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NOVEMBER, 1971

Vol. XVII, No. 01-11

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

Catching up on our contest winners, Mr. Chris Pappas of Hyattsville, Md. won the Parker-Hale rifle offered in our June issue, and Mr. Robert Gelsinger of Peoria, Ill. won the Thompson-Center pistol with Conetrol mount and rings and Leupold scope. Congratulations to both of them.

Probably the best friend the hunter/shooter has is the National Shooting Sports Foundation that has been leading the way in the fight against gun controls and anti-hunters. They publish tons of material to help the gun enthusiast better enjoy the sport and keep it free from unnecessary controls and red tape.

The NSSF reports that their booklet, "The Hunter and Conservation" is now in its sixth reprint totaling 610,000 booklets printed so far. This is the best seller in the NSSF line for the simplest, most direct answer available to the hunting haters. The booklet explains how conservation got its start, what role the hunter plays in conservation and how the hunter has benefited wild game.

These people are doing a tremendous job, headed by the very capable Charley Dickey, who, for the past seven years, has been coordinating the outdoor clinics held at the annual conferences of the Outdoor Writers Association. This year over 400 writers, their wives and kids enjoyed the most successful clinic ever held.

The writers and their families were treated to skill centers in handguns, scoped rifles, air guns, muzzle-loader shooting, stock fitting, casting, camping, outdoor vehicles and archery. More than 40 industry experts volunteered to instruct the writers, including such pros as Bill Blankenship, Joe Benner, George Nonte, Lucy Chambliss, Ernie Lind and Warren Page, executive vice president of the NSSF and world record holder in benchrest shooting.

This is just one example of what the NSSF is doing to promote the shooting and outdoor sports. In this instance, many of the outdoor writers had never fired any kind of a gun and this clinic gave them the chance to find out for themselves what a joy it is.

For a complete list of publications including films for club meetings etc., write them at 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Conn. 06878.

THE COVER

This Merkel Model 1475 is in 20 gauge but is also available in 12 and 16 gauge. It is rarely seen in the U. S. as there has been no formal importation. It is all hand finished and displays typical German relief style game scenes in the engraving. Gun supplied by J. J. Jenkins, 462 Stanford Place, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105.

CONTENTS

FEATURES

YOU CAN BE A BETTER WINGSHOT

Practice and gun-familiarity are needed Col. Charles Askins 24

SLIDE ACTION RIFLES

A shooting comparison of two popular guns John W. Rockefeller 26

A NEW LOOK AT THE .350 REM. MAG.

A highly versatile yet neglected cartridge Mason Williams 28

SIXGUNS AND SHARKS

Shark shooting with handguns can be interesting Maj. George C. Nonte 30

ADVENTURES IN SHOTGUNLAND

A quality gun need not be called "Purdey" J. K. Osgood 32

REFLEXIVE RIFLE SHOOTING

This could be the start of something new! James D. Mason 34

STOEGER ARMS

Story of a great gun firm since its beginning in 1919 Mars Cassidy 37

LYMAN'S BLACK POWDER HANDGUN

James Drury shoots this newest replica Walter Rickell 40

FREE GUN CONTEST

Win a free Ranger Arms Texas Magnum Rifle 44

DEPARTMENTS

Shooters Club of America	5	Handloading Bench ..	George Charles	12	
Our Man In Washington ..	Carl Wolf	6	Handgunning	Jan Stevenson	16
Crossfire	8	Pull!	Dick Miller	46	
The Gun Market		77			

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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

"SATURDAY REVIEW" MAGAZINE ATTACKS GUNS

The anti-firearms lobby is working to have all guns confiscated from their owners. One of the latest attacks has been from the July issue of the "Saturday Review." Carl Bakal fabricated a typical anti-firearms article entitled "The Failure of Federal Gun Control." The basic assumption behind it, as is the basic assumption behind all anti-firearms propaganda, is that guns are responsible for crime and killings. And all we have to do is ban the sale of guns and instantaneously there will be no Black Panthers, no Minutemen, no Mafia, no KKK and no crazed killers because there will be no guns. I am surprised that Norman Cousins, the chief editor of the "Saturday Review," would allow such a ridiculous and biased article to run.

Mr. Bakal's story is full of the usual non-sense that you find in all material of this kind. He notes, for example, that the National Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence has reported "drastic increases in gun purchases occur in areas that have experienced civil disorders." These are areas where you have mobs in the street and hippies burning cars. So who is to blame? The honest working tax paying citizen who is buying a gun to give himself protection that the Government cannot provide? Mr. Bakal does not even begin to blame the rioters.

Mr. Bakal states that President Nixon is pro-firearms and has been having secret meetings this spring to fight the anti-firearms groups. That is a complete lie. My good friend, Mr. Jerome Rakusan, received a White House invitation to help with those meetings. He attended, and in reality they were discussing ways to keep firearms out of the hands of those groups that are systematically mis-using them. There were no secret agreements between the White House and firearms manufacturers.

The fraudulence of Mr. Bakal shines out in every page of his story. He tries to attack the publications that support free firearms ownership, like GUNS Magazine, and blames it along with the actual firearms for the causes of crime. He blames the firearms publications for the distribution of guns, and writes "in any number of specialized gun magazines or newspapers sold by subscription or on newsstands you can see mail-order advertising for these guns,

which therefore soon find their way to almost every part of our country." This is a direct quote from page 13 of that issue, and it shows Mr. Bakal hardly read the 1968 Gun Control Act. The main provision of the 1968 act was to stop all mail-order purchases of firearms. At one time mail-order guns were a big business, but someone should tell Mr. Bakal that it ended two and a half years ago. Perhaps someone from the "Saturday Review's" editorial staff, the people who payed so much money for this story, might tell him?

Like all the other anti-firearms ownership nuts, Mr. Bakal gets to .22 caliber ammunition and the bill to exempt it from Federal record keeping. He believes this is one of the greatest crimes that could happen. He blames the Congress for even thinking of exempting .22 ammo and states "this is in spite of the fact that millions of revolvers and pistols, including many of the Saturday night specials, as well as most rifles, use this kind of ammunition, which accounts for about 70 per cent of the ammunition produced and sold in America, yet is rarely used for hunting." The problem of .22 ammunition was analyzed in the April 1971 SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA column by myself. I wrote in that month, "The facts of the matter are these: the Federal Government has used our tax money to record the 80 million sales of .22 ammunition from the time the 1968 bill was enacted. It has created a mountain of paper work and a legion of Federal paper shufflers, and it has subjected millions of sportsmen to much unwarranted aggravation. So what is the end result? The Justice Department itself has testified that despite the tremendous cost and aggravation of recording .22 sales, it has not solved one crime or achieved one conviction through a record of sales." In this case Congress is much wiser than the "Saturday Review."

Now is the time to fight back with the truth about firearms. We must let our thoughts be heard in the local State Legislatures and in Washington. The best way to get this done is by joining clubs and associations like SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA. Fill in the handy business reply envelope opposite this page and mail it in today. Become a member now.

Col. E. Becker

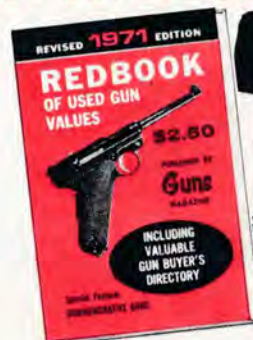
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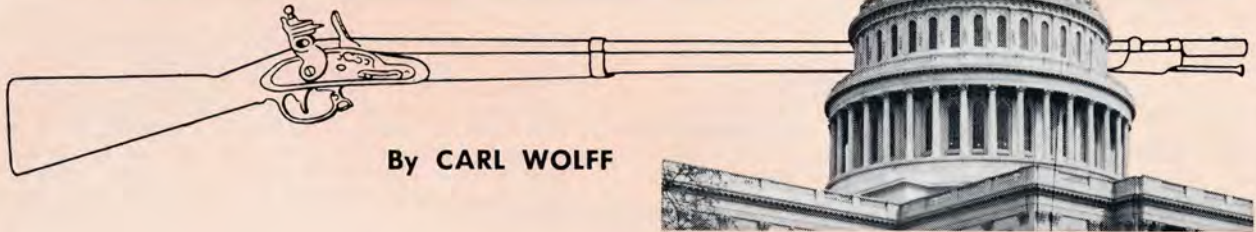
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

The House Judiciary Committee is doing some backsliding on its schedule to push for the confiscation of handguns. Chairman Emanuel Celler (D.-N.Y.) announced back in June that he would push for such a law and introduced such a bill.

To all sportsmen the most objectionable portion of that measure is that federal taxes collected on firearms and ammunition would be withheld from any state which did not pass supporting legislation. The move has run into trouble from none other than the various police departments across the country. Committee sources report that "support for the drive is slow."

This GUNS contributor has checked with some police officers on the East Coast. Illegal drugs, they say, should be the thrust of federal legislative efforts. One of the hospitals in the nation's capital reports over fifty percent of its emergency calls are the result of drugs.

Congressman Bob Sikes (D.,-Fla.) in remarks on the House floor following the Celler announcement hit back: "The American public is being told from various platforms that the removal of handguns from the social scene is an absolute necessity if crime is to be meaningfully controlled. Anti-handgun proponents declare that anti-crime measures without handgun prohibition will only be half as effective.

"Now let us be factual," added Sikes. "Progressively tighter firearms laws in the United States have not effected a reduction of gun crimes or overall serious crime. The principal purpose of the new Federal firearms statutes enacted in 1968 was to combat crime and violence. In addition, the Congress has passed many anti-crime bills

and we have appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars for new programs against crime.

"A look at some basic criminal statistics indicates clearly and forcefully that crime is still on the increase and markedly so—this despite the 1968 gun control law and additional anti-crime bills."

During the debate on the Gun Control Act of 1968, the point was loudly made time and time again that unless there was a flat prohibition on the movement of all firearms between nonlicensees in interstate commerce, the anti-crime purpose of the proposed law would be seriously jeopardized. Accordingly, the general prohibition was adopted—not without misgivings by many in the Congress, including Congressman Sikes.

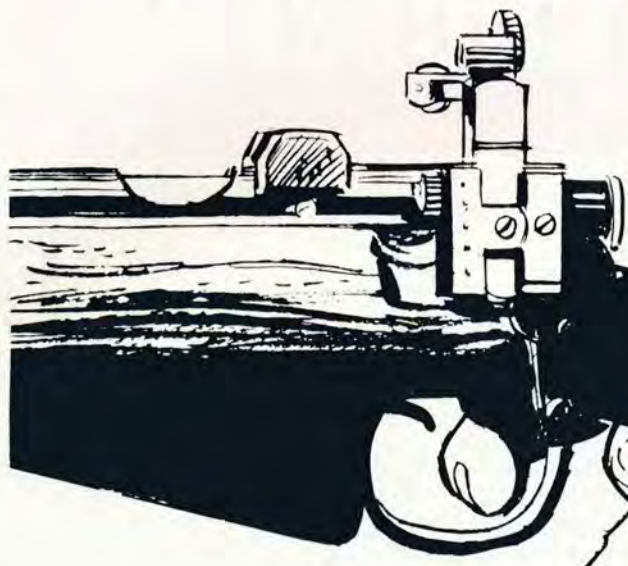
"Now we are witnessing the astonishing spectacle," Sikes said, "repeated many times over the last decade, of public and private chanting that the existing laws are inadequate, not sufficiently responsive to new conditions and circumstances."

The futility of handgun registration or prohibition is shown in bold relief in New York City and the District of Columbia, which have the strongest firearms laws and ordinances in the Nation, including registration, licensing, prohibition of possession by certain persons, and ammunition controls.

Recently, police officers were fatally shot in these jurisdictions, despite the existence of the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968. Illegal drugs were suspected in both cases.

The nation's capital is becoming more and more an armed camp of middle-aged residents. (Continued on page 19)

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3. Assistance with gun and shooting problems by the staff of NRA's Firearms Information Service
4. Legislative Bulletins to inform you of any attempt to limit your right to hunt—or to own and enjoy guns
5. Help in locating a place to sight-in your hunting rifle
6. Bulletins on game availability, hunting dates and regulations . . . plus other subjects
7. Use of NRA's Code of Ethics for better hunter-landowner relations
8. Silver Bullet Award for outstanding whitetail deer and mule deer trophies
9. Lapel pins for other fine big game specimens
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Unknown Codes

I am a collector of German WW II period small arms, and in particular the Mauser Model 98K rifle as made from 1934 to 1945. These rifles, as were all items of a military nature, were given a code instead of marking the weapons with the manufacturer's name and address. Many of these codes are known and the identification of many manufacturers has been published. However, many of the codes have never been identified.

I have in my collection 33 Model 98K rifles, some of duplicate code, but several whose code identity is unknown to me. They are as follows: "LL" dated 1941, and one dated 1942; "243" dated 1938, 1939, and 1940; "ax" dated 1941; "S/147" dated 1935 (G date), and one dated 1937. Also, I have two rifles bearing the code "SVW MB" and no one seems to know what the "MB" stands for.

I would appreciate any help from the readers of GUNS Magazine in identifying these codes. Please address letters to the Editor.

D.A.H.
Baltimore, Md.

Guns Quarterly

I have seen some copies of GUNS Quarterly and would like to inquire of your readers if they might have any copies which I might purchase for our new club library. The Quarterly was a limited publication put out about 1961 and was bound with the spiral wire. I am also looking for any back issues prior to 1958 and many others, too numerous to list here. Any help you can give me in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated, not only by me, but also by the other club members.

P. Connor Lee
Metrolina Shooting Club
4242 Town & Country Drive
Charlotte, N.C. 28211

Mis-quote!

I hope that you and your readers will be interested to learn that I am not "opposing hunting on wildlife refuges." Furthermore, I have never made any such statement that might be quoted.

Perhaps this information will also interest your man in Washington, Carl Wolff, whose column in the July issue of GUNS read as follows: "Singled out in issue has been Robert Scott, Chief of Interior's Division of Wildlife Refuges. He is being quoted as opposing hunting on wildlife refuges."

I assume you maintain a Washington correspondent in the belief that he can zero in on events in the Nation's capitol. Publication of false information without an attributable source not only misses the black, but ought to be counted as a rafter bull.

Robert F. Scott, Chief
Division of Wildlife Refuges
U.S. Dept. of the Interior

Sorry 'bout that!

I enjoy reading "Guns" Magazine and was particularly interested in your article, "Black Powder Hunting Boom".

I would like to make one slight correction if I may—the writer's name is F. John Barlow, not John Harlow as shown on the picture of the Illinois and Wisconsin "One-Shot Antelope" team.

I might add that the One-Shot Antelope hunt, conducted each year in Lander, Wyoming, is without doubt one of the nation's greatest sporting events. It was a great honor and pleasure to be a member of the Wisconsin team in 1970 and I enjoyed particularly the hunting comradeship of Illinois Governor Richard B. Ogilvie who was my hunting partner.

F. John Barlow
Appleton, Wisc.

OPEN THIS BOOK TO ANY PAGE, IT REALLY GRABS...

"Whenever a shooter says, 'Five bucks I make my point,' cover it fast!" Page 70, Friendly Craps.

"Before going into any of the positive aspects of money management, here's some sound advice: **STAY AWAY FROM ANY Progressive Betting system on the horses.**" Page 221, A Day at the Track.

"For the person who wants to give the house a good, stiff battle in Blackjack and do it without the complex intricacies of a counting system, our revised basic strategy can do the job without making you persona non grata to the casinos." Page 95, The Casino Games.

"Following a win with your minimum bet, bet the original minimum plus the amount you won. If you win a second time, 'drag' the amount of the minimum bet and bet the rest. On a third win..." Page 25, Gambling for Fun and Profit.

"The greatest fault of the average money-bridge player is a distaste for taking deliberate 'sets' when it would be to his financial advantage to do so." Page 49, Gambling at Bridge.

"You don't have to stay as often in seven-card stud to make a lot of money as you do in five-card." Page 39, It's Just a Friendly Game.

"Leaving your opponent so he can't make a point is always worth more than making a point yourself." Page 142, Billiards and Pool.

"One of the most expensive games in the world to learn to play is a form of the Match Game." Page 118, Watch Out For Cheaters.

"Most bets on single plays in baseball are bad bets. Betting that any player will get a hit is always a sucker bet. So, for that matter, is betting that he'll strike out..." Page 121, Ya Wanna Bet?



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We could say, for the benefit of any moralists in the audience, that this is a book only for those who wager legally... for those who wish merely to increase their enjoyment of their favorite game.

That's bunk. People gamble, they do it for money, and most of the action is extra-legal. **Gambler's Digest** doesn't condone that or condemn it - we acknowledge it.

If the sum spent on illegal gambling - \$400 billion a year, by our estimate - is surprising, so is the degree to which some people are willing to risk their money, with the skimpiest knowledge of the odds, the skills, the craft involved.

Gambler's Digest is the book about games and gamesmanship for everyone who gambles - wherever and however. It will be of most value to the amateur or occasional participant who, while not interested in making his living at gambling, nevertheless plays to win.

What sort of book is it? Says the publisher, "The most complete treatise on gambling in all its forms ever assembled." But in the writer's opinion, that's bunk too. No dry treatise, **Gambler's Digest** is a fast-paced anthology of the gambling arts, with a fine sense of humor for good measure. And it's as honest as the action at Las Vegas.

Our editor is a professional, Clement McQuaid, a man with encyclopedic knowledge of horses, dice, cards - and most of the small-time ruses that amateur cheaters attempt.

Our authors are super odds-makers like Las Vegas' Bob Martin, the most influential handicapper in sports, whose quotations are gospel for bookmakers from coast to coast.

These men teach you everything from simple bar bets to a gem called "Snip, Snap, Shore 'Em." They unwrap a new, track-proven handicap system... reveal 11 ways to win at any game... 33 bad bets to avoid... money management as the pros practice it. They tell you how to play, and how to win.

Yes, how to win. **Gambler's Digest** points out "edges" in your favorite game. Tells you which games give you the best chance for your level of skill and experience. Tells you which games you can't beat - and you'd better know those, too. It includes dozens of "Best Bets" - tips on how to tilt the odds your way, on practically any game you can name.

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Sports - Why baseball is the bettor's best game, setting odds in football, hockey, jai-alai, boxing, golf, tennis, track and field, pool, bowling.

Horse Racing - Big 87-page section, including the famous "Dutch Table"; 5 systems that produce; do your own handicapping; how to watch and win.

Lotteries - The Irish Sweepstakes, parlay cards, pool tickets, state lotteries, your best and worst gambles.

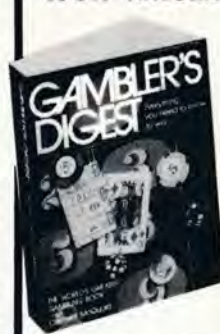
Cards - Winning technique in just about any game you can name; watch out for cheaters; winning big and losing small.

Liberal sprinkled with classic gambling stories... "Jack E. Leonard tells the story about a fellow who caught another man with his wife. 'I admit everything,' the offender said. 'I'm in love with your wife, madly in love with her, and she's in love with me. I'll make you a sporting proposition. I'll play you a game of Gin for her. If I win, you divorce her. If you beat me, I walk out of here and promise never to see her again.' The husband thought about it. 'Okay,' he finally said, 'but how about a penny a point on the side to make it interesting?'"

COMMENTS ON ADVANCE COPIES...

- "I've got a few plays for the guys I play Gin with." - A. Pearson
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(Continued on page 15)

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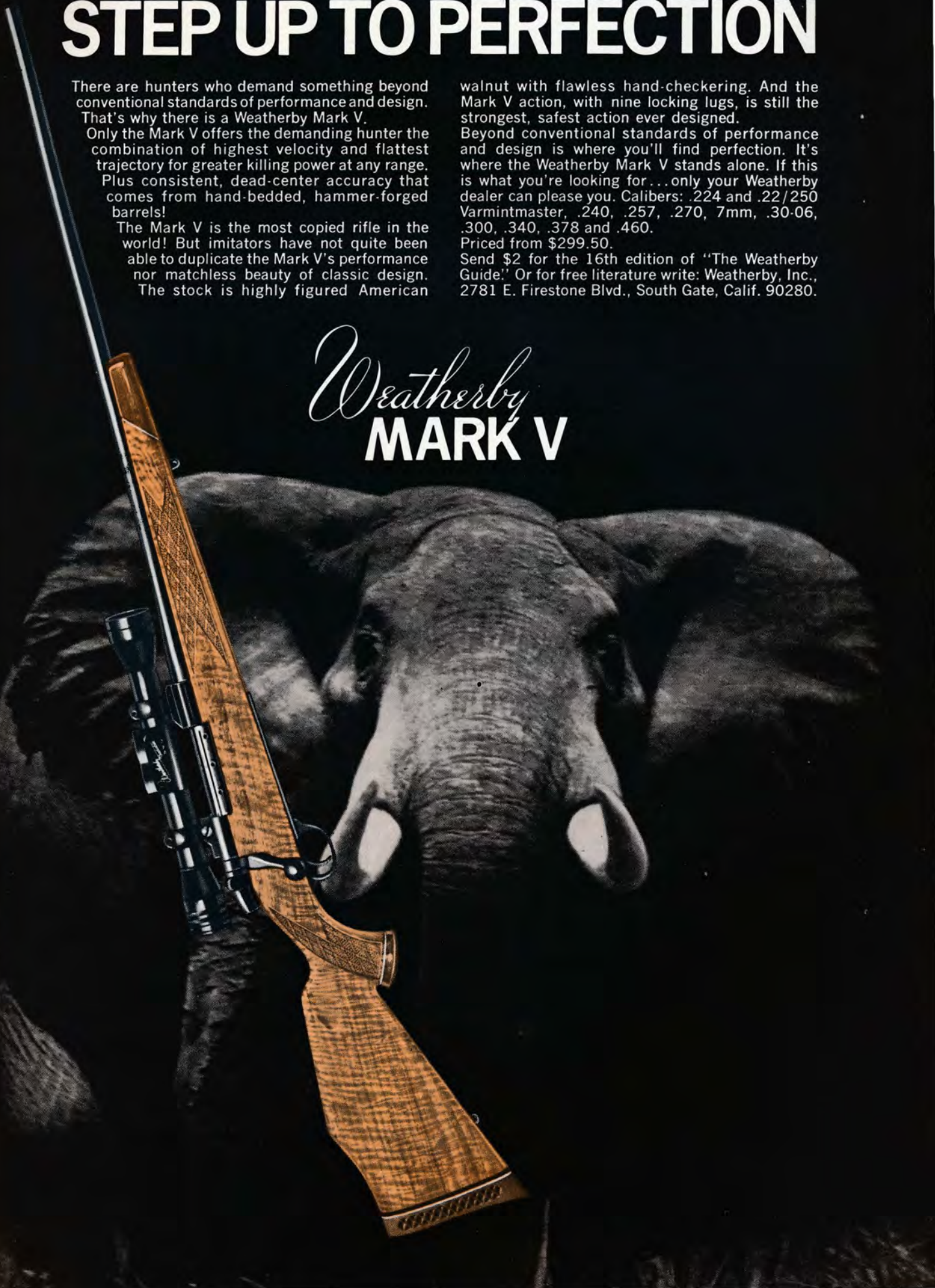
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(Continued from page 12)
 chamber walls tightly—then as gas pressure builds up, the case head is forced back against the bolt face. The walls are stretched and thinned in the process, with the bulk of the thinning occurring directly ahead of the web. Additionally, radial expansion of the case to meet the chamber walls at approximately the same point produces further stretching and thinning.

All this occurs on every factory-loaded or new handloaded case fired. It also occurs on every subsequent firing of those same cases when they are handloaded. Thus, it may be seen that some stretching, thinning, and weakening of the case occurs with every firing. Eventually the cumulative effect will cause the case to crack-through just ahead of the web.

Just how many firings are needed to produce cracking or separation is dependent also upon other variables. The more the case is reduced by resizing—both in diameter and in head/shoulder length—the sooner it will fail. This is due not only to greater stretching at each firing, but to more work-hardening of the brass produced

by the resizing. Harder brass is less ductile, and therefore fails earlier. Then, of course, the more clearance between case and chamber, the sooner failure will occur. And, all other factors being equal, a harder case will fail sooner than a softer one—and we do encounter substantial hardness difference between makes and lots. Another factor is case wall thickness. Naturally, the case with thicker walls at the usual failure point will last the longest.

Gun design—as opposed to dimensions or conditions—also has effect on case life. Spring-clip extractors of the Remington type, combined with Garand-type spring-plunger ejectors force the chambered case firmly against the chamber shoulder, thus insuring maximum clearance between bolt and case head at firing. This produces more stretching than a closely-fitted hook-type extractor and receiver-mounted ejector.

Gas-operated autoloaders introduce another factor seldom mentioned. The M-1 Garand rifle, for example, has a heavy bolt driven forward at high velocity by a very powerful spring. This,

combined with an extractor that must cam out over the case rim after chambering, can result in the case shoulder being deformed during chambering. This means simply that the cartridge is chambered so forcibly as to have its shoulder forced rearward when it strikes the chamber shoulder. That increases the amount the case must stretch upon firing, thus reducing the number of firings needed to produce a separation. Other gas-operated rifles with non-rotating bolts of greater weight, produce this effect to a greater degree than the M-1.

Most sporting gas-operated autos don't deal that harshly with cases, but the ramming effect is occasionally encountered and can reduce case life. Maximum case life is produced when case/chamber clearance is minimum and when the case is actually a "crush fit."

All the foregoing also increases the overall length of the case. Clearly, if the head moves back .010" while the front of the case grips the chamber walls tightly, overall length is increased by .010". If the case is then

(Continued on page 22)



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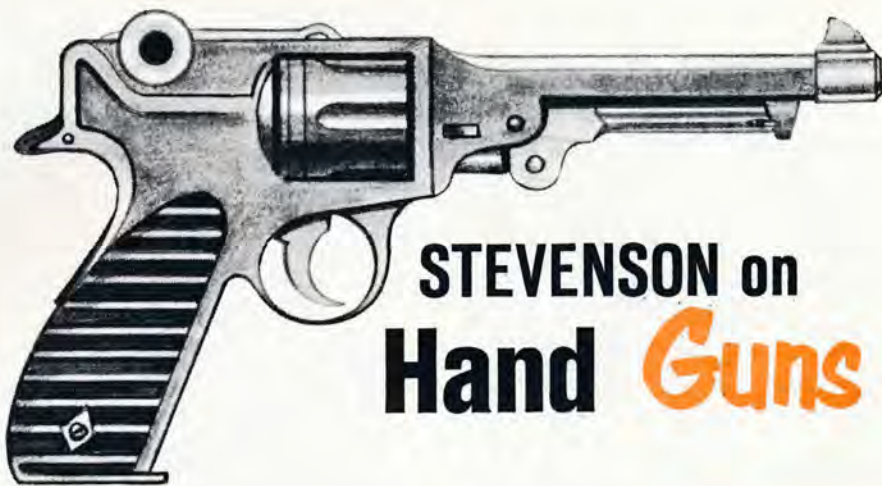
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STEVENSON on Hand Guns

THE FIRST RULE of plinking etiquette is to police up thoroughly after every session. That means to fetch back all your shot-up cans and boxes and other targets, as well as all the cases you can retrieve, to be disposed of properly. If it's your own property I suppose you have the right to garbage it up if you want, but if it's someone else's, there's no more certain way to lose your shooting privileges and win votes for anti-gun laws than to make a mess and leave it behind. And certainly you should never shoot on someone else's property without getting permission.

Once you've got it, exercise normal common sense. Shut gates which were shut when you found them; tell the owner of those you may have found open. Don't shoot near houses, livestock, other people, or public roads. Don't climb over wire fences—this can slacken up the whole fence line. Go through them or under them instead. Start with soft-voiced calibers and ask at the end of the day if the noise bothered anyone, before you move to a louder number. Check in with the owner before and after each day's shooting, even if you're good friends. When he hears gunfire on his property, he'll want to know who's making it.

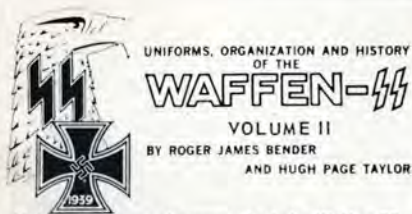
Above all, practice firearms safety religiously. On a supervised range you have the rangemaster standing behind you, and the certain knowledge that you'll get thrown off the line if your mind lapses and you do something dumb. When plinking, though, you're on your own, and the zest of the occasion can bring on a mental hiatus. Anytime the gun is out of the holster, your mind must absolutely be riding the muzzle. Practice all the other safety rules, by all means, but above all KNOW where the muzzle is pointed every instant. Never forget that most shooters do

have an "accidental" discharge sooner or later (I've had two—see GUNS, Jan., 1971) and that when they do, nothing but strict adherence to Rule #2 saves their hide. Rule #2 reads, "Never let the muzzle point at any person or object you're not prepared to see destroyed."

An adjunct of Rule #2 has to do with not firing a shot unless you know for certain where the bullet will come to rest. This means, in but rare instances, that you must have a fool-proof line-of-sight backstop. Bounce-the-can games always give off a plentitude of ricochets. Best to play this one at the base of a high bank surmounted with heavy tree cover; or not play it at all, unless you're in a certified-deserted desert with a mile and a half clear visibility. Soft earth will of course sap a lot of velocity before the bullet takes off again, but hardpack or rock will parry it with almost no velocity loss. Moreover, ricochet angles are very difficult to estimate. Water, too, is a big ricochet maker; the Austrians in fact fire a rifle match which involves ricocheting bullets off a lake surface into a target on the far bank. I'll shoot into water at a 30° angle or greater without worry, but never at a flatter angle unless I can bounce the bullets immediately into a high bank.

Most gunnies have a craving to try their hand at aerial targets. I, of course, was no exception, but I gave it up about ten years ago when the gnawing worry about where the bullets were coming down became too much to bear. There are only about 15,000 people in my county, but that was a considerable number too many for me. And plugging a fellow taxpayer is only the worst of the grim possibilities.

I recall the case a few years back of a hapless plinker who killed a cow at the admirable range of ¾ of a mile



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with a .22 rimfire. He of course had no notion of it until the gendarmes came to fetch his gun, and proceeded to match it to the pellet extracted from the recently expired bovine.

A more cheerful incident concerns a local police officer who launched a warning shot skyward one evening, only to have it come to rest in the wall of a lawyer's office across town.

Some pseudo-savants scoff at the warning on .22 LR boxes which reads, "Dangerous to One Mile". Best to take it seriously. A mile, for those like myself who may have forgotten, is 1,760 yards, and the measured maximum range of a .22 standard velocity is 1,500 yards. High Velocity LR's add something like 65 yards to max range, and if that slug is riding a tailwind, it will do very near to the full mile, and kill when it comes in. Nor do you cut down the yardage a lot with a pistol, for the LR reaches full throttle in a 16" barrel. More barrel length acts as a heavy brake. It's a fair guess that these tests were made with, say, a 22" barrel, and those six inches of incredible friction may well have slowed the slug to very near long-barrel pistol velocity.

The Army, by empirical testing, found that a .45 auto would pitch a slug 1,640 yards, while a .380 ACP was good for 1,089. The NRA Technical Staff made an admirable set of calculations which showed the .38 Spl. reaching 1,800 yards—well over a mile—while the .357 Magnum, at 2,350, was within 300 yards of the mile-and-a-half mark. The .44 Magnum pushed out to the 2,500 yard stake, while the 7.62 and 9mm Luger rounds each were good for 1,900 yards. The British discovered that even such a watermelon as the .455 Webley would reach an astonishing 1,300 yards when fired at a 35° angle above horizontal. It must be reiterated that these bullets are not sifting harmlessly down from the heavens like some sort of metallic manna; they are coming in ahead of a heavy head of steam, and decidedly deadly. Gravity is pulling them back to earth on a vertical vector, but they still hold a lot of punch on the forward vector.

These figures are to be kept in mind not only while pondering the prudence of aerial shooting, but when churning off ricochets as well. Remember that a bullet glanced off rock or hardpack at a flat angle will check in again almost at full range.

While we're still casting out "Thou Shalt Not's," there's a big one that says, "Don't shoot at glass." People who shoot at bottles in creeks should be condemned to wade through them barefoot, as small boys do. We can

(Continued on page 45)

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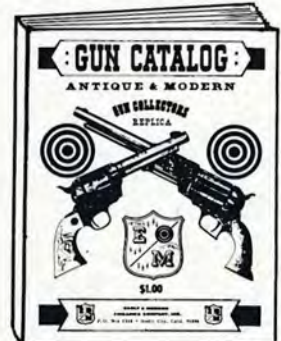
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(Continued from page 6)

The same people who once pushed for strict controls are now arming themselves.

This summer, a rape-murder, starting at the prestigious Hogate's Restaurant in fashionable Southwest set the town on its ear. The waterfront area, for many years a slum, now has been rebuilt and is second only to Georgetown for evening entertainment.

A young Maryland couple was kidnapped by two thugs. The man was held at gun point while both of the intruders raped and then strangled the wife.

Residents now observe what has become a big-city tradition here, ending their day's activities at dusk. They take their dogs, kept for protection, for a walk carrying a handgun. Then they come inside and lock up for the night. If middle-aged residents move about at night, they go in groups and one or two of the party keeps a hand in his pocket. Except in extreme cases, businessmen tend not to call the police. "Because," one manager recently told the press, "it's not long before you see the same person they arrested right back down here." He said many intruders are "handled" by his maintenance men. "They take care of them, you know, and send them on their way . . . they think twice before they come back."

It is estimated by the Nixon Administration that 50 percent of the street crimes that occur in some of our major urban centers are committed by drug addicts in search of quick money to sustain their habits. The President has directed that a nationwide offensive be marshalled against drug abuse.

Still, people are asking why their kids can find hard narcotics when the police can't. For us older folks (over thirty) it seems unreal. The answer, through, is simple—corruption in high places, as witnessed in last year's Grand Jury investigation in New Jersey. (New Jersey officials, by the way, were among the late Senator Dodd's anti-gun drive strongest supporters.)

The rest of the answer is that young people react to illegal drug pushers much as some of us did with bootleggers during Prohibition. As one police official here in Washington puts it, "Note that none of the drug programs require those seeking help to turn in their source. If they did, they would probably be killed."

How about a federal bounty on drug pushers? If the United States can do it for income tax cheaters, it can do it for dope pushers!



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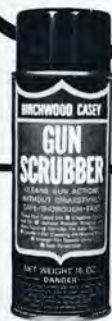
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(Continued from page 15)

resized, reloaded, and refired under the same conditions, it will elongate more with each shot until it must be trimmed or it will no longer enter the chamber properly.

But, other factors also increase case length. Resizing in itself can elongate cases. In the case above, for example, moving the shoulder rearward during resizing will cause brass to flow forward, increasing length. Then, if there is a great deal of friction as the case neck is drawn over the expander plug, the neck will be stretched to even greater length.

Then there is the lengthening effect of the flow of powder gases. Once the bullet begins to move, gases flow out the case neck at high velocity, exerting frictional force on the interior surface of the case. The greater the gas pressure and the higher the gas velocity, the greater the force exerted. In many instances this force causes brass to flow forward, causing both a lengthening of the neck and a thickening of the neck walls. The latter results from brass being moved into the neck from the shoulder and body.

If this seems unreasonable, remember that brass, like any other solid, behaves almost as a fluid under great enough pressure. Then, next time you're out in the boondocks, take a close look at how a stream of water will affect the mud or sand over which it flows. Friction inexorably moves the mud or sand in the direction of flow. The same relationship exists between the case and propellant gases in your rifle.

Every one of the actions described thus far causes brass to move away from that critical area just ahead of the solid web. And, as it moves away, the walls become thinner and harder; closer to their yield (failure) point. Eventually, they will yield and separate if the case is continued in service. Some deterioration occurs with every firing, thus the case cannot last

indefinitely.

When all the factors are considered it becomes apparent that case life must vary a great deal. I've known new cases of good quality to fail in as few as two or three reloadings at standard chamber pressures in new guns—there the cumulative effect of all the life-affecting variables was simply too great. On the other hand, dame fortune sometimes looks the other way, and I've had new .30-06 cases remain perfectly serviceable after more than 20 loadings and firings. And, even more extreme, we all know of bench-rest shooters loading cases 100 or more times where case/chamber fit has been carefully set up for maximum life.

Perhaps, I've been misleading in implying that cases expand only until firm contact is made with chamber and bolt. That is not entirely correct. In reality, the steel expands also and the brass follows it; then, when chamber pressure drops, the steel returns to its original dimensions and the brass also contracts. Steel deforms under pressure just like brass, but to a lesser degree. In fact, even the barrel deforms slightly as the bullet passes through it—an egg-shape or pear-shape enlargement of the bore traveling along with the bullet. If eyes were good enough, we could see a bulge pass along the barrel just as an egg moves down a snake's gullet.

With this in mind, we can see that the cartridge case actually expands beyond the at-rest or no-load dimensional limits of chamber and bolt.

Actually, the foregoing covers only one aspect of case life—that portion due to wall failure just ahead of the web. The failure usually known as a "head separation," "rupture," or a similar term.

There are other types of failure, including splits and cracks, primer pockets, etc. We'll give them our undivided attention next time around in these pages.



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A FELLOW LIKES TO FEEL that every season he gets a little better as a wingshot. It is difficult to think that maybe we aren't any better this season than last; or five years ago. Somehow, between seasons we have a happy faculty for forgetting the misses and remembering the hits, and it isn't hard to conclude that sure enough we are getting more accurate. I hope so, but somehow I have my doubts, watching my own progress. The trouble is we don't do anything about practice between seasons. At the end of the season the gun is stacked in the rack and there it stays until shooting time rolls around again. If the golfer, tennis player, or the pool shark did that he would be dreadful when he resumed play again. Yet the shotgunner seems to feel that by some subtle legerdemain he can pick up the smoothbore and be just as lethal as he was when he put it aside nine months before.

If a fellow is honest with himself he will remember that it took five or six shots for every duck brought to bag, and just as many shots for all the Canadas he killed. Chukars took sometimes 6 shots; and even slow moving crows often called for three shots. The only way a shotgunner can really improve his game—and this is the beginning of a new season when sharpening up is due—is to be honest with himself. Scarcely no one ever keeps strict account of the shots he fires with a tally as to hits and misses, but he should. The score would be pretty dismal but it would induce the keeper to do something about sharpening up his game.

The best way, of course, to be a better wingshot is to get a coach. But we don't have shooting schools in this country as the English do and a tutor, unless he is a skeet or trap coach, is pretty much out of the question. A lot of old hands poohoo the idea that any instructor could

help them. But this isn't so. None of us get so good we can't profit from an expert standing behind and observing our faults. Holland & Holland has a shooting school just outside London. Various of our touring internationalists have visited the grounds briefly and all of them are enthusiastic about the help they have gotten. John Amber told me that he had always had trouble with incoming birds bound to pass overhead. The H&H tutor had coached him quite successfully in the manner in which he wanted to take this bird.

The principal trouble with the average shotgunner isn't so much the need of specialized sharpening, it is more the total lack of any gun handling experience at all. When the curtain rings down on hunting time, the scattergun remains untouched until the season brightens in the new year. There is the rub, the real crux of the thing. The gun is an unfamiliar tool in the hands of an out-of-practice gunner. When he whips it to shoulder and commands it to follow the winging target it does not respond. It swings high, or low or to left or right. It points awkwardly and leads and trigger time and follow-through are hit-or-miss—mostly miss. It takes most of the season to develop any real skill in swinging and pointing.

This can be overcome so that when the shooter goes afield he is really ready. It will save him many missed birds, a lot of wasted ammo, and it does worlds for his ego!

I buy a case of shells before game season and I put aside half these cartridges for practice. I shoot them at skeet. Not all in a week but carefully rationed at an expenditure of two boxes every Sunday until the legal hunting time rolls around. Skeet has a lot going for it. The game offers every angle you get in the field. More than



Whether shooting an over/under, automatic, side-by-side or pump, the shotgun should fit the shooter correctly. Bad fit of the gun is a common cause for much lost game.

BETTER SHOOTER

that it sharpens up hand and eye, induces a movement of the gun which sees it coincide with the target. After the long lay-off the gun does not always respond to the command of eye and brain. Those 250 shots, a total of 10 rounds of skeet, spaced over five weeks of firing just before season's opening, do a lot toward bringing back the coordination a gunner needs to shoot well in the field.

I am not a trapshooter but I am sure that an equal number of rounds of regulation targets would also do a great deal toward sharpening the marksman for his first feathered targets. The angles offered at trap are not as varied as at skeet but distances are longer and the game is more difficult. I think that 250 shots out of the case of shells would do a great deal toward preparing the huntsman for the forthcoming bird time.

There are many other things that can be done by the wingshot who is determined to better his field work. One of these is a pretty searching examination of the gun he uses. Does it really fit? Is the boring okay for the game he shoots; does the stock fit; is the gauge right; and what about the weight? These are all important factors in the equation and all too often the shooter ignores them—to his detriment in game cover.

The best shotgun is the 12 gauge. It is all very well to shoot the .410 if you are a real geewiz with the bigger bores. But how many of us are? And it is alright to cling to the 20 if you are really a hotrock with the smaller gauge. But if you are not, the 12 is the best choice for all kinds of game. If you are a small man and the 12 whales you in recoil then select lighter loads. There is a tendency on the part of many of our shooting men to want a full choke gun and heavy express cartridges. Two exceedingly poor choices!

Since the advent of plastic cartridge cases with their internal shot packets, the average smoothbore has been vastly improved as to the patterns it delivers. The modified choke now shoots full; the improved cylinder throws strong modified patterns; and what the full choke does is unbelievable! Because of this the gunner who seems to be scoring more misses than he should may very well be shooting a gun that is throwing the tightest kind of full choke patterns. I'd reckon there isn't more than one wingshot in a hundred who has any business with a full choke shotgun. This is because not more than 1 out of 100 are skillful enough to cope with the constricted pattern.

I shoot a lot of doves during season. Our season runs for 2½ months and this gives me opportunity for a lot of field shooting. I have always contended that doves ought to be gunned with a modified barrel. A year or two ago I took my skeet gun into a dove pass and shot it. The skeet barrel on the Remington (Continued on page 50)

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By
CHARLES ASKINS



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A shooting coach can improve scores by pointing out faults in technique that the shooter wouldn't normally notice.

A PAIR OF SLIDES

SIDE BY SIDE

TEST REPORT

By JOHN W. ROCKEFELLER

THE SLIDE-ACTION centerfire rifle is almost exclusively the property of the American hunter. It is probably little known in Europe, where even the lever-action is sort of a rare bird. And it is not the sort of gun selected by those who frequent target ranges, the better to punch small holes in paper. It is a hunter's gun, period.

There is nothing really new about slide action rifles in centerfire calibers. Colt made their Lightning model pump for big-bore blackpowder rounds back in the last century, and both Remington and Standard were making pump guns for the Remington Rimless calibers long before World War II.

Probably the most "modern" of all the pump guns is Remington's Model 760 Gamemaster, which has been around for nearly twenty years. This gun is pretty much

of an old favorite, the one you see in the gun racks on the farmer's pickup as you pass him on the road. It was first introduced in 1952 in calibers .30-06 Springfield, .300 Savage, and .35 Remington. The .270 Winchester chambering was added in 1953, with .257 Roberts following in 1954. Currently it is available in 6 mm Remington, .243, .270, .308 Winchester, and .30-06 Springfield. It currently retails for \$149.95 in the basic Model 760 ADL grade.

A year ago, in 1970, Savage Arms introduced a new slide action rifle, the Model 170 in .30-30 caliber only. This rifle retails at \$99.95, which (as they point out) is a full \$50 less than the "other" slide action centerfire rifle. Or you can get it in the Scopegun package, Model 170/S, which includes their Model 1420 variable power scope (1½x to 4x magnification) plus mount. This costs \$137.95





This five-shot group was fired with the Remington at 100 yards from a bench rest. The flyer at the right could be disregarded on grounds that it was fired right after a change in windage. The gun is capable of 2½" groups from a rest, considering the shooter does his part and good ammo is used. Quite adequate for hunting.

complete, a savings of some \$15 over the price of the same rifle, scope, and mount when purchased separately.

A comparison of the two rifles is most interesting, for there are many similarities and many differences. Both rifles are slide action rifles of the so-called "hammerless" type, which means that they use a pivoted hammer concealed from view within the action. Both have an ejection port on the right side of the receiver. Both rifles are easily mounted with a scope sight, being drilled and tapped on the top of the receiver. The same scope mount base, by the by, fits both rifles.

Both rifles have good looking, functional stocks, both are decorated with impressed checkering on both forearm and slide handle. Buttstocks of both rifles are attached via a through-bolt, which is the best means of attaching the butt

when a two-piece stock is used. This produces better accuracy than does the use of a bolt through the tang, as used on the older lever-action Winchesters and Marlins, for example.

Mechanically, there are many differences between the Savage and Remington offerings. The Remington uses twin action bars and a front-locking rotary bolt with multiple lug "interrupted thread" lock up. Thus it is strong enough to handle such powerful loads as the .243, .270, .308, and the .30-06 Springfield. The Savage has but one action bar, on the right side, and the breechblock tips up at the rear to lock, in the manner of most shotguns. Thus it is limited to pressures in the .30-30 class.

Other mechanical features favor the Remington. With both rifles, there is a disconnecter to prevent firing when the bolt is not forward and locked. On the Remington this function is served by a lever which also works as an action release and bears upon the left action bar inside the receiver. (It is plainly visible with magazine removed.) If this lever is not up behind the action bar, because the action is open or because you are holding the action release in, the rifle cannot fire. Pull the trigger, and nothing happens.

With the Savage, it is not possible to FIRE the gun out of battery. I checked this! But you can pull the trigger and drop the hammer with the breechblock out of battery, the slide back perhaps an inch. I tried this with an empty, but primed case in the chamber, and inadvertently with a live round. It didn't fire. But then you must eject the loaded round in the chamber in order to recock the gun so you can fire a shot. There is, of course, no way to cock the hammer without ejecting the live round.

The Savage Model 170 rifle has a tang safety. That is, it is mounted on the tang, right behind the receiver, and directly under the thumb of the trigger hand. The Remington uses a cross bolt safety in the trigger guard bow, directly behind the trigger. This seems a trifle awkward to me and, in fact, the tang safety is doubtless the best type. On the other hand, the man who picks a rifle to match his shotgun might prefer the cross-bolt safety, if that is the type he is used to.

The two rifles differ in the location of the action release, as well. The Savage has a lever pivoted on the left side of the frame, which can be reached with the middle finger of the right hand while the index (Continued on page 53)



Remington Model 760 "Gamemaster" is currently available in 6mm, .223 Rem., .243 Win., .270 Win., .30-06, and .308 Win. selling at \$149.95.



The Savage Model 170 pump rifle is available only in .30-30 and sells for \$99.75. It is also available with Savage scope for \$137.50.



A NEW LOOK AT THE



Top left: The cast bullet and the rifle bullet mike out at 0.357 giving the shooter tremendous flexibility for handloading. Above: Author firing his custom .350 Rem.

By MASON WILLIAMS

I HAVE had a 45-year love affair with the .30-06 Springfield because of its versatility. The darn thing will shoot anything and do it well. It would fire cast lead bullets, round balls for gallery practice indoors, and special adapters allow the shooter to load .32 ACP's and fire them, and another adapter held a .32 Smith and Wesson Smokeless cartridge. The potential innovations are endless, thus turning the grand old .30-06 into an all-around cartridge. In addition, it was and remains one of the all-time greats in big game cartridges.

28

Today, we have had in our midst for several years a cartridge that, in my opinion, actually outclasses the .30-06, and yet few people appreciate this cartridge or what it can do. When Remington brought out the .350 Remington Magnum it was promoted as a super powerful, big bore, big game cartridge. OK—right! Its rifles were light weight, easy to carry and, despite excellent stocking by Remington, kicked the daylights out of everyone who shot them. As such, it is easy to understand its lack of appeal to the average shooter because, in its original

form, it is to the average man what a Porsche racing car is to the suburban commuter—impractical.

I have used the .350 Remington Magnum as made by Remington in their original Model 600 ever since it came out and I like it, I understand it and carry it widely as a back-up rifle. It's short, light and capable of stopping anything on the North American continent at distances under one hundred yards with factory ammunition.

But this is merely one phase of the potential of this cartridge, so much so, that my youngest son talked me out of

.350 REM. MAGNUM

my Remington and forced me to make up another rifle using a Mauser G-33/40 receiver, barrelled by Harry McGowen in St. Anne, Illinois, and stocked by Reinhart Fajen. The 20" barrel gives me a theoretical advantage over the Model 600 with its 18" barrel but this difference is not enough to alter the basic concept of a fast, light weight, Mannlicher carbine. The stock is finished with Fajen's special Acra finish that I consider to be the finest and most attractive commercial finish on the market today. If you don't want high gloss or cannot afford an oil finish, then this Acra finish is tops in my book!

The result of this cooperation between Harry McGowen and Reinhart Fajen is a superb, lightning-fast, .350 Remington Magnum that, on top of everything else, looks like a million dollars—almost too good to take into the Canadian bush, but that's where it is going!

I might add that it is also being taken into a lot of other places like woodchuck fields, indoor target ranges, deer hunting areas and out west after antelope and sheep. That's why I like the .350 Remington! It's really versatile. Why? For some reason, possibly due to Madison Avenue advertising mentality, manufacturers appear to take a vicious pleasure in bringing out a "new" caliber for just one specific purpose. Did anyone ever tell you that ".350 Remington Magnum bullets mike out at 0.357"? Mention this to any experienced handgunner and he will instantly get a far away look in his eyes before he starts pumping you about the details. Handgun bullets are relatively cheap to purchase and are extremely inexpensive to cast, size and lubricate, thus providing a lot of pleasant hours of shooting. This opens up entirely new fields unknown to the Madison Avenue crowd perhaps because they continue to believe that the American shooter has more money than brains! My guess is that if a manufacturer devoted space to illustrate the versatility of his new cartridge and (Continued on page 56)

Practically unknown to many shooters, the .350 Rem. Mag. offers a variety of hunting loads to suit everyone's needs.



These three different loads for the .350 Remington illustrate the versatility of it. Left to right: Cast lead bullet; jacketed handgun bullet; and the conventional rifle bullet. Note the belted case.



SIXGUNS and SHARKS

Nonte takes to the sea for
shark shooting adventure.

A little explanation helps. Capt. Craine gets the description and explanation of the well-wrapped case of ammo carried on the plane. Below: A lot of action here! Hit in the spinal cord, the shark did a lot of splashing before being finished by a .357.





Left: This medium-size shark finally succumbed to a pair of .44's and one .357. Above: A solid but non-fatal hit was made on this shark producing a lot of action and excitement. Note that the bottom can be seen in the crystal-clear water of the Keys.

By MAJ. GEORGE C. NONTE

A SHARK is as unloved as a martini vendor at a WCTU picnic. This holdover from prehistoric times has yet to have anything good said about him except that his hide makes fine leather for some purposes.

Really, sharks probably aren't nearly the villains they are painted. Sure, they've been known to eat a few people; but, what the hell, they get hungry, too. When you enter another species' habitat it isn't at all unreasonable to expect a little danger of one sort or another. At least I've never heard anyone accuse a shark of coming up on dry land to partake of *Homo sapiens*—which is more than can be said for people.

When all the scores are in, it's easy to see that sharks seldom attack people. Even during WW II, when tens of thousands of troops and sailors found themselves struggling for survival in shark waters, relatively few were attacked. With all this in mind, the shark doesn't appear as satanic as

legend and prejudice would have us believe.

But he does look mean, and is greatly feared by salt-water beach devotees all over the world. He is even more feared by the operators of shore resorts who know from experience what a shark report or two can do to business. As an aside, it was interesting to note that Florida authorities weren't much interested in our doing this story. It would attract attention to something they would rather ignore.

Lee Jurras and I, in our perennial pursuit of unusual game that could be taken with handguns, boarded Delta Flight 755 at Indianapolis the day after the Indy 500, heading for the Florida Keys. We'd been getting frequent shark reports from Bill Murray, at Key West. Bill operates Murray Marine there and was (is) in a good position to keep an eye out for shark activity on the almost endless shallows. He allowed as how early June would be a fine time for us to come down and find out just what might be accomplished with a couple good six-guns, to the detriment of the local

shark population.

We were pleasantly surprised at the ease with which all our guns and ammunition were handled by Delta. Capt. Jim Craine (who isn't even a shooter or gun buff) ramrodded our flight, going out of his way to see that gun cases were carefully stowed so they wouldn't get bashed about. In the past, I've had more than one good case reduced to junk by muscle-bound baggage handlers. Capt. Craine and his bevy of delightful stewardesses did their utmost to make the trip enjoyable.

As it turned out, Delta has been making special efforts to please south-bound hunters. A lot of the nation's finest quail shooting is to be found in the area Delta services, and the Chicago office assured me that they intend making it as painless as possible (within the limits of federal law and regulations) for hunters and their guns to fly in and out. I'm all for that—a pleasant change from some trunk line attitudes. In any event, not once did we meet a raised eyebrow or scowl because of the (Continued on page 57)

ADVENTURES IN SHOTGUNLAND

By J. K. OSGOOD



DAVID TREVALLION, formerly with Purdey's of London, read the crimson engraved card. I glanced around the unpretentious shop, then back to the impeccably dressed gentleman standing before me.

"This is a high quality gun, and well worth restocking", David Trevallion assured me, as he carefully handled the shotgun I had brought to this shop. "I can match the forearm wood and checkering, and put on a pistol grip as well. However, I can't promise that it will be ready by next November!" Since it was early February, I wondered whether or not to leave the gun. Perhaps noticing my hesitancy, David walked to a corner of his shop, and returned, holding a Winchester M21.

"I replaced this stock", he said, matter-of-factly.

The French walnut stock had been fitted absolutely perfectly to the receiver, and was beautifully checkered and carved. The oil finish was glass smooth and without a blemish. I looked up and saw he had gone back to the gun rack. This time he returned with a B Grade Parker.

"This gun is for a collector", he said. "It turned out quite well."

The walnut was exquisite, and he had fitted it with barely a trace of where wood and metal met. The carving and checkering was an exact copy of the original factory work, and had been executed perfectly. At that moment I decided that David Trevallion would replace the buttstock on my own shotgun, ready for Fall pheasants or not!

Just then, another customer entered the shop and David excused himself. I glanced on the wall and saw his framed Master Gunsmith Certificate issued by Purdey's. On a corner table cluttered with guns, parts, and magazines, I caught sight of a Purdey's catalog of a few year's vintage. I thumbed through it and saw several photographs showing David working on a best-quality sidelock double. As I leafed through the pages I reflected on the circumstances that had brought me here.

I had been looking for a double-barrel for some time, but had found nothing that matched both my taste and pocketbook. My first choice, a Winchester Model 21, was out of the question, price-wise, as were the few Parkers, Foxes or Ithaca's that I had found with the extras I wanted as well

as being in good enough condition to preclude a major overhauling of wood and metal. And, while several of the newer imports offer good value, I just couldn't imagine impressed checkering or epoxy finishes sharing the empty berth between my Model 12 skeet and trap guns.

After months of searching, I finally found the gun during one of my weekend jaunts to the local gunshops near my home in Crystal Lake, Illinois. "Made in Belgium" and "1320" were the only inscriptions, but something about the gun said "quality." A 12 gauge with 27½" barrels, it weighs a light 6¾ pounds. Nicely engraved, it immediately pleases the eye. Add to this ejectors, beavertail forearm, hinged front trigger, and a dished, tapered rib, and the real quality comes through. Unfortunately, the original straight-grip stock had been broken, and the replacement had been roughly fitted, left unfinished, and had a ½" cast-off! However, at the asking price of just over \$100, I felt I could restock it and still have a bargain.

After shooting the gun, with very little success, I found that the straight grip was quite unnatural for me, and decided to have a pistol grip installed on the new stock. Full of expectation, I wrote several of the large stockmakers for a quote on replacing the stock. As you might expect, these stockmakers could not quote on a "Belgian 12 gauge," and requested I send the gun for an estimate. Having recently lost a gun in transit, I decided to look for a

Surely Purdey's of London would have given this fine gun their stamp of approval, but little is known of the maker.



David Trevallion, formerly with Purdey's of London, in his new shop is shown examining a Parker Bros. 20 gauge "A1 Special." He fitted new barrels and a new stock and converted it to the beavertail forearm. All the work is done by Trevallion himself.

local gunsmith willing to take on the job. Most were not interested. Some quoted on replacing the stock, but would not undertake converting the pistol-grip. Utterly dejected, I all but gave up when the last gunsmith I visited refused the job. "I can't do it," he said, "but why don't you take it to that Purdey fellow downtown?" After searching his files he came up with the address. The next weekend found me at David's shop, on Chicago's near north side.

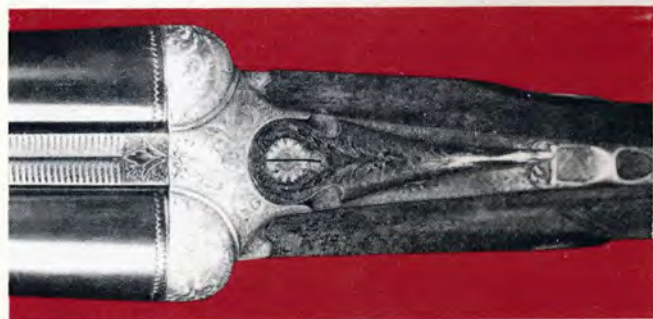
David's other customer had now left, and he and I returned to the business of selecting the grade of wood to be used on my gun.

"French walnut is all I like to use", he stated, "because it inlets and checkers so well. I expect a few fancy pieces in soon, but do have some plainer pieces on hand."

In order to keep the price within my budget, and to better my chances of having David finish the gun sooner, I selected a piece of his plainer walnut. As I wasn't replacing the rather plain forearm, a piece of fancy walnut for the stock would have been a poor choice anyway. David questioned me on my desires and likes about guns in general, and noted these in his order book.

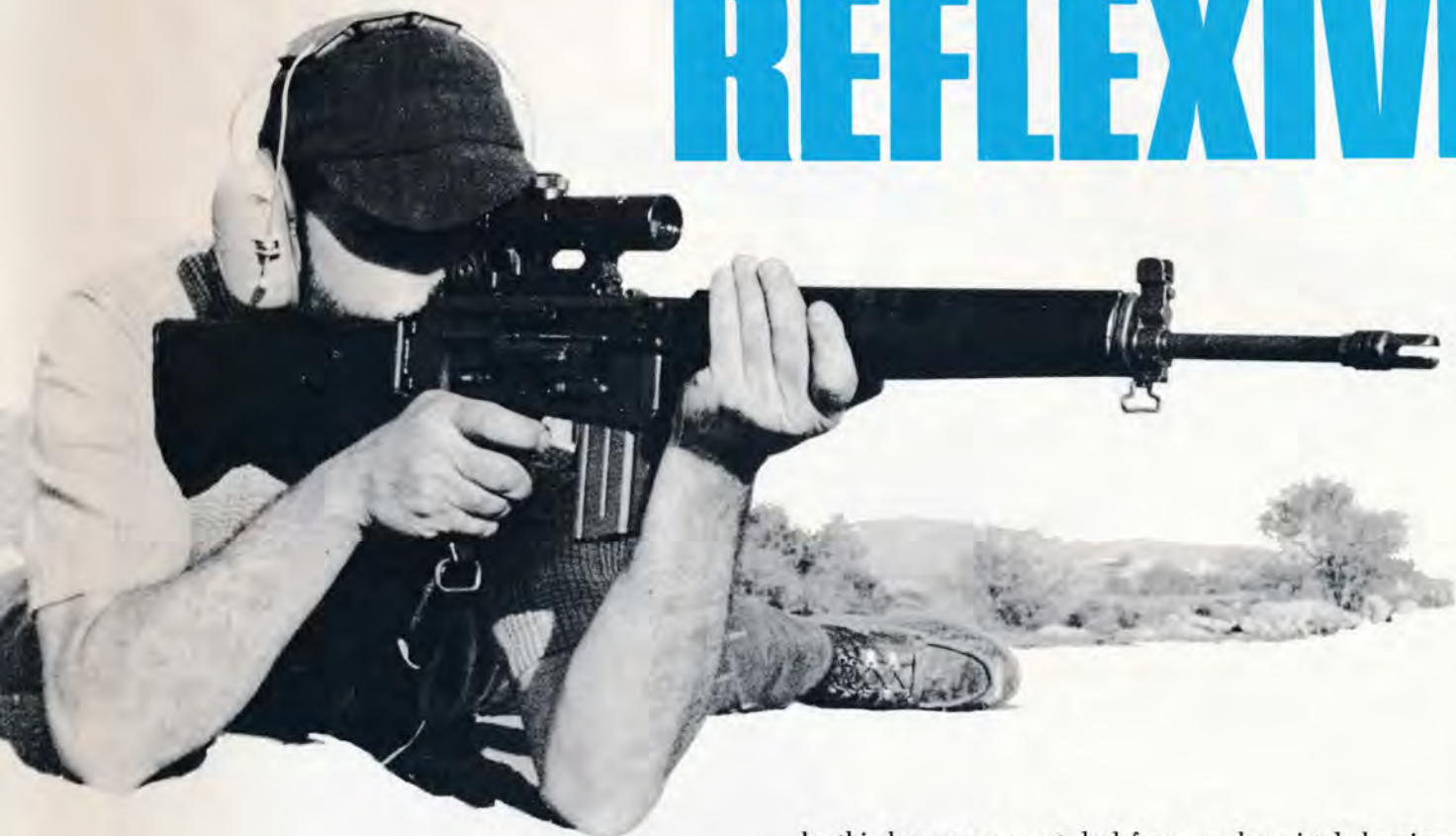
"Well," he said, "that's all we can do for now. I'll call you when I'm ready to take your measurements."

No less than three months passed before David called. The next weekend I appeared, (Continued on page 75)



Finished Pirotte as it came from Trevallion's shop is a masterpiece. The glass-smooth stock and the absolutely perfect fitting wood could compare favorably with any Purdey seen today.

REFLEXIVE



FOR HUNTING IN BRUSH country or in combat, the ability to use a rifle effectively and quickly from the off-hand position is of paramount importance. However, most of our American rifle shooting sports emphasize formal position-taking with the use of slings or other forms of support. While the disciplines of formal target shooting contribute to overall marksmanship ability, they also tend to be narrow in scope and highly specialized. They are not always well adapted to "practical" shooting situations.

Whole sets of coordinations and skills are left untouched by regular target shooting. Lack of many of these abilities are what may cost a hunter his trophy deer in a tight situation. Then, too, thousands of potential shooting competitors find the routine of formal target shooting dull or lacking in interest sustaining qualities. With this in mind, a research was undertaken into some possible combinations of equipment, courses of fire, and skills necessary for developing a dynamic rifle shooting sport. While various running boar or running deer events are available, none of these sports gives just the right kind of challenge.

Combat pistol champion Al Nichols and I collaborated to run up some preliminary criteria and data that will serve for future development of a free-style rifle shooting sport. Such a sport can expand confidence and shooting capacity for hunters, police trainees, or weekend marksmen who want more challenge than they get from regular target shooting.

To accomplish this goal, the demands on the shooter in terms of speed and accuracy have to be emphasized. Range and trajectory judgments must be made rapidly. There should be no reliance on slings or rests, with off-hand shooting put at a premium. Unsupported positional shooting is included as a part of a free-style approach. Obvious-

ly, this borrows a great deal from combat pistol shooting.

Because of the dual premium on gun handling speed *and* accuracy, a scoring system was worked out to combine time into shooting performance. This system will be explained in detail below. While benchrest accuracy is not expected, or even desirable, it is still necessary for the off-hand shooter to be able to place shots at will and maintain consistent groups.

A zone-score combat target was used for early experiments, but a new kind of zone target is suggested that could be used in a vertical or horizontal position. No bullseye is evident, since the objective is bullet placement within a target area, rather than to a specific spot on the target. How many deer run around the woods with neat bullseyes drawn over their vital parts?

The type of equipment used for reflexive rifle shooting can vary considerably. The deer hunter will want to use his regular rifle. But his hitting ability during repeating strings may be cut considerably unless the gun is a self-loader, slide, or lever action. The shooting events can be modified for bolt action guns, since the objective for hunter training is quick first-shot hits.

To research overall skills and explore the possibilities for this kind of dynamic shooting, we wanted a rifle that met the following specifications: it should be self-loading; it should be chambered for a cartridge of adequate power for small deer up to 200 yards; capable of mounting a number of different kinds of sights, and it should be designed for fast handling, rapid recovery from recoil, and convenient operation.

The rifle that filled the bill was the Armalite AR-180, a semi-automatic version of the AR-18 combat military rifle. I picked up the rifle from Burt Miller at Armalite's Costa Mesa plant along with one of their 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ X telescopic sights and a new Singlepoint sight and accessory mount. Armalite is U. S. distributor for military and police sales of the

RIFLE SHOOTING

By JAMES D. MASON

Singlepoint sight. The sight can be sold to civilians if it is purchased along with the AR-180 rifle. This new sight has great potential for the kind of shooting called for in this article.

The original AR-18 was designed as a low-cost military rifle to fire the 5.56mm U. S. service cartridge. A number of foreign military organizations have considered adopting the gun. The general configuration of the gun resembles that of the M16 service rifle (or the Colt AR-15, recently offered again for retail sales after discontinuation in 1968), but there are several major differences. The AR-15 has an aluminum alloy receiver while the AR-180 uses chromemoly sheet steel pressings and weldments to form the receiver. The AR-15 bleeds chamber gases off from the barrel through a tube back to the breech end to effect functioning. The AR-180 uses a gas piston, cylinder, push-rod system similar to the Gewehr 43 or FAL system. The rod pushes on a heavy bolt carrier to transfer operating energy; this arrangement keeps the AR-180 breech end relatively clear of residues and is much less sensitive to handloaded ammunition variations than the AR-15 arrangement.

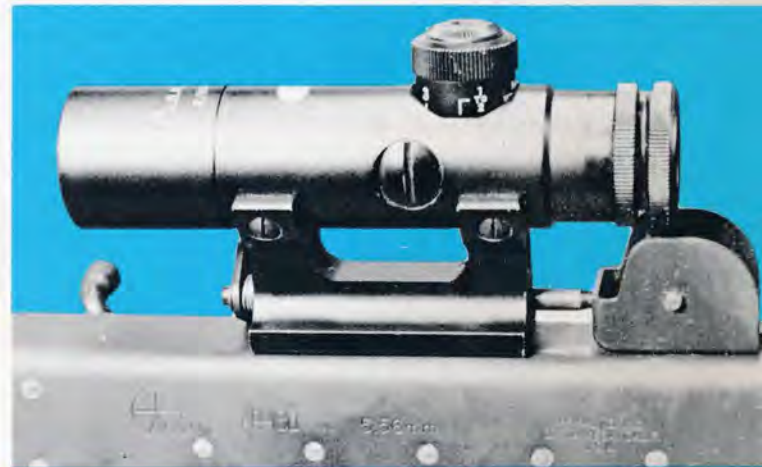
Both rifles use the straight stock configuration which distributes recoil forces along the bore axis. The gas system of the AR-180 is located above the bore line so the sight mountings and stock location are lower than those on the AR-15. Sighting the AR-180 is much more natural; aperture sights rest on the receiver top compared to the unnaturally high handle mounting and raised front sight configuration of the AR-15. The heaviest moving mass in both guns is the bolt carrier; that of the AR-15 is concentric to the bore and recoils straight back into the tube in the butt stock. The center of gravity of the AR-180 bolt carrier mass is located slightly above the bore line and rearward movement stops in the receiver. Because of this, the recovery from recoil is somewhat better in the AR-15, however, the short receiver design of the AR-180 allows for a folding stock that greatly decreases length and bulk of the rifle for storage or carrying.

Accuracy standards for this kind of shooting are not as demanding as for small varminting activity, but better scores will be shot when using more accurate ammunition. The .223 Remington cartridge will produce 2½-inch or better accuracy in the AR-180 rifle with almost any kind of ammunition. With a telescopic sight of 6 to 9 power, adequate target definition at 100 yards makes it possible to print MOA groups with tailored handloads.

The 52 and 53 grain .22 caliber match grade bullets made by Sierra, Hornady or Speer, will bring out the best groups in the AR-180. The new 52 grain boat-tail benchrest bullets by Sierra print superbly from tight bores. The particular AR-180 used for this story was one of the initial American-made pilot production models and has an Apex 12-twist barrel. (The gun is now being produced in Japan

for Armalite.) One handload using 26.5 grains BL-C2, Remington 7½ primer, GI case, and the 52 grain Sierra bullet printed 1¼-inch groups consistently. This load seems to be good in other rifles chambered for the .223 cartridge, also. While this load is 100 ft. per sec. below GI velocity specifications, it is more than adequate for target and general field work.

Some shooters of the .223 (5.56mm) want to duplicate GI ballistics. In working up loads for the AR-180, I found



The Armalite 2½X combat telescopic sight has an inverted post-crosshair reticle. The sight, ideally suited for fast target acquisition, allows changes to be made without the need for holdover techniques. Corrections are set for trajectory of 5.56mm rounds.

The revolutionary Singlepoint sight offers several advantages for use in reflexive shooting. The mount for this sight, as well as the Armalite scope, fits on a compound dovetail shoe welded flat to the top of the receiver. It provides sturdy support as well as a quick change feature that always returns to zero.





The more rapidly a shooter can attain an elective position, the better the score. Working at close range provides the shooter with the opportunity to practice getting into position rapidly. Speed and precision must be combined to get the best results.

that the Norma 55 grain boat-tail FMJ bullet is almost a dead ringer in shape and performance for the regular GI bullet. Tests with 4 lot samples of various makes of surplus GI 5.56mm ammo showed a nominal muzzle velocity of 3140 ft. per second with the GI 55 grain bullet out of the 19 inch barrel of the AR-180 (AR-15 or M16 rifles have a 20-inch barrel and will shoot about 30 ft. per sec. faster). One of the GI rounds contained 28 grains of a non-cannister ball propellant used exclusively for military contract loading. The closest I came to the service load was 25 grains of Hodgdon's H322, a Remington 7½ primer, LC 68 cases for a velocity of 3130 ft. per second. The load was more accurate than the GI ammunition. Using the 55 grain Norma bullets with Winchester 748 BR or Hodgdon H380 or DuPont 4320, handloaders should be able to duplicate GI velocities particularly in commercial rather than GI cases.

A number of accurate, mild-mannered loads can be made using 4198 powder; 21.5 grains in a GI case with a 52 grain Sierra bullet went 2972 ft. per sec. While this velocity doesn't set the world on fire, the gun will shoot thousands of rounds of this accurate target fodder with no fouling problems and minimal bore wear. If the 52 grain Sierra boat tail won't print, try the 53 grain bullet or the Hornady

match. Some barrels like only the Speer match bullets.

The AR-180 has what must be one of the most practical accessory sight mounts available today. A compound dovetail base is spot welded to the top of the receiver. The Armalite 2¾X

telescopic sight mount fits on this base. The sight mount has a spring loaded plunger that pushes against the rear receiver sight housing. The thrust of this plunger forces the sight mount forward into the compound dovetail to achieve perfect re-zeroing time after time. In addition to simplicity and reliability, the mount is very rugged, in keeping with the general character of the AR-180. The standard iron sights on the Armalite rifle are excellent examples of military aperture design. The rear peep is "L" stepped for 200 and 400 yard shooting and is adjustable for windage. The front sight is shrouded and consists of a lathe turned post that screws up and down in its base to make fine elevation adjustments. Sight position is secured by a spring loaded detent which can be depressed with a bullet point. Sight picture acquisition and visual quality are excellent and contributed to the generally fine handling qualities and responsiveness of the AR-180 rifle.

The Singlepoint sight is fitted to an accessory Armalite one-inch telescopic sight mount. Although the Singlepoint looks like an optical sight, its principle of operation is entirely different. Binocular human vision can see two different images and superimpose one upon the (Continued on page 68)



These three bullets performed admirably in the AR-180. The GI bullet on the left weighs 55 grains, is of the FMJ type, and has a cannelure, boat-tail design. The Norma 55 grain FMJ boat-tail, center, is nearly a dead-ringer for the GI bullet and shoots accurately. The new 52 grain Sierra boat-tail benchrest bullet on the right shot well and registered 1¼-inch groups with ideal loads. If it doesn't shoot in your gun, try the 53 grain flat base bullet. It should work well.



Stoeger

ARMS



FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, THE COUNTRY'S LEADING SOURCE OF FINE IMPORTED GUNS, AND PUBLISHERS OF THE SHOOTER'S BIBLE.

By **GEORGE CASSIDY**

THE YEAR was 1918, and a small store opened its doors on 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue in New York City. A. F. Stoeger, Inc. was destined to become the mecca for gun enthusiasts from its very beginning. It carried, in addition to arms of domestic manufacture, some of the finest sporting firearms from Europe.

As Alex F. Stoeger I expanded his store, it became the one source for German-made shotguns sold under the AFS brand, the famous English shotguns of Purdey, Greener and Churchill, and a wide variety of shotguns and rifles from "Merkel Brothers." It was also well known as a custom shop, where a customer could order a gun made-to-measure, and as the place to go if you wanted cartridges for almost any popular European rifle.

Shortly after opening his unique gun store, Alex Stoeger published a 48-page catalog of all of the imported and domestic guns available and offered it for sale for 25¢. From this humble catalog came the annual book called

the "Shooter's Bible," now in its 63rd edition, and known the world over as an important part of every shooter's library. Today, in addition to the "Shooter's Bible," the publications division of Stoeger Arms has more than a dozen books for sportsmen, and several more titles in the works.

Keeping pace with the growth of the shooting sports, the gun business of Stoeger Arms flourished, and the "Shooter's Bible" became bigger and bigger. In 1961, Stoeger dropped their retail and mail order operations and concentrated their efforts toward perpetuating the import and distribution functions for which they had become famous. While the shooters could no longer pick up a copy of the "Shooter's Bible" and order a gun directly from Stoeger, he could obtain the guns from any one of the vast network of dealers throughout the country who handled Stoeger imports.

Today, the Stoeger dealers handle such famous name



brands as Franchi, Steyr Mannlicher, Darne, Bernadelli, and Llama. They are distributor of RWS primers, official NRA targets and Stoeger specialty targets, and Brenneke shotgun slugs.

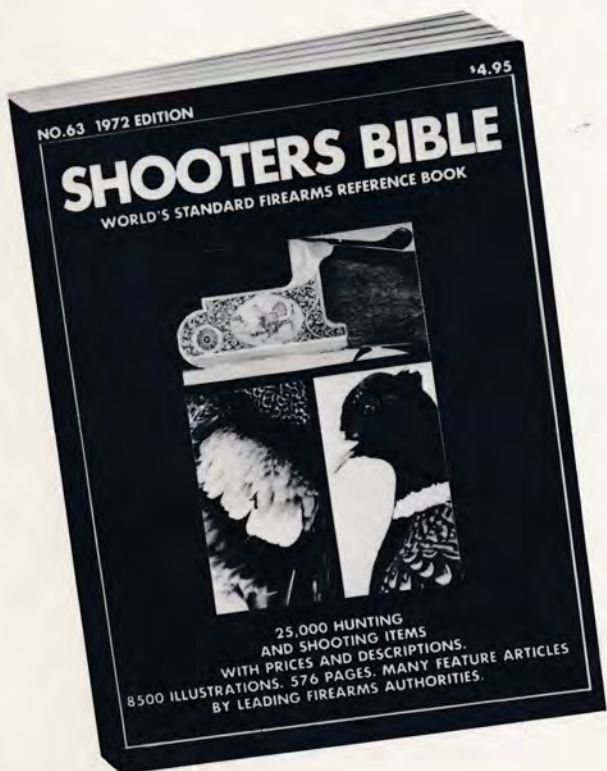
Perhaps the biggest news from Stoeger was the recent announcement that the "Luger" pistol would be offered again. It was back in 1929 that Stoeger Arms, after several years of importing the "Parabellum" pistol, decided to register the name "Luger" for the pistols they imported. Today, the original Stoeger "American Eagle" Lugers are sought by collectors, and bring premium prices.

In 1969, Stoeger made the initial announcement that they had contracted with a prominent U. S. manufacturer for the first American-made pistol to carry the famous Luger name. The new Stoeger Luger is not a mirror image of the .30 and 9mm Lugers of the past, but a .22 RF version which retains the look and the feel of the Parabellum of



COLOR GALLERY OF STOGER IMPORTS

On the facing page are several of the guns in the line of exclusive Stoeger imports. A) The Darne side-by-side shotgun. B) Custom engraved version of the Llama Auto pistol. C) Top to bottom: Franchi "Eldorado" autoloading shotgun; Franchi "Falconet" over-under in Imperial, Monte Carlo, Skeet and Trap models. D) New Stoeger Luger autoloading pistol in .22 LR.



old. The weight is within 1 oz., the grip dimensions are identical, and the balance—well, you have to feel it to believe it.

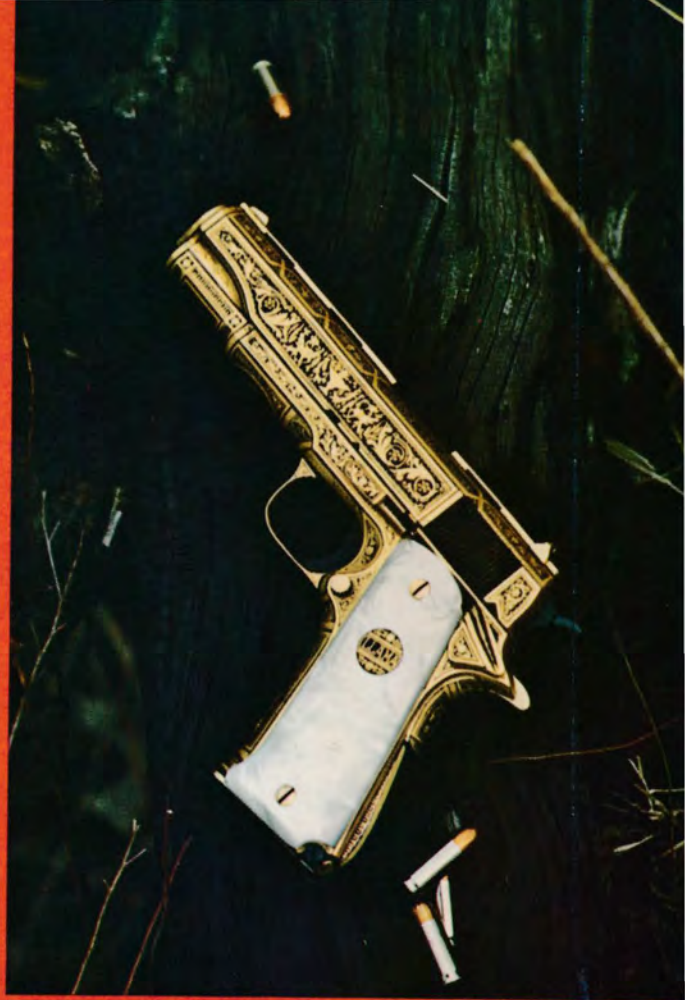
Several new features make the Stoeger Luger easier to shoot and maintain. The rear sight does not travel back and forth with the toggle, being located on the back of the frame. The take-down plunger hole, in the rear of the frame, is directly in line with the bore, and forms a support for a cleaning rod. Southpaws will appreciate the Luger safety which is available for either right or left handed operation.

Stoeger Arms, located today in South Hackensack, New Jersey, continues to provide the American shooting sportsman with products—be they guns, accessories or books—that reflect the traditions of quality and service which formed the basis for the success of every endeavor of A. F. Stoeger I and his predecessors. It flourishes today under the guidance of Howard G. Kicherer, President; John Olson, Vice-President of Marketing and Publications, and Robert F. Seck, Vice President, Administration and Assistant President.





A
C



B
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Test Report

LYMAN *PERCUSSION* REVOLVERS

By WALTER RICKELL

With the help of TV's "Virginian," the author puts the newest Lyman guns through their paces.





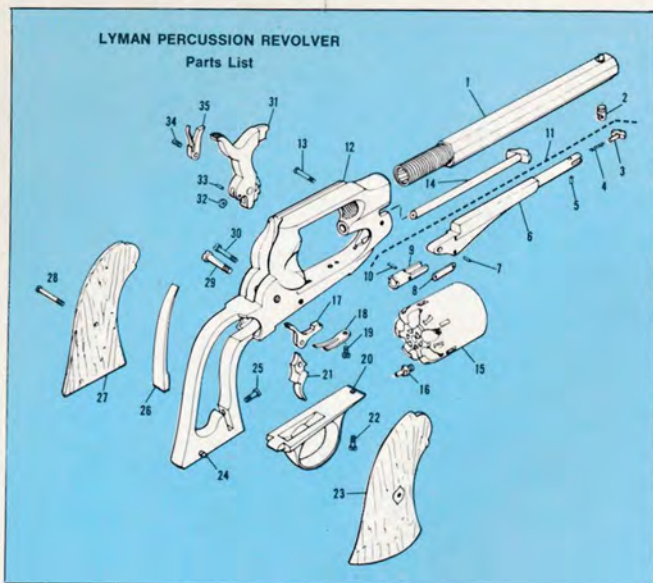
Left: What better place to try out the new Lymans than the movie lot at Universal City. James Drury, star of TV's "The Virginian" and "Men From Shilo," fires the first shot. Above: Lyman revolver and its accessories presented to Drury for "... his work in furthering the shooting sports," by Lyman

TWIRLING the single action revolver in his hand after a smooth, fast draw, he took careful aim, and with a big KA-BOOM, a smoke cloud settled over the western street at the movie lot of Universal City.

"Damn smooth trigger," commented Jim Drury as he began to reload the .36 caliber Navy Model revolver.

Blowing a little air into each of the chambers to make sure that no sparks were left, he recharged the cylinder with 25 grains of FFFg from the flask, seated the .36 round ball and greased each of the chambers.

Jim is an avid shooter and collector, and has been around guns of one sort or another for all of his life. Guns have been a constant companion from the days of his boyhood on a ranch in Oregon through the past 8 years spent in the starring role of the "Virginian" on TV and in the subsequent show, "The Men From Shilo." As he was loading the gun, his thoughts turned to his favorite subject. "After working so many horse operas, you soon begin to associate yourself with the early West and its equipment.



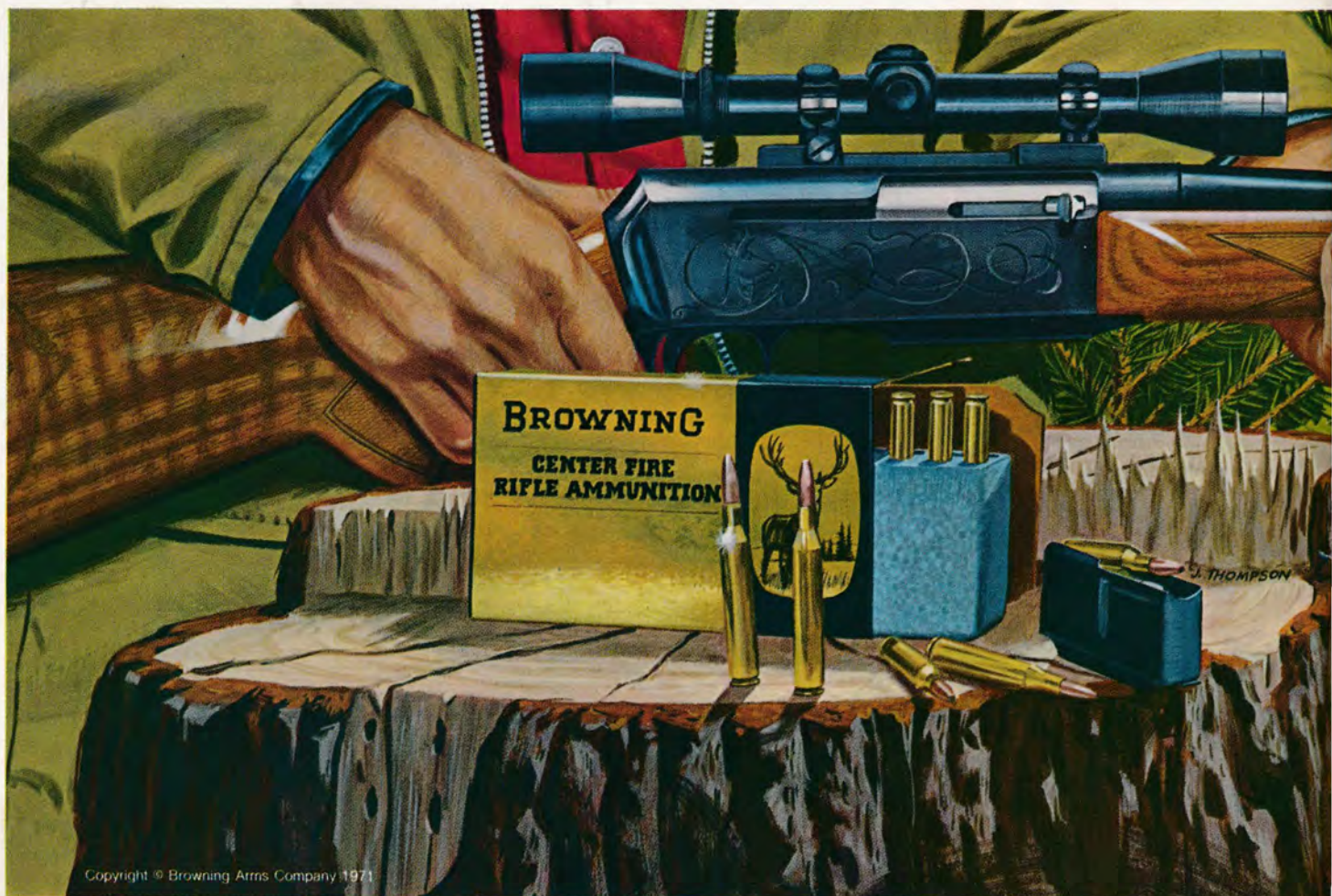
PARTS LIST

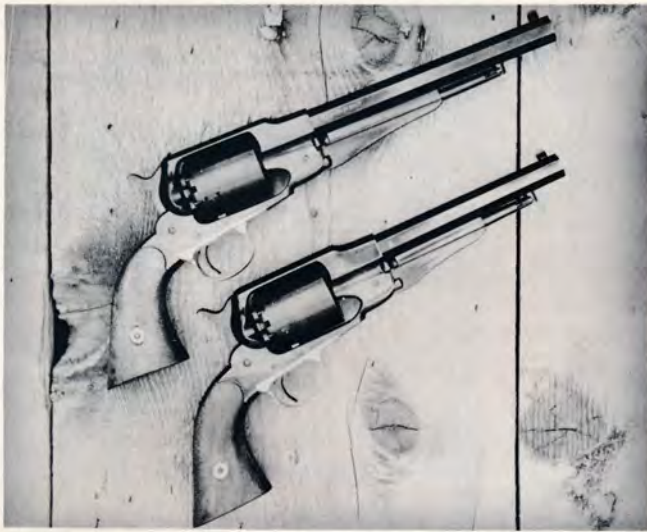
- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Barrel | 17. Cylinder Stop |
| 2. Loading Lever Retainer | 18. Trigger & Cyl. Stop Spring |
| 3. Loading Lever Catch | 19. Spring Retainer Screw |
| 4. Catch Spring | 20. Trigger Guard |
| 5. Catch Pin | 21. Trigger |
| 6. Loading Lever | 22. Trigger Guard Screw |
| 7. Link Pin | 23. Right Grip |
| 8. Link | 24. Grip Pin |
| 9. Rammer | 25. Main Spring Screw |
| 10. Rear Rammer Pin | 26. Main Spring |
| 11. Loading Lever Assembly | 27. Left Grip |
| 12. Frame | 28. Grip Screw |
| 13. Loading Lever Screw | 29. Hammer Screw |
| 14. Cylinder Pin | 30. Trigger & Cyl. Stop Screw |
| 15. Cylinder | 31. Hammer |
| 16. Nipple | 32. Roller |
| | 33. Roller Pin |
| | 34. Hand Screw |
| | 35. Hand |

You know, these revolvers were deadly and fast—for six rounds—but if you didn't carry an extra loaded cylinder on your belt, the Indians or the bad guys would jump you before you got one chamber reloaded.” He finished the reloading, cocked the hammer of the Remington reproduction, and squeezed off a shot with both eyes open. The

round ball found its way to within a quarter of an inch of the X-ring at 25 yards, and Jim proceeded to lay the five remaining shots into the 10 ring.

Joining the ranks of thousands who have learned what fun it is to shoot the black powder guns, Drury remarked: “I work all day with some kind of firearm and yet when I want to relax, I still enjoy shooting. However, I usually look for something more than just loading up with cartridges and shooting. Each time you shoot a front loader, each shot is an experience, finding out how good your loading techniques were.”





The two new Lyman revolvers; .44 with 7¾ inch barrel, and the .36 Navy with its 6½ inch barrel.



James Drury took time to admire the workmanship of special cased Lyman revolver presented to him.

The revolver Jim was shooting is the new Lyman Navy Model percussion revolver in .36 caliber; exactly like the one presented to him by Lyman in an especially designed fitted case. There are two basic models of the Lyman revolver available; a .36 caliber Navy Model with 6½ inch barrel, and a .44 caliber Army Model with 7¾ inch bar-

rel. The original Remingtons, .36 or .44 caliber, were all 7¾ inch barrels.

The Navy Model was shortened to achieve a weight relationship corresponding to the .44 caliber, a heft of 42 oz. This shortening of the Navy barrel has created a new balance, one that I prefer. *(Continued on page 64)*



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INFORMATION ONLY

HANDGUNNING WITH STEVENSON

(Continued from page 17)

think of other appropriate punishments for folks who shoot at glass virtually anywhere. In short, unless you have safari privileges at the city dump, don't shoot at glass at all. If you crave a target that shatters, try candy wafers, soda crackers, or clay pigeons. In the case of the clay birds, either remove or bury the fragments, for they are unsightly and don't decompose well at all.

There's also a sub-species who shoot at road signs, power line insulators, and the like. They are vandals, not plinkers. If you run across this sort, get a good description and their marker number, and turn them over to the police immediately. Then smile when they lock them away, knowing that you've helped preserve the sport for those who deserve it.

We were talking about plinking guns awhile back; these can be anything you'd care to shoot, and you can learn a lot from some unlikely ones. I recall a very enjoyable evening spent perched atop a high bank plinking at the tip end of a sand spit that jutted into the lake about 150 yards down below me. This was with a 2" Chief's Special Airweight .38, which I had no idea was any sort of a long range gun until then. Another good memory was lobbing 9mm's from a Smith M39 into a foot-wide erosion slit in a bank, from standing position a measured 110 yards away. Long range handgunning is a topic I've barely scratched, but one which I'd like to study much more seriously.

Elmer Keith once wrote of a plinking session with a huge .45-70 revolver a fellow had made up, and I've had some fine times with rifled slugs from George Freed's big .410 sixgun.

This then is one category of plinking pistol: whatever comes to hand that you'd like to shoot.

Another category consists of business guns you'd like to sharpen your skill with through plinking. If you can keep it in ammo, by all means use the big bore. Otherwise match it with one of the .22 trainers I discussed in the March, 1971, GUNS. In this respect, I've done far more plinking with my .22 Colt Trooper than with any other gun I own. And a particular joy of late is the .22 sub unit I have mounted in my 9mm SIG.

Yet a third category are those guns marketed strictly as plinkers, with the implication that they are fairly

worthless for anything else. The ads usually tout them for "informal target shooting", which, like calling the latrine a lounge, is a euphemism for the honorable sport of plinking. Some of these are very fine and admirable guns; others are trash. If shopping for one, tell the dealer you want a serious, high quality gun that won't stand in the way of your learning to shoot well, and follow his advice. There's no advantage in making a purchase you'll later regret.

Could be you disagree with four fifths of what we've said in these two articles. As long as you'll accept the paragraphs on safety and shooter courtesy, more power to you. For plinking is that kind of sport: tailored by the individual to the individual. In essence it is more attuned to modern tastes than any other, and there's an element of optimism in that. If you'd help people find out about plinking, and teach them to do it safely and conscientiously, this could be a better country to live in.



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PULL!

By DICK MILLER

CAN A RIFLE and/or pistol shooter really find happiness with the scattergun? Will the marriage of a rifleman or pistoleer with the shotgun founder on the rocks of adversity? Is there any hope for compatibility between the handgunner or paper puncher and the smashing of flying clay targets? Read on, gentle (?) reader, into the continuing saga of the perils of Paul and/or Pauline in the world of shooting. I'm going to violate all the rules for dramatic serialization, and give the answers in the beginning. You won't have to tune in next week, or next month, to find if the marriage of paper puncher and target smasher can be a happy one.

The answer to the question, "Can a rifle and/or pistol shooter find happiness with the scattergun?", is yes, and no! Yes, the rifleman or handgunner can find proficiency with the shotgun if he does, or does not, do or remember certain things. No, the rifleman or handgunner will not find compatibility with shotgunning if he does, or does not, do or remember certain things. The rifle or pistol shooter must remember to very carefully sligh his front and rear sights and gently squeeze off the trigger. If he does this with the shotgun, he will not find happiness. That is, he will not find happiness if his concept of happiness is breaking a respectable number of targets.

On the other hand, any shooter may shoot well with any type of gun if he or she can compartmentalize the mind, and firmly say that these techniques of shooting are separate and distinct, furthermore that they must be approached by unrelated paths.

If, when the rifleman or handgunner takes his post on the skeet or trap field, his happiness there is in direct ratio to the success he has in saying to himself that he must do certain things with the rifle or pistol, but he must do another set of things here.

If you can convince your mind that this new, separate, and distinctly different shooting game requires that you

swing the gun and slap the trigger, tranquility and happiness is your lot. If you can't compartmentalize your mind, you need a trip to the (shooting) marriage counselor. Or, if your problem is still another one, not discussed thus far in this serial, the counselor may set you straight.

That's what happened to a very agitated shooter with whom I had a long conversation at a recent San Jose, California shooting clinic. This man was a better than average rifle competitor, and a hot handgunner, but his score at trap or skeet was lousy, and this bugged him deeply. His feeling was that if a man (or woman) can do these two things well (rifle and pistol shooting) it should naturally follow that he would at least not be a complete dub in the clay target games.

I agreed with him (this is a good ploy in counseling—get some agreement in basic items before attacking the thorny issues) and was able to convince him that he should be able to sort out the different techniques in his mind before trying any of the shooting games.

I was about to concluded that I had solved his problem, and was going to send him on his way rejoicing, when he picked up two shotguns and pointed them. When he pointed the two shotguns, it was obvious that he could find happiness with one of them with a minimal amount of mental sorting, but that with the other gun, he was destined to travel the path of sorrow and adversity no matter how capable he might be of cerebral compartmentalization.

So, I had to start all over. First, we agreed that to hit a target with rifle or pistol, the back sight must be in alignment with the front sight. I then made my point that in order to hit a flying clay target, even with swing and trigger slap, the back sight must be in proper alignment with the front sight. From that area of agreement, it was easy to proceed to the next plateau of agreement, which was to establish that the rear sight on a shotgun is not

attached to the gun, as it is in the case of rifle or pistol, but that the shotgun rear sight is in fact the shooter's eye.

As a result of his mastery of rifle and pistol, it was easy to make clear this important point. But, when he pointed the two shotguns which happened to be laying on a table, it was plain that one was straight enough for him, and that his rear sight (eye) would be properly aligned with the front sight. It was equally clear that one was too "crooked" and that his line of sight went in one direction, while the shot charge was sure to blast off on another plane.

When he mentioned the type and brand of shotgun by which he had ventilated the ozone with so many fruitless shots, I asked him to close his eyes while handling a gun of the same make and type, throw up the gun as he would to hit a clay target, then open his eyes. As I suspected, he was far down behind the comb, and would have hit very few targets, even accidentally. From that point, it was easy to suggest that he build up the comb of his shotgun a little at a time until he found happiness in broken targets, or to install a Morgan pad for the same reason, and perhaps eventually when he had discovered his correct stock dimensions, to get a new stock built to desired dimensions.

Exit smiling, one previously agitated shooter. End of one chapter in a dramatic serial devoted to the perils of Paul and/or Pauline in the world of shooting.

If you are a rifleman, or a hand-gunner, and have not been able to hold your head high when your trap or skeet scores are posted, perhaps it not the supposed lack of compatibility between the disciplines of cartridge guns and shotguns which is denying you complete happiness in the shooting world. It could be that all you need to do is to make sure the back sight is in line with the front sight on all your guns. There is only one small fly in all this ointment of fulfillment, happiness, and tranquility in shooting.

I have often said, and other shot-gunners are sure to say to you, that shooters are rarely conscious of the sights at all, when shooting the shot-gun. So that the beginner may not be led astray, the statement that you rarely see the sights at all when shooting a shotgun is not inconsistent with respect to the assertion I just made that the rear sight (your eye) must be aligned with the front sight if you are to hit flying objects with a charge of shot.


The phrase holding that, "the rear sight on a shotgun (your eye) must be in line with the front sight" is a figure of speech. With the rifle or

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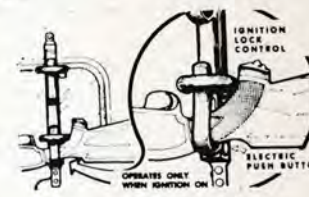


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handgun, you physically, deliberately, and consciously make sure that you are looking in as nearly as possible a straight line down both sets of sights.

To shoot well with the shotgun, the stock must be so designed and fitted that the same line of sight prevails, even though you did not deliberately set out to accomplish this alignment between eye and front sight. With the rifle or pistol, you can adjust your head or body so that the even sighting plane is achieved. You simply don't have time to check out this factor when your target is zooming along at sixty miles-per-hour. Your stock must fit, or be made to fit, so that when you throw the shotgun to your shoulder the alignment between eye and muzzle is automatic, that it is there without any conscious correction on your part.

So that confusion will not reign supreme, I will clear another point which is sure to be made to the neophyte shotgunner. If you are given advice by any appreciable number of shotguns, you are sure to be told that in order to hit a moving target, you simply look at the target, put the gun to the shoulder and shoot, without any special consciousness of sights or even of gun. This advice will at first seem completely incompatible with my observation to the effect that the rear sight (eye) must be in line with the front sight. When someone tells you to look at the target, then pull up and shoot without being conscious of sights or muzzle, he is assuming that your shotgun stock fits you so that when the stock hits your shoulder, your eye is on the same plane as the muzzle or front sight. This is a case of postulating the first half of a theorem on the assumption that the second and equally important half of the theorem is a constant and remains a constant, i.e., your shotgun stock fits. The first portion of the look and shoot theory is not valid if the second portion is not valid.

In summary, I have said it by soap-opera dramatics, I have said it by theorem, and now I say it in nitty-gritty, you can't hit flying targets if your stock doesn't fit. Before you jump to conclusions or go off on various tangents when you miss targets, check your stock fit. You may find happiness, tranquillity, joy, fulfillment, and have a heck of a lot of fun, if your shotgun stock fits, even if you do shoot both rifle and pistol.

Part II of Military Accoutrements will be seen next month.



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BE A BETTER WING SHOOTER

(Continued from page 25)

1100 is bored improved cylinder. This means it should throw about 40% patterns at 40 yards. The gun killed doves beautifully. Thusly encouraged, I then tried the hurtling brown targets with my favorite bob-white quail gun. It is an over/under SKB 12 gauge bored imp. cyl. in both barrels. It worked like a charm; not only killed doves with fine consistency but did it out to 35 yards. Plenty far enough to shoot any upland game. The explanation is that with the new brand of shotshell we have available today, the guns shoot very close to modified patterns. A good quarter choke at poorest.

Shotgun stocks are too straight. This is especially true of the many foreign shotguns that now reach our shores. Over the past 90 days I've gotten three scatter models for field tests, all foreigners, with stocks that had only 1 1/4 inches drop at the comb. This is okay for trap shooting but poisonous for field work. Such a gun will shoot 14 inches high at 40 yards and simply ruin your shooting on any kind of upland game. A good drop at comb is 1 1/2 to 1 5/8 inches. Anything straighter than that is sure to do harm to your score. Likewise, there is a tendency to make gun stocks longer. This is an exceedingly critical measurement and even as little as one-eighth inch difference in the stock will do things to your shooting. Unless the marksman is 6'2" he does not need a stock over 14 to 14 1/4 inches length of pull. If he is under 5'8" he should not have a stock over 13 5/8". The average length of pull for the average shooter is 14 inches and it is a right good dimension. A long stock causes the heel of the stock to catch as the gun is being mounted. Ordinarily, the hunter is wearing a coat usually over a woolen shirt and these garments tend to lengthen the pull. A stock that is too short throws the face too far forward and causes the gunner to shoot low. Too, it is more apt to kick him, and punishment never did help the score.

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Gun weight is quite a sizeable factor in the hitting equation. This is especially true if the shooter is soft and out of shape; or is an old man; a woman; or a youngster. Guns are not as heavy as they once were but there are still many that weigh too much. Unnecessary poundage does two or three things, all bad. It makes the marksman slow to get on the target, slow to swing after the mark, and strangely apt to shoot before his lead is correct. Toward the end of the day the additional sixteen ounces in the piece will see him a tired old man. Then he really commences to slow up swing and lead and miss. It is usually concluded that the worst offenders on the score of un-needed heft lies with the autoloaders and the pump repeaters but this isn't true anymore. Now you can find some side-by-side and over/unders that are far too weighty. Quite often a wingshot who discovers he is slipping can bring his shooting back to par simply by discarding his old gun for a new and lighter model.

There is, for some shooters, a strange sort of psychological lift in the acquisition of a new gun. He attributes all sorts of magical properties to the new hardware and goes into the field with the conviction that he cannot miss. And oftimes he does not! This is an unexplainable phenomenon but it may be the means toward restoring not only shooting averages but the gunner's confidence. I recommend it.

A close shooting crony was having a good deal of difficulty with doves. Now these birds are skitterish, hard to hit, and demanding. His shotgun was an autoloader, maybe bored a mite too close, and being one of the older models it was definitely too heavy. I persuaded him to try an over/under; a lightweight, with straight grip, bored openly in both tubes and with 28" barrels. From the very beginning his scores ran to old averages, and he was delighted. Frankly, I think most of the improvement was in his outlook. He had long wanted a superposed shotgun and the poor showing with his old gun gave him a made-to-order excuse to buy the barrel-over-barrel model. It pulled his shooting out of a protracted slump. Such expenditures are worthwhile at the commencement of the new season if the shooter is honest with himself and knows that last season's gun work was pretty dreary.

Many scatterguns do not shoot where the gunner looks. It is comparatively easy to bend the one-barrel pump or autoloader. Too, it sometimes happens that side-by-side doubles and over/unders have the two tubes

misaligned at the factory. One barrel will shoot dead on and the other will plant its charge over by the apple orchard. The only way to discover these irregularities is to carefully pattern test the gun. It is common for the right barrel on a side-by-side to shoot somewhat to the right of the left barrel because of the manner in which the shoulder supports the piece. This dispersion should not be more than 6 or 8 inches. Likewise, it is acceptable that the over barrel on the O/U shotgun will shoot higher than the under tube. These differences, however, should not be more than 6 or 8 inches. Any tendency of either barrel to deviate to left or right is a sign of misalignment of the tubes. If your solution to your bird shooting is the choice of a different gun be sure if it is a used number that you painstakingly pattern test it before the swap. The failure to print both patterns to the same center is pretty common.

Shooting chukar partridge in Spain through a happy four-year interlude, I found the game gave me a lot of trouble. My solution was heavier loads. I switched from 7½ shot to 6's, picked up the dram equivalent from 3½ to 3%, and bought a new set of improved modified barrels for the fine AyA shotgun. This didn't seem to help much. One day I was shooting beside



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the Conde de Teba, freely acknowledged to be the finest partridge shot in Spain. I looked at his empties and noted that he was shooting low base shells, actually a cheap field load. What amazed me was that the No. 7½ shot was only 1¼ oz. The powder charge was a puny 3 drams. I asked the Spaniard how his pair of Purdeys were bored. "Improved cylinder in both barrels," he told me. That was a real eye-opener. Here was a gunner who could wipe the eye of the best of 'em and he was shooting an open gun and lightest shells.

That was a lesson to me. I promptly reversed all the trend that had been building up what with express loads, bit shot, tightly bored guns and went the route of the Conde de Teba. It promptly payed off in better averages and bigger bags.

Some accessories accomplish a lot of good for the ailing wingshot. A duck-gunning amigo was having a lot of trouble with passing mallards. He attached a ventilated rib with two sights to his favorite fowling piece and promptly discovered that he was cross-firing. His cheek rode over the comb too far and the off eye was taking over when aim was fixed. Another hunter with whom I am occasionally afield got so that he flinched on almost every shot. I recommended a recoil pad but this did not seem to help. He finally stocked his gun with the Hydro-Coil, the device which works like the shock absorber on the automobile. This completely cured his flinching, a case induced by too much kick. Trap shooters, when flinching grows acute, switch sometimes to a release trigger. This trigger won't do in the game fields. I watched a shooter flinch at skeet Sunday after Sunday and finally got hold of his gun long enough to find that it had a long creepy pull of at least six pounds. When he had a local gunsmith doctor the pull, he eliminated his trouble.

An analysis of shooting style sometimes helps the ailing gunner. Wing shooting is one of these exercises in gymnastics which must be done in a heartbeat. If the gun does not come to shoulder smoothly and track easily, following the dictates of hand and eye, a miss occurs. If the shooter had

2-3 seconds in which to mount the piece, adjust his lead and pull the trigger, he would do better. But the time element is a critical thing and unless he has trained himself along sound principles, the gun won't point where it should when the trigger is smashed. Shotgunners fall into several well defined classes and some of these have instinctively learned to do the right thing, and others have not. Let's have a look at these several shooting systems and maybe you will recognize yourself. Maybe, too, you'll decide that to help the score you should try another style.

Duck shooters, goose hunters, driven game gunners and fellows who are accustomed to doing pass shooting are inclined to carefully mount the gun, commencing well before the game is in range. They then commence their swing, some of them starting behind the bird and swinging through the target; adjusting the forward allowance as they keep the muzzle in motion. When they reckon the lead is just right they goose the trigger. My old man used to call this the deliberate swing and that seems to be about as descriptive as any. It is extremely precise but slow.

The second class of wingshot is the real slambang type. Western Cartridge Company once published a handy little manual on how to be a wingshot and they dubbed this second shotgunning style as the spot shooter. He throws the gun to shoulder, the muzzle pointed at a spot ahead of the hurtling target, and without ever moving the piece, presses the trigger. My dad used to call him a snap shooter. Either term is pretty indicative. This manner of gun handling is surprisingly effective at times. Rabbit hunters often are spot shooters. They let drive at the cottontail just as he reaches the brushpile. They are deadly on quail when the bob is going straightaway, and on grouse where the offer is an exceedingly fleeting one. But this style is also one of the most haphazard in the book. The spot shooter misses a hell of a lot of chances. When he must lead a target he selects a spot in front of the winging target, points the gun ahead, never moves it, and presses the trig-

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ger. You simply don't hit a whole lot of passing birds that way, except with a lot of luck. Of all the shooting styles this one is the poorest.

The third and best shooting method is to mount the gun and, as it comes to the shoulder, have the muzzle already in pursuit of the target. The shooter brings the barrel onto the game from behind and below. On the instant that he intercepts the line of flight of the target, with the proper lead gained during the mounting of the piece, he presses the trigger. If there is any adjustment in the lead as the barrel comes into line ahead of the fighting mark, it is a very minute one. Ordinarily, the lead has been established as the gun comes on from behind and below. This is called the semi-snap and is extremely fast and decidedly precise. It is especially effective on upland game and works with good success on ducks that are sprung from river-bend or pond. It is probably not quite as accurate on passing webfeet as is the deliberate swing, but for an all-around style it is far to be preferred. If you are so intent on bettering your shotgun game this is the shooting style that will pay off best.

SLIDE-ACTION RIFLES

(Continued from page 27)

finger is on the trigger. With the Remington, you must take your finger from the trigger, your hand from the pistol grip, and reach around the trigger guard to reach the release which is located on the left side, forward of the guard. The magazine release of the Remington is a lever at the front of the guard on the right side, which is pressed forward to unlatch the magazine. With the latch depressed, the magazine is easily removed. On my sample the magazine, stamped with caliber designation .30-06, holds four rounds.

It is probably worth noting that both rifles are replete with stamped and alloy parts. For example, the trigger guard is alloy on both rifles, and both contain stampings of greater or lesser gauge. In addition, the Savage makes use of plastics in the magazine follower, which is red for easy visibility, as well as the magazine tube adapter and the magazine plug. While the use of stamped, alloy, or plastic parts in a rifle does not appeal greatly to the true purist, that breed doesn't commonly use pump guns, anyway!

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use a detachable box magazine, or "clip," but rather utilizes the old fashioned tubular magazine under the barrel, loading through a port on the underside of the receiver ala the common pump shotgun. This does serve to promote a certain degree of familiarity. On the other hand, it doesn't really promote much in the way of accuracy, and may cause the barrel to change point of impact progressively as the barrel heats up from continued firing.

I found that the Savage rifle would kick 'em out with great reliability if I would fire, "shuck-shuck" the action rapidly, and fire again. However, things got sticky when I tried to work the action slowly, as a handloader might do in order to save his brass for reloading. If you don't slam the slide back like you meant it, the empty case doesn't eject. Then, if there was a round in the magazine, it comes back onto the follower, the follower pushes it up against the empty, and you have one mean, nasty jam. One that is nothing short of quite difficult to clear, let me add!

It seems worthwhile to mention the iron sights on these rifles, for I suspect that fully half the hunters who buy them will hunt with the irons. The rear sight on the Remington is mounted on a high base which can be removed entirely when mounting a scope, if so desired. It is fastened to the barrel with screws, and the screw holes left upon its removal are easily filled with the dummy screws removed from the receiver when installing the scope mount.

Elevation adjustment is by the traditional step elevator, with windage being taken care of by an adjustment screw. There is a white triangle under the sight notch to point it up and speed alignment.

The Savage uses a folding leaf sight attached to the barrel by a dovetail. It may be folded down flat on the barrel when not in use, or to provide clearance for a scope. The rear sight proper may be moved up or down for elevation in the folding base, after first loosening two screws. Unfortunately, such a sight makes for a funny sight picture when zeroed in, and windage is possible only by tapping it over in its dovetail. All in all, I prefer the Remington rear sight.

Front sights, in either case, consist

of a gold bead on a ramp. On the Savage, this bead and ramp are made in one piece and attached to the barrel with a single screw. On the Remington, the ramp is fastened with two screws, with sight and ramp being two separate pieces joined by a dovetail. More expensive, of course, and nicer.

Both rifles have pretty fair stocks. Both have beautiful wood in their buttstocks, with a lovely grain. The Remington stock finish is the RKW "bowling pin" finish which is very glossy and durable. The Savage stock isn't finished with quite so much high gloss. Both stocks have impressed checkering, as mentioned earlier. However, the Remington has very fine "french skipline" checkering in a fleur de lis pattern that would be beautiful—were it not for the fact that it is sloppy in execution. The Savage uses a much coarser checkering in a more conventional pattern.

The Remington stock is embellished with a few extras such as black plastic pistol grip cap and forearm tip, with white line spacers between the wood and the plastic of the buttplate, grip cap, and forearm tip. The Savage stock is somewhat plainer, the forearm tip being merely blue steel, the grip unadorned, and no spacers. However, it does have a stud for quick-detachable sling swivels on the butt, and a block to fit a forward swivel at tip of the magazine tube.

This is a very fine idea! Naturally, you don't want a shooting sling on a pump rifle. It would interfere with rapid slide manipulation and would doubtless cause a shift in point of impact. But you can buy some quick-detachable swivels by Jaeger, Herters, or Michaels of Oregon, attach the carrying strap, and roll up the works to carry it in your shooting coat pocket. Then, after you have shot your buck and need both hands free to get him out—attach the whole works to the rifle, sling the rifle across your back, and get to work. Nice!

Of course, the proof of a rifle is in the shooting, and I had resolved to see what both guns would do. In order to evaluate a rifle, you must have a good scope on the rifle, and you must have access to a bench rest. I grabbed the Weaver K-4 off one of my Springfield, and went shopping for a base.

I found that the Weaver #62 one-piece scope base would fit the receiver

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of the Savage nicely, as well as the Remington 740/742/760 series for which it was actually made. I first mounted the scope on the Savage, attaching the base to the receiver after removing the dummy screws, and then fastening the rings down to the base. After mounting the scope, I headed out to the local ange of the Lincoln Rifle & Pistol Club.

Testing was conducted from the bench rest at 100 yards, firing on the six inch bull of Remington sighting in targets. After getting the rifle zeroed, I commenced to fire groups. Results ran from 3" to 3 3/8" to a maximum of 3 5/8" center to center, but I was not satisfied. I felt that the rifle could do better than this, and that "walking" was playing a part in enlarging my groups. They tended to show little horizontal spread but were strung out in the vertical plane.

Finally, by allowing ample time for the barrel to cool between shots, I was able to produce a group no larger than 2 1/2" center to center though still strung out vertically. It is noteworthy that this group measured no more than an inch horizontally, at that the first three shots likewise grouped in no more than one inch.

In theory, the Remington should have produced smaller groups than the Savage. After all, it has a free floating barrel, unaffected by either forearm or action bars. It is a rotary bolt locking up directly behind the cartridge head, another supposed edge in the accuracy field. There is no tubular magazine slung under the barrel, and no barrel band. It should have shot like a dream.

Generally speaking, it didn't shoot any better than the Savage, but then it didn't shoot any worse. Largest group was 3 1/2" center to center, with 3" a probable average. One shot-string put three rounds into an inch and a half, four into 2 1/2", and the fifth round, a wide flyer, opening things up to 3 1/2" of spread. However, this round was fired right after a change in windage in the scope. The next round lit 3 1/2" to the right of the first round fired after that sight adjustment, and then grouped three more into 2 1/2 inches. To be charitable, let's say the gun is capable of 2 1/2" groups, with good ammunition, provided it is shot off the bench and the shooter does his part.

For the record, these groups were fired with Remington factory ammo using 150 grain spitzers of both Pointed Soft Point and Bronze Point types. Shooting was done by yours truly, and also by Lincoln dentist and rifle enthusiast Dr. W. H. Ress. Dr. Ress, a somewhat more experienced bench rest shooter than I, shot the rifle from

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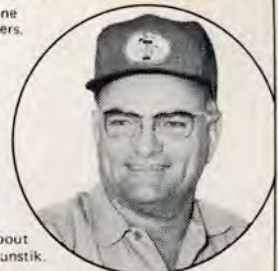
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sand bags and was still unable to achieve better than a 2 1/2" group. The 760 is just not a tack driver. But on the other hand, it wasn't intended to be a target rifle and it is more than ample for hunting purposes.

Another point worthy of note is that both of these rifles are kickers! That Remington comes right back when you touch off a round. Even the Savage .30-30 is not a sweet 'n' gentle cream puff in the come-back department. I would gladly swap that impressed checkering on the stock for a good, thick recoil pad. In fact, I'd toss in five or ten bucks to boot, were it my rifle. Doctor Ress likewise com-

mented on this lack, which is very noticeable when firing five-round strings from the bench!

All things considered, these are good guns. Either will do a job in the woods, and the Remington is okay even out to medium-long ranges—say, two hundred yards or a little more. Neither could beat a good bolt gun out in the wide open spaces, nor in the high sierras where you shoot from hill to hill. On the other hand, the pump gun fancier can ram in another shot with a Remington or Savage while the bolt action man is thinking about it!

The choice is yours.

A NEW LOOK AT THE .350 REM. MAG.

(Continued from page 29)

rifle that shooters would buy him out! So let's take a look at what the .350 Remington cartridge can do. These loads that I list are derived from years of fiddling and testing various combinations and, in my rifles, have proven to be both safe and accurate. Of course, there are many other loads that may be used with a tremendous variety of components but it would be impractical to attempt to list them here. Be sure to cut back at least fifteen per cent on the powder charge if you try any of my loads. Then woked up to what I recommend, watching for signs of pressure.

I like to shoot cast, lead bullet loads. One of my favorite moulds is the SAECO #290382 that casts three 150-grain bullets at a time. These are classic bullets; the reliable, Keith, wadcutter type that have proven to be exceptionally accurate. They are not designed for use with gas checks so velocity must be held down to prevent leading. SAECO also produces a synthetic lubricant that has proven to be unusually good in my experimental work and which is capable of handling velocities up to around 1500 fps. This means that 14.0 grains of Unique powder, the above bullet and a CCI standard large rifle primer will turn out about 1500 fps without leading in my rifle. I have not used fillers of any kind to take up room inside the case. I have not found them necessary.

This load is quite accurate and ideally suited to firing in the basement using a large block of wood as a backstop or for fifty yard practice shooting outdoors. The noise level is low so the neighbors should not com-

plain. It makes a wonderful training and plinking combination, and you can forget about recoil. Once you get the hang of this load, and adjust your sights, there is no reason why you cannot pick off squirrels or rabbits with it.

Now, take the new Sierra 158-grain soft point jacketed bullet or the Hornady 158-grain hollow point jacketed bullet and seat it ahead of 50.0 grains of #3031 powder and a Federal standard large rifle primer and you come up with about 2150 fps with a load that is absolute dynamite on varmints. The hollow point bullet will give slightly more explosive effect upon impact than the soft nose bullet but either one will down a woodchuck, fox, jack rabbit and similar game. Recoil? Quite moderate.

But, if you would like a load with a flatter shooting trajectory and lots more impact shock, use the same bullets ahead of 58.5 grains of #4064 powder, still using a standard large rifle primer, and you will be pushing 2600 fps with impact shock that must be seen to be believed on varmints and small game. Remember, these handgun bullets were not designed for thick skinned or massive game so that when they strike at velocities around 2300 to 2500 fps they tend to go to pieces. Both the recoil and the noise level remain low because you are firing an extremely light weight bullet from a large Magnum rifle case.

Sound good? Remember, you are firing and paying for handgun bullets, not the more expensive big game rifle bullets. Sound better yet?

One of my favorite loads has been

51.0 grains of Hercules #7 powder, CCI standard large rifle primer and the Hornady 158-grain hollow point bullet for all small varmints including the ever-increasing wolf dogs that have been killing cattle and sheep. Unfortunately, Hercules is phasing out their #7, #11 and #21 powders so this 2731 fps load will eventually go down the drain for lack of powder. But it has been extremely effective in many of these .350 Magnum rifles.

We still do not have recoil or noise comparable to the factory load and it is time to get into big game loads for deer, antelope, black bear, wild boar and similar game. I favor the 180-grain Speer bullet backed by 58.5 grains of #3031 powder and a CCI Magnum primer. This turns out around 2800 fps, which is more than adequate for any medium size game to equal the performance of the .30-06 rifle. I have found this load to be quite accurate in my rifles, accompanied by only moderate recoil.

The 220-grain Speer bullet provides an all-around load that is powerful and yet not as savage and brutal as the factory loading. I like 54.5 grains of #4064 powder with a Magnum primer because this gives me just about the perfect all purpose cartridge. You can use it in brush, in wooded areas, or for long range shooting across a

field, river or lake. This churns up about 2500 fps amounting to 3052 foot pounds of energy which, when slammed into the right place, can stop just anything wandering around North America. Remember, we are not, even yet, utilizing the full latent power of the .350 Remington cartridge. We don't particularly want to!

But, if you want the power, try the 250-grain Hornady bullet. Seat this head of 53.0 grains of #4064 powder, again using a Magnum primer, and you can be pretty confident of stopping anything that comes your way. Recoil is a bit lighter than factory ammunition but it remains a rough, power-packed load for the hand-loader. It goes without saying that if the chips are down and the going rough, nothing will be any more efficient than the Remington 250-grain factory load #1350. We are now right back where we started!

But, I hope that I have been able to show how this brute can be shot and enjoyed the year-round. Now, take a look at my little rifle. Handsome, isn't it? And I have all that power, if I want it. But most of the time I just use the rifle for plinking and hunting varmints. My fourteen year old son just beat me offhand firing the SAECO cast lead bullet at fifty feet. Why not try it?

SHARK SHOOTING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

(Continued from page 31)

half-dozen or so guns and several hundred rounds of ammunition carried along.

Of the two boats we were to use, only the open Chrysler outboard was rigged for shooting. Bill had built a wood tower of sorts amidship. Its purpose was to place the gunner high enough above water level to be able to shoot nearly vertically. Without it, most shots would have been at acute angles to the surface, greatly increasing the amount of water a bullet would have to penetrate to reach the target—not to mention the increased effects of light refraction and bullet deflection. We knew from past experience that only sharks relatively close to the surface would suffer any particular damage from even the most perfectly aimed shot. No bullet, even the .50 Browning MG, will penetrate very much water. Even so, we were surprised how little water it took to deprive a bullet of its effectiveness—more later.

North and west of Key West are tremendous flats covered with as little as twelve inches of water at low tide. Our boat needed at least eighteen inches, and even with that we were dragging the prop through mud and sand, clouding the crystal-clear water.

During late May and early June all manner of sharks can be seen working these flats early and late in the day, then retiring to cooler depths when the sun is high. Later, as water temperature rises, they move into deeper, cooler areas and stay there. Divers can get at them down there, but the gunner cannot. So, we hunted the flats, cruising slowly in water as shallow as would take the boat. From the tower, sharks (and rays, too) near the surface can be seen 50-75 yards out, even when not finning. Every detail of the bottom—sponges, conchs, small fish, barracuda, coral heads, old wrecks, etc.—can be seen with great clarity through the gin-clear water,

(Continued on page 59)

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We spotted several sizeable sharks that couldn't be reached or evaded us before a chance for a shot came. Eventually Cliff (Cliff Reed, well-known Keys angler and a record holder in his own right) was able to work the boat within range of one that had been spotted off the port bow. Lee manned the tower with his Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum while I rode the gunwales and bow alternately to get as much height as possible—my Ruger Security-Six .357 Magnum in hand.

Cliff brought the shark within 15 yards and Lee opened fire with the big .44. Anyone who hasn't sat six feet directly under and slightly in front of a .44 Magnum as it is fired can't know what a blast it gives the boat crew. This was particularly so because Lee was using Super Vel 180-grain JSP factory loads producing nearly 1900 fps and hellacious muzzle blast. My shots with the 137-grain SV .357 load weren't quite so noisy, but still authoritarian.

The first few shots had no effect other than to spur the shark to speedy evasive action. It took a bit of doing to determine just what hold was necessary to get hits under those conditions. After a bit, though, we began to get solid hits—but no sure kills. In the clear, shallow water we could see bullet holes, yet the sharks seemed to be little inconvenienced. It became obvious that anything less than a clean brain or spine shot was wasted effort.

Considering that the shark is a cartilaginous (no bony skeleton) animal and that the brain is quite small (less than 2"x3" in one seven-footer we later dissected), such hits require a rather high order of marksmanship. Picture a large goose egg on the end of an undulating six-foot length of rope zig-zagging through the water at high speed, and you'll have a pretty fair idea of the target area. In fact, only the egg and the first foot or two of the rope really count; a hit rearward of that won't immobilize a shark, though he may well die of it later. In addition, the brain is much farther forward than you might expect. It lies roughly between the eyes, which is actually very near the nose and forward of the mouth. All in all,

by no means an easy target, even from a stationary, steady gun platform, which we definitely did not have.

In any event, we shot and hit several sharks before finally settling on the combination of range, placement, and angle that assured quick results. This proved to be near-vertical shots with no more than twelve inches of water over the head, with the bullet striking in the brain or into the spinal cord forward of the dorsal fin. In the process, we lost several in which we could clearly see three or four .357 and .44 bullet holes in and behind the head, and some that showed holes farther back. In the latter some were shot in water shallow enough that the strike of the bullet could be seen on the bottom beneath the shark—indicating the bullet had passed completely through its body and miscellaneous internal organs.

Yet, much to our surprise, sharks so hit swam off without giving any indication that they were hurt or even inconvenienced. Only one escapee showed any evidence of hurt, and his swimming was impaired by a bullet through the base of his right pectoral fin. He wobbled a bit.

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proved to be a waste of time. This, too, was surprising inasmuch as previous tests with the same ammunition in a recovery tank indicated both .357 and .44 bullets possessed considerable energy even after penetrating several feet of water.

The first few shots at sharks brought out another factor we hadn't expected—or, rather, it disproved an oft-repeated theory we had long accepted. When the first couple sharks and a ray or two showed no reaction at all to the shock or concussion of even the big .44 Magnum and its over 1400 foot pounds (fp) of energy, we took time out to check the effect on smaller fish in the shallowest water we could find. Even the multiple shock of simultaneously-fired .357 and .44 rounds produced no discernible effect on 18-20 inch fish with barely 6" of water over them. They simply got the hell away from there without the least sign of grogginess or stunning. In fact, the small (under 12") needle gar, virtually on the surface, were the only fish on which there appeared to be any significant stunning effect. Quite a difference from when I used to rack up dozens of fresh-water fish by simply shooting alongside them.

After getting more or less organized (insofar as what it actually took to make a clean shark kill) Lee made the most spectacular kill of the whole trip. A set of fins appeared in the distance, moving slowly across our bow, port to starboard. Actually, fins, tail, and back were showing above water in the classic picture. He was in water too shallow for the boat, so Cliff maneuvered us slowly and quietly along the edge of the shallows, so as the shark worked toward deeper water he was heading directly at us. He apparently took no notice whatever of the boat or its occupants, other than to

veer off a bit and pass arrogantly less than 20 yards to port.

From the tower, Lee tracked him smoothly with the big .44 in an arms-out, two-hand stance. Compensating for the gentle roll and pitch and slight forward speed of the boat, he touched off with a cannon-like roar. Amidst the massive splash of the bullet, the shark's tail momentarily flew high out of the water, then he hurtled onward at full bore. The .44 roared again as Lee swung the sights past the speeding beast's nose, and everything disappeared in a welter of foam and spray. Water and sand boiled and flew through the air, with first the tail and then the head of the shark flashing into view as he leaped and flung insanely about.

Eventually he wound up within a few feet of the boat, still fighting the unseen enemy that had bitten him. At one point, he lunged headfirst, half his length vertically out of the water, mouth snapping and teeth flashing, within reach of the boat. To be sure he could be recovered to check the hits, I double-acted the Security-Six, planting a 137-grain Super Vel JSP into the bottom of his head, passing through the brain. He was done, belly up on the bottom in two feet of water.

Once he was gaffed and dragged alongside, we could see clearly the two .44 hits that had been his undoing. One, probably the first, had passed completely through behind the dorsal fin, apparently clipping the spinal cord. The other entered behind the left eye and appeared to have clipped or lodged in some part of the brain—but certainly hadn't been instantly fatal. This was the shot which sent the shark into its frenzied flight.

So, after the initial disappointments, we found that with proper attention

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to angle of fire and bullet placement, we could consistently kill sharks with handguns as powerful as the .357 and .44 Magnum.

We also found that when searching the shallows for sharks, you'll see far more than you will be able to shoot. In our case, we were limited by the conventional outboard power unit which required, even with the shallow-draft cathedral-type hull, 18" or more of water. It seems likely that had we been equipped with the same type hull and an inboard jet-pump unit, we'd have been able to get much deeper into the shallows and obtain more shots. We passed up many a set of fins simply because we couldn't work in closely enough.

Doubtless, there are some who may feel the ammunition we were using isn't the best for shooting through water. It is often felt that the light-bullet/high-velocity approach of Super Vel won't give the penetration that can be obtained by heavier and slower-moving bullets. Jurras' water tank test results don't support that contention. In fact, when fired vertically into a water recovery tank, the 180-grain .44 JSP passes through 86 inches of water and still possesses enough energy to dent the recovery tray at the bottom of the tank. None of the standard 240-grain loads tested will do as much. The 180-grain JSP is designed with a tough jacket for maximum penetration in heavy game, and the same characteristics are necessary for good penetration in water. The 137-grain .357 JSP is less impressive in this area, but still adequate for the shooting we encountered—and it's a hell of a lot easier for the average shooter to handle than the big .44. In any event, we found both loads adequate once we had determined how and where to hit the sharks.

If you are interested in shark shooting, I'd say first get in touch with Bill Murray, Murray Marine, Key West, Fla. He can probably help you get fixed up. When it comes to guns and ammunition, what we used will do nicely if you are pistolero enough to pick your shots carefully. And, of course, the .41 Magnum should do just as well, though we didn't try it. Use the most potent caliber you can handle rapidly and accurately.

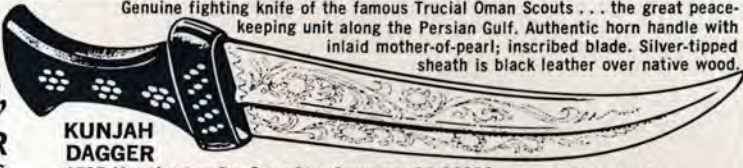
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(Continued on page 64)

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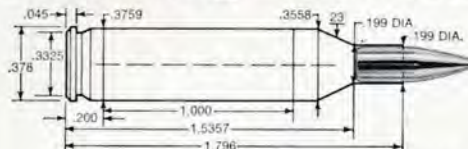
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Barrel: 24", 1 in 9 twist
Case: Remington
Primer: 7/2 Remington
Bullet: Hornady 25 gr. HP
Sectional Density: .121
Ballistic Coefficient: .190

17 CAL. REMINGTON LOADING DATA AND BALLISTICS

POWDER	VELOCITY ↓	3500 fps	3600 fps	3700 fps	3800 fps	3900 fps	4000 fps	4100 fps
4198		16.9 gr.	17.6 gr.	18.4 gr.	19.1 gr.	19.8 gr.	<i>Bold face indicates maximum loads</i>	
3031		19.6 gr.	20.3 gr.	20.9 gr.	21.6 gr.	22.2 gr.		
Norma 203		20.3 gr.	21.1 gr.	21.8 gr.	22.5 gr.	23.3 gr.	24.0 gr.	
4064		20.8 gr.	21.4 gr.	22.0 gr.	22.5 gr.	23.1 gr.		
4895		21.2 gr.	21.9 gr.	22.6 gr.	23.2 gr.	23.8 gr.	24.5 gr.	
4320		22.1 gr.	22.6 gr.	23.1 gr.	23.7 gr.	24.2 gr.	24.7 gr.	

BALLISTICS AND DROP TABLE

RANGE ↓	MUZZLE	100 YDS.	200 YDS.	300 YDS.	400 YDS.	500 YDS.
Remaining Vel.	4000	3412	2875	2390	1965	1600
Energy (Ft.-lbs.)	888	646	459	317	214	142
100 yd. 0	-1.5"	0 "	-1.5"	-7.3"	-19.5"	-40.9"
200 yd. 0	-1.5"	.8"	0 "	-5.0"	-16.4"	-37.0"
300 yd. 0	-1.5"	2.5"	3.4"	0 "	-9.6"	-28.6"
400 yd. 0	-1.5"	4.9"	8.2"	7.3"	0 "	-16.5"
500 yd. 0	-1.5"	8.2"	14.8"	17.2"	13.2"	0 "
Remaining Vel.	3900	3321	2792	2317	1901	1546
Energy (Ft.-lbs.)	845	612	433	298	201	133
100 yd. 0	-1.5"	0 "	-1.7"	-8.0"	-21.0"	-43.6"
200 yd. 0	-1.5"	.9"	0 "	-5.4"	-17.6"	-39.3"
300 yd. 0	-1.5"	2.7"	3.6"	0 "	-10.3"	-30.2"
400 yd. 0	-1.5"	5.3"	8.8"	7.7"	0 "	-17.3"
500 yd. 0	-1.5"	8.7"	15.7"	18.1"	13.9"	0 "

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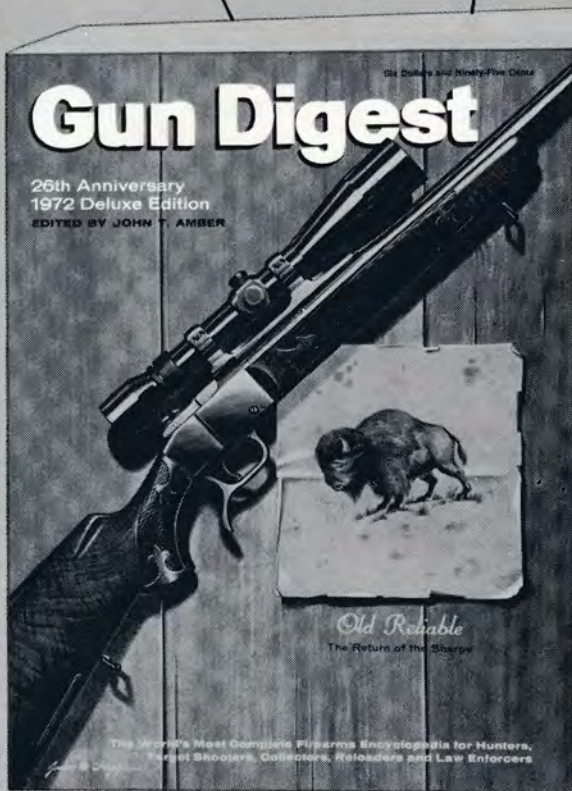
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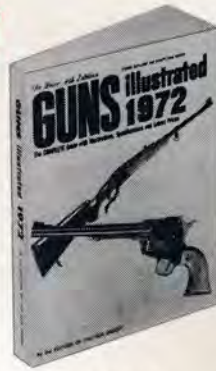
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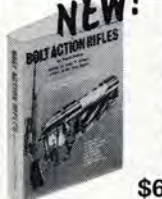
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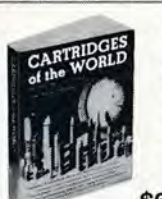
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recommend sticking to full-jacket "solid" bullets. The .338 or .375 with 300-grain solids, or the .458 with 500-grain solids, would probably be best if available. Barring that, any of the .30 calibers with 220-grain solids would be a good choice, followed by any of the full-jacket military loads in 6.5mm caliber and upward. If I had to choose from the latter class, I'd pick the 8mm Mauser in the 190-200 grain "heavy ball" loading, or the old 175-grain round-nose 7mm Mauser load. Both are noted for great penetration.

Shark gunning can be a lively sort of off-season and off-beat shooting. Off the Florida Keys, it is at its best during a time when there is little else to hunt in most parts of the country.

Frankly, it will sharpen your eye for almost any other kind of shooting. It introduces gunnery problems never encountered in any other kind of hunting I have ever tried. Not only is the target moving in three dimensions (much like any bird, though a bit slower than some), but so are you. The boat is never still, as it maneuvers with the shark, going forward or backward—pitching and rolling at the same time. When your cranial computer starts working on all those factors at once, integrating them into the gun/target relationship that will give you a hit—friend, you've got a bigger gunnery problem than the WWII waist-.50 gunner of a B-17 trying to tag an attacking Focke-Wulf.

LYMAN REVOLVER: .44 ARMY OR .36 NAVY

(Continued from page 43)

It's not muzzle heavy, and has good balance, similar to that of the Peace-maker. Although the .44 has better wind resistance and shocking power, the compactness of the .36 gives it the edge in certain circumstances.

Copies of the Remington have been imported for a number of years, and quality, especially in the lower priced brands, varied from good to terrible. The Lyman name has long been associated with consistent quality, and this tradition is carried into the black powder revolvers. Although these

guns are imported from Italy (manufactured by Uberti), Lyman engineers keep close tabs on quality control; on the guns as they are produced in the Uberti factory, and as they are readied for packing and shipping at Middlefield, Conn.

Long known for sights, bullet moulds and a variety of other shooting accessories, Lyman now has everything needed—except powder and lead—by the black powder shooter. They have a line of black powder accessories that includes a pistol powder

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flask with interchangeable spouts for either the .36 or .44 caliber guns. The flask is decorated with a running deer motif intertwined with a scroll, and the Lyman name across the bottom; it sells for \$11.95. Lyman also has a nipple wrench, patching grease and percussion caps. By the way, the new Lyman revolvers sell for \$96.95 (.44 caliber) and \$94.95 (.36 caliber).

The new Lyman revolvers are made on modern machinery, and each step of the manufacturing process is supervised by Lyman's own overseas representatives. After they are received, further tests assure you that a gunsmith, not merely an assembler, has checked it out completely. The guns we tested showed excellent workmanship, and a finish that is a deep rich blue with evidence of good polishing technique.

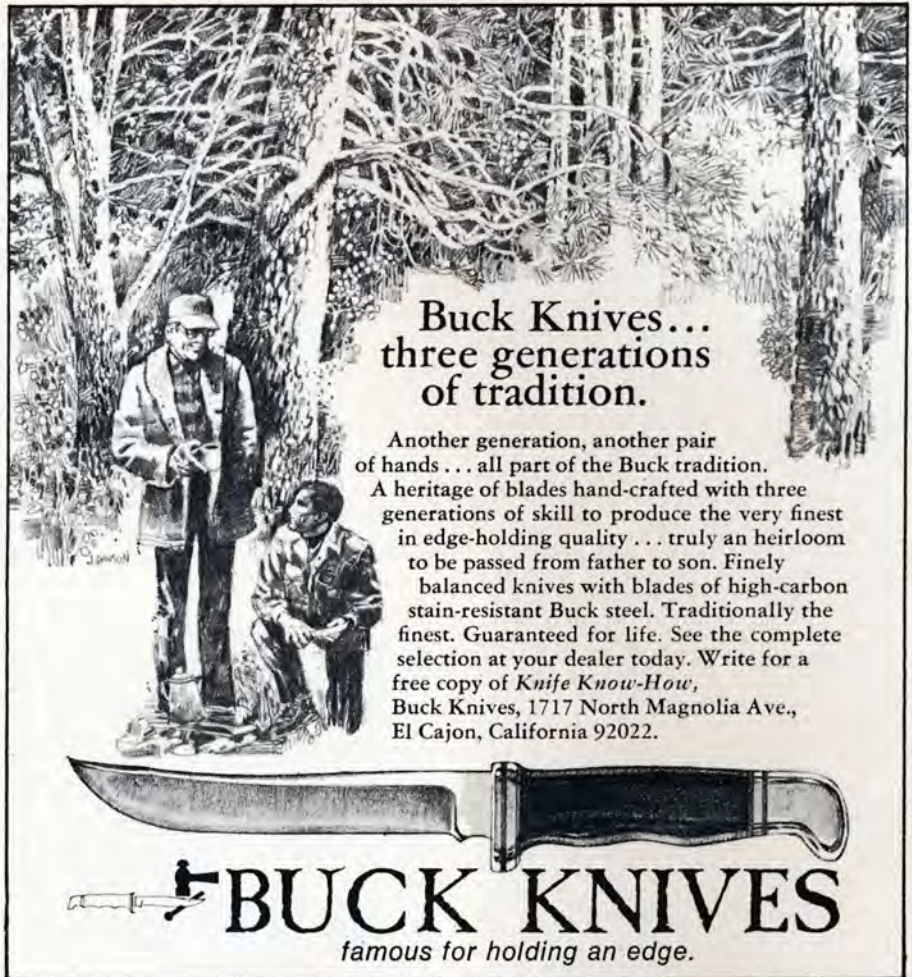
When you receive your Lyman, you'll find that it is covered with a rust-preventive grease, and before firing, a thorough cleaning, involving total disassembly, is required, and it's not difficult.

First, put the hammer on half-cock and release the loading lever a slight bit. Then pull the cylinder pin forward (if it's tight, you can start it out with a soft faced mallet) and push the cylinder out to the right. Once the cylinder is removed from the frame, the nipples are removed.

After the grips are removed, the mainspring retaining screw is loosened and the mainspring is tapped out of its slot. The brass trigger guard is held in position by only one screw, and is easily removed. The 2-pronged spring which bears on the trigger and bolt stop is then removed. Unlike other revolvers, the hand is attached to the hammer by means of a screw, not a pin. To remove it, remove the hammer screw and move hammer down through bottom of the frame until the hand screw is exposed. Remove it, and pull the hand out through the bottom of the frame; the hammer is then pull out the top opening. Further disassembly is simple, though you do not usually have to go much beyond this.

Reassembly, in reverse order of the above is not difficult. However, you may find that reinstalling the cylinder is tricky. The key is to rotate the cylinder as you feel it into position. This depresses the hand and permits an accurate line up with the cylinder pin.

Probably more Lyman bullet moulds are used by black powder shooters than any other; for the .36 Navy they recommend the .357 round ball, and the .451 for the .44 Army. Many shooters feel that for the utmost accuracy you should slug the barrel and



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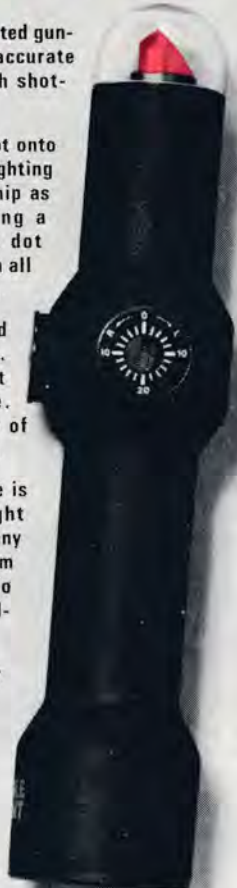
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get a mould that will cast a ball that is as tight as possible. When seating the ball in the chamber, a thin ring of lead should be sheared off for a really snug fit. In addition to the single cavity round ball mould, Lyman also has a double cavity mould that casts a round ball and a conical bullet at the same time. Each of these bullet configurations has its promoters. Those who champion the round ball say that it is self-centering when loaded into the chamber, where a conical may get seated out of alignment by the loading lever. Shooters who prefer the conical claim that it is more accurate because of its better ballistic shape, and greater surface area to catch the rifling. Try them both, and choose the one that works best for you.



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With one or the other of the Lyman revolvers and a little care and common sense, you should have a lot of fun among the ranks of the cap busters.



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JACQUES LOTT—An engineer by profession, he is an experienced gunsmith and has designed several new hunting cartridges. He has hunted in Africa and Sumatra and is an avid collector.



BURTON MILLER—Currently Vice President of Armalite, Inc., he is a career military man, and was involved with escape/evasion training where he designed the M-4 .22 Hornet survival rifle.



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REFLEX SHOOTING

(Continued from page 36)

other. This is how we see in three dimensions. The slightly different registers between the two images we see translates into depth perception.

The Singlepoint sight makes use of this binocular visual phenomenon to superimpose the image of a red dot reticle on the shooter's view of the target. With both eyes open, a right-handed shooter sees the target with the left eye while the right eye sees the red dot. Binocular vision then "mixes" the images to show the target with the red dot superimposed on it. By aligning the dot on the target area and squeezing the trigger, quite rapid hits can be accomplished in a short time interval.

The sight instrument is a collimator device that displays the illuminated red dot image through a magnifying ocular lens. The dot is adjustable to coincide with the impact point of the rifle. It is important to note that the shooter does not see *through* this sight. It is not a telescope. If one closes his left eye, he will see a black field with a brilliant red dot in the center. The shooter must open both eyes and focus on the target for the dot to register on the target image.

While the Singlepoint sight has no parallax or critical eye relief distance, individual shooters tend not to hit the same impact zero with the same rifle. With the gun zeroed for my hold, Al Nichols shot very small groups that printed several inches to the left at 50 yards. Analyzing, we found a slight cant in his hold with the AR-180 that when corrected brought the impact point back to zero. With the sight zeroed to his natural hold, the rifle shot to the right for me. Other sighting systems are usually not this sensitive to different holding characteristics. The Singlepoint system has a number of interesting aspects; experienced shooters will probably not fire improved scores at first compared to their performance with military aperture sights at 50 or 100 yards. The real advantage to the Singlepoint sight is to the beginning shooter, who, after a little practice, can acquire a target more rapidly than with iron sights. Actually, experienced shooters may see a decline in scores at first, especially if they try to use the red dot as if it were a scope reticle. There is a strong tendency for shooters to concentrate their shooting eye focus on the red dot. Focusing on the dot will

(Continued on page 70)

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cause the target image to fade and a miss will more than likely ensue.

Eyes must be focused on the target to get the red dot to superimpose. A right-handed shooter with a dominant left eye has a decided advantage in using the Singlepoint sight. This may be the answer to some people's shotgun shooting woes, since Singlepoint makes a shotgun sight, also. The dot on this shotgun sight subtends 42 minutes of arc, giving a realistic indication of pattern placement. Properly used, the shooter is barely conscious of the red dot placement at the time of firing. The system is adaptable to light conditions where iron sights cannot be seen. A day-night version of the Singlepoint will be marketed in the future. It has a radioactive substance that makes the dot glow red in the daytime but green at night. This sight has been tested operationally in Vietnam with considerable success. The Singlepoint system offers many advantages to beginning and experienced shooters who will work with the sight to develop its potential.

After checking out the equipment, a combination of shooting positions, stances, and firing combinations were tried. The objective was to determine preliminary data for setting standards and courses of fire that would satisfy the criteria for reflexive rifle shooting. Ranges varied from 25 to 200 yards, with each distance creating its own particular challenges.

Since the very first shot is of greatest importance in this kind of marksmanship, single rounds were taken at 50 yards on combat pistol targets. Time for consistent scores of "5" (center zone) was just under one and a half seconds on the average. For the beginner, a 25 yard target range might be more realistic and will build confidence sooner for this kind of exercise. Bear in mind that the use of a manual stop watch has decided limitations for timing this kind of event. A special electronic counter is under construction that can measure accurately to plus or minus .005-second. This timer will start simultaneously with a visual or audio stimulus to the shooter while the muzzle blast stops the clock for single shots. Micro-switching will adapt the timer for manually clocking multiple shot strings.

(Continued on page 72)

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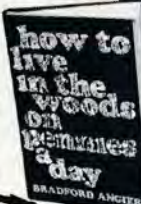
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(Continued on page 74)

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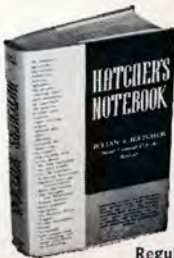
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$$\frac{\text{Score}}{\text{Time}} = \text{Performance Value}$$

integrates both speed and accuracy factors. To illustrate, take the following three actual shooting sets with score and time to obtain the relative performance value for this shooter.

	Time	5's	3's	0's
1.	3.2	4	—	—
2.	4.1	3	1	—
3.	3.1	2	2	—
	10.4	9	3	0

$$\frac{\text{Score}}{\text{Time}} = \frac{(9 \times 5) + (3 \times 3)}{10.4} = \frac{54}{10.4}$$

$$= 5.19^* \times 100 = 519$$

*Calculate to 3 decimals, then round to 2 decimals.

Notice what might happen if time is increased slightly and all targets are cleaned:

	Time	5's	3's	0's
1.	4.2	4	—	—
2.	4.5	4	—	—
3.	4.6	4	—	—
	13.3	12	0	0

$$\frac{\text{Score}}{\text{Time}} = \frac{60}{13.3} = 4.51 \times 100 = 451$$

See what happens when the time is reduced and some misses appear.

	Time	5's	3's	0's
1.	2.8	1	—	1
2.	3.6	1	2	—
3.	2.9	—	3	1
	9.3	2	5	3

$$\frac{\text{Score}}{\text{Time}} = \frac{25}{9.3} = 2.69 \times 100 = 269$$

These examples clearly illustrate the pressure for overall shooting performance in terms of speed and accuracy. Whether shooters are classified

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by skill or type of rifle and sights, the challenge remains the same. Each shooter has to compromise on his individual shooting techniques in order to parlay the highest number of hits in the shortest time. The incentives are great for improvement, since at a given skill level, these dual performance factors work to defeat each other.

Admittedly, these are merely the beginnings of an attempt to work up a shooting game that has broad appeal and that will foster the development of practical shooting skills. The equip-

ment can vary considerably from .22 rim fire rifles all the way up to the heaviest hunting calibers. Targets can be stationary, moving, or pop-up. There can be an infinite number of safe and interesting variations on the set-ups, but the basic hits-against-time orientation is the same.

Readers are left with a wide latitude of possibilities. I'll enjoy hearing from shooters who create their own versions of reflexive rifle shooting and, provided there is enough interest, further developments will be reported on in the future.



PIROTTE AND PURDEY

(Continued from page 33)

eager to see the work he had done.

David brought out my gun. He had inlaid the receiver and roughly outlined the grip, but the remainder of the blank was nearly untouched. He watched intently as I shouldered the gun. He then had me try several guns he had finished. I would use the gun for bird hunting, and had originally requested a rather high comb. He decided on a drop of $1\frac{3}{8}$ " at comb and $1\frac{1}{16}$ " at heel with a pull of $14\frac{3}{8}$ ". I never liked a gun with cast, so requested none. He determined a pitch of 3" to be correct. The pistol grip was a problem, for the tangs were extremely long, and a full pistol grip would have required extensive reworking. He could, however, manage a half-pistol grip. He suggested I look at several stocks he had completed to choose the form I liked, which I gladly did. While I'll probably never own one, I spent a few pleasant moments shouldering Merckels, Krieghoffs, Purdey's and Perrazi's. I finally decided on the lines I liked after as much handling as I dared! Finally, I asked for a plain buttplate rather than a recoil pad.

Three more months passed before David called again. I've completed your gun except for the finish and checkering. If you would like to try it, I'll be glad to change the dimensions if you find you don't like them."

My first round of skeet proved David's eye for fitting, as I broke a 22, then 24. While I am a Class A shooter, I have to work for every target. That day, however, the birds seemed to float along lazily. I'm sure that the exhilaration of using a "new" gun helped, but there was an almost eerie smoothness as I swung on each bird. To be sure, my shoulder knew it wasn't my M12 when I finished.

Four months passed before David returned the finished gun. (While

David is a perfectionist, not all this time was necessary to finish the stock. After several years of trying to work with Illinois and Chicago gun laws, David was literally forced to move to a more amenable business climate. During this time he moved his complete shop to 3442 South Post Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46239.)

The final product shows the skill and care he took on the work, even on my moderate budget. Distinctly Purdey-influenced, the result is chaste, yet elegant. To install the half-pistol grip, the tangs were bent to radius, cut, and reblued. The inletting is flawless, the checkering superb. Those double border lines were done to match the forearm pattern, not to hide any non-existent runovers. He refinished the forearm to match the stock finish. The grip cap and buttstock are plain, but set off the hand-rubbed oil finish handsomely.

Just what did this top-quality work cost? Including the wood, the total came to \$218.00. Considering the care, effort, and personal attention, this is surprisingly moderate. Himself intrigued by the absence of a maker's name on what he considered to be a finely made arm, he completely disassembled the gun. In the forearm he found a crack, which he repaired. Under the lower tang he found the inscription "Pirotte & Fils". Satisfied, he cleaned and oiled the action before assembling.

The finished gun is a firearm anyone would be proud to own, and I feel one on which Purdey's of London would even stamp their approval. When the Belgian Embassy answers my letter requesting information on the maker, perhaps I'll know more of the gun's history. Until then, I'll continue to call it my Pirotte and Purdey double!



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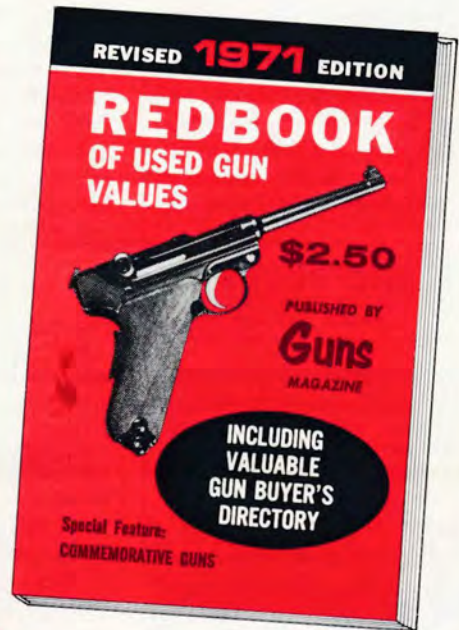
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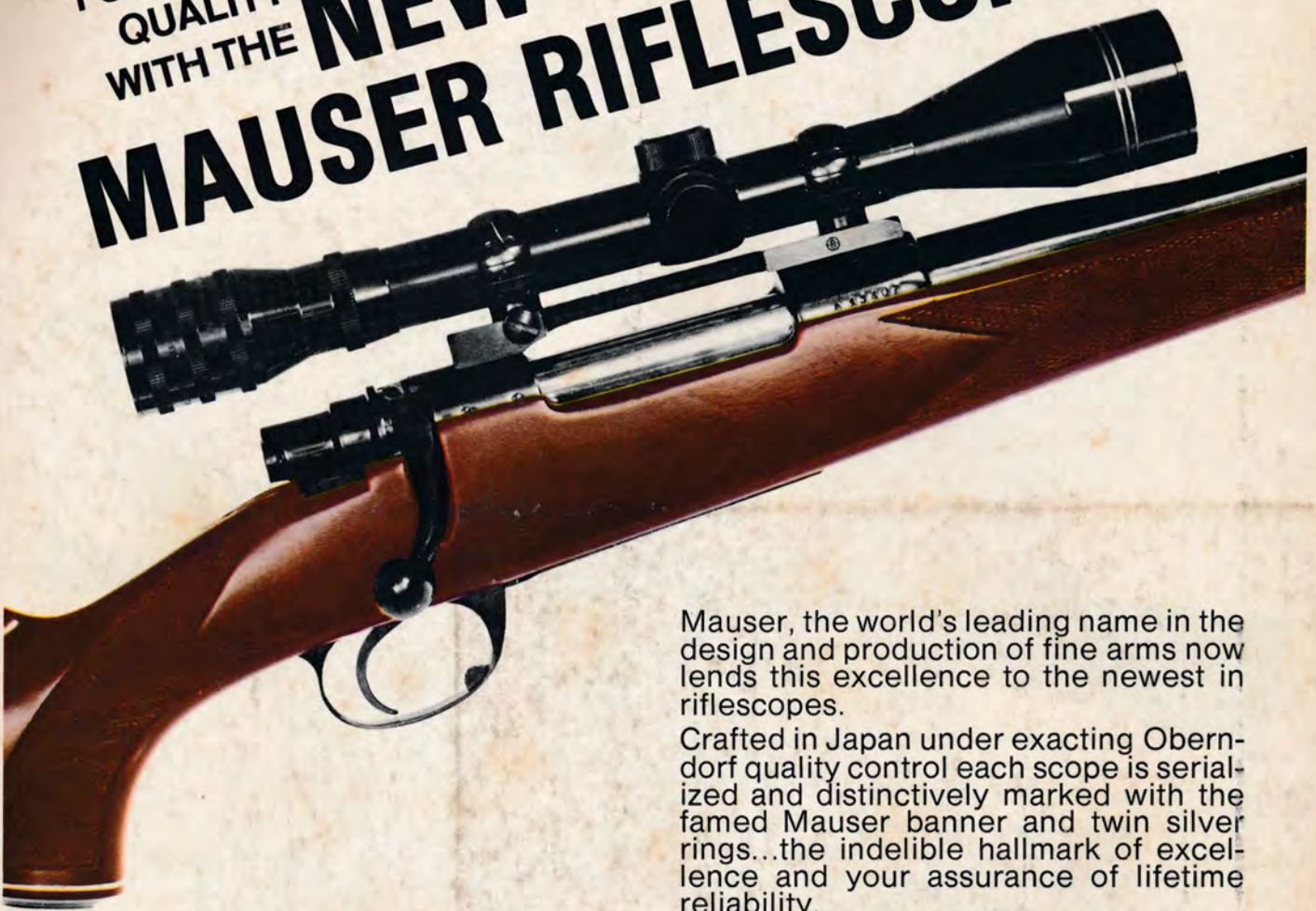
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