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Guns

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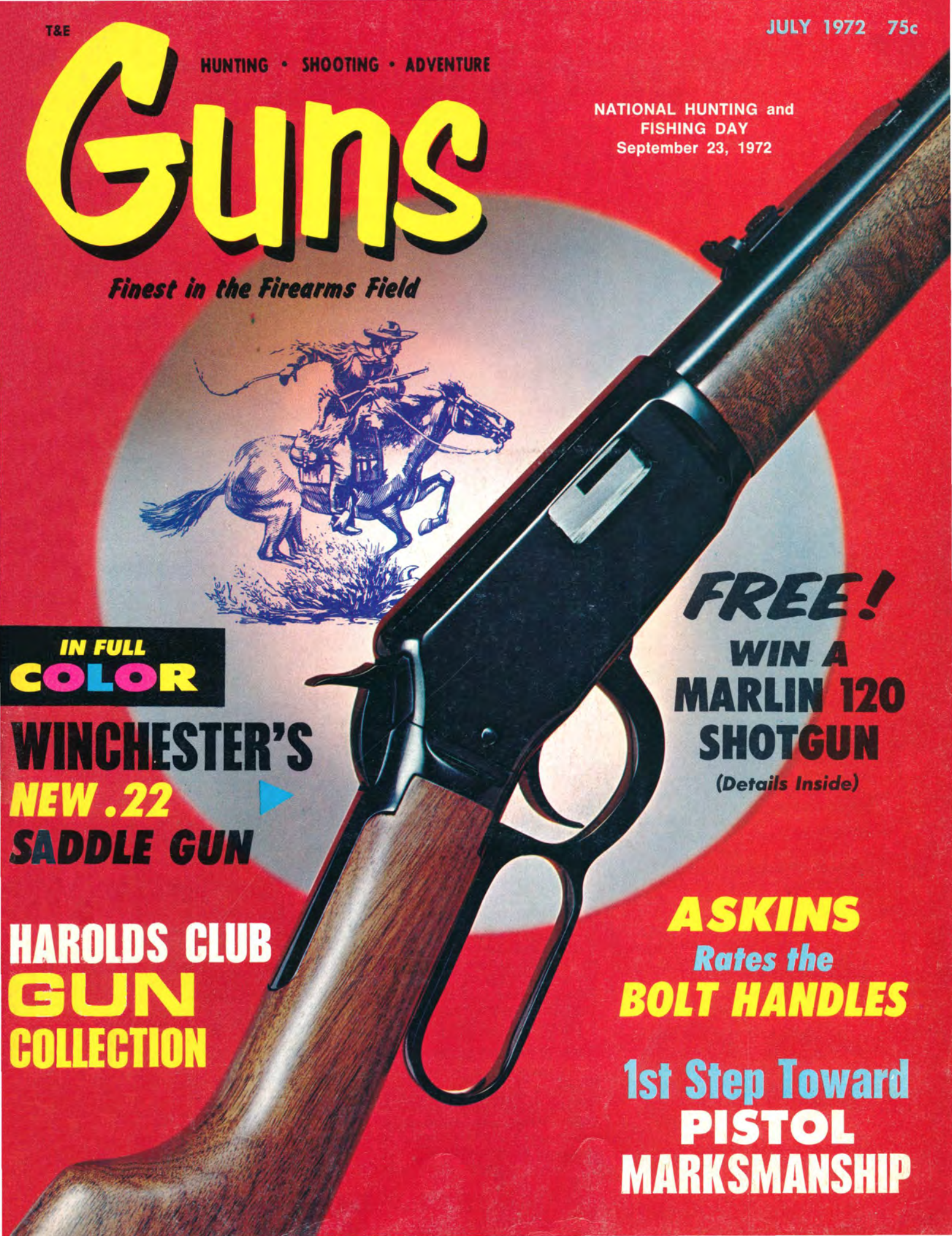
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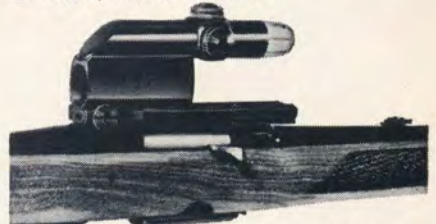
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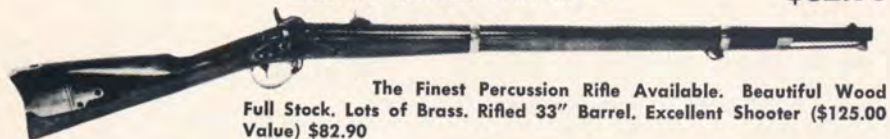
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JULY, 1972

Vol. XVIII, No. 3-07

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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CONSUMERISM is a word that is being used more and more these days, and what it means is that the consumer—the ultimate user—is a) becoming more aware of what he is buying, and b) is finally taking to task the manufacturers who have been taking advantage of him. One of the things that has come of this wave of “consumerism” is that people are becoming more knowledgeable about the products they buy. They look for actual weights on packages, not “King Size” or “Giant Family Size.” They know that when a package of food says “Gravy with Turkey,” there is more gravy than turkey in the package. They look for meaningful warranties, and they are not afraid to ask questions.

What has all this to do with guns? Well, as far as I am concerned, consumerism has been a part of the gun picture for a long long time. I doubt very much if there is any other field in which the consumer knows more about the product than in the gun field. And, I doubt if there is any other field in which the consumer has had better products offered than in the gun field. When a manufacturer tries to cut corners on a model—perhaps by substituting a plastic part for a metal part—the screams can be heard from California to Maine. And in most cases, the manufacturer reacts.

The dangerous aspects of firearms is handled—in my opinion—by the manufacturers better than any other product I know. Sure, there have been cases of accidents and failures of firearms, but even our space missions have had problems. The numbers of these, considering the numbers produced, is far below what you would expect.

So, how about that, American Industry?

THE COVER

The newest gun from Winchester is the Model 9422, a rimfire version of the old favorite Model 94. There is an article on this gun on page 37, but the real story is when you get one in your hands. Photo by Gerry Swart.



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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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



EVER HAVE A .300 WM PISTOL?

I conducted an experiment related to the anti-firearms lobby and their campaign for confiscation of our handguns. I've always known a confiscation plan would never work from just the basic numbers. There are over 40,000,000 handguns in America. Most are unregistered. If the Federal Government started confiscation immediately it would be ten years before handguns disappeared, if they ever did actually disappear.

For my experiment I assumed there was a handgun confiscation which succeeded. Only the two million handguns of the army, police and private guard forces existed. I asked myself, "Suppose I'm a criminal who wants a gun. What can I do?" I could: (1) smuggle in a few guns as is now often done; (2) I could have someone in the army or police steal a few as is now often done; (3) I could build my own. The first two are already being practiced. So we decided on plan (3) to see what happens.

One of my best boyhood friends is a machinist in the Chicago area. Like a lot of machinists he built a basement workshop. I went to him with my request. He said it would be no problem to build a handgun. We decided on a basic Colt single action six shot in .300 WM. It was concealable under a coat. It had six shots in rapid fire. And a .300 WM will go through "bullet proof glass" or a steel currency exchange door without hardly slowing down. It took us three weeks to build our model. It weighed eight pounds, with the cylinder weighing almost three pounds itself. It had an oversized grip and a vertical front grip. The outside workmanship was very crude, but it fired.

The point of our experiment is more evidence to show handgun confiscation would not effect illegal use of guns. If all smuggling of handguns was brought to a stop, which is impossible; and if none were stolen from the police or army, which is impossible; and if all the other 40,000,000 handguns were collected from the basements, bedrooms and attics of their owners, which is impossible; if all these impossible things were done, then the next logical step for criminals is exactly what we did. Build your own. The kids in New York and Chicago have made .22 pistols for years out of car antennas. The more advanced criminal would follow our route and

build something which is a real menace. Our .300 WM pistol with the stainless steel slugs we made could shoot through the side of an armored money truck. Like shooting fish in a barrel.

My friend has been a machinist for years. In his opinion anyone with machine tool experience could build the same gun. With a little planning we could get production down to four days.

After many years of studying military strategy I learned a few things about how Generals make mistakes. A mistake often made is what I call "a failure of nerve." This is when a commander, or any manager for that matter, has all the basic facts and information at hand to make logical conclusions and decisions. But the logical conclusions dictated by the facts are not what the commander wants to see. So he will ignore the information which is at hand and keep believing what he wants to believe. Usually until it is far too late for any action except defeat.

Their is a whole mountain of evidence to indicate handgun and firearm confiscation would not work. Still the anti-firearms fools keep pushing their childish, simplistic ideas. The anti-firearms lobby has a failure of nerve to follow a train of thought to its logical conclusions.

Even though the anti-firearms people are fools, I suppose we both want the same thing. What is best for our great nation. The sooner the anti-firearms people free their minds from the mental trap of handgun confiscation, the sooner we will all be able to work together on our real problems. As it is, now they are trying to drag us deeper into the dark slime of stupidity. We at S.C.A. are working to keep from being dragged further. The only real winners are our enemies who sit back and laugh.

Manufacturing a pistol like ours is very illegal. And unless you understand chamber pressures it can be dangerous. What happened to our .300 pistol? After kissing it good-bye it was sent where it belongs. To the bottom of Lake Michigan.

Do your part to preserve the few freedoms we have left. Fill out the self addressed envelope opposite this page and mail it.

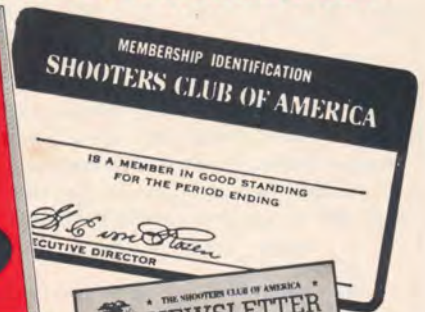
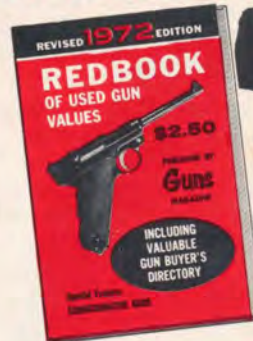
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Nude Ice Cream Cones?

In your April edition of Crossfire, some reader wants to know why you have pictures of guns on the front cover? What the hell does he want? Maybe ice cream cones or perhaps pictures of nude females? Let Guns be a guns magazine—not sob-sister stuff.

Carl L. Berndt
Cleveland, Ohio

We don't care much for ice cream, but nude females?—Editor

Missing In Action

The April issue on the "Standard Auto" was indeed interesting and brought back memories at least 40 years old. My hunting buddy got one of these clunkers from his grandpa. Perhaps "Grandpa" was hep, as he never used it for a big game trip.

My buddy was a pump gun shooter and he asked me to convert this rifle into a pump gun. I removed that big hunk of brass fore-end, the recoil spring and the buffer spring and other parts that we didn't need for a pump gun. We sawed off the gas cylinder and eliminated any possibility of changing this mistake back to automatic. I installed a recoil magazine lock within the fore-end.

With the recoil springs removed, this action worked just as easy as any modern pump gun. My problem was to get the fore-end to lock in position and then release upon firing. Also, a hand method for release in order to open the action without firing.

I made a sheet metal box and fastened it to the operating rod. Inside, I installed a spring-loaded, pivoted latch that would snap into a notch and lock the fore-end slide in the forward

position. Also, the box contained a spring loaded recoil bar, which, upon firing, would release and hold the fore-end latch. Thus, upon firing, the fore-end was unlocked by recoil and was free to be pulled to the rear. As the fore-end was pulled to the rear, a stud was so positioned as to release the latch and let the recoil bar return to its seat. Now with the latch released, it was ready to snap into the locking notch and lock the fore-end when the latter was returned to its forward position. A "button" on the recoil bar protruded from the rear of the box and could be pushed in to release the slide without firing. I inlitted a one-piece fore-arm of walnut to cover the metal box.

Now for the sad part. My buddy left this life by way of an auto accident and his son took the rifle to Fresno, California and traded it off. I have since lost track of the son and the rifle. If any Guns readers in the Fresno area have ever seen or heard of this rifle, I would appreciate hearing from them.

W. R. Maxwell
R.R. 1
Hicksville, Ohio

Short-Stop

Your April cover shows six "Short-Stop" rounds of .38 ammo and on page 4, you state that they are non-lethal and you do not know where they are commercially available.

Please be advised that this ammunition is quite lethal at close range and is commercially available at The Custom .38 Shop in Albany, California. The price is \$6.40 per six rounds (\$5.95 to police).

Eugene L. Peonsin
Albany, Calif.

In case you missed the thrill of owning a Stevens single shot 22 as a boy, here's a man sized opportunity.

Between 1894 and 1940 (when the war halted production) nearly a million sportsmen were introduced to shooting with a Stevens 22.

Today, if a man is lucky enough to still have one, he probably wouldn't part with it for love or money.

Sentiment isn't the whole reason. The handsome 22's of Joshua Stevens were fabled for their smooth operation, accuracy and dependability.

No surprise, then, that the entire limited edition of the collector's model Stevens Favorite we announced last year was sold out at the factory before May 1. No more will be made.

Heartfelt Letters

But letters kept coming asking Savage to bring out a new single shot model based on the famous Stevens falling block action. For instance, retired Naval Captain Bradford Long, of New Jersey, wrote: "I fervently hope the 'Favorite', offered with plain stock and finish, will be continued in the company's line for a long time."
(He owns an original Favorite.)

Not a collector's model, the letters suggested, but a sturdy Stevens-inspired piece to take afield frequently. A rifle a man could learn to love and a boy would love to learn on.

The idea makes sense for today. As it had made sense to Stevens.

Two New Stevens Models

Now, Savage is proud to present not just one, but a pair of single shot 22's based on authentic old time designs by Stevens.

The Stevens Model 72 Crackshot is our deluxe offering. It features a falling block action with modern improvements by Savage to enhance dependability even further.

Chambered for 22 long rifle (also a Stevens invention) the Crackshot features an octagonal barrel, case hardened frame, and handsome oil finished, straight grip walnut stock and fore-end. The lever is also adapted from old Stevens types.

Complete with sights, it's only \$57.50.

We also present the Stevens Model 74 Little Favorite, a field version of our now famed collector's model. It also features the ultra dependability of the Stevens falling block action and superb balance, accuracy and trouble-free functioning.



Chambered for 22 long rifle, the Little Favorite has a round barrel, black satin frame and lever set off by a walnut finished, straight grip hardwood stock and fore-end. All wood is electro-cote processed for durability and beauty. Just \$42.50.

Orders Now Accepted

The Crackshot and the Little Favorite, made for the man who wants to pass on something of himself and his sport to his son.

Both models are now in full production at Savage. So now is the time to place your order with a Savage dealer.

Delivery can usually be arranged by his distributor quite promptly.

For more information on the full line of Savage 22's, write for colorful free 32-page catalog: Savage Arms, M-21, Westfield, Mass. 01085. Include your Zip Code.



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EVERY NOW and then the opportunity arises to pick up a batch of pulled military bullets at a price so low you really can't afford not to buy them. On the other hand, it may be that somewhere along the way, you have broken down a batch of surplus ammo yourself, and the bullets are still kicking around somewhere under the bench—maybe in that battered old steel ammo box with no label on it.

One problem is that odd lots of military bullets usually look rather cruddy with dirt and corrosion, and usually with anywhere from a little to a great deal of mouth-sealing lacquer on the bearing surface. First thing is to get them clean and shiny so they look fit to use—and, of course, you know they make the cheapest and most convenient target and plinking loads you can possibly get. Especially with odd mixed lots of them selling for as little as \$7.50-10.00 per thousand these days.

If the bullets are clean except for the blackish sealer, the job is simple. Dump them in a leak-proof container with a tight lid, then pour in a few ounces of lacquer thinner or similar solvent. Try it first to make sure it cuts the sealer. Clamp on the lid and let set overnight in a warm place (don't even think about applying any artificial heat, for obvious reasons) for the solvent vapors to eat into the sealant. After that, dump the bullets out (not too many at a time) on a large thick-napped towel, sprinkle on a wee bit more solvent, roll up the towel, grab the roll by both ends and tumble the bullets around a bit. This will scrub off the softened sealer and leave the bullets clean. It will also get rid of any loose dirt, dust, powder fragments, and grease present. The solvent will evaporate almost by the time you finish tumbling, and the bullets will be dry and ready to use.

Of course, if you have a tumbler handy, the job is even simpler—just fill it with hardwood sawdust moistened with solvent and let the bullets

run until clean. But, maybe the bullets are corroded and tarnished—which won't make them any less accurate, but does make them look bad. For this, you really should have a power-driven tumbler, though if your arms and linen supply hold out, the towel method will do. Just tumble the bullets in ground nut hulls the same as if they were dirty cases until the corrosion is gone—then, if sealer is present, add a bit of solvent to the medium and tumble a half-hour or so longer, or until it is all removed.

After the bullets are all clean and neatly polished, it may be necessary to sort them. Surplus bullets are often found in all sorts of mixtures of both diameter and weight. They can be sorted by eye without too much difficulty as far as weight and large variations in caliber are concerned, but when it gets down to the fine points of separating 6.5mm from 7mm and .303 from .30, your eyes will need help. Some sort of hole gauge is the simplest solution, and I've found that those little, low-cost Lyman tong-tool bullet sizing dies work out very well. Set them in a row in a block of wood, with individual containers underneath each, into which bullets can fall as they pass through. Try each bullet in the smallest die first, and if it doesn't fall through, work up the line until it does. With a little practice, you'll be surprised at how fast a thousand bullets can be sorted and gauged in this manner. It applies as well to any bullets you might get mixed up.

Especially when working with .30 caliber pulled bullets that might have come direct from a U.S. military source, watch out for oval-shaped ones. At one time, a great deal of .303 and .30 caliber ammunition was broken down at the arsenals in machines which split the neck of the case and in the process flattened the bearing surface of the bullet considerably. I once got stuck with about 10,000 such bullets and eventually got my money's

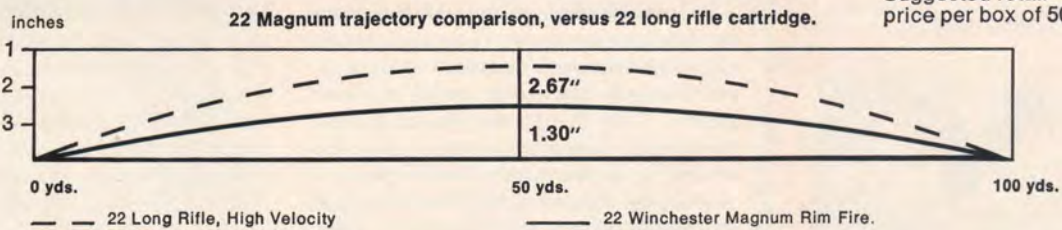
(Continued on page 45)

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STEVENSON on Hand Guns

AUTOPISTOL CONTROLS, PART V

A COMBAT autopistol, or, more prosaically, one intended for defensive purposes, can be excellent in all other respects but still well near worthless if the safety is poorly designed. This thesis can be illustrated by several examples, among which the Luger is particularly instructive. I personally don't regard the Luger as much shakes on any practical count, but a host of admirers a generation or so back—and there are still diehards of this persuasion—looked upon it as the ne plus ultra of combat handguns. For the purpose of argument, let us accord the Parabellum all the virtues claimed for it by its claque, and we'll find it still a wretch because of its unusable safety.

Mechanically there is no particular fault to be picked with Luger's safety. It is a sear-block type, and since the sear-striker engagement is a generous one, the safety does a fine job of making the gun safe, providing things were properly adjusted during assembly. The problem with the safety, and hence with the Luger, is that it takes—or might as well—two hands to put it on or off. The lever on the 08 Models is pushed up and forward to go from "safe" to "fire," while that on the 1900 and 06 Models pulls back and down. Either way, it is totally inaccessible to the thumb while the gun is gripped in anything remotely resembling a firing position, for the lever pivot is located above the web of the hand, and the lever arm extends rearward—quite the opposite direction from the thumb. I imagine a 1911 could be drawn, charged, and discharged quite a bit more expeditiously than a cocked and locked Luger can be presented and fired.

Nor is carrying with the chamber empty the answer, for the three-part

toggle links-and-breechblock assembly atop the Parabellum is substantially more time consuming to manipulate than is the slide on a Browning-type pistol. Any way you cut it then, the P.08 drags anchor. Whenever your life needs saving, it, like British labor, will be staging a go-slow.

The 1900 and 06 Models however (and it is the 06 which Interarms has recently resurrected) turn the tables on this grim appraisal. For unlike the grip safeties on most pistols, which are mere mechanical superfluties, that on the 06 Luger works. It blocks the sear itself, while the thumb safety on these models serves only to lock the grip pedal out. I would not hesitate to carry a loaded and cocked 06 Model in a properly designed holster, with the thumb safety off, depending entirely on the grip safety. It could be a very fast arrangement.

Thus, so long as we subscribe to the Luger myth, we find that the gun stands or falls as a combat sidearm solely on the merits of its safety. The functional virtue of the 06's grip safety enables the gun to be brought into action in time for its phalanx of vaunted advantages to prevail, while the P.08 is simply too slow to warrant holster room.

The Model 1934 Beretta is another example. Like the Luger, it comes with a sackful of more or less generic problems. Given a deinked searage, a smooth trigger, custom grips, new sights, and tight barrel-frame union, it might well be the world's finest midframe auto. Its safety, however, which swings on a 180 degree arc, most of which travel is out of reach of the thumb, would rob it of that status. When all is said and done, getting the 1934 into action is a slide-jacking or a thumb-cocking proposi-

tion, and the gun is of interest only to those who cannot abide the notion of wearing a cocked pistol in any event.

Our third example concerns a verifiably formidable combat handgun which was rendered useless by its bizarre safety. The gun in question is a prototype in the SP44/15-16 series—the fabled double column SIG's. There was no provision for cocked and locked carry. The frame-mounted thumblever, when depressed, simultaneously tripped the hammer and released a springloaded firing pin block to interpose itself between the firing pin and the face of the falling hammer; it was a veritable race to see which part got to the firing pin first. The gun would have been far more practical if, like the Tokarev, it had had no safety at all.



The SIG's safety is always stiff, with the shelf set too far forward, but like the Browning GP, it is well worth gunsmithing over.

As a final example, consider the current French service pistol, the MAC 50, which carries a slide-mounted firing pin block safety, which, being out of reach to the thumb, effectively precludes a cocked and locked carry. Unfortunately, the thing can't just be ignored, for if we carry the chamber empty, the left hand will, maybe three times out of ten, inadvertently set the safety while jacking the slide.

It should by now be amply established that when we go to choose a business pistol, the sort of safety it wears is of considerable importance. Nor will the same arrangement suit everyone. A safety like that on the 1934 Beretta, which would get an unequivocal thumbs-down from a man who carries cocked and locked, could be quite acceptable to someone who prefers to carry the chamber empty and who is not much concerned about such problems as resetting the safety during lulls in the action while changing location or otherwise stumbling about in the dark.

A decision equally as important as whether or not to carry cocked-and-locked is whether to pick a double ac-

tion or a single action trigger. Indeed, this is the prior decision, for cocked-and-locked presupposes a single action pistol. Of the widely distributed d.a.'s, only the HSc and the Beretta Model 90 in midframe, and the new H & K P9S in large frame permit a cocked-and-locked carry, in which case the d.a. feature is superfluous. There is an advantage here, balanced, as usual, by a disadvantage, but we will get to that directly.

The manual safety on an s.a. auto wants to have two virtues: first, it must be mechanically sound; that is, it must in fact make the pistol proof against discharge. Second, it must be convenient and positive in operation; it must go on and off in a trice, with no shift of hand position on the stocks. If the grip has to be shifted to work the safety, then the safety is better done without. Some would add that the safety lever must not be prone to being brushed off inadvertently, but I can't recall having encountered a gun of any consequence on which this was a problem, save perhaps the French MAS 35A, but its safety was so totally ludicrous anyway . . .

As far as convenience of manipulation goes, few safeties are superior to that on the Colt Government Model, just as it comes from the box. Aficionados of the 1911 are prone to weld great expansive shelves to the standard lever, but I have never thought this necessary. The factory lever is pivoted over the rear joint of the thumb, works on a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch arc, and extends forward and upward, terminating in an ample horizontal shelf which falls just under the front joint of the thumb.

I prefer a safety mounted like that of the 1911 on any s.a. auto, for the elementary reason that I have as yet encountered very few pistols otherwise set up which handled conveniently. On the other hand, it must be conceded that the fact of a safety's being of the Colt/Browning pattern is no guarantee of tolerability, and the best example of this is the High Power, whose intolerable safety consort's appropriately with its intolerable sights and trigger.

Where does this leave us as far as picking a gun with a convenient safety? The best of the tiny s.a.'s is the Walther TP, and the little Stars trail next along in my esteem, but since the GCA '68, this is mostly nostalgia. The only remotely acceptable vest pocket auto of any description available in the U.S. is the Colt-Astra. We're in better shape with mid-frame autos, though here too the GCA '68 has knocked out some of the best. Star and Llama both have good lines in mid-frame, and post-1969 Berettas in

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the Model 70 series also carry a 1911-type safety.

In large frame autos we have again Star and Llama with a multiplicity of models, and Beretta with the post-'69 M1951 (Brigadier). There is, of course, Colt, with the Government Model and variations, as well as a host of foreign-built 1911 variants of generally good quality, sometimes superlative, and sometimes improving substantially on the original design. MAB's P9 and P15 also appeal to me. The most notable also-rans in this respect are the Browning GP and the SIG P210, both of which have losing safety levers, but are eminently worth gunsmithing over.

So much for convenience. A mechanical analysis paints another picture. The 1911, as we mentioned, has a sear-block safety; I accept it and tolerate it, but I don't particularly like it, since the engagement it protects is so fine, and since the efficacy with which it protects this engagement depends on such minute tolerances. In general it may be said of the 1911, the better the trigger, the shallower the sear notch, the more critical the fit of the safety. Any tinkering with the searage can and most likely will cause the safety to malfunction. And since a decent trigger pull is imperative, so also is it imperative to make sure that the safety is fitted to zero tolerance. If there is any perceptible sear movement when the trigger is pulled while the safety is "on," the gun needs a trip to the pistolsmith. The usual rem-

safety which is both out of reach and a potential deathtrap in a hasty situation.

Of the pistols we were discussing, the High Power has a sear-block safety, and I believe I am correct in saying that the Llamas and Berettas do as well. The SIG blocks the trigger bar, which suits me fine since the sear is of the two-stage type, giving both massive engagement and a velvet let-off. The Stars have a better shaped thumblever than the Colt's, and are hammer blocks rather than sear blocks. They are, in my opinion, and insofar as the safeties go, the finest single action autos extant.



The Czech Model 24 had one of the world's most inconvenient safeties: set by pushing the lever down until it clicked, released by pressing the button which was underneath and shielded by the lever. This lamentable feature was carried over from the 1910 Mauser.



The Czech DUO .25 is a fine example of a classic fault in autopistol design: the safety does an exemplary job of holding the slide in position for disassembly, but it is entirely useless as a safety.

edy, by the way, is to give the appropriate corner of the safety lug a whack with a hammer, laying down a burr to take up the slack. I won't dispute this technique, but the thought of your life's depending on a burr has its wry aspects. Still, when all is said, I would infinitely rather have the 1911, or any good pistol with its safety, than something like the MAS 1935S or the MAC 50, with its mechanically failproof

With the exception of such as the Beretta Model 90, with its frame-mounted, hammer-block, full cock safety, d.a. autopistols offer precious little variety in this line. The lever will be mounted on the slide and will prevent the firing pin from being driven forward by the hammer. In most cases the hammer will automatically be tripped when the safety is applied, although the hammer-trip feature is easily deactivated should one wish to do so. A few pistols such as the HSc and the H & K P9S leave the hammer at full cock. This lets one set the safety during a lull in the fray without having to either thumbcock or crank the first one off d.a. when the soirée recommences. The advantage to a hammer-trip rig is the trigger need never be touched save to fire the gun. This is a laudable feature, since most of us need all the help we can get in matters of safe gun handling.

If you want a d.a. pistol, there is really not much to quibble over safeties. All of them are mechanically reliable, and all are similarly positioned—convenient enough in the hand, but unsuitable for disengagement on a fast draw. These guns are best carried with

the hammer down and the safety off. Opinions vary as to what the odds are of the pistol's discharging if dropped on the hammer. I consider it possible but improbable, and endeavor not to toss my gun on concrete.



Double-action autos like this PPK/S are best carried chamber loaded, with the hammer down and the safety off, since the lever is ill arranged for disengagement during a fast draw.

During the past five months we have taken a fairly leisurely look at the control levers, buttons, and so forth found on most semi-auto pistols. Those of you who weren't familiar with all this to start with hopefully learned from the first two installments (February and March) how to take an autopistol in hand, clear it of cartridges, make it safe, and if need be, to reload it and make it ready for firing. On some of the older and odder guns you would have to feel your way along, but you had in mind the basic design principles and knew what to look for.

In April we examined the train of parts which the finger sets in motion when the trigger is squeezed, and studied safeties on various guns which immobilized each of them: trigger, trigger bar, sear, hammer, striker, or firing pin. For the past two months we have been drawing on this accumulated knowledge to make value judgments, to decide what sorts of slide stops, magazine releases, and manual safeties are desirable and which are not.

Autopistols, in their myriad variations, are fascinating machines. In the future we will turn again to them, and go deeper inside to study locking systems, searages, disconnectors, and so forth. But not for awhile, for we've been imposing on the revolver fans for nearly half a year, and I count myself among that crowd as well. There is no major series on wheelguns slated for the very near future, but over the next several months we'll take a breather and put something on the menu besides the nuts and bolts regime we've been serving up of late. Stay with us.



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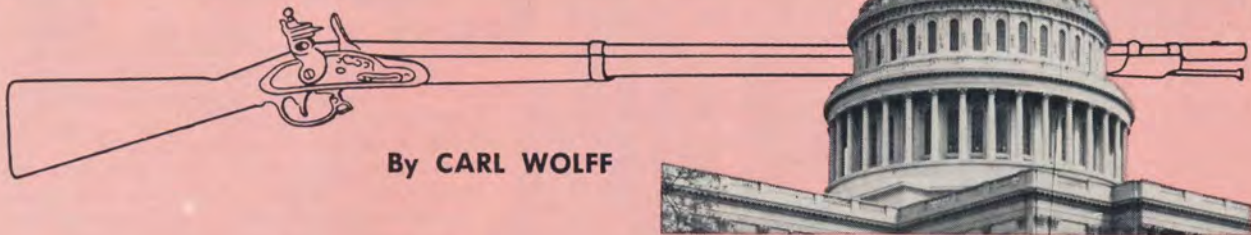
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

SENATOR LONG TRIES AGAIN

Back this spring Senator Russell Long (D., La.) introduced a short but not too simple amendment to the 1968 Gun Control Act. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, S.3089 would strike "in commerce or affecting commerce" from two sections of the existing law.

As enacted, the 1968 Act states: "Any person who: (1) has been convicted by a court of the United States or of a State or any political subdivision thereof of a felon . . . and who receives, possesses, or transports in interstate commerce or affecting commerce . . . any firearm shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both."

The amendment is necessary because the Supreme Court in *Bass v. the United States* held the existing law "too vague," although Chief Justice Burger and Associate Justice Blackmun dissented saying the law was "clear enough." The words "in commerce or affecting commerce" was thought to be necessary because under the Constitution Congress has the power to regulate commerce between the states. By holding the existing law "too vague" the Supreme Court side stepped the more important issue: Under the powers to regulate commerce, does Congress have the constitutional power to make it a federal crime for convicted felons?

The Long amendment (S.3089), if enacted, would force the high court to rule. There is in the dissenting views of Justice Blackmun and the Chief Justice indications such a law would be

held constitutional.

When the law speaks of one "who receives, possesses, or transports in commerce or affecting commerce," although arguably ambiguous and, as the Government conceded, "not a model of logic or clarity," is clear enough. They held, "The specific finding in 18 U.S.C. App. 11201 (the Gun Control Act) clearly demonstrates that Congress was attempting to reach and prohibit every possession of a firearm by a felon; that Congress found that such possession, whether interstate or intrastate, affected interstate commerce; and that Congress did not conclude that intrastate possession was a matter of less concern than interstate possession.

"That findings was unnecessary if Congress also required proof that each receipt or possession of a firearm was in or affected interstate or foreign commerce."

The original law trying to make it a crime for felons to have firearms was also a product of Senator Long. The new amendment and the explanatory comments of the original language seem to clearly reveal the purpose, the intent, and the extent of the legislation.

Here is what Long had to say when the original law was being enacted: "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, for a moment, the (Continued on page 55)

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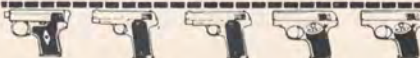


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By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

AFRICA IS THE earthly embodiment, the realization, of the Red Indian's "Happy Hunting Ground" and is within the grasp of all sportsmen. It calls to the huntsman and, whether he heeds or not, is a matter of his fancy. If his enthusiasm is little fettered by mundane bounds, if his infusion of the hunter's red corpuscles responds, if the adventuring soul of him is prepared to surmount the hobbling considerations of time and finances then he will surely stand astride the African veldt.

There was once a time when a big game safari in Africa was only for the idle rich. It was an expensive luxury, and quite apart from the sizeable quantities of folding money that it involved, was possibly even more prohibitive from the standpoint of the time it consumed. Now that is all changed. The aspiring huntsman may fly to Africa in 24 hours, experience the thrills and satisfaction of a big game hunt, and do all this in a month's time.

A hunter may stand astride this vastness, carefree and happy, filling his bag to its limits, his companion a boon comrade, a wife, a son, or a girl friend. He may shoot for a fortnight or linger for a year (and during the time never once recross his trail, and may daily open his heart to shining new vistas, fresh game trails and new campsites. The adventuring fullness of his days will run together in a blissful nirvana.

Once the decision is made, those steps that follow are almost as simple as a journey to the corner newsstand. The first step is to contact an agent of the African outfitter and this laddie can explain seasons, game, outfitter costs, license costs and airfares. On the far shore is an organization of veteran outfitters who, once the sportsman arrives, take him in hand, shower him with attention, trundle him off to the game country in a comfortable safari car, see that he is made at home in the hunting camp, draw him within range of the game, watch him as he bags the trophy, and all the time

confound him with a style and manner of in-camp living that is posh to say the least.

Neither firearms, nor cartridges, nor liquor, nor hot baths, neither hard work nor walking, nor physical condition, nor age need deter the willing. The sportsman may carry along his own shooting irons and his favorite loads. He may insist on his own personal gear and ship it expensively, but if he does not, the outfitter will delve into his ample stores and offer a selection of firearms, liquors, foods, services, soft beds and mattresses, and the assurance that the hunting will be done a'la Land Rover. The overweight, the cardiac, the flat-footed, and the varicose veined, need not hesitate. If he chooses, the shooting man may confine his hunting to the Land Rover, stepping down long enough to place himself outside the required-by-law distance from the vehicle before he delivers the shot.

Africa, extending from the upper reaches of the Sudan southward to the Cape of Good Hope and from the hinterland of Angola eastward for thousands of miles to Mt. Kilimanjaro's eternal snow, is game country par excellence. This vast expanse encompasses every kind of hunting terrain. There are dense, steamy jungles and open savannas, mountains (some of the most lofty on this sphere), semi-desert, brush and sand, dry washes and open plains. There is heat and cold, seasons of rain and months of beckoning sunshine and, all of it composing the most bountiful game country on this or any other planet.

Africa offers an impelling urge for the unknown, with its lure of distant kopje, fording rivers, fighting through jungle and forest, plain and desert. The miles of wilderness with the hills and dongas stretching like one vast sand-table in a shimmer of equatorial sun, vivid in primeval colors. This is hunting Africa—savagely, beautiful and compelling!

A veteran of countless African hunting expeditions, the sporting heart within me never fails to quicken

at the prospects of yet another interlude in the bush. I was in Africa last year and will return this next. The dark continent offers a man more game shooting during a 30-day holiday than he will get at home during an average 6 to 8 year span. The hunting is always in season, regulated not so much by the game peoples but more by the seasonal rains. These rains travel northward, breeding below the Equator and pinching out thousands of miles above it. All the canny huntsman need do is see that he remains well ahead of the downpours which is easily and simply done.

The "long-odds" favorite country of the American sportsman in Africa is Kenya. This is in eastern Africa and for the past 75 years has been the area most often shot over. Ranging shoulder to shoulder with Kenya as a top hunting choice has been Tanzania, formerly Tanganyika. Ranking third and infinitely poorer, has been Uganda.

Kenya supports a gaggle of top quality outfitters. Foremost among these is the respected firm of Ker, Downey and Selby, John Kingsley-Heath Safaris and Hunters Ltd, the latter was known as White Hunters Ltd. There are countless smaller companies. One I like very much is the Monty Brown Safaris of Malindi, Kenya. There are literally scores of fly-by-night outfitters in Kenya. Fellows who possess a guide license, a battered safari car, a worn-out lorry together with a half-dozen natives and altogether will essay a safari for prices substantially under the big companies.

Kenya and Tanzania manage the hunting on a shooting block basis. That is to say the entire hunting country is divided into huge blocks and the professional gets a block or two assigned to him after he approaches the game dept. and shows them he has a client booked for a safari. Only two shooting sportsmen may hunt in any one block at any one time, but a few blocks permit as many as three shooting clients. There are no limitations on nonshooters in the party. Wives, children or girl friends may go along to take pictures. A white hunter—the natives have forced a change in this title and now the guide is referred to as a professional hunter—may take not more than two shooting clients into the field with him. It is believed that this is all he can protect properly. If the sportsman insists on fetching along a number of friends, not to shoot but to savor the safari existence, watch the game and make photos, the same rule applies. The pro must accompany them on the basis of not more than two per hunter.

The big outfitters like Ker & Downey, John Kingsley-Heath, Hunters Ltd and Monty Brown Safaris can provide both heavy and medium rifles and cartridges if the sportsman does not want to be burdened with his own battery. The heavy, for tuskers, buff and rhino, will have iron sights. The medium will usually be equipped with a scope sight. A variety of calibers is available. The trophy, after it has been decked, is skinned and cared for in camp. This is meticulously done and trophies always come out in top condition. After the safari, the trophies are dipped, crated and shipped either to the client's home or directly to his taxidermist, as he directs. There is a charge for these services.

The better outfitters charge \$6300 per sportsman for 30-days in either Kenya or Tanzania. If two clients band together and hunt with a single pro hunter the charges are less. The hunting license for a full bag in Kenya is \$3500. For a really good elephant, that is a tusker that will go 80 pounds on the side, or better, the cost is nearly \$1,000. These are stiff charges and add measurably to the cost of the safari.

I have hunted a number of times in Kenya, but never in Tanzania. I consider Kenya the best hunting in all Africa for a really big elephant. Beyond question, if the sportsman is really after a bull which will go up in the 100-lb class, this is the spot above all others to settle on for the safari. There are a scattering of rhino permits released but the horn is pretty skimpy and license costs are \$750. Lion are extremely scarce and so, too, are leopard. Buffalo can be had and with a lot of careful scanning a good buff is still in the cards. There is a miscellany of plains game; eland, oryx, kongoni, impala, Thompson gazelle, and Grant's gazelle, zebra and others. Kenya has been badly shot over and the depredations of the natives who resort to snares and, more lately to firearms, annually take an estimated half-million animals.

Fred Huntington, the impresario of the very well known RCBS reloading tool company, has just returned from a Kenya hunting junket. He took a photo of a prison farm just outside the village of Galole and was arrested, hauled into court, and offered a fine of \$280 or three months in jail. He payed off. While he was in Kenya, the New Stanley Hotel in Nairobi, was robbed in broad daylight by three machete-swinging robbers who cut the reception desk in half with a blow from the knife of one of them. American tourists were arrested by pseudo government officials in the street and hustled indoors where, in one case,

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the man was relieved of wallet, passport and other valuables. This kind of treatment, if it is not promptly curbed, will place a blight on Kenya as a hunter's mecca.

Tanzania is included in the hunting swing of the big Nairobi outfitters and prices for Kenya are the same in this bordering country. License costs, while high, are not quite as astronomical. The variety of game is good, chances of a full bag are even better than Kenya, and while elephants will not range quite, so big the possibilities of taking a tusker over 60 pounds are good. Lions are possibly a bit more plentiful, although Tanzania has been badly shot over for the king of beasts for too many years to be anything like a dead cinch. There are more leopards, and game like Greater kudu is infinitely more probable.

Tanzania is Red Chinese oriented. You see the Peking communists in the streets, the hotels and the restaurants in the capitol city of Dar es Salaam. Along the common border with Portuguese Mozambique there is a large guerrilla training center completely under the command of the Red Chinese. This is in a good hunting area, but it is advisable to stay away from it. Quite apart from the Chinese influence is the attitude of the local natives. There have occurred unpleasant incidents with various safari parties, but these incidents have been committed by local natives, petty village officials and customs officers at the frontier. It represents one of the hazards of a safari there today.

Uganda is overflowing with the native population. Literally you find a native behind every bush. This, together with exploitation of the game by local poachers, has written the country off as a safari possibility. The same is true of Ethiopia and Somalia. These countries carry on an undeclared, but never-ending war, and as a result, most of the male population goes around armed. In the hunting country, you are very apt to be jumped by a band that, having looked you over and decided you are not strong enough to stand them off, will raid the hunting camp.

Zambia has been newly opened to safari hunting and is an excellent spot for a well rounded bag. The game is there in quantity and while elephants run small as to ivory, and buffalo, while on hand in great numbers, are small of horn. For all this there is a plentitude of game. The only fly in the ointment is that the principal safari company in the entire country has the unfortunate reputation for something less than an efficient operation. One party will have a bang-up good hunt but the very next will return com-

plaining that they were poorly treated. The camps were over-crowded with other sportsmen, the cars were continually breaking down, pro hunters were swapped back and forth, the area assigned for the safari was so high of grass that game could not be spotted, and trophies, after the safari, were neglected and permitted to spoil. This situation, if it continues, will jeopardize a good reputation which Zambia presently enjoys as a real hot game land.

There are guerrillas in Zambia. These terrorists are trained by the Red Chinese and are infiltrated into South Africa. So far, no hunting parties going to Zambia have been molested by these Commie-trained revolutionaries. Last year a party of Mexicans shooting in the Chad, which is a portion of old French Equatorial Africa, were set upon by terrorists, shot up and beaten, their money and passports taken, and the safari completely disrupted. This has definitely written the Chad off as a desirable place to plan a safari. The same is true of the old Congo. It used to be hunted to some extent before the Belgians were driven out, but today there are no organized safari companies of any repute operating there and it would be conjectural just what kind of a hunting expedition could be mounted.

An excellent hunting country is Mozambique. The leading outfitter is Safarilandia, located at Lourenco Marques. This is an old, well established firm and has a good reputation. The hunting areas are on a concession basis and parties are entered into the concessions on a one-party basis, that is, when the client is on safari there is no one else in his shooting area. Mozambique offers all the more desirable game, that is, elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, Greater kudu, sable, and a rare beastie, the nyala. This beautiful antelope is related to the bongo and is a prized trophy. The shooting grounds of Safarilandia are removed by 800 miles from the Tanzania frontier and the Chinese-trained terrorists so there is no hazard from this source so far as hunting in this Portuguese colony is concerned. Costs are \$4800 per sportsman for 30 days. License costs are nominal.

A most compelling hunting area is largely overlooked in Rhodesia. Within an hour's drive of Victoria Falls, the world's largest cascade of river waters, is the commencement of Rosslyn Farms, a huge estate that covers 100 square miles. Here the owners stage 3-day, 7-day and 10-day safaris. These shortie hunting trips, cost \$767 for the three-day, \$1484 for the week and \$1750 for the 10-day expedition.

Game includes lion, buff, and elephant. Along with these is: sable, waterbuck, impala, Greater kudu, eland, zebra, reedbuck, duiker and grysbok. Victoria Falls, where the outfitter meets his client, is within easy reach of Johannesburg via air.

South of Rhodesia is one of the best places in all Africa for a well rounded safari these days. This is the country of Botswana, formerly known as Bechuanaland. There are two outstanding safari companies; Safari South Ltd, and Ker, Downey & Selby. Harry Selby, made famous by Robert Ruark in his book, "Horn of the Hunter" manages the operation for his company. Botswana, is organized on a concession basis and the government releases huge tracts of land to the hunting firms, both in the Okavango Swamps, which is dry during the hunting season, and the fringes of the Kalahara Desert.

Botswana has slathers of elephants and buffalo. Neither with very impressive teeth or horn, but there in god-awful plenty. Botswana is one of the last best places for a whale of a big lion. There are more of the felines in Botswana than probably any place in all Africa, save possibly Angola. Leopards are very scare and there is no rhino hunting. There is a plentitude of Greater kudu and a goodly supply of Sable antelope. There are Roan antelope, but these are comparatively scarce. You will be lucky to bag a Roan. On the edges of the Kalahara is an extremely desirable trophy. This is the gemsbok or giant oryx. Down there, as well, lives the elusive springbok. A tiny fellow, the springbok is the national emblem of South Africa, shy and hard to hit. Botswana has literally millions of impala, tsessebe and lechwe. There are also waterbuck, zebra, duiker, hartebeeste, buskibuck, steinbuck, wildebeeste and the highly sought after sitatunga. A 30-day safari costs \$6300. The package license, together with tribal levy and concession costs, run the bite up to \$2005. There is a \$350 charge for dipping, crating and shipping the trophies out to the water port. These costs are stiff, similar to Kenya as to the outfitter's fee and a good deal less on license charges. The possibilities of a satisfactory safari are infinitely better.

In South Africa, Zululand, which is in the northern portion of this vast country, is the location of a tremendous hunting farm. Here the safari enthusiast may go for 3-5 day hunting trips, 6-10 day hunts, 11-14 day swings, or 15-20 day safaris. The cost varies from \$141 per day for the short outing to \$112 per day for

(Continued on page 50)

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By DICK MILLER

HOW FAST should you try to break trap targets? I confess that my opening sentence is no paragon of grammatical construction, but it is tied more closely to a shooter's lingo than would be correct grammar. At any rate, if you walk along behind several traps at any gun club you will see targets broken almost as soon as they appear and other targets broken just before they hit the ground, plus all speed ranges between those extremes.

Generally speaking, you can pick the new shooters from the experienced shooters by how fast they break the target. Experienced shooters break the target quickly, while the novice takes what seems an infinity to break his target. There are exceptions to this rule, of course. One of the best trapgunners I knew in my Hoosier shooting days in the fifties rarely broke his target until just before it hit the ground, or so it seemed. I can recall that when a group of my fellow Hoosiers were pulling for him in a big shoot-off at Herschel Cheek's club, we were as limp as rags from agonizing with him as he picked them off the top of the grass. He won, much to our surprise. Another friend specialized in breaking his targets before many shooters could even see them, and he won his share of trophies, but so much for the extremes. I have watched many new shooters go down the line, and I'm aware that their scores would show a marked improvement if they would only break the target faster.

There is much to recommend breaking the target as quickly as you can. One old rule common to shooting holds that the first sight picture will be the best one you get. Like many adages, this saying is not entirely true, but it holds enough of the elements of truth to recommend it. In no case should the first sight picture being the best be used as rationalization for shooting too fast. That one target on which you must correct your first hold

may be the one you would like to have back when the trophies are awarded, if you didn't take time to adjust.

Perhaps the best reason for breaking the target as fast as you can is that you will get more uniform targets. While the target is under the influence of the trap arm, it is reasonably uniform in speed, height, and angle. Once the impetus of the trap arm is overcome, the breeze plus gravity, etc. take over and the target is at least twice as hard to break. It can jump, drop, veer, wobble, slow up, speed up and a lot of things, none of which improve scores. It is ridiculously easy to shoot over a target which you have ridden too far. The target which seems to you is still rising has in fact leveled off, or even worse, is dropping, and if you don't adjust and shoot under it, one goose egg on the score sheet. If you had picked up this target and shot it with good timing, it would have been an easy break.

It also follows that if you do have to correct your first sight picture, and the target is still reasonably close to the trap, you can make the correction with no sweat. But, if you have to correct when the target is about to nestle among the grass, the best shooter who ever lived will miss more than his share. A new shooter I was watching just last month was trying to split the difference, it seemed, and was breaking some targets quickly while riding others much too long and far. His score took a dramatic jump when he was advised to try to keep his timing as uniform as possible.

Which naturally leads us into the subject of shooting rhythm. If you are a new shooter, and your scores are not as high as you would like them to be, you could profit from watching a squad of top-flight shooters. It will seem to you that each shot is a carbon copy of the last one, both in the shooting speed and interval between shots. Almost every new shooter has a day in which fate throws

him into a squad with good rhythm, and because he instinctively adopts the timing and rhythm of the good squad, his score jumps to a new high. You can improve your own score without waiting for fate to intervene by giving some conscious thought to developing a regular sequence of shots and shooting speed. You may also make friends and influence your scores by fitting into your squad's shooting rhythm. It is painfully true that a squad whose rhythm is broken by a fidgety and deliberate shooter who must adjust his glasses, take a couple of practice swings, hitch up his trousers, examine the fly speck on his barrel, etc, etc, will be less than happy, and is very unlikely to invite that shooter to fill a squad.

On the other end of the scale, a shooter who has loaded his gun, is pointing it, and seems ready to fire can demoralize the shooter on the next post. The shooter on the next post to the over-ready gunner is never quite sure whether or not that shooter is going to shoot out of turn or is just too eager. The ideal manner is to develop a smooth, uniform pattern with about the same timing and about the same time between shots. Better scores, and better social relations result.

As in the case of so many rules for ideal performance, there is an exception to the rule of uniformity and good rhythm. If you do happen to be squadded with the eager beaver or with the molasses type, you can't let that shooter pull down your own score. If your squad's rhythm is broken, you must work all the harder and maintain your own timing, and above all else, you must blot the maverick from your mind, at least, until the round is over.

As I said before, these rules are to set up the ideal conditions, which unfortunately do not always exist. But, if you know what is expected of you, and why it is expected, shooting will be more fun, scores will be better, and that's the name of the game. New shooters can have more fun and shoot better scores if they will give extra attention to when and where they are scheduled to shoot. When a squad is ready to shoot, and one member of the squad is absent, a lot of adrenalin starts pumping. The shooter who comes breathlessly charging up to his assigned field after the squad is ready is in no condition to shoot his best. And, not all experienced shooters are the cool, collected type. For some of them, when they walk on the field to shoot, any unexpected delay sets up negative reactions which can hurt scores. Simply said, you owe it to yourself and to the rest of your squad

to be on time for each field. You will shoot better, and have more fun, and so will your squad. Trap is a fun game. The actual time consumed in shooting is usually far less than the total amount of time spent at the club, therefore there is a lot of time for conversation and socializing. Because of these conditions, the one time which is not ideal for conversation and socializing is during the relatively small time devoted to shooting. When most of us take our places on a trap post, the old grey matter starts working overtime, and becomes hypersensitive to any extraneous sounds or sights. One of the extraneous sounds which will drive some shooters right up the wall is superfluous conversation. The same guy who gives you a grunt and hard look when you rattle on while on the trap line may be a charming conversationalist if you will only wait until the event is over. Try it, you'll like it! All the shooting advice given here is subject to no generation gap. It applies equally to shooters from nine to ninety.

Speaking of shooters from nine to ninety, the March, 1972 issue of *Trap & Field* carried an interesting item, in the "Completed Careers" section. T&F recorded the passing of Dr. Dean Bubar of Roseburg, Oregon last September at the age of 92. Dr. Bubar did not fire a shotgun until he was age seventy, and the real story for our senior readers is his quote from the September 1969 issue of T&F, in which he said "It's too bad we cannot get more veterans to take up this wonderful sport. It will extend their life span at least ten years." The good doctor knew something, it seems, and it would also seem that he proved it.

So, if you are retired, or near retirement, and are lacking a hobby which will not only be fun but add to your span of years, listen to the doctor, and go and do likewise. Or, if you have friends facing the golden age without a hobby which would fill their years and add to them, pass the word. And, if you are seeking a hobby with no generation gap, try trap. Nine and ten year-olds win national championships, in the same game Dr. Bubar took up at age seventy. You can also bring the wife and little sister, if you can tolerate them beating your score occasionally or even regularly.

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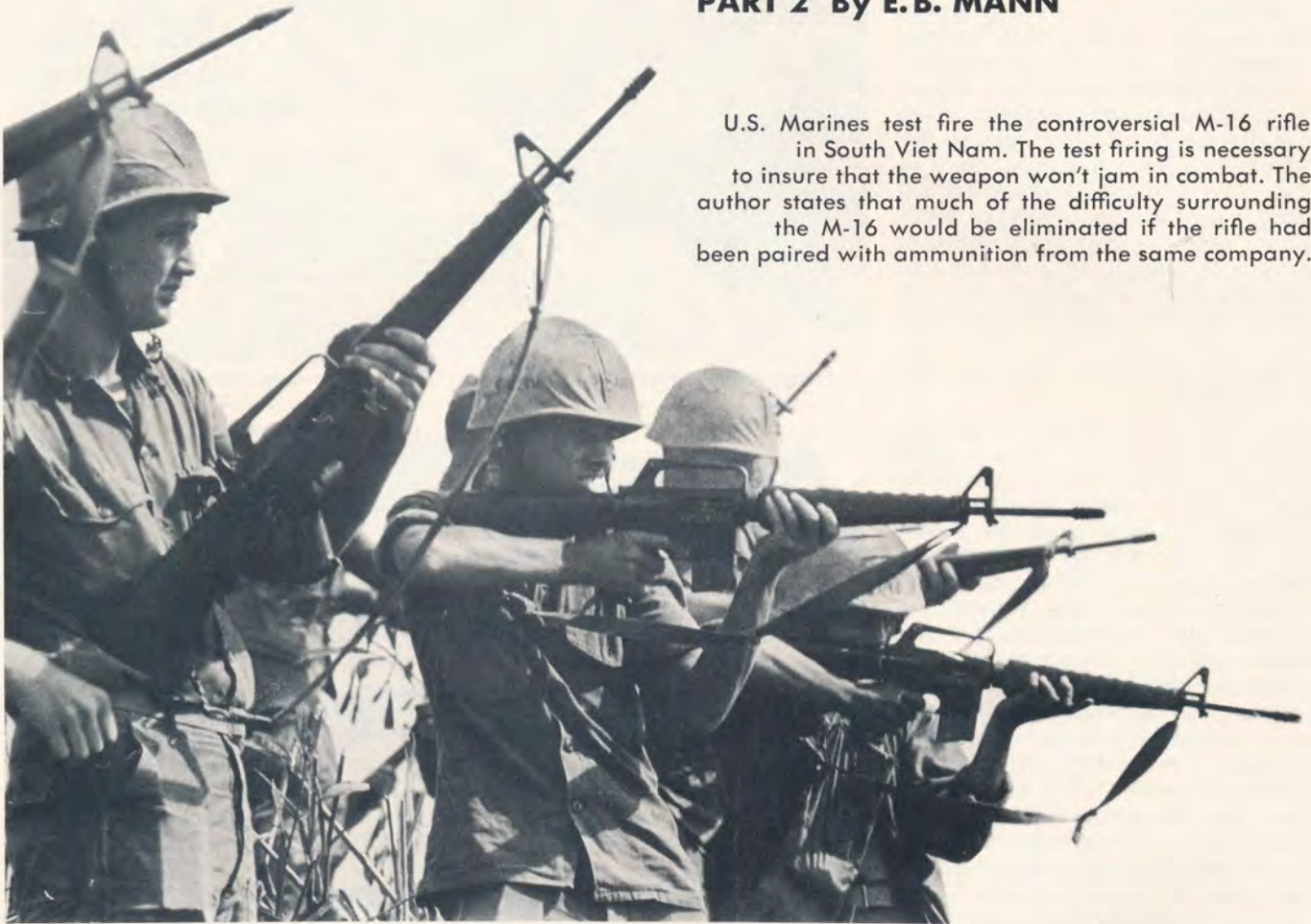
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WHY NOT TELL THE TRUTH

U.S. MILITARY

PART 2 By E.B. MANN

U.S. Marines test fire the controversial M-16 rifle in South Viet Nam. The test firing is necessary to insure that the weapon won't jam in combat. The author states that much of the difficulty surrounding the M-16 would be eliminated if the rifle had been paired with ammunition from the same company.



FROM REVOLUTIONARY days onward, Americans have boasted that this was "A Nation of Riflemen." It was not true even then, to anything like the extent of the legend.

The seeds of the legend lay, of course, in the accuracy of the American Long Rifles and the skill of the coonskin-capped frontiersmen who bore them. But there were not many of those Long Rifles, and not many of those frontiersmen. Muskets were the weapons of our "rag-tag and bob-tailed" armies; muskets no better than the European muskets against which ours were pitted. The boast that every American could shoot the eye out of a squirrel at one hundred paces was a myth, a carefully fostered trick of psychological warfare conceived and

promoted by a man named Washington.

America was certainly not "A Nation of Riflemen" in the 1940's. In spite of the existence in Washington, D.C. of a pitifully under-financed and little known Department for the Promotion of Civilian Marksmanship, and in spite of the (then) 75-year effort of the National Rifle Association to promote rifle and pistol marksmanship as sports and as military assets when needed, only two out of every hundred Americans drafted for service in World War II knew how to shoot either rifle or pistol before induction. This was of little concern to the military Ordnance experts. A high-ranking officer told me in 1941, "Small arms are obsolete. We won't be using rifles and pistols in this

war, except for perimeter defenses. What you know about weapons is 20 years out-dated." Months later, line officers in Europe and in the South Pacific were echoing the plea of John Jack Pershing in World War I: "Send us men who can shoot!"

Among the military establishment's first small-arms contributions to World War II were the Garand rifle, to replace the old beloved Springfield M1903, and the M-1 Carbine caliber .30, to take the place of the pistol. The Garand would have to be rated as one of the establishment's better efforts. There was considerable hassle about it before its adoption, with various experts favoring one or another of at least two strongly competitive rifles, but its development by Ordnance ex-

ABOUT

MATERIEL?

perts in Ordnance arsenals represented a considerable investment in cash and in "face" to its backers, and its selection was fore-ordained. With a few minor refinements, it became one of the war's better rifles—better finished and greatly more costly to produce than the several similarly operated German Gewehr models but, until late in the war, at least their equals.

(Germany, you may be sure, did not subscribe to the precept that "you can't change weapons in the midst of a war." Her Gewehr rifles were repeatedly improved during the war; and, to quote the Joseph E. Smith revision of Walter H. B. Smith's "Small Arms of the World," "Germany utilized wherever possible the best weapons of every country she over-ran." Nor did Germany underestimate the value of small arms marksmanship. Instead, she initiated before the war, and urgently expanded throughout its duration, "one of the most ambitious rifle training systems ever devised to make a nation war conscious and to train military riflemen." Boys were taught rifle

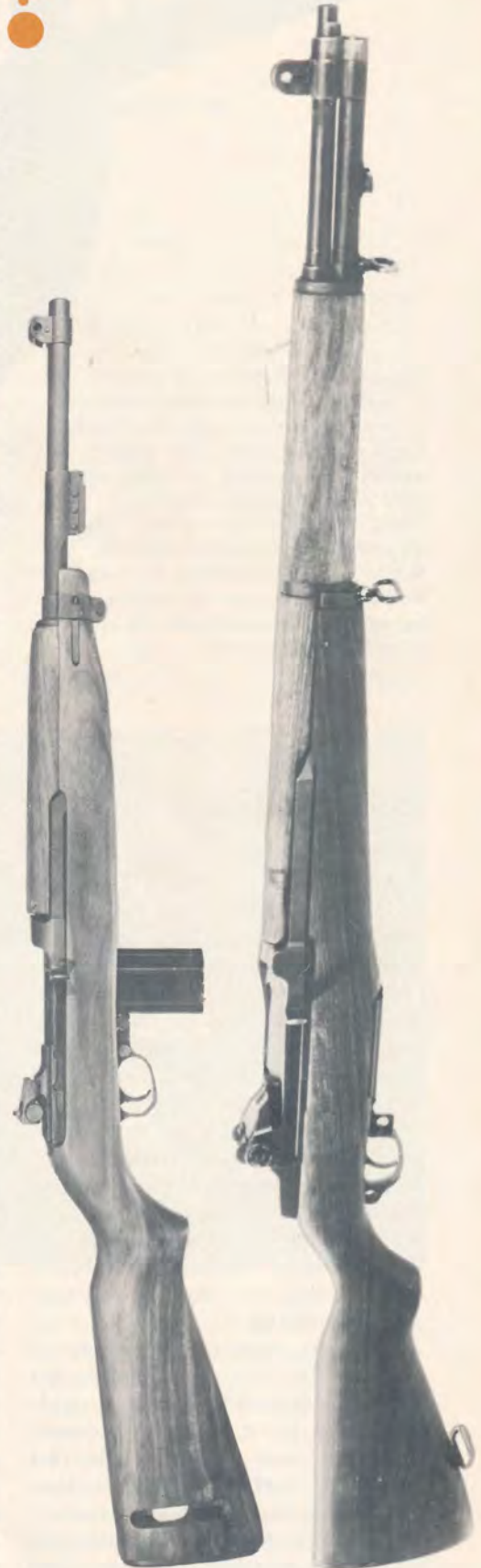
marksmanship from the age of 8 years onward, and German riflemen were wickedly effective as a result of that training.)

But the U.S. Carbine M-1 caliber .30 was another kettle of fish entirely. Ordnance spokesmen tell us that "the using services" (meaning in this case the training services) demanded a weapon to supplant the (vintage of 1911) Colt Automatic Pistol, claiming that the pistol was "too difficult to shoot effectively," and that recruits could not be taught, in the limited time available, to shoot the pistol well enough to have confidence in it. A carbine, they thought, would solve the problem. The same instruction that taught men to use the rifle would enable them to use the carbine—and dropping the pistol and the pistol cartridge "would reduce logistical problems."

A few outspoken civilians remarked then that, had the military establishment better supported the Promotion of Civilian Marksmanship program and the

(Continued on page 60)

Astonishingly, America is not a "Nation of Riflemen" as many Americans have grown to believe. Only two men out of every 100 Americans drafted in WW2 knew how to shoot effectively.



WORLD'S FIRST



The M-810 10-gauge Magnum O/U is made by Lucchini Stefano in Brescia, Italy, under Richland Arms specifications. The weight exceeds 11 pounds, is balanced well and possesses excellent handling/pointing qualities. The buttstock and the fore-end on the M-810 are functionally made and the author states that the general workmanship on the rifle is very good overall.

By WALLACE LABISKY

IT WAS DURING the early 1930's that Western Cartridge Company developed a 3½ inch load for the 10-bore and Ithaca built the first gun to handle it. At that time the 3 inch, 12 bore load was yet unborn, so the Ithaca/Western development created a pretty big stir. With its new "Roman Candle" load, the Big Ten offered a full ¾ ounce advantage over the standard 12 gauge gun which, in those days, handled only a 1¼ ounces shot charge. Although modern progressive-burning propellants have closed that gap considerably, the long-chambered 10-bore with maximum handloads still holds a ⅜ ounce edge over the now-very-popular Magnum 12.

Until very recently, if you wanted a Magnum Ten you had to settle for either a side-by-side gun or a single shot, but a lot of otherwise interested duck and goose hunters couldn't get hepped—up over that bill of fare. They felt that the side-by-side "two-shooter" was not well suited for accurate long-range pointing (though a great many

s-b-s buffs definitely do not share that opinion), and they likewise frowned on the "one-burner" as being short on firepower. But these chaps no longer have a legitimate excuse for hanging back, as the selection has widened to include a stack-barrel thunderstick which combines the frequently preferred single sighting plane with a fast one-two punch.

The new gun, an import under the Richland Arms banner, very probably holds the distinction of being the world's first over-under in 10 gauge persuasion—at least, it's the first one of which the writer is aware.

Richland made the announcement at the N.S.G.A. show in Chicago early in 1971. But as often happens, the preview was followed by many months of waiting before production guns finally began coming through from the Italian maker. The writer's test gun, for example, did not show until the tail end of October, by which time much of the prime shooting in my bailiwick was already history. Luckily, however, the solid freeze-up held off long enough so that the big O/U received a good

workout on both geese and ducks.

This newest offering from Richland, which has been designated the Model 810, is turned out by Lucchini Stefano in Brescia. Basically, the M-810 is a box-lock action featuring a monoblock breech in conjunction with topside bolting, along with double triggers and a non-ejecting extractor.

The barreling is done in Boehler steel and the massive twin tubes weigh 5½ pounds by themselves, constituting nearly half the total gun weight. Proof testing calls for a load that levels off at 1200 Kg/CM², or the equivalent of slightly over 17,000 psi, so handloaders have a good margin of safety when developing special stout loads for this big O/U.

As is the case with all Richland Arms doubles, these barrels have special long forcing cones measuring 1½ inches, the purpose being to ease the shot charge into the bore proper with minimum pellet deformation. Chamber, cone and bore finish as evidenced in my test gun can be rated first class.

The top-bolting follows the Kersten system, which is generally considered

10-GAUGE OVER-UNDER

as an extremely strong and reliable method. A sliding cross-bolt moves laterally in the standing breech to engage a pair of lugs, one on either side of the top barrel and each being an integral part of the monoblock breech. The cross-bolt itself is rectangular in section, with a width of .450 of an inch and a depth of .225 of an inch. The frame is recessed in the lug cut on the right-hand side to permit the bolt to seat deeper, should wear occur. When the action is opened for loading or unloading, the cross-bolt protrudes a distance of 1/4 of an inch from the left side of the standing breech and is retained in this position by a bolt catch.

are far more common than generally thought. Today's manufacturers take great care to see that the bolt takes a good, solid "bite" on one lug, but seem to give little attention to the second lug, in which case it serves as a back-up or safety lug in case the other fails—but with our modern steels and all, this would be a pretty rare occurrence. So we cannot really fault the M-810 on bolt fit, even though we would prefer at least token bolt contact on the second lug.

Like the barrels, the frame of the M-810 has a lot of muscle, with a wall thickness running .275 of an inch over most of its length. And although one

Frame width, on the other hand, is quite robust, running 1.850 of an inch (17/8"). This allows a full one-half inch of stock wood on either side of the tangs, lending great strength to the stock/action joint. Also bolstering strength at this point, stock joining is handled by a longitudinal hex-head through-bolt rather than the usual vertical screws between the tangs.

As with all top-break guns, the M-810 action cocks on opening, the cocking slide being a flat piece that moves longitudinally in a slotway on the floor of the frame, with camming action provided by the fore-end iron. No great effort is required to bring

HANDLOAD PATTERN TEST SUMMARY

Richland Arms M-810 10-Ga. O/U
3 1/2" Chambers, 31 5/8" Barrels, Full & Full
Range: 40 Yards (Avg. of five shots)

BARREL	POWDER CHARGE	SHOT CHARGE	DENSITY 20" CIRCLE	DENSITY 30" CIRCLE	EFFICIENCY 30" CIRCLE	EDV* 30" CIRCLE
Under	54/AL-8	2 oz. #4 (280)	118	198	70.8%	24 (8.6%)
Over	54/AL-8	2 oz. #4 (280)	125	206	73.7%	49 (17.5%)
Under	53/AL-8	2 1/8 oz. #2 (198)	86	149	75.6%	16 (8.1%)
Over	53/AL-8	2 1/8 oz. #2 (198)	85	139	70.2%	30 (15.1%)

*EDV = Extreme spread in pellet density.

Handload Data: All handloads were in new Alcan Type CM 3 1/2" plastic shells with the 220 Max-Fire primer. Wad column for the 2 x 4 loads consisted of a PGS O/P cup, .070" nitro card, 3/8" and 1/4" Feltan-Bluestreak fillers and Kwik-Sert plastic shot sleeve. For the 2 1/8 x 2 loads, the wad column consisted of a PGS, .070" nitro card, with 1/4" fillers and the Kwik-Sert sleeve. All loads were fold crimped with a 6-point closure.

In checking out bolt fit on the test gun, the bearing surfaces of the lugs were smoked black with a sooty flame and the bolt was allowed to fully seat. This revealed that the bolt made contact over about 70 percent of the left-hand lug surface, but that contact on the right-hand lug was totally lacking.

When a single bolt is used to engage two lugs, situations such as this

might expect the frame of a 10-bore O/U to possess an ungainly depth, this is not the case. Because of the Kersten-type bolting system, there are no under-lugs to accommodate and this results in the slimmest profile possible. Frame depth runs just a wee bit over 2 5/8 inches, and this makes it almost as trim as a 12 gauge gun with underbolting.

the tumblers to full cock position, as the weighty barrels tend to give a large assist in this capacity.

Extraction occurs simultaneously, of course. Shells are lifted a distance of a little over 3/8 of an inch by the stirrup-type extractor. This amount of lift is sufficient for easy grasping of the shells with the fingers, although the shell in the over barrel does have

to be plucked out from between the locking lugs.

Unlike most other Richland shotguns, the firing pins are neither spring-loaded nor bushed, and therefore are not accessible through the action face. Pin drag in the indent of the fired primer was occasionally encountered for the over barrel. This appears to be a matter of slightly excessive length, though no primer piercing was experienced.

Especially worthy of mention is the M-810's handsome and very functional ventilated rib. It's a wide, wide rib that is quite in keeping with the massive 10-bore tubes. My "mike" pegs the width at .470 of an inch and for all practical purposes we may as well call it a half an inch. This is a level rib (no ramp at the breech end), and its flat surface is decked with finely-cut knurling which does a great job of eliminating reflected light. This "engraving" is superbly executed, whether done by hand or by machine, and is completely free of annoying burrs at the edges.

All things considered, I am quite sold on this wide rib. In conjunction with the squarish contour of the standing breech, it's a great aid in "picking up" that duck or goose with speed and accuracy. Richland Arms certainly deserves a double "plus" mark for this aspect of design.

Double triggers on a gun that is likely to see a lot of use during nippy weather may not be the ideal arrangement. However, on the M-810 the toe-to-toe spacing runs $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and this is enough to permit the wearing of gloves that are not excessively bulky on the trigger finger. The trigger guard is not the enemy that it is on some O/U

guns I've shot. It slopes back in a gradual curve so that when firing the under barrel (front trigger) it meets the fleshy side of the second finger during recoil rather than hammering the bony frontal area and producing a painful bruise.

On a heavy-load gun such as the 10 gauge Magnum, trigger pulls are customarily left a bit on the heavy side to rule out the chance of the gun "doubling"—that is, recoil from the one barrel jarring off the sear of the other. For the test gun, the pulls check out at approximately $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds for the under barrel and $10\frac{1}{2}$ for the over barrel. While these pulls are somewhat heavier than need be to prevent doubling, they are free of travel and the let-off is very clean. They would, of course, be abominably heavy on a lighter gun, but when weight runs well over 11 pounds, they are really not too hard to live with.

The M-810 tubes were found to be in close agreement in terms of pattern registration. Shooting from a rest at 40 yards, patterns with the under barrel centered perfectly on the point of hold when about $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch of rib was visible, while the over barrel centered just a few inches higher with the same sight picture. In actual practice, and particularly when dealing with a crossing bird at long range, the shooter would want to see a little more rib than this because a charge of 2's, for example, driven at a factory velocity of 1,330 fps will drop something like seven inches at 60 yards, and probably close to 12 inches or thereabouts at 75 to 80 yards. (Continued on page 71)



Pictured is an action-open view of the M-810, showing its locking lugs in profile and its stirrup-type extractor. The barrels are of Boehler steel and the chambers are cut with extra long forcing cones to reduce pellet deformation.

The author illustrates the proper stance for offhand, match shooting. The gun is a .45 ACP Colt, with heavy slide and extended front sight which provides a longer sight radius.

1ST STEPS IN PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP

By S. F. FERBER

IN THIS instance, "novice" is defined as one who has had little, if any, training with hand-held firearms. He may or may not own handguns, and if he does, he shoots them rarely—or ineffectively. Most treatises dealing with basic handgun instruction include, at some point throughout the lesson, a statement declaring "... the uninitiated believe handguns to be inaccurate, except at very close range," or words to that effect. This, and other favorite cliches will be abandoned here since it is my belief that the average contemporary outdoorsman, whatever his particular shooting discipline, knows in a more than general sense the accuracy potential of handguns. Too much has been detailed about pistols in all the

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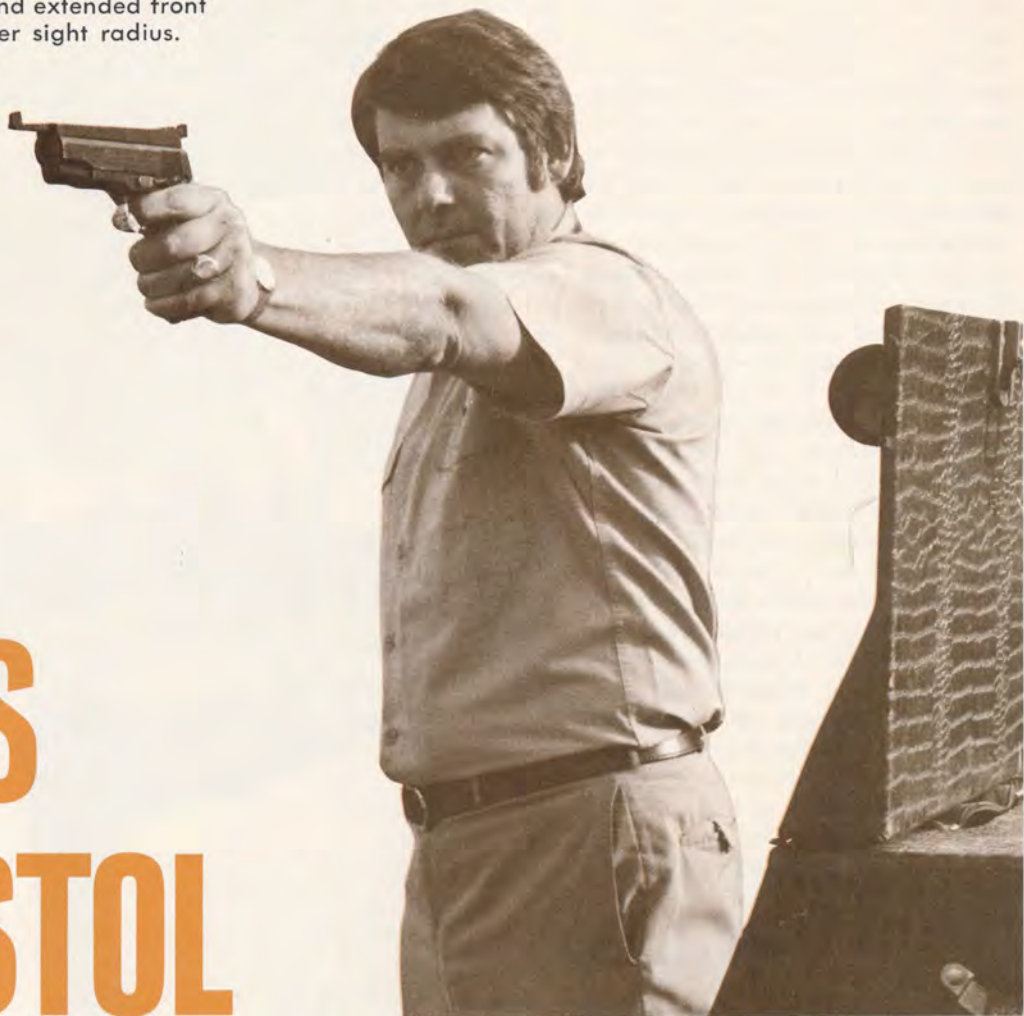
gun and outdoor magazines in recent years to make the "uninitiated" of today considerably more knowledgeable than his counterpart of just 10 years ago.

At the same time, all this information can—and usually is—confusing to the novice. Many men, for example know exactly the physical differences between the .38 Special cartridge and the .357 Magnum. They know what guns are built for these cartridges and they read in a variety of magazines about their effectiveness in law enforcement, in the field and on the competitive firing line.

All of this information brings to the man interested in handguns a sort of confusion about pistols in general, be-

cause unless he's had good, formal training to start with, or unless he's read the U.S. Army Marksmanship Manual, he attempts to apply this conglomeration of information to his own shooting situation. That doesn't work. You don't begin anything from the middle.

Pistol shooting is accomplished in either of two ways. All other methods are variations of these two. The classic "offhand" style which is the form used by competitors in conventional pistol matches—and that which is most often depicted in early wood-cut illustrations—is the first. The two-handed hunting or "combat" hold is the second. The way to learn how to shoot effectively in both styles, and all variations of



these, is to first learn the one-handed, offhand method. Everything important concerning accuracy, sight alignment, control and concentration—which is very much incorporated in the other styles—is acquired readily through this method.

You learn to shoot any kind of handgun by first mastering the .22 Rimfire. In the same way that you wouldn't initiate a 10-year-old boy into the joys of hunting by handing him a 12-gauge scattergun and telling him "Let's see what you can do," you don't learn handgunning by shooting big-bore pistols.

If you made a cross-country trip in a Roll's Royce you will have driven 3,000 miles in one of the best automobiles built in the world. You will have memorized its "feel" on the straightaway, on curves, at both high and low speeds, and in short, you will know what you can expect from "the best" in the way of performance. On your return trip, should this be done in a compact car, you will undoubtedly arrive at your destination, but not as comfortably or not as easily. Likewise, if you learn to shoot with the best .22 caliber gun in the world, the trip getting there will be easier, and in the future you will readily see the limitations of other guns. In this case, there are two "best" guns for the purpose. The Model 41 Smith & Wesson and any one of the Trophy, Citation or Tournament High Standard Models. All are semi-automatic pistols, but the Smith & Wesson might have a slight accuracy edge—and this is only discernable to the already expert shooter. Both brands have fine sighting equipment, and both have smooth, reliable triggers. Several other "match grade" handguns are available in .22 caliber, but these two are unquestionably the choices of our best marksmen and they are not particularly expensive. Virtually any match grade .22 handgun will shoot into a one-inch circle, or thereabouts, at 50 yards, but for a variety of sound engineering reasons select one of the two brands recommended if possible.

Although I use both the Smith Model 41 and one of the High Standard bull barrel models for target shooting,

I usually use the Smith for most conventional events. For solid reasons, it's best not to use a revolver during the initial learning process. They are less accurate and less "automated" than the guns described.

All .22 caliber Rimfire ammunition is good. All brands are accurate. It isn't necessary to buy "match" ammo, but it is important to use only standard velocity Long Rifle rounds. It is considerably more accurate at the longer yardages and will not damage the recoil slide on your gun—which high velocity ammo has a tendency to do.

Buy a supply of official NRA 25 and

50-yard pistol targets. Non-standard targets have bull's eyes of various sizes, shapes and contrasts which are confusing and they don't always provide an acceptable aiming area. In the beginning, strive for standardization. Later, when you have confidence in your shooting skills, when you know firsthand what a handgun will do, you can experiment right down the line with targets, guns, ammo, positions etc.

Begin shooting from the 25-yard line. If a pistol range is not available to you, accurately measure that distance in a safe area, put the target at one end and at the other construct a



Howard Hagaman, a police recruit shooting a Smith & Wesson Combat Magnum Pistol. He's learning to shoot using the fundamentals outlined throughout the text.

Pistol pressure in gripping is exerted by the inside of the hand, not the thumb.



Sight picture is obtained first, and this establishes the object to be fired at—your general “intention.” Once this is carried out, the shooter settles down to the more critical task of sight alignment—the way to insure *exactly* that the bullet will hit the mark.

Sight picture means the relationship of your line of sight, or vision, to the rear sight, the front sight and the target. Sight alignment means “aligning” your front sight in the proper attitude with the notch in the rear sight. This is vastly more *critical* than sight picture, because an alignment error of just $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of an inch will move the point of impact *three inches* at 50 yards. If, on the other hand, your sight alignment is perfect but your sight picture isn't, that is, you move your *aligned* sights off your point of aim slightly on the *target*, your point of impact error will be *exactly* that of the error off (Continued on page 70)

wait-level bench, or use a table or foot stool to hold your equipment and rest your firing hand.

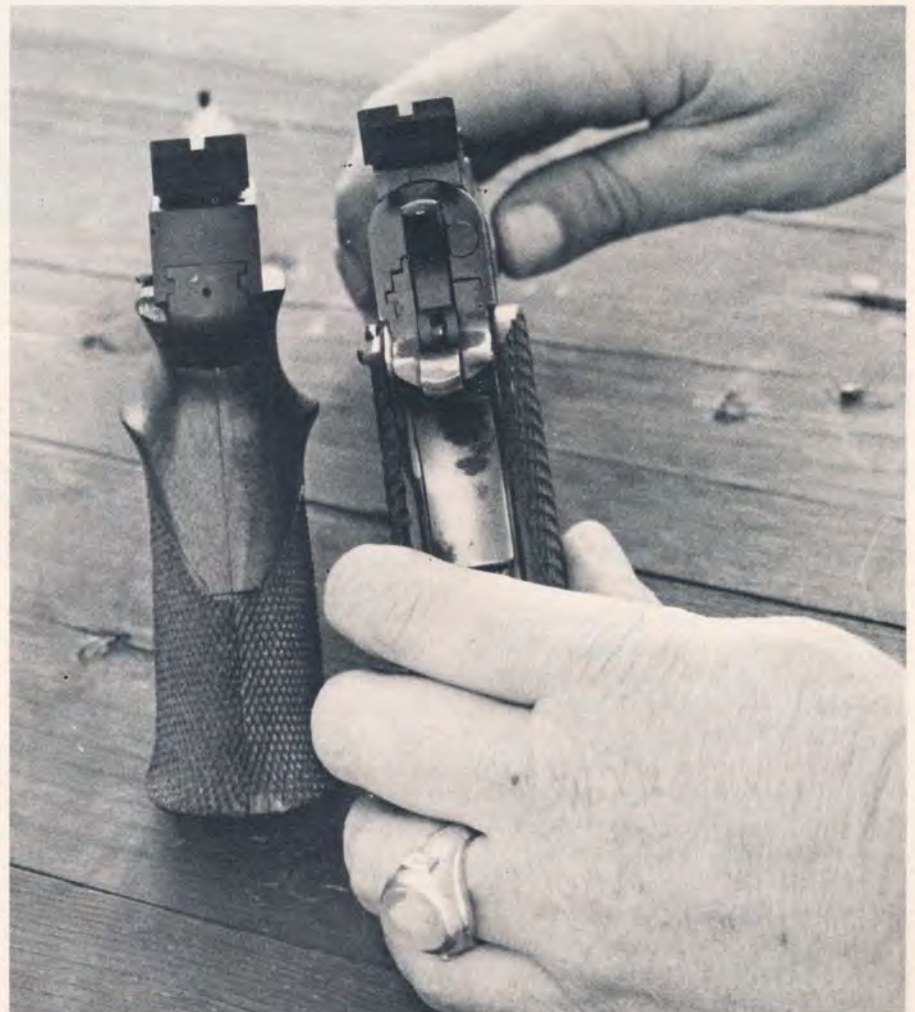
While a spotting scope is not mandatory, binoculars or some type of telescope should be used, obviating the need to run back and forth after each shot to locate the hit. Ear protectors are a must, as is a screwdriver. The later is to adjust the sights—and adjustable sights are vital. They were designed to be moved, don't hesitate to use the screwdriver.

Both the Smith & Wesson and High Standard guns have *ideal* front (and rear) sights. The part of the front sight which you look at when you aim (the facing, vertical portion of the blade) makes a perfect right angle with the *top* part of the blade—another straight line. When you are aiming correctly, you don't actually see the top surface of the blade—only the vertical surface. Certain other types of front blades have a curved top-most portion, or have a rising or falling taper, making your visual point of concentration potentially variable (where is the exact top of the curve?) The rear sight is a clean and evenly-cut notch, which can be moved in either vertically or horizontally—for “windage” and “elevation.”

There is a special way of picking up a pistol and gripping it, of standing, of squeezing the trigger, and a manner to follow immediately after the shot is fired. Before I detail those points, un-

derstand first, some theory regarding the sights—how to aim.

There still seems to be some confusion regarding *sight picture* and *sight alignment*, and which is the more important. In the general sense, they have equal importance—without applying either one during the course of shooting, the target will be missed.



The Smith & Wesson Model 41 (left) and an accurized Colt .45 display ideal sight types. These two are the Bo-Mar brand, but the sights which come on the S & W are good.



A rigid shooting bench and the use of a sand bag rest are of tremendous aid to the hunter when trying to sight in his rifle. Aiming error can be reduced dramatically if the scope has been mounted properly.

By **LES BOWMAN**

TO ACHIEVE the best possible performance and results from any type rifle scope and mount combination, it is quite necessary to combine the proper scope, mount and rifle with the correct mechanical technique in assembling them. However, it is amazing how often this simple fact is ignored by even the most enthusiastic hunter. Last year this was brought very clearly to my attention when a friend of mine was asked to take charge of the sighting-in activities on a new city range in the heart of Wyoming's best antelope hunting country.

Gillette, Wyoming, considered by many hunters to be the "Antelope Capitol" of Wyoming, is quite literally taken over by hunters during the hunt-

ing season. They come by airplane, private and commercial, by bus and cars. Many of them have their own camper rigs or trailers and others carry camping gear in their car or pick-up.

There are many ranchers in this area who take in hunters on a commercial basis, the fee varying with the type of facilities offered. Some charge only a trespass fee, which is a comparatively small amount, others charge as much as \$50.00 per day per hunter, if everything is furnished by the rancher. Some furnish food and lodging on a day basis and transportation or guide the same way. There are also areas that are accessible to a hunter who wishes to hunt on his own. However, reservations are necessary if a hunter wants to hunt on the best of these ranches.

The city of Gillette, through their Chamber of Commerce, issues a map that gives the names and locations of most of the ranches that do commercial hunting and where the hunters are allowed to hunt. These maps can be obtained free, by writing the C. of C. Last year, Gillette also instigated a new service for the great number of hunters who arrive there each hunting season. It was a conservation project, in an indirect manner. The city set up three sighting-in benches on a nearby range and asked a well known firearms manufacturer representative to manage it for them. He was to assist and help the hunters who wanted to avail themselves of the privilege of sighting in their equipment the day before the season opened.

This service proved to be far more

ANTELOPE GUNS

popular than anyone had anticipated. Hunters were lined up, waiting their turn, at the three benches from early in the morning until darkness stopped them that night. I understand that plans are already made for 10 benches for the coming season, with qualified helpers to assist the man in charge.

During this one day, 130 hunters were processed. That averaged out to about 43 hunters per bench. Considering the amount of extra work that was found to be necessary on a great many of the guns before they could get the scopes properly mounted, this was a very good average for the one day. Most of the equipment was inherently good. Only three of the scopes were found to have such faults that they could not be used and these were all of the same make. Poor installation, in one form or another, was the cause of most troubles. It was soon decided that the quickest and surest way to get the whole job done, was to take the scope and mount completely off and start all over, making a correct and tight installation so that when sighting in was started the scope would maintain its zero, after it was once set.



Pictured is some of the equipment and tools used in the installation and preliminary adjustments to a rifle mount and scope adjustments.

After all the parts, screws, etc., were cleaned and then reset correctly a colimator was used to get on target. It took only a few minutes to sight the rifle in at 100 yards for the proper point of impact. This preliminary cleaning and then correct installation of scope and mount was where the serv-

ices of my friend Tom became so necessary. This sort of work certainly needs someone with the right know-how and the finished product contributes a great deal to the success of the user.

Although a list of the different type rifles, scopes, mounts and ammunition used by these 130 hunters does not necessarily give a true estimate of the general average arms used by antelope hunters in all hunting areas, I think it is worth a look. With the exception of a few locals, the hunters came from out of state. Fifteen states were represented, including: Texas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, California, Virginia and South Dakota.

I believe it does give a rather good idea of what type equipment is used by the average antelope hunter. It should not be compared to a list of the rifles, ammunition, etc., used by antelope hunters who attend the Lander, Wyoming, One Shot Antelope Hunt. These hunters are usually V.I.P.'s, with more or less unlimited funds to spend on their equipment and assembly and cannot be considered the average antelope hunter.

These 130 hunters who checked in at Gillette (Continued on page 50)

MAKE AND NUMBER OF RIFLES

Remington	82
Winchester	19
Weatherby	8
Browning Auto.	8
Misc.	18

MAKE OF AMMUNITION

Weatherby	8
Remington	39
Winchester	33
Peters	3
Herters	3
Federal	9
Handloads	16

CALIBERS USED

30.06	51
.243	11
6 mm	10
.308	10
7 mm	8
.270	8
.264	5
30.30	2
Misc.	30

SCOPES USED

Redfield Variable ..	33
Redfield 4X	8
Weaver 4X	24
Weaver Variable ...	10
Bushnell	9
Leupold	7
Tasco	7
Misc.	37

Super Safe

By S. G. McQUEEN

SAFETY IS the name given to the ball bounced back and forth between most military minded men and our conservative police forces. This ball has two sides with the police holding onto the wheel-gun portion and the military gripping the self-loader side. Each has their strong points and also their weak; I will present one side in a manner acceptable to both. In particular, the oldest and strongest objection to the self-loader by most police powers has been safety; to the police officer, to by-standers, and in training. So here is the means to produce such safety in a self-loader comparable to or surpassing the best double-action modern revolver.

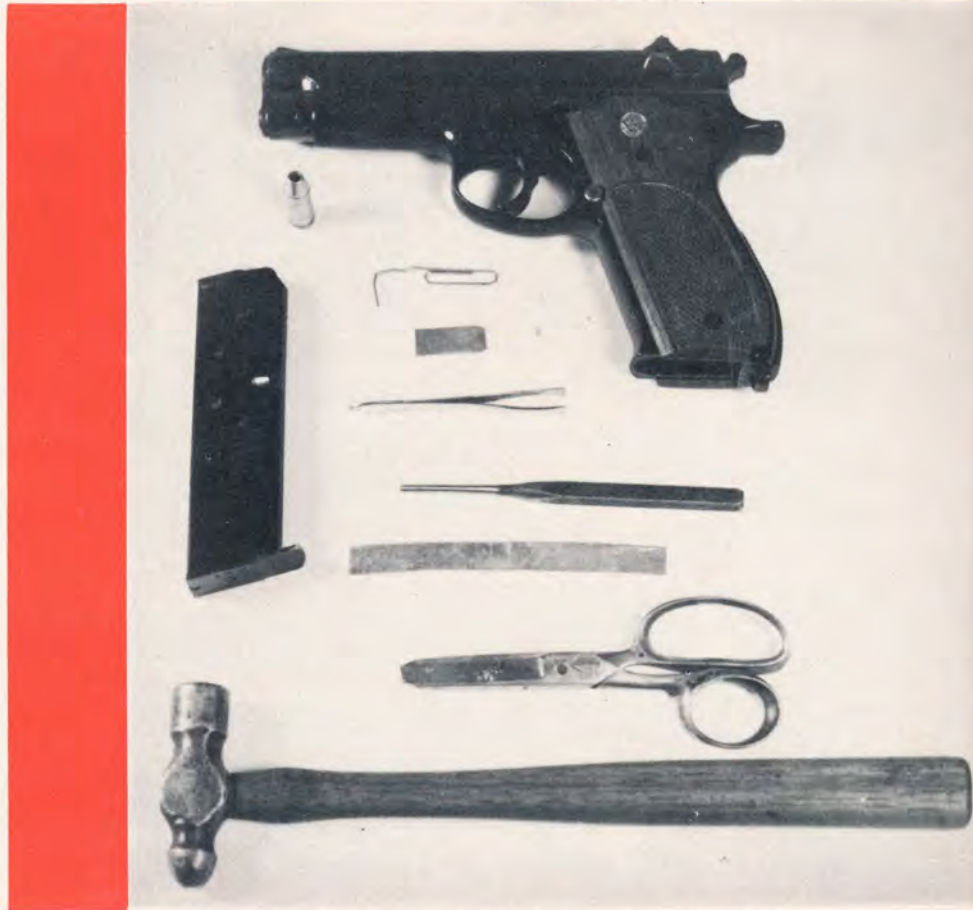
Since the inception of the self-loading pistols around the turn of the century and the subsequent adoption by most of the military forces, little change was made until the "double-action" models were introduced. Coming onto the scene late, they were forced to fit the accepted patterns but made attempts to achieve a marriage of the two worlds of revolvers and self-loaders. Only a few dared to buck tradition by producing models known as "double-action only," in that the striker does not remain in the cocked position after the first shot is fired. These models were not readily accepted and went out of production during WW II. Whereas the earlier types remained in wartime production and some into the

post-war period.

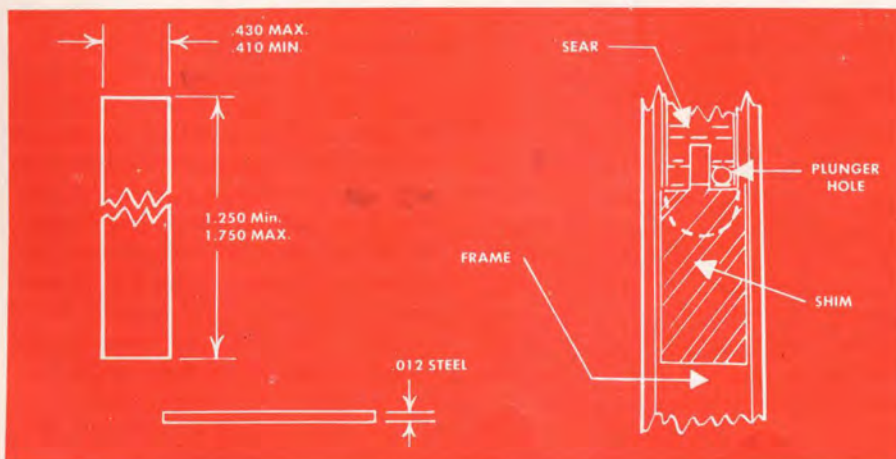
The Smith & Wesson Model 39, introduced in the late 50's, was brought forth in both a single action and dou-

ble action model to test market acceptance. As you know the latter caught on in several circles with its adoption by several large police agencies and some military use.

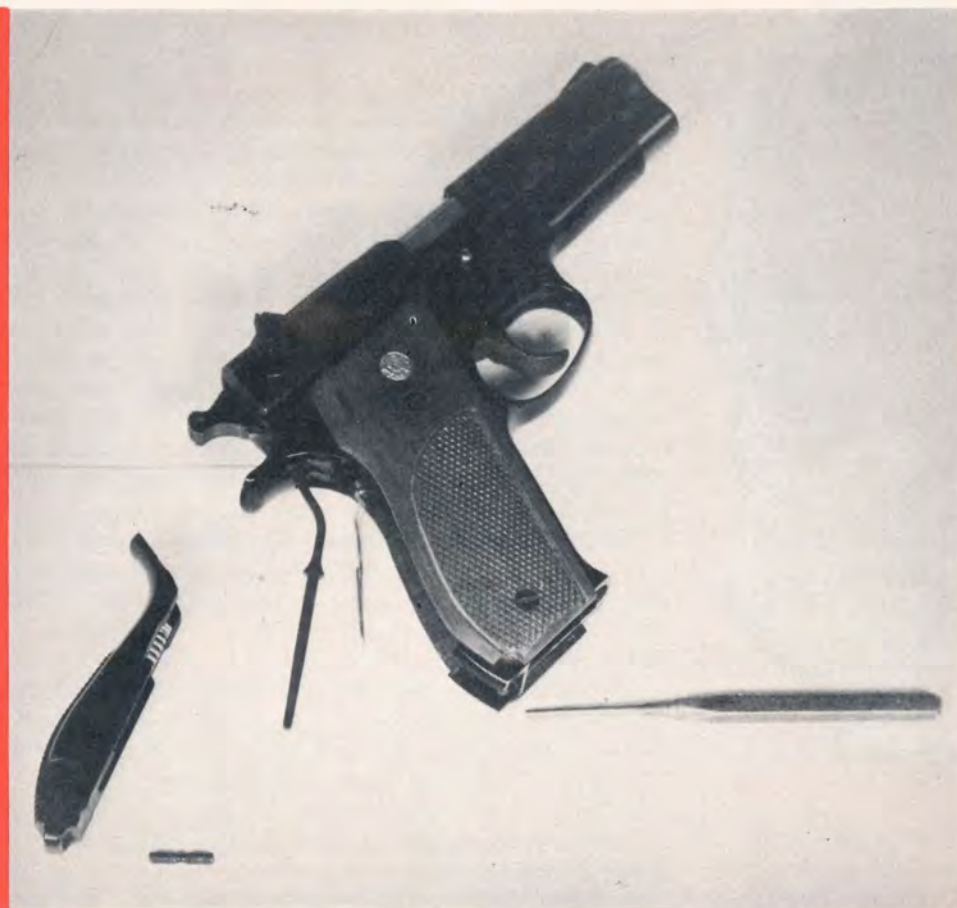
This model has come the closest yet to fulfilling the pistol shooters dream of the perfect marriage between the double-action revolver and the magazine loading pistol. The Smith & Wesson Model 39 needs only a few minor face-lifts in certain areas to reach this highest pinnacle of perfection and here they come in ascending order of importance. An enlarged magazine capacity would be widely appreciated. Grip angle in relation to bore has suffered the age old compromise between acceptance and practicality. A narrower angle would increase combat efficiency weighed against right angle re-



This do-it-yourself project should be completed within three minutes, using the simplest of household tools. Note the bent paper clip which is used to remove the sear plunger pin.



AUTO PISTOL



Depress the sear plunger to relieve pin pressure, inserting the paper clip on the sear's left side until the pin is clear. Right, the shim is in place. The width is of more importance than length, for it must be wider than the sear and fit the frame groove.

quirements of target shooters. A increase in caliber effectiveness can only be achieved by the method of addition or substitution. Since it seems unlikely that the available frame will accept both a longer and fatter cartridge in addition to a larger magazine capacity, our familiar compromise could be utilized in a pair of pistols; one in 9mm with increased capacity and one in a caliber approaching .45 ACP specifications such as a new .41, with normal capacity. The other improvements would be the option of a steel frame and lower line of recoil utilizing a return spring around the barrel rather than under it.

None of these improvements are easily made by your local gunsmith and some of them would drastically alter the existing model. So now we may

concern ourselves with the last improvement on the list, the only one which does not require a factory change or a gunsmith's rebuilding. One that **anyone** can do.

With the removal of three small parts and the addition of one simple shim (taking three minutes of your time, or a small charge by local gun shop around three dollars) you can update today's Model 39 into the gun of the future as much as possible, pending future factory modifications. The following step-by-step directions will take much longer to read than to accomplish.

First, as always, remove magazine completely from pistol, check chamber by retracting slide and visually inspect barrel from rear before closing slide. Now **empty** magazine can be placed

back into position to allow the hammer to be dropped, using the safety lever or trigger. Selecting a punch of proper size, completely drive mainspring housing retaining pin out of frame. Remove grips only if notches interfere with this operation. The housing can now be pulled slightly to the rear at the bottom and eased out of the frame, carrying the mainspring with it.

Three small parts can now be observed positioned in the sear body. They are the sear plunger, the sear plunger spring and the sear plunger retaining pin. Upon close scrutiny, you will find that the names are much larger than the pieces.

Using a bent paper clip end, you can now push the sear plunger pin out of its hole by inserting the clip end into the open hole (*Continued on page 70*)

The Slow Poke



By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

OF ALL RIFLE actions, none is quite so left-handed as the bolt. It is beyond question the slowest, the most awkward, the longest, the most likely to cramp, and demands more skill of the user. The lever has two movements to flip out the empty and charge with a live one. The slide-action pump is the same; a quick shuffle rearward followed by a motion forward and the gunner is ready again. I sometimes speculate that a skilful man could probably practice until he might load a single-shot as fast as the bolt gun.

The bolt requires four distinct and separate movements to go full cycle. There is the upward lift on the handle, the rearward trundle, then the forward push and finally the down turn. How in the world, I sometimes cogitate, the manufacturers have persuaded us to put up with this slow-as-molasses mechanism is difficult to reconcile.

Most things in this world are a compromise. Food and drink, weather, wives, kids, politics and the neighbors are accepted with some reservations. All have their good points and not a few questionable qualities. It is pretty much that way with the bolt action rifle. Slow it may be but it indicates strength, precision, reliability and the goodness to handle our hottest cartridges and these virtues more than compensate its pottering cycle.

Because of its difficult operation, four separate and distinct actions, plus the time involved, the average bolt gun user is no more capable of shooting rapid fire than he is of qualifying for the next moon journey. He has put his hunting rifle to his shoulder and worked the bolt and has found he is more awkward than the feller trying to unbutton his pants with his mittens on. The stock slips off his shoulder, the bolt sticks, the sights are lost, and time runs on. When he gets in the game fields and a whitetail or an old bull wapiti is missed with the first shot and goes hightailing off through the pinons, he takes the rifle down from his shoulder and throws the bolt from waist level. A time consuming chore which more than likely loses our nimrod his trophy.

The other day I took the new Weatherby Vanguard '06 over to my rifle range and there asked several amigos—there were five of them on hand—to shoot it 4 shots rapid fire. The target was at 100 yards, a 5-inch bull on a 30" x 30" backboard. These fellows, all hunters, popped off the 4 shots each, offhand. *Everyone took the rifle from his shoulder to shuffle the bolt.* Average time for the 4 shots was 26 seconds. We used to fire the old Springfield '03 ten shots in 60 seconds and reloaded during the interval. This was in match competition and was shot from the sitting position which is the best stance for the game fields.

The current crop of bolt guns are better for rapid fire than the old '03. It is simply a matter of practice, a business virtually everyone neglects. It does not do a first quality bolt action the least harm to snap it. Constant dry firing won't bust a firing pin, does no harm to any part of the action and indeed tends to smooth up the movement of the bolt. There isn't any other way to learn to operate the bolt. Along with the dry-fire there must also be a certain amount of actual shooting. The gun is a different proposition when it is loaded and fired rapidly than to just shuffle the bolt with the piece empty. So, along with the snapper practice must also be a stint of live cartridges. The rifle, under recoil, shifts on the shoulder, the comb rises, the hands change position and all this tends to influence the manipulation of the bolt.

Rifles have bolts in all shapes and patterns, and in various locations. Some of them are handy and convenient and others so remote that the gunner needs arms like King Kong to reach the handle. On other shooting irons the bolt has a good handle shape and position but the stock is so long the marksman cannot reach the bolt knob unless he pulls the gun down from his shoulder. On others of our current crop the bolt is so roughly machined, with locking lugs badly faulted as to polish, and with the cocking cam marred by tool marks so that it takes both hands and one foot to open and close the action. Most of these faults can

BOLT ACTION

be cleaned up so that the rifle can be fired and reloaded from the shoulder if the owner knows what he is doing.

The length of pull—that is the distance from a mid-point on the butt to the trigger—has a whale of a lot to do with operating the bolt from the shoulder. For the average gent this should run 13½ inches. I am speaking now of the average American shooter who will run from 5'8" to 6' tall. With arms that take a short sleeve length of from 33 to 35. The length of pull, if it runs as much as 14 inches, and it can be made to do this with a winter-weight woolen shirt, a sweater and a Bauer down jacket almighty easy, is then too long. The shooter will have trouble with rapid fire when the stock is thus lengthened. By the same token, the hombre who asks his gunsmith to attach a recoil pad and isn't cautious to see that the stock is whacked off the width of the pad can get himself into trouble.

The length of pull, measured as it is from butt to trigger, applies equally well to the bolt handle. For it must be in the same plane with the trigger. It should be directly above the trigger, not even fractionally ahead of it, and if it is slightly behind the trigger, as on the old Krag-Jorgensen, so much the better. One reason the Springfield '03 was a good rapid fire arm was because the stock was too short for the average marksman. This meant he had a lot of arm to readily reach the bolt. A stock that is too short on a modern highpowered rifle will kick the user more than usual but it certainly makes for ease of bolt manipulation. In any choice between a stock that is a mite too lengthy and one that is a half-inch too short the latter is much the better for rapid fire. For hunting in the Arctic, I have some three or four rifles that have stocks which run from a half-inch to three-quarters inch shorter as to length of pull. This is because of the quantities of clothing which you must wear for the minus 35 degrees. What with down underwear, down jackets and a fur parka, the stock, in effect, is lengthened.

It is easy to overdo the business of shortening a stock. The French, when they designed the MAS Model 1936 service rifle deliberately settled on a stock with only 12¾" length of pull. I believe they must have designed it, not for Frenchmen, but for the little people in some of their colonies. It is so short that the bolt handle was angled forward instead of sloped rearward as we do. This forward angle on the bolt handle put it in close proximity with the locking lugs which turn into recesses in the bridge of the receiver. Now the closer you get the bolt handle to the locking lugs the more force is required to operate the action. The MAS '36 is one of the sorriest military rifles in any army.

An utterly impossible rifle to fire rapidly from the shoulder is the Mannlicher-Schoenauer. It has a butter-knife bolt which is three inches ahead of the trigger. This



The Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifle has its bolt handle set so far forward that it is completely out of the question for rapid fire shooting from the hunter's shoulder.



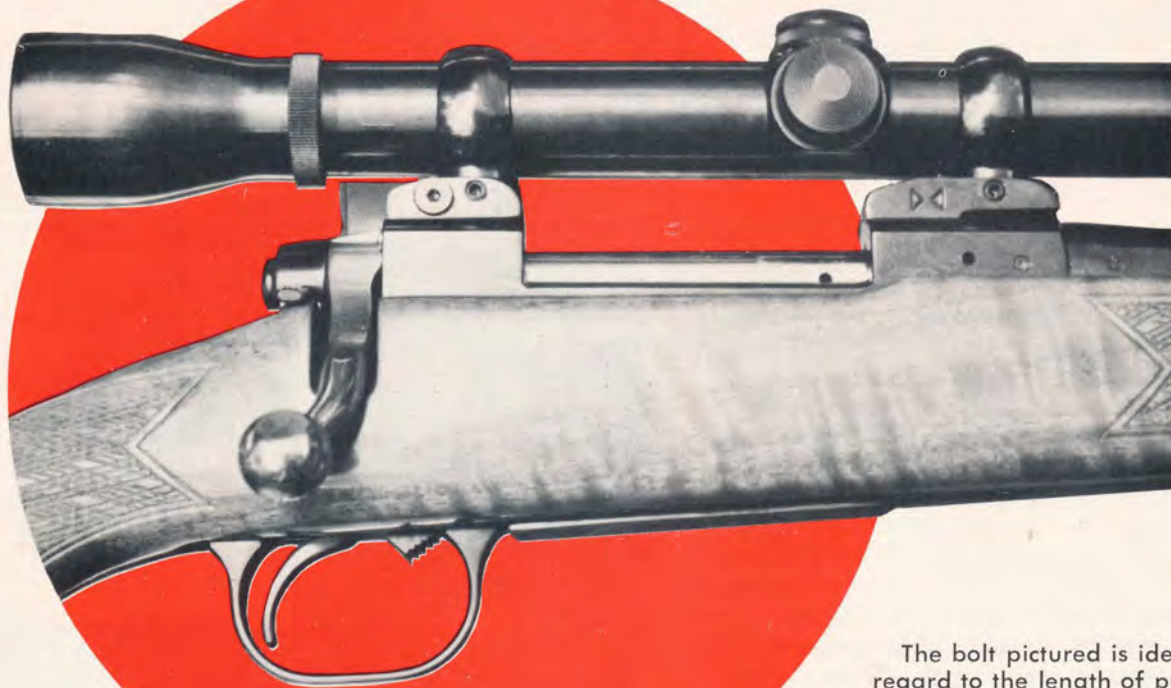
This bolt handle is in an impossible position for rapid fire. The length of pull on this particular model is 15½ inches. The average shooter needs only 13½ inches for length of pull.



Another example of a bolt in the wrong position. The handle is too far ahead of the trigger, when it should be in line with it. This position lengthens the stock, in effect.



Note the relief cut directly into the stock on this model. This cut gives more room for the shooter's finger at the bolt knob. The Germans used this on their Gewehr 98 Kar during WW2.



The bolt pictured is ideally located with regard to the length of pull. Note that the trigger and the bolt knob are in the same plane. This particular rifle is the new Weatherby Vanguard Model.

means, in effect, that the marksman is confronted with a stock having $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches length of pull. If the long reach to the handle was not enough, the shape and size of the bolt is more apt to stymie him. It is as slick as a politician's promise, with no knob, ball or stop on the end of it, and while it is sometimes checkered on the underside, more often it is not. There is a second Mannlicher these days, called the Steyr-Mannlicher and this newer model has a bolt in the plane of the trigger and while the bolt has no knob at its end it does curve upward abruptly at its very termination and thus offers a bit more to grasp. But the best feature of this latest Mannlicher is that the bolt is directly above the trigger and not inches ahead of it.

There has always been a good deal of criticism of the bolt action because it is so undeniably homely. The action is a composite of abrupt angles, shoulders, projections, bumps and bulges. The bolt handle angled out to the right side contributes precious little to the aesthetic goodness of the whole. It is about as graceful and certainly just as prominent as a wart on a fat gal's nose and what between hanging up in the bush, catching in the hunter's jacket, bulging the saddle scabbard, and winding up in the sling, it could scarcely be more of a nuisance.

The makers have long been sensitive to the plain-jane lines of the handle. Conscious that the handle contributes but poorly to an action which at best will never win even an honorable mention in a beauty contest, they have essayed to offset its spavined outline by continually working to shorten it and to arrive at a design which will snug it up against the stock just as tightly as possible.

This may have gained a modicum of improved looks, but it sure played hell with the firearm as a rapid fire

shooter. Bolt handles, as a result of these efforts are too short on all our modern crop of rifles. Most of them lie so close to the stock that it is difficult for the man with only an average size hand to get a finger beneath the bolt knob.

The Remington M700, our most popular bolt action high-power, has a bolt handle only $2\frac{1}{8}$ " in length and clearance between the knob and the stock is a scanty $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. The latest Winchester Model 70 has a handle of $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches and a clearance between handle and wood precisely like the Remington, that is only $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch.

Actually a bolt handle, if it is going to perform effectively for quick following shots ought to be not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{5}{16}$ inches in length and the knob should stand out from the side of the stock not less than one-half inch; $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch would be even better.

The rifle that comes nearest to the ideal so far as bolt length and clearance is concerned, among the many currently on the market, is the Ranger Arms Maverick Model. It has a bolt handle of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches length, with a space of a full $\frac{7}{16}$ -inch for the finger to get under the knob.

The Germans had the right idea on the Gewehr 98 Kar with which they fought WW-II. It had a relief cut in the stock directly under the bolt handle which gave room for the finger. Undoubtedly the Germans did this with the idea that their troopers would often be firing with gloves over the trigger hand. At any rate, it is a very worthwhile innovation. Reinhart Fajen, the Warsaw stockmaker, finished my last stock for the Rem M700 in .25-06 caliber with precisely this same relief cut into the laminated wood directly below the bolt knob. It was much appreciated by me even though I had not

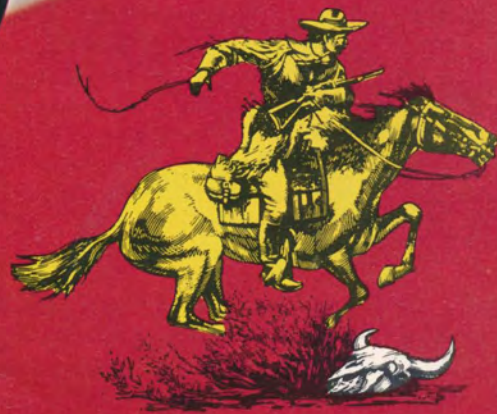
(Continued on page 56)

WINCHESTER'S

NEW .22 RF "SADDLE GUN"

ONLY a few sharp-eyed readers of GUNS Magazine caught the unusual rifle in a photograph appearing in the August, 1971 issue. It showed several Winchester engineers studying a small lever action .22 rifle; but one that was unfamiliar. This was the first—although unheralded—showing of the latest offering from Winchester. Called the Model 9422, it is a scaled-down Model 94 in .22 caliber.

The Model 9422 is available in two chamberings; .22 RF, handling Long Rifle, Long and Short cartridges, and .22 Winchester Rim Fire Magnum. The tubular magazine holds 15 Long Rifle, 17 Long and 15 Short cartridges; the capacity of the magnum version is 11 rounds. The barrel is 20 1/2" long; the rifle is 37 1/8" over-all, and weighs 6 1/4 lbs. Buttstock and fore-end are walnut, and the rifle sports an adjustable semi-buckhorn rear sight and a ramp front sight with dovetail bead and hood. (Continued on next page)



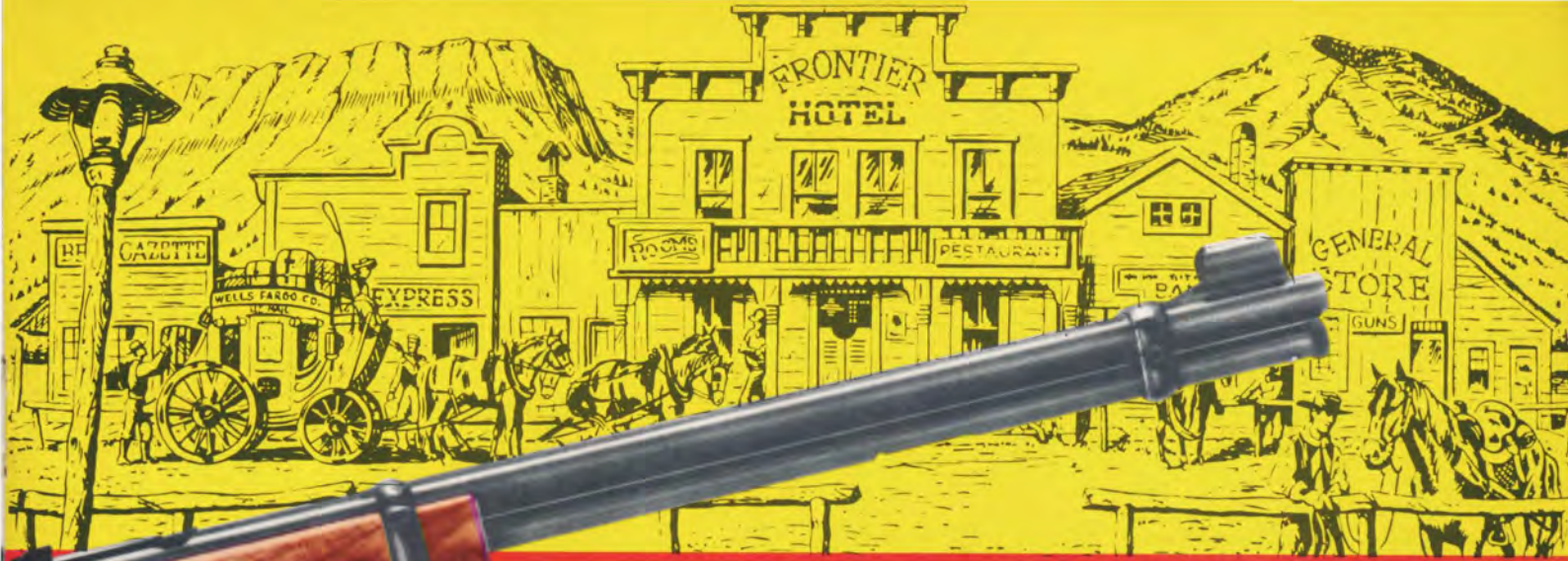


This photo, which first appeared in the August, 1971 issue of GUNS, shows Winchester engineers discussing prototypes of the new Model 9422.



For more than 75 years the Model 94 Winchester has been a favorite; now it has a rim fire companion.

Before we get into any more details of the Model 9422, let's get one thing straight. This is not an exact replica of the Model 94 deer rifle. I am sure that some of the purists will say that Winchester should have made the 9422 with the top ejection, just like the '94, and damn those who might want to mount a scope. Personally, it's close enough for me, and while I don't plan on using a scope, there may come times when I'll be glad that there is a grooved receiver on my 9422. While we're on the subject of comparing this new Winchester to its Pappy, let me make a suggestion. When you get a chance to get your hands on one, don't place it next to a '94 and examine each and every part. Grab it by the grip, check it—as I assume you always do—to be sure that it is not loaded then close your eyes and



Modern technology has taken the classic styling of the venerable Model 94, scaled it down somewhat, and given us a modern classic in a .22 rim fire carbine. One that is sure to revive the legends of the Western frontier.

swing it around; pull it out of a make-believe scabbard; jack the action, and bring it up to your shoulder (the same as you did last fall with your '94 when that big buck jumped out of the brush). How about that! It really is—if you don't look too close—a real spittin' image of everybody's favorite saddle gun.

The story of how the 9422 came to be made is an interesting one. More than five years in the development, it's pre-production stages were handled by the best engineers Winchester could bring together. When they were ready to produce it, Winchester did not slip it into the existing production line, but designed instead a brand new manufacturing facility specifically for this new model. I think the story of the 9422 can be summarized by saying that someone in the Winchester front office put forth an edict something to the effect that "If we are going to do it, let's do it right!"

After studying the manufacturing techniques, the more than 450 quality control checks and the results of both the pre-and post-production testing, it will surprise the hell out of me if this new 9422 suffers from any major "bugs" which are found in most brand new designs. For example, the 9422 has been subjected to 1,000 proof loads; the magnum model has been endurance tested with more than 35,000 rounds of ammo. That is one hell of a lot of ammo. Another reason I will be surprised if there is much trouble with the 9422 is that it was designed completely for the .22 RF Magnum, and *then* the standard rim fire model was made from this design.

The Model 9422 can be taken down for cleaning, and the operation is a simple one. On the left side of the receiver is a take-down screw which is removed. The gun can then be separated into two halves; the top half of the receiver contains the bolt and bolt slide while the bottom half carries the cocking and trigger mechanism.

Our test gun was examined closely for any flaws, and

none were found. The metal is well polished and blued; the wood, while far from presentation grade walnut, was of good quality and well finished; and the wood to metal fit was excellent. And, boy, was the action smooth! Between myself and three other shooters at the local range, we poured over 500 rounds of .22 LR through the 9422 without a bobble. Accuracy? We did not bench shoot this gun for groups simply because it is not meant to be a target rifle. We did sight it in, and found the iron sights right on at 25 yards. As for plinking or hunting accuracy, I found the 9422 a real tack-driver. I have only one other .22 rifle that approaches this one for off-hand spot-shooting perfection, and that is an autoloader. This type of accuracy depends not only on how well the barrel is formed or how the action and barrel are bedded; it depends a whole lot on how the gun fits, how it is balanced, and how it comes back to point after loading and unloading. After only a few shots I felt that I had been shooting this gun all my life; it was as much a part of me as my favorite pair of boots.

All of the above is rather subjective, I admit, but when I buy a gun, these things are important. It's nice to hear all about a gun that is made of the finest steels, bedded to thousands of an inch tolerances, with a mechanism that is hand crafted, etc., but if that gun doesn't feel right when I put up my shoulder, I just won't open my billfold.

The Model 9422 from Winchester will, I feel certain, be a success from the start. Not because of the many fine technical details it offers, but because it—like the '94 in .30-30—will appeal to the traditionalists, that includes the greater percentage of American shooters.

Priced at \$99.95, the Winchester Model 9422 does not appear to fall into the category of a bargain. However, it does offer a lot of gun for the money, and more than that, a lifetime of shooting fun.



HAROLDS CLUB

THE SAGA OF A GUN COLLECTION

In its heyday, the guns that lined the walls of the Harolds Club gaming rooms were a prime attraction. This is the scene today in the "Roaring Camp" room.

By JOE RYCHETNIK

WHEN THE Smith family was running Harolds Club, no one this side of Madison Avenue could touch them for public relations and hoopla. Started as a small family venture in 1935, the tiny "White Mouse" roulette parlor burgeoned into a multi-million dollar gambling business that set the standard for all the Nevada casinos.

Honesty was the order of the day and a show for the money became the guiding phrase. Harolds brought respectability to casino gambling, brought women into the business, but best, at the end of World War II, was one of the leading "museums" of old West culture. Prominent among the collections in the Harolds Club museum of the Old West was the firearms display.

The Smith family did a two million dollar face lifting converting the second and third floors of a new structure

into what was then called the "Covered Wagon Room" and "Roaring Camp." Actually, the main part of the gun collection was purchased from a Reno club that was called "Roaring Camp," owned by Roy Stagg.

All types of wagons known in the old West hung from the ceilings, barely giving headroom to the thousands of people that flocked to Harolds to pull the handles of the magic coin-spouting machines. The walls were lined with guns—from a 14th Century Chinese handcannon to a modern gold wire filled Smith and Wesson K-22; the Smith's bought guns like they were going out of style.

Frank Brabant, a full time curator was hired and he toured the United States telling groups from coast to coast about the fine guns on display at the Casino on Reno's Virginia Street. A fine souvenir booklet, edited by Brabant,

ant, was printed and put out to the interested. The Harolds Club gun collection was rated by 1958 as one of the most important such collections in the world. Some of the guns shown in the windows which fronted on Reno's main thoroughfare would have made curators from any museum drool with envy. The Club had rare guns imbedded in door pulls, in the ceiling so high they could scarcely be recognized, and on every surface of the walls on the second and third floor. One of the largest street murals of all time shows a western covered wagon scene "Dedicated in all Humility to Those who Blazed the Trail." It is 38 feet high and 72 feet wide and perhaps more amateur photographs of this baked enamel spectacular are taken than all the other sights of Nevada combined.

At the height of its glory, Harolds Club had 20,000 visitors a day roving its seven floors. It started and still maintains the Harolds Club Trap and Skeet Range and has hosted numerous national meets. It had the world's largest bar operation, pouring more than two and half million drinks in 1959. It sponsored scholarships, fireworks, and classical music concerts. It was the big voice in Nevada casinos and a very friendly one, too.

Since then, gambling has taken on all the facets of a General Motors operation. Casinos larger and less friendly

than Harolds came into the State. Many of them outsize Harolds by a great deal. The time of the big name stars, syndicated ownership, and a duel between Las Vegas and Reno ended the friendly days. Museum curator Frank Brabant was let out in 1962. The famous collection was passed from hand to hand, none of them very well qualified. At one time, the staff photographer of Harolds was in charge of the whole show! By degrees, the gun collection and the western relics began to fade from prominence. The wonderful guns on display along the Virginia Street side were put away in the early 60's and the sign "World's finest Gun Collection" came down, too.

The collection, which boasted many rare guns, began to lose its meaning. During the heyday, the guns that lined the walls of the second and third floors were all tagged with a bit of lore plus positive identification. Now the guns that remain are like the decorators items that people buy to give a room atmosphere. The ID tags are gone, except on a few specimens, and on the remaining guns few are detailed enough to offer the serious student any help.

At one time nearly every piece of the collection was authenticated and this was an expensive research effort. Harolds had the money to pay the experts to find out about this Colt or that dueller by a French maker. Bits of inter-

With the authentications and inventory listings gone, this fabulous collection of firearms is, in the words of the author, just so much hardware.

A cased, matching pair of percussion traveler's pistols made by Dublin gunsmith William Rigby. Note the folding spring daggers at the muzzle which were used when the pistols were empty.





Color photo shows over-all view of the Le-Page Moutier of Paris presentation shotgun in its case. Close-up photos show a few of the details of the carvings; the hammers are carved steel hunting dogs, the rabbit forms end of trigger guard end plate.



esting, often infamous history, were slowly built up for some of the guns. Today, this is all gone, believe it or not, for a collection of such value, there is not even an inventory list on file! Although nearly all the specimens carry a taped-on ID number, there is no key on file that tells what each piece is or where it came from. Many of the information cards don't even carry the maker's name or the gun caliber.

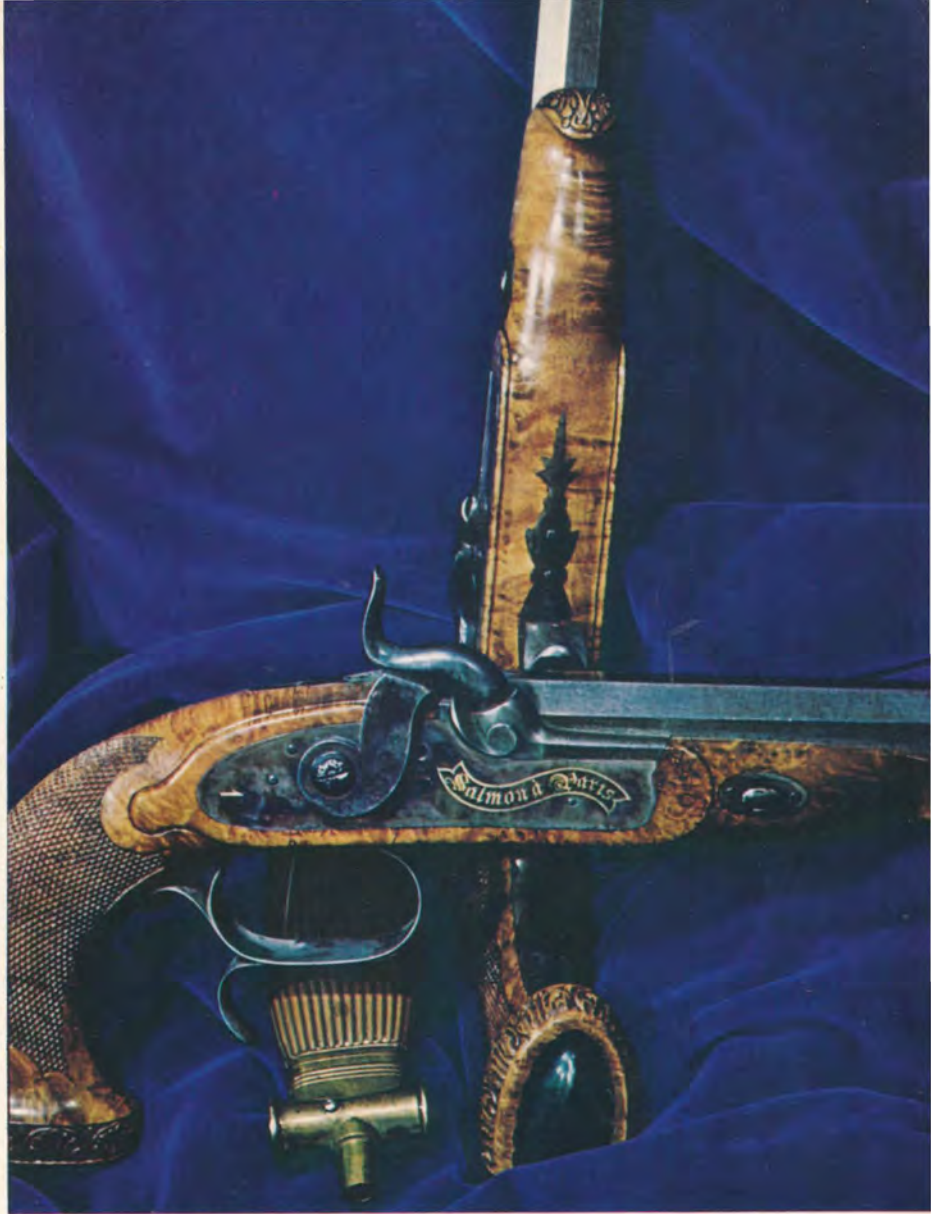
The Smith's had to follow the pace set by the big money casinos and cut corners. In June 1970, the Harold's Club interests were sold to that popular mystery man, Howard Hughes. One employee who has been on the casino floor at the Virginia Street location since just after World War II (the only time the Club has ever closed was on VJ day) says that the Hughes crowd couldn't care less about the guns. Some of the displays have not been touched for twenty years, he claims, and the displays look it.

To illustrate this article on one of the finest firearms assemblages of all time, I was offered the cooperation of



Cased pair of duellers by Salmon A Paris, circa 1850, is only one of many fine pairs in the Harolds Club collection. Others include guns by J. E. Evans, LeFauchaux, Devisme and E. Blancke of Nurenburg.

Photo above shows cover of booklet put out in 1958. It has become a collector item since it is now out of print.



the Club's Public Relations staff. I needed perhaps a dozen different guns that were unique and complete with a pedigree. After a week of searching the walls, the PR man reported he could come up with maybe six, possibly eight guns. There was no list he could turn to, nothing on file for the thousands of guns.

The only source material currently available was a copy of the 1958 Edition of the "Harolds Club museum of the Old West," a mailable booklet that sold for 50 cents and is now rare enough to be a collector's item. Carl P. Russell refers to the Harolds Club collection repeatedly in his authoritative "Guns of the Western Frontier." But it would take an expert like Russell to sort out even the guns he has cited. One local gun lover, who has seen the collection deteriorate, says that it would take an authority like James Serven and some helpers at least a year to sort out the mess now.

What is on the wall in the Club today is perhaps a fine collection in its own right, but what many experts feel is a

total waste of guns, are those piled and stored and hung without identification in the strong room of the Harolds Club warehouse. Thousands of guns are supposed to be hiding there, and the hundreds that I saw on the peg boards, mixed and unkept, indicate the story is sad indeed. The first thing that came to my mind was why the owner didn't give, lend, or sell the collection to some museum where it will get proper display and offer the guns scholar a chance to study it. The PR people just shrugged their shoulders when I mentioned this thought.

Beyond a doubt the star of the collection, and luckily on display on the second floor near the Bar, is the fabulous Le-Page Moutier shotgun of what looks like 12 gauge, which was presented in 1879 to Don Manuel Gonzales, President of Mexico by Paul Jules Grevy, President of France. It is rated as one of the most valuable weapons in the world. No price is mentioned but in "excess of \$50,000" is suggested. The steel shotgun is almost completely covered with deep and detailed
(Continued on page 59)



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GM JULY GUNS Magazine

SAMPLE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

HANDLOADING BENCH: SALVAGING SURPLUS AMMUNITION

(Continued from page 8)

worth out of them by running them through a .308" bullet sizing die in a hydraulic press. It didn't restore them to complete roundness, but it made them useable, and they shot seemingly as well as several lots of fresh military surplus on hand at the time.

The job was done with a standard lubricating/sizing die which had been polished glass-smooth inside and pressed into a $\frac{7}{8}$ x 14-thread adapter so it could be screwed into a standard loading press. It can also be done easily enough on a heavy-duty hand press such as the RCBS Rock Chucker if a proper push-rod is fitted into the ram. It will be easier to align bullets in the die if you figure out some way to mount the press upside-down, and that isn't really too much trouble. On a similar and related subject, you might find reason for breaking down a batch of surplus ammunition. Some bullet pullers will dent or squeeze the bullet out of shape if too much pressure is applied, so take it easy. When it comes to salvaging the powder, take care. It may seem simple enough to save and use that powder—but unless you know exactly what it is, don't try it. Generally speaking, the powder can be used in the *same caliber with the same weight or lighter bullet*, but not otherwise. Any other safe use of salvaged powder requires careful testing to determine what type of load it is suited for, then development of a load in that range—and unless you've quite a few pounds of a particular type and lot on hand, it just isn't worth all that effort. I figure that if there is less than ten pounds available it's cheaper and easier to flush it down the john than to try to use it. If you do have enough salvage powder worth using, give a little thought to cleaning the crud out of it first. In it you are quite likely to find rings and flakes of mouth sealer, shavings of metal off case mouths or bullets, small chunks of brass from the flash-hole punching operation, and powder dust and fragments. The sealer will gum up a powder measure in short order, building up on the mating surfaces of drum and housing; and the metal fragments can jam the drum solidly.

The sealant, dust, and fragments can be blown out by pouring the powder in a small stream slowly through the blast from a small electric fan. However, this won't get the metal fragments out. A fine sieve or screen

will take out the shavings, but the punch-outs will have to be picked out by hand with the powder spread thinly on a flat surface. Actually, because of their shape they aren't likely to cause much trouble in the measure, and they won't interfere in the least with the powder's proper functioning. One more powder thought—never store surplus or other bulk powder in clear glass or plastic containers. Light hastens powder deterioration, so keep the stuff in opaque containers—and by all means make certain it is clearly and indelibly marked as to type and source.

A few days ago, we ran into an unusual form of handload malfunction in an autoloading pistol. We had known it could happen easily enough, but had just never actually run across it. Some fellows try to get by without crimping the case mouth in auto calibers. They feel, with some justification, that if the mouth is belled exactly the right amount to admit the bullet, it will finish up the right size without crimping. This is OK in theory, but case lengths vary, even if only minutely in some instances, and that means some will get more flare than others—and those with more flare will retain a bit of it after the bullet is seated.

Usually the small amount of residual flare won't prevent proper chambering and feeding. But we encountered a new .380 auto in which the mouth of the chamber was quite sharp on both sides. The result was that, on occasion, the small amount of mouth flare would catch on this sharp edge as the cartridge began to enter the chamber—and that is where cartridge and slide stopped and the jam had to be cleared manually. Chamfering the chamber mouth and polishing it smooth eliminated the problem, but so did the application of a slight amount of taper crimp after the bullet was seated to the proper depth.

All of which vindicates my oft-repeated statement that everything possible should be done to the ammunition to insure against gun malfunctions. Plinking ammunition may be OK without any crimp at all, but loads for serious purposes should always be crimped at least enough to make damned certain the case mouth is closed up tightly against the surface of the bullet.



FITTING A CURVED STEEL BUTTPLATE

Guns DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT

By JIM CARMICHEL

NOW THAT we've come this far on our European type sporting rifle and done such nice work on all the classy little extra features let's keep our sights high and not forsake quality when we get to the rear of the rifle. I'm talking about the buttplate of course. If there's anything that rattles my chain it's a beautifully finished rifle in

a stock that has nothing over its rear but a piece of cheap plastic.

Plastic buttplates are all right I guess—but only on cheap guns—not on expensive or otherwise fine rifles and shotguns. Yet, we have become so accustomed to seeing cheap plastic buttplates on all sorts of guns these days that we hardly give it a thought. At least, that is, until we run across a rifle with a gracefully curved, neatly checkered steel buttplate. Then the contrast between cheap plastic and crisp steel suddenly becomes sickeningly apparent. A curved steel buttplate doesn't just dress up the butt of a stock—it dresses up the whole rifle and lends quality to the total effect. In fact, without a decent buttplate or recoil pad,

whichever called for, the only effect is *blah!* As a matter of fact the only thing that can make a stock with a plastic buttplate look worse it to slip a piece of white plastic between the buttplate and the wood. Now *that*, Dear Reader, will really make your skin crawl. If you don't believe it now, you will in time, as the years give you wisdom. If not, you simply will not have learned anything. . . .

I'm not saying, mind you, that a checkered steel buttplate is the ultimate form of good styling. A trapdoor buttplate, especially if it is nicely engraved, is better; even better than that is a skeleton buttplate with the wood exposed in the center and nicely checkered. Occasionally, one sees a fine English sporting arm with no buttplate at all. The bare wood at the rear looks pretty nice, especially if well checkered, as it usually is, but the whole idea is impractical. But then, the English have some funny ideas about other things too.

At any rate a plain checkered steel buttplate will get by in the finest circles

A steel buttplate is quite inexpensive and adds a great deal of "class" to any rifle or shotgun. Below, left: Trace the cross section profile of the stock onto a piece of stiff cardboard. Cut out this outline and save it to use as a template to insure the proper curvature is made. The middle photograph illustrates how to utilize the cardboard template in transferring the plate's curve to the stock. Right: Here the curve has been traced on the stock, which can now be sawed or rasped to shape. Be extremely careful not to split or chip the wood.





provided it is properly (which means *perfectly*) fitted. It will probably come as a surprise to devotees of the plastic buttplate that steel ones are quite inexpensive and not at all difficult to fit. The classic Niedner steel plate, for example, sells for \$2.50 and can be fitted in about an hour's time. To make things even easier, Reinhart Fajen now offers a semi-finished stock with the butt already semi-shaped for the Niedner buttplate. This speeds up the fitting process even more.

The tools you'll need are a drill for the screw holes, a half round wood rasp, a straight edged chisel and a small curved edge chisel (gouge). In short, if you have enough tools to carry on even the simplest form of gunsmithing you can fit a buttplate. Actually, a pocketknife and nothing more would be sufficient.

Understandably, the buttplate is fitted before the stock is worked down to final shape. In fact the buttplate pretty well establishes the cross section dimensions and proportions of the entire butt section. I personally prefer to fit the buttplate even before inletting the action. The plate protects the end grain and corners against any accidental denting, splitting or splintering during the inletting process.

The first step in fitting the buttplate is determining the length of pull and the degree of pitch that will be required for a properly fitted stock. If you are of about average size and aren't too particular about exact stock dimensions then the standard length semi-inletted stock will be close enough. A Fajen "Classic" style stock with Niedner buttplate, for example, will measure about 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ " for length of pull. I find this highly satisfactory for a rifle though I require a

(Continued on page 58)

Coat the inside of the buttplate with a spotting agent, as pictured above, left. Wherever the metal touches the wood and leaves a mark is an indication of where to begin cutting. The entire outer edge of the plate must touch the stock all the way around. In the middle photograph, the screw holes are being aligned. The next step is to use a small chisel to slice away the marks left by the spotting agent, as illustrated by the right photograph. A uniform line drawn completely around the stock means that the buttplate is fitting evenly and the job is almost completed. A solid, tight fit is very important.

The picture below, top, illustrates the proper technique for fitting the extension piece at the heel of the buttplate. This little inward curving extension at the top of the buttplate is the most troublesome point in the entire project. The photograph immediately below this shows the extension in place. A perfect fit is essential. Below, right, a rasp should be used to smooth the stock to meet the plate. The finished product will impress even the highest shooting circles.





101 COLT

By **GEORGE E. VIRGINES**

THE RESTORATION of an old, antique, or historical firearm is not uncommon and many gun craftsmen and basement gunsmiths have indulged in this challenging pastime. Fine articles have been written on the subject by some very knowledgeable craftsmen, displaying a number of thoughts on this subject. Some gun collectors, on finding an old beat up gun, say leave it as is. Their great-grandfather shot an outlaw with this gun, so to him this gun is a relic and should remain as such.

Then you have the other extreme, regardless of the type of the particular

firearm, the decision is to nickel plate it immediately. Somewhere in between lies a happy medium. The first consideration is to either preserve or restore the gun as near as possible to its correct originality. It is necessary to have some background knowledge about any gun chosen for restoration. The numerous books on the various firearms available make such a project of restoration easier.

For the purpose of this article an old and somewhat worn Colt Single Action Army revolver was chosen. This particular model was chosen for several reasons; first, because of its great appeal and popularity, and secondly, there are enough around, with careful

shopping, that one can be picked up fairly reasonable. Another item of importance is that the record of a Colt Single Action can be checked by the factory for a nominal fee. The complete original description of the gun can be obtained, such as the serial number, barrel length, caliber, finish, grips, and when and to whom the gun was shipped. This can be important in determining if the gun might have a historical background, such as being purchased by either a famous personage or company. If this be the case, then by all means the originality should not be destroyed or changed.

With this in mind, the first thing was to authenticate the originality of

the gun. The following information was received from the Colt factory regarding this particular Colt;

Serial Number 179465
Caliber .45
Barrel length 7½"
Finish Blue
Type of Stocks Rubber

Sold & shipped to: Hibbard, Spencer, Barlett & Co.

Address Chicago, Illinois

Date of Shipment June 30, 1898

Number of same type guns in shipment 5

It was ascertained that this gun had no historical value. The party from whom the gun was obtained also verified this. This old shootin' iron was original in every aspect. It must have

lain in the deep shadows of some dark damp cellar or basement for many a year, for it was rusty and pitted. The barrel and cylinder were perhaps in the worst shape, inside and out. The rest of the gun and action was in fair condition. It was an ideal gun for restoration and a challenge.

Now begins the job of restoration. Because the barrel, cylinder and many of the screws were sadly pitted and rusty, it was decided to replace these with all new and original Colt replacement parts. The frame, backstrap, trigger guard, ejector rod and housing were all in restorable condition. Surprisingly the internal parts were all in good working condition and just had to be cleaned.

To start the project, the gun was completely disassembled. Every screw and spring was removed. Invariably

there are always some real stubborn screws and a good penetrating oil should be used on them. Patience is needed for the really frozen screw, plenty of soaking and always make sure to use the proper size screwdriver blade. The wrong blade will only chew up the head of the screw and gouge the area around it, causing twice as much work in removing the nicks and gouges.

After the gun is completely disassembled, soak all the parts in kerosene oil for several hours and if need be, several days, to remove all the loose rust, dirt, and grease. Use clean rags to wipe all the parts and a fine steel wool to scrub the more stubborn spots of rust. Hot water can be used to wash off all the metal parts, then dry and lightly oil to prevent any rust from forming. (Continued on page 62)



Above, the "subordinate Colt" as it looked when it was first obtained and before it was completely restored. Pictured at left is the material that was used to clean and restore the firearm which included: a set of fine Swiss files, steel wool, emery and crocus cloth. The author avoided using power tools for fear that he might lose some control of the tool and cause severe damage to the pistol.

WYOMING ANTELOPE GUNS: SIGHT ADJUSTMENTS IMPROVE HUNTING

(Continued from page 31)

were only a small percentage of the total number hunting in this area, for many who wanted to check their sighting equipment were unable to because of the limited time and bench facilities. It will be possible to get a much better report during the 1972 season when there will be more benches and knowledgeable helpers.

Probably the most prevailing fault found with this group of hunters' rifles, was the predominance of poorly positioned scopes. There was also a notable lack of good, tight, well locked, installation of the mount or mount screws and also the scope rings. The general tendency was to have the scope positioned too far forward to obtain an adequate field of view without stock crawling.

There are combinations of rifles, scopes and mounts that cannot be properly positioned for the average shooter. This is one of the reasons that most scope mount manufacturers make rings with extensions built on them. This type ring is usually made so that it can be reversed on the scope so that it sets the scope either forward or backwards. This allows the proper positioning of a scope, enabling the user to get the full field of view in the scope, without strain or stock crawling, when the rifle is brought up to aiming position.

Besides the difference in the length of various actions there are two more things that frequently make it impossible to position the scope at the cor-

rect place for certain shooters. One is the size of the front bell of the scope tube and the distance it runs back on the rifle. The other is that the adjusting turrets are positioned in different locations on various makes and types of scopes. This sometimes interferes with getting the scope set back far enough, as the turret often hits the ring.

The ability to use a scoped rifle rapidly and accurately depends on the proper installation of the scope for that particular shooter. He must be able to get a full field of view without stock crawling, changing position of his hold or fumbling around trying to find the game in his sight. Regardless of the relative position of the scope to the action of the rifle, there is a definite measurement from the heel of the stock to the rear glass of the scope that must be quite closely adhered to, in order to obtain this.

Most all good hunting scopes marketed today have a built in eye relief, from 3 to 4 inches or more. This eye relief is adequate enough to compensate for recoil and resulting backward movement of the rifle against the shooter's shoulder, if the rifle is held *against* the shoulder, even rather loosely. This built in eye relief helps take care of the differences in the physical build of shooters. Short armed, thick chested and short necked people usually need a bit shorter scope positioning than the tall, longer neck and thinner built shooter.

The proper procedure for checking an individual scope positioning is for the shooter to take a normal shooting stance, with the rifle down and held with both hands. Closing *both* eyes, raise the rifle to normal shooting position at the shoulder, aimed at the target spot he had been looking at. If the scope is in the proper position and the rifle stock fits the shooter properly, the sighted in object should be well within the shooter's vision through the scope and the rifle need be moved only a little to center the reticule on the aiming point. You should never have to *hunt* for the aiming point. With the properly adjusted rifle and scope combination you should have a full field of view in your scope. This field of view aspect becomes much more important when variable power scopes are used, especially with the scope adjusted to its higher powers.

During the many years I spent checking hunters, their guns and scopes I found that a distance of between 12 to 12½ inches from the stock heel to the rear glass of the scope is the best distance for the average shooter. Of course there are some exceptions, although it is seldom that you find a shooter who will take a full thirteen inches.

I am about an average build, as I'm 5 feet 11 inches and weigh 175 pounds. Take a 34 inch sleeve length. I like to have all my hunting rifles to have scopes positioned at 12 inches. I can use up to 12½ inches but not real comfortably. This includes all caliber rifles from the 6 MM's up to my .375. On the varmint rifles, where the scopes are usually for varmint and target shooting and the rifle recoil is of little importance I like the scope positioned for 11 and ¾ inches.



POINT BLANK: A HUNTER'S PARADISE

(Continued from page 19)

the safari which runs for 15 days or longer. The game is all of the antelope breed and includes the highly desirable nyala, Greater kudu, white-tailed gnu, eland and blue wildebeeste. Besides these the sportsman may shoot reedbuck, impala, duiker, steinbuck, zebra, springbok, bontebok and other species. The season is from April to October.

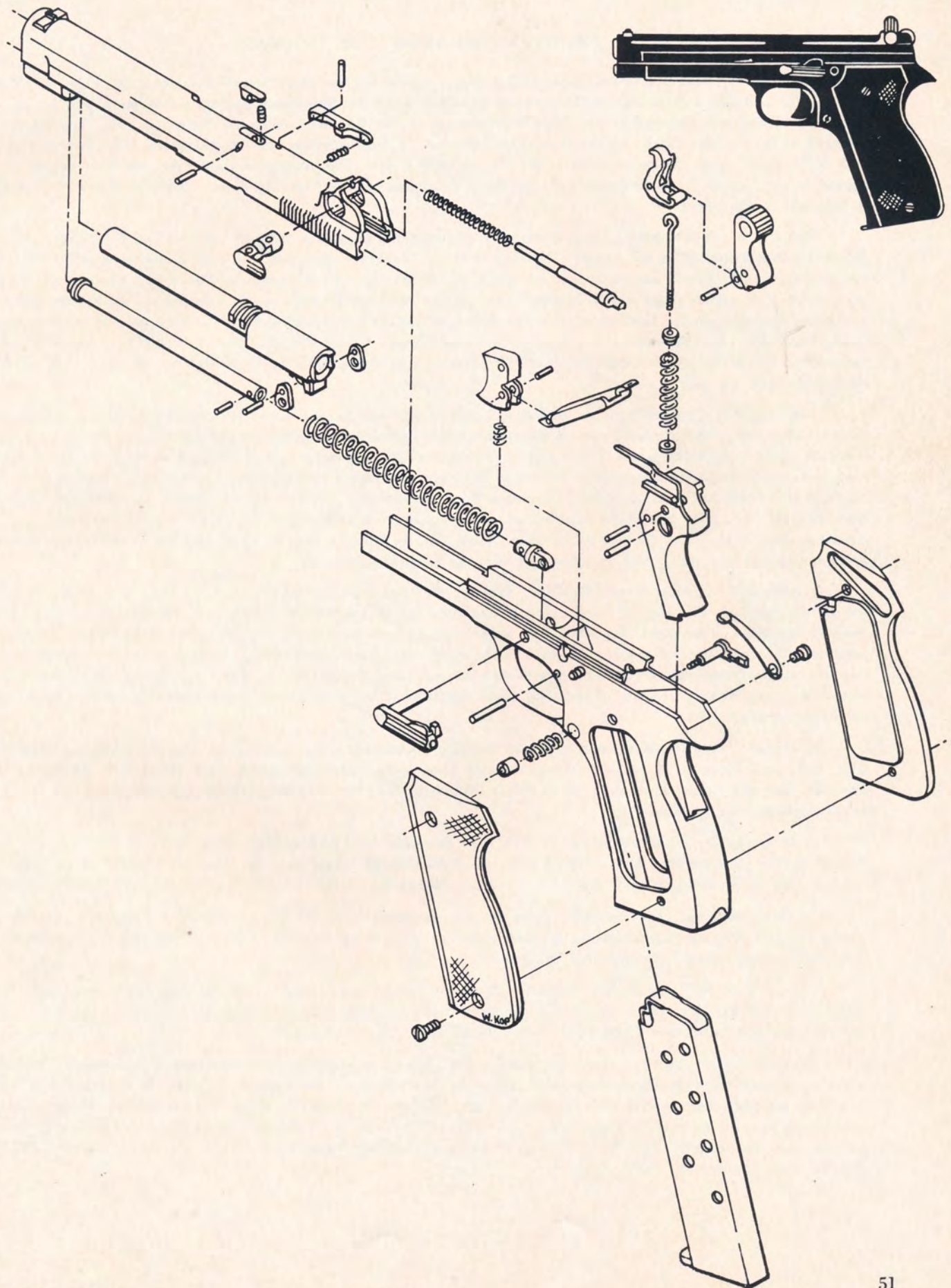
This month I shall journey off to a newly opened hunting land, Angola, in the extreme southeastern corner.

Here is a 30,000 square mile concession opened only this year to hunting safaris. It has been closed for the past 4 years because of the activities of Chinese-trained Zambian terrorists who raft across the Zambezi River and conduct raids into Portuguese Angola. Before, back in '67, I was all organized to hunt this end of the world and the day before departure the outfitter cabled to hold up. Guerrillas had raided and burned the hunting camp. The military moved in and

cleaned out the Zambian intruders. This area is the site of the famous hunt made by Josef Fenykovi, Madrid sportsman, who shot the world's largest elephant. This pachyderm stands over thirteen feet at the shoulders and is mounted in the rotunda at the Smithsonian Institution.

Angola offers tuskers, buffalo, rhino, lion, leopard, Greater kudu, sable antelope, roan antelope, sitatunga and a fine miscellany of other game. The best part of the story are the prices. There have been no increase since 1967. For one sportsman, 30 days, the cost is \$4200. The first 18 trophies on the open list are included in the guide fee. There is another special listing and if the sportsman shoots all these, the bite is only \$480. A refreshing change from the exorbitant prices of Kenya and Tanzania.





FRENCH MODEL 1935A — Cal. 7.65 MAS

The Pistolet, Modele d'Ordonnance, 1935A, was produced at the Manufacture d'Armes a St. Etienne, (MAS) or Societe Alsacienne de Construction Mecaniques (SACM) armories. Specimens bearing either mark will be encountered. The design was patented by the Swiss born director of the SACM, Charles G. Petter, in 1934. The weapon is basically of the Colt-Browning type, but embodies a number of improvements and modifications. The cartridge is the 7.65 MAS, handling a 100 grain bullet at an MV of 1120 ft./sec. The rimless straight case and load appear to be similar to the United States Pederson Cal. .30 round developed for the Pederson device in World War I. At any rate, it functions in the pistol.

The arm is a locked breach, slide activated semi-automatic, fired by a swinging hammer and fed by an eight shot, detachable box magazine in the handle. The slide is of the usual type, provided with a solid nose pierced for the barrel and recoil spring guide rod, and equipped with guide splines mating with the receiver. The breech block is an integral part of the slide and is fitted with a floating firing pin, an extractor pivoted on the right behind the ejector port, and a chamber indicator on top. Two grooves in the slide roof engage corresponding lugs on the barrel. The latter is hinged to the frame by two links (instead of the one usually employed) retained by the slide lock pin. The recoil spring is assembled beneath the barrel around its guide. The rear end of the guide is also pinned by the slide lock, its front passing through the slide.

The trigger is a pivoted member, activating a stirrup sear bar passing across the grip. The hammer and sear unit form a sub-assembly seated in the rear of the frame, which includes the ejector and coil main spring. The burr hammer has both full and half-cock bents. The magazine release is of the transverse type, positioned on the left side behind the trigger. Note the magazine disconnecter housed in the right grip. When the magazine is withdrawn this engages the sear bar, preventing the arm from being fired. The usual firing disconnecter activated by the slide is also provided. This prevents automatic firing by forcing the sear bar out of engagement on slide recoil. No frame safety is provided; instead, a rotating bolt is placed at the rear of the slide. When this is "ON," a steel surface cams the hammer away from the firing spring and positively prevents contact. It does not affect the lockwork.

Functioning is similar to the 1911 Colt. Pressing the trigger pushes the sear bar, which in turn rotates the sear, freeing the hammer. The slide in early recoil is locked to the barrel. As travel continues, the barrel breech is drawn down by the links, disengaging the slide. The latter continues rearward against recoil spring compression, cocking the hammer and extracting and ejecting the case to the right rear. On counter-recoil, the slide chambers another round from the magazine, driving the barrel forwards and up into locking engagement. When a round is chambered, the indicator is forced upwards on top of the slide. Note that this not the extractor as in the luger. The slide is locked open on firing the last round.

Operation: Press in magazine release and withdraw magazine. Load in standard fashion. Reinsert. Draw back slide fully and release. If slide is open, depress slide lock to chamber round. Turn safety lever on left of slide upwards. Hammer can be lowered or set at full or half-cock. It is "safe" to snap the hammer with the safety on, but it is not recommended practice.

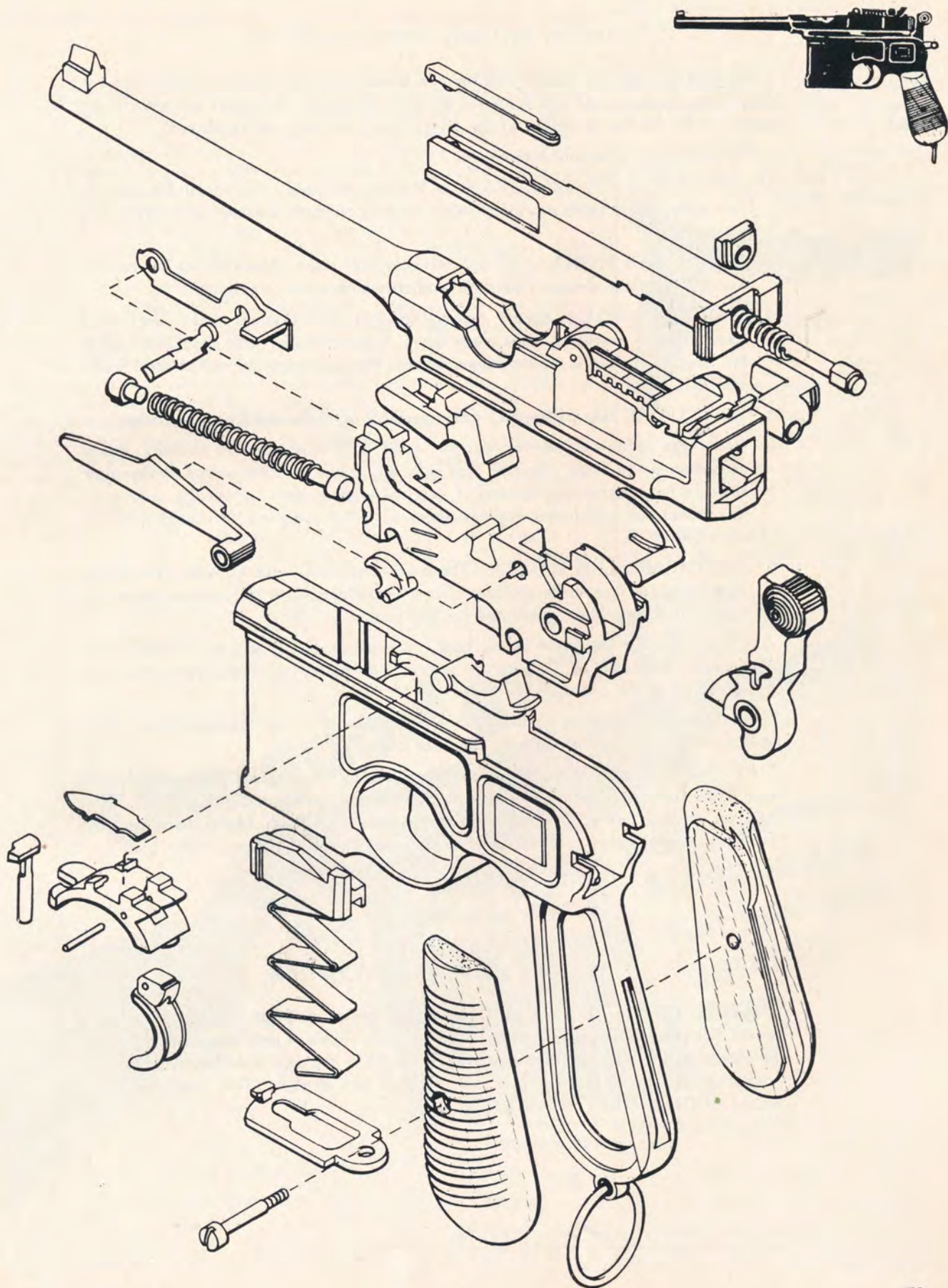
Field Stripping: Withdraw magazine. Pull slide rearward until disassembling notch on left is opposite slide lock. Push slide lock pin from right and withdraw from left. Push slide off frame forwards. Turn slide upside down. Press forward on rear of recoil spring guide and lift out of slide. Lift up barrel and withdraw rearwards. Reverse for reassembly.

Further Stripping: Unscrew grips. Drive out pins in frame from left to right to release firing sub-assembly and trigger. Trigger and sear bar shake out through magazine well, firing unit lifts upwards. Driving out extractor pin from within slide releases extractor and firing pin.

The pistol is 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ " long, with a barrel length of 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ ", and a total weight of 26 ozs. empty. The front sight is adjustable for windage, the rear is milled into the slide. Stocks are plastic and the finish the usual black synthetic French ordnance enamel. Some rare commercial models made by SACM are blued.

Evaluation: Ever since the French collapse in 1941, French materiel has been consistently underrated. The 1935A is machined from good quality forgings with rather rough finishing of non-essential surfaces. It is very sturdy and a good deal stronger than necessary. Its cartridge is not adequate for military usage, but is superior to the .32 ACP used throughout Europe for the same purpose. The Petter design is very good, permitting the use of Browning features without their complication. The 1935A is a good deal more reliable than many of the advanced German .32 ACP designs using complex and flimsy stampings.

P. A. MIRANDA



MAUSER MILITARY PISTOL (Model 1896)

Patented in 1896, this remarkable weapon appeared on the market in 1898, and for fifty years has been used and respected all over the world. No screws are used in the action, and with the exception of the trigger axle, no pins are employed.

The following variations are known:

1. ORIGINAL MODEL—Cal. 7.63 m/m Mauser, 4¾" bbl., non-adjustable open V rear sight, safety catch *down* to "safe", 10 shot, hammer obscures rear sight when down.
2. 1899 or BOER MODEL—5½" bbl., tangent rear sight adjustable 50-700 meters, hammer does not obscure rear sight—otherwise identical to original.
3. 1905 MODEL—4" bbl., open V rear sight (higher than original model) very large hammer head obscuring sight when down, 5 shot, smaller grip than 1899, catch for magazine plate is inside trigger guard. This is sometimes called the SWISS MODEL.
1. 1908 EXPORT MAUSER—5½" bbl., special 9 m/m Mauser Pistol cartridge.
5. 1912—Rifling now 6 grooves, narrow lands, R/H twist, smaller hammer, safety catch now *up* to "safe", tangent rear sight adjustable 50-1000 meters, striker now retained by integral lugs instead of original sliding plate. (Basically similar to this model but with barrel slightly under 4" is the so-called "BOLO-MAUSER", circa 1920.)
6. 1916 PARABELLUM MAUSER—These were supplied to the Prussian War Office, chambered for 9 m/m Parabellum (Luger) cartridge, large "9" cut into grips and painted red, rear sight graduated for 500 meters.
7. 1926—"Mauser Universal Safety Lock" now added. Safety still *up* to "safe", but hammer may now be dropped by trigger with safety on. Standard barrel now shortened to 5¼" from 5½".

Note: With the exception of the 1905 ("Swiss Model"), all Mausers have a slot milled in butt to accept detachable shoulder stock.

TO DISMOUNT: 1. Release magazine base plate by pushing up locking stud, and ease plate forward; remove, together with magazine spring and follower. 2. With hammer cocked, press up catch (below hammer) and push barrel backward by pressing receiver forward. 3. Mechanism may now be snapped from under bolt.

MAUSER SCHNELL-FEUER PISTOLE

MODEL 712 (RAPID FIRE MODEL)—This special variation has a selector lever on the left side. When positioned forward (to "N") standard semi-automatic fire may be obtained, but when positioned rearward (to "R") the gun is full-automatic. The magazine in this gun is detachable, both 10 shot and 20 shot. (This weapon is also called MODEL 1932.)

MAN IN WASHINGTON: SEN. LONG TRIES AGAIN

(Continued from page 14)

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.” Long further stated that one cannot do business in an area, and one certainly cannot do as much of it and do it as well as he would like, if in order to do business he had to go through a street where there are burglars, murders, and arsonists armed to the teeth against innocent citizens. “So,” he said, “the threat certainly affects the free flow of commerce.

“What the amendment seeks to do is to make it unlawful for a firearm—be it a handgun, a machinegun, a long-ranged rifle, or any kind of firearm—to be in the possession of a convicted felon who has not been pardoned and who has therefore lost his right to possess firearms . . . It also relates to the transportation of firearms.”

A reader cannot detect in these remarks any purpose to restrict or limit the type of possession that was being considered for proscription. However, the high court’s construction limits its application to interstate possession and receipt.

On the introduction of S. 3089 Long had this to say: “The Supreme Court declared that my amendment to the 1968 Act was too vague, although Chief Justice Berger and Associate Justice Blackmun dissented . . . With all the solicitude for the rights of the criminal over the rights of society

being shown by the William O. Douglas faction of the U.S. Supreme Court, it is being predicted by law enforcement people in Louisiana that Black Muslims charged with murder will never serve a day in jail for killings.

“Apparently, police officers must do everything letter-perfect. Even if they do, the Douglas faction of the Supreme Court undoubtedly will conjure up a new technicality to turn these criminals loose.” 

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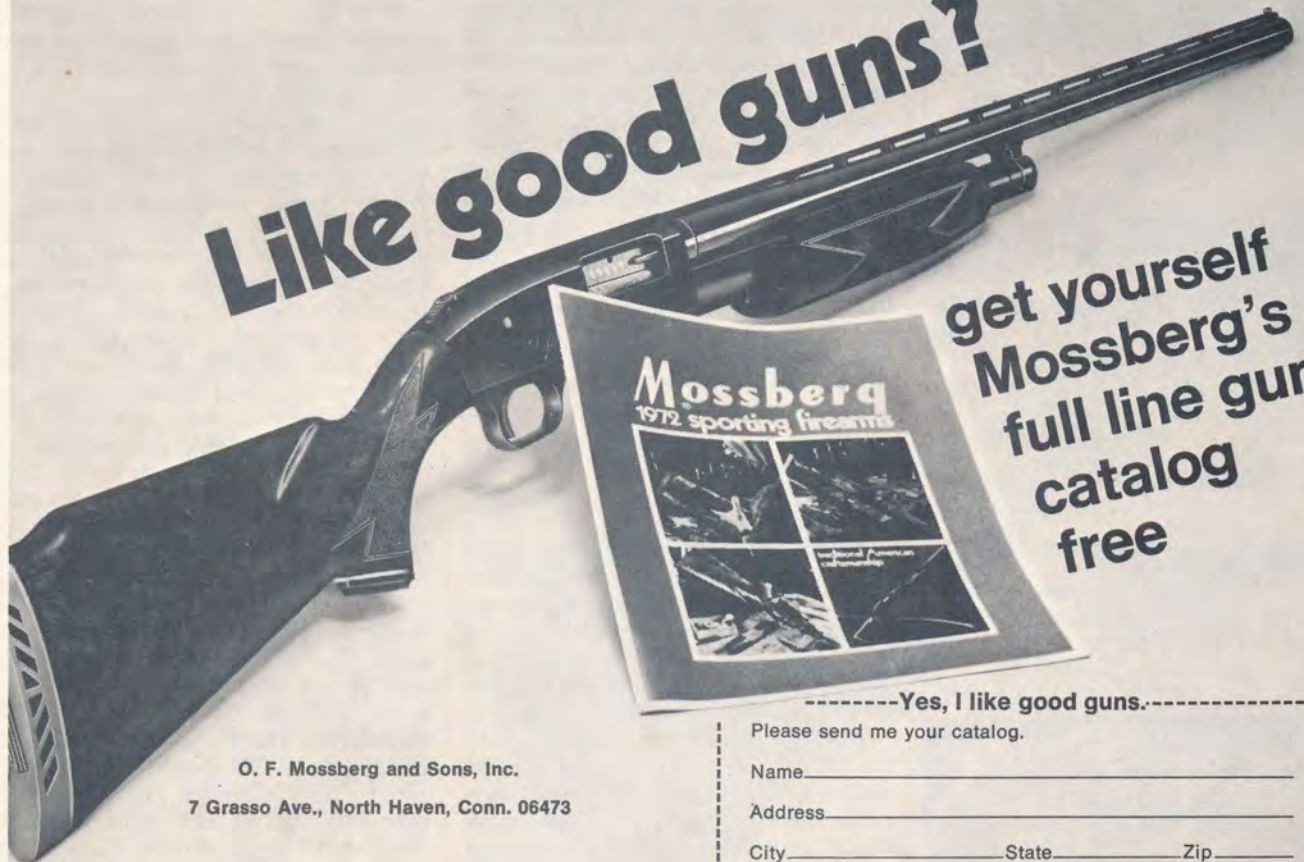
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THE SLOW POKE BOLT ACTION RIFLE

(Continued from page 36)

asked him to provide this relief.

In furtherance of this overweening desire to pretty up the action, the manufacturers give the handle some racy lines and on the end try for a knob that accentuates this sleek appearance. This may be great for the aesthetic but it scores awfully low on the Nielson ratings. Some of the knobs are so poorly accentuated that they are in a class with the Mannlicher butter-knife thing. Because of the closeness of the knob to the stock there is a dodge often practiced of flattening the knob on its under side. The Remington Model 660 carbine is an example. The bolt handle is on the shorty side—only 1 7/8 inches in length and clearance is only 1/4 of an inch, but through flattening the knob it manages to provide a full half-inch of clearance at the extreme outer periphery of the handle.

The Japanese built one of the ugliest rifles in their Arisaka series. Its most redeeming feature was a bolt knob that wouldn't quit. It was almost the size of a lemon and you could get not one finger and the thumb around it but two fingers and the thumb and when you gave it a lift something always happened!

Some bolt actions work slick and free while others are sticky, slow and balky. There has probably never been an action that was more smoothly functioning than the old Krag-Jorgensen. It got, after some useage, so that you could hold the muzzle vertical, open the bolt, and it would fall freely to the end of its travel. Some Springfields were that way. The National Match grade '03s that were equipped with bolts left in the white grew exceptionally easy to function. The Enfield Model '17 was never one to perform effortlessly. That dodge of forcing the striker back to a full stand on the closing movement of the bolt obviated any easy operation.

The British, who are exponents of the shooting iron that cocks on the closing motion of the bolt have always contended that this is the best design. Their contention is that the shooter can apply the most strength when the hand is pushing forward on the bolt

as must be done in breeching the Enfield '17 or the old SMLE rifle. All you need do to dispel this theory is to try either the Model '17 or the SMLE rapid fire. When you shove the bolt forward to close it, you push the rifle away from the shoulder, precisely the wrong thing to do when trying to fire a string of hasty shots. The stock, on the contrary, wants to be pushed back hard against the shoulder and held there with pressure during the whole charging cycle. I have owned a lot of Enfields and invariably attach the Numrich striker. This converts the rifle to cocking on the upstroke of the bolt just as do all our commercially made bolt action rifles. The Numrich striker is available from Numrich Arms Corporation, West Hurley, N.Y.

A bolt that is blued will invariably be a tough chore to use in rapid fire. It develops friction, becomes sticky, and is fatal to a smooth operation. The bolt should be left in the white, polished, and then preferably chromium-plated.

The bolt that is engine-turned makes a real humdinger for free and easy movement. Marker Machine Works have chromium-finished a number of rifles for me. This to include not only the bore but also, at times, the entire rifle, inside and out, to include the bolt. This is a surefire way to produce a bolt which will whip back and forth like it was glass.

Ordinarily, the locking lugs are on the forward end of the bolt body and these will be considerably greater in diameter than the bolt itself. This means the bolt at the end of its rearward travel will have an unpleasantly large amount of wobble in it. The old Mauser 98 is a case in common. It develops so much play as to many times bind the bolt on its forward movement. The ideal bolt for really fast action is one that has a body of the same diameter as the locking lugs themselves. The Weatherby Mark V is designed in this fashion and there simply isn't a better rapid fire gun than this one. In this same enviable category is the Champlin, the Ranger Arms Maverick, and the Voere as imported by Kleinguenther. These rifle

actions are notable for a short lift, too; only 54 degrees as against fully ten degrees more on conventional bolt models.

The stock, besides being quite critical as to length of pull, for rapid fire shooting should have a big broad comb, one that features a Monte Carlo and cheekpiece. It must be of such a height as to permit the marksman to keep his cheek firmly atop of it while the bolt is swung to the rear. If the comb height is such that he has to lift his face when he shuffles the bolt then the gun is a poor fit for hasty follower shots. The rounded comb together with cheekpiece provides more surface for the face, and through a strong contact between the jaw and the stock when the bolt is lifted, the piece remains firmly at shoulder.

There is a tendency of the rifle to slip upward during the first lift of the bolt. There is a second tendency to pull away from the shoulder when the bolt is slammed forward. Both must be counteracted by a force downward on the comb and by a strong pull rearward on the part of the forward hand at the forestock. This latter needs to be deeply checkered and shaped so that it provides a healthy handful. I don't go for the old-fashioned rounded forend but much prefer the new design which is somewhat squared off. This configuration is better for the maintenance of a husky grip.

When a feller is down in the prone position he can best manhandle the bolt for hasty shots, provided the stock is not too long. A half-inch too much length from the hull-down stance and it will be more awkward than offhand or even sitting. But if the length of pull is okay the shooter immediately realizes that the rifle sticks in the cradle of the shoulder much more securely and the bolt moves more freely. Next to the belly-down the sitting position is best. The offhand is the toughest, the stock wants to slip and slide on the shoulder, and the gunner, unless he is an old hand and quite practiced, is strongly tempted to pull the piece down and work the bolt from a waist high position. Practice is the answer to these problems.

As an aid in holding the butt at shoulder, I equip all my favorite shooting irons with steel buttplates, deeply checkered. Along with this I specify when the stock is made that it be given a wee bit more toe that is customary on the over-the-counter models. This additional toe keeps the stock in position a mite better when the situation calls for the bang-bang bit.



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**DO-IT-YOURSELF:
STEEL BUTTPLATE PROJECT**

(Continued from page 47)

longer shotgun stock.

Getting the proper pitch requires a bit more "figuring out". The "pitch" refers to the angle of the buttplate and, in simplest terms, is usually measured by standing a gun on its buttplate with the top of the action against a vertical surface such as a wall and measuring how far the muzzle extends from the wall. If the bore line is perfectly vertical when the gun is set squarely in its butt it is said to have zero pitch. Zero pitch, by the way, is good for heavy recoiling rifles of the big magnum class. For light and medium calibers however—any rifle on which you'd use a steel buttplate—a slight degree of pitch is desirable. It distributes the recoil well and seems to feel most comfortable. A stock that has positive pitch (where the toe of the buttplate extends further out than the heel) wants to slip under your armpit when you shoot it and somehow doesn't look right either. As a general rule, "pitch" means negative pitch.

If you're still confused about this business of stock pitch—and I understand if you are—simply do the following; Lay the stock upside down on a level surface with the top of the forend pressed flat. Now, using a carpenter's square or the 90 degree side of a draftsman's triangle, draw a vertical line across the butt at the point of proper length of pull. Since this line is at right angles to the top line of the stock and hence the bore line too, it represents zero pitch. With the stock on its side again align the buttplate by "eyeball" alongside the line. Angle the plate so that when the upper curve (heel) is exactly on the line, the lower tip (toe) is about a quarter inch *inside* (toward the muzzle) of the line. This will come mighty close to being the proper pitch for the average man.

If you're pretty good at this "eyeball" alignment, go ahead and draw the inside curve of the buttplate on the stock. This will guide your first roughing cuts. If you don't trust your "eyeball" guessing or want to lay out a guideline that is nearly an exact duplicate of the plate's curve try this technique; first stand the stock, butt down, on a piece of fairly stiff cardboard and trace half of the cross section profile as shown in the illustration. Now cut out this outline so that you have a template which closely follows the curve of the stock. Press

the template to the inside curve of the buttplate so that it is bent to the same curve. Holding the buttplate and template in this position fit the template over the butt of the stock and position it properly in regard to length of pull and degree of pitch. Now all you need to do is trace along the edge of the template and you've got an accurate guideline to follow. A bandsaw, if you happen to have one, will remove unwanted wood quickly. Even a simple coping saw works fine here. Or, of course, you can simply file it away with the curved side of a half round wood rasp.

Once the stock is shaped so that it follows the curve of the buttplate the job is well on its way to completion. The next step is cutting an undersize notch at the top (heel) of the butt for the projection at the top of the buttplate. This little inward curving extension at the top of the buttplate is the most troublesome thing about the whole job, but is also what makes a Niedner-style plate look so good.

With this top extension more or less fitted and the buttplate relatively close to its final position you can go ahead and spot the screw holes and do the drilling. With the plate in position draw the screws up fairly snug and see how the plate lays and how much final fitting there is to be done. If it is pretty close to a final fit take it off and swab the inside surface with the spotting agent you use for inletting. The final fitting is a simple "spotting in" process. Wherever the metal touches wood and makes a mark is where you cut. Just keep at it until the entire outer edge of the buttplate touches all the way around. The chisel is fine for this job, either as a slicing or as a scraping tool but, for the larger areas, the rasp is quicker.

Now give all the end grain several coats of stock finish or some good waterproofing agent. If you don't the wood might absorb water and swell so that the stock extends out past the edges of the buttplate every time it rains. Or, just as bad, dry out and shrink so that the plate is wider than the stock.

With the buttplate in place the stage is set for the final shaping and styling of our classy European sporter. But before we get to that I've got one more little feature in mind that is so unique and stylish that we've decided to keep it a secret until the next issue.



HAROLDS CLUB: A COLLECTOR'S DREAM

(Continued from page 43)

carving. The ebony stock is totally covered with a viney and leafy carving. Shortly after the gun came into the Harolds Club collection, it was taken to Shreve and Company, the well known San Francisco jewelry and silver firm. They reported then that "There is no person living today capable of executing such carving. If such a person could be found, it would take him five to ten years to complete the job."

The magnificent shotgun, now dusty and a bit shabby in its uncared-for fitted case, shows the detail about which this Shreve Company comment was made. Two wonderful hunting dogs carved in great detail, form the twin hammers. The dog would slam home a shock to a carved fox which holds each percussion cap. The side plate shows a lion conquering a snake. The trigger guard has a pheasant eating from a bunch of grapes. The end of the guard has a fine sculptured hare eating a carrot. The end of the forestock has a full face carving of the President of France himself. The gun butt is a wild hunting scene which wraps around. It would be the prize of any collection anywhere.

In some of the glass enclosed displays alongside the second floor bar are these cased sets, all of which could stand a good cleaning: (The information cards read—)

"Very fine pair of American made duelling pistols by J. E. Evans of Philadelphia, cased with all loading accessories, including a rare "gun stock" powder flask, presented to General Edward S. Salomon by the citizens of Cook County—1867."

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The E. Blancke duellers with their damascus twist barrels and finely checkered stocks were used in an infamous California duel between a

U. S. Senator and the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court—the top judge did not miss and was later killed by the bodyguard of a U. S. Judge. All this during the golden days of San Francisco—1859.

What I couldn't locate to photograph was the Napoleon pistols, a pair of four barrel flintlocks the Little Emperor was supposed to have carried to Russia on his ill-fated military expedition to take Moscow.

Also missing from view was the cased and engraved 1849 Colt presentation .31 caliber percussion model. Also the cased Robbins and Lawrence pepperbox, another .31 caliber percussion model and a gold engraved Smith and Wesson .44 Russian model which was a gift from a Turkish to a British officer. Where these treasures are no one at Harolds Club knows. They may be in the hodgepodge of guns, leg irons, spears, and knives stored in the warehouse. They may have been sold. No one that I could locate seemed to know—or care.

The collection displays some of the oft-repeated wonders of all western collections, the gun that Wild Bill Hickok may have carried on that ill fated day in 1876 when he was shot from behind by "Cock-eyed" Jack McCall; the Colt .44 percussion revolver, with grips carved "J. Howard" which was supposed to be the favorite of Jesse James when he travelled under that flag. Such historic arms will always be questioned but they do add flavor to any public display. As does the powder-actuated sun dial cannon, the .36 caliber Swiss 13-bladed knife-pistol and the 21 inch switch bladed sword. It's fun to see these oddities and the visitors to Harolds Club still enjoy this view over the top of their spinning slot machines.

I imagine that it will take a collector with a bit of cash and some luck to pry the collection away from the owner. As it stands now, the gun collection is going to waste. With no inventory or authenticating file, the guns are almost so much hardware. Piled in the storeroom of the warehouse they are not even open to speculation by the visitor.

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changed so much since the good old days of the 1950's and early sixties, that maybe its time to pass the guns and swords and spears and knives and leg irons and assorted Old West Americana to a place qualified to take care of it all.

U.S. MATERIEL: IS AMERICA SECOND BEST?

(Continued from page 23)

efforts of the National Rifle Association, more Americans would have been prepared to shoot either rifle or pistol more effectively. But they were ignored—as were those also who questioned how dropping one gun and one cartridge, and replacing them with a new gun and a new cartridge, would “reduce logistical problems.” Again, the establishment had massive investments of cash and “face” in the baby rifle and its baby cartridge, and who were mere civilians (even world-respected firearms and ammunition manufacturers) to tell them their business?

Planners to the contrary notwithstanding, the Carbine M-1, caliber .30, was not the answer. It was adopted under a storm of protest from civilian experts and manufacturers who pointed out the carbine cartridge was only a ballistic equivalent of the old .32-20 HV, which hunters and game conservationists had long ago branded inadequate for use even on whitetail deer; and what sort of arm was this to give to men facing harder-hitting, longer-ranging weapons? Even the manufacturers entrusted with carbine production announced early that they would not continue it for sports use after the war, since it would be useful, if even legal, “only for rabbits and small varmints.”

True, a million GIs fell in love with the carbine. It was light to carry, gentle in recoil, fun to shoot. But many were disenchanted when they learned that a hasty stab at the safety-release might disengage the magazine and leave them with a single-shot weapon; when they learned that it wouldn't “reach” much further than a .22 plinker; when they learned that enemy soldiers hit repeatedly with carbine bullets might (often did) keep on coming, still lethally able to shoot back with bullets that would take a man out of the action. Love it if you will, but the Carbine M-1 caliber .30 simply lacked the punch needed from a combat weapon.

Compare it with the German carbine, Kar. 44, shooting a necked-down 7.92 mm rifle cartridge; or with the Canadian carbine, shooting the standard British .303 ammo. If a carbine was essential why not one using the

same cartridge as the Garand? If recoil were a problem (as it seldom is when a man is shooting at a live target), add a rubber butt plate, as did the Canadians.

Nor did the carbine supplant the pistol. Troops in both theaters of war demanded pistols, weapons strapped to the hip, ready even after a man had dived for cover and lost his rifle (or carbine), weapons short enough for use in a fox hole or a jungle thicket. Thousands of South Pacific fighters got handguns from friends at home, or bought them from Navy personnel. Other thousands in Europe adopted battlefield pick-ups, German P-38s or Lugers or Mausers. Far from obsolete, handguns saw more service in World War II than in any war ever fought previously, in our armies and in the armies of other nations. The planners were wrong! And civilian experts, forced to accept the carbine as a fait accompli, offering improvements to make the best of it, were ignored. I myself was reprimanded for publishing an article (by a nationally respected authority on sights) on how to improve the carbine sights for battle conditions. (“Take a ball peen hammer,” said Walter Roper, “and batter the sight so it won't tip. Then you will at least know which leaf is up” A lot of GIs did it.)

Also ignored (in spite of Ordnance claims about meeting the demands of the using services) were pleas from both theaters of war for Thompson sub-machine guns. We gave Thompsons to European partisans, but Reising's, “grease guns,” and Model of 1917 Browning Automatic Rifles were Government issue for GIs. (Ordnance denies blame for the Reising, and rightly so; this one was the Marine Corps' own baby, and one whose parentage many Marines bitterly regretted. One Marine commander in the South Pacific told me that he ordered his consignment of Reising's dumped into salt water rather than permit his men to use them. Repeating shotguns, he said, even though highly illegal under the Rules of Warfare, were infinitely better!)

As for the Browning Automatic Rifle, “the good old BAR,” it was a superlative weapon, the best of its

kind in 1917. But better guns—not better made, but better adapted to the needs of World War II, and far less costly to make—were used in World War II. Comparable to the BAR and superior to it in one or more of the points important in the choice of military weapons (design, fire-power, weight, ease of field repair, simplicity of manufacture, cost) were the Russian Degtyrov, the British Bren, the Czech ZB, the Belgian Browning, even the Japanese Type 99—this in the opinion of qualified experts who saw the guns in combat. (Japanese light machine guns were so mobile, so easily carried and mounted, that men could run forward with them in battle, drop flat, and start firing as soon as they hit the ground. At the bloody landings on Tarawa, those guns, used in exactly that fashion, mowed down the crews of our heavier, harder-to-mount machine guns before our guns could start firing. . . . In light mortars, too, the Japanese surpassed us. Theirs were lighter, better adapted to quick movement in combat.)

Our M-3 submachine gun, or machine pistol, is best described by its nickname, “the greasegun.” It looked like the greasegun used on cars. But its lack of beauty was the least of its faults. Like the Reising, it used .45 caliber ACP ammunition (nullifying the Ordnance claim that we would solve logistic problems by not using .45 ACP ammo), so that, except that they were (or could be) full-automatic, neither was more effective than was the pistol. The greasegun was fragile. Drop it, bump it, even squeeze it too hard, and you might dent its outer shell so that the bolt would not travel, making the gun inoperable. Field-strip it in haste, and you might bend the dismounting member so that the gun could not be re-assembled.

Compare these with the sweet Australian AuSten, or with the German Schmeisser (the famous “burp gun”), or with the Czech submachine guns and “assault rifles,” or for that matter with our own “Tommies,” and then ask yourself why America, with her vaunted “know-how” and manufacturing capacity, could give such guns to her fighting men.

There was bitter controversy too, during and after the war, about powders used in U.S. and enemy weapons. German and Japanese powders were said to be both smokeless and flashless. Generals, Marshall and Eisenhower both stated this as fact in their “Reports” and Marine General Meritt Edson, of Tarawa and other tough South Pacific campaigns, said that “the Japanese had a decided superiority over us in the matter of gunpowder. His is flashless and smokeless.

You can be under punishing fire and not be able to discover its source. This is costly, and it is demoralizing."

Ordnance experts, and others, flatly deny the existence of better powders. Less smoke or less flash from enemy weapons could derive only, they insist, from longer barrels (permitting more complete internal combustion of powder), in the Japanese rifles, or flash-hiders. The most recent explanation I've heard is that the Germans (and Russians) used "additive bags of smoke-producing powder which fogged up the flash in night firing, reverting to regular smokeless charges in day fighting." Could be. But, whatever the trick, why didn't we have it?

Or was this another example of refusal to accept non-establishment ideas—as was the case regarding muzzle brakes on cannon? Muzzle brakes were considered indispensable by every other nation in the war; yet U.S. Ordnance experts summarily, even angrily, rejected them until almost too late for use in that war.

These are only some of the lessons we should have learned from history, using one war as an example. But there are many indications that we have not learned those lessons.

One such indication relates to the U.S. M-16 submachine gun (or machine pistol; call it what you will.) This was a civilian development, bitterly resisted at first but finally adopted—and score one for the new Materiel Command. But wait! From Viet Nam, and from news media determined now to see nothing good in anything American, we heard bitter criticism of the M-16. The gun was not performing, they said, the way it had performed in civilian tests and as a police weapon. Why?

The explanation given me (oversimplified, no doubt, but basically factual) was that the guns were ordered from one manufacturer, the ammunition from another, both under rigid government specification. The guns, as ordered, included a recent slight modification; the ammunition, as ordered, was based on powder different from that which had performed so well in civilian use. Warned that these changes might result in a mismatching of gun and ammo, the military reaction was in the old, old pattern—approximately, "mind your own business!"—and it was not until much later, when the needed adjustments were permitted, that the M-16 began to fulfill its civilian-proved potential. It may not be even yet, with its light bullet, an ideal gun for jungle war. An experienced observer tells me that, in his opinion, enemy AK fully-automatic carbines, with their heav-

ier, better-brush-cutting bullets, are better. If so, we should learn from them.

Anti-gun forces, led now by Senator Ted "Horatius" Kennedy and Representative Abner Mikva, have been all too nearly successful in deactivating the National Board for the Promotion of Civilian Marksmanship and/or the participation of Army and Marine units in the ancient and honorable National Rifle and Pistol Championship competitions. They have damned the National Rifle Association for its stand against unreasonable gun controls, even branding the NRA and its members as "un-American," "fanatics," "contributors to murder and violence"—deriding the thought that small arms or small arms skills could be of any possible use in modern war.

In no war America has ever fought, unless possibly the Indian wars on the plains, have small arms and small arms skills been of greater importance than in Viet Nam. Yet, thanks to anti-gun prevention, less than 1 per cent of the young men sent to Viet Nam had learned to shoot small arms before induction. Leaders of combat troops in every war America has fought have acclaimed the value of marksmanship in combat. World War II generals wrote that mechanized war did not, repeat *not*, alter the basic fact that ground had still to be "taken, consolidated, and held by ground forces using the weapons they could carry." Germany knew that; why else did she start 8-year-olds in crash marksmanship training programs?

Senator Kennedy and his ilk are either ignorant of, or chose to ignore, the on-record gratitude of American combat leaders—Pershing, Eisenhower, Marshall, Bradley, MacArthur, every Marine combat commander, to name but a few—to the National Rifle Association for teaching small arms marksmanship, in peace-times and war-times alike, to preinductees. Senator Kennedy et al would do well to remember that, so long as wars exist or threaten—and no one has yet offered any guarantee to the contrary—men who shoot best in battle are time and battle-proven concept, so obvious that one wonders how sane men can ignore it!

Finally, that the military establishment clings to the ancient pattern of rejection of civilian aid in arms development and production seems evident in the recent cancellation of civilian manufacturers' participation in ammunition production. "We'll make it ourselves," they say, "in our own plants and arsenals—on the grounds that we can make it better and cheaper."

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When did any government bureaucracy make anything cheaper? How can the Materiel Command hope to match (cheaply?) the millions upon millions of dollars spent by civilian manufacturers on research and development of new designs, new loads, new manufacturing methods, all directly or indirectly applicable to military needs in an emergency?

At least 90 per cent of the priming materials, powders, and processes used in military small arms and small arms ammunition were developed by civilian manufacturers—and the patents covering them sold to the government for one dollar!

Cancellation of government contracts, at best only marginally profitable to the major manufacturers, means the closing of plants needed now, and which might be far more desperately needed in a future emergency. It means the drastic reduction of unmatched research and development staffs and programs. It means the drastic reduction of the exact and single major asset that has won wars for us—our manufacturing potential,

the ability to "git there soonest with the mostest."

Yes, we have *The Bomb*. It was a great achievement, "the weapon to end all war." (They said that centuries ago about the bow and arrow!) But THE BOMB is not now our sole possession. We talk of new "super weapons," from flechettes to gases which turn tigers into pussy cats. But was *The Bomb* produced by Ordnance planners, or by civilian scientists? Can we afford to pin this nation's hopes of future security, even of continued existence, upon the prescience (omniscience?) of one small group of proveably patterned thinkers, however well-intentioned?

There are, have always been, men in America who know as much about weapons design, weapons manufacture, and the use of weapons, as any men in the world. Why should we continue to reject so much of that knowledge, that capability? It is a policy that has cost us billions of dollars and thousands of lives in wars past and present. It could cost more, in the future.

**101 COLT:
 ONE-OF-A-KIND**

(Continued from page 49)

Now comes the delicate work of removing dents and pits from the frame and other exterior parts. A good set of fine Swiss files, fine steel wool, #320 A and #400 A emery paper, wet or dry, and crocus cloth are the main tools for this restoration. Great care should be taken in removing pits and dents with the files. All the contours should be kept just like the original as well as all the square and sharp edges and corners. Don't rush the job, all filing should be kept to the minimum and uniform. Great care should be taken not to destroy any original markings such as the name, dates, caliber, or serial numbers. By all means, refrain from using any power equipment such as steel wire, buffing, and abrasive wheels. Such equipment can be hard to control and could cause more damage than its worth trying to speed up the job. When the gun is finally to the point where all the parts are clean to the bare metal, then it is a good idea to handle it with a cheap pair of cotton gloves. This will prevent acid hand prints. A thin film of oil should be put on the gun at this stage and re-assembled. The gun is now ready to be blued or plated.

On this particular Colt it was decided to go one step further and have the gun engraved and plated. At this point came the decisions, what type of engraving and by whom? There are about as many types of engraving as there are engravers. First things first, the embellishment of this gun had to be in good taste and of artistic appreciation. What was wanted for this particular piece was a motif and design that was unique, artistic and of a quality that would make it one of a kind.

In studying and researching, variations of gun engraving were noted. There are the popular scrolls, vines, leaves, acorns, flowers, and other designs; motifs of hunting and western scenes; nudes, cattle-brands, animals, and even General Custer and the 7th Cavalry, plus the ornateness of silver and gold inlays.

In this day and rage of commemorative guns, an exclusive commemorative, one-of-a-kind was decided upon. Chosen was the motif of a wild west show commemorating the famed Miller Brother's 101 Ranch Wild West Show (See GUNS—Nov. 1964 issue).

There were three brothers who were

responsible for this flamboyant show, Joe, George, and Zack Miller. Also many famous names were related with this show at one time or another, such as Buffalo Bill Cody, Jess Willard, Tom Mix, Buck Jones, Jack Hoxie and Tex Cooper to name a few. The Colt and the Winchester were very much associated with this show as they re-enacted scenes from the wild west.

Now that the motif for the engraving was decided, next came the question of finding a professional engraver who could execute this type of work in a most artistic and expert manner. This was a real challenge because of the many fine and professional engravers that are available and capable of turning out such work.

The man finally chosen was Bill Johns of Saratoga, Wyoming. Bill Johns is a fine and experienced engraver who has been applying his art for over ten years. He got his start with an old time engraver who not only taught him but gave him his first engraving tools. Since that time he has learned a great deal from other engravers throughout the country. Many times they swap ideas and try each other's tools.

Many top gun collectors and gun fanciers have employed Bill to engrave their choice guns. Bill has also engraved presentation guns for the Jackson Hole Arms Company of Wyoming. The "Old Reliable" rifle was enhanced by Bill's art work and is a new product of this company. Much of the work that Bill enjoys are the period pieces such as old Colts and Winchesters. It has been my pleasure to view fine examples of his work and talk to a number of his highly satisfied customers.

This subordinate Colt was a real challenge to Bill which he accepted enthusiastically. Being a Westerner and having read and heard much about the 101 Ranch Show, Bill was anxious to translate his ideas onto metal. The complete project was turned over to Bill to engrave as he saw fit, with only the idea, the motif, and the old Colt supplied. The end result was to be of the talented efforts and artistic engraver's experience that Bill applied to this gun.

As there was no hurry, two months were spent in drawing the pattern, engraving, carving the ivory grips, and nickel plating the complete gun. The completed piece was a credit to his artistic endeavor—a very fine, superbly finished product. A description of the finished gun follows:

On the full length of the left side of the barrel is engraved, "101 Ranch Wild West Show." On the full length of the right side of barrel is the leg-

end, "101 Wild West 1908-1932." On right side of frame is the name on a banner, "Miller Bro," and a horse head. The loading gate has the "101" brand. Behind the cylinder on the left side is a buffalo skull enclosed in an Indian shield. On the top sides of the frame are two arrows. The Colt name and address is enhanced with a sunburst type pattern. The butt is inscribed, "101 Ranch" in script. The backstrap is engraved, "Geo. E. Virgines." The elephant ivory one piece grips are carved on both sides with a scroll on the bottom and on left side in relief "101" and in script on the right side, "GV."

The gun has full coverage engraving with the 101 motif and scroll designs,

which also covering the backstrap, trigger guard, ejector rod housing, cylinder, and at the lower front of the frame, the engraver's initials "BJ" identifying Bill Johns as the engraver.

This old, rusty, pitted Colt once doomed to possible oblivion is now a gun of distinction. Not only does it commemorate the famous 101 Ranch Wild West Show but it is a fine example of artistry in steel engraving. Each detail of the design has been chosen with methodical care that attest to the engraver's skill. So now, this sublime Colt represents the ultimate in pride of workmanship, restoration, and enhancement, and is a salute to the 101 Ranch Wild West Show.



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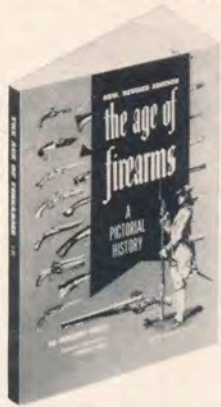


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ALONG with the growth of commemorative firearms has come the need for a more sophisticated record-keeping system. Personal Firearms Record Book Co. has developed the Commemorative Firearms Record Book to meet this need. The book has space for 32 firearm records and has a special record form which includes a unique chart on which the owner can trace the growth in value of each piece in his collection. Pages are printed on one side only and the covers are printed on a glossy, deluxe stock. The book sells for \$2.95, two for \$5.00, postpaid direct from PFRB, Dept. G-7, P.O. Box 201, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068.

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CHARTER Arms has introduced two new holsters for their Undercover .38 Special. They are available for both the 2-inch and the 3-inch barrel models. The holsters are of the spring type preferred by sheriffs, peace officers and guards for quick access to their guns while providing maximum concealment. A screw post



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FOR THE crow shooter, Carry-Lite is now offering from its Italian manufacturing source, this new 18" high Great Horned Owl. So exacting in detail that eight different shades of color are used to give "Il Guffo" (the owl) such a life-like appearance that even the hunter is fooled



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NUMRICH Arms has just announced that the famous and rare 1923 edition of the Thompson catalog has been reprinted. Numrich presently owns the Auto Ordnance Corp., the originators of the Thompson submachine gun. The 1923 catalog is the most sought-after submachine gun reference ever printed. It is



profusely illustrated with photos of rare models, special mounts and installations that appear only in this edition. Every collector and gun lovers library would be incomplete without this catalog. Supply is limited. Price only \$1.95 from Numrich Arms Corp., Dept. G-4, West Hurley, New York 12491

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1. Each question should be sent directly to the panel member best suited to solve your problem. Mail questions directly to the expert at the address shown below.
2. Each question—only one question per letter, please—must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope and \$1.00.
3. You will receive the answer to your question directly from the expert. Our panel will select the most interesting questions for publication in this column, but you don't have to wait for the magazine to get your answer.
4. Letters with questions which do not have \$1.00 will be disregarded; those without a self-addressed envelope will be answered in the magazine, and not directly.

We have enlarged the staff of our Panel of Experts to give you the best possible service on your questions. Remember, write directly to the expert at the address below—do not send questions to GUNS Magazine—and be sure to include the \$1.00 and the self addressed envelope.

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- Dick Miller—Trap & Skeet
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Back-Packs

What pack frame and bag would you recommend for packing meat and trophies off the mountains while sheep hunting and what outfitter and area would you recommend for the best chance of success?

R. Erlandson
Brooklyn, N.Y.

I have and use one of Eddie Bauer's Trapper Nelson pack boards a lot. In fact, I have two of these and often have one of my hunters use one of them. However, they are too long to use on horse back on the trip out, because they cannot be worn high

enough on the shoulders so as not to rest on the horse or the saddle. Later, I bought and used a very light weight metal frame pack that is available in most sporting goods stores and is used a lot by Boy Scouts. It's called the Official Camper and can be worn high on the shoulders when on horseback.

You have very little choice for big sheep in North America today. There just may be an occasional big old buster left in many areas, but the chances of getting one are slim indeed. My choice in the 48 would be to try any area open in Wyoming. Write either Keith Stilson, Jackson, Wyoming or John Keller, Box 1293, Cody, Wyoming. For Canada, I'd write to Andy Russell, Waterton Lakes Park, Alberta—L.B.

Pendleton Muzzle Brake

I would like to have your honest opinion of the Pendleton muzzle brake.

Samuel Mancia
Warren, Mich.

I have owned several rifles that incorporated a Pendleton Muzzle brake. I have found in all cases that they

reduce the recoil to a far more balanced rifle. They do, however, increase the noise level or muzzle blast, sometimes making it highly objectionable to some shooters. Actually, the muzzle blast is not increased but is turned sideways. This is pretty bad if one is shooting under a shed roof. I have never noticed it to be objectionable when shooting in the open but I did have to wear ear plugs when shooting in the shed or on the range. —L.B.

Tracer Shot Shells

I have an Itaca Perazzi over-under trap gun. I wish your opinion of the tracer shot shells.

Hans A. Skyberg
Fisher, Minn.

Tracer loads, used occasionally to check your hold, swing, etc. should not hurt your Perazzi trap gun. Naturally, excessive or prolonged use of tracers could be harmful, especially if the bore is not thoroughly cleaned after use.—D.M.

Gun Engraving

I am a tool maker and a watch repairman. Now I would like to try my hand at gun engraving. Where can I go to get instructions or something showing me how to get started?

Roy Jackson
Detroit, Mich.

The Gun Digest Book lists quite a number of engravers. While I don't know how busy these fellows are, some of them can no doubt give you some good advice. Frank Mittermeier, 3577 E. Tremont Ave., N.Y., N.Y., sells tools for engraving. Some of the others probably also sell tools, and may be able to direct you to the books and information that you require. It is also possible that at times some of these men or their firms might be looking for a helper or apprentice.—W.S.

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PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP: PROPER POSITIONS IMPROVE SCORES

(Continued from page 29)

your point of aim. This isn't as confusing as it may appear. For example: your front sight is aligned perfectly with your rear sight—the front blade, which appears as a "post" because you can't see the top plane or sides, is exactly in the middle of the rear notch and appears perfectly straight across it (neither high nor low in the notch, neither to the left nor right side of it) and you are holding at the desired point on the target. Then, while maintaining your perfect alignment (attitude of front and rear sights), your arm wavers and moves two inches across the face of the target—but you fire. The bullet will hit exactly two inches away from your desired aiming point, where you actually held when the shot broke. You can see, then, the tremendous importance of sight alignment.

If you secured your gun in a vise, got behind it and moved your head around until the front blade reached it proper perspective with the rear notch, you would have perfect sight alignment as long as you watched. But in actual offhand shooting, perfect sight alignment isn't achieved for more than a few seconds at a time even by our best marksmen, so you strive for perfect alignment, grooming yourself to get it—and hold on to it for as long as possible with each shot. The degree to which we are able to do this will determine to a large extent our overall efficiency with the handgun. In the beginning, it will be very hard to align your sights properly, mainly because principles need to be applied which seem to be contrary to common sense. Also, when one begins using muscles which were more or less dormant throughout his life, it is physically difficult to hold up a gun properly. But improvement comes fast from the very beginning.

The main new principles are these: keep both eyes open. Don't concentrate on looking through the sights to the target and focusing on the target, focus your vision on the front sight. We have a natural tendency to look at the target and we have a natural tendency to shut one eye. Overcome

these tendencies immediately. Keep both eyes open, focus on the front sight—which will make the down-range target a blur. The rear sight will appear slightly out of focus too. That is the only way you can attain consistently good sight alignment. When you are ready to aim it's necessary to get the target—your frame of reference—in focus. But once you have that target clear, the reference established, shift your focus to the front sight. Because when the target has been put in perspective, even slight movement of your gun, hand or arm will be discernable on the out-of-focus target and adjustments can be made accordingly without having to shift your focus again to the target.

The 6 o'clock hold is best for most target work, and should be adhered to when learning how to shoot. Holding at 6 o'clock, the black bullseye (which will appear grey when not in focus) should "sit" on top of the front sight in the sight picture, and although it appears grey while you are concentrating on alignment by focusing on the front sight, the whole shape of the bull is visible. Any movement on your part will make it look different, and you can adjust for it. If you held center bull, any slight movement away from the aiming point would be less noticeable because too much of the bull would already have been "covered" by the sights and gun muzzle.

Before you try shooting offhand, use an arm rest, insure the loaded gun is stationary, find perfect sight alignment, and squeeze off five shots. Although your magazine will hold 10 rounds, just load five.

Do this carefully, and you will observe a nickel-sized group or better from 25 yards. (If no human error were present, all shots would virtually touch). This exercise will convince you of the possibilities extent with a handgun. Also, it will be an easy matter to find your 25-yard zero. By moving the rear sight, you can move the impact point to the center of the X-ring.

You'll find the balance of your

match pistol to your liking, and while it may seem heavy for a .22, this weight will eventually prove to be an asset too. Pick up the gun with the non-shooting hand and place it firmly in the one you use to shoot with. Do this by "rolling" the stock into your palm. Get it in there comfortably, and maintain that grip every time you shoot. Be consistent. Your thumb should rest against the stock, and should be parallel to the barrel or raised slightly above or below the barrel plane. *Never* apply pressure to the gun with your thumb or any other finger. The gun is held securely by pressure applied from the inside of your hand.

Your trigger finger should not touch—or only barely touch—the trigger guard. The trigger is squeezed by bringing your finger straight back, applying pressure on the trigger alone, without squeezing the gun in any other way. Your three fingers below the trigger gun should be used for support only.

Stand on a slight angle to the target—25 to 45 degrees, not at right angles to it. Your feet should be apart, but not uncomfortably so. Perhaps a foot and a half will seem right. When you have found a comfortable stance, load your magazine, release the slide, slip your free hand into your pocket (to have less to think about) and *close your eyes*. With your eyes shut, bring the gun up to where you think the target should be. Then open them and if you find you are holding to either side of the target, *move your body* and feet without moving your arm until you are in the position to aim. Keep both eyes open, draw the target into perspective (sight picture) then shift focus to the front sight (keeping the bull "sitting" on the front blade). Once you are in position, getting your sight picture will take only a few seconds. Concentrate on alignment after that. Lock your wrist, or more exactly, when a correction needs to be made, do it by moving your gun, hand and arm as a unit. If major corrections need to be made, put the gun down, rest a few seconds then try it again. Unless you were grossly out of position, it won't be necessary. Once you have good sight alignment, squeeze back on the trigger in one smooth sweep, without applying extra pressure to the gun, until the shot breaks.

After the shot is made, allow your arm to "ride" with the slight recoil. Don't "fight" the tendency of the barrel to rise at the moment following ignition. In a split second the gun will virtually automatically come back to its original position before the shot.

Don't flinch. Wear ear protectors. And don't breathe when you're trying to shoot. Take a breath as you bring the gun up, let some air out and hold the rest.

Don't anticipate the time when you think the shot will go off. Ignition should be more like a "surprise", because once you start thinking about when it's about time for the shot to break, you'll have a tendency to "push" the shot off, that is, to actually push the gun slightly with the heel of your hand just before the shot. In that event the shot will be just as inaccurate as a "jerked" shot, or pulling the gun.

What you want to strive to do, then, is make your shot good by applying a constant squeeze on the trigger, trying all the while to keep the sight aligned, until the shot finally breaks. Then "follow through" with the shot. If at any time you seriously lose alignment (which will be often in the beginning) stop your squeeze and bring your gun arm down to the bench for a rest—then try again. *Concentration* is the whole key here. Think about aligning the front sight properly and eventually trigger squeeze and the rest will come automatically.

When holding for a shot, every shooter has a tendency to move his arm, wrist, gun combination. It usually occurs in an arc, or partial arc of a circle. This is called wobble. The less wobble area, the more accurate your shots will be. With practice, the wobble area can be reduced to such a slight arc that *if your sights are properly aligned*, you will only wobble in black—and hence hit black. But remember what happens when your sights aren't aligned—even if the error is slight.

Once you understand the principles of good shooting, and can apply them reasonably well, you'll be in a far better position to shoot *all* handguns more effectively. It's easier to shoot a handgun with two hands. It's even advisable under certain military, law enforcement and hunting situations. But when you know how to do it with one hand, you'll be a better two-handed shooter. When you know how accurate a .22 Rimfire match gun is, you'll become a fine judge of accuracy in virtually all handguns. When you can shoot a finely tuned target semi-auto pistol well, you'll be able to shoot revolvers better. In fact, once you learn how to shoot *properly* by concentrating on the small caliber, but accurate .22 match pistol first, your success with all caliber guns will improve immensely.

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THE SUPER-SAFE AUTOMATIC PISTOL

(Continued from page 33)

on the left side of the sear (muzzle pointed away from you, naturally). Slightly depress sear plunger at the same time to relieve pressure off of pin and push paper clip to right until pin is clear: allow plunger and spring to ease out of hole in sear.

The simple shim now comes into play to block sear movement and prevent any engagement with the hammer. Shim stock can be of any suitable thickness and material, as long as it is metal and not paper or plastic. I use mild steel stock .012" thick cut with scissors to 7/16" wide and approximately 1 1/4" length. The width is more important than either thickness or length because the shim must be wider than the sear and yet must fit into the groove width of the frame. Length must only be long enough to be held in place by the mainspring housing and not so long that the lower housing pin can not be replaced. Thickness is determined by the need to be inserted under the lower portion of the sear and between it and the frame proper, making the shim closer to magazine than the sear itself. Upon completion of the shim and proper placement, you may now re-install the mainspring and housing by reversing earlier instructions and replacing the insert pin.

So now what? The answer is quite simple, **nothing!** The change over is now complete and can be reversed at any time, at any place, in less than three minutes for a formal pistol match or the sighting in of different ammo, etc. Nothing has been altered or destroyed, unless of course you lose the three small parts, and in fact now your sear will not wear or round off any sharp edges because it is locked out of contact with anything. But what did I accomplish, you ask?

You now have the **safest** magazine-fed pistol existing today, with near perfect combat performance. The latter portion of course is entirely up to your skill and not limited by this system. All well and good you suppose but what did you lose and what did you gain by all of this?

Trying to cock the hammer manually now, you will be surprised to discover that this can no longer be accomplished; nor will the hammer remain to the rear upon slide operation. (Magazine must be lowered slightly to avoid engaging slide stop during this process). **Ah Ha!** Now

you say that since the hammer insists on following slide into position that this is going to empty a full magazine machine-gun style. Not so at all my friend, due to the good old inertia firing pin system present in this pistol. The hammer lacks sufficient leverage to impart **any** blow to rear of firing pin since, as you have seen, it merely follows the slide and is not retarded even momentarily by the sear (this piece was what you just locked out of operation by that shim). O.K. so far as law and safety allows, but all firing must now be accomplished by a complete pull on the trigger.

Here comes first bonus of the change: the trigger pull has been reduced and is much smoother than before; almost as if a master pistolsmith has just done a superb job on it to target trigger specifications. (Remember that stiff little sear spring and that sear dragging on the hammer?)

But aimed fire with a full trigger pull is not your cup of tea, you say! That was before, and this is now, you no longer have the same trigger pull as originally, and I for one have no trouble plinking tin cans easily at 40 feet plus using the two-hand hold Weaver stance.

The best bonus is the one originally sought after in combat style, or hip-shooting as it is often referred to. Of course, you should not shoot as the name implies but should use again the two-handed hold forward of upper abdomen as recommended. Here you will really shine and get the final payoff for your small efforts. For now, having to squeeze off all of your shots with same grip pressure matched against same trigger pull, your groups will start to come up smelling like roses. Gone forever is the old hop, skip and jump grip change between the first and second shots of the so called "double-action," which has never been consistent.

The first range test was conducted by myself and another person, both of us being well versed, in combat style PPC courses and somewhat better than average shots with a well tuned double-action revolver. We still did not expect anything at all like the results obtained. In fact, our tests were in quest of speed first, with control secondary and a tight grouping given of least consideration if at all. This test was not done with squib

loads or reloads but was in fact conducted with fresh factory full power ammo. My seven yard group was fired as fast as possible, and compared to my quickest time with normal .38 Spl. wadcutter with target loads used in a Model 27 Smith & Wesson revolver. Upon examination of the target, we found four of the five shots centered, with some 3" extreme spread of group. My first shot, under speed, going slightly lower and to the left. This occurs with me in combat because my first shot is fired before my left hand gets into proper position onto the gun. The other person then tried his hand with the pistol with equal results, same as to speed, ease of control and also four shots ranging in a 1" x 2" rectangle in center of the aiming point (his last shot a slight pull low and to right from over-correction or possibly a flinch from high speed involved).

Later performances have fared as well and still others that have tried this changeover have reported more than satisfactory results and no problems. A Secret Service agents was given a small quantity of shims and couldn't wait to get back to Washington to try the system out in some of

their pistols; we have not heard of results as of this writing. I would strongly recommend that large police agencies should try this on an individual, or department basis.

After all, you are not going to lose anything or alter any piece. Any other follow up suggestions would be to replace shim occasionally to avoid inertia shearing which might allow enough sear movement to partially catch hammer with subsequent multiple firing. This has **not** occurred at this time and is only mentioned as a reminder of a remote possibility. If you have an extra long firing pin that would be of consequence in conjunction with this system, you should have already caught it and had it corrected. For those of you who might be trying this out in a brand new gun, load the first magazine with **two** rounds; increasing capacity only if multiple firing does not occur. Any gunsmith can shorten the firing pin to proper length, if such is the case, or return it to the factory under warranty. As instructions are given to drop the hammer onto a live round by using the safety lever, a long firing pin would cause multiple firing the same as in other

models such as Walther P-38, PP and PPK-S. So any danger would lie in the weapon as originally designed or produced and is only coincidental with the change introduced into the pistol with this project.

Leaving the potential problems as only remote possibilities, we will sum up on the plus side all of the bonuses as outlined earlier; with a final footnote urging all of the double action revolver shooters to add the enjoyment of the first safe magazine loading pistol to their shooting schedule.



EDITOR'S NOTE

The author is a working gunsmith, and has successfully completed many of these conversions with no problems. However, the reader is advised that this conversion is not authorized by Smith & Wesson. We would suggest that this project be handled by, or in conference with, a qualified gunsmith. Neither the author nor the publisher are responsible for mishaps which might occur, since each individual pistol has characteristics which may affect this conversion.

THE 10 GAUGE OVER/UNDER SHOTGUN

(Continued from page 26)

At my request, the test gun was given a little more choke than Richland Arms usually puts in its 10 gauge barrels. Being of an experimental mind, I asked for and got .043 and .045 of an inch of constriction for the under and over barrels, respectively. These amounts of muzzle squeeze-down did not produce the hoped-for 80 percent or better patterns that, to my notion, are necessary to justify the use of a magnum 10 bore. Apparently the chokes are just a bit too tight.

At any rate, the barrels did meet the universal standard of 70 percent for full choke and will probably do appreciably better if the chokes are opened up a few thousandths. As the table summarizing the pattern tests will show, the over barrel with its slightly tighter muzzle did a bit better job of handling No. 4 shot than it did No. 2, while just the opposite was true for the under barrel.

Although the results are not shown, the M-810 was patterned with several other loads containing 2's and 4's, both factory and handloaded ammo, but these were roll-crimp loads and

the results were not nearly as good as with fold-crimp shells. With the roll crimp, the overshot card obviously had a disrupting influence on the shot charge as it emerged from the muzzle, and many of these patterns were badly scattered—usually about three out of five. Handloaders should keep this well in mind when looking to the care and feeding of any 10 gauge Magnum. After all, the one and only reason for lugging one around is for the tackling of tough, high pass shooting, and for this brand of gunning top-drawer load performance is a must.

After pouring 150 stout handloads through the Richland O/U I am very, very certain of one thing—this gun is appreciably easier on the shooter's shoulder than a side-by-side gun of the same gauge and weight. The reason, of course, is the barrel/stock axis relationship. When in recoil, the gun travels rearward in a more straight line, lacking the disturbing side whip produced by side-by-side tubes. And particularly when touching off the under barrel, the in-line stock rela-

tionship does a great deal to suppress muzzle climb. This speeds shooter recovery for getting off a fast, well-placed second shot.

You expect a 10 gauge Magnum to be heavy, and it has to be heavy to gentle down those 3½ inch full-house loads. Yet when I first handled the M-810, it didn't feel at all like nearly 11½ pounds of wood and steel.

But the distribution of weight has much to say in regard to how well any gun will handle in the field, and despite its heft the M-810 merits a high mark in this respect. The point of balance is reached about one inch forward of the hinge pin, making the M-810 just a wee bit muzzle heavy. This is actually to advantage for a pass gun, because there is less tendency to stop the swing and shoot behind.

Contrary to what some smallbore aficionados would have you believe, the Big Ten's are not so terribly slow to get into action. As I followed a fenceline one afternoon, on the way out to the goose pits in Ed Weismantel's cornfield, a cock pheasant cackled up about ten paces ahead. Since I had geese on the brain that day, not China birds, my mental reaction was a mite slow, yet I managed to clobber that cock bird before he passed the 30 yard mark. It would have been much better had I let him open the distance by another 20 yards, as the 2½ ounce charge of 2's didn't leave much.



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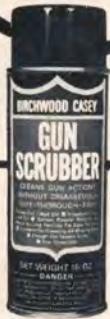


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Later that same day came additional proof of the handling qualities of the M-810. Surrounded by a couple dozen snow-geese decoys, Paul North and I were crouched in a pair of temporary pits that had been dug in the harvested corn. Not only were the pits very shallow, they were also so confining that one had to fold himself jackknife fashion to gain even partial concealment. I wondered whether I'd be able to get myself straightened out and that big gun mounted and swinging before the birds flared off to safe yardage.

About an hour later, I was no longer speculating. The scattering of snows and blues that left the nearby Sand Lake Refuge and drifted in our direction were anything but anti-social. The first bunch numbered four. They swung past on my side at 20 gauge range and I pulled off a neat one-two double before they got out of 20 gauge range. Paul clobbered the surviving pair of geese when they turned and came back across the decoys.

And then, not more than ten minutes later, a flock of seven coasted through for a closer look at the dekes and again we tagged four. It's not easy to dredge up criticism of a gun's handling and pointing qualities when you've got two successive doubles under your belt, especially when shooting under difficult circumstances.

The M-810 wears a fore-end that is both good looking and highly functional. The bottom is slightly rounded with a width of 2¼ inches. Depth runs right at two inches, with the upper half "swamped" in to provide sure and comfortable gripping for the thumb and fingers. Length is 10½ inches for the wood, and the release is a Deeley-type finger latch.

My test gun is stocked with walnut of "medium" color which is only lightly figured. The buttstock is of full proportions with a nicely rounded, wide comb, and a recoil pad having a generous butt area measuring 1¾ by 5½ inches. I stand six feet tall and have long arms and rather square-set shoulders, so I found the stock dimensions (see specifications) right up my alley.

The stock is decked out with a very smooth finish of the egg-shell-luster type and this should please those with conservative tastes. The pistol grip is left uncapped. Checkering on both the buttstock and the fore-end runs 20 lines per inch with the points of the diamonds rounded off. Although not flawlessly executed, the checkering is quite good; and, after all, this is a workaday gun, not a museum piece.

The fitting of wood to metal is excellent, except at the sides of the

fore-end hardware where a mild case of "gaposis" is evident. However, this is something that a flock of decoying Canadas will not pay the slightest attention to. To be sure, it's something that could stand improvement, but it really doesn't matter that much.

All exterior metal wears a blued finish, with evidence of a good polish job prior to bluing. The ornamentation, however, is very Spartan. The engraving amounts do nothing more than simple line work on the screw heads and bordering the frame and the top tang. But again, the M-810 isn't intended to be a showpiece item.

That last remark should not be misinterpreted, because this Richland Arms stack-barrel is certainly no ugly duckling. It shows very good craftsmanship and it does have a lot of class. But first and foremost, it is a gun intended for a specialized phase of waterfowling, and in this writer's opinion it promises to be eminently well suited to the role.

Ever since the Magnum 12 load was boosted to 1⅞ ounces of shot, there hasn't been much more than a modicum of interest in the Magnum 10; and Richland's new offering in this largest legal bore size probably won't alter the picture to an appreciable degree. But as pointed out earlier in this report, there are a lot of fence sitters — dedicated waterfowlers who do not feel at home with a side-by-side gun and who regard the single-shot as imposing too great a handicap. In this respect, Richland's M-810 fills a niche that had been empty for going on 40 years.

SPECIFICATIONS

Richland Arms M-810 O/U Shotgun
Action Type: Superposed, hammerless, top-break, box-lock double with Kersten-type cross bolt and non-ejecting extractor

Gauge & Chambers: 10; 3½"

Barrels & Chokes: 31⅝"; full and full

Trigger: Double (front/under bbl.; rear/over bbl.)

Safety: Thumb-slide on upper tang, non-automatic

Sights: .115" metal bead on ventilated rib

Weight: 11 pounds, 6 ounces (empty)

Overall Length: 48⅞"

Buttstock & Fore-End: Select European walnut; fluted comb; pistol grip; extra full for-end; hand-cut checkering; rubber recoil pad

Stock Dimensions (Test Gun): Length of pull from front trigger 14⅝", from rear trigger 13⅝"; drop at comb 1½"; drop at heel 2⅝"; downpitch 1"; cast-off at heel ⅜"

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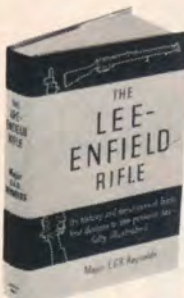


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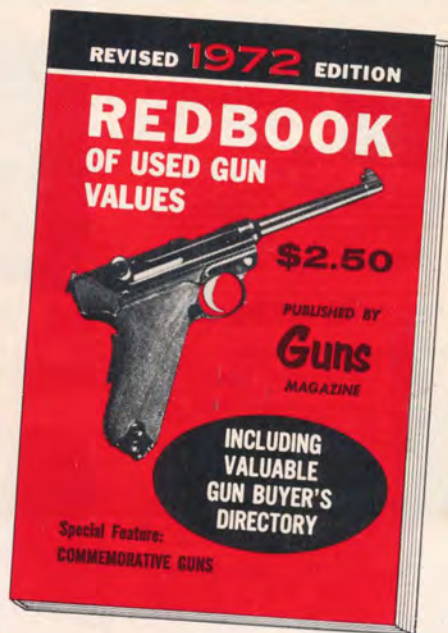
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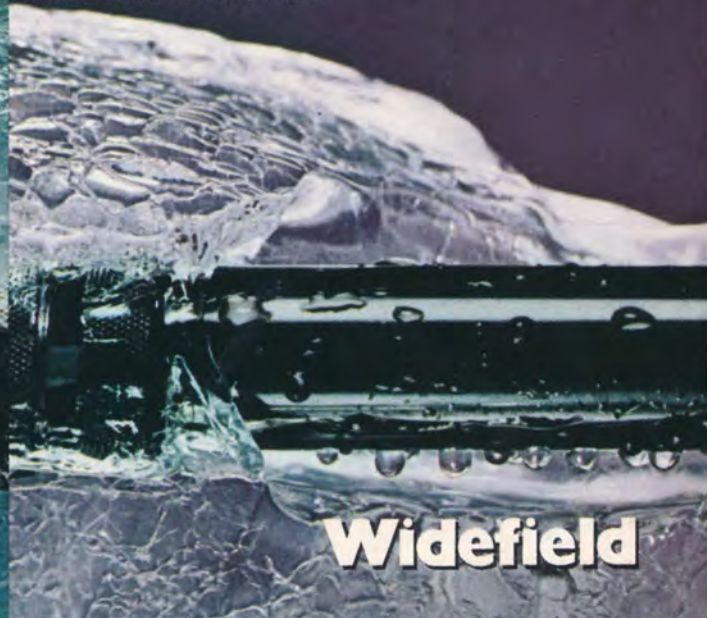
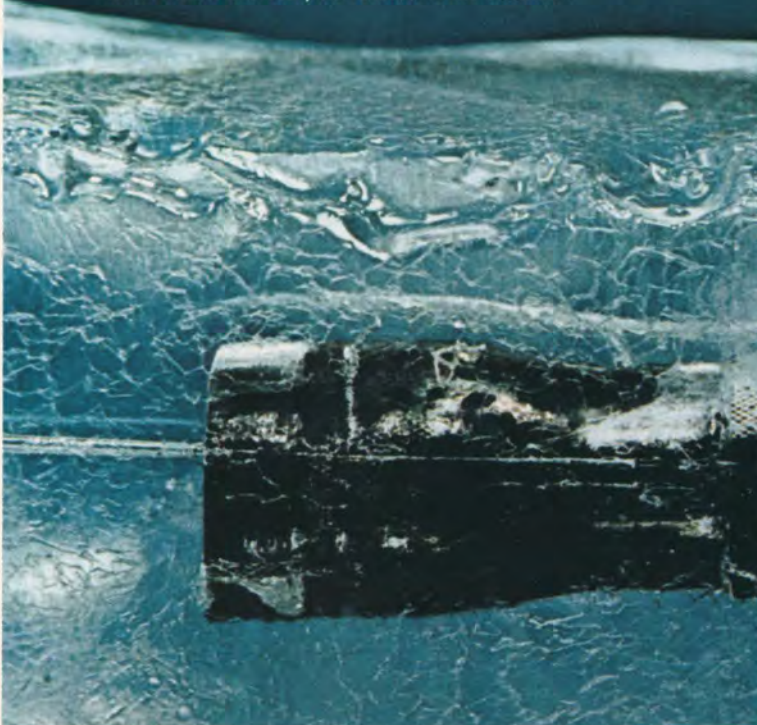
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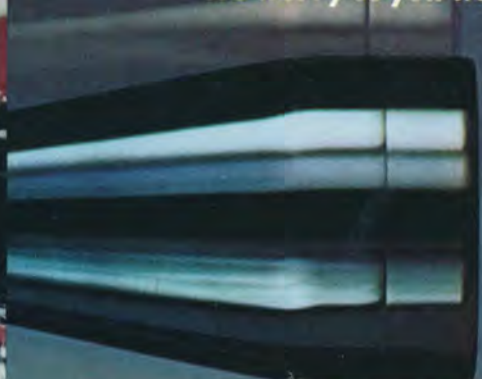
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