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SEPT. 23,
1972

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A New Look at
GUN TRADING

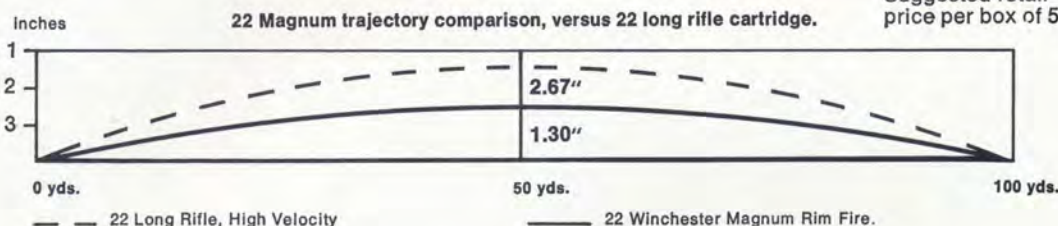
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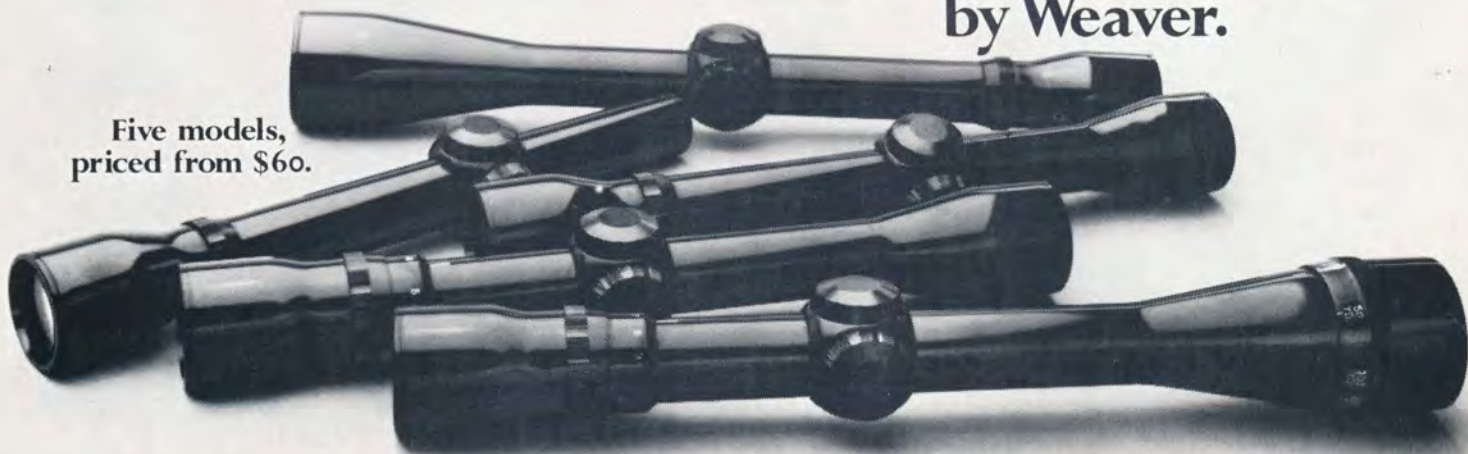
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NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY

ORGANIZATIONS throughout the country are working toward congressional recognition of September 23, 1972 as National Hunting and Fishing Day. It's about time that the sportsmen of America were given something beside a hard time. Details on how you can help will be published in the next issue of GUNS Magazine.

• • •

There are a couple of names in the news as this is written. One is Jim Carmichel, who had been writing our very popular "Do-It-Yourself" gunsmithing articles. Jim has just become firearms editor for Outdoor Life, filling the boots of Jack O'Connor. Our congratulations to Jim, and the best of luck on his new assignment.

The other name is that of Pete Kuhlhoff, arms writer for Argosy Magazine. Pete passed away in February, and his personality and writings will be missed by shooters all over the country. We have never had the privilege of publishing any of Kuhlhoff's work, but I am sure that our readers have followed his down-to-earth shooting advice in Argosy and other magazines.

• • •

I suppose all of you read about the Cambodian troops who expended thousands of rounds of ammo shooting at the "monster" who was gobbling up the moon during the recent eclipse. The commander of the Cambodian Army said that the fusillade—which lit up the sky over Phnom Penh with tracer bullets—took 2 lives and wounded 85 persons. I don't know what kind of ammo they were using, but you have to admit that it worked—the monster did stop eating up the moon!

THE COVER

Another fantastic photograph by Gerry Swart of Evanston, Ill. This Sako Vixen, chambered for the Russ 7.62x39 is reported on, beginning on page 21. The scope is a 3x9 variable by Universal Firearms, and the mount is the classic two-piece by Conetrol of Seguin, Texas. We have had some fine outfits to shoot, but this must be classed as one of the best.

MAY, 1972

Vol. XVIII, No. 05-2

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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GUNS • MAY 1972



News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

HELP S.C.A. TO DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION

I just came back from Brazil where a few friends and myself had gone to photograph jaguars. It gave me a chance to try my new Nikon 1200mm. I had the time of my life. It's been ten years since I last visited Brazil. The changes during that short time were amazing. One small point about Brazil did give me food for thought. Brazil is governed by a semi military dictatorship. So you might ask "What's so unusual about that?" The point is, absolutely nothing about a military dictatorship is unusual. In my lifetime there have been hundreds all over the world. They're as common as flies on a dogs back.

America is one of the few Nations in the 20th century that has never been under dictatorship. Most other countries have had at least one, Japan, France, China, Germany, Russia, Italy, Spain etc. etc. It's nice to believe Americans are God's chosen children and can do no wrong. But that is not true. The men who founded America were fantastically smart. They set up a system of checks and balances. Based on the assumption each branch of Government would be power hungry for itself, but put together they would balance the whole system. It has worked for almost 200 years. If we keep it going it might work for another 200 years.

So what does all this have to do with dictatorship, the United States and my favorite subject, anti-firearms control? The point is this, the police and military are now a big branch of the Government. Although it is seldom brought up because of its touchiness, there is no God given rule to stop a partial police or military takeover of some more civilian rights. There are a lot of senior officers and police officers who believe "What's good for the officer corps and the Pentagon is good for America," and "What's good for the FBI and police is good for America." They are 100% loyal to what they believe is the real America, but the danger is from misguided loyalty rather than an open desire to suppress right. This does not make the problem any less real. Most of the military and police dictatorships of the world were run by people who honestly believed that they were doing what was best for their people.

Our Founding Fathers did not trust the idea of a professional Army or National police force. That is why they made the possession of firearms a Constitutional right. And why they set up a system of hundreds of small local police forces rather than a National police force like the FBI and Firearms Division would like to become. Your right to have a firearm in your home is both within the letter

and spirit of the law. Anyone who is loyal to the Constitution must defend the right of every honest citizen to own a firearm. Our right to own firearms needs more protection rather than less. When the Constitution was signed the art of warfare was different. Civilian populations armed with hunting rifles and pitch forks were an even match for a professional Army or police force which had little more in the way of weapons. In terms of firepower the civilians with a greater number of men could end up with more firepower than the Army or police. Our Founding Fathers knew this and that is why they made the ownership of firearms a right. It was intended as the final protection of the people by the people.

Today the old system has almost been destroyed. Just one modern Army division with tank and air support has enough firepower to equal all the deer rifles and shotguns in America. So the Constitutional balance of power between the Army and police versus the people is almost destroyed. The only advantage our civilian population has left is its wide spread diversity which makes guerilla tactics effective and the fact that they still have a few firearms in their possession. You take those few firearms away and the civilians have absolutely nothing.

When you plan for the future you must analyze both your failures AND your successes. You cannot take success for granted. You must see what you did right and keep doing it. It is a fact that our Founding Fathers wanted a strong armed civilian population as protection for the civilian rights. It is a fact that this system has worked for almost 200 years. It is a fact that this balance is now seriously weakened. And it is a fact that when part of our system should be strengthened with more rights for civilians it is in effect being weakened even more by the forces supporting anti-firearms laws. As a former military man I believe it would be a big mistake to have all firearms in the hands of the Army, the FBI, CIA, and police.

The SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA wants to preserve the Constitution in both its letter and spirit. The right of civilians to own firearms was specifically put in the Bill of Rights for a specific purpose. At this time in our National History we must be concerned about increasing that right rather than having it decreased even more. Help us to defend the Constitution. Fill out the postage paid envelope opposite this page and send it today.

Col. Edward Becker

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By C. GEORGE CHARLES

AS THIS is written, the annual NSGA (National Sporting Goods Association) trade show is only a couple weeks away—and all the handloading products new for the coming year will be displayed there. Actually, we are a little ahead of the game. We've already seen a couple of items you'll find interesting.

One from C-H Die Company appeals especially to me since it fits in with my own preferred technique of handloading high-performance ammunition for autoloading handguns. This is a bullet- and case-canneluring tool of heavy machined steel construction. The tool is assembled on a heavy vertical steel plate. The plate is drilled for screw-mounting on the edge of your bench, or it may be clamped in a bench vise. Either way works fine—or, in an emergency, C-clamp it to any handy solid support. In use, mark the cannellure location on the case, then adjust the stop screw to align the mark under the tool's serrated wheel; bring the wheel down firmly against the case; hold it there, increasing pressure gradually, while turning the crank, until the desired depth of cannellure is produced. Too much pressure will crumple the case, so it's necessary to develop the right feel for the job. The same procedure may be used to cannellure straight rifle cases such as the .45-70 and .38-55.

The tool works just as well in cannelluring bullets, be they jacketed or lead. In reality, C-H developed this tool to roll cannellures in long-jacketed handgun bullets made in its new dies. These dies produce a bullet whose jacket extends sufficiently far over the ogive to prevent the slugging and leading common to half-jacket designs when driven by heavy powder charges. Everyone knows leading destroys accuracy.

These dies are fairly conventional in design, their outstanding feature being their relatively low cost. Previously dies for this type bullet have been priced at two or three times the

cost of half-jacket dies. Somehow C-H has gotten the price down to their relatively low cost.

The die body is one-piece, fitted with a captive ejector rod whose diameter matches that of the flat on the bullet nose. The ejector has about a one-inch stroke to insure positive ejection of the completed bullet. A sharp rap with the heel of your hand will eject some bullets, but a plastic mallet is a great convenience. The body, with ejector assembled, is screwed into any standard 7/8x14-thread loading press; then the flat-face base punch is assembled to the tool's shell holder just like a standard shell holder head. The die is then adjusted for bullet length and weight by screwing the body in or out of the press. Nothing to it.

• • •

You 9mm aficionados who have had trouble getting your handloads to fit in the M39 Smith & Wesson can now obtain a new barrel that might solve your problems. Beginning with 39-2 guns early in the 150,000 series, the feed ramp has been changed. All guns after that have a straight-cut ramp which improves feeding with short, blunt, and semi-wadcutter bullets. If this appeals more to you than a gunsmithing job, order a new barrel—but be sure and specify the new feed ramp. The barrel is easily replaced by anyone who can field strip the gun.

We get a fair number of queries from people who want to know if Canadian 9mm P. ammunition headstamped '43 and '44 is *really* non-corrosive. Doubt arises because it is generally believed that all WWII ammunition was corrosive-primed. Generally, it was, but that C.I.L. 9mm stuff loaded for the Canadian government was assembled with *non-corrosive* small pistol primers. It is an exception to the rule, as is all U.S. military 9mm loaded by Winchester, and all commercial pistol ammunition loaded on military contracts during that same period. And, while we're on the subject, *all* U.S. .30 Carbine ammo ever

loaded contains non-corrosive primers.

• • •

A letter from Firearms International Corporation advises us that it no longer handles *any* ammunition and cannot supply the 7.62x39mm Soviet M43 cartridge as we had previously reported here. This leaves only Interarms as a source of Berdan-primed military ammunition, and George Spence (Steele, Mo.) for custom-loaded hunting ammunition. If anyone knows of another source, let me know so the information can be passed along.

• • •

Rimless cartridge cases sometimes offer priming problems. The trouble lies in soft or weak rims, undersize primer pockets, or oversize primers—or any combination thereof. Since cases are normally held by their rims, primer seating pressure bends the rim rearward. If the priming tool has a positive stop, this leaves the primer protruding somewhat—and if no stop is present, the rim is bent so far as to be seriously weakened, and perhaps far enough to cause difficulties in chambering.

The solution? After being bent, rims will be straightened by firing, but will bend again—perhaps even more easily—on the next priming. Cases can be reprimed in a Lee Loader in which cases are forced over the primer by a punch bearing on the inside of the head, thus eliminating rim stress. Probably the best, though, is to size the primer pockets with any swaging tool which *does not* support the case on its rim. RCBS makes an excellent tool of this type for use in a loading press, and C-H makes a hand-type tool that works very well. Once resized in this fashion, the pockets should accept any standard primer without excessive seating pressure. If not, try another make or another lot of primers.

• • •

Over the years I have advocated annealing case necks by immersing in molten lead, dipping cases in oil first to prevent lead from adhering to the brass. Bob Milek, a fine writer and no slouch at handloading, tells me dipping the case in powdered graphite works just as well with far less mess, stink, and smoke. It also eliminates the need for degreasing after annealing. There is always more to learn.

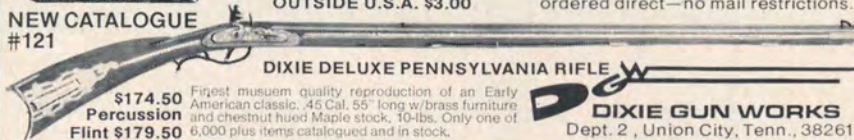


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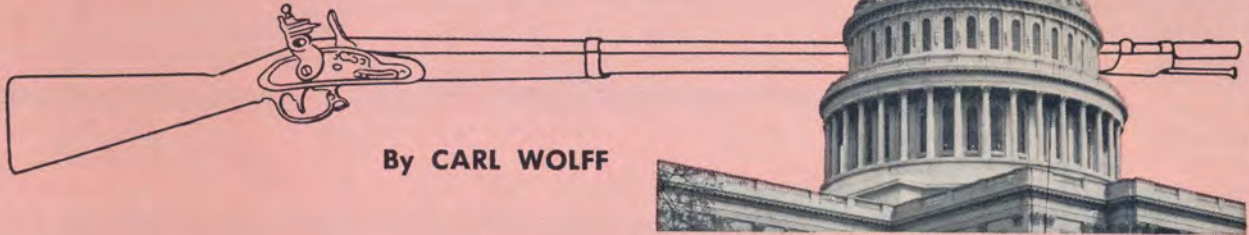
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

That part of the 1968 Gun Control Act which punishes convicted felons for the possession of firearms has been shot down by the Supreme Court of the United States. As things now stand, a convicted felon can be punished under federal law for receiving, transporting or buying a firearm, but not for possession.

The case, the United States v. Deneth Bass, sets policy which all federal courts must follow. Bass was convicted in the Southern District of New York of possessing firearms in violation of the Gun Control Act, Title VII: "Any person who (1) has been convicted by a court of the United States or a State or any political subdivision thereof of a felony . . . and who receives, possesses, or transports in interstate commerce of affecting commerce . . . any firearm shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both."

The evidence showed that Bass, who previously had been convicted of a felony in New York State, possessed on separate occasions a pistol and then a shotgun. There was no allegation in the case before the Supreme Court that Bass has transported or purchased the firearm involved in commerce or affecting commerce. The Justice Department proceeded on the assumption that the 1968 Gun Control Act banned all possessions and receipts of firearms by convicted felons, and that no direct connection with interstate commerce had to be demonstrated. Lawyers for Bass had charged that the statute did not reach possession of a firearm not shown to have been in commerce or affecting commerce, and that, if it did,

Congress had overstepped its constitutional powers under the Commerce Clause.

In reviewing the case the Supreme Court went to the legislative history of the law. On the Senate floor, Senator Long, who introduced the "possession amendment" described various evils which prompted his statute. These evils included assassinations of public figures and threats to the operations of businesses significant enough in the aggregate to "affect commerce." "Such evils," noted the court, "would be most thoroughly mitigated by forbidding every possession of any firearm by specified classes of especially risky people, regardless of whether the gun was possessed, received, or transported in commerce or affecting commerce."

"In addition," held the court, "specific remarks of the Senator can be read to state that the amendment reaches the mere possession of guns without any showing of an interstate commerce nature." But Senator Long never specifically says that no connection with commerce need be shown in the individual case, according to the court. Nothing in his statements explains why, if an interstate commerce nature is irrelevant in individual cases, the phrase "in commerce or affecting commerce" is in the statute at all.

The court held, even if Senator Long's remarks were crystal clear to the Court, they were apparently not crystal clear to his Congressional Colleagues. "Meager as the discussion of Title VII was, one of the few Congressmen who (Continued on page 55)

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STEVENSON on Hand Guns

AUTOPISTOL CONTROLS Part III

FROM TIME to time, you will see a revolver with a manual safety lever or catch. Smith & Wesson ran a batch of M & P's through for the French police a few years ago with a safety latch on the right side of the frame. Webley pocket revolvers are still made with a safety lever as semi-standard equipment. The big "Reischs-revolver," the first sidearm of Bismark's new Germany, had a monumental safety on the left of the frame. Such a device on a revolver is an abomination, and you may be sure that in each instance it was put on to satisfy the qualms of some nit-minded bureaucrat.

On a single action revolver the

hammer must be eared back to full cock for each shot; once cocked the gun is either fired or the hammer is let back down. Since the hammer on an s.a. revolver is well placed for quick cocking on the way out of the holster, a cocked-and-locked carry would offer little or no advantage in terms of speed. But this is somewhat beside the point, since most manual safeties on revolvers do not permit cocked-and-locked carry, but rather block the uncocked hammer down; the only function they perform is an entirely unnecessary one.

A double action revolver requires about twelve pounds of muscle on the trigger to set it off. Here a safety



The .25 caliber CZ45 is double action only. It has no external safeties, which is fine if indeed not ideal on a gun its size.

would be a nuisance and an encumbrance without adding a scintilla of security. This same logic is carried over to d.a.-only automatics, such as the Czech Models 38 and 45, and the French Le Français series in .25, .32, and 9mm, all of which are bereft of external safeties. Since the trigger, like that on a d.a. revolver, has to be hauled through a half-inch course under ten or twelve pounds of pressure to fire each shot, an external safety would here, as well, be entirely superfluous.

For other semi-autos, a manual safety is an eminently worthwhile device. The Tokarev is the only pistol immediately coming to mind which lacks one, although a few selfloaders, such as the Frommer Stop, have a grip safety but no thumb safety.

The d.a.-only pistols aside, it is safe to say that autoloaders are either single action for all shots, or double action for the first shot and single action thereafter. It is these latter which we shall henceforth refer to as "double actions."



The Luger's sear pivots laterally; the safety blocks it so it can't swing out and release the striker.

Automatics of whichever type may be either hammer-fired or striker-fired. In the case of hammer-fired pistols, the sear releases the cocked hammer to fall and strike the firing pin, which is housed in a tunnel in the slide or bolt. The firing pin in flung forward by the impact of the hammer to strike the primer of the chambered cartridge, thus causing it to discharge.

Striker-fired pistols have no hammer. The striker is, in effect, a firing pin which is backed up by a very powerful spring. The sear engages a step or lug on the striker itself to hold it at full cock, and releases it to fly forward under pressure of its spring to fire the chambered cartridge.

The typical hammer-fired pistol is discharged by the following sequence of operations: The shooter presses the trigger and the trigger in turn forces the trigger bar to the rear. The trig-

(Continued on page 12)

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ger bar is a metallic arm which passes around the side (or sides) of the magazine well, to the back of the gun where the sear, hammer, and main-spring are housed. The rear end of the trigger bar abuts or is coupled to the sear, and rocks it out of the hammer full-cock notch, thus freeing the hammer to fall and strike the firing



This Beretta 951 is cut away to show: trigger, with return spring tensioning trigger bar up; trigger bar passing beside the magazine, abutting the lower end of the sear; nose (top end) of sear in hammer notch, holding hammer at full cock; firing pin in slide. The vertical white bar is the disconnector.

pin.

In some guns, pressure on a pivoted trigger pulls the trigger bar forward, bringing with it the sear, and thereby releasing the hammer to fall and strike the firing pin. In striker-fired pistols, the sequence of operations is similar: trigger pressure is transferred via a trigger bar or lever of some sort to the sear, which releases the striker to fly forward from the full-cock position.

Double action mechanisms may be set up in half a dozen or more different fashions. Most commonly the trigger is pivoted, and, when pulled, hauls the trigger bar (called "drawbar" in d.a. pistols) forward. A sear face on the far end of the drawbar engages a notch on the lower periphery of the hammer, below the hammer axis pin. When the drawbar is pulled forward, the hammer is rocked back and then released as the sear surfaces pass out of engagement. About the time the hammer trips free, the drawbar is far enough forward to rock a separate, frame-mounted single action sear forward, out of the path of the falling hammer. After the cartridge fires, the recoiling slide cams the drawbar downward—"disconnects" it, we say—thus freeing the s.a. sear to catch the hammer and hold it at full cock.

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The second and succeeding shots are fired by a short squeeze on the trigger—just enough for the drawbar to rock the s.a. sear out of the hammer full cock notch.

This tedious, though mercifully brief, description of automatic pistol mechanisms was necessary because, unless you are familiar, at least to this extent, with the movements and function of each part, you haven't much chance of understanding how the safeties work.

The pistol may be rendered safe by immobilizing the action at any point between trigger and firing pin. Indeed, one could put a hinged cover over the trigger guard and legitimately call it a safety; it would block the finger. A thin metal plate could be attached to a gun such as the Le Français or the Beretta Mle 950, which have no extractor, in such a fashion that it swung down between the breechface of the slide and the base of the chambered cartridge to block the firing pin from reaching the primer. This too would be a safety. These ideas I offer gratis to enterprising designers, for worse things have been done before.



This elementary safety is a sliding wedge on the trigger guard, which blocks the trigger like a door jamb.

The parts most commonly blocked by safeties on semi-auto pistols are: the trigger, the trigger bar, the sear, the hammer, and the firing pin or striker. There are not many other possibilities, though it would be feasible on a gun such as the .45 Auto, which employs the disconnecter as an intermediary between the trigger bar and the sear, to couple a safety to the disconnecter which would disengage it while the safety is "on." This would be no more unconventional, say, than the Schwarzlose Model 1908 blow-forward, the grip safety of which both blocked the trigger and relaxed the mainspring tension.

Let us follow along this trail of bits and pieces and cite examples of common autopistols whose safeties immobilize each part.

There are a host of tiny pocket automatics with trigger-block safeties,

perhaps because the trigger is a fairly simple part to block, and perhaps also because the thumb winds up way forward on such a small gun, and for convenience's sake, the safety needs to be mounted as far up front as possible. Unfortunately these well-intentioned efforts usually come to naught, for the safeties on such pistols are usually too tiny to be disengaged handily. One of the best-known pistols with a trigger-block safety is a larger one, the 1934 Beretta. Here the thumb-lever is of ample size, but abysmally inconvenient, since it takes 180° of movement in a clockwise direction (down and forward) to go from "safe" to "fire" positions, and most of this travel is out of reach of the thumb. This is an example of trying to agglomerate too many functions into a single part, for the Beretta safety also serves to lock the slide back and to release the barrel for disassembly. The result is a simple, robust, and impractical design.

Safeties which block the trigger bar are infrequently encountered, and their rarity is probably due to two reasons. First, and probably of lesser consequence, is the fact that there is often a bit of lateral slop between trigger bar and frame. Unless machining tolerances were held to a minimum, or the safety engagement were fairly broad, there might be a chance that the trigger bar could work its way sideways far enough to override the safety. More important is the fact that if the gun has a decent trigger pull, the sear-hammer notch engagement is a shallow one, and it is much more desirable to have the safety back blocking the sear or hammer, than to risk the hammer's being bounced off the sear and causing an accidental discharge, even though the trigger bar is still stonewalled. This is a major reason why pocket pistols with trigger block safeties have such horrid trigger pulls: a deep sear engagement is necessary for safety's sake.

Grip safeties, such as that on the 1911 Colt, very often block the trigger bar, but they are intended merely as a supplement to the thumb safety. The SIG P210 (SP47/8) is the foremost autoloader using a safety which blocks the trigger bar, and I have no quarrel whatsoever with this arrangement. The trigger bar is a stirrup type which passes around both sides of the magazine well, and the machining is incredibly tight; there is no sideways. The sear, moreover, is rigged for a two-stage pull, giving both a marvelous letoff and an enormous engagement with the hammer notch. If the thumblever of the SIG safety were extended rearward a bit, and were it



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smoothed over to work more freely, this arrangement would be unbeatable.

The safeties on most service-type single action semi-autos block the sear into the hammer notch, and star billing here of course must be given to the 1911 Colt. Large and medium frame Berettas were redesigned in 1969 to incorporate a Colt-type sear block in place of the previous cross-bolt safeties. The advantage of sear-block safeties is that they generally lie very handily under the thumb. Mechanically, they are a bit touchy



The Spanish Stars have a safety which blocks the hammer at full cock, lifting it off the sear. An excellent system borrowed from the Steyr-Hayn.

since the engagement which they protect is so very slight: the depth of the hammer notch in fact.

A much better a notion is to block the hammer itself. A safety which does so usually rocks the hammer back off of the sear when applied, and lowers it back onto it when released. The Model 1911-12 Steyr was perhaps the first gun to use this arrangement, and most of the Spanish Stars as well as the Beretta Model 90 do so today. This is a very good system, although I do not care for the paltry dimensions of the thumblever on the Beretta. The Stars are a very good job indeed. They probably have the best safeties currently made.

A safety which blocks the trigger, trigger bar, sear or hammer is usually mounted on the frame of the pistol, and most commonly on the left side where it is intended to be convenient to the thumb of a right-handed shooter, although this too rarely works out in practice.

If the safety is mounted on the slide, it almost invariably blocks the firing pin, either from moving forward when struck by the hammer, as on the P.38, or from being struck at all by the hammer, as on the H & K P9S. Generally a firing pin block safety which interposes a steel member be-

tween the hammer face and the rear end of the firing pin, will also engage a lug on the firing pin shaft at the same time to hold it fully rearward no matter what may happen. Such is the case, for instance, with the PP, PPK, and S & W M39.



The thumb safety on the 1911 blocks the sear into the hammer full-cock notch. The grip safety blocks the trigger bar forward.

Probably the first pistols to use this type of safety were the early Mannlichers of 1900, 1901, etc. Today we find slide-mounted firing pin block safeties on the French Models MAS 1935 A and S, and MAC 50; on the Astra Constable, the Russian Makarov, the Galesi "Hijo Militar," the Turkish Kirikkale, the Hungarian Walam 48 and AP66, the Walther TPH, as well as on the Walther, Smith & Wesson, and Heckler & Koch pistols previously mentioned. They were also used on a profusion of early Star autoloaders, of which the Model I and the Type 1919 are examples.



The Walther PPK (this example was made at Manurhin in France) has a slide-mounted safety which both interposes itself between the hammer and the firing pin, and blocks the firing pin back where some of the impact is transferred to the pin. It is a very positive system and is found in most d.a. pistols and some s.a.'s.

The Mauser HSc has a slide-mounted safety which is somewhat

unusual in that it cams the rear end of the firing pin into a protected position, so that if the hammer falls, it will strike the back of the slide, but not the firing pin.

The safety is such a vital part of the selfloader, with so much depending on it, that it is surprising how few hand-gunners have even the remotest notion of how it works. One would be well advised to study it carefully, for while some are worthy of near-total confidence, others are not to be trusted. It is better not to use a safety than to bet a life on one that merits no faith.



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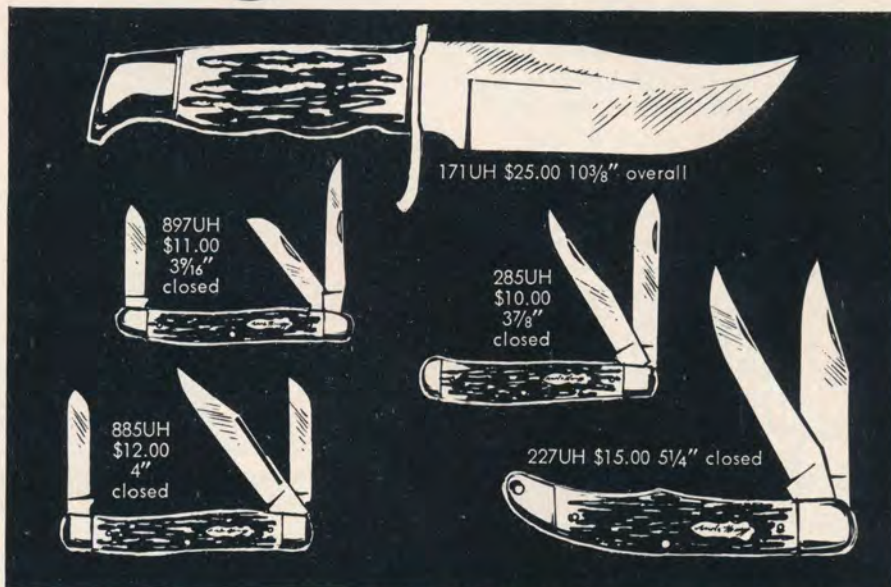
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POINT BLANK



By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

In any discussion of entrancing old cartridges now beginning to fade from the scene it is always heartening to observe that some of those which had been reckoned as ready for internment are staging a comeback. The .45-70 Gov't is one of these. The decision of Harrington & Richardson to make a spittin' image copy of the old Model 1873 Springfield, the "trap-door" government gun, has given the obsolete cartridge a new shot in the arm. Sturm, Ruger, makers of the excellent single shot rifle which they call the Number One, have decided to chamber for this cartridge. More recently the company has come along with still a second single shot. This one is made more cheaply than the original and it too, is chambered for the .45-70. Marlin, manufacturer of the Model 444 lever action rifle, is in process of adapting the action to the round. The .444 magnum is a better load in every way but with a fine sensitive ear to shooter demand, Bill Brophy, who calls the turn on things like that, has decided the .45-70 will sell well in the big rifle. It will probably be ready about the time of the national sporting goods show which is staged in Chicago during February. The new Colt-Sharps single shot rifle is chambered for a miscellany of our most popular calibers. While the .45-70 has not been mentioned you may be sure if it shows a revived interest the Colt brass will chamber for the load.

The .45-70 was developed by army ordnance almost a hundred years ago. It was the standard military cartridge until the .30-40 Krag was adopted in 1892. Most of the troops we committed during the Spanish-American War used the old black powder load, and it has often been written that the cartridge, in addition to its military upbringing, was a favorite of the buffalo runners. This isn't true. It lacked "oomph" for the stodgy bison. Those that were shot with it were few in-

deed. It was a popular number for all that and the Winchester Model 86 was long chambered for the round. So, too, were rifles like the Remington rolling block, Marlin, and Hotchkiss.

The army experimented with a variety of bullet weights. These ranged from 70 grains of black powder and a pure lead bullet of 500 grains downward to slugs of 400 grains and even as light as 300 grains. The standard factory loading today is a jacketed soft point bullet of 405 grains. It is driven at 1320 fps MV and indicates 1570 ft. lbs. of muzzle energy. In rifles like the original Springfield breech pressures not to exceed 25,000 psi must be strictly observed. The new H&R rifle, a pretty faithful copy of the old trap-door model can be expected to exceed these pressures but only marginally. Not to more than 30,000 psi, certainly.

In rifles like the old Winchester Model 86, pressures up to 30,000 psi were quite safe. In rifles like the new Ruger Number One, and the second Ruger, a similar rifle but built somewhat less expensively, pressures up to 50,000 psi, with handloads can be realized. Too, if Colt decides to chamber its Sharps for the round, these pressures would not be excessive or dangerous. The Marlin Model 444, once it is ready for the .45-70 will be able to take handloads in the 40,000 psi range.

The rising popularity of this old timer is hampered by the lack of available cartridges. There is only the one and it is woefully underpowered. This because of the tired old Springfields which are still around. Obviously the answer is to reload for the .45-70. Again there are problems. Hornady is the only bullet maker offering any variety. He has a 300-grain, a 350-grain and a 500-grain bullet. Both Remington and Winchester have 500-grain slugs in soft point and full metal patch. Fortunately Lyman has a whole series of moulds for the .45 caliber and these offer bullets from a heavyweight of 545-grains

down to a slug of 292-grains. The older rifles like the original Springfield, the Remington rolling-block, and older Model 86 Winchesters were never intended for jacketed bullets. To prolong barrel life the logical thing is to cast bullets and stick to moderate powder loads.

In such rifles as the Ruger Number One and the Colt-Sharps, the .45-70 is only limited by the capacity of the case. Modern cases are plenty strong and the rifle will support the heaviest charges. The Hornady 300-grain can be loaded to 2400 fps MV with 52.5 grains #4227 and then gives 3900 ft. lbs. of energy. With the standard Remington 405 grain soft point, 57 grains 3031 powder will produce 1850 fps MV and 3175 ft. lbs. muzzle energy. With the 500-grain Winchester softpoint, 47.6 grains 4198 churns up 1800 fps MV and 3550 ft. lbs. muzzle swoosh. These are all very impressive results from an old cartridge which is supposed to be only a 100-yard deer killer.

The Marlin .444 magnum, by comparison, drives a 240-grain bullet at 2400 fps MV and delivers 3000 ft. lbs. of muzzle smash. The .444 round bears a lot of resemblance to the .45-70, appearing to be a take off on the original. An interesting thing is that despite its modernity, the old timer can be loaded considerably hotter. When Marlin first looked at the .45-70 with the idea of chambering their big lever action for it they found some unexpected problems. While the cartridges look a great deal alike the .45-70 has a bigger rim. It measures .608" while the .444 goes only .514". This necessitates alterations to the breechblock, the shell carrier, magazine, loading gate and the ejection port. As a matter of fact the amount of stock to be removed from the receiver to permit the ready loading of the big round and the equally easy ejection will leave only a thin strip of metal in the side of the receiver. This has caused some reservations on the part of Marlin engineers as to the advisability of chambering for the cartridge at all. Not that it will weaken the action. It will not. There is no strain on this part of the receiver at all. It is, I suspect, simply a matter of appearance. Marlin is somewhat fearful that some buyers may think the action has been unnecessarily cut away. Personally I hope they go ahead and make-up the Model 444 for the old cartridge. It has a vast amount of appeal to a lot of shooters, not necessarily the old timers, and it is a handloader's delight what with the possibilities of really loading up or down through a broad spectrum of bullet weights and powder charges.



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It's a Side-by-Side...

By CLAIR F. REES

TO THE American shooter, "Browning" has always been synonymous with "quality" in firearms—rifles, pistols and shotguns. Browning shotguns, in particular, have always been well regarded, as attested to by the more than 2 million square-stern Browning autoloaders in use today, and by the fact that the famed "Superposed" remains the standard by which other over/unders are judged.

What upland gunner hasn't dreamed of owning a Browning Superposed? Indeed, the only obstacle standing between most gunners and a Superposed is the \$440 beginning price tag.

To these nimrods, the announcement of a brand-new Browning double will come as particularly welcome news. For Browning has departed from their justly famed line of Belgium-made Superposeds to introduce their first side-by-side double. This gun is made by the internationally known Japanese firm of Miroku (as are the Browning BT-99 single-barreled trap gun and the BL-22 lever-action rimfire), and will retail for just over half the price of the Superposed. At \$234.50, I predict this new gun will be snapped up in record numbers.

When I first saw the new Browning double at the Browning corporate headquarters in Utah last December, I talked with Vice President Harmon Williams about the decision to market a new model.

"We've had an interest among our customers for some time for a side-by-side shotgun," he said. "We made the decision to go ahead with the gun three years ago. Our research and development division here designed the gun, coming up with the final design in

mid-1970. Then Miroku went to work on it, and the new model actually went into production last October."

"We wanted to hold costs down on this model," Mr. Williams continued, "and we were trying to come up with a quality double at a price to fit the average pocketbook. We think we've done it."

To hold manufacturing and distributing costs down, the new model (designated the "B-S/S") is presently available in a single "standard" version: 12 gauge, with selective automatic ejectors and a single *non-selective* trigger. The only options available to the shooter are choice of barrel length (26 or 28 inches) and choke combinations (modified/full or improved cylinder/modified). The gun is chambered for 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch shells only.

When my sample gun arrived, I first examined it carefully to see if it ap-

peared up to the usually high Browning standards. It did.

The wood on my sample had a pleasing grain that was enhanced (rather than hidden) by the glossy, hand-rubbed finish. This finish is glass-smooth to the touch and seemed to resist denting well (although I couldn't bear to give it a *real* test by intentionally damaging the wood).

Wood-to-metal fit, while not flawless, was very good indeed. The metal itself was deeply blued, and the receiver,



IT'S A BROWNING!

Browning's Japanese manufacturing company has produced another quality firearm for the American sportsman. The new side-by-side double is also within the budget of most everyone.

trigger guard and top lever carried a modest amount of simple, but well executed hand engraving.

The beavertail forend and buttstock were hand checkered. This, too, was well done. The checkering was done in a straightforward 20-line-per-inch pattern with no obvious runovers. Diamonds were mostly sharp and clean, with only a few flat tops at the edge of the pattern.

The full pistol grip stock had a length of pull of $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and had a drop at the comb and heel of $1\frac{5}{8}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches respectively, which should fit most American shooters nicely.

As I mentioned before, the B-S/S has selective ejectors that throw fired cases clear and lift unfired ones for easy removal. The trigger is of the mechanical variety that doesn't require recoil to set up the second barrel.

Unfortunately, the trigger is non-selective, firing the more open barrel first, followed by the more tightly choked tube. This arrangement is great for perhaps 90 percent of all upland shooting, as most shots are taken at birds flying away. However, it is handy to be able to fire the tighter barrel first



The stock of the Browning features a pleasing grain which has been enhanced by the glossy, hand-rubbed finish. The finish resists dents well.

for those long, crossing shots and for those occasional incoming high flyers.

To my mind, one of the primary reasons for owning a double is having the instant choice between the two different chokes available. I realize that

some custom features had to be sacrificed to keep the cost of the gun down, but for myself, I would have foregone the selective ejectors in favor of a good selective trigger arrangement. Or, lacking that, I would have preferred two



The shooter has a choice of purchasing the Browning side-by-side with either 26 or 28 inch barrels. Various choke combinations are also offered, but the gun is chambered for $2\frac{3}{4}$ inch shells only. The author points out that the wood-to-metal fit, while not flawless, was very good. Note the hand engraving on the receiver, lever and trigger guard.



The author's Browning had 28-inch barrels choked "full" and "modified" and tests with Remington factory shells loaded with $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces of No. 6 shot gave somewhat tight 65 percent patterns from the "modified" barrel and 78 percent from the "full"

triggers over the single "fixed selection" variety.

However, considering that the B-S/S is a modestly priced "field gun," this may be carping. The trigger "broke" crisply at a comfortable $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to fire each barrel. Incidentally, the trigger is chrome plated—a departure from the gold plating found on most other Browning scatterguns.

Since this gun is intended mainly for field use, the sliding tang safety operates automatically, locking in the "safe" position whenever the action is opened. This is another feature I could have done without, but this is strictly my personal opinion, as many shooters prefer automatic safeties on their hunting guns.

The action is of standard boxlock design, with two lugs on the underside of the breech fitting into mating recesses in the gun's receiver. One unusual feature I found is that the firing pin assemblies are set in screw-in metal plugs that can be removed through the face of the receiver. A special tool is needed for this, but replacement of firing pins (if ever needed) should be a cinch.

Sighting equipment is good: a raised straight rib, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide and nicely matted to prevent glare, topped by a single bead of German nickel silver.

As far as appearance is concerned, the B-S/S owes no apologies to anyone. But the final test of any gun is found in the way it handles in the field. So I took my sample to the claybird range for a try-out.



I first wanted to see how the gun would pattern. My sample had 28-inch barrels choked "full" and "modified," and tests with Remington factory shells loaded with $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces of no. 6 shot gave somewhat tight 65 percent patterns from the right "modified" barrel and 78 percent patterns from the full-choked tube.

With Federal field loads throwing $1\frac{1}{8}$ ounces of $7\frac{1}{2}$'s, the right barrel produced 58 percent spreads and the

left patterned at 65 percent. With both loads, patterns were even and well distributed.

Then I tried my hand at breaking some clay targets, and found that the B-S/S handles and points naturally. At $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds (a few ounces heavier than the advertised 7 pound, 5 ounce weight), the gun handles recoil well and has a solid between-the-hands feel. And while the gun is a little heavier than I usually (Continued on page 69)

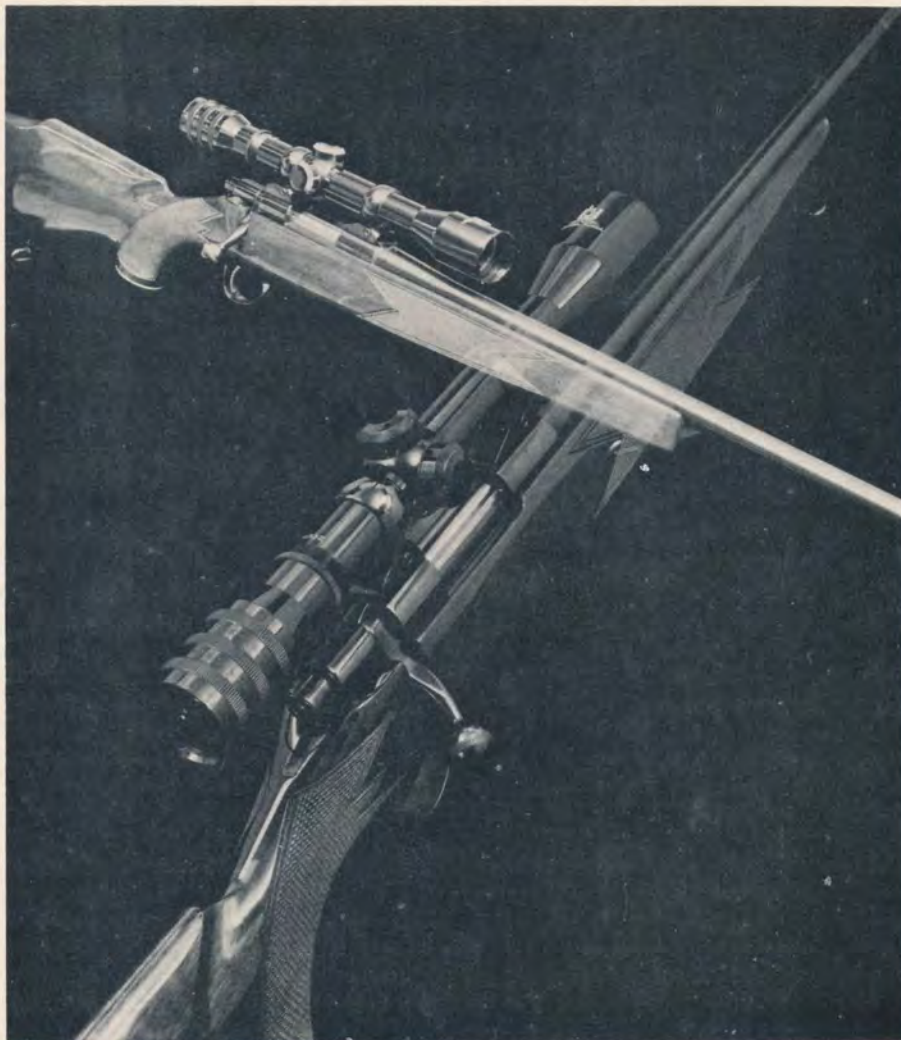
SAKO 7.62x39

FOR THE PAST several months, we have had an opportunity to get acquainted again with the excellent Sako rifle. This is one of the truly fine rifles available, and always a pleasure to shoot. Perhaps the highest praise comes from Frank de Haas in his new book "Bolt Action Rifles," (Digest Books, Northfield, Ill. \$6.95) where he says: "As for Sako actions, no other action available today is made any better."

The rifle we have had is the short action version called the "Vixen." Normally available in .222, .222 Magnum and .223, our rifle was one of the few chambered for the 7.62x39mm cartridge. Unfortunately, the rifle, in this chambering, is not available commercially at this time. These few were brought in to gather information on adaptability to the U.S. market.

Why the 7.62x39mm chambering? Let's take a look at this cartridge.

The then-new Soviet "intermediate" military 7.62mm cartridge made its service debut riding the tail-end of WWII in the Simonov SKS/45 semi-auto carbine. Known officially as 7.62 X 39mm M43, this round is often said to have been developed as a result of Soviet encounters in late '42 and '43 with the then-new 7.92mm Kurz in



The Sako "Vixen" rates as one of the finest rifles on today's market. Among its outstanding features is the incomparable Sako action.



Left, the new Soviet 7.62 X 39mm and the U.S. .223 (5.56mm).

GUNS • MAY 1972

the German MP-43 series burp guns.

That theory doesn't stand daylight, for the Soviet cartridge was *in being* at least as far back as 1943, possibly earlier, and available in a standardized loading in sufficient quantity for weapons testing. Considering that Simonov's SKS carbine was developed, produced, and in service by early 1945—and that all gun development took place *after* the cartridge became available—it is obvious the 7.62 X 39mm M43 had to be fully developed before Russian troops ever encountered the 7.92mm K in combat.

There are, in fact, indications that the Soviet round was developed from—or because of—experimental as-

sault-rifle cartridges the Russians encountered in Finland during the infamous "Winter War" well before Dunkirk.

In any event, the short (39mm case length) Soviet 7.62mm was the *first* of today's "intermediate" military rounds with performance falling midway between pistol and SMG cartridges and full-caliber rifle loads typical of WWII. It built the trend.

This has been an extremely successful military cartridge and is used in all modern rifles, assault rifles, and squad and platoon level automatic weapons throughout the Soviet Bloc. It has been estimated that well over

(Continued on page 70)

WATCH YOUR



By E. B. MANN

THE MAN whose wife doesn't understand him is no longer King of the Hardluck Mountain. The most misunderstood man in today's society is the shooter! And since shooters are being blamed nowadays for everything from the extinction of the passenger pigeon to the scarcity of sabertooth tigers, perhaps it's time we took a critical look at ourselves to see why they misunderstand us.

There's no question about the misunderstanding. With our Pitman-Robertson taxes, our licenses, our duck stamps, we pick up the tab for wildlife propagation and protection, and are

damned for its destruction. We pour a couple of billion bucks a year into the national business economy, and they call us free-loaders when we suggest that we should not be barred from public lands. We insist on bag limits and limited seasons, and are condemned as "butchers." We are a fairly lusty and bearded breed, yet some "moderns" sneer at us as men who adopt guns as "sex symbols" to offset our sexual inadequacy. And we just grin and bear it!

Maybe one of the reasons we're misunderstood is that we speak such an unintelligible language; unintelligible at least to people not afflicted by our special mania; unintelligible sometimes even to ourselves. We are as prone as

automotive buffs to our own collection of "scientific" words—ogive, drop, pitch, cant, "psi," "moa," "mv," and so on. But it goes much further than that; and the strangest part of it is that some of the words we insist on using, and some of the figures, just ain't the right words, and just ain't the right figures!

Hunters are blamed for the extermination of the buffalo—and that's *two* words mis-used. Those weren't hunters, they were hide-hunters, commercial hunters; and using the word "hunter" without one or the other of its proper limiters is a cruel libel against 20-odd million sportsmen. And those weren't "buffalo," either; they were bison.

We hunt "antelope" in an increasing

LANGUAGE!

number of areas on this continent—on which no true antelope ever was native! Those are pronghorns, one of the few animals truly and exclusively American and of which we should be proud. But by careless speaking we have made him one of many, which he isn't, instead of one of a kind, which he is—to the extent that now our dictionaries list him as a "pronghorn antelope"—a 50-50 mixture you would scorn in your martini!

Hunters confuse even themselves by misnaming species, by using the same word for different species, or many words for one specie. Time was in Florida when, if a man went "bird hunting," he was hunting bobwhite quail, none other. I asked a Floridian once, a long time ago, if he wouldn't also be hunting birds if he went shooting doves, or snipe. He said, "Hell, if I'd been huntin' *them*, I-da said so! I got my dogs, and they're bird dogs, ain't they? Yuh don't take dogs after dove, do yuh? Or snipe, either!"

But a quail may be a partridge ("patridge") in the local lingo of other sections; and a "patridge" may also be a grouse, or a woodcock—or even a partridge! Just as a cougar is a mountain lion is a panther ("painter") as you track him from the Rockies to the Everglades; and just as "rabbits" are likely to be not rabbits but hares, or vice versa.

Reminds me of the Eastern feller hunting deer in New Mexico. Coming down, weary and disconsolate, after a day in the high country, he saw a farmer's mule, and shot it. "Well," he said, "they told me we was hunting muleys, nearly as big as a horse, and that it was a doe season so I needn't look for horns, and that they had big ears and a white rump. How was I to know the damn mule had sat in an alkali mudhole?"

Or take the word "pistol." Everybody knows what a pistol is—except shooters! Those who don't know can look it up in the dictionary: "Pistol: A short firearm designed to be aimed and fired from one hand." That's a perfectly good definition. If you want to be more specific, you can say "tip-up pistol," or "single-shot pistol," or

"auto-loading pistol." Or if it's a revolver, say so. Webster gives us a perfectly good definition there, too: "Revolver: A firearm, commonly a pistol, with a cylinder of several chambers so arranged as to revolve on an axis and be discharged in succession by the same lock." Sam Colt himself couldn't say it better.

But a few itchily-erudite gun nuts got together and decided that dictionary-makers weren't gun nuts, so to hell with them, let's do it our way—and came up with a new, strictly for gun nuts definition, to wit: "Pistol: A short firearm designed to be aimed and fired from one hand, *and having only one firing chamber.*" This was downright contrary-to-civil-rights discrimination against the revolver, which, having more than one firing chamber, was no longer a pistol!

What those eggheads failed to consider apparently, was that they had wiped out the needed generic word

"Pistol," meaning *any* "short firearm designed to be aimed and fired from one hand"—and that another generic term would have to replace it. So they invented "handgun," a perfect monstrosity of a word, serving no purpose not formerly better served by "pistol," adding confusion to confusion and signifying nothing. (Should a rifle or shotgun therefore be called a "handsgun?" 'Twould be just as logical!)

But we are stuck with it. No gun nut now dares call a revolver a pistol (which it is) lest another gun nut say, "Look! This guy is no gun nut! Off with his head!"

"Automatic" is another word we gun nuts use, but don't mean. Even the firearms manufacturers, to say nothing of the military experts, mis-use it—as witness the "Colt Automatic Pistol" and its ".45 ACP" ammunition. Pistols that are called "automatics" are truly "semi-automatics" or "auto-loaders." So here, (Continued on page 72)



SHOOT OUT

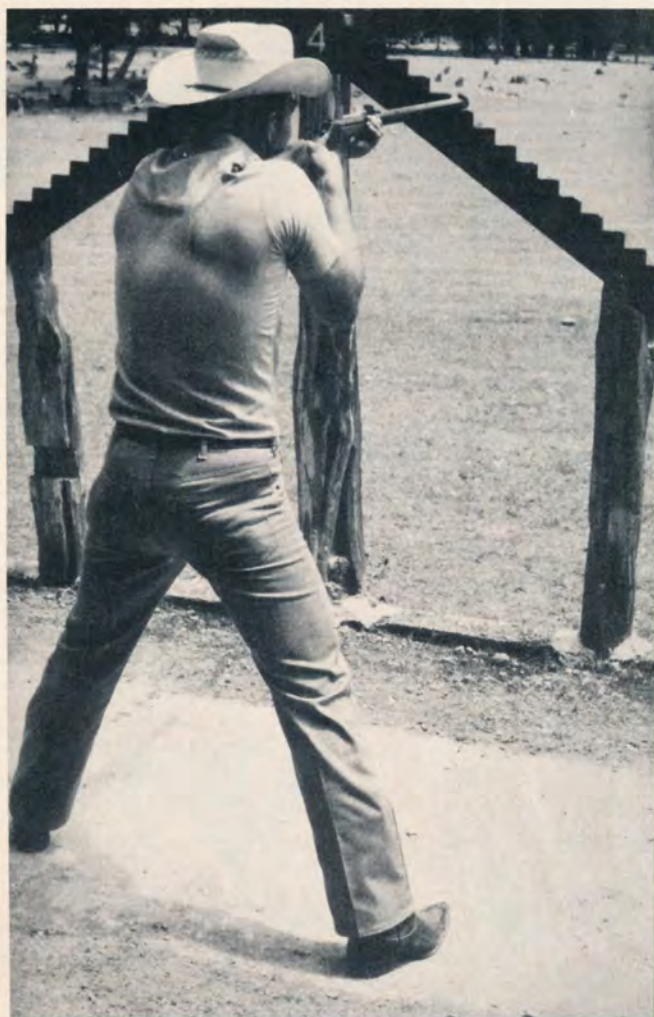
By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE MARKSMAN leaned nonchalantly on the rifle, but the firearm was of more interest than the gunner. The latter was a typical country Texan, tall with a wind-scarred face, blistered lips, a big hat and the inevitable high-heeled boots. He was decidedly mill-run, but his rifle was something else. It was unlike any ever seen in the hands of a cowboy. A single-shot, high sidewall Winchester. I noted, with the long disappeared Winchester set trigger, the stock was a venerable Schuetzen type with a buttplate of the

conventional crescent shape but with a pronounced upper tang and no lower one. The barrel was the most compelling part of the assembly. It was 31½ feet in length!

Looking about, I saw dozens of similar shooting irons in the hands of Texans who all ran more or less to type. There were youngsters and oldsters and all with this fantastically elongated ordnance. Some of the six-footers could just look over the muzzle of the rifle with the pronged buttplate resting between their boots. The rifles, I concluded would average not less than 14 pounds in weight and many of them were 51½ feet in length.

All were single-shot and among them were ancient Winchesters, Ballards, Stevens, Remington, and a single '98 Mauser. There were modern rifles, too. The Model 70 Winchester and the Remington 700, but I saw no Ruger



The shooter faces the target, spreads his feet, leans into the rifle and permits the buttplate extension to hang over his shoulder.



This six-foot tall Texan dramatically shows just how big the Schuetzen firearms are. The firearm pictured is a single-shot Winchester.

TEXAS STYLE

Number One single shot nor the new Colt-Sharps. All were centerfire in a miscellany of calibers. The most popular was the .22-250, followed by the .222, the .223, the .243 and a single .308 Winchester. Sights were all of the open variety, the elongated barrel supporting at its very end either a post or a bead. The rear sight was a notch located on the barrel ahead of the action. It was micrometer adjustable, for the most part, and was, I observed, a sort of bastard. While it was open at the top this gap was not over .020" in width which meant that the sighting effect was more that of an aperture rather than a true open notch.

Approaching the rifle rack which was filled with the unique ordnance, I discovered why the barrels seemed to run 40 inches and more. These barrels were universally bull-gun in weight and diameter but on glancing into the

muzzle I found that this was a false tubing. Actually the barrels themselves were from 28 to 32 inches in length. At the muzzle, these had been turned down in a lathe and a section of steel tubing, from 14 to 18 inches in length had been heated and shrunk on the business end. What had seemed at first blush to be a 44-inch barrel was in fact a 28-inch rifled portion with the tubing extension, which gave it the Kentucky rifle appearance. Getting acquainted, I was told by a shooter that the muzzle extension not only lengthened sighting radius but added weight.

The second surprise was to see how the shooting was done. For this was a shoulder-to-shoulder match and even as I looked on the first competitors took up position on the firing line. Directly in front of each gunner was a wooden rest. It consisted of a single plank, 2" X 12", angled across his front at 45 degrees, turned on edge with the upper surface notched like a stairway. The marksman, depending on his height, selected a notch or step which best suited his stature, and there he rested the muzzle of his rifle.

He then faced the target completely, spread his feet apart, leaned into the rifle, and permitted the long extension on the buttplate to project over his shoulder and hold the rifle up. Most of the marksmen placed the left hand over the comb of the stock and pressed downward. Others grasped the forend in a normal manner and pulled down. This served to steady the piece since it was supported at both muzzle and butt.

What we had was an offhand match with a muzzle rest. A unique sort of tournament the like of which is found nowhere else in America. The match I observed represented the annual Schuetzenfest championships of the Fredricksburg(Tex) Schuetzen Verein (Shooting Society), a gun club now more than a hundred years in existence.

The mark, 100 yards down range, was the old German ring target. It has 25 rings, the innermost measuring only 1½ inches, the others separated by only ¾-inch. The aiming center, the black bullseye, extends out to the 18 ring and is 12 inches in diameter. This target has been the regulation mark of the German Schuetzenbund since time immemorial. It was fetched over by incoming immigrants from Bavaria more than a century ago. In the Fredricksburg area it must be printed locally, since there is no longer a national supply source.

It has always been fired on at 200 yards offhand. The local Schuetzen society have over the years altered the match rules somewhat. They permit the muzzle rest, shortened the firing distance, and have insisted on open sights. There are other Schuetzen clubs in central Texas. These others permit the use of the best in micrometered aperture rear sights and aperture front sights. More about them a bit later.

The championship course of fire consists of 10 shots. Sighters are allowed, but these cannot be fired on the record target. Sometimes the

(Continued on page 57)

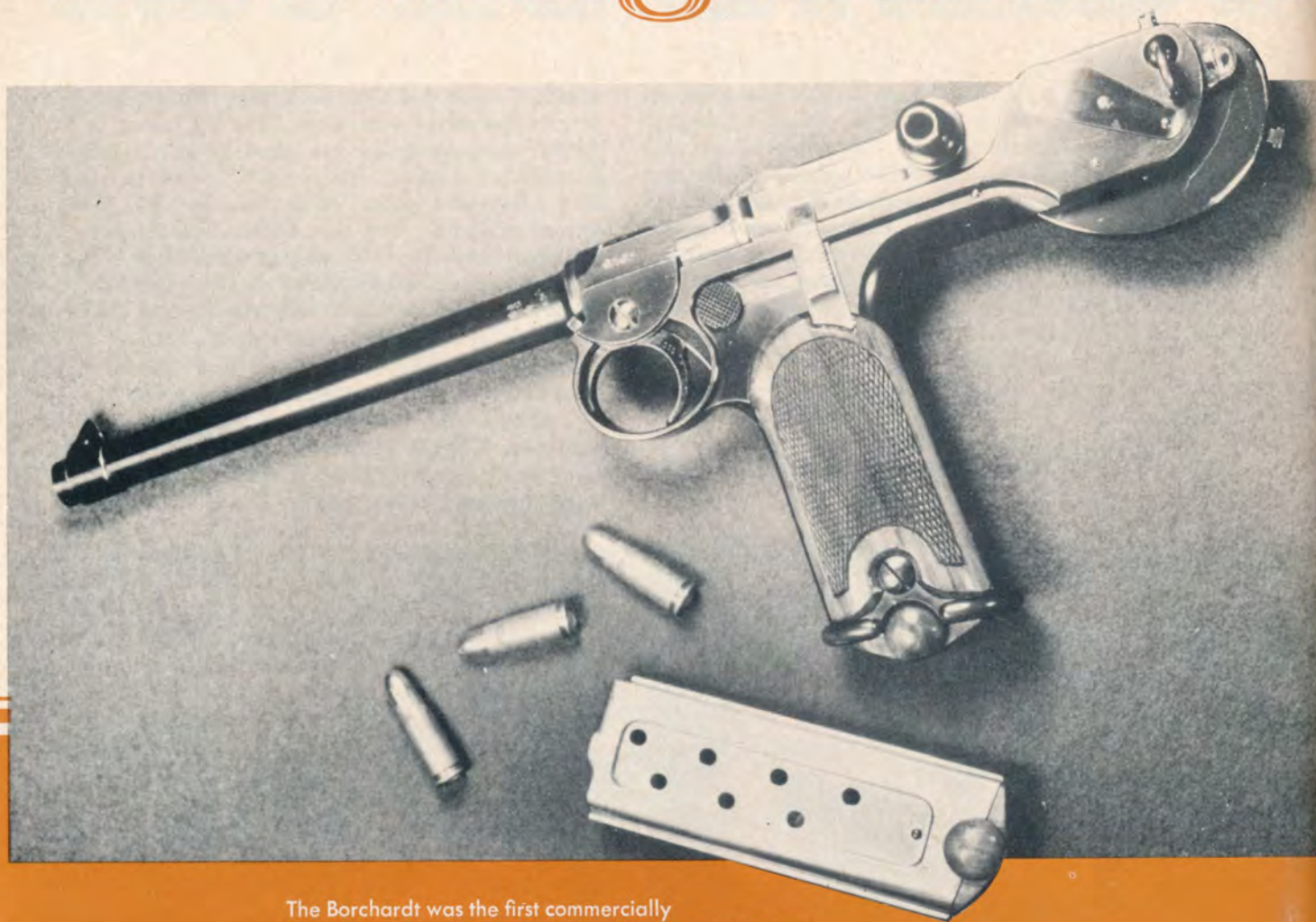


Herman Marquardt, age 75, has been firing in Schuetzen matches since he was a teenager. A unique rest has been created for the long gun.



Jess Loyd, the top ranking Schuetzen marksman of the New Braunfels, Texas Schuetzen Club has 22 perfect scores to his credit.

The Magnificent



The Borchardt was the first commercially successful automatic handgun. Made with precision workmanship, only the best materials were used in the construction of this classic.

By H. W. HESLIN, JR.

THE BORCHARDT Pistol was invented by Hugo Borchardt, a naturalized American Citizen. Borchardt was born in Germany, but had immigrated to the United States with his parents when he was 16 years old. In 1875, he became superintendent of the Sharps Rifle Company of Hartford, Connecticut, where he designed the Sharps-Borchardt single shot rifle. The Sharps firm went out of business in 1881 and the rifle was no longer manufactured. Borchardt then served as chief draftsman for the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. After his tenure at Winchester, he returned to

Europe and became director of the Budapest Arsenal in Hungary. He resigned this position and left Hungary rather hurriedly after an alleged feud with General Fejervary, the Hungarian Minister of War. He then returned to the United States.

Borchardt's entry into the field of automatic arms was prompted by his fascination with the toggle-locking mechanism. This mechanism was introduced in the 1880's by another American, Hiram S. Maxim, in his machine gun. In 1890, based on this toggle-locking principle, Borchardt designed an auto-loading pistol using this same locking mechanism. He tried unsuccessfully to interest American firms in manufacturing his design, so he

returned to Germany where he convinced the Ludwig Loewe Company of Berlin that his design had merit.

Patents for Borchardt's design were issued in Germany on September 9, 1893. The pistol was produced by the Loewe Company and appeared on the market sometime in the latter part of 1893. It was the first commercially successful automatic pistol ever produced and offered to the general public. The Loewe Company produced about 2000 of these pistols before merging with the Deutsche Metallpatronenfabrik (German Metallic Cartridge Company) of Karlsruhe in late 1896. The new company was known as Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken (German Weapons and Munitions Company)

BORCHARDT

known throughout the world by its initials. DWM. Since this reorganization occurred in the midst of the Borchardt Pistol's brief six year life span (1893-1899) the first pistols were marked "Waffenfabrik Loewe Berlin", while later production pieces were marked with the DWM inscriptions. Combined production, of Loewe and DWM, totaled only about 3000 pieces. Borchardt's of DWM manufacture, have been encountered chambered for the 7.65 M/M Luger cartridge. These are in the higher serial number ranges and could possibly have been made after 1899. These pistols are not marked in any way to show that they chamber the 7.65 M/M Luger instead of the 7.65 M/M Borchardt cartridge.

On November 21, 1894, George

representative and later became agent and importer for the Borchardt in the U. S., Canada, and Mexico. In the U. S. the Borchardt cost a mere \$30.00, which included a wooden shoulder stock with detachable cheekpiece, leather holster or sheath, three spare magazines, a dummy magazine, oiler, screwdriver handle with two blades, two pin punches, 12 inch cleaning rod, carrying straps, and an instruction manual. A fitted leather case was available for an additional \$5.00.

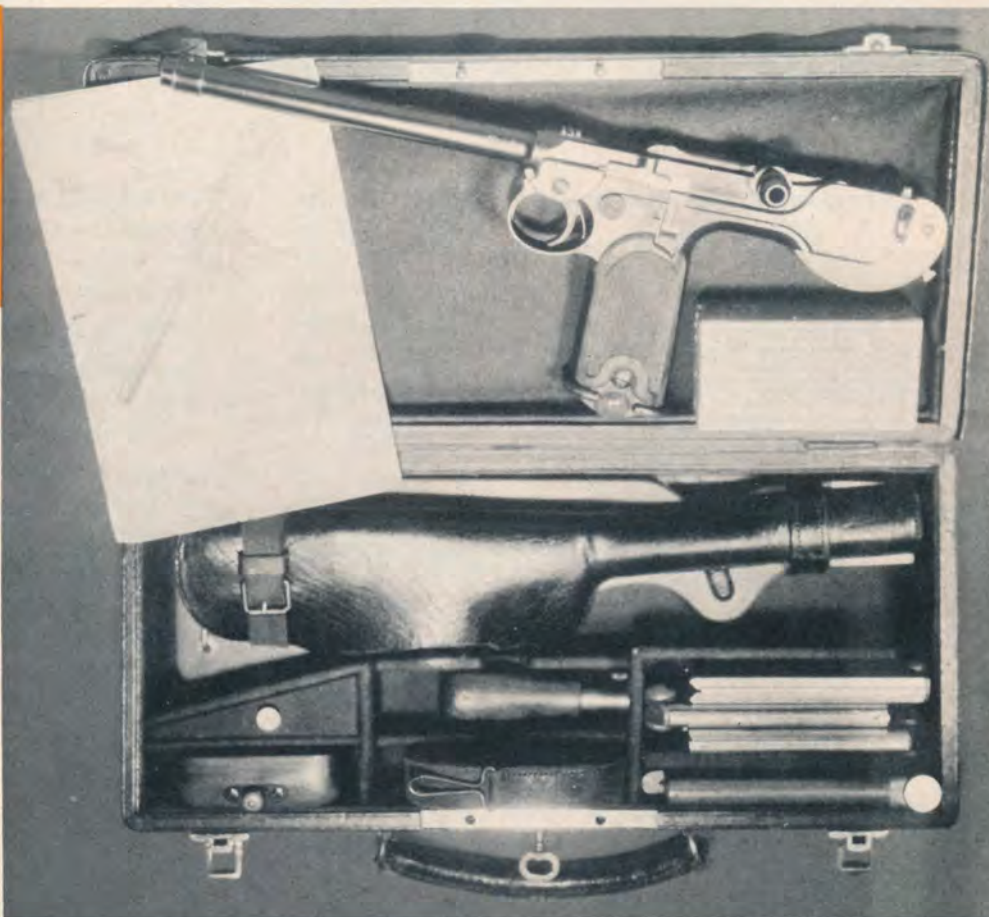
The shoulder stock is 14 inches long and weighs one pound. The method of attaching the stock to the pistol is ingenious. The teeth on the attaching iron of the stock are fitted over a T-shaped metal extension on the main spring housing of the pistol, and then

tightened into place by a knurled knob housed on the stock. With the stock attached to the pistol the overall length is about 30 inches, and overall weight is almost 3½ pounds. The cheekpiece is made of wood and attaches to the stock by means of a spring loaded stud. The holster is made of leather and is black in color. The holster is secured to the stock by means of a leather loop at the bottom end, and a leather strap with a buckle at the top. The magazines are made of light sheet metal with a metal follower at the top and a wooden bottom piece. All magazines hold eight rounds. The wooden dummy magazine is one inch longer than the regular magazine and when inserted into the breech ahead of the breechblock acts as a holdopen device. The dummy mag-

The Borchardt cost a mere \$30 when it was first introduced in the United States. A fitted leather case was available for an additional charge of \$5. Cased Borchardts with all of these fine accessories are a rare collector's item.

Luger, an employee of the firm of Loewe, exhibited a Borchardt Pistol before the United States Naval Ordnance Board at Newport, Rhode Island. Although the press gave it an excellent notice, the U. S. Navy did not follow up the tests with any further trials. Then on October 19, 1897, the U. S. Army tested the Borchardt Pistol at the Springfield Armory. This time the pistol was submitted by Hans Tauscher. Probably Germany, Switzerland, and various other countries also tested the pistol, but it never achieved either official adoption or widespread usage.

The firm of Hermann Boker and Company of New York was the original agent for the Borchardt in the United States. Hans Tauscher was the factory



azine also houses an oil container and dismountable three piece ramrod. The carrying straps are made of leather and are black in color to match the color of the holster. The straps attach to the stock and gun to be used as a sling as well as a carrying device. The instruction manual consists of ten pages of printed material and has three fold-outs. The manual is printed in the language of the country from which the pistol was sold.

The Borchardt is a recoil operated weapon from which the breech remains closed until the bullet has left the muzzle. Then, after the propelling gases have lost their pressure on the breech, the mechanism opens on a toggle (knee) action principle which forces the breechblock to the rear and raises the center links of the toggle. While the breechblock moves to the rear, it carries with it the empty shell by means of the extractor, until it is thrown out by the ejector.

The momentum, which is imparted to the moving system is sufficient to overcome the tension of a double spring, which acting upon the togglejoint, closes the breech again. During the forward movement of the breechblock, the top cartridge is carried into the chamber and the firing pin is cocked. All functions except the pulling of the trigger are therefore automatic. According to the factory manual, the functions of the mechanism for one single shot do not exceed one twenty-fifth part of a second. The Borchardt also introduced the detachable box magazine inserted in the grip, the magazine system now used in practically all automatic pistols today was patented by Borchardt.

The Borchardt Pistol was made of the finest precision workmanship and only the very best materials were used in its construction. Its parts were comparatively stronger than those of modern military rifles. The pistol had a beautiful glossy satin blue finish. This finish was attained by using the old European rust blue type (Continued on page 50)



Directions for the manipulation of the Borchardt Repeating Pistol.

Loading of the magazine.

Take the magazine into the left hand and slide the cartridges with the right under the inward bent lips, assisting with a downward pressure of the indexfinger of the left upon the previously inserted cartridge. A full charge consists of 8 cartridges.

Inserting of the magazine.

Push the magazine into the opening at the bottom of the pistolgrip until it is caught by the selfacting magazineholder. A slight blow with the left against the bottom of the magazine will help to secure it.

Charging the chamber of the barrel.

Place the indexfinger of the left over the knob of the togglejoint, and the thumb behind the springbox at the rear end of the pistol: then draw the knob backward until the breech is fully opened (Plate III, Fig. X). This allows the top cartridge to rise in front of the breechblock. After releasing the knob,

the breech closes instantly and the cartridge is pushed out of the magazine into the chamber of the barrel.

Firing.

In firing, it is only necessary to pull the trigger; the pistol remains loaded and cocked after each shot. Whenever the firing is discontinued the safety should be pushed up without fail.

Removing the magazine.

Press upon the magazine holder with the thumb of the right hand and pull the magazine out of the pistol grip with the left. The magazine can also be taken out, when all parts of the mechanism are locked by the safety.

Assembling

is done in the reversed order from the above.

One has to observe that the sear-screw is turned so, that the flat face on the lower cylindrical part will correspond with the groove in the receiver.

When the receiver and the assembled mechanism



is being pushed into the guides of the grip, the rear end of the ejector has to be lifted, so that the breechblock can pass freely over its forward end; this is done by passing a screw driver through the springbox-opening in the grip and pressing up against the under side of the projecting rear-end of the ejector (see Fig. IX).

Attaching the buttstock.

Insert the small tenon at the back of the springbox into the slot of the small end of stock and turn the projecting roughed nut until the pistol is firmly seated.

Dates

referring to the Borchardt-Repeating Pistol.

Weight of Pistol	1275 gramm
„ of buttstock leather bag and strap	425 „
„ of magazine	55 „
„ of loaded cartridge	10,55 „
„ of cartridge case	4,60 „
„ of steelcovered bullet	5,50 „
„ of powder	0,45 „
Length of cartridge	35 Millimeter

„ of barrel	190 „
Caliber of barrel	7,65 „
Twist of rifling (4 grooves)	250 „
Distance between sights	315 „
Initial velocity of bullet	400 Meters.

At the official test the finished mechanism is proved with a charge of 5,6 gramm black powder and a soft-lead slug weighing 16,1 gramm.

The barrel and parts of the lock bear the official stamp.

Discharging the chamber of the barrel.

After removing the magazine open the breech slowly and the cartridge will fall through the grip into the hand.

Cleaning the barrel.

Remove the magazine and replace it by the wooden barring block, open the breech fully and push the bar up in front of the breechblock, the latter will now rest against the bar and is held back, while the barrel is being cleaned.



GUN TRADING...



THE TRADING of guns has long been an enjoyable pastime for many of us. Whether the objective is a dollar profit, or the satisfaction of finally acquiring a certain gun at minimum cost, knowledge of the factors which determine trading values is the best insurance in achieving the goal.

Don't you know certain persons who have a knack for making "good" deals? More often than not, they seem to make one good deal after another. Just what do these persons do, or know, that gives them the edge?

After over fifteen years of gun trading, ten of which was spent in seven different states while on active military duty, I believe that I have determined several recurring factors which are the basis for successful trading. Knowledge of these factors can make the difference in your next trade. As well, I have noted that certain guns enjoy the greatest trading value across the country. Before I identify these, though, let's explore the factors which effect any trade.

Regardless of gun type, the most important aspect, coast to coast, is to stay away from modifications to factory specifications. I believe that there are three reasons for this. First, an original factory gun had a known value at one point, and this is a common departure point from

mining value. Timing actually consists of two related functions. The first is related directly to hunting seasons. September usually sees a general firming of prices, particularly for shotguns, and for rifles where rifle hunting for deer is permitted. After Christmas, prices slip, and many a good deal has been made in February or March for the man who bided his time.

The other aspect of timing is more difficult to use properly. This principle merely relies upon finding someone who wants the gun you have, and has the gun you want. Since a person can't possibly know this directly, the smart trader works this in reverse. He keeps the type of gun (for ultimate trading) that he feels *anyone* would want. Then, when he finds someone with a gun he'd like, he's in better position to trade. Just what guns does the smart trader keep? We'll identify these later, but for now, let's identify the next aspect which the successful trader uses to make the best deals.

Shooting sports are a local factor that help the smart trader. Many of the best guns of their type are seen at shooting matches. Skeet matches, trap shoots, and rifle and pistol matches bring out many a fine gun. Often, when a competitor does poorly with an old favorite, he'll be prone to dispose of it at the drop of a dollar. More directly,

ANOTHER LOOK

which two traders can begin. Secondly, what is one man's fancy is another's poison. Thirdly, many guns, some of fairly recent vintage, are rapidly becoming collector's material. As a general rule, therefore, almost any deviation from factory specifications will reduce a gun's value, or make trading such a gun very difficult. There are exceptions, of course, such as a well-mounted telescopic sight, or a properly installed ventilated rib. However, removing a solid rib from a Winchester M12 Skeet gun, and adding a ventilated rib, may reduce its value. Garish custom stocks, no matter what the original cost, usually do not increase the rifle or shotgun's trading value. Since these stocks are made to a certain person's specifications, he places a greater value on them than does the potential trader, who may discount the value because the stock doesn't please him. Again, there are exceptions, as a custom stock by Bieson for example. A stock done in good taste, which adds 'class' to the gun, would be the rule for added value. As far as collectors are concerned, unauthorized deviation from factory or issue specifications detract the most from a gun's value. A common example of this type of deviation is the abundance of M12 shotguns with choke devices on the market, but the absolute scarcity of those with original barrels, particularly those marked "WSI". Which has a greater value, even though the choke device costs nearly \$30? The answer is the one without the device, and by at least 25 percent.

The proper timing of a trade is another factor in deter-

however, shooting sports determine demand for types of guns. The Midwest is full of small trapshooting clubs, while the South is more skeet oriented. Knowledge of local interest is easy to determine, but often overlooked.

Finally, before we identify certain guns as being the top traders in their respective fields, let's consider the gun dealer's role in the trading game. The dealer is important for two reasons. First, he may be the one with whom you are trading. Secondly, you may find someone who will sell a gun at an attractive price, but won't trade. The best recourse may be to sell a gun to a dealer to raise the cash. Since such a transaction is the poorest way to regain your investment (dealers do eat, you realize) you have to minimize this loss. Just how do you do this? Primarily, the dealer will give the most on a gun he feels he can move quickly. For this reason, he tends to shy away from very expensive guns, or those with limited appeal. Look over your local dealer's shelf of new guns and you'll see what I mean. The trick is to trade the dealer something he would normally carry himself.

Now, let's get down to brass tacks and identify the top-traders. The identification of these guns as being top traders can be considered a subjective one. However, I will list what I consider to be just that. Based upon my experience from coast to coast, I have seen certain guns, time and again, bring home the best deals. *Please realize that I am not saying that these guns are the best of their type for design, functioning,* (Continued on page 64)

THE BOOM IN NON-

By GLEN IVERSEN

GUN COLLECTING has long been established as one of America's sportsmen's most cherished hobbies, but a new twist has recently been added to this ancient pastime. Many of America's collectors are now stocking their trophy gun racks with unbelievably accurate imitations of famous firearms. The craze of collecting the "non-guns" got its start in Japan, where strict gun legislation has made it virtually impossible for the Japanese to own firearms.

The reason firearms are banned in Japan comes from the 1945 terms of occupation which went into effect at the duration of World War II. Although these terms are gradually being relaxed, the law continues to read that all personal firearms in Japan are prohibited.

Japan seems to have the problem licked. In January of 1968, GUNS MAGAZINE revealed to its readers that the Japanese are enjoying gun collecting and are still complying with the law through the use of gun imitations.

The article featured the founding father of this latest gun craze—Tadao Nakata. Nakata started manufacturing gun imitations in the early 1960's, giving up a small hardware business, in an attempt to satisfy the frustrated Japanese market. His sales skyrocketed. Since then, other gun imitators have thrown their hats into the ring and the response these guns have received have been tremendous.

There are several reasons which make collecting exact replicas desirable. One of the most obvious is the high price collectors must pay if they want to own one of the originals. It is a very easy thing for a serious gun collector to invest thousands of dollars into his hobby and still not have the complete cycle of his favorite make or model. When you compare the prices of these imitations to those of the "Real McCoys," these replicas are truly inexpensive.

Secondly, with the continued pressure of legal restrictions surrounding gun collecting and the everpresent threat of having one's expensive gun collection stolen, many owners are reluctant to display their hobby. Gun owners are having second thoughts about fighting all the legal red tape in order to insure themselves against breaking a newly

created law.

To carry this a step further, anti-gun legislation has caused many collectable weapons to become illegal to own. An example of this is the Schmeisser MP-40. Gun imitations are not affected by this type of gun legislation and therefore can recreate "illegal" firearms that any collector would proudly display without having to post a watch for the local constable.

Probably one of the most interesting aspects of collecting gun imitations is

that, not only are they uniquely designed, but they can be educational as well. All of the imitations can be disassembled and put back together in exactly the same way the originals were manufactured.

Replicas are an ideal way to teach children the proper methods of maintaining and handling a weapon, without the worry that one of them might be accidentally hurt.

Since these imitations are classified as "non-gun," the manufacturers have



GUN COLLECTING



taken several steps to keep them that way. It should be pointed out that although many of these replicas will feed and eject specially designed dummy rounds it is impossible to chamber live ammunition.

To further insure that these imitations are used as they were intended and not as actual firearms, the manufacturers have not included a firing pin and have blocked the length of each barrel with a steel rod, which runs from the muzzle to the chamber. Those who

have tried to drill these rods in an effort to convert these replicas from "non-guns" to actual firing weapons have found that the cast zinc from which these imitations are made will not stand up under the pressure and break.

And if this isn't enough to discourage conversion, the manufacturers have built each replica with minute dimensional variations between their own creation and the original piece. What this means is that the replica parts will not fit nor function in the original weap-

on and parts from the latter will not fit into the replica.

Replica Models, Inc., based in Alexandria, Virginia, is now distributing the Japanese imitations and also reproductions of the legendary guns that "won the West."

It would appear that a group of American businessmen realized the potential of these replicas being forged in Japan and decided that these reproductions would be appreciated by American gun collectors. (Continued on page 72)

ENCAMPMENT AT FORT

By E. L. REEDSTROM



Armed to the teeth, this Union cavalryman appears to be right out of the pages of history. All of the equipment worn by the participants is as close to the real thing as humanly possible.

ticipating groups arrived, they registered and were shown their camp site. Everyone was awarded an armful of literature about the expected event as he continued on.

Families who had arrived the night before began to stir in their bedrolls, awakened by the arrival of other uniformed units jammed into autos and busses which were slowly creeping through mud puddles filled with rain from the night before. One such bus, after locating a shady bivouac area, threw open its door discharging a young man dressed in Confederate grey, armed to the teeth and shouting above a southern drawl, "Jest show me one blue coat, jest one!"

With that his comrades followed, running out with rifles flying over their heads, yelling out a famous rebel cry.

HISTORY CAME alive for 10,000 viewers at Fort Benjamin Harrison, located in the rolling hills and dense woodlands just outside of Indianapolis, Indiana. Under a broiling June sun the 74th Army Band set the mood for the official "dual" celebration of the Army's 196th birthday and Fort Benjamin Harrison's 65th anniversary.

In addition to the dual birthday celebration, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raid across the Ohio River into Indiana, in 1863 was re-enacted.

On the scene, campers, busses, and trucks loaded with equipment for the three day festivities paraded through

the gates of Fort Harrison under the alert eye of a lone M.P. Over a car radio a weather bulletin was issuing a tornado alert in that area with heavy rains. Only a few ears uneasily followed the announcement in all the confusion, and above the children's laughter and hardy conversation from uniformed Confederate greys and Union blues, the procession continued slowly to the bivouac area.

Camp Belzer, a boy scout training area, is located a few miles west of the fort which is settled in a thick, somber, wooded region. Here the Sons of Union Veterans Reserve held their second annual encampment. As the various par-



Matthew Brady couldn't have posed these Union soldiers any better. Note the center soldier's canteen.

BEN HARRISON



The North and the South were at it again, only this time there was no blood spilled on the rolling prairies of Northern Indiana.

It was all in fun and after recognizing a few faces, several men from the Union side walked over and shook hands hardily. An exchange of gun gossip and the day's preparations got under way and all traces of fatigue from traveling were soon forgotten.

A closer examination showed that most of the weapons that the men carried were authentic replicas of a variety and caliber. Among some of the muzzle loading weapons chosen by the southern boys were the "Plainsman" rifle made by Replica Arms, the favorite "Hawken" from Thompson Center Arms Co., and the popular "Kentucky" rifle made by Centennial Arms Corp. Navy Colt pistols, from Replica Arms, Inc., were safely tucked into Civil War holsters.

After the flag raising ceremony, a

few squads of uniformed blues and greys stood at attention and listened to the orders for drill competition. After the officers shouted a few hoarse comments, the men were dismissed and retired to their tents.

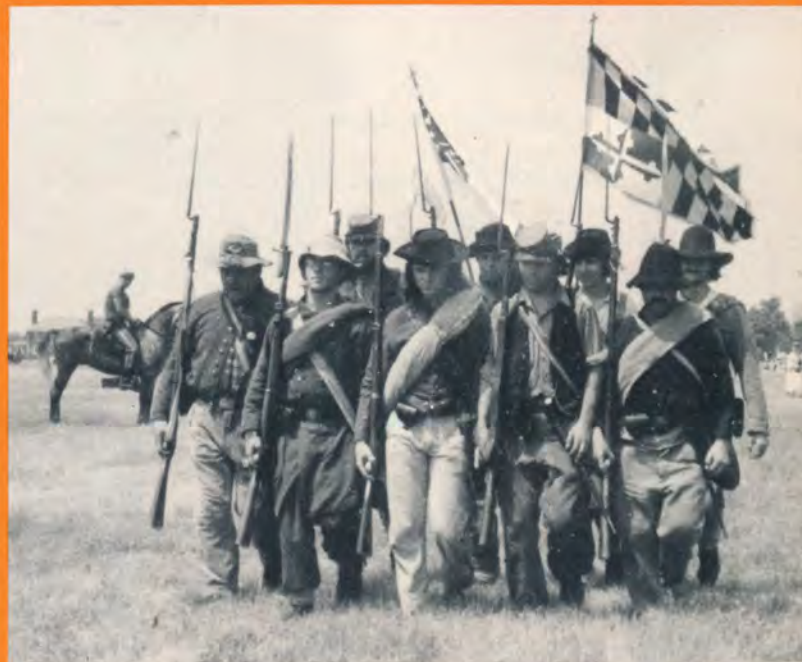
Much was to be done by each individual: buttons to be polished, weapons to be checked and cleaned, and correct company numbers to be arranged and affixed to kepis. As always with each unit, there is a hard-nosed historian who knows more than the sergeant and his superiors. An occasional, friendly argument would break out, with low, stern voices, picking apart a certain clause from some civil war manual. Neither won, the argument dispelled, and both seemed to feel a sense of winning the upper hand. The by-standers, who know nothing more about

field regulations, remained just as ignorant or more confused.

At approximately 1200 hours, the same day, drill competition began with the Cavalry first, Infantry second, and Artillery third. As opposing contestants, sergeants of each infantry unit pumped their men as to what to expect for the coming weekend, and how important it was to keep weapons clean and uniforms spotless. A bright, baking sun and still climbing humidity seemed to have little or no effect on the men who were content with the whole situation. Beads of sweat accumulated on nose and chin as the infantry began cleaning weapons and polishing brass under the flap of a tent or in the shade of a towering tree. Within the shuffling of boots and din of sabres, cannons, and horses, one's imagination begins to truly turn



Sgt. Swisher, chairman of the program, helped organize the 2nd Cavalry, Company "E", and reactivated it as a participating competitor.



This "rag-tag" Confederate Army's uniforms and its weapons were patterned after actual soldiers shown in historic Civil War photographs. They took a trophy.



Trooper Brownell, Company "E", 2nd Cavalry, demonstrated to the audience the use of a wounded horse on the battlefield. The horse acts as a shield for his rider and also provides him with a solid rifle rest. Brownell is about to fire his .45 caliber Springfield carbine at the imaginary enemy.

the pages of history back to a prepared march to battle.

Out of over 500 participants, including 12 pieces of artillery, 30 were mounted cavalymen. These 30 were lucky enough to arrive early and be issued a mount. Most of the horses were from nearby stables. Each man paid for the rental of a horse for the duration of the weekend. The unlucky remainder of cavalry, namely the 4th Tennessee C.S.A. Cavalry, under the command of Lt. Col. Richard J. Cornwell, grumbled a little, but took its place marching next to the infantry.

Lt. Col. Cornwell was a colorful gentleman from the South. His 'War

Wagons,' namely two large hearses, brought the remainder of the 4th Tennessee Cavalry. To assure this writer that these so called War Wagons were

brought for no other reason, a somewhat closer look was taken. In any event, the men of the 4th Tennessee Cavalry could cope with any severe situation. A shudder creeps up one's spine even to think of riding in such a 'death vehicle.' The good Colonel beamed a smile, pulled an original Confederate pistol from his holster, thumbed the cylinder calmly, and stated, "We don't aim ta sceer folks, ya undustand! It's jus an occupational hazard."

Just across the road a few yards or so from where the 4th Cavalry camped, headquartered the 2nd U.S. Cavalry, reactivated. This was Company "E," in true cavalry tradition: plumes, banners, glistening sabres, a fascinating and authentic uniformed company, already building a name for itself through proper channels.

As a non-profit organization, interested in preserving the historical and educational value to the public, this company is now performing in parades, grand openings, North and South skirmishes, and ceremonies prompted by state and local centennials. Organized three years ago, members toiled ceaselessly to authenticate the uniform and equipment of the same Second U.S. Cavalry, right down to the last button, buckle, and spur. While this information was painstakingly authenticated, a careful eye sought out any interested and historically minded man, capable of handling himself and a spirited horse under the strongest and most extreme conditions.

As recruiting progressed, the drill sergeant literally pounded tactics and commands into the troopers' heads from an original 1873 Cavalry Drill Manual. Finally, after numerous hours of unrelenting toil, carefully fitted into the day's (Continued on page 62)

As the drums snarled and the fifes struck up "Dixie," the various units paraded in military style toward the grandstand.



By **WALTER RICKELL**

WHEN COLT announced that they were resuming production of the 1851 Navy percussion revolvers in special U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee Commemoratives, you could see the gleam in the eyes of black powder shooters all over the country. "They will surely come out with shooting models before too long," could be heard on every black powder range.

Well, the Colt Navy shooters are available, and it will be interesting to see if the shooters of America, who have had to turn to foreign replicas for these many years, will beat a path to the nearest dealer for a "genuine Colt."

SHOOTING COLT'S **NEW** *Navy Pistol*





Ted Stone of the Lock, Stock and Barrel Muzzle Loading Club put the "new" Colt Navy through its paces. The pistol was surprisingly accurate, producing a 1.585 inch group on the 25 yard range.

When Colt decided to go back into the black powder gun business, the question arose as to the model to be produced. Foreign makers had reproduced almost all of the various Colt models, from the giant Walker to the diminutive 1862 Police. Colt did not want to make the entire line, and finally settled on the 1851 Navy. Why? Because this was the most popular model of all, with more than 215,000 produced between 1851 and 1873.

But which of the four basic variations should be produced? Of the total 1851 Navy production, the first 4,200 guns were fitted with the square-back trigger guard; 1250 of these had a notched, open top cylinder pin. Starting with serial number 4201 and going to 85,000 was the third model with the small round trigger guard, and from there to 215,000 were those with the larger, round trigger guard. There were, of course, many sub-variations: iron backstraps and guards, shoulder stock attachments, etc.

Colt decided to produce the earliest square-back guard model, and to make it as authentic as possible; octagon 7½" barrel, caliber .36, weight 40

ounces, barrel and cylinder in bright blue, frame and rammer case-hardened, W. L. Ormsby engraved naval scene on cylinder, and one-piece stock of American walnut. To go one step further, the serial numbers would begin where the square-back numbers left off in 1851; the first pistol off the line carried serial number 4201. (Commemoratives carried special numbers not related to the shooting models.)

Our test gun carried serial number 4240. It showed excellent workmanship, a bright royal blue finish, typical Colt case-hardening. The barrel is authentically inscribed, "ADDRESS SAML COLT NEW YORK CITY." The fit of the various parts is excellent, as is the fit between the grips and the frame.

The shooting models of the Colt Navy come in a black cardboard box with a hinged top. Included is a warranty card and an excellent booklet on black powder shooting.

The next step was to get this pretty little pistol out and shoot it. So that following Sunday morning, after casting some .375 round balls from an old mold (which later turned out to be

.374), I picked up my black powder kit and headed for the Lock, Stock and Barrel muzzle loading range for some serious shooting.

Arriving there, I could only find two or three people just plinking in the warm July sun, but before I could unpack, an old friend Ted Stone showed up with his flinters. I showed him the Navy, and a crowd soon gathered, everyone thinking it was a foreign copy. The surprise came soon with the announcement this is a Colt, not old but new!

No sooner do I have the gun out and I had an expert confronting me with the old story about the gun not being accurate for the lack of a top strap. Granted, the sighting system leaves something to be desired, with the rear sight in the hammer and the front a brass bead on a detachable barrel. All the odds are against any accuracy at all, but if this be the case why did so many old timers swear by this model and similar Colts? I said, "What the hell, let's shoot it and find out for ourselves."

Using the Colt flask, which drew 16 grains of (Continued on page 68)

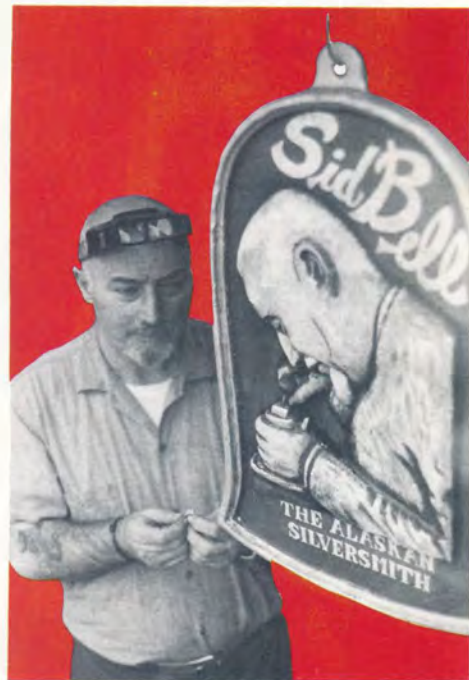
The Colt model features clean lines and excellent workmanship. The fit between the grips and the frame is "excellent."



The Colt breaks down into three basic assemblies, the barrel, the frame and the cylinder. Note the short pins between the nipples which are used as safety notches.



The "new" Colt pistol comes packed in a black cardboard box—just as in the old days. A warranty card and a set of instructions are included in the package. The price is \$150.



SID BELL...

The Alaskan Silversmith

By **GEORGE MARS CASSIDY**



TULLY, A QUIET lake resort town in upstate New York, has something more to boast about than the jumping trout and assorted forest animals which populate its countryside. Sid Bell, a relatively unknown but extremely talented artist calls Tully home and it is this atmosphere which has stimulated him to create astonishingly accurate, miniature wildlife carvings in solid silver and gold.

Bell has always been an outdoorsman and somewhat of a wanderer, and it is no surprise that his exploring instinct drew him to Alaska—America's Last Frontier. Bell was employed as a geologist with the Bureau of Mines and it was on one of his expeditions that he first tried his hand at carving Alaskan game heads. His first attempts were flat and showed little detail, but his hobby gradually moved from flats to flat back and bas relief surfaces and finally to his present full three dimensional figures with raised top and back and detailed engraving on both.

Silver soon replaced the steel out of which he had carved his early creations, and Bell soon realized that working with silver was far more difficult and (Continued on page 70)



The colored photographs show some of the animals created by Bell. To add a lifelike quality to his jewelry, Bell researches books, prints, photographs and other artwork to get the feel of his portraits.



Above, two pieces of vulcanized rubber, with the jewelry impressions showing. The eagle in the middle is the master copy from which all of the impressions are made. The eagle pictured at the bottom of the photo is composed of wax. This type of casting is the lost wax process and is centuries old.

The Age of the Colt

You're in the peaceful wooded country tacking up a fistful of targets. You tap home the clip of your new Combat Commander. The heft feels good. You squeeze off nine fast rounds. And you know you've found your kind of Automatic. See the Combat Commander today.

At your Colt's Registered Dealer.



GUN LAWS IN THE U.S.S.R.

This interview with Nikolai Yeliseyev, director of the Russian Federation's Main Department for Hunting Grounds and Reservations, was forwarded to Guns Magazine by the N.S.S.F. for publication. Yeliseyev gives an inside view of the procedure of purchasing and using firearms in the Soviet Union.

QUESTION: What are the laws on issuing permits for purchasing and possessing firearms?

ANSWER: Hunting guns, rifles and small caliber guns are used in the Soviet Union by millions of sportsmen, professional hunters and weekend shooting enthusiasts. There is one set of regulations for professional hunters and another for marksmen.

The Soviet Union has over 2.5 million amateur hunters. Naturally all of these have conventional (non-bore) guns. Only members of the hunting associations can hunt with firearms in the Soviet Union. Any Soviet citizen 18 or older can join an association. The fee is 16 rubles. All applicants are required to pass a hunting test, based on the rules for the safe use of firearms.

QUESTION: Are there any restrictions for joining hunting associations?

ANSWER: Yes, there are. Anyone who joins a hunting society must have two letters of recommendation from members of that society. Naturally, a hunter will give a recommendation only to someone he knows and trusts. Besides this indirect limitation, there are also some direct restrictions. According to the hunting regulations anyone who has been arrested for poaching, repeated drunkenness or convicted of a serious crime, as well as mental patients and the mentally retarded, cannot be accepted in the societies.

Without being a member of a society and without a hunting certificate, a citizen cannot purchase a hunting gun. Hunting guns are sold in almost every community in the country. Guns can be purchased at second-hand shops. And in this case, too, one must show his hunting certificate.

QUESTION: How does a professional

hunter purchase a rifle?

ANSWER: Rifles are usually provided for professional hunters by hunting organizations. Permission must be approved by militia agencies, however.

QUESTION: Besides amateur hunters and professional hunters, there are about 5 million shooting enthusiasts in the Soviet Union. How do they get firearms?

ANSWER: Public and state organizations control the sale of rifles, small caliber guns, instructional bore firearms, Nagant revolvers and ammunition. Public and state organizations means groups of marksmen, physical education training teams, Pioneer Palaces and clubs, vocational and technical schools, secondary and higher specialized educational schools, and sports schools.

These organizations get permission to buy and keep arms at militia agencies close to where they are located.

In order to prevent accidents, militia agencies issue gun permits for the purchase and possession of firearms, only under the condition that the person responsible for keeping the firearms at the organization in question has special safety equipment on the premises.

QUESTION: Can Soviet citizens keep firearms without the permission of the agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs?

ANSWER: No, they can't. Possession of firearms without permission is illegal. Anyone found guilty of this is arrested, and the firearms are confiscated.

QUESTION: Is anyone allowed to keep firearms at home?

ANSWER: Yes, members of national shooting teams and modern pentathlon and biathlon teams. There is one condition, however, the sportsman must have facilities for the safe keeping of the firearms.

QUESTION: Who is responsible for the safe handling of firearms by minors, under 18, participating in sporting events?

ANSWER: Minors participating in sporting events can get firearms and use them only under the supervision of adult coaches, who are personally responsible for the safe handling.



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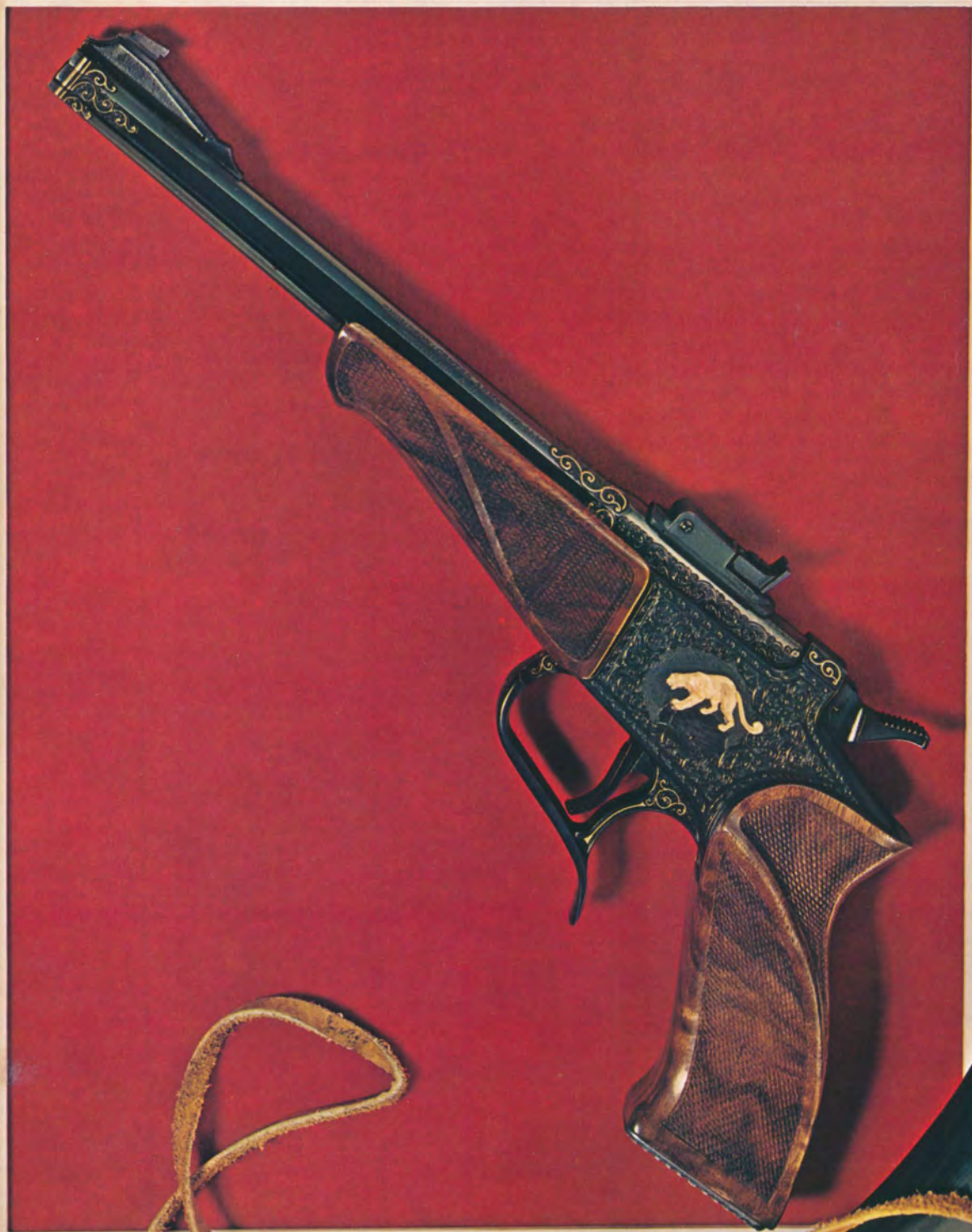
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GUN RACK

Replica Arms 1862 Police

In the past several years, I've had the opportunity to shoot several models from Replica Arms. The first was the replica of the 1860 Army Colt; then the Wells Fargo. These were, as are all of the Replica guns we have seen, well made and fun to shoot.

For the past several weeks we have been shooting the latest from Replica, the 1862 Police model, and this one, in my opinion, beats them all as a fun gun to shoot. With the 6½" barrel (it



is also available with either 4½" or 5½" barrel) it weighs just a shade over a pound and a half, and balances in the hand like none of the bigger Colts.

Everything on the 1862 Police is scaled down; the cylinder is five shot, the frame, loading lever, and even the cylinder. The streamlined look of the 1862 is more appealing to me than the angular look of the Navy colts, and in this diminutive version, it really looks great.

Loading the 1862 was a breeze, and 16 grains of FFFg behind a .380" ball gave us the most consistent groups. Though the chambers will take more than 20 grains, the 16 grain load gave us all the power we wanted and was a pleasure to shoot.

The Replica Arms 1862 seemed to be finished much better than most of the black powder guns we have seen in the past; certainly much better than any of the "bargain" guns being

offered. The blue finish is mirror smooth and the case-hardening is extremely well done. The action was a bit tight—loosening up after shooting—but smooth as silk.

I have three other black powder handguns, an 1860 Army, a .44 Remington, and a Kentucky pistol. I have had a lot of fun with all of them, but I know that this handsome little 1862 will get most of my play when the summer shooting season comes around. Priced at \$89.95, it's one of the better buys in black powder guns around today. From Replica Arms, Marietta, Ohio, 45750. A quarter will get you a catalog of all Replica Arms guns. J.R.

"Speed Strip"

John Bianchi, the west coast holster merchant, has the cutest gadget going for the quick loading of a revolver. It is called the "Speed Strip" and consists of a piece of neoprene rubber, 3½ inches in length and about ½-inch in width, backed with a piece of spring steel. In the front side of this strip are 6 recesses for as many .38 or



.357 caliber cartridges. The cavity is only deep enough to securely grip the rim of each casing. The recess, actually, is undercut a bit to get a better grip on the rim of the shell. To load

(Continued on page 66)

PRESENTING MARSHAL RICK O'SHAY

By GEORGE E. VIRGINES

EDITOR'S NOTE

A short time ago, we received a letter from Mr. Robert Krauss of Pennsylvania which said, in part: "Enclosed find a copy of a recent comic strip which is worthy of your praise. Mr. Stan Lynde, the cartoonist, has consistently drawn a quality strip which contains accurately drawn firearms and a lot of good sense along with the humor. This pro-gun cartoon has probably reached more non-gun people than all the gun magazines ever printed. 'Rick O'Shay' reaches the youth of America who are constantly bombarded with anti-gun lies . . . I hope that GUNS will honor Mr. Lynde in some suitable manner. Let's praise our friends just as loudly as we damn our enemies."

So, here is our tribute to Stan Lynde, cartoonist, humorist, and friend to all who enjoy guns. Editor.

MANY NAMES, places, and people have contributed to the history of the "Old West." Added to this are the authors and artists who have recorded, for posterity, their manuscripts and canvases depicting what life on the frontier was really like. The authors are many and such famous artists as Remington, Russell, and Jackson, to name a very few, are synonymous with our frontier history education.

In a lighter vein but still cognizant of the early West is a new name fast becoming popular as an exponent of the wild and woolly West. He is a young, lean, dark haired Westerner by the name of Stan Lynde, artist and writer. His contribution to Western lore is the creation of one of the most popular and unique cartoon strips, appropriately entitled, "RICK O'SHAY," Marshal of Conniption. This picturesque Western cartoon character, plus the most accurate Western scenes, is read and enjoyed by millions of



newspaper readers throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and the Philippines.

The humor and accuracy of the strip is in a relaxing tempo of the early West. The main characters consist of Rick O'Shay, an amiable young fellow who is the town marshal; a gunfighter with the timely name of Hipshot Percussion, based on an old gunfighter that was an acquaintance of Stan Lynde as a youngster. Other characters and citizens of Conniption who make a steady procession

RICK O'SHAY

by STAN LYNDE



Cartoonist Stan Lynde, left, uses actual firearms as models for his drawings which help him achieve accuracy and a feeling of authenticity. Lynde grew up in Lodge Grass, Montana and uses it as a pattern for his cartoon town called "Connipion." Pictured above is a good example of his humorous and interesting creation.

through the strip also have quaint names such as Gaye Abandon, the girl interest, who owns the local saloon; Deuces Wild, the mayor and tinhorn gambler; Basil Metabolism, a doctor who patches up the many injured; Chief Horses Neck, the well adjusted Indian Chief; a Mexican cowboy, Manuel Labor, who is deputy marshal, and many others.

The cast and the strip are humorous, while the situations are believable; Stan Lynde has created a mixture of Western images that have the quality of authenticity.

Sometimes it is hard to separate Rick O'Shay from Stan Lynde—both are very likeable characters. Stan delights in showing off his stove-pipe western boots which has the likeness of his comic strip hero worked into the leather. Across the top of one boot is the name "Rick" and the other boot, "O'Shay."

Stan Lynde, a natural westerner, hales from Lodge Grass, Montana, which is a part of the Crow Indian reservation and not very far from the historic site of Custer's battle field. Stan grew up in this country that was as wild and woolly as any part of the old West could be. The town of Lodge Grass is the pattern for the cartoon town "Connip-

tion." It had no electricity, telephone or other modern conveniences during the time Stan was growing up there. It was here that he learned to ride a bronc and shoot on the Mill Iron Ranch where his father worked for Harvey Willcut.

One story Stan always enjoys relating is about his grandfather who cowboied for the old Miller Brother's 101 Ranch in its heyday. His grand-daddy was branding calves and he'd just slapped the 101 brand on a calf. An older hand bawled him out, very soberly: "Now look whatcha done, Bill . . you put that brand on upside down." Granddad says it took him quite awhile to try and figure out how he could have put the 101 on upside down.

From Stan's mother, he was encouraged to draw and the desire to become a cartoonist came early. His mother was artistically talented which was an advantage to this budding artist.

Stan went through the usual education process of high school, Montana State University, a hitch in the navy during the Korean War, and he later worked in various parts of the country, ending up in New York. After a great deal of trial and error with

(Continued on page 69)



may appear here in 1973.

• • •

1972 is an Olympics year, and preparations are under way for selection of shooters to carry the colors of the United States in the clay target events August 27, 28, and 29 at Munich, Germany. The United States has not won a gold medal in true-international Olympic style shooting since Mark Arie achieved this pinnacle of performance in 1920. 1972 would be a good year to re-write the world record book on this score.

Tom Garrigus took a silver medal at Mexico City in 1968, and Bill Morris won a bronze medal at Tokyo in 1964. George Generaux won a gold medal for Canada in 1952, and pert Susan Nattrass took a silver medal in the 1971 World Championships at Bologna, Italy (not Olympics). The Canadian team took eighth place among the 17 nations represented at Bologna. The United States did not enter the odd-year ISU Championships, hosted by the United States in Phoenix, Arizona in 1970.

Mike Tipa, director of international shooting for NRA (who represents the United States in all international shooting contests) has announced that all shooters who shot both Modified Clay Pigeon races during the 1971 Grand American and scored 170 or higher will be invited to try out for the Olympic team along with entrants in other preliminary try-outs across the country. Final try-out for the privilege of representing the United States in Munich this year will be held at the Phoenix, Arizona Trap & Skeet Club, site of the 1970 ISU World Championships, June 16-17-18.

• • •

Turning now from the exploits of national winners, and of World Championship caliber performers, we give some needed attention to the small fry, and to the less ardent shooter who would still enjoy the tremendous satisfaction of smashing a flying clay target. We also pass on some information for the gun club whose facilities can't quite cope with the requirements for true championship clay target events.

Sportsmen's clubs are constantly in search of new ideas for either increasing revenue or sparking interest among members where club activities are concerned. Among shooting attractions sponsored by many organizations are regulation skeet and trap events or informal club competition, turkey or ham shoots, indoor rifle

IF A MAJOR LEAGUE baseball player batted one thousand for the season, if a pro football quarterback completed every pass he threw, or if a basketball player canned every shot he took, the resultant flood of publicity would be monumentally super colossal in scope.

In 1971, a major skeet shooter turned in a performance in registered skeet shooting that has to be comparable to any of the above sports pinnacles, but perhaps sadly, minus the flood of publicity. Dick Nobbs, of Erie, Pennsylvania, fired at one thousand 12 gauge registered skeet targets during a long season starting March 4, and ending October 31, and broke them all! Not only did Nobbs set this new world record over a long season, but he shot the targets at different clubs, over an area of several states, and some of them in snow, wind, and rain.

He further had to live with accumulating pressure after he was recorded at 600 straight in the Ohio State Championships during August, because the possibility of a perfect season became noised around. In addition, he was aware that another shooter Jack Moreland, of St. Louis, was burning up the skeet ranges on his way to another new world record of 1149x1150, breaking Barney Hartmann's old record of 1049x1050 for a year's competition. Nobbs was aware before he finished his last events that just one missed target, just one miniscule miscalculation, or just one tiny let-up in concentration would cost him a new world percentage record.

If you are a shooter, can you just try to imagine the pressure of that last one hundred targets, fired at his home range, the Erie Skeet Club, on October 31. I can think back, years ago, of breaking my first forty-nine straight at skeet, and missing the optional, because I started thinking of that fifty straight patch I could sew on my shooting vest. Or, I can think

back to that day in the Grand American when I went to the final post and realized that if I could only break five more targets, I would win a trophy, and that my name would go in the record book. Every one of those five targets was agony personified, and I don't think I have ever been more relieved when all were broken. Dick Nobbs not only set a new twelve gauge standard, but turned in very creditable percentages in 20, 28, and 410 events, with .983 in 20, .978 in 28, and .948 on six hundred of each of the smaller bores.

Nobbs is a relatively new shooter, beginning competition in 1965, and quickly shooting to the top of the heap. In a "Skeet Shooting Review" story, he gives very simple advice to those who would try to equal his mark. He says "stand up straight, and look hard, even stare at the targets. That way they look bigger (and easier)." Sounds easy, doesn't it? I predict that a lot of skeet gunners will be standing straight and looking hard at their targets in 1972. For more on the hot 1971 skeet record book, Rickey Pope from Granger, Texas, took high NSSA All-Around honors for the year in the four gauges with a figure of .9890 in the men's division. Dick Nobbs, naturally topped 12 gauge (his all-around mark of .9835 was 11th). George Lehr and Tilden Downing shared .996 in 20 gauge. Red Hill and Rickey Pope shared .990 in 28 gauge, while Rickey Pope was all alone in 410 with .982. Ann Yancey took three of the women's yearly marks, All-Around honors at .9727, 12 gauge .992, and a 410 mark of .932. Joyce Luce took both 20 and 28 gauge yearly marks with her .975 in 20 gauge, and .982 in 28 gauge. Barney Hartman won it all in the Pro division, with averages of .9919, .993, .998, 986, and another .986 in the four gauges.

These are the marks to shoot at in 1972. Just stand up straight and look hard at the targets, and your name

and pistol matches and outdoor high power rifle shoots.

In many cases, clubs are restricted to the type of shooting activity they can hold by the amount of land they own. Few clubs boast land holdings large enough to accommodate regulation trap and skeet competition or outdoor rifle ranges greater than 200 yards.

Mini-Trap could be the answer to their dilemma, a new source of revenue and the spark plug for stimulating shooting competition among members, particularly young ones. It consists of regulation trap reduced to half the specifications. Only 410 gauge shotguns are used on standard size clay pigeons thrown approximately 35 yards. Traps are available from several manufacturers. The field is only 210 yards long and 75 yards wide. Shooters stand 25 feet behind the trap house and fire at two targets from each of five stations for a total of 20 birds in a given round. Ammunition consists of the regulation 2½-inch shotshell with a maximum of a half ounce of shot not larger than 7½.

The National Rifle Association recently introduced the 410 Mini-Trap Qualification Course to its members, authorizing competition for awards under supervision and certain regu-

lations, some of which have been mentioned here.

Mini-Trap should appeal to the experienced shooter as well as the novice. For the former, it raises his level of competition, and demands more in the way of accuracy than the bigger gauge shotguns.

For the youngster interested in shooting, Mini-Trap is the ideal start. It serves as an excellent vehicle for training tyros, and use of the 410 eliminates the recoil problem a beginner usually must overcome.

From a club standpoint, Mini-Trap offers the same challenge of regulation trap, if not more, at less cost. The same principles of swinging on targets and leading them properly for hits apply. As for the availability of enough 410 gauge shotguns with which to conduct Mini-Trap competition, there's no problem. NRA specifications allow use of any type of 410 gun or any break-action shotgun in 12, 16 or 20 gauge, providing it is equipped with Savage "Four-Tenner" tubes.

In other words, sportsmen owning either side-by-side, over-and-under or single barrel shotguns need only to purchase a "Four-Tenner" tube for each barrel, providing their guns break open at the breach. Cost of a single tube is less than \$10.

Clubs interested in adding Mini-Trap to their activities should contact the NRA at 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036 for additional information.



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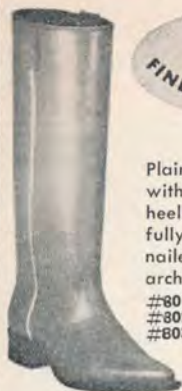
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THE MAGNIFICENT BORCHARDT: FIRST COMMERCIALY SUCCESSFUL AUTOMATIC

(Continued from page 29)

of bluing process. The grips were made of beautifully grained walnut, as were the detachable stock and its cheekpiece.

The caliber of the pistol was .30 inch and chambered a special bottleneck cartridge. The weight of the bullet was 84.8 grains, case length .990 inch, powder-smokeless, and the case was brass. The very early original Borchardt rounds may be identified by two channels or grooves ringing the neck of the case between the bottleneck and the mouth of the case. At a range of 500 meters the bullet would penetrate between 2 and 4 inches of pine. Muzzle velocity was 1,312 feet per second. This muzzle velocity is quite an achievement for a gun manufactured in 1893.

The takedown of the Borchardt is as follows: first make sure the pistol is not loaded, then pull the trigger to release the firing pin. Now unscrew the main spring housing screw and press against the main spring housing while the screw is being taken out, release the pressure slowly and the main spring housing will follow and can be unhooked from the stirrup. The right and left coverplates are now raised sufficiently at the lower end to free them and are then turned sideways against their stops so that the connecting pin can be pushed out towards the left side of the pistol. Remove the trigger-cover screw and then by means of a slight push upwards, the trigger cover. Remove the trigger by lifting it from the trigger guard. After removal of the trigger, the barrel and forked receiver with the lock-mechanism can be pulled forward and off the frame. The toggle action can then be pulled to the rear and separated from the barrel and receiver. The firing pin is taken out by unscrewing the breechblock screw with the special screwdriver having a central stud. The extractor is pressed

upward in order to be pulled out of the breechblock. The sear can be taken out after removing the sear-screw. The grips are removed by pressing against their inner face after the screws are withdrawn. By pushing the safety downward, it falls out, the safety spring is then taken out and the magazine catch can be pushed through from the left to the right side. The breechblock, the toggles, the friction rolls, and the catch-lever remain assembled as much as possible. However, they can be separated by carefully driving out the connecting pins.

The pistol can be assembled in the reverse order from the above procedure. In doing so, one must observe that the searscrew is turned so that the flat side on the lower cylindrical part will correspond with the grooves in the receiver. When the receiver and the assembled mechanism are being pushed into the guides of the grip, the rear end of the ejector has to be lifted, so that the breechblock can pass freely over its forward end. This is done by passing a screwdriver through the springbox opening in the grip and pressing up against the under side of the projecting rearend of the ejector.

The Borchardt Pistol's biggest claim to fame, other than being the first commercially successfully automatic pistol, is that it was the direct predecessor of the Luger pistol. George Luger, inventor of the Luger pistol, obviously borrowed most of the design ideas from Borchardt, especially the toggle breech and trigger mechanisms. As everyone knows the Luger pistol is probably the most sought after automatic pistol in the world today. Even though the Borchardt never achieved the success of the Luger, there is no doubt that today the Borchardt holds one of the most esteemed positions among collectors of automatic pistols.



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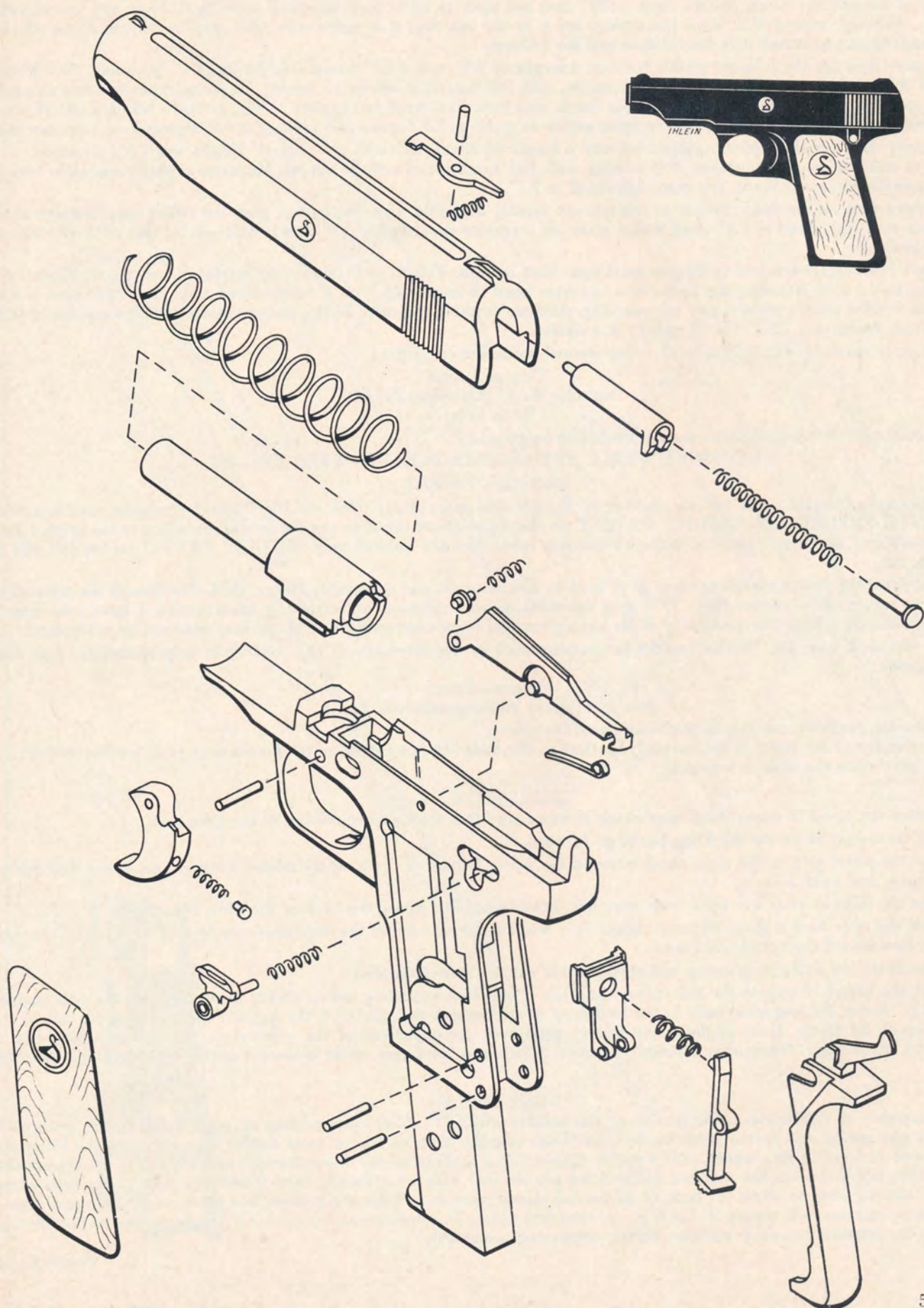


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The basic Ortgies pistol was developed (by H. Ortgies?) shortly after the end of World War I. It is generally listed in all three of the calibers noted, but the 9mm (.380) does not seem to have been imported into the U.S. in any considerable numbers. Although several U.S. firms listed parts for it in the late 30s, it is noteworthy that most American firms offering complete Ortgies pistols had only the 6.35mm and the 7.65mm.

Factory data for the 6.35mm pistols indicate a length of 5.2" with a 2.7" barrel. Height was 3.4", thickness, .75". Weight of pistol with empty magazine was about 13¼ ounces, with full magazine, almost 15 ounces. Magazine capacity was six rounds. Rifling specifications varied somewhat, but six lands, one turn right-hand in (approx.) 7¼", giving a rifling angle of about 6.2 degrees, was about the average. Rifling helix angles as small as 5.5 degrees and as large as 6.6 degrees have been recorded.

Factory data for the 7.65mm pistols indicate a length of about 6½" with 3½" barrel. Height was 4.3", thickness, .87". Weight of pistol with empty magazine, 21½ ounces, with full magazine, almost 24 ounces. Magazine capacity was eight rounds. Rifling specifications: six lands, one turn right-hand in 7.7".

Factory data on the 9mm Ortgies pistols are not readily available. The Pistol Atlas gives the rifling specifications as six lands, one turn right-hand in 9.4" (and it also gives the magazine capacity as eight rounds while giving that of the 7.65mm as seven rounds).

There is a regular bouquet of Ortgies markings. Most indicate Erfurt, and the Erfurt markings are accompanied by a medallion in the grip including the figure of a couchant beast of some sort with a long, raised tail. This medallion is also found on Ortgies pistols without any city-marking. Another marking indicates Berlin, and the medallion on the grips of these pistols is an intertwined "HO" (H. Ortgies?) in a circle.

An early marking was (left side of slide—animal medallion on grips):

Ortgies' Patent
Deutsche Werke Aktiengesellschaft
Werk Erfurt

Another was (left side of slide—animal medallion on grips):

DEUTSCHE WERKE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT—WERK ERFURT
ORTGIES' PATENT

Still another marking was (all on one line on the left side of the slide): DEUTSCHE WERKE (insignia: same as medallion) WERK ERFURT, with ORTGIES' PATENT on the right side of the slide and the animal medallion in the grips. I have seen a picture of an Ortgies pistol with the animal grip medallion and marked only ORTGIES' PATENT on the left side of the slide, too.

Just when the Berlin markings came in is hard to determine. It was apparently before 1931, but though the temptation is there to regard the accompanying "HO" grip medallion as an indication of very early manufacture, I have been unable to confirm this as a fact. The possibility of its having resulted from a reorganization of the firm must not be overlooked.

Be that as it may, the "Berlin" markings (accompanied by the intertwined-"HO"-in-a-circle grip medallion) are (left side of slide):

Ortgies—Patent
Deutsche Werke Aktiengesellschaft Berlin

There are probably others and combinations of the above.

The caliber of the pistol is not normally marked on the slide but is stamped on the barrel so as to be visible through the ejection port when the slide is forward.

DISASSEMBLY—

Be sure the pistol is empty—and then check to make sure that there's no cartridge in the chamber!

Pull the trigger to permit the firing pin to go forward.

Take the pistol grip in the right hand, press in the safety button (or grip safety release button) just above and behind the left grip, and hold it in.

Take the slide in your left hand with your left thumb extending across the back of the slide, covering it.

Draw the slide back a short distance (about ½") and lift the rear end of the slide above the level of the barrel. Then ease the slide forward off the barrel and frame.

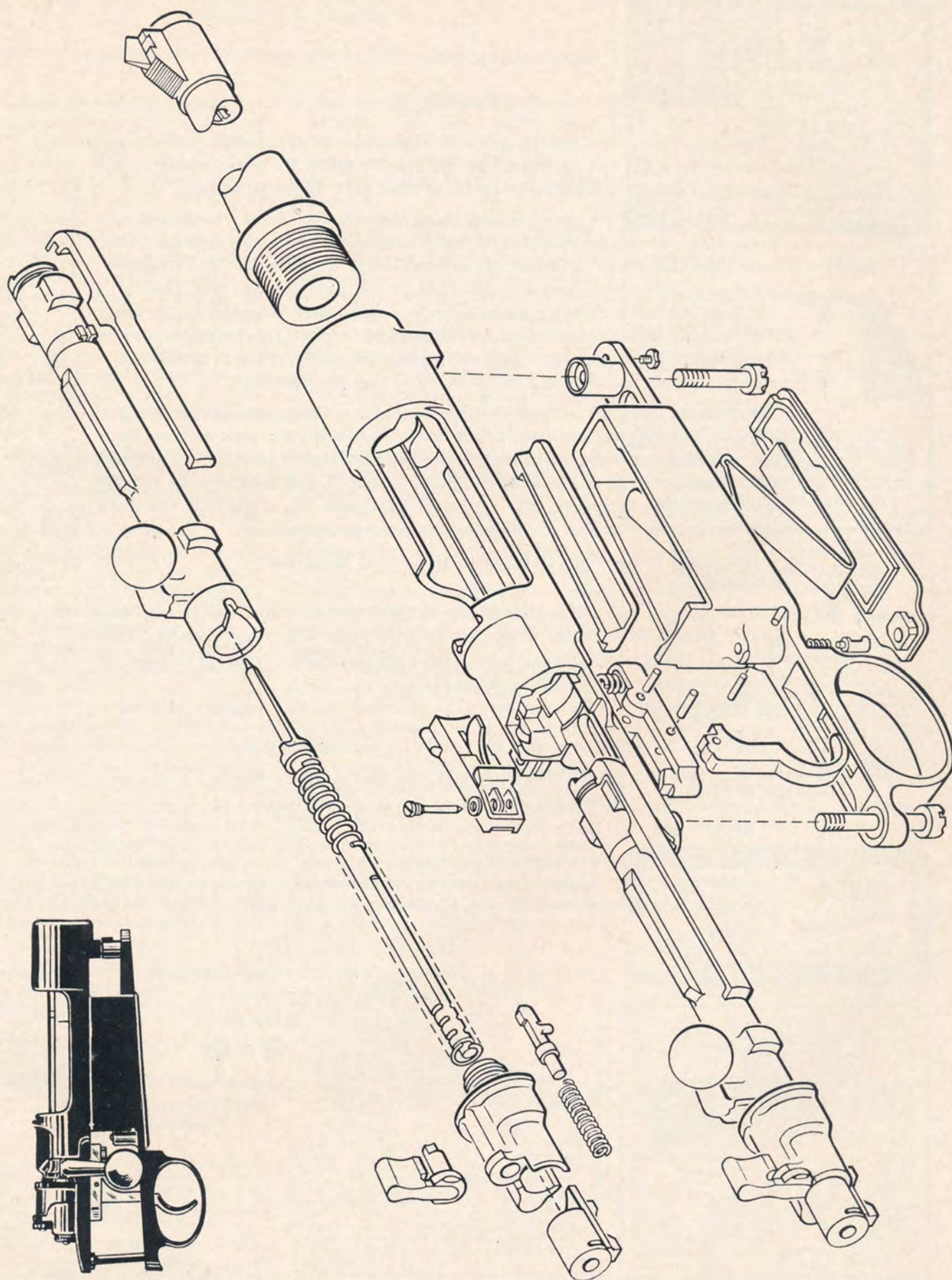
Then shake the firing pin, spring and spring guide out the back of the slide.

Push the barrel ¼ turn to the left (pivot) and life it off. With a cleaning rod or similar item press back the grip retainer (about 1½" inside the magazine well, in the backstrap of the frame) and shake off the grips. Push the cross-pin out of the lower rear of the frame. Hold in the safety button, push back the upper end of the grip safety, then tilt out lower end of safety and lift it clear. Grasp sear assembly between thumb and forefinger, move it toward centerline of gun and then lift it clear.

REASSEMBLY—

Reassembly of the Ortgies is the reverse of disassembly EXCEPT! After reassembling all parts to the frame, reassemble the firing pin, spring and spring guide to the slide. Then take the cleaning rod or some similar item and push the firing pin spring guide forward in its channel until it can be tipped into a notch in the top of the channel, where it will, you hope, remain. Pick up the slide and cover the rear end of the firing pin channel with your thumb, then reassemble slide and recoil spring to frame, moving slide to about ½" back of its normal closed position and tipping it down into place, where the upper flange of the safety member will engage it. Let it go forward into place. This operation is simplified if you remember to put the grip safety in its extreme rearward position before attempting reassembly.

—Roger Marsh



MAUSER 98

Although developed earlier, the adoption of this world famous action by Germany in 1898, gave it the name it retains to this day. Basically, the action remained the same until about 1943 when manufacturing "short cuts" began to appear.

The "caliber" was changed, however, about 1904. As introduced, the weapon was chambered for the Model 88 cartridge (bullet diameter .318—groove diameter .320). About 1904-1905 the Spitzer bullet was adopted and, as this bullet is .323 in diameter, the groove diameter was changed to .325. Both barrels have the same land diameter—.311. With the introduction of the new bullet, barrels were "free-bored" for about 23 m/m. (98 Mausers, barreled before 1905 should be carefully checked as modern 7.9 ammo will create dangerous pressure peaks.) Originally, military barrels chambered for the new cartridge had an "S" stamped over the chamber.

Through the years, the following changes have appeared: Barrels have become progressively shorter, original straight bolt handle has been bent, sight improvements have been made, and the magazine follower has been altered so as to stop the bolt when magazine is empty. About 1944 however, stamped, and crudely fitted and finished parts began to appear; also the longitudinal guide rib on the bolt was eliminated and manufacture and assembly became progressively inferior.

Commercial actions were, in the main, identical to the military with the following variations:

Rifles intended for factory-fitted telescopic sights had a flat top rear bridge. Some actions were a trifle longer (Magnum Mausers) and some were smaller (Baby Mausers). The strengths of these were supposedly no different from the original but varied approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " larger and smaller.

TO DISMOUNT:

1. Cock weapon and place safety lever in the "Up" (middle) position.
2. Open bolt stop (on left side of receiver bridge) and withdraw bolt.
3. Unscrew firing mechanism, pressing in the bolt sleeve locking pin, and turning sleeve to left until free.
4. Rest firing mechanism assembly on wooden block and press sleeve down until cocking piece may be given a quarter turn and removed. To remove magazine floor plate, push magazine catch in with a pointed instrument, and push plate toward trigger.

MAN IN WASHINGTON: ARMED FELONS?

(Continued from page 8)

discussed the amendment summarized Title VII as "making it a Federal crime to take, possess, or receive a firearm across State lines." (The court had to go to the House discussion for this statement.) "In short," held the court, "the legislative history of the Act hardly speaks with that clarity of purpose which Congress supposedly furnishes courts in order to enable them to enforce its true will." . . . Taken together, the statutory materials are inconclusive on the central issue of whether or not the statutory phrase "in commerce or affecting commerce" applies to 'possess' and 'receives' as well as 'transports.'

The court adopted the narrow reading of what it called a choice between two readings of what Congress intended. It held "a fair warning should be given to the world in language that the common world will understand of what the law intends to do if a certain line is passed and to make the warning fair, so fair as possible the line should be clear."

The principle supporting the decision is that unless Congress conveys its purpose clearly, it will not be deemed to have significantly changed the Federal-State balance of power. Congress had traditionally been reluctant to define, as a federal crime, conduct readily denounced as criminal by the States.

"The court held in the Bass case, the broad construction urged by the Justice Department which renders traditionally local criminal conduct a matter for federal enforcement and would also involve a substantial ex-

tension of federal police resources.

Agreeing with the decision were Justice Marshall, Douglas, Brennan, Stewart, and White. Not agreeing were Chief Justice Burger and Justice Blackmun.

The dissenting opinion held that Senator Long's explanatory comments on the floor of the Senate revealed clearly the purpose, the intent and the extent of the legislation: "I have prepared an amendment which I will offer at an appropriate time, simply setting forth the fact that anybody who has been convicted of a felony . . . is not permitted to possess a firearm."

"It might be well to analyze," read the dissenting opinion, "the logic involved. When a man has been convicted of a felony, unless—as this bill sets forth—he has been expressly pardoned by the President and the pardon states that the person is to be permitted to possess firearms in the future, that man would have no right to possess firearms. He would be punished criminally if he is found in possession of them."

"So Congress simply finds that the possession of these weapons by the wrong kind of people is either a burden on commerce or a threat that affects the free flow of commerce. You cannot do business in an area, and you certainly cannot do as much of it and do it as well as you would like, if, in order to do business, you have to go through a street where there are burglars, murders, and arsonists armed to the teeth against innocent citizens. So the threat certainly affects greatly the natural free



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"Without question, the Federal Government does have power to control possession of weapons where such possession could become a threat to interstate commerce. State gun control laws, where they exist, have proven inadequate to bar possession of firearms from those most likely to use them for unlawful purposes. . . .

"Nor would Title VII impinge upon the rights of citizens generally to possess firearms for legitimate and lawful purposes. It deals solely with those who have demonstrated that they cannot be trusted to possess a firearm—those whose prior acts—mostly voluntary—have placed them outside of our society. . . .

"I (we) thus conclude that what was intended to and does reach all possessions and receipts of firearms by convicted felons, and that the Court should move on and decide the constitutional issues present in this case."

What the High Court has done was to throw out the case on the basis that it did not think Congress meant to go as far as the wording of the law stated. Justices Burger and Blackmun have disagreed, saying the law is clear and that what the court should address itself to is the right of congress to outlaw the possession of firearms by convicted criminals.

It will be some time now before the court has that opportunity. The so-called 'liberals' of the Congress object to Congress enacting such a law and any bill to restate the law to get back to the High Court for a Constitutional Ruling will meet with strong objection. Meanwhile these same 'liberals' want to confiscate all handguns, and make it a federal crime for any one to have one. It is a strange world!



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SHOOT-OUT TEXAS STYLE: SCHUETZEN MATCHES

(Continued from page 25)

marksman may bang off his 10 rounds on the one target, the shot being marked and scored after each firing; other times he may fire only 2 shots and then must retire to await his turn to shoot again. This is a long and involved procedure and ordinarily the match, what with the number of entries and the necessity for changing targets, takes all day.

There is a koenigschissen (king shoot) as an indubitable part of the annual championship. This is sometimes based on the 10-shot score but more often is a separate match and usually is determined by the marksman who places a single round closest to the center of the 25-ring. He may have only the one shot to fire but generally he is allowed 3 shots and the one that places nearest the center is the only shot counted. The 25-ring for the king shoot is removable and after the gunner gets his bullet into it the center is removed from the target, the competitor's number is affixed to the back and it is filed at the targets. Later when the match is over all these centers are handed over to the judges behind the firing line. Here the decision is made as to who is the King of the Shoot. In the event of ties the society has an elaborate calibrator, designed sometime in the distant past by a meticulous German Schuetzenfester which, when applied, settles shot location to a thousandth part of an inch.

Thirty miles from Fredricksburg is another Schuetzen Verein. It is at Boerne, birthplace of the immortal Ad Toepperwein, the greatest trick and fancy marksman who ever lived. The Boerne group are the most active club in Texas today. They fire every Friday night, under lights, the year long. They also stage a number of club competitions and these are usually on Sunday. They differ from the Fredricksburg gunners in that they do no firing with centerfire calibers. They fire only the .22 long rifle. Other than this their procedure is much the same. The muzzle rest is very much in vogue, the distance is 100 yards, and the German ring target is used. There are variations, too, for in every match program there are always 10 shots banded out offhand. That is completely free of the muzzle support and these Schuetzeneers go in for the best in aperture sights. The Lyman

Series 524 and Series 60 micrometered rear and the 17A front aperture along with the Redfield Mark 8 and 75 and the Olympic detachable front aperture are commonplace. Most of the rifles I examined had a series of transparent amber apertures for the front sight, diameters seeming to vary with the ideas of the use.

Rifles ran to the Winchester Model 52, the Remington 37, with an occasional 40X, together with single-shot old timers. These included the Winchester low-wall, Stevens Ballards, Martinis; and a single Anschutz, the Model 1411. Barrels are mostly from Douglas, but there was a high percentage of standard factory tubes. Ammunition was match Remington and Winchester. Everyone complained of the unavailability of Eley cartridges.

These Schuetzen men did not go in for barrel extensions as did the group at Fredricksburg. However they did have some innovations that were almost as novel. These additions consisted of full length stocks, the wood extending to the muzzle. Most of the barrels were 28 inches and with the stock full length this made a rifle that in some examples weighed 25 pounds. At the forward end of the stock, and back about an inch from the muzzle was a spring-loaded stop. This stop, made of metal and including a series of short spikes, is pressed strongly against the muzzle rest. The spring which is incorporated in the device tends to cushion the stop and the spikes anchor it very firmly.

On other rifles that did not have the wood of the stock extending to the muzzle, the owner had attached a steel rod, 1/2 inch in diameter, or a piece of strap stock, 3/8 of an inch in thickness and 1 inch in width and this ran out almost to the muzzle. This extension was rested against the planking and permitted the shooter to lean into the rifle, when taking aim, as much as 15 degrees. When in the shooting position, he had in effect a tripod, formed by his angled body, the rifle and the muzzle rest. It was extremely secure, as I found on trying the game.

A rifle, when rested at the muzzle is adversely effected because of interference with normal muzzle vibrations. The addition of the rod extension below the barrel served to elimi-



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nate this hazard. Those stocks with wood to the muzzle were all relieved so that the barrel was free floating, I noted. This was necessary so that the tube could vibrate normally and without interference from the muzzle rest.

There is still another Schuetzen club at New Braunfels, again only scant miles from the shooting grounds at Boerne. The New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein is the oldest in Texas. It was established in 1849, and has fired annual matches every year since that date. Today, membership is small and it is speculative just how much longer the Schuetzenfest will be continued. Many members of the Boerne group are also active in the New Braunfels club. None probably more so than Jess Lloyd who is the champion. His favorite rifle is a Model 52 Winchester stocked by Fajen with a laminated full length stock. The rifle weighs 25 pounds and is equipped with Redfield sights, front and rear. The trigger is the standard type without modification to a set trigger. Lloyd fires match .22 ammo from Remington. The standard course of fire at both Boerne and New Braunfels is 10 shots, with a possible score of 250. On the club room walls at Boerne is a chart which shows that Lloyd has ran a perfect total more than any other member. Some 22 perfect scores are attested there. Helwig Marquardt is second with 19 perfect totals.

The Schuetzen game was introduced into this country by German and Swiss immigrants more than a hundred and fifty years ago. It had been practiced for six hundred years by these peoples, using the cross-bow and later when rifles came into being with, among other arms, one known as the Schuetzen. A large area in Texas was settled before the Civil War by German immigrants. It was natural they would fetch along their favorite shooting sport.

In eastern United States, the first Schuetzenfest of any importance was fired at New York in 1866. This was followed by a national firing, organized by the Germans at Baltimore in 1874. There was a third in 1876, a fourth at Union Hill, N.J. in '78; and another, the 6th in 1888. The grandest of them all was staged at Glendale, Long Island, in 1898. It attracted marksmen from all over the United States, lasted for 9 days, and prizes totaling \$25,000 were distributed. This was the heyday of the Schuetzenfest and even tho the game continued after this high-water mark it never did attain either the size nor yet the importance of this great powder burning on Long Island.

During the shank end of the last

century and into the twentieth, the greatest Schuetzen marksman was Dr. W. G. Hudson. This remarkable gunner must surely have devoted a good deal more time to his Remington Schuetzen .33 caliber rifle than he did to his patients for his gunning skill was so extraordinary that he must have spent most of his waking hours in practice.

In 1903, during a 100-shot competition known as the Election Day Match, Doctor Hudson ran up a new record score of 2301 points out of a possible of 2500. What this amazing marksman did was to average hitting a circle at 200 yards, offhand, of only 4½ inches diameter every time for one hundred tries. There are many rifles made in this country today and a great deal of ammunition, too, that will not group this closely at 200 yards. There are also countless thousands of marksmen who, if they got down in the prone position—much less offhand, could not keep all their shots in a ring as miniscule as this.

The Election Day Match was by no means a push-over for Hudson. There were fellow club members, a gent named W. H. French, and the inimitable Harry Pope, greatest barrel maker who ever lived, strongly pushing him every shot. And as a matter of fact, after the first 50 shots were banged out, Harry Pope had 1157, French had 1141 and Hudson was trailing with 1134. On the very next 10-shot string, however, the doughty doctor banged out an 230 as against 222 for French and thus closed the gap. What happened to Harry Pope should never have occurred to such an old an astute rifleman!

Pope, ever the gregarious one, turned away to speak to a friend who had just arrived and he did this right after he had started a bullet in the muzzle of his .33 rifle. He did not complete the operation and after greetings to the acquaintance, he returned to his firing point, picked up his rifle and fired. The shot was a miss, as well it would be since the ball was still only inches down the tube from the business end. It not only cost Pope the match but also a new record. He only lost the match by 9 points. He, like Hudson, was averaging the 23 ring throughout the entire firing.

On the completion of the 9th string, Hudson and French were tied. During the next 5 shots, French forged into the lead by the formidable total of 4 points. As an indication of the unperturbability of Doc Hudson—he was like the notorious Doc Holliday of Tombstone fame, a dentist—he proceeded to chalk up 24, 25, 24 to top his competitor by 2 points.

Gunner French shot more rapidly

than did Hudson and finished the match some half-dozen shots ahead. This did not upset "our hero" who continued to be just as deliberate, just as methodical, and just as thorough as at any time during the long 100-shot grind. At his 99th shot all the crowd gathered behind his shooting post and everyone knew that he had to shoot a 19 or better to beat French. Hudson took a long time with the shot, put the rifle down and took it up twice and, when finally he let go, the marker came up a 21. He had bested his fellow member by the narrow margin of 3 points. As we've already noted, the hapless Harry Pope lost by only 9 points even tho he had one total miss, a sacrifice of 25 points.

Dr Hudson was shooting a Remington Schuetzen rifle rebarreled by the Syracuse (NY) barrel maker, A. O. Zischang. It was a .33 caliber, 32-inch loaded separately. That is the .32-40 shell was chambered and then the ball was rammed from the muzzle. The "Shooting & Fishing" magazine, fore-runner of the "American Rifleman", reported the match and gave a description of the rifle Dr. Hudson was firing. The editor also stated: "It is with considerable reluctance that we give the loading fired by the doctor." The reason being that Hudson was mixing smokeless and black powders. The magazine frowned on this and advised the rank and file marksmen not to engage in such hazardous experiments. The charge was 10 grains of bulk Laffin & Rand Sharpshooter in the bottom of the casing and 37 grains bulk No 1 DuPont rifle smokeless on top of the black powder. There was a thin wad atop the charge, necessary because of the separate loading practiced by the gunners of that day.

The Remington rifle carried the vernier aperture sight behind and a front aperture, both made and installed by Remington. Unlike our local Schuetzenmen, these old timers permitted a scope sight if the marksman so elected. In the 1903 match, 13 of the 22 entries fired with the scope. Among these was Harry Pope. Dr Hudson had two scopes and often shot with them. In the great record-setting affair, however, he clung to his aperture front and rear. The palm rest was permitted, but even in those days it was the subject of controversy. Dr Hudson did not use the palm rest. He balanced his 14-lb rifle on his upstanding fingers. That his fingers were conditioned to support the heavy piece for 100 shots (not to mention the trials when he brought the gun down from shoulder without firing) indicated the physical condition of the man.

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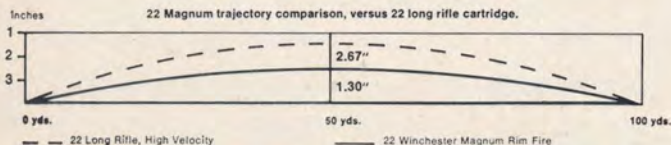
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FT. BEN HARRISON: HISTORY COMES ALIVE

(Continued from page 36)

work schedule, the Second began to show the signs of a crack military unit almost ready to recreate history's battles which are so often fought by arm-chair historians.

Under the by-laws of the corporation, each man is responsible for the purchase of his own equipment, the authenticity of which is carefully checked and the cost of which amounts to hundreds of dollars. After much complex dismounted drill, the troopers are led to the picket line to continue their instructions mounted. They work under the eye of experienced horsemen, one of which was actually a U.S. Army Cavalryman in the days of the noble steed. The men are taught the rules of horsemanship and the finer and much rarer points in horsemanship, a practice not much seen outside military circles.

Before uniting with Company "E", each man has usually had some experience with firearms and has often loaded his own cartridges, carefully adhering to company policy and rules. This is basically a must with Sgt. Swisher and Sgt. Craig, as through past experience they've learned that neglect of either weapons or cartridges can lead to a scarred face or hand.

In the field, the horse furniture, which consists of a saddle, bridle, bit and the usual tack, generally receives the same scrutiny and care as uniforms and brass buttons. Under such a hard and meticulous schedule, with the aim of ultimate perfection, the troopers of the Second U.S. Cavalry develop a familiarity with horses and mounted tactics second to none.

Now, with their grueling and lengthy training behind, these colorful and professional appearing cavalymen are standing by, with colors front and center, each gleaming button in its proper place, equipment polished and inspected, ready for action. With headquarters in the field, ready to strike upon the command given by bugle or the sergeant in command, performing the most exacting tactics in the field, they are termed by leading authors and historians as "history's most contemporary cavalymen". Riding their sorties before you, you can recapture one of American history's most colorful moments.

There were a few realistic infantry units which kept a uniform pace with army regulations, as far as the Civil

War period. These will be found only in some cases where certain units have carefully chosen interested men who will participate in researching their equipment as near to the exact government issue. Wearing the uniform with incorrect accoutrements or using a weapon that is of a later period will not get any unit a trophy, no matter how hard they've drilled. The authentic units are the best.

The Confederate Infantry, participating, and of no particular branch of the army, won one of the drill trophies at Fort Harrison. This particular unit, commanded by Maurice Whitlock of Delaware, was one of the best 'rag-tag' infantry ever seen. You couldn't have asked for more authenticity from the original group.

Elbows were shredded away, coats and jackets were either too large or



tight fitting, and slouch hats looked as though they had known several battles. When a pair of shoes were sighted, they were of the correct pattern, recently fabricated by a shoe specialist in Ohio. It doesn't look like it took much to gather a rag-torn uniform such as the Confederate infantryman might have worn for many months, without a change of clothing, but it took more than a few hundred dollars to gather enough information for just one man. It is almost unbelievable what a buff will actually go through to make his uniform authentic, right down to the stitch. Most weapons seen were original.

Saturday was somewhat of a blow to many of the newer buffs or raw recruits who had never ventured out

on a bivouac or drilled before veterans commemorating any given event in full uniform. Bringing all their equipment, they were soon shocked to learn of certain regulations set up by the S.V.R. for all units, particularly infantrymen. No ramrods were to be on the field during the sham battle or any other semi-staged conflict.

The S.V.R., or Sons of Union Veterans Reserve is a non-governmental ceremonial organization founded in 1881, "to glorify the Union Blue". Among some strict regulations set up by the S.V.R., at Fort Ben Harrison, were: no bayonets, no bowie knives, and no 'Arkansas toothpicks'. The only wadding in pistols were with tissue paper and Crisco or similar grease used for each chamber in pistols. Anything else in a lighter form of grease may lay a chamber exposed after firing and at the same time both chambers may go off. It has happened before. As far as muskets, there was no wadding used at all. To seal paper cartridges containing black powder with staples was rejected. They might be taped or glued with Elmer's glue.

In looking for original accoutrements, I noticed several newer ideas that seemed helpful in the field during such staged conflicts. Many of the men from the 4th Tennessee Cavalry used paper bank rolls for ten cent pieces. These paper tubes are ideal for black powder after emptying the coins from them. They may be filled with the correct portion of rifle powder and tightly sealed off by crimping both ends. Many of these can be housed in a cartridge box without any spilling of loose powder.

One of the biggest questions in the field for the budget-minded Civil War buff is: "How do you keep percussion caps from falling out of your pockets either on horseback or at a running speed?" It seems that this question has already been answered. A four inch surgical tape or adhesive tape, a half inch wide solves the problem. The percussion caps are adhered to the sticky side of the tape, their striking heads down, each about one-eighth inch apart. More than 10 caps are placed in a row down the center of the tape. The excess of tape is brought up and stuck to the sides of all the caps, housing them securely. This beats spending \$7.00 or \$8.00 for a musket capper. It is much easier to load, fire, and load again, when you know you have already ten caps secured in your palm with no worry of trying to dig for them in a pouch or hunt for the remainder spilled on the ground.

A pretty hardened bunch are these artillery boys. A fellow must have a certain love for black powder smoke

when standing behind one of these babies after firing. It is not hard to believe that these two-wheeled mule kickers weigh in the neighborhood of 400 to 1200 pounds. Wheeling these around, in conjunction with loading and unloading, is like pushing around an iceberg. They are hard to manage and very awkward. In mud, it's like pulling a dead horse.

Before any trip, the artillery groups have to prepare the powder charges into acceptable size rounds for each piece. These rounds must be wrapped three times with aluminum broiling foil. Priming charges must be like musket loads. No cans, flasks, or powder horns are to be used for priming. Well made cap systems, electrical priming, Linstock or friction primers are permissible.

The proper tools for any enactment are as follows:

- 1) a worm to be used after every shot
- 2) the vent pick to be of a non-sparking material
- 3) a thumbstall to be used continuously to stop the vent while the piece is being sponged and loaded
- 4) a water bucket to wet the sponge
- 5) a sponge that fits the barrel tightly
- 6) a canteen to be carried by each man to flood any loosely spilled powder
- 7) a rammer with a wooden head
- 8) if using reinforcing bands, fasteners are to be made of non-sparking materials
- 9) rammer, sponge, and worm shafts are to be made of only wood

Among the artillery that participated were: Morton's Battery of Forrest's Cavalry Corps., C.S.A.; 2nd Wisconsin Light Artillery; and Battery "B", 4th U.S. Artillery. Sgt. R.I. Hill acted as Artillery Safety Officer. Morton's Battery won the competition drill trophy in the artillery class.

Luckily, during the whole three day

event, the only near mishap was when a cavalry trooper's horse got away from him after one of the artillery pieces went off. The horse bolted and with full equipment charged the crowd, knocking over an elderly woman and scaring a handful of spectators. After the horse was retrieved, everything went back to normal. Picking herself up, with a helping hand from two gentlemen, the grey haired woman calmly brushed herself off, threw her head back proudly, and inquired of the next event. An applause roared from the bleachers.

The S.V.R. couldn't be any prouder of the way things went off at Fort Ben Harrison. There were no injuries, and everything seemed to fall into place accordingly. As for the weather? The expected tornado did not show up as predicted. It was said by one of the Confederate infantry that "that dern twister hadn't show up. If'n it wuz lookin' fer a fight, sech as we ain't got from these blue jackets yet, we'll oblige it."

The commanders who worked hard to carry out this event were: Sons of Veterans Reserve, B.G.L. Chester Shriver; L.T.C. Donald Lewis; and Maj. E. A. von Frankenburg. From the Confederate High Command: General Donald A. Ramsey, Texas Brigade, Col. R. Cornwell, Army of Northern Virginia; and General Henry Horn.

Coordinator with the U.S. Army, Mr. Cleon Duncan, Curator of the Post Museum at Fort Benjamin Harrison, worked hand in hand with 1st Sgt. Doyle Swisher and Sgt. Robert Craig. 1st Sgt. Swisher, chairman of the program, from Greencastle, Indiana, helped organize the 2nd Cavalry, Company "E", and reactivated it as a participating unit in the Cavalry competition. His unit won first honors.

To these men we proudly salute for a wonderful and most memorial event.

NRA White Paper

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GUN TRADING:

(Continued from page 31)

workmanship, or initial value. They may very well be just that, but my premise is that they are the *best traders*, nothing more intended.

Shotguns are probably the easiest to identify, as relatively few are popular coast to coast. I say relatively, as there may be as many as a dozen, but I'll limit my selections to these:

Browning Automatic shotguns of the humpback style are easily the most popular traders. Even though many knowledgeable shooters are switching to shorter barrels and open chokes, and to the 20 gauge, the 12 gauge with a 30" full choke barrel takes the marbles based upon our trading philosophy (high demand before Fall pheasant and duck hunting, lower demand during nonhunting periods).

Even though it is out of production, the Winchester M12 takes second by a nose. Had it not reached collector status, which pushes price upwards, and limits supply, it would have been first. Original factory guns far outclass those with variable choke devices and custom stocks.

I didn't mean to demean the Superposed, for it takes third position. As many competitors in the over/under market have come to realize, price with class sells better than price alone, and that goes for trading as well.

Ithaca 37's, Remington 32's, 1100's and 870's, Parkers, Foxes, the list of fine shotguns goes on and on. Remember, I'm not slighting these at all. In fact, I had a hard time not to include the Remington 1100 in the top three. I finally decided to leave it out because of the practice of some dealers to advertise Remington guns at "wholesale" prices. I have seen 1100's sell new in some parts of the country for the same money as used ones in another, and this practice defeats my coast to coast value basis. Just to show I am trying to be objective, I'll state that the Browning Double Auto is probably one of the worst traders.

Individual pistol models are probably the most difficult to identify as universally popular, because the same basic models have practically endless variations. Sights, caliber, barrel length, and stocks can be changed, and the gun's characteristics are changed. As well, I feel that pistol trading is more brisk than for the long arms. This is due for several

reasons, the most obvious being ease of transportability. Secondly, a non-hunter or non-collector can justify owning a pistol for home defense. Pistols are relatively more inexpensive than comparable quality long arms, and many budding collectors are collecting current production models of certain pistols. Finally, hunting with a pistol has very little effect on trading, so defining hunting pistols is difficult.

Several standout traders in the pistol field are identifiable, however, and among these is the Colt Single Action which takes top billing in the trader's market. Historically important, this model is popular with collectors, hunters, wall-hangers, home defenders, and plinkers. Trading the older models can be tough, because the average person is not as knowledgeable as the serious Colt collector, but coast to coast, a modern single-action is a highly negotiable item.

Smith and Wesson pistols are all excellent traders. It would be simple to say S&W pistols and leave it there. In the 1950's, the K-38 would have been the choice, but today the magnums take top billing. The M27 in .357 and M29 in .44 are both hot items, but I'll go with the .357. Find either with a 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch barrel and you've got a gun worth more than factory list.

Third spot goes to the Colt Government Model .45. With slight factory or qualified gunsmith (à la Swenson) custom modifications, this gun has been touted as the best a) target pistol, b) defense pistol, and c) hunting pistol made. Be that as it may, it has historical significance, romantic appeal, and universal acceptance.

Ruger pistols, Browning, Hi Standards—again these are terrific traders as well, but they just don't make my top three category.

Choosing top traders in the rifle category is as nearly as hard as for pistols, because of the trend to bring out new calibers and models almost yearly. As well, hunting season has the greatest affect on value, where rifle hunting is allowed. Nonetheless, I'll go with the following:

Number one spot goes to the Pre-64 Winchester M70. Supergrade's in exotic calibers can be found in collector's locked cabinets, but standard grade .243's, .270's, and 30-06's are available.

I simply have to lump my number two selection. Winchester M52's, M61's, M62's, and M63's all represent an era of gun making that has slipped by. Since all of these are .22's, I don't feel I cheated too badly. Many of these can still be obtained reasonably, and all are top trading material.

Number three spot goes to the MI Carbine. I know this will raise many a hackle, but let's review what I set out to identify: top traders, the guns which are most negotiable from coast to coast, not the "best" guns.

Those are my choices, and I'll stick to them, but let's get the dealer's point of view. I asked three gun dealers to identify what they consider top traders. First of all, Ernie Simmons, Jr. gives what best could be described as a national view, based upon the size and scope of his operation. Secondly, I asked the owner of a large shop in the Chicago area, Conrad Sundeen, to give his views, which reflect a more limited area. Finally, I got Mike Brown, owner of a gun shop in a small suburb of Chicago to give his choices, which reflect an even more local view. None of these men knew my choices, as may be evident in several cases.

I met Ernie Simmons, Jr. while I was stationed in Kansas City, and I spent many a pleasant hour dickering with him over trades. If any of you have seen the showroom in Olathe, Kansas, you know that there are few shops with as many guns on display. Ernie answered by query as follows:

"First of all, I can't be specific and name just one model in each category. If a certain model is particularly outstanding, I'll mention it.

In the shotgun group, the Winchester M-12 in practically any gauge and choke is absolutely tops. Second would be the Browning Auto-5 shotgun, and thirdly the Remington 870 and 1100 models.

Rifles I'd rate as follows: Winchester Pre-64 in almost any configuration. Second would be the Winchester 94 in 30-30 caliber, old or new style. Finally, I find a heavy demand for military conversions.

The pistol group is extremely hard to pin down. I'd put S&W's on top, followed by Lugers and Colts."

Interesting, yes? Ernie's selection of military conversions is probably going to raise as many hackles as my selection of the MI carbine. But Ernie makes his livelihood from guns, so who should know better?

Now, to get a little closer to home, let's hear from Conrad Sundeen.

Conrad operates the Sundeen Gun Store in Oaklawn, Illinois. He has one of the better selections of high quality used guns in the Chicago area. The last time I was in his shop, for example, I saw 37 Lugers, 23 Mauser Broomhandles, 16 Colt Single Actions, and three Remington M32's, to mention just a few. Conrad replied to the top-trader question as follows:

"I find it difficult to select specific guns, so I'll have to use groupings. In

the pistol category, Colt Single Actions of any vintage are tops, followed by Lugers in general. My third choice would be any pre-war Colt pistol.

Browning shotguns as a whole rate the top slot, except perhaps for the Double-Auto. Any Parker shotgun is always good, and I have to put the 1100 Remington third.

Rifles are tough to evaluate, but I'll put any Pre-64 Winchester tops. This includes M70's, of course, but also the .22's in the M61, M62, and M63 group. Second slot goes to Browning bolt actions, and I would have to put the MI Carbine and MI Garand in third place.

To go back for a minute, I can't see how I left out the Winchester M21, and the Model 12 and 42. The Model 42, particularly, has become a very good item. But those guns are becoming more and more scarce and expensive, and the average person won't see many good ones available."

Mike Brown, owner of the Shot and Shutter Gun and Camera Shop in McHenry, Illinois, gets a heavy trade from the local trapshooting fraternity, and carries a general line of guns.

"In the pistol group," Mike answered, "I'll put S&W first, and limit my selections to those with adjustable sights as being the top traders. Second would have to be the Colt Python, and third place goes to the 1911A1.

In the shotgun category my first choice will probably surprise you. We find, however, that the single barrel, low priced models are impossible to keep in stock. I'll include the Stevens M94C, Winchester 370 and the like. Second would have to be the Remington 870, followed by M12's.

Rifles are a difficult group to categorize, but we find U.S. Military rifles hard to beat. Garands, Springfields, Krag, 45-70 Trapdoors and M1 carbines are all excellent. Second would have to be any Pre-64 Winchester lever action rifle. Finally, I'd put .22 autos, as a group, in third place."

Well, there you have it, straight from the horses' mouths. I don't agree with some, and I'm sure you don't either, but remember, these folks earn their keep doing what they know best.

Finally, I will note one thing which I have not yet mentioned, and that is the condition of the gun to be traded. Obviously, a gun in fine condition will bring more than one in bad shape. However, I feel condition is much less important than sticking to factory specification's, for example.

This discussion can't guarantee to make you an expert trader, but it should make you more aware of the factors which go into making a good trade. Good trading!



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GUN RACK:

THE BEST ON THE MARKET

(Continued from page 45)

the sixgun with the "Speed Strip", you can strip off one round at a time or if you are in a hurry you can readily load two simultaneously. For the feller in a hurry to recharge the cylinder of his Old Equalizer this gizmo, from the fertile brain of Bianchi, is the Real McCoy! It will especially appeal to law enforcement personnel. The strips come in pairs and can be toted in a pants pocket or in a pouch at the belt. The cartridges are very firmly held in place and yet come popping out readily with a slight twist of the strip after the cartridge has been started into the chamber of the gun. *Col. Charles Askins.*

• • •

Peterson's Labels, a firm at Redding Ridge, Conn., makes a series of target centers. These are of bright red coloration and come in a variety of sizes, like 1 inch, 1½ inch, 2 inch and 3 inch diameters. These centers, which Peterson likes to call "Targ-Dots", are gummed on the reverse side and will stick to such backboards as packing crates, plywood, rough-sawed lumber, wrapping paper, tin siding, board fences and cloth. I took a roll of the centers on an African safari and when a scope went sour I dug out the "Targ-Dots" stuck one up on a thorn tree after the boys hacked off a bit of bark and the center provided an ideal mark. I now make it a regular practice to pack along a roll of the centers in my shooting kit. They have proved

handy and convenient. *Col. Charles Askins.*

Weatherby Double

For many years the Weatherby Arms Co. has had its excellent Mark V rifle made by the J. P. Sauer & Sohn Co. of West Germany. This old-line outfit has a reputation for making some of the best shotguns in Europe. Aware of this, Roy Weatherby has now decided to add the Sauer shotgun to his rifle line. The first of his imports is a side-by-side 12 gauge to be known as the Royal model. It is an uplands gun.

This is a typical Sauer scattergun, it weighs but 6 pounds 14 ounces, with a feathery, fast-handling feel about it. Stocked for rising game, it shoots 10 inches above the mark at 30 yards. This is typical of the grouse gun and speaks well for the designers.



The barrels are 28 $\frac{5}{16}$ inches in length, sport a semi-raised solid rib and a single front sight. Chambers are 2¾ inches, and the barrels are marked FC and Mod, measurements indicate the full choke runs .680 inches and the modified is .695 inches. Patterned with Winchester loads of 3 drams equiv and 1½ ounces No. 7½ both barrels delivered full choke patterns.

The receiver is a box lock, in the conventional Sauer pattern, chromium finished on the outside so it will not rust, with a sketchy amount of very ordinary engraving. The lockup consists of two under bits and a doll's head extension through which passes a crossbolt. The latchup is only slightly stronger than a New England bank vault and there is an auto

safety. The trigger is a single, gold plated, and changeable with a lever. It is mechanical in operation and recoil plays no part in readying the second barrel. There are automatic selective ejectors, which are strong and positive and throw the empties quite smartly. Pull on the first trigger is 4 pounds; the second is 4 pounds 5 ounces, and both let-off clean and fast. There are indicators which show when the gun is cocked.

The wood in main stock and forend is a good grade of French walnut, while the pistol grip is hand checkered as is the forestock. This pistol grip has an attractive cap with a white line-spacer to set it off. There is a good quality recoil pad. The forestock is a semi-beavertail, and is long enough to feel comfortable to everybody including the fellow who wears a size 34 sleeve. The stock has a length of pull of 14 $\frac{3}{16}$ inches, a drop at comb of 1¾ inches, and a drop at heel of 2 inches. The gun is down pitched 1¾ inches. These are measurements for a trap gun, at 30 yards the center of pattern impact is 10 inches high. At 40 yards this is 14 inches high. This will work fine on ringnecks and other fast-rising game.

This latest Weatherby-Sauer is a high quality shotgun. For the man who is an admirer of the side-by-side smoothbore this gun will have a vast amount of appeal. *Col. Charles Askins.*

Reinhart Fajen

A cartridge trap which fits very neatly into the toe of the rifle stock is the latest device from the energetic stock maker at Warsaw, Missouri. The trap holds three rounds of ammo, has a blued steel trap door, spring actuated, and is lined with felt to dampen all noise and rattle. The buyer, if he is a clever woodworker, can install the latest Fajen accessory but, if he is only so-so with drill and chisel, then he had best let his gunsmith attend to the installation. Later on there will be a handsomely engraved trap. The cost of the device is \$18.50 if you do it yourself or \$40 if you send your stock to Fajen for the installation. These gizmos are a favorite with Continental shooters who frequently have this spare ammo supply as an integral part of the 3-barrel drilling. I cannot remember when I have ever gotten so desperate as to depend on the last 3 rounds but quite apart from this, the beauty of the cartridge trap appeals to me immensely. I like the addition and I am sure that once the engraved version is ready it will have even more demand than this original. *Col. Charles Askins.*

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THE COLT NAVY: SURPRISINGLY ACCURATE

(Continued from page 47)

FFFg, I proceeded to charge each chamber and seat the .374 balls which were loose. For accuracy this isn't good but what the hell. I greased each chamber with Ted's "authentic" cake decorator and Crisco, then primed each nipple with a Remington #11 percussion cap. The caps, too, were a little loose, but I proceeded anyhow.

Cocking the velvety smooth hammer, I squeezed one off at a beer can about 20 yards out and hit it. Thinking it was just blind luck, I held on and squeezed off the remaining five rounds with all shots hitting the can.

I looked at Ted and he at me, and he said, "Let me try it." He loaded in the same manner but this time pinched the caps with a pair of needle nosed pliers. The number 11's blew off when I shot, but they were easily cleared by simply tipping the gun upside down; this can not be done with a top strap model at all—you would have to remove the cylinder. If total field stripping is needed this Navy comes down quickly. First push the barrel wedge to the left till it clears the cylinder pin. Now release the rammer and cock the hammer to half cock. Then rotate the cylinder till the hammer lines up with the safety notches on the rear of the cylinder. Push the rammer toward the gun and the barrel is pushed off the frame.

So Ted, who is not a pistol shooter, let go with his six rounds with the same results. After this I wanted to put this pistol on paper so I looked around and found a couple of twenty five yard pistol targets and set them up on the 25 yard line. Ted loaded up with 16 grains of FFFg and again

the .374 loose ball. Firing from a rest, he proceeded to put the 6 shots in a group that measured 2.15" by 2.50" at 3 o'clock in the 10, 9 and 8 rings. This was astounding for a primitive sighting system.

Knowing the loose ball was hindering the accuracy Ted found some .40 caliber balls (actually .395), and using the same powder charge of 16 grains he seated the oversized balls, shearing off a good thick ring of lead giving a tight fit and seal. This is the secret of cap and ball accuracy; a tight fitting ball and deep rifling which this gun has.

From the rest, he proceeded on a new target. After the first four shots I checked the target and to my surprise there was a 10 ring group of four shots touching. This time Ted got cold feet and threw the fifth shot an 1½" high at 12 o'clock; the sixth round he wouldn't fire, I can't blame him. With a group going like that, why take a chance? We retrieved the target and close inspection revealed a four shot group at 1 o'clock in the 10 and X rings that measured .525 by .735. The fifth shot was directly above it at 12 o'clock, making a 1.585" group.

This was an outstanding group from this pistol. In fact, I doubt that most modern target revolvers could do this well the first time out and under the same conditions. The Navy had always been looked upon as an accurate weapon by the old timers. They had a reputation in the old days that still lives today for accuracy, dependability, and a weapon that you could stake your life on, and this new Navy convinced me of that.

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SAKO VIXEN IN THE 7.62 X 39MM CALIBER

(Continued from page 21)

forty million weapons have been manufactured for it. That's a hell of a bunch of guns, and means countless billions of rounds of ammunition have been produced.

Depending on barrel length—which ranges from 16" to 22" in various weapons—it produces 2300-2450 fps with a 125-grain full-jacket, boat-tail bullet. The Finnish variant load does the same with a flat-base bullet of the same weight. A Finnish hunting load performs identically with a flat-base, pointed, soft-point bullet of the same weight. Extensive U. S. manufacture for use by allies in captured Soviet-Bloc weapons copies the Russian load, but is boxer primed.


This moderate performance produces light recoil, which makes for excellent controllability in full-auto weapons such as the AK-47.

As for sporting application, I've used the cartridge on white tail deer and varmints with fine results. Out to 200 yards it is great on prairie dogs and similar varmints, producing explosive kills and one-M.O.A. accuracy in a delightful little Sako Vixen rifle. On deer, the thin-jacketed Sako bullet kills as well with any good rib-cage hit as many louder and bigger

loads. It is really a great turkey load.

It handloads well with 100-130-grain .30 caliber bullets and IMR 4227 powder. Most loads do their best with 4227, filling the case to the bullet base—and that is usually 24 to 26 grains. Don't try this with bullets heavier than 130 grains, though.

All foreign cases are Berdan primed and thus a headache to reload. The only boxer-primed cases around are Lake City Arsenal military manufacture and are virtually impossible to find. Best bet is to make your own from new Norma 6.5mm Mannlicher-Schoenauer or 6.5mm Carcano cases. Reformed in the RCBS forming die set, trimmed to length, neck-reamed, and annealed, they seemingly last forever, even with top loads.

This may sound heretical to many, but the 7.62 X 39mm fills a gap in the U. S. cartridge family—that of a small-capacity, low-energy .30 caliber suitable for varmints, deer, and small game. In these respects it is vastly superior to the popular .30 Carbine and yet without the blast and recoil of the .308 Winchester and bigger .30's. Why .30? Because it's much easier to get good cast-bullet accuracy than with the smaller bores. 

SID BELL: THE ALASKAN SILVERSMITH

(Continued from page 41)

time-consuming. The silver was much softer and left telltale indentations whenever a tool slipped from his hand. In spite of this, the self-taught silversmith found that this media offered him the greatest challenge and that it was more versatile than the steel he had used earlier in his hobby.

When friends noted the quality of his work, they requested pieces for themselves to decorate the stocks of their rifles. Bell soon began to design jewelry heads specifically for hunters. His designs have moved into whole animals and he desires to progress toward the next level, carving two or more animals portraying a scenic story. Bell's background as a taxidermist, naturalist, outdoorsman and avid hunter enable him to get complete authenticity into the details of

his heads and animals.

To help him with his accuracy, Bell researches books, photographs, sketches, points and other artwork for an exact replica of a desired head. He rarely uses only one representation, but rather uses many perspectives to get the feel of the "model" that is essential. Bell then scales the design down to proportionable size and breaks it further into component parts. Each part is cut out and soldered together into appropriate thickness to build the crude shape. He then cuts it to an accurate shape using tiny jewelers files, engraves the details and solders the parts together to form the original master. (Also located on the original piece is a spew which is a lead-in to attach a tie tack or pin). Because this piece is divided into var-

ious parts, it is necessary to use solders with various melting temperatures, using a hard melting solder first and terminating with a soft solder. This enables him to work almost continuously on the silver without the entire mass melting or having pieces falling off. Most of this work is done with a four to six power headlens, but the details are engraved with tiny gouges and chisels using a sixteen power lens.

Once the master has been completed, Bell then sends it to a Providence, R. I., company to be processed and cast. There, a mould is made by taking two pieces of rubber, wrapping the silver model in one piece and sprinkling talcum powder on it. Placing the top piece of rubber on, it is sandwiched together and under heat and pressure it is squeezed into a mould. After four hours of baking, the sulfur-containing rubber is changed into vulcanized rubber, which retains an exact shape after flexing. The rubber is then stripped of the master in the line of parting where the talcum powder was sprinkled. A small channel is burned into the spew so that the final mould is in the shape of a clam. Hot wax is then forced into the final mould is in the shape of a clam. Hot wax is then forced into the spew channel until it flows into the cavity that the master previously occupied. After the wax has cooled, it is removed. This ancient method of casting is called the lost wax process and got its origin from the early Egyptians and Mayans. The only difference between today's casting methods and those used by earlier civilizations is the wax itself. The Egyptians used only one type of wax, while today's process has been improved by the use of several types of waxes with varied melting temperatures depending upon the needs, fineness and delicacy of the figure.

After removing the bubbles and the tension in the wax model, it is then suspended in a small flask where plaster is poured around it. When the plaster hardens, it is heated, the wax vaporizes and the plaster becomes porous, hot and hard and turns into fire brick. Molten silver is poured into the hole and after cooling and hardening, the plaster is broken to obtain the casting of silver.

These silver castings are then shipped to Bell, who removes the silver oxide by buffing the piece with a brass wheel. It is then that Bell inspects each piece thoroughly for any casting errors. Each of these raw silver castings is then re-engraved by the artist to put back the hair detail or add life to the eyes of his creation or recut a mouth. All of these details which were lost in the first casting are replaced, making each piece one-of-a-kind, for the hand detailing during the re-engraving process gives each its own distinctive markings. After re-engraving, the silver jewelry is dipped in "Metalox" to darken it, rubbed with pumice to bring out highlights, cleaned and dipped in a protective coating to protect the finish.

Bell feels that it is this old world process that has enabled him to capture the authenticity that he strives for. Bell has a relatively small operation, employing only three ladies in his shop, Alice Cummings, Betty Bigsby and Bea Anger. Bell's jewelry ranges from \$5 to \$20 in Sterling silver to \$40 in his gold series. Although Bell receives many requests from dealers who want to merchandise his line, he maintains a strict, high standard as to where he wants his products sold.

In the near future, the creative silversmith wants to expand his lines and would like to carve a complete series of all North American game animals in full three dimensional view as well as a series of African animals. He also plans on creating a line with limited editions for exclusivity.

A "Sid Bell Original" means quality, rather than quantity, and this has been Bell's objective all along.

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NON-GUNS: THE LATEST COLLECTION CRAZE

(Continued from page 33)

Once Replica Models, Inc., was formed, every effort was made to modify the molds and dies for the Western World. This was necessary in order to comply with all the patent regulations and they have now received official approval for importation into this country.

Typical prices range from \$15 for the two-barreled Derringer "hideaway" pistol, a favorite of the Western gun-fighters and riverboat gamblers to \$25 for a Civil War .36 Navy Colt, the favored sidearm of both Union and Confederate forces.

Most of the replicas have cartridges available. These models will function just like the originals, the slides can be locked in the rearward position, the magazines can be removed and the hammers can be cocked and dry-fired by simply pulling the trigger. In the single action series, the cylinder can be spun just as on the real thing.

It is said that serious firearm collectors would have little interest in these

models. This is an unfair statement. While many gun collectors are desirous of certain weapons, the newly flourishing collector interest in those particular pieces may drive the prices of even the clunkers to exorbitant figures.

When mounted on a den wall or placed in a glass display case, these replicas are a "plus" for any collection. They are real enough to impress even the most critical eye.

Whatever motive you need to start your collection of these decorative, educational and realistic Japanese reproductions, there is little doubt that you won't be alone in your hobby. These imitations have found a niche in the collecting hearts of the Western World and will be as much at home in America as they are in Japan.

Catalogs available upon request. Write Replica Models, Inc., Dept. GM-5, 610 Franklin Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314.



WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE: HOW'S YOUR VOCABULARY?

(Continued from page 23)

again, the pundits invented new words, such as "full-automatic" and "machine pistol"—the latter being a further contradiction, since weapons so called are not "pistols" at all, being fired from two hands. They are, rather, light-weight automatic rifles.

"But," you say, "we're on ground with figures. Figures are specifics. You can't go wrong with figures!"

The hell you can't! And I'm not descending to "Playboy" gags about 39-25-37, either. We gun nuts can, and do, play strange tricks indeed with figures. Take calibers . . .

Go to the dictionary again and you find: "Caliber: The diameter of a bullet or other projectile; the diameter of the bore, as of a cannon or other firearm."

Simple, eh? So .22 and .38 "calibers" simply mean that the bullets (or bores) so named are 22 and 38 hundredths of an inch in diameter. But they're not. Bullets and bores wearing the .22 caliber label may measure from .217 inch to .225 inch in diameter; and .38 caliber bullets and bores may

measure from .341 inch to .364 inch in diameter and are listed as "standard" at .357 inch, which is lucky, since it permits you to shoot .38 caliber ammo through your .357 Magnum "pistol." Other calibers are equally inconsistent to their labels, except for those like the .357 Magnum, which swagger over their fellows with true (or near-true) names.

But you ain't heard nuthin' yet about calibers! Now that you perfectly understand the meaning of the first two figures in caliber nomenclature, how about those other figures that tag along in some calibers—like, for example, the old favorite .30-06?

Well, the .30-06 was originally a military cartridge, adopted as such in 1906. The "-06" therefore stands for the year of its adoption. (It was adopted for use in a rifle adopted in 1903 and called, natch, the Rifle Caliber .30-03; but you're used to confusion now, so don't let that throw you!)

"So," you say, "I get it! The second figures stand for year of adoption. So the famous old .30-30 was adopted in

1930, huh? . . . But wait! They had .30-30s before 1930!"

Yeah. Well, in the case of the .30-30, the second "30" doesn't mean year of adoption; it means 30 grains of black powder—or did back in the days when they loaded with black powder. Today, of course, they don't use black powder, so the second "30" means—well, call it "the equivalent in modern powder of what 30 grains of black powder would be equivalent to if we used black powder." Get it?

You're not so sure now, but you nod slowly—and then I see your eyes widen. "Second figures mean powder? But, man, what about the .250-3000? Jeez, that's one helluva load! How'd they get it into the case?"

They didn't. In that case, the "3000" is the alleged velocity of the bullet, 3000 feet per second . . . Look, let's just say the calibers we talk about are more like—oh, the names of things, not necessarily the specifications. Okay? You wouldn't expect a 300-horsepower car to out-pull 300 real horses, would you? You gotta be reasonable!

And anyway, if you insist on confusion, look at the damn British who sometimes (but not always) name caliber in two diameters—diameter of the case head and diameter of the bullet—like the .297-.230. Unless, of course, they write it backwards, as they often do: .230-.297.

Am I glad I didn't mention those old calibers that used three sets of figures, like maybe the .45-75-420 Sharps: .45 caliber—approximately, of course—with 75 grains of black powder behind a bullet weighing 420 grains . . . grams? Dammit, now you got me confused! . . . And I flatly refuse to explain to you the oddities of metric calibers, like 6.5mm and 9mm and 7.65mm and so on. With your IQ, you couldn't be expected to understand them!

"But," you say, "how about shotguns? A 12 gauge (bore?) shotgun is bigger across than any 12 hundredths of an inch! Is it, maybe, 12 grains of black powder?"

Look, junior, a 12 gauge shotgun is one whose bore is of such size that 12 lead balls of that diameter will weigh one pound. A 16 gauge shotgun has a bore of such size that a pound of lead will make 16 balls of that diameter. And a 20 gauge . . .

"So what's with the .410 shotgun? You going to tell me you can cast 410 balls to fit a .410 out of one pound of lead? And who wants balls in a shotgun, anyway?"

No, dammit, .410 is not a gauge, it's a caliber! And if you ask me why, I'll—! How did we get on this subject, anyway? If you were a gun nut, you'd

see that these things are all perfectly clear, when you understand them, and even you could understand them if you'd listen, and—why don't you just forget the whole thing and start writing a newspaper column, or newscasting on television about guns, of course, and let me get back to gun-nutting?

To me, one of the oddest mix-ups in gun talk had to do with the mixing of the words "reticle" and "reticule" in reference to the sighting pattern (cross-hairs, post, dot, or what-have-you) used in a telescopic sight. I had always thought that a "reticule" was one of those knitted bags like the one in which my grandmother used to carry her knitting and kindred female notions. So when the gun experts, and even the scope manufacturers, began referring to "reticules" in scopes, I looked the words up in a dictionary. (I seem to value dictionaries more than some, as you may have noticed. Maybe being a sort of jack-leg word-carpenter accounts for it? But I have worn out a lot of dictionaries, just looking up words I should have known all about without looking!)

But about "reticule" at least, I was right: "Reticule: A small bag, originally of network, carried by women as a workbag or pocket."

Now I couldn't figure a workbag, even a small one, in a telescope sight, so I looked up the other word, "Reticule: A system of lines, wires, or the like, in the eyepiece of an optical instrument." So a reticle in a scope makes sense; a reticule doesn't.

And maybe I do place too much trust in dictionaries. The latest Webster's Unabridged within my reach cross-references the two words, "reticle" and "reticule!" Which simply means that gun experts used the wrong words so often that they confused even the dictionary-makers—to say nothing of millions of others!

Anyway, you begin to see what I mean about gun folk talking a strange and wonderful—at least wonderfully confusing—language. No wonder we're misunderstood! I even misunderstand myself, some of the time; and I'm a clear thinker and clear speaker, with an IQ approaching genius! I admit it myself.



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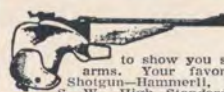
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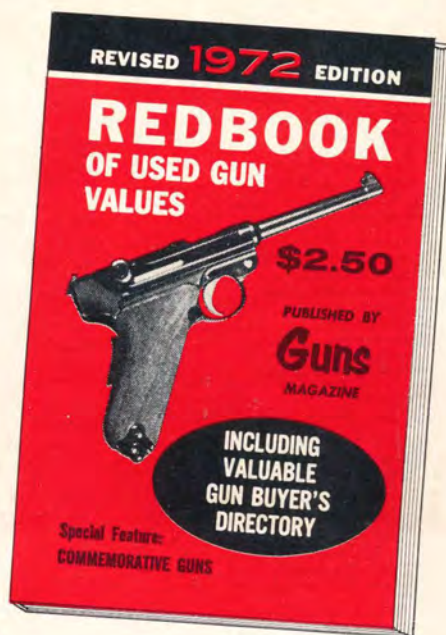
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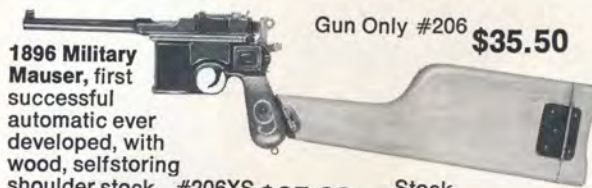
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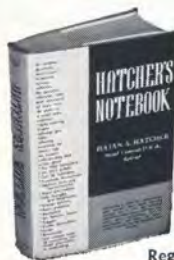
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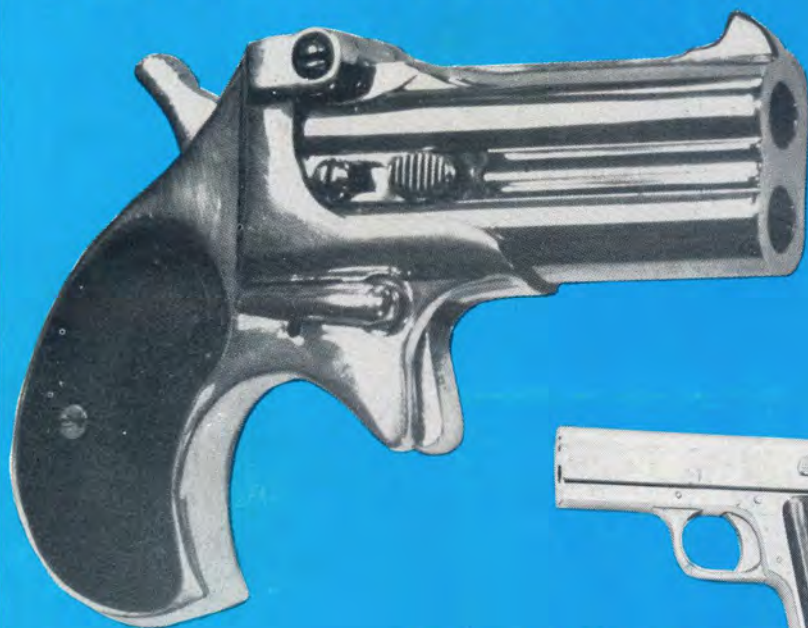
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