular version of the Luger pistol. Basically it is similar to the Model 06/29 caliber .30 Swiss Luger, but this one has the American Eagle stamped over the chamber and the extractor has the word "Loaded" stamped onto the left side that becomes visible when there is a cartridge in the chamber. This new Mauser Parabellum departs from pre-war 06/29's in so many other minor details that a collector can spend hours itemizing these details that are of no real importance to the average person who just wants a genuine Mauser Luger to shoot and hang on the wall.

So many recent imports have lacked finishing and proper fitting that I decided to strip down the Mauser and examined the parts under a *(Continued on page 68)* ings. You can throw it into the back of a pick-up, onto the floor of a car, drag it through the woods and abuse it like its American made predecessors and it will continue to shoot and shoot well.

The sights are not particularly conducive to fine accuracy but touching up the rear sight with a file to open it up and putting a dab of red nail polish on the front sight will help.

The feel of the little rifle is one of its great assets. It is small, light and easy to carry making it popular with anyone from kids through women. It must be handled and used to be appreciated. The stock is short, light in weight and similar to the original Winchesters. If necessary, half an inch can be cut off to fit it to a youngster, although I doubt that a youngster would have a chance to fire it as much as he wanted if his father ever carried and shot it. I have literally told my kids to lay off—it's MINE!

The cartridges feed up out of the tubular magazine into an enclosed feed ramp that moves vertically within the mechanism so that, as the breech comes forward, it drives the cartridge directly into the chamber. The cartridge does not feed from an inclined or tipped position. It moves straight into the chamber in a direct line with the center of the barrel. This is one of the secrets of its reliability and its ability to correctly handle and feed .22 Long Rifle, Long and Short cartridges mixed up in the magazine tube that lies below the barrel. (Continued on page 61)



The action is just commencing to open. Note how the locking lugs rise vertically prior to moving to the rear and up and out of the cuts in the receiver. The visible screw is the take-down screw. Unscrew it, pull it out and pull the action apart. Simple and practical.



The slide back, action open and the breech is riding on the top of the receiver. Note the large locking lug visible on the left side of the breech face. Another duplicate lug is located on the right side. The action worked smoothly and efficiently with no complications.

The Heritage of NICKEL-PLATED FIREARMS By E. DIXON LARSON

CHRONOLOGICALLY, the nickel plating of American firearms can be researched to January, 1872 —some 36 years after Sam Colt's first conception of a practical revolving cylinder pistol. The single shot had been the acceptable means of defense for over some 300 years, and acceptance of the percussion revolver was slow. During such periods of promotion, Sam Colt traveled throughout the Shown on opening page, 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. Nickel resisted corrosion much better than the silver. The "Suicide Special" appeared around the turn of the century and most were

nickel plated giving them added appeal.

Lt. Colonel Schofield's "improved" S & W Army Model with the break barrel might have helped Custer considerably due to its ease of operation. Nearly 8300 guns were manufactured; the rarest are nickel.

world presenting royalty with exquisite custom gold inlayed models, many utilizing silver plating. Some of these models were engraved by such famous New York City engravers as W. Ormsby, L. D. Nimschke, and Joseph Wolf. Some say, "The Lord created man, but Sam Colt made them equal," and from the financial statements submitted by him for his travels, they also say, "He was the father of the expense account."

The custom of giving presentation swords as tokens of esteem seems to have been practiced for many years in England and on the continent prior to their introduction into this country. Most of such weapons were the product of France and its artists who used silver and gold as the shiny medium. The Civil War brought out an era of presentation arms and swords that was the highwater mark of baroque adornment.

Charles Lewis Tiffany founded and organized his outfitting company in 1837, later establishing a branch in Paris in 1853, known as Tiffany, Reed and Company. Therefore, it is not hard to understand how the talented designs of Boutet's found their way into this country in the 1860's. At this time, Tiffany and Company was located at 550 Broadway, New York City, and doing very well as outfitters for the Civil War and producers of custom presentation pieces. During this period. President Lincoln ordered John Quincy Adams Ward to design a presentation grip for a brace of Colt pistols to be presented to the Governor of Turkey for his service in saving the family of Reverend Phillip Merriman, while Merriman himself was killed by highwaymen of that country. The "Tiffany Colts" were engraved profusely, equipped with one-piece cast ornate bronze grips and then the creation silver plated. One wonders whether these were firearms or pieces of jewelry. Regardless, Tiffany Colts are very beautiful and today command a tremendous price from \$3,500 to \$11,-000. When John Orr was imported into the Tiffany firm, we find the first evidence of nickel finishing, replacing some of the customary silver over the engraving, which was to become much more common in the mid-70's.

At the close of the Civil War, the Colt Company was left with an inventory of many percussion (cap and ball) parts. Bear in mind, there were no military issued cartridge weapons in the Civil War; but immediately after, the management of the Colt Company was preparing to

market a cartridge revolver. In an effort to reduce costs and utilize an inventory of parts, Mason and Richards of the Colt Company patented a method of converting the percussion revolvers to fire the metallic cartridge. There were three basic models that were made up at the factory as cartridge weapons from the percussion parts. These weapons were placed on the market in hopes that they would be rapidly purchased by those who recognized the convenience of the metallic cartridge. Inasmuch as many percussion weapons were in the hands of the soldiers that had returned to civilian life and their means would not afford them a new-type weapon, sales were slow. The Colt Company started nickel plating the conversion in 1872 for sales to Mexico, also billing them in their advertising as "resistant to corrosion." The Mexican market proved a fertile field for the "shiny guns." Simultaneously, as conversion parts diminished, a new model, "Frontier Model of 1872" was released. This was the first Colt basic cartridge model, and finish was predominantly in the nickel. Finish could not be specifically factory ordered at this time, and customer cost was the same for either finish. Most of the nickel guns were shipped to the west or southwest and Mexico, to markets where weapons were still being considered as tools of the trade of survival.

In the Yellowstone Campaign of 1874, Lt. Col. George Custer was equipped with the first Army-purchased Colt Single Action Army revolvers. The Army, experimenting with corrosion resistant finishes, issued nickel plated models to the 42 Indian Scouts with Custer in this campaign. It is believed there were two considerations: First, the Indians had an aversion to pistols due to the complicated removal of the spent cartridges, and therefore the "shiny

Ð

nickel" might enhance their acceptance. Second, the nickel finish was much more resistant to rust than the customary blued steel, and could withstand more abuse from lack of preventive maintenance which could be anticipated from the Indian Scouts. All of these guns were prior to serial number 15,000. Inasmuch as the Colt records of serial numbers below 30,000 were destroyed by fire, the X-ray spectrometer and the micro-projector must be used to determine original nickel finish (Continued on page 58)

Typical advertising of a nickel plated gun shows the finish was cheaper than blueing. Circa 1909. THE FOREHAND PERFECTION AUTOMATIC 5-SHOT REVOLVER FOR \$3.60. 70C PER 100 FOR 32-CALIBER CARTRIDGES. 85C PER 100 FOR 38-CALIBER CARTRIDGES. SEE PAGE 505. Forehand Perfec-32-Caliber tion Automatic, small frame, reonly. bounding lock, positive stop on cylinder, and hammer blocked, same as in other Forehand Automatics. Accidental discharge Weighs but 13 ounces. A fine impossible. pocket revolver. Full length, 7%-inch. Now made by Hopkins & Allen, who bought the Forehand factory Catalogue Caliber Length No. Shoots of Finish 10 Weight] Price Sh'ts Cartridge Number Barrel 6P1205 32 c.f. 5 6P2377 \$3.60 3 in. Nickel 13 oz.

Blued |

3 in.

6P1207 32 c.f.

5

6P2377

13 oz.

3.85

The 1875 Remington Frontier in .44-40 was favored in the nickel finish by both "Butch" Cassidy and Jesse James. James was wearing a pair of the guns at the time of his death. ABC-TV "Movie of the Week"

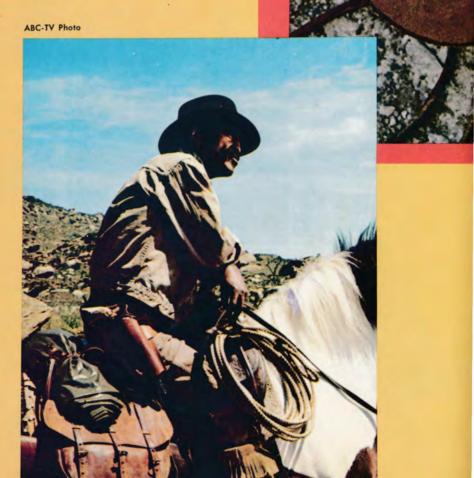


Custom engraved Colt and Cooper knife share the spotlight with star, Sammy Davis Jr., in this new made-for-TV Western

By WALTER L. RICKELL

	CAST	
Ezekiel Smith		Sammy Davis, Jr.
		Ernest Borgnine
Dora Paxton		Julia Adams
Becky Paxton		Connie Kreski
Sheriff Naylor		Jim Davis

Right: The Colt, engraved by Joe Condon of Las Vegas, and custom crafted knife by Nelson Cooper are shown in this photo by author, Walter Rickell. Left: some scenes from the motion picture, with the star, Sammy Davis, Jr. as Zeke.







SAMMY DAVIS, JR, may be the last person you would think of as a "gun nut," but don't let his image fool you. He is quite a historian of the early American West, and those of us who have seen his night club act, where he demonstrates the fast draw, can surely attest to his ability with the "Peacemaker."

When the opportunity came to star and co-produce a Western movie, Sammy really turned on with his knowledge of the old West and its firearms. As we well know, the movie industry has taken quite a few liberties with guns. We've seen Colt Peacemakers being used in Civil War period movies, and we've also seen the use of modern fast draw holsters—which may look great but are not correct—instead of the more authentic types which were usually sloppy and home-made looking. The ABC-TV Movie of the Week called "The Trackers," takes place in the early 1870's, so the Colt Single Action was in vogue and in production at that time. A 71/2" barrel, .45 Colt model was obtained from Colt Firearms, and put into the artistic hands of Joe Condon, a most capable engraver based in Las Vegas, Nevada. The revolver was beautifully finished in a Western motif with deep scroll engravings and gold inlays. A pair of stag grips feature a gold diamond inlay with Sammy's initials (one of the few touches that is not authentic).

Joe Condon, in addition to executing the engraving, also researched the leather to be used, and came up with an authentic-looking holster and belt for the Colt. The bottom of the holster is open, and the $7\frac{1}{2}''$ barrel protrudes a couple of inches. *(Continued on page 52)*

THE DEVELOPMENT U.S. MILITARY

A Revolutionary War period cartridge box with wooden insert for cartridges.

This metal Revolutionary War U.S. Army cartridge box was prescribed by the Board of War in 1778 for issue when leather boxes were not obtainable.

BY E. L. REEDSTROM

T IS UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE that the best training for war . . . is war. During the early battles of this country, young and ever-confident soldiers contributed much toward changes in their accoutrements because of necessity. Combersome bullet pouches, heavy with lead ball, unevenly distributed on shoulder or waist belts, made it difficult for the professional soldier to manipulate in the field of battle. There was nothing picturesque about the early American infantryman with the entanglement of leather straps and bullet pouches, as he accomplished more through threat than he achieved in actual battle.

During this arduous period our antiquated Ordnance Department was bombarded with suggestions for new techniques and alterations from officers returning from the field. However, meager appropriations could hardly afford to completely forget the serviceable equipment on hand, and not until the supply was exhausted could the board of officers meet again and consider such changes. Only a severe changeover in weapons and cartridges would alter any modifications in leather equipment and accoutrements.

Next to gun collecting, a substantial number of serious collectors are searching for and studying specimens of military accoutrements. (The word "accoutrement" or "accouterment" are one and the same, meaning: trappings, equipment, a soldier's outfit, other than clothes and weapons.) The interesting embellishments so often found on the leather flaps of cartridge boxes frequently intrigue the collector. It is to be noted that some boxes with the manufacturers' markings and date hold a considerable value to a collector, depending upon condition. Unfortunately, researched material and designs of U.S. military cartridge boxes and trappings are harder to come by than the items themselves.

This article reveals only the highlights and gradual development of cartridge boxes and trappings from the Revolutionary period to the compact belt of World War I, pinpointing the most important stages of military changeover.

There were few professional soldiers among the vast growing ranks during the Revolution. Some had gained a little military training by drilling in

French flintlock Musket, Model 1766, caliber .69.

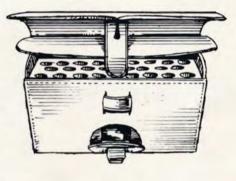
OF ACCOUTREMENTS PART 1

U.S. Musket Model 1808, .69 caliber.

militia companies; some fought against Indians and French. Military experience was lacking. Many balked at discipline and resented commands; ". . . they regarded an officer no more than a broomstick, . . ." General Washington explained. Uniformed regiments were seldom found in the Army. Frontier buckskin hunting suits and everyday clothes were worn. Not until 1778, when a shipload of brown and blue uniform coats arrived from France, did the American soldiers dress alike. Crossed cartridge box and bayonet belts were generally accepted by 1774. Interesting to note, no one particular cartridge box was standard issue, alThis U.S. Infantry pouch dates to about 1800. The block of wood is drilled for 26 paper cartridges of .69 caliber. Note the double flap.

though in 1776 a standard box was attempted. At first cartridges were carried loose, much to the dismay of the rifleman finding ball and loose powder at the bottom of the box from constant jarring. Wooden inserts, made of maple or beech were then added, bored with 20 to 30 holes, and large enough to slip a single paper cartridge in and out. When filled, the box might weigh 5 or 6 pounds. Special troops and mounted men (Continued on page 64)



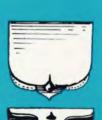


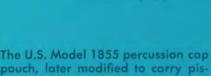
The Model 1841 U.S. Rifleman's outfit was designed to be-used with the Model 1841 Mississippi rifle. With the box was a powder flask stamped











pouch, later modified to carry pistol cartridges by mounted troops, also used the double flap covering.

The U.S. Model 1855 box with two tin liners was designed to hold .58 caliber paper cartridges. Each tin was divided into two sections and the cover flap had the large oval "U.S."

U.S. Musket Model 1861, .58 caliber.





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(Continued from page 22)

these minute pebbles, that if I did I would hastily retreat to a drabber bank, and that I wouldn't risk shooting at close range if they were larger.

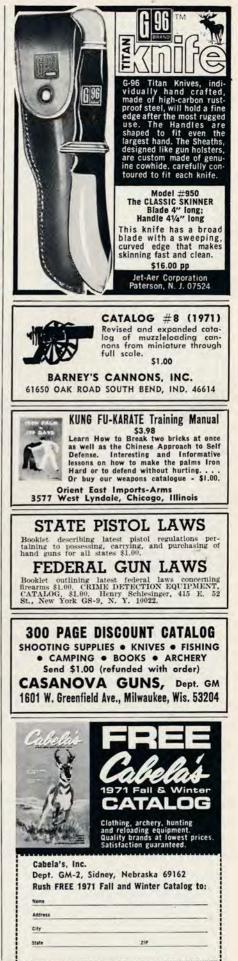
For any but the casehardened dropout, shooting with a partner can add some competitive zest to the game. My amigos and I sometimes scratch two rectangles in the clay bank and back off a ways with holstered pistols. One of us gives the signal to draw (which gives him a slight edge) and the first one to land a slug within the boundary wins. This game highlights the vice in overhaste. In essense it's a lazy man's variation on the California balloon duel, harder to score precisely, and limited in range by the visibility of the scratch marks.

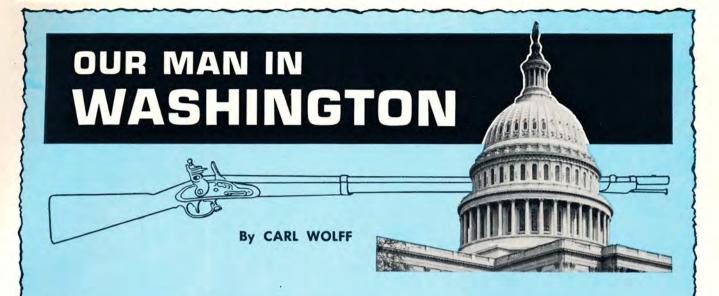
Another favorite pastime is bounce-the-can. For this one you'll want two similar tins, and to place them side by side. Twenty-five yards or so behind them, scratch a line parallel to the firing line. The first gunner to nudge his Campbell's container across the far divide carries the match. If the shooters are equally proficient, there's a large element of luck in this effort, but the further the cans have to be moved, the more does skill prevail. Bouncing empty cartridge boxes is an even faster game, as a hit under these featherweight items will blow them a good six to eight feet ino the air.

Most shooters eventually yearn for a target which moves of its own accord. If you have access to a fast running creek, just toss a stick in upstream and try to pot it amidships as it steams by. Landlocked gunners have developed some interesting games, none of which I've tried, but you might care to. One dude, I recall, taped a circle of cardboard over the well of an old tire. His partner retreated uphill with this device, then rolled it down the grade, and the gun ner engaged it as it hurtled past. A more sophisticated system is to stretch a taut cable between two trees, with one end slightly elevated. The local welder can fram together a target frame with pully wheels to ride the line. Then you just stand off and pull the pin.

Some chaps for whom this route smacks too strongly of ISU running deer, and hence of the Establishment, say the best sort of moving target is a large balloon turned loose in a mild gale. They don't say what they do about policing up the ones they miss though. And that brings us to the point of plinking etiquette, which is where we'll pick up next month







June was a month all gun owners will long remember. Chairman of the powerful House Committee on the Judiciary, Rep. Emmanuel Celler (D., N.Y.) introduced his infamous handgun confiscation bill. The bill, H.R. 8828, has been referred to Celler's committee for review. Even before the measure was introduced, word had leaked out that Judiciary was planning a new antigun drive.

The bill is, by far, the most restrictive pending before Congress. Said Celler upon its introduction, "If we are serious in our professions of concern about crime, and especially violent crime, then let us move directly against the favored weapon of the lawless—guns, particularly handguns. Licensing and registration are rudimentary steps essential to protect the public safety by keeping guns out of the hands of criminals, juveniles, and the insame."

The bill contains five Titles, of which Title V contains general provisions pertaining to separability, effect of State law, the effective date of the proposal, and authorization for appropriation of funds. Here, even the shooting sports who favor the confiscation of handguns and the conservationists, who do not hunt at all, must object.

The taxes now collected on firearms and ammunition which go to wildlife restoration would be turned over to States which enact strict gun control laws. If a State did not enact such laws, they would not get funds.

Title I requires national registration of all firearms with the Secretary of the Treasury. It requires evidence of registration to accompany a firearm when it is carried about, and provides that such registration must be exhibited upon demand to any law enforcement officer. Ammunition could be sold by licensed dealers only to persons having and exhibiting certificates of registration for weapons using such ammunition. The bill also requires that the Secretary of the Treasury be notified of changes of firearms ownership.

The bill provides penalties of imprisonment up to two years, a fine up to \$2,000, or both, for violations of the registration and licensing section. Falsification or forgery of registration information would be severely punished, by imprisonment up to five years, a fine up to \$10,000, or both.

Title I also would re-institute recordkeeping requirements for rifle and shotgun ammunition sales which were deleted from the 1968 Gun Control Act by the last Congress.

Title II of the bill requires every individual to obtain either a State gun permit or a Federal gun permit before he is entrusted with a gun. The bill specifies minimum standards for an "adequate" State gun permit law. If the State does not adopt a system that meets the minimum standards, Federal gun permits are required. After September 1, 1972, no person-whether a licensed dealer or a private individual-may sell firearms or ammunition to an individual who does not have either a State permit meeting the minimum standards of the Act or a Federal gun permit.

Effective September 1, 1973, no person may possess a firearm or ammunition unless he has either an adequate State gun permit or a Federal gun permit.

To qualify as (Continued on next page)

an adequate permit system, the bill requires that a State prohibit the issuance of gun permits to convicted felons, fugitives from justice, mental defectives, alcoholics, and juveniles. It must also assume adequate investigation of applicants prior to the issuance of a gun permit.

The sale or possession of firearms or ammunition in violation of the permit provisions of Title II carries a maximum sentence of imprisonment of five years and a fine of \$5,000.

Title III of the bill prohibits the importation, manufacture, transfer and transportation of any handgun, except by law enforcement officers, military personnel, or certain persons licensed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Potential licensees include importers, manufacturers and dealers qualified under the 1968 Gun Control Act who may engage in importing, manufacturing, or dealing in handguns for law enforcement authorities, the military, or other licensees. The only other kinds of non-governmental groups who may qualify for handgun licenses are sporting or recreational pistol clubs approved by the Secretary of the Treasury.

To qualify for a license, a pistol club must have no members who are themselves disqualified from handgun ownership under Federal or State law. The club also must have facilities and procedures for storing the club's handguns when they are not being used for sporting or recreational purposes.

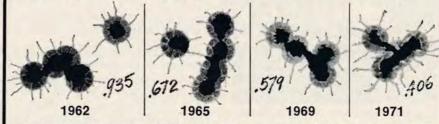
Title III also provides a procedure for confiscation of privately owned handguns by Federal, State, or local law enforcement officials, who are authorized to reimburse the owner of the handgun for the value of the gun or \$25, whichever is greater. The bill provides that the handgun restrictions in Title III shall become effective one year after the date of enactment of the Act.

Title III also prohibits the sale or delivery of handguns which the Secretary of the Treasury determines are not suitable for nor readily adaptable to sporting purposes under standards presently applied by the Secretary to imported firearms. Thus, the bill would apply the import restrictions on handguns of the 1968 Gun Control Act to handguns manufactured domestically. These latter handgun restrictions would become effective 60 days after the date of enactment of the Act.

Celler will never get all of these provisions through Congress this year. But, he will be back again and again. He is a shrewd and powerful man. He is also very dedicated.

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KENYA BUNDUKI: LARGEST AFRICAN GUN SHOP

(Continued from page 27)

work required. Delays have eased somewhat as the mechanics of satisfying legal requirements under the act have become better known, however.

Also the Vietnam war has put a crimp in deliveries—especially of ammunition. The popular .300 magnum cartridge, a tried and true medium round, has been running six to nine months behind because of the demands of the Army on ammunition manufacturers, according to Anderson. Delivery on Remington and Winchester weapons lags five to six months behind previous experience since the 1968 Gun Control Act became effective.

Kenya Bunduki has an inventory of several thousand guns at any given time. About 750 are new and used guns for sale. A thousand are held in storage for clients and the rest are lease guns. Kenya Bunduki is authorized to store hand weapons and has a large number on hand, because under Kenya law, licenses for hand guns are difficult to come by.

Anderson figures that the most popular weapons among safari hunters are Winchester and Remington, Steyr, Weatherby, Brno, Mannlicher-Schoenauer, Marlin, Krieghof, Mauser and Miroku. Of course, British Holland and Holland and Jeffreys rifles also have their fans. Anderson, himself, is an avid waterfowl hunter and prefers the fine East German Merkel Brothers over/under in 12 gauge, to other scatter guns on the market.

Although Anderson shys away from any political or racial discussion, Kenya is self-consciously a black nation and most of the whites living and doing business there, recognize that they are allowed there by sufferance of the current government. No European really knows what will happen a couple of years hence. So you will find a hopeful wait-and-see attitude among Europeans. Anderson is no different in this respect, but the racial integration of Kenya Bunduki is apparent. And successfully so. The staff includes three African salesmen and three African general employees. On the technical side the key personnel are Europeans, a British gunsmith and a British stock maker. However, there are two apprentice African gunsmiths and two African stock makers. In addition, there are three

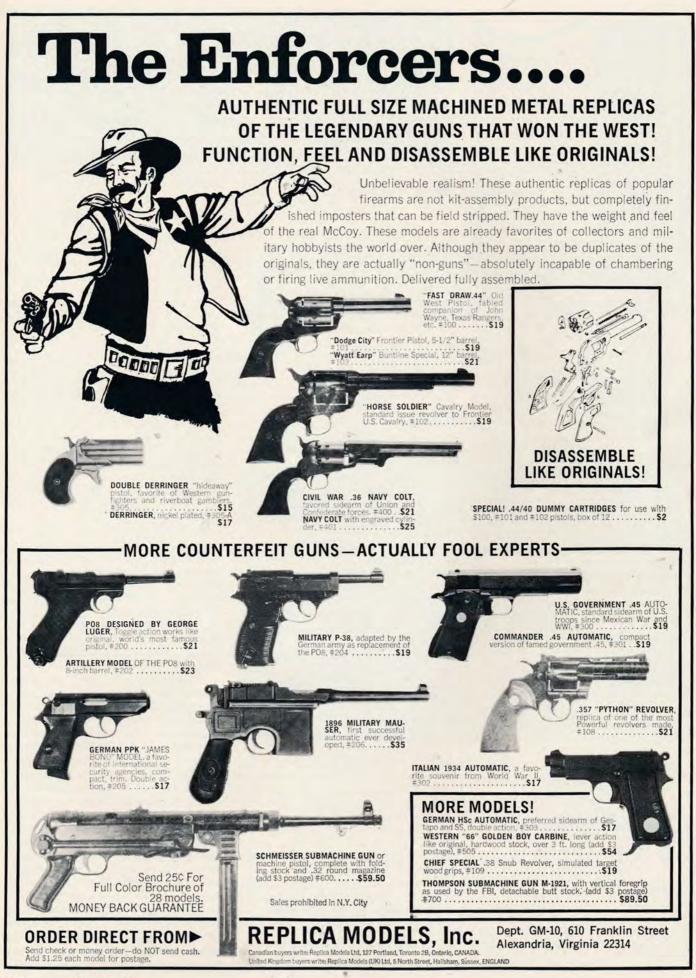
African clerks.

The oldest African employee is a most remarkable and affable man named Wilson Mwangi. Wilson is well known in hunting circles in Kenya and greatly respected as a knowledgeable firearms salesman. Not generally known, because Wilson is a modest man, is the fact that he has, on his earnings from Kenya Bunduki, put one son through Harvard University, another through Georgetown and a daughter through Bradford College. She is teaching school now in the United States.

Len Bull, a sturdy young Englishman who did his apprenticeship with Holland & Holland, is Kenya Bunduki's head gunsmith. A top craftsman with a great measure of patience and willingness to teach, Len spends much of his time bringing his two African apprentices along. Len is a friendly man and willing any time to discuss guns, hunting, target shooting, bench rest accuracy techniques, and restoration of antique weapons. Bull leans heavily in the Woodworking Department upon Tony Reford, his British stock maker, who also worked at Holland & Holland and at Cogswell & Harrison in London for five years before coming to East Africa.

Anderson, being young, vigorous, and British, is optimistic about the future of Kenya Bunduki. He foresees more and more Americans and Europeans coming to East Africa for safaris, which is, of course, good for his business. But realistically he admits that the picture could be brighter. The cost of hunting, like everything else, is going up, he feels, and he would like to see more done about curbing poaching, which most people in the hunting business in East Africa feel is the greatest threat to and drain on game resources.

There appears to be little doubt that East Africa will continue to offer excellent hunting for the foreseeable future. Indeed, much of the country's income is from tourism and safaris, both shooting and photographic. More and more game parks are being instituted and existing ones expanded. While this may mean a shift away from rifles to cameras, Kenya Bunduki's Andy Anderson is confident that he has something big going for him for a long time to come.







CLAY TARGET SHOOTING offers much more than being the framework for the organized games of trap and skeet. This is not to denigrate the games of trap and skeet as such.

Trap is one of the oldest of all participant sports, and its national tournament, the Grand American at Vandalia, Ohio, is the nation's oldest and largest individual participant sports tournament. Skeet is the newer game, with its ranks growing annually, and its national tournament, held at various spots on the North American continent, is no less newsworthy. These games offer a host of people an impressive number of values much needed in today's society.

Clay target shooting, either in the form of trap or skeet, solve a problem for many families in that they provide a recreational outlet that can include Mom, Dad, the kids, and grandparents of both sexes, and this is not an easy problem to solve. I have personal knowledge of many men and women who did not start shooting trap, for example, until after retirement. This game offered these men and women, among other things, a game which allowed them to compete on an equal basis with others of the same age and physical attributes.

On the other side of the coin, almost every account of a trap or skeet tournament records either victories or distinguished performance by little boys and girls who are often not as tall as their guns are long. Not only do men and women in their seventies and eighties win championhsips in competition with shooters of their own age group, but very often win against all comers. The same is true for the pre-teen and teen-age set. These youngsters compete within their own age groups, but often win against all age classifications.

Everyone likes to win, of course, but there are thousands of trap and skeet shooters who do not necessarily shoot to win, but simply compete for their own enjoyment. For many adults, the games of trap and skeet offer them a social life which might not be easily attainable outside these sports. More than one shooter has confessed to me that they follow the tournament circuit simply for the opportunity to see old friends and to meet new friends. The games of trap and skeet offer abundant chances for fraternization and socializing. For example, a day at the gun club for a hundred-target tournament may involve less than two hours of actual competition, and as much as eight to ten or twelve hours of social contact.

Some shooters I know regard clay target shooting as an opportunity for travel as well as a hobby, sport, or social outlet. Both trap and skeet offer winter season special tournaments which move from city to city in the warm climes of the far West, Southwest, and include Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.

For some few shooters, the clay target games provide a chance to represent their country in such high level events as the Olympics, and Pan American Games, in which most sports are included. Some shooters represent their country in the shooting tournaments exclusively for the shooting sports, conducted by the International Shooting Union, a worldwide and powerful body.

Eliminations for these rare opportunities to represent your country in an international tournament are open to all shooters. Clay target shooting does not exclude from meaningful participation the infirm or handicapped. One man won the national skeet tournament from a wheel chair, and the record of handicapped shooters is an excellent one over the long pull.

When city or governmental bodies face the difficult task of setting up community recreation facilities that offer wide appeal, clay target clubs must be considered. Some recreational facilities can appeal only to the young, the physically active, and not always to both sexes. Clay target shooting is a recreational vehicle for people from nine to ninety, of both sexes, and in all shades of physical condition. City fathers must consider such factors as space and money, in recreational offerings. Trap or skeet fields do not require, in most cases, as much land as a golf course, and are far less expensive to build and maintain than golf courses, swimming pools, etc.. Baseball and softball diamonds are great, and so are tennis courts, but they do not offer much to the very young, or to the oldster.

Safety has to be weighed by municipal authorities in their recreational programs. There never has been a fatality in over a hundred years of organized clay target shooting in this country. Both city fathers and individuals must weigh seasonal factors in recreational choices. Some games and sports are great for a few months of the year. Trap and skeet are year 'round sports in all climes.

Because of many factors, recreauonal outlets must often be judged as to whether they are limited to daylight hours, and can be offered at night as well as by day. Many gun clubs are lighted for night shooting, and all clubs can be so equipped if the need develops. Some recreational outlets are, by necessity, limited largely to week-ends. Many private and municipal gun clubs are open all week, or most of the week. All can be used every day when the need develops. Industrial, union, social, and fraternal groups are often limited in the sports activities they can offer their membership, either as group facilities or activities which lend themselves to the formation of leagues.

Some of the biggest and oldest sports programs in the United States are found in trap or skeet shooting leagues. Baseball and softball teams are great, but they are limited to a far more narrow age group than the clay target sports. Trap or skeet can include the young and active with the near-retiree, who may also have a handicap which eliminates him or her from more active sports. In a nation which sells nearly twenty-five million hunting licenses annually, what could be a more appropriate sport for the plant, office, union, or club than the games of trap or skeet?

Doctors tell me that our present urban society, which places people in much closer contact than they like, develops hostilities which must or should be vented in some socially acceptable manner. These same doctors tell me that there is far more release of pent-up hostilities in the smashing of an inanimate flying clay target than most people imagine or are aware of. In other words, it is a far better thing to pulverize some flying clay targets than to take out our frustrations on



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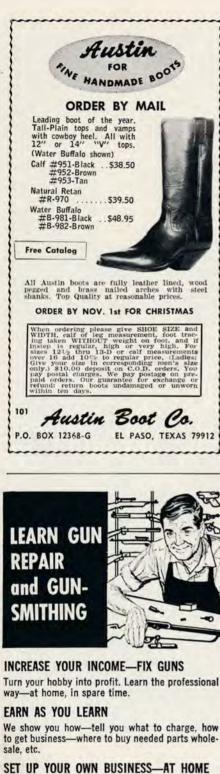
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the foreman, the boss, fellow workers, or our families.

Clay target shooting offers many organized groups an excellent fund raising program. One Lion's club I know raises it's entire budget for providing glasses for the blind with one big trap match per year. Other clubs and groups raise funds for a host of worthy causes via shooting matches which are in the American tradition.

Clay target shooting can unite families rather than divide them. With due deference to Women's Lib, a man is so much stronger and more physical than his wife that in most sports, she cannot hope to compete on an even basis with him. She can join him, and participate with him, but she can't hope to do so on an equal basis. She can however, compete on an equal basis in trap or skeet, and in many cases, can beat him (handling this is up to the husband). After all, the very basic of shooting is hand and eve coordination, and women historically have better hand and eye coordination than men.

Many torunaments in both trap and skeet offer trophies to man and wife teams, brother-brother, father-son, and more recently father-daughter, and mother-daughter. Women do

. Women have won major trap and skeet championships, shooting against other women, but also shooting

tournament. So, if you like people, want to travel, need to accomplish something, would like to join a league, want to work off your hostilities, need to set up a fund raising event, are looking for an ideal and universal municipal recreation program, want to carry the colors of your country in international competition, need a week-day or night recreation program as opposed to one limited to week-ends, want to share a sport with your wife, husband, parents, and kids, or just have fun, whether you are nine or ninety, male or female, active or handicapped, the clay target sports are waiting for you, or are working for you.

compete against other women in both

trap and skeet, and lady's champion-

ships are awarded. But, if a woman

shoots the top score she can (and

tours and championships for both men

and women, but they are separate events. As of now, no woman could

win the U. S. Open, for example.

against all of the best men in the

does) win the whole tournament. For contrast, the PGA has golf

THE TRACKERS

(Continued from page 41)

the holster/belt combination has no rivets or machine stitching, and is all hand laced.

In "The Trackers," Zeke Smith, played by Sammy Davis, Jr., carries the specially engraved Colt, and a large fighting knife common to the period. Sammy commissioned Nelson Cooper of Cooper Knives (P.O. Box 1423, Burbank, Calif. 91505) to come up with an authentic blade, reproduced in his traditional manner and excellent workmanship. The sheath used does show machine stitching, but could be a reproduction of one that came with the knife, for these blades were, many times, shop made and purchased in the East. One important thing to notice in the picture is that the sheath is attached to the pants belt, not the gun belt; when the holster rig is removed, the knife stays with the user. In those days, a good knife never left a man's side, and it was used for just about everything from scalping to picking his teeth.

The movie, which will be released this fall on ABC-TV, takes place in the early West around 1874. Sam Paxton is determined to catch the men who kidnapped his daughter and murdered his son. When he finds that the members of his small posse, headed by Sheriff Naylor, do not know the territory, he sends for his old friend, a U.S. Marshal and expert tracker who had served with him in the Southern Cavalry during the Civil War.

Upon receiving the call for help, the Marshal, bedridden and nursing a wound from a recent gunfight, sends his best-qualified deputy, Zeke Smith. Here is where the plot thickens and the action begins, for Zeke is a cocky black man who was raised by the Indians, and has his own ideas on tracking. He shows up at the Paxton ranch, unannounced, and meets some resistance. Finally accepted, with some reluctance, he leads the posse across the plains into Old Mexico.

After many trying days on the trail, Zeke and Sam are abandoned by the other members of the posse following an Indian attack. Sam soon learns to forget his fears and predjudices, and puts his trust in Zeke and his talents after they are trapped in a renegade camp below the border.

To find out how it ends, watch "The Trackers" on ABC-TV.

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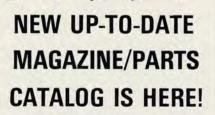
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THE .38 SUPER

(Continued from page 33)

1350 fps out of the standard Model 1911 pistol. This load, despite casting a hard bullet, invariably leaded worse than the lighter slug. Bullets were sized .356" and lightly crimped.

I sometimes loaded the .380 standard factory bullet which weighs 95 grains and is full metal case. It runs .355" for diameter and while this is supposed to be a mite loose it shot very well. I would file the blunt nose of this peewee and run a drill into the leaden core to form a good sized hollow point. This slug could be driven 1500 fps MV with 8.5 grains of Unique. Pressures ran pretty high, I suspect, around 30,000 psi most probably, This load was terrifically destructive on jackrabbits, hawks, armadillos and coyotes.

It has remained for the Super-Vel folks to come to the support of all the owners of the Super thirty-eight. This company, a remarkable concern, has given us, over the past half-dozen years, a series of loads that have filled a long sought need. Their .44 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .45 ACP, .38 Spl., and 9 mm Parabellum cartridges have materially boosted velocities, energies, and performance of these most popular centerfire handgun loads. The shooters owe Lee Jurras and his fellows a heartfelt thank you for their efforts.

A notable example of the efforts of Super-Vel has been the sudden spurt of interest on the part of the big manufacturers in boosting the velocities of such well-used cartridges as the .38 Special. Over the past year new loads have appeared for this old standby which materially boost its ballistics. I attribute this sudden burst of interest to the offerings of the Super-Vel company. The firm loaded twenty million handgun cartridges the year before last and that ain't hay!

Super-Vel has managed to increase load velocities by the expedient of reducing bullet weight. This is a pretty simple solution but at the same time the company has also managed to improve bullet performance by the design of a greatly bettered slug. These take the form of jacketed bullets of hollow point construction. Care has been exercised to see that jackets are not too heavy and thus the required mushrooming and expansion is achieved. Velocities are increased handsomely, but at the same time because of the lightened slug, breech

(Continued on page 56)



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(Continued from page 54)

pressures are held to workable levels. The Super-Vel load, regardless of caliber, may be fired safely in any modern handgun in good working order.

The most recent addition to the Super-Vel line is the .38 Super. Two bullets have been standardized; the first weighs 107 grains and the second 112 grains. Both are hollow point with truncated cone. Muzzle velocity for each has been standardized at 1420 fps MV. Energy stands at 510 foot pounds. The heavier slug, the 112-grain, has the hollow point filled with lead. It is intended for deeper penetration than the other. The 105-grain will open up more quickly and works more destruction in the game target.

These past couple of years we have seen some developmental work on softpoint and hollow point bullets for various of our handguns. The .357 and the 9 mm as well as the old .45 ACP all now have improved slugs. However, some of these bullets are jacketed with gilding metal that is so thick it cannot be made to upset and expand. This isn't true of the new Super-Vel bullets. The 9 mm, the .380 ACP, and now the .38 Super all use the same jacketing. This is a copperzinc, alloy, running 95% copper and 5% zinc, and with a sidewall thickness of .010" at the base tapering to only .007" at the rim of the hollow. This, in effect, is how the excellent Remington Core-Lokt rifle bullet is made. It is an efficient design which insures positive mushrooming.

The bullet runs a diameter of .355" which is a bit on the loose side in the .38 Super. However in my two Colts, one the standard M1911 and the other the Commander, accuracy has been top-drawer. The standard M1911 mikes .356½ across the grooves and the Commander shows .356. The .355" Super-Vel, when fired at 25 yards on the Standard American target, scored 99, 100, 98, 98, 99. Two scores with the Commander and three with the regular M1911. This is first rate performance with a hot load and one certainly not intended for target shooting.

The standard load by Super-Vel consists of 8 grains Unique which delivers 1431 fps MV out of the 5-inch barrel of the standard Colt. Pressures run 33,000 psi. With the 9 mm bullet, the Super-Vel 90-grain which is also a hollow point with truncated cone, 9 grains of Unique give 1580 fps MV out of the standard Colt. Breech pressure runs 30,000 psi. This is another good load and while some gunners may want a slightly heavier bullet than this one it has a lot going for it. Certainly it will be extremely lethal on all legitimate targets.

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COPENHAGEN CRAFTS 516 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10036 While working up the standard .38 Super cartridge, Jurras and his engineers also experimented with a 125grain jacketed hollow point. This bullet measured .3565 in diameter and was jacketed of the same gilding metal used in the round that was standardized. Loading with Unique, 7 grains, developed 1320 fps; and 8 grains of Herco also produced 1320 feet per second. A charge of 13.5 grains H-110 produced 1385 fps MV.

Still another bullet weight was test fired. This was a 137-grain jacketed hollow point, with a diameter of .3565", loaded with 13 grains H-110, it indicated 1335 fps MV. Energy stood at 541 ft. lbs. and pressures went 30,000 psi.

The standard factory loading in the .38 Super fires a 130-grain bullet at 1280 fps MV, this from a 5-inch barrel. Tested on plywood baffles, with the 7/16'' baffles set one inch apart, penetration was 7 of the sheets. The identical test with the Super-Vel 112-grain loading indicated a clean penetration of 8 baffles and the partial entry of the 9th piece of plywood. Diameter of the standard bullet was .358 on recovery. Diameter of the Super-Vel was .62 caliber.

Fired into wet sand, the 130-grain factory bullet would not expand at all. The 105-grain Super-Vel mushroomed to caliber .636-inch. Fired into a 3-lb. block of modeling clay, the 130-grain left a channel through the block that measured .40 caliber. The 107 grain SV traveled through the block for the first two inches and left a hole of .40 caliber and there after opened up to a cavity which was 2 inches in diameter and five inches in length—or unil it exited from the clay. It was a most impressive display of power and might!

On seven jackrabbits shot at distances from 23 yards to 67 yards, the 107-grain Super-Vel bullet killed with astonishing lethality. The bullets in every case completely penetrated the 8-lb. targets. The resounding thump of the bullet on contact, the violent blow struck the game, and the size of the exit wound which was invariably from 2 to 3 inches in diameter indicated a great deal of power and energy. The 130-grain factory load, from a great deal of past experience is dangerously apt to slip through a jackrabbit permitting the game to escape wounded.

The new loadings, both the 112grain and the 107-grain function perfectly through both pistols. A total of 200 rounds have been shot away and no jams nor malfunctions have been noted.

Tests with the 125-grain Speer soft point and the 115-grain Norma soft point-hollow point, as well as 40 rounds with the new Remington 125grain softpoint-hollow point, pulled from the new .38 Spl. revolver loading, produced equally good kills on small game. The three bullets, the 125-grain Speer and the 125-grain Remington loaded ahead of 7 grains of Unique for a velocity of slightly better than 1300 fps MV; and the 115grain Norma, with 9.2 grains AL-5, at what the chronograph showed to be 1355 fps MV, killed armadillos, a single badger, numerous jacks, and two foxes, with fine performance. However the exposed soft leaden nose on the bullets sometimes produce feed troubles. For the use of the police officer, or for self-defense, it would be the better part of good judgment to stick with the Super-Vel with its hollow point, its relatively thin jacket, and its truncated cone up front.

The Colt, whether the standard M1911 or the Commander, is relatively insensitive to changes in powder weights and loads. Either pistol will digest various loads which may range from the comparatively light to the heavy. Where care must be exercised is in overall cartridge length. The lighter bullet with its lack of length is particularly to be watched. The Super round must have not less than 1.150" overall length with the 90-grain 9 mm bullet to function surely. The 107-grain slug must be loaded to produce this length and 1.200" is even better. The 125-grain, I loaded to an overall of 1.230".

The .38 Super—best of our big automatics—has always suffered because of a lack of good bullets. The 130grain produces a fine high order of speed but on impact it fails miserably. This major fault is now cured. The splendid new Super-Vel loadings with 107-grain and 112-grain weight and hollow point configuration, now provide the .38 Super with speed, punch and extreme lethality.

It may be we can persuade Super-Vel to load the 90-grain 9 mm in the .38 Super. This round would produce very close to 1600 fps and would be a terrific killer on soft-bodied targets. Recoil is light and the recovery from the shot is very rapid. I can see a lot of utility for this load.

For the fellow who is a .38 Super aficionado, the fine array of bullets from Remington, Speer and Norma offer a selection which will permit him to build handloads quite as ballistically worthy as the new Super-Vel, although, they may be a bit more inclined to give feeding problems and so would be best confined to hunting and plinking, rather than the infinitely more serious business of self-protection.





That's because the blade is a special high speed tool steel used for cutting other steel. Tough yet springy. It thrives at a hardness (C60-62) that leaves other steel too brittle for a knife blade. Because it is far more expensive and more difficult to work, only Gerber and a few custom knifemakers use it. The first time you use a high speed tool steel blade you'll recognize its superiority over all other knives.

Gerber blades come razor-sharp. They are world's best value in hunting knives. See the complete line of Gerber Hunting Knives at sporting goods stores. Write for free copy of Gerber Blade Facts.



NICKEL PLATED GUNS

(Continued from page 39)

on "U.S." early-marked cavalry guns. It is also of interest to note that Lt. Col. George Schofield was busily trying to promote Army acceptance of his "improved" Smith & Wesson Army Model with the break barrel. Schofield was a competitor of Custer inasmuch as he was commander of the 6th Cavalry. Oddly enough, he tried to persuade Custer to equip his troops with his new model. The first Schofield Models were delivered to the Army in 1875, a year late of the contract date (some 8,285 models were produced). Here again, the more scarce ones are in the nickel finish. In observing the pieces that have survived, it is obvious the nickel finish models seem to have withstood the ravages of time better than the blued ones. Sadly, and without much acknowledgement, Lt. Col. Schofield, suffering from disappointment through failure to promote his new model, committed suicide December 19, 1882. on a Sunday morning at Fort Apache (Indian territory), using one of his nickeled "Schofield" revolvers. Many of the oldtimers who still relive the Custer incident speculate as to what the difference would have been if Custer had taken the "Schofield," which can be loaded and unloaded with one hand.

Research shows that between the years 1860 and 1884, Wells Fargo lost \$917,726.55 in 347 stagecoach and eight train holdups. The last of the bandit riders was "Butch" Cassidy, born Le-Roy Parker of Morman parents in Circleville, Utah. Although "Butch" Cassidy had no talent for gun-fighting, he favored an 1875 Remington Frontier Model with the 71/2" barrel with a nickel finish. The shape of the Remington is flatter and lends itself better as a "head slapper." Cassidy continually reminded his confederates that it was much better to break a man's nose with the barrel than shoot

him. Remington early models were predominantly nickel finished. Remington exported several thousand models to Turkey and the finish was corrosion resistant nickel. Bat Masterson, the lawman and saloon keeper with the bad limp, ordered a total of seven Colts from the factory between the years 1879 and 1885. The first one was silver plated, but thereafter all but one were nickel finished. Factory nickel finish was not available at the Colt factory on special order until 1877, although the finish had been used extensively prior to this date. The most prominent personality of our time wearing glittering weapons is that of General George A. Patton, whose Colt Single-Action and Smith & Wesson Double Action Models were legendary wherever he wore them in World War II.

In 1900, when the Colt and Smith & Wesson patents expired, it was legal for any manufacturer that could scrape together enough machinery to fabricate a revolver of any design. Thus the "Suicide Special" was born. By definition, the "Suicide Specials" are unique in that they have almost no historical significance, they never won any battles, nor had they any part in the winning of any frontier (with the exception of an occasional Saturday night brawl). Their only purpose was to provide a gun-toting era with a concealable armament at the least possible cost. Nickel finish technology had improved, making it cheaper, as all 1909 catalogs indicate, by \$1.00 as compared to blued finish. Many interesting ads can be researched showing that nickel was now a low-cost process—cheaper than blue finish. Also, the nickel covered the surface flaws. Such firms as Iver Johnson stated, "Richly Nickeled" at \$6.00. Currently, nickel finished arms can be ordered at a premium of about 10%.



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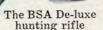
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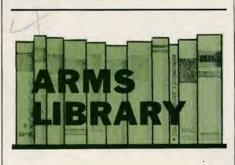
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Zip_

BRITISH GUN LAWS

(Continued from page 31)

duce the number of accidents with firearms (though these are not frequent in any case). However, it must be accepted that controls on the legitimate firearms user will not prevent the determined criminal from acquiring a gun. Harsh firearms controls may well have a reverse effect if otherwise decent people who have an interest in firearms feel disposed to retain illegally held weapons and so swell the already large black market. Whatever the answer to the armed criminal might be, it does not lie in providing forms for reputable citizens to complete and there are great dangers in the sort of thinking that tries to reduce armed crime by measures like the present shotgun controls.



Second World War Combat Weapons, Japanese, Vol. II

By W. H. Tantum, IV, E. J. Hoffschmidt

(WE Inc., \$7.95)

Strangely there seems to be an awakening among collectors in regard to Japanese guns and equipment. For reasons unknown to many, the Japanese gear just didn't hold the fascination of the German equipments. This book is one of a series published by WE Inc. dealing with World War Two Combat Weapons. Eventually there will be seven volumes covering all the major powers.

Volume II covers the Japanese area of weaponry extremely well. In the nearly 230 pages of the book the following areas are covered: Tanks; Uniforms; Small Arms; Medals; Grenades; Ordnance Markings. Hundreds of clear and detailed photographs illustrate everything in fine fashion.

Of extreme interest is the section dealing with the Japanese alphabet and the instructions for translating Japanese markings on military materiel. The basic concepts of the Japa-



GUNS • OCTOBER 1971

City



nese written language as well as the different alphabets and period characters used are discussed in meaningful, easy to understand terms that make sense and help considerably in the identification of guns and equipment. The wide scope of this book makes it all the more valuable to the collector and it makes one wonder what ever happened to all this equipment.

Even though the equipment used by the Japanese soldier in WWII did not measure up to that of the allies, it was adequate and he made the best of a bad situation with it. This book is highly recommended reading for all. H.A.M.

ROSSI GALLERY RIFLE

(Continued from page 36)

Having been almost literally brought up with one of these rifles in my hand, I particularly like the exposed hammer that locks the action in any position except all the way down. Starting from scratch, let's follow the hammer and mechanism cycle. With the hammer down the slide may be racked back, cocking the hammer and bringing a cartridge up from the magazine. Snapping the slide forward rams the cartridge into the chamber and leaves the hammer in the rear or fully cocked position. This also locks the action. If the trigger is pulled, the rifle fires and, once again, the hammer is in the down position. There is no safety on the rifle but there is a heavy, rugged safety notch that grabs the hammer when the trigger is pulled and the hammer eased down into the safety notch with the thumb. This safety notch keeps the hammer face well to the rear of the rear of the firing pin. The rifle is now safe and may be carried in this condition. When the shooter wishes to fire, all he does is thumb back the hammer and fire. Simple, efficient and typically John Browning!

As far as I can determine through firing hundreds of rounds through this rifle, it is accurate, rugged and appears to be as well made as the original Winchesters. I fired many various types of .22 ammunition without malfunction or misfire. I obtained many extremely small groups and many larger groups which is normal for any .22 caliber rifle because each appears to have a preference for specific brands of ammunition.

I can highly recommend this rifle to "old folks" and to the youngsters. It's a lot of rugged, nostalgic mechanism for the money!



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A HINGED FLOORPLATE

(Continued from page 29)

until it fits perfectly in the slot when the floorplate is in the full forward position. With everything fitting snug and flush here, we're ready to move on to drilling a hole for the hinge pin.

You must take care to see that the hinge bar is fully inserted in it's slot and that the floorplate is perfectly positioned in the trigger guard assembly. Too, it is important that the hole be drilled at a near perfect right angle to the edge of the guard. If the pin goes in at a crooked angle the floorplate will not swing freely—if at all. So take care with the drilling operation. Of course if you have a drill press there's no sweat.

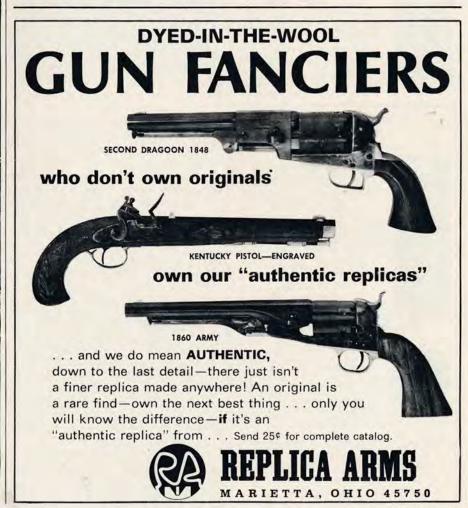
The size of the hinge pin is subject to your personal opinions on the subject or, more likely, whatever sort of pin stock you happen to have on hand. About $\frac{3}{22}$, or thereabouts, is fine. The shank from a broken drill bit makes a perfect pin.

With the pin in place you have a sho'nuff for real hinged floor plate and you can flop it up and down to your heart's content. However, there is still work to be done . . . The top of the hinge bar still has to be worked down flush. This is a simple job with the file but be sure to keep your work smooth and level. When the bar is flush, wrap a piece of 220 grit finishing paper around the file and continue to smooth up the surface. At this point sand lengthwise with the guard assembly. Next switch to 320 grit paper, or finer, and wind up the polishing with steel wool.

A bit of touching up and blending with cold blue will get everything looking very, very nice. However, if you plan on staying with us for the follow-up projects the metal can be left bright for the time being.

Naturally, the next project, now that you've got one end of the floorplate nicely hinged, is installing a quick release catch for the other end. So, next time we'll discuss how you can make and install a catch that not only works great

but looks wonderful!



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ACCOUTREMENTS

(Continued from page 43)

frequently carried cartridge boxes on the front of the waist belt, usually in a smaller variety. These boxes were nothing more than a large leather flap nailed on the back of a wooden block with wide shoulder straps added. Actually, the American troops were often equipped with cartridge boxes much worse than those described. A pick and brush (fastened together on one cord) were attached to the shoulder sling as an aid to keep the touch hole open and pan clean on the rifle. It is well to note that by no means did the powder horn and flask disappear because of the cartridge box.

Shoulder belts were prevalent among American forces. A double frog attached to these belts carried a sword for the officer and a bayonet for the enlisted man; however, the soldier was not usually required to have both. (Less than half of the American soldiers were equipped with bayonets.) These belts were subject to variations. Since the tomahawk was a popular weapon in the wilderness, belts were crudely fashioned for them, but they were not a standard regulation.

Incredible as it may seem, no flints were produced in America at this time. All flints found in this country were of the European style. On July 18, 1775, the Continental Congress recommended the militia of various states be furnished 12 flints per unit. Bullet molds were not usually considered part of the personal equipment of the soldier. Gang molds were preferred for military purposes, with as many as 12 bullets on one side and as many buckshot as possible on the other. One mold for every 80 muskets was recommended; however, it was common practice for the riflemen to bring their own personal molds.

The first official U.S. military musket was the Charleville musket, a weapon of the French army. The Marquis de Lafayette arranged for the shipment of a large supply at the cost of \$5.00 apiece. There were 17 different models from 1717 to 1777. The model used during the American Revolution was the model 1763, a .69 caliber rifle with a 44-inch barrel, weighing around 10 pounds. After the Revolution, the Springfield Armory was established and the manufacture of these smoothbores began in 1795. These were called U.S. Musket, Model 1795, which remained the standard weapon for years to come. The Brown





Bess was the principal infantry weapon until about 1778.

In 1812 the United States, for a second time, went to war with Great Britain. Nearly three years later, after suffering a series of bitter defeats, we managed to win. Uniformity began to show in the soldier's accoutrements, especially in cartridge boxes. These boxes, made of leather, contained a wooden block bored with holes of a suitable diameter to contain the cartridges to be carried, and a huge leather flap tended to keep out the elements. They held approximately 26 to 29 paper cartridges. A similar box, although smaller, contracted in 1808, saw much service in the militia.

Embossed on the leather flap was an oval with the letters "US" on either side of an eagle bearing a shield, olive branch, and arrows. A wreath surrounding the oval also made up a border around the inside edges. Above the oval, a ribbon bearing the motto "E PLURIBUS UNUM" appeared. This box continued in service until the early 1840's, when the arrival of the Model 1842 percussion musket necessitated a reduction in overall dimensions.

Among several principal weapons that served the American troops during the War of 1812 was the Springfield Model 1808. With a 441/2-inch barrel and .69 caliber bore, it was the second official United States arm made at the Springfield Armory. Since the foot soldier could not be expected to carry a complete tool set for his weapon, he was issued a small, compact disassembly tool, which could be carried in a pocket, stored in the butt of the rifle, or carried in a separate pouch in the cartridge box. This became standard issue about 1835, and consisted of one or more of four main parts-screw-drivers, spring depressors, pin punches, nipple wrenchesprincipally designed to be used for one particular arm.

With the advent of the single shot percussion pistol, which was adopted in 1842, the first military holster began to appear on the scene. Flintlock, percussion pistols as well as Colt Dragoon revolvers were issued in pairs to mounted officers. Twin holsters carried the pistols fastened securely across the saddle pommel forward of the user's thighs. These boxlike holsters were made of heavy black bridle leather with brass studs to fasten the huge top flaps. Some were fitted with a brass cup covering at the bottom, and an additional pocket under the flap to carry percussion caps and balls.

In January, 1846, President Polk ordered American troops into terri-



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CATALOG

25th of April, American and Mexican soldiers exchanged fire and the seemingly inevitable territorial war with Mexico began. Despite the fact that the new percussion cap system was a tremendous advancement, the military was slow to accept the idea. There were several reasons for this. First, the military generally maintained a reactionary attitude toward the adoption of anything new. Secondly, the adversaries of the percussion system claimed that soldiers would be likely to drop or lose the caps and hence be defenseless in battle. It would make all military flintlocks obsolete and eventually thousands of arms would have to be converted. However, buyers of civilian arms were quick to recognize the advantage of the new percussion caps, even though the military did not. In 1842, the U.S. Army had officially abandoned the flintlock, converting many of the Model 1831 muskets to percussion. The Mexicans were worse armed; they used the clumsy "Brown Bess" that Britain had used against us in 1776 and 1812, which she had recently sold to Mexico. A relatively few regiments of our volunteers carried percussion rifles, with which they performed admirably on occasion. Jeff Davis' Mississippi Rifles won

tory claimed by Mexico, and on the

such fame that their weapons were promptly christened "the Mississippi Rifle." The gun was equipped with a bayonet—but still too slow to load and quick to foul. The U.S. percussion musket Model 1841 (.69 caliber) was first issued at the front during the Mexican War. It is claimed that some of the soldiers refused the newer rifles, favoring their old flintlocks.

With the advent of the new percussion musket, leather cartridge boxes took on another change in appearance. The U.S. Rifleman's outfit Model 1841, patterned after the Kentucky rifleman's bag, was designed for the Model 1841 Mississippi rifle. Accompanying the pouch was a powder flask, stamped with an infantry bugle and labeled "Public Property." Cartridge boxes resulting from the changeover of firearms from flint to percussion were now supplied with two tin liners, each large enough to accommodate two packages of 10 cartridges each, amounting to a total of 40 rounds in the cartridge box. The huge leather flap was embellished with an oval brass plate and the letters "U.S." On the carrying strap or shoulder strap, in addition, was affixed a round brass plate, embossed with an eagle. A further reduction in caliber required boxes to become smaller, though the trappings of the

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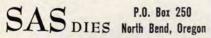


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boxes remained unchanged. After a few minor improvements, this box was later classified as the Model 1855 cartridge box. For the percussion caps, a Model 1855 cap pouch was introduced. This pouch had lamb's wool lining with a compartment for a vent clean-out tool.

The Civil War, in a sense, was the first modern war that used repeating rifles, metallic cartridges, and telescopic sights. Northern arms manufacturers such as Remington, Colt, and Winchester turned out quantities of rifles, pistols, carbines, howitzers, and mortars. In the first days of the war. Yankee volunteers marched into battle carrying antiquated muskets and various types of European rifles. Except for arms made at the Tredegar plant in Richmond and another in Selma, Alabama, all Southern ordnance was purchased in Europe. Interesting to note, the South never adopted a standard shoulder weapon; the British-made .577 Enfield muzzleloading rifle was most prevalent among Southern troops.

The United States Rifle-Musket 1861 was the result of dissatisfaction with the Model 1855 tape lock musket, which in service was not satisfactory. The Maynard tape primer was unreliable for general service, and by recommendation of the Ordnance Board the military returned to the ordinary percussion cap method of ignition. A patch box was recommended for this model, but due to the commencement of the Civil War (production began about the same time) the patch box was eliminated to speed up production.

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The infantry cartridge pouch of the Civil War was much the same in appearance as that of the Model 1855 box, with only a few modifications. This box was almost universally used by both Northern and Southern armies throughout the Civil War. Because of the wartime shortage of brass, the newly manufactured boxes were altered slightly by dropping the oval brass U.S. plate and substituting this with an embossed oval and U.S. on the leather flap. This box could be used with the shoulder sling or suspended from the belt. Two separate divided tin inserts were in each box that was double flapped with an implement-pocket sewn to the front. The complete box was made of black bridle leather, and to the accompanying shoulder sling was affixed a round brass plate with an eagle. The cappouch, made of black bridle leather and lined with sheepskin, was styled after the 1855 model. A steel wire cone-pick with a ring handle was carried in a loop in the inner left-hand corner of the cap-pouch.



Most military muskets and rifles were equipped with either a socket or saber bayonet, depending on make or model. All U.S. regulation rifles and muskets, except the Model 1841, 1855, and Remington 1863 rifle, used the socket bayonet.

Cavalrymen, during the Civil War, carried their percussion weapons butt forward and on the right side; on their left hung the saber. During any conflict, the right hand could draw either saber or pistol, whereas the left hand controlled the reins of the horse. Infantry officers and cavalry troops carried the oval-flap holster for percussion pistols. Included with his equipment, the infantryman carried a combination tool, open-end nipple wrench, and two screwdrivers.

With the adoption of the Spencer rifle toward the end of the War years, the Blakeslee patent cartridge box was issued. Containing seven tinned tubes, each holding seven cartridges, it was most useful, and the quickest loading device ever seen.

(Continued next month)

MAUSER PARABELLUM: RISING LIKE THE PHOENIX

(Continued from page 36)

glass. These Mausers are superb and show the fine finishing and care that has gone into them making them worthy of the name Mauser Parabellum. Even after all these years, I still stand in awe of the production problems required to turn out a Luger. Mauser has done an excellent job throughout with each part fitting correctly and moving smoothly.

The finish is a dark, solid blueblack that is becoming more and more attractive as I apply and wipe off oil. It does not resemble the often thin, lighter blue of so many Lugers. Being new, it needs shooting and handling to acquire that soft, often used, well worn Luger patina that most fine Lugers wear so naturally.

The trigger pull is really excellent for this design. This is one of the weak points. Luger trigger pulls are notably horrible, but this one is quite good enabling me to shoot some tight groups offhand at twenty-five yards giving several ten and twelve shot groups inside of four-inches.

The six-inch barrel appears to duplicate the original Luger rifling and twist and gives me just under 1300 fps with Remington 93 grain bullets in the standard factory .30 Luger load. The sights are conventional Luger sights that retain the disadvantages of all traditional Luger sights. This is a combat weapon not a target arm so the sights are more than adequate, although this particular piece with its long, slender barrel and superb hang could be made into a wonderful jack rabbit and varmint pistol.

Many readers will wonder how they can tell an original, pre-1946 Luger from this new one. The new Mauser Parabellum carries the following stampings: 1. Front of grip on strap: "Mauser-Werke A. G. Oberndorf a. N.". 2. Left side of frame: "Mauser Parabellum .30 Luger". 3. Left side of frame directly above take down lever: "F B M" within a rounded rectangle. 4. Top of barrel, 1" forward of breech: "30 Luger". Directly ahead of the breech also on the barrel: "F B M". 5. Over breech: "American Eagle stamp". 6. On toggle joint: "Original Mauser". 7. At rear of frame: "Made in Germany". 8. On right side of frame is the serial number; above the grips and forward of that the Interarms sunburst, and ahead of that "Interarms, Alexandria, Virginia". 9. Above the trigger on the right side of frame the serial number is again repeated.

With all of these markings it is difficult to figure out how anyone could purchase this new Mauser in the mistaken belief that it is a pre-war Model 06/29, although I imagine it will happen from time to time.

Mauser has done a wonderful job straw-coloring the trigger, take-down lever and the safety to give the pistol the looks and flavor of the fine, rare old Lugers. It bothers me to keep referring to "original" Lugers. This Mauser is an original, traditional Luger. Let's face it. It's a Mauser and a genuine Luger despite the fact it is not a pre-war pistol.

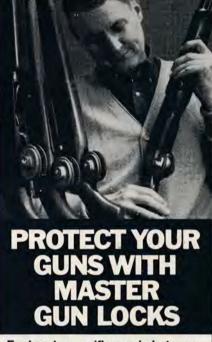
Lugers have long been noted for

Next Month: Handguns of the GCA '68 Non-Lethal Weapons, Part IV Plus another exciting free gun contest refusing to function consistently with American manufactured ammunition although I could never figure out why anyone in their right mind would buy a Luger to shoot when there were so many other handguns available that are not collector's items. Anyway, since I started working with this Mauser, I have put well over five hundred rounds of ammunition through it without a single malfunction or misfire. This includes Remington and Winchester ammunition.

I understand, unofficially through the grapevine, that with the Parabellum rising once again, like the Phoenix from the ashes of the Second World War, that several countries have queried Mauser regarding the adoption of this new pistol as a military and/or police sidearm. I have no idea whether Mauser will go ahead with filling these orders, but it does bring up the point that if some one designs and builds something just a little bit better than anyone else, it can go on and on over the years. The New Mauser Parabellum is a good pistol and, in caliber .30 Luger, could turn out to be a new breed of collector's item in another few years.



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Master Lock Company

PORTABLE HANDLOADING TOOLS

(Continued from page 25)

was a most useful tool, and permitted me to load and shoot a lot of good "practice fodder" that I could not have afforded to buy over the counter. It is at its best with paper cases, and these should be cases that have been fired in *your* gun. And if your gun is a good double (preferably with plain extractors), so much the better!

The Lee Loader in rifle calibers is even better, if that is possible. It is ideal for loading up small lots of rifle brass, like 20 rounds or less, and may even be faster than a bench press. Or, at least, it is faster to use the Lee tool for such a small lot, than it is to set up the press—change shell holder, change dies, adjust dies, adjust powder measure, etc.—just to load twenty rounds!

With this tool, all operations are performed with blows of the plastic hammer. Or taps, actually. The fired primers must be knocked out, then the empty case is driven into the tool to size the neck to hold the bullet. Next, it is driven back out of the die and onto a primer which is fully seated in the case. A charge of powder is dipped, poured in the case, and then the tool performs as a "straight line" bullet seater while a few taps of the hammer serves to seat the bullet. The whole thing is quite neat and simple.

The tool had been criticized, sharply, on two counts. First, it is suggested that it is not "safe" to load ammo with hammer blows. This is untrue! No danger is present and while this might not be the very best way to seat primers, it is quite satisfactory for most needs. At any rate, Lee also offers a little thumb operated priming tool to seat primers nicely "by feel." Even with the addition of the Lee priming tool, the Lee Loader is still the least expensive portable The second criticism has to do with the alleged inaccuracies and even "dangers" of using a scoop or dipper for measuring powder. Granted that the Lee Powder Measure, a simple plastic scoop, is not going to throw charges as precisely as a good powder measure of the drum or rotary type, it is not as likely to get the novice in trouble either! At any rate, it comes free with the kit, "nothing extra to buy," so you are hardly out anything. If you also wish to buy a fancier measure for your own use, no one will object!

tool on the market today!

By the by, the Lee dipper or "Powder Measure" makes use of a little "trick" that has long been used by some knowledgeable riflemen. The volume of the measure remains constant, of course, and it is only necessary to use slower burning powders as you increase bullet weight, or faster powders for lighter bullets. Using the proper powder charge is the most critical, and potentially dangerous, phase of handloading. Follow the directions on the Lee Charge Table precisely, making no substitutions you do not properly understand, and you can have no problems. If you are not an experienced handloader, follow the directions precisely, PERIOD!

The Lee Loader is also offered in handgun calibers, and it will turn out good ammunition. Revolver calibers, such as the .357 Magnum, .44 Magnum, and .45 Colt, are sized for about %3rds of their length in the Lee Loader, somewhat more than is needed merely to hold a bullet, so they chamber nicely. Auto-pistol rounds, and also the .30 Carbine, are full length resized and must be lubricated before being driven into the tool.

With the revolver calibers, Lee also



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INVENTED AND MANUFACTURED BY JESSE EDWARDS 269 Herbert Street—Alton, III. 62002 • Ph: Days—(618) 462-3257 or Nights—462-2897 provides a "flaring tool," which is driven into the case mouth to expand the neck and bell the mouth of the case so lead bullets can be seated without shaving. This is not provided with rifle sets, or even in auto-pistol calibers, presumably on the theory that only jacketed bullets should be used in these calibers. However, I do use cast bullets in my .38 Super and .45 Automatic pistols, and likewise in my .444 Marlin lever rifle. When I do, I merely borrow the proper flaring tool from the appropriate revolver set!

Whereas only a few light taps are needed to resize the necks of rifle cases in the Lee Loader, pistol rounds do require a good bit of pounding. With the rifle tools, I commonly hold the tool in one hand, the hammer in the other—drive in the case, turn the tool over, insert the knockout rod, and give it a couple of taps to knock out the neck-sized empty.

You don't do this with the pistol tools! I have a white pine "bang board" I use on our table to protect the finish, and — believe me — the board is pretty well dinged up! Also, all this pounding gets tiresome. My wife complains of the noise, and frankly, my arm gets tired!

So, while the Lee Loader turns out good pistol ammo, I would load with one only in an emergency situation. The avid pistollero does a lot more shooting than a rifleman, anyway, so I cannot recommend the Lee Loader for his use. Too slow, too tiring, and too noisy . . .

Lee has just recently introduced a new tool for the advanced rifleman who wants the utmost accuracy from his target rifle, bench gun, or varmint rig. Called the Target Model "Zero Error" Loader, it retails for \$24.95, and is somewhat of a precision instrument compared to the standard Lee Loader. The stop for the bullet seating plunger, for example, is adjusted via a micrometer to a thousandth of an inch. And the tool likewise incorporates an inside neck reamer, which reams necks to a perfectly uniform wall thickness and concentricity.

In addition, the "Zero Error" Loader offers, as standard equipment, all the goodies you had to buy extra with the regular Lee Loader. These include the Lee primer seating tool, the neat case trimmer, the chamfering tool, and the tiny primer pocket cleaner. Naturally, it takes longer to load ammo with all these items—but the ammo you load will be about as precise as you can possibly get; better than you can do with a bench press, I do believe!

The Lyman Ideal #310 tool is the oldest handloading tool in production

today, and is a direct descendent of the old Ideal tools of the nineteenth century, which legend tells us were used by buffalo hunters near their lonely campfires on the wild prairie. At any rate, the Lyman #310 tool is old, dating back to World War II and before. As currently produced, it retails for \$16.50 complete with a fourdie set to load one caliber.

The tool is basically a pair of handles, fabricated of aluminum, into which dies of $\frac{5}{3}x30''$ thread are screwed in order to accomplish (1) neck sizing and decapping; (2) neck expanding and belling; (3) repriming; and (4) bullet seating. In addition, a little threaded bushing called an "adapter die" is furnished with the set, having a hole of proper diameter to allow a sliding fit of the particular cartridge being loaded, and guide it into the die.

The tool works very well for loading either rifle or pistol cartridges, sizing enough of the case neck to hold the bullet nicely, or perhaps a little more than that. Or, at least, it loads rifle and revolver cases nicely for me, in calibers .30-06 Springfield, .30-40 Krag, and .45 Colt. I had poor luck with .45 Automatic dies, for only a very short portion of the neck was sized with the "muzzle resizer" screwed in as far as it would gowhich would not allow of easy chambering in an auto-pistol, nor would it hold the bullet against the recoil of full loads in the M1917 sixgun.

This is perhaps the best possible tool for the boy who also loads shells on a bench press. Most of the die adjustments are identical, and the dies can also be used in a press as well. The Lyman Tru Line Junior turret press is, of course, threaded expressly for these $\frac{5}{8} \times 30''$ dies, while other presses of standard $\frac{7}{8} \times 14''$ thread can easily make use of #310 dies by means of adapter dies—available for two or three bucks.

The Lyman #310 tool is a very handy thing to have around your workbench, even if you do have a bench press. Experienced handloaders have long known the importance of seating primers delicately, "by feel", and I personally prefer to do this job with a Lyman priming chamber screwed into the light aluminum #310 handles. Again, I can neck size my rifle brass with the muzzle resizer, by means of the proper adapter die, and I can use the expanding chamber to bell case mouths when shooting cast bullets. And when I have finished the "heavy work" on my press, I can easily seat bullets in my living room with the #310 tool and the double adjustable chamber.

By the by, the Lyman #310 handles are offered in both "S" (short, small) and "L" (large, long) types, intended for handgun and rifle, respectively. You don't need 'em, just use one pair to load either rifle or pistol, and adjust the lock rings on the dies accordingly. However, it is handy to have two or three sets of handles, so you can load in sequence without stopping to change dies, or so you don't have to fool around changing those little "adapter die" things.

The Pacific Pakit Tool is relatively new on the market, and is intended to do most of the operations in reloading with screw action. The tool, which retails for \$16.00, is quite simple and easy to understand. There are no dies to be changed, as such. The empty case, having first been lubed and the case mouth chamfered with pen-knife or a special tool, is slipped into the shell holder and the shell holder screwed into the tool body. At this point a decapping rod is inserted into the neck of the case and the primer ejected by slamming the rod against some fixed object. (I prefer to hold the tool over the wastebasket, and whack the rod with my trusty plastic hammer. Saves picking up dead primers later.)

Next, a live primer is placed in the cup of the combination primer and



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bullet seating tool, and this is screwed up into the shell holder until the primer is completely seated. It may now be unscrewed, or left in place 'till later, as you desire.

Next, a neck-sizing device is started into the mouth of the body and screwed down by hand until it's stopped. This takes a fair amount of effort with the .44 Magnum tool I tried, but is fairly easy in other calibers such as .30-06 or .38 Special. The tool isn't available for short auto-pistol calibers, incidentally.

After necksizing, powder is measured out in a little cup provided and poured down the neck sizer right into the case. If the Pacific Measur-Kit is used, the tool is inverted, the charge tube of the Measur-Kit is inserted directly into the hollow stem of the neck sizer, and then the tool and tube inverted together to dump the powder right into the case.

Finally, the bullet is inserted into the plastic-lined bullet seater, and screwed down into the tool until it stops. This *must* be a jacketed bullet, since no provision is made to bell the case mouth even in pistol calibers. Next the bullet seater is removed, the shell holder removed, and you have a completely loaded round.

This is a good tool for the rifleman, but the pistol shooter might experience some difficulties since no belling tool is provided for use with cast bullets.

Pacific's little Measur-Kit fires me with much more enthusiasm, however. This is just a simple little measure of the cut-off and charge tube type, which screws directly to a can of powder as produced by Winchester, DuPont, or Norma, and retails for only \$8.50. A "Universal Powder Can" is provided with the Measur-Kit, being primarily useful with Hercules powders which come in cans with "snap off" lids rather than the threaded type. Frankly, I recommend this little powder measure highly for anyone who wishes to indulge in "portable handloading."

Incidentally, the powder charge tube from my Belding & Mull Visible powder measure fits nicely in the Pacific Measure-Kit, and vice versa! This means that the two measures augment one another, for I can have one on my work bench, one in my shooting kits, and use either or both charge tubes as I please. Nice!

The W. H. English Pak-Tool is the most expensive of the portable tools, at \$29.50 in rifle calibers and \$33.25 in handgun calibers. Spare die sets cost \$7.25 in rifle calibers, for a two die set, while three die pistol sets will run you \$11.00. Spare shell holders for the



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tool run \$4.75 each.

The tool can be described as either a miniature press, or a glorified "tong tool," depending on whether you like it or not. As it happens, I like it, and mean to have one of my own. I recognize that the price is steep, and also that the tool does have a few slight drawbacks. On the other hand, it will do something that other tools cannot do: In pistol calibers, it will completely full length resize the case. This is highly desirable in revolver ammunition, and it is practically mandatory for flawless feeding and easy chambering in the semi-automatic pistol.

The tool is apparently a revival of one that Charles Newton manufactured as an accessory for his wondrous rifles at the turn of the Century. The principle is essentially the same as that used in our more powerful presses; the handle attached to the body of the tool by two steel links increases leverage as the ram completes its stroke. The shell holder is a double-ended affair that screws into the end of the tool. The dies, which cannot be used in any other press or tool, screw into the end of the ram-which is called the "carrier rod" in Pak Tool nomenclature. There are no lock rings on these dies, which travel within the body of the tool, so adjustments are made with double lock rings on the carrier rod itself.

I found that the tool did a fine job of loading .30-06, which it only neck sizes of course. Cases in .38 Special and .44 Special caliber were full length resized with only moderate effort, about what you'd need to neck size these rounds on a #310 tool. Magnums in either caliber, however, were sized only with great difficulty. Magnum brass is not as "soft" as the Specials. Also, I found that great difficulty was encountered in full length sizing .45 Automatic brass, even when thoroughly lubed.

These, then, are the portable loading tools, as made by Lee, Lyman, Pacific, and Pak Tool. All are well made and will load good ammunition, though some are easier to load with than others. None were perfect, but all of the loaders tested performed quite well within their intended limits and come highly recommended for easy, compact and reliable loading where space and cost are of prime importance.





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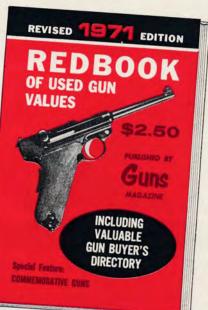
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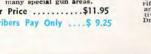
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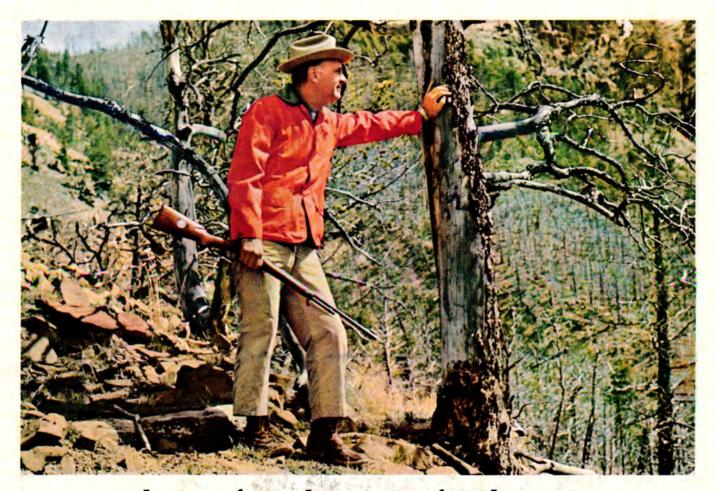
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The NRA Rifle is patterned after the famed Winchester Model 64, long a deer hunter's favorite. And with rounded forend under the 24" barrel, a semi-pistol grip, and a contoured lever, this is a deer gun that comes up fast and naturally when quick shots count. The NRA Musket... patterned after the Model 1895 target rifle we built for the NRA . . . features a 26" barrel and calibrated, folding leaf rear sights, for the hunter who likes to try steadier, longer-range shooting. And the distinctive, full-length militarystyle forend covers a tube magazine that holds 7 rounds.

> Both NRA Centennials come with features every hunter prefers. Winchester Proof Steel barrels for strength and accuracy. Handsome walnut stocks and forends. Machined steel magazine carriers. And the smoothest lever action this side of 1894.

> Take a look at both new NRA 30-30s at your Winchester dealers' now. They're one way to match the trophies on your wall with the trophies in your gun case. Winchester-Western, 275 Winchester Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut 06504.

NRA Musket: \$149.95

NRA Rifle: \$149.95

Quality-made by professional shooters.

Rifle: Semi-pistol grip.

Musket: Folding leaf rear sight.