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Guns

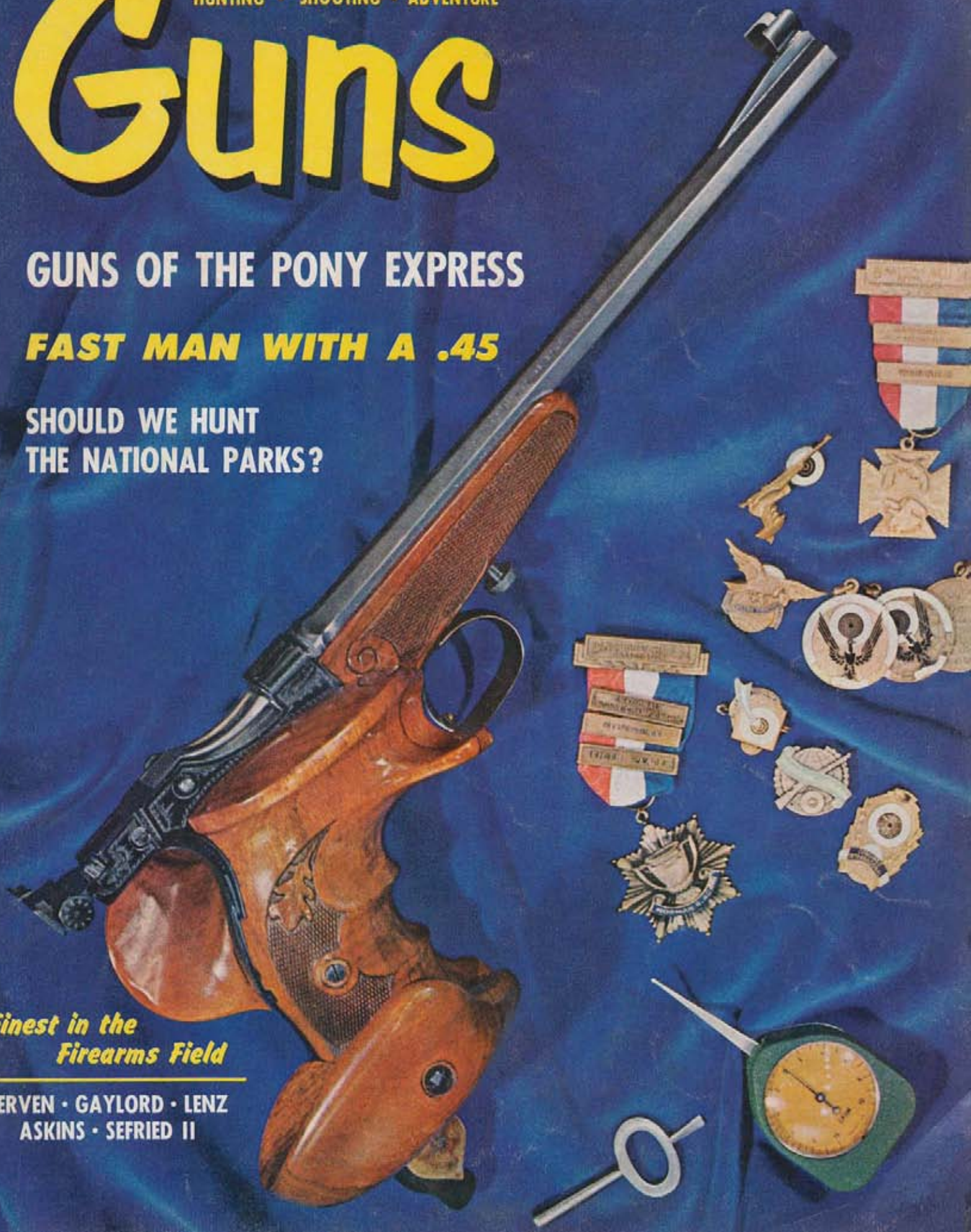
GUNS OF THE PONY EXPRESS

FAST MAN WITH A .45

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"Used Ruger .44 Magnum Carbine"

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NYCGP NYCGO IDLGI
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FRANK DELANO/RETURNING TWA TODAY AFTER 25 DAY SAFARI IN GABON/ COMMISSIONED BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM TO COLLECT RARE LOWLAND GORILLA/HE CLAIMS IT WAS HIS TOUGHEST HUNT/ AFTER WEEK TRACKING SUCCEEDED IN KILLING 450-500 LB. LONE GORILLA ESTIMATED 50-80 YRS. OLD. DELANO IS ONLY AMERICAN TO HAVE KILLED THIS TYPE ANIMAL. GORILLA VERY DANGEROUS AND INTELLIGENT/ FAST AS LEOPARD/STRONG AS 14 MEN/ WITH TERRIFYING CRY. TRAVELLED IN CANOE TO GORILLA COUNTRY WITH EXCELLENT TRACKERS. STALKED ANIMAL IN SWAMPS AND RAIN FOREST UP TO CHEST/ USED RUGER .44 MAGNUM CARBINE/ HIS TROPHIES EXHIBITED IN PEABODY MUSEUM/ YALE UNIVERSITY. SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. CHILDRENS MUSEUM S.C. AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM.



FRANK DELANO AND HIS GREAT TROPHY

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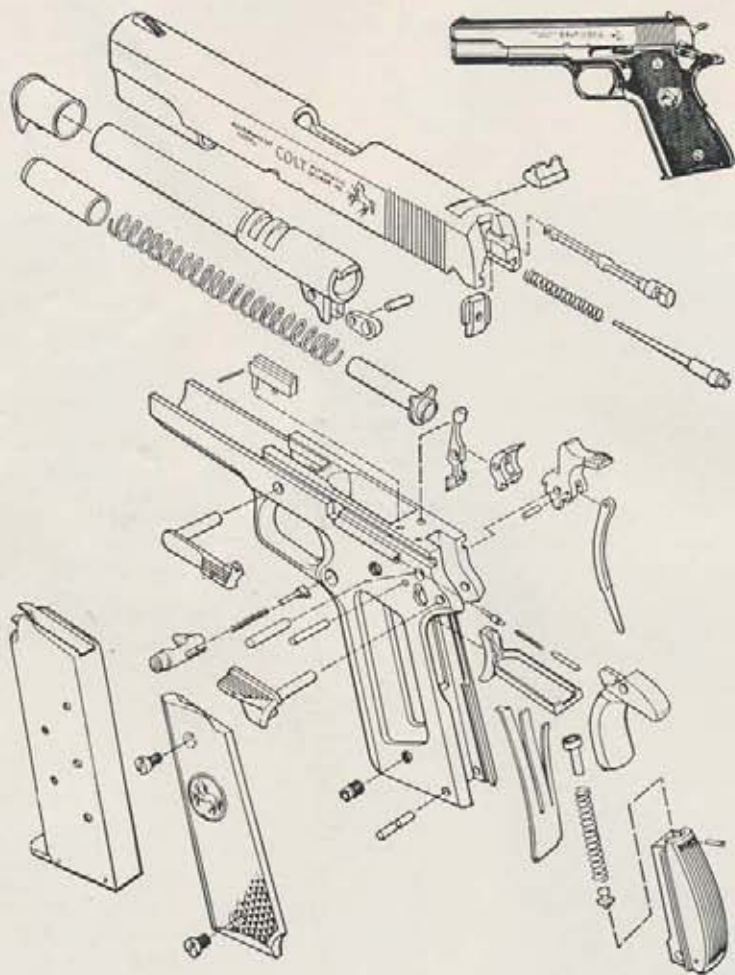
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AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE COLT GOVERNMENT .45

By **SHELLY BRAVERMAN**



IN MARCH, 1911, after firing 6,000 rounds without a single malfunction, this pistol was officially adopted by the U.S. Armed Forces. It is still "issue," having been modified in 1921 with an arched main-spring housing, a shorter trigger, relief cuts for the trigger finger, a longer horn on the grip safety, and a slightly shorter hammer spur. More than 4,000,000 have been made and distributed throughout the world. Makers, in addition to Colt, have been Remington, Winchester, A. J. Savage Munitions, Savage Arms, North American Arms (Canada), Caron Brothers (Canada), Ithaca, Remington-Rand, and Union Switch & Signal.

Although the .45 ACP cartridge is superbly accurate, the gun requires considerable practice for mastery. Custom grips help; the .22-45 Conversion Unit is also helpful, using the .22

Conversion for practice.

The short-recoil locked-breech design is unique and probably the most imitated in its field, notably by the Russian Tokarev, the French M/1935, and the Polish Radom.

TAKE-DOWN: Unload and remove magazine. Depress plug and turn barrel bushing to right and withdraw. (Plug is under tension, so exercise care.) Move slide rearward to position its small cut over rear end of slide stop, which may be removed by pressing its projection from the right side of the gun. Slide and barrel can then be removed to the front. Assemble in reverse order. No screws are included in the action; all parts may be dismounted with the stocks in place.

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Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

JULY, 1963

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Ass't to the Publisher



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THE COVER

Handsome as a precious jewel on royal velvet, this Anschutz Record Match Model 210A .22 caliber Free Pistol shares the spotlight with the medals it won, in the hand of owner Charles Logie, Spring Lake, Michigan, in 1949 World Championship and 1956 South American Olympics. Picture is by Bob Johnson of Grand Rapids, Michigan, taken with Schneider Graphic View camera, 210 mm lens, 1/5 second at f.32, on Type B Ektachrome, using incandescent lights.

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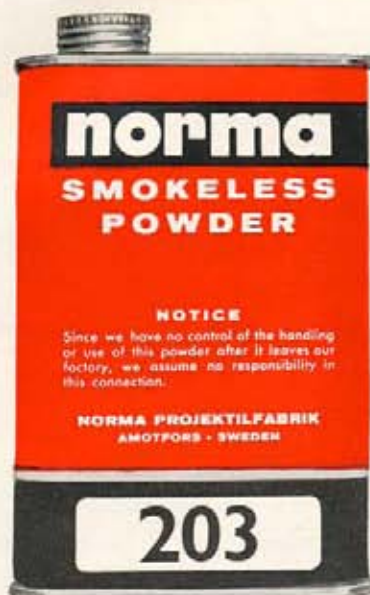


EDITORIAL OFFICES: E. B. Mann, R. A. Steindler, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill., ORchard 5-5402.
Kent Bellah, St. Jo, Texas.

REPRESENTATIVES: NEW YORK, Eugene L. Pollock, 210 East 53rd St., New York 22, N. Y., PLaza 3-1780. WESTERN, Michael R. Simon, 434 S. San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles 48, Calif., OL 2-2100; and Don Ferruti, 260 Kearny St., San Francisco 8, Calif., EX 2-4940.

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QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE

THIS COLUMN will be a monthly feature, to answer readers' questions about guns and shooting, including identification and an educated-guess evaluation of older arms. Questions should concern individual guns; we will not attempt to evaluate dealer stocks.

Letters should contain measured specifications, all markings, and a photograph or drawing where identification is requested.

Questions must be accompanied by one dollar unless you are a member of The Shooters Club of America. If you are a member, write your membership number on the question and it will be answered free. Member or not, if you want a personal answer, enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Unless you specifically request that your question not be published, we will assume that publication is permissible, and a number of questions and answers will be printed.

Parts and Plating

I have a Sharps pepperbox of .22 cal. and it is a brass framed gun with rotating firing pin, but I have no firing pin. Where can I get one? I also have a Remington over and under double derringer serial #72. It is a nickel-plated gun. Would it hurt its value to have it replated?

Bill Forrester
Mena, Ark.

Your best bet to restore your Sharps pistol is to find another Sharps that is complete, borrow it—or the part—and have a competent gunsmith make you one. This sounds like a lot of trouble, but I feel that if you wait for an original part you'll wait a long, long time.

Yes, it would lower the value of the piece if you had it refinished.—*GB*

One Marlin, One Colt

I would appreciate it very much if you can give me some idea of the value of the following guns:

Like new 1893 Model Marlin .38-55 Cal. crotch walnut stock and fore end beautifully checkered. Gun is heavily engraved, dog chasing buck elk into pond on one side, standing elk on other side.

Pat. Sept. 10, 1850, Colt 36 Cal. 4 1/2" round barrel half fluted cylinder, Serial #2379 silver trigger guard and back strap, letter L stamped on left side of frame, all matching numbers. Perfect working condition. Very little blue remains.

George Marshall
Fredericksburg, Va.

Such a Marlin 1893 as you describe should be worth better than \$200 if in "like new" condition. The collecting of Marlin arms has taken an up-swing in recent years.

Your Colt revolver is the "Police Pistol" of 1862 and, from what you say, it is in fairly good condition. It would probably retail at about \$150.—*GB*

The Greener

It seems to me that, lately, when I read the gun and sporting magazines, and even some of the paperback western stories, they all mention the "Greener," shotgun. Was it a special type shotgun, or what? Please send information in regards to this.

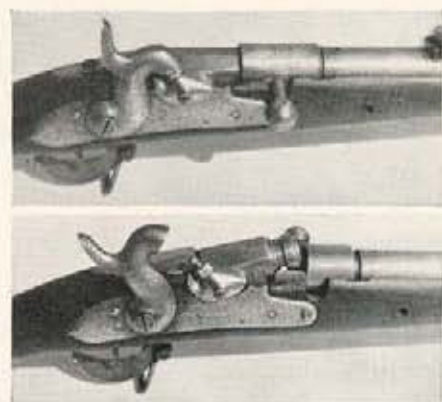
Al Leffner
Chicago, Illinois

The "Greener" was nothing more than an ordinary shotgun that was well made and not too expensive. They were popular in our western expansion during the latter half of the 19th Century. They were made in England.

Writers have used the term "Greener" to mean simply "shotgun" much as "Colt" stands for revolver and "Winchester" for a saddle carbine or rifle. Certainly the popularity of the Greener was established.—*GB*

The Lindner Conversion

Recently a rifle was left to me by an old friend of the family, whose father used it in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. The rifle was then brought out from Germany to Australia in the latter part of the 19th Century.



The rifle in question has stamped on the top of the breech block, "Edward Lindner 1859." The barrel is 38 1/2" from the muzzle to the beginning of the continuous thread on the barrel part of the breech. On the side of the breech block are stamped the letters L & Z 22, and on the under side appear two proof marks.

The two pictures enclosed show the action closed. With the hammer at rest, and with the breech block up, ready to receive a charge, with the hammer at half cock.

The action is made ready to fire by pushing the bolt 180° to the right, which drives the breech block hard up onto the back of the barrel. The inside of the rifled bore measures 19 mm across. A two-foot bayonet is also attachable to the end of the barrel. All the brass work has 66 in small letters stamped on it, and the barrel and the bayonet are marked with the number 159.

I am hoping you might be able to assist me to know more of this weapon's background, and if today is it worth anything.

George Wilson
Brisbane, Australia

Your rifle is an unusual example of a foreign percussion rifle that employs the conversion of Edward Lindner. This conversion system was patented here in the U. S. by Edward Linder on March 29th, 1859.

Lindner was an American, and he received credit for his invention. The U. S. Govt. purchased 892 Lindner carbines for \$19,895.00, and 100,000 Lindner cartridges for \$2,262.00, during the Civil War.

The system used a combustible envelope cartridge, or could be used with loose components.

Certainly it is a collectable item, but I would not know what value to place upon it. American Lindners are well received and of good value.—GB

Unusual Burnside

In your July issue (1962) you have an article entitled "Shoot That Burnside", by Daniel K. Stern. The article is very interesting to me, especially since I have a Burnside in excellent condition and get a kick out of shooting with it.

I do have a question, however. The article states that a Burnside has a 21 inch barrel and an overall length of 39 inches. Mine measures 25½" (barrel) and 44½" over all. I have checked with gun collectors and various books, but no information is available as to just what type, (model?) of gun I have.

Roy Vanek
Hopkins, Minn.

The usual Burnside carbine has a barrel of 21 inches as stated in the article. Your piece is obviously something other than the common arm.

Since I am collecting data on A. E. Burnside and his firearms I would appreciate a complete description and photographs of the piece. Possibly it is an important and unrecognized variation.

It could be one of the sporting versions that were made by the Bristol R.I. Works, or it may be an altered version of the commoner and later arm as made by Burnside Rifle Co. of Providence, R. I.—GB

Garand Problem

I am a relatively young reader and am very interested in U. S. military rifles. However, my financial status at the moment isn't up to the job. I was wondering, therefore, if it is possible to purchase an M1 Garand for under \$70 or \$80. All the advertisements I've seen for an M1 have been in NRA excellent or very good condition. I would like to know what happened to all the M1's with cracked stocks and pitted barrels and such. It seems you should be able to buy Garands in poor condition as well as excellent.

Wayne R. Cardy
Westerfield N. Y.

One reason that you cannot find an M1 rifle in poor condition for less money, is that our government usually operates on the policy that only arms in good condition are released for sale. Arms with cracked stocks and/or pitted barrels are either repaired with new parts or reduced to scrap.

Sometimes dealers have available some parts bought as scrap metal, and sometimes complete arms can be assembled—but this would be unusual these days.—GB

Military vs. Sporting Ammo.

Would you be so kind as to confirm the following:

A) That the .303 British caliber military cartridges are now obsolete and are being replaced by the 7.62 N.A.T.O. cartridges.

B) That hard point, military ammunition is not recommended and, in many States as well as Provinces, prohibited for hunting purposes.

C) That hard point, military ammunition is only recommended for sighting in rifles and for target practice.

We have a revaluation problem with Customs on this surplus, military ammunition. It is apparently being confused with soft-point ammo which, of course, is currently manufactured and demands a higher price.

A. Rudd
International Firearms Co., Ltd.
Montreal, Canada

Full patched military bullets are definitely not recommended and usually are strictly outlawed for hunting purposes.

Military full-mantled ammunition is only recommended for target work, and at that is not the best, as its point of impact is often quite apart from the same round with a soft point hunting load.

The above is so obvious because of the danger factor and because of wounded game loss with military ammo that I'm surprised you have encountered any problems with the customs people.—GB

Tower Musket

Recently I was given a muzzle loader which was made by a Townes. I have asked many people and can't find any information on it. If you could help me it would be greatly appreciated.

The gun has a stamp of 1862 and a crown on the plate, with the No. 25 on the barrel. There is faint engraving on the hammer and plate.

In June of 1962 it was recovered off Fort Fisher, N. C., from the Confederate blockade runner "Modern Greece" which was sunk in 1862.

This is all I can find out. I would like to know if Townes was (and is) a noted gunsmith, how many of these guns were produced, and the approximate value. (The gun is completely fused by rust.)

Don Eads
Jacksonville, N. C.

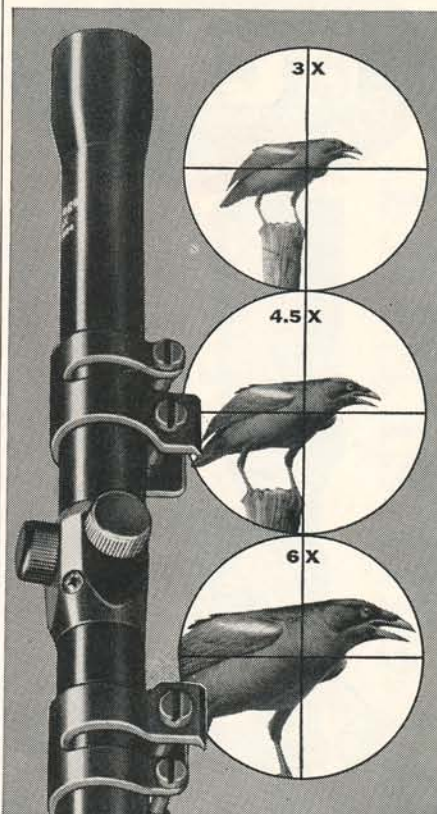
The percussion rifled musket that you have is an example of the English "Tower" military rifle. These were made in great numbers and purchased and used by both the North and South during the Civil War. "Tower" is not the name of a gunsmith but rather the marking of the British Royal Armory, the Tower of London.

In such a rusted condition, the piece has very nominal value. A good condition Tower is worth about \$60 these days.—GB

Carcano Alteration

I have a 6.5 mm Italian Carcano carbine, and I am determined to shoot it. I would like to have it altered to a good varmint-deer. (Continued on page 63)

z o o m !



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GUN RACK



Savage News

At the NSGA show in January, Savage Arms Company introduced their new line of scopes and rifles. Since then, we have put two of the rifles and three new scopes through their paces.

The rifles are .22 rim-fires: the Model 6 DeLuxe a tubular-magazine, semi-automatic carbine that fires .22 RF ammo interchangeably; the Model 63 a single-shot, bolt-action rifle. The Model 6 weighs about 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., can be fired as either a bolt-action, as a semi-auto, or as a single-shot rifle. The Model 63 has a Mannlicher-type stock and is also available in the popular .22 RFM.



Both rifles have a surprising degree of accuracy. The Model 6 produced a ten-shot string at 50 yards that we covered with a dime, and the Model 63 produced a group that measured just 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A word of caution about the Model 6: If you take the gun down, re-assembly is relatively simple if you are lucky; but the bolt assembly depends on the detent, and it might take you some time before everything lines up internally so that the bolt closes properly. Once you have mastered the trick, there is nothing to stripping and reassembling.

The Model 6 was fired for a total of 100 rounds, and functioned perfectly, even when the gun was held upside down and side-ways. The Model 63 is, in our opinion, a fine train-

ing gun for youngster, since the safety is automatic and must be released before the trigger can be pulled. The Model 6 was equipped with the new Savage Model 3615 3X-6X Variable scope; the Model 63 was topped with Savage's 4X Model 0415 scope. Both scopes give a fair degree of optical performance, but the most interesting feature is the price. The Variable scope retails for only \$16.75, the 4X scope for \$9.75. The scopes are made in Japan and come fully equipped with slide-on mounts.

The Variable scope was first tested at 50 feet with the magnification set at 3X. Without changing the gun position, the magnification was then turned to 6X, and this resulted in a group that printed 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher than the group fired with the 3X setting. Although this might be a minor point, it should be noted that in changing

the magnification on the Variable, the cross hairs on our test scope did move to the upper right quadrant of the field of view. This is a minor criticism, and we feel that Savage has broken the ice with this inexpensive Variable scope for the popular .22 rifles.

We are now testing the new Savage 4X hunting scope and their new Model 110 Magnum rifle. This bolt-action gun is now chambered for the 7 mm. Rem. Mag., the .264 Win. Mag., the brand-new .300 Win. Mag., and the .338 Win. Mag. The scope, also made in Japan, has fine optical properties, does not fog after the deep freeze test, and has withstood the drop and recoil tests.

Savage has now entered the reloading tool field and demonstrated a shotshell loader and an "A" frame tool for metallics at the NRA show. We shall report on the rifle and the tools in the near future.

Also new from Savage is the Four-Tenner, a neat little device that allows you to use your 12 ga. single barrel top-break or double barrel shotgun for the .410 shells. Just slip the Four-Tenner tubes into the barrels, insert a couple of shells and you'll have a ball. We used our Fox B-ST field gun to give the Four-Tenner tubes a good workout. Not having shot skeet with the sub-gauge, we missed the first five or six birds, but since the swing of the gun was so familiar, it was no chore to get set and start busting birds with the .410 shells. Selling for only \$7.50 per tube, the Four-Tenner will make your 12 ga. a more versatile gun, on trap and skeet fields, and in the field.

Bushnell Booster

If you have only \$15 and want to boost the power on your ScopeChief rifle scope, get this novel Booster scope. D. P. Bushnell, Dept. G, Bushnell Bldg., Pasadena, Cal., will shortly have adapter rings for Weaver and other popular scopes so that you can use the booster on most any scope. To attach the Booster scope, remove the protective ring from the objective barrel of your ScopeChief, insert the adapter ring furnished with the Booster, screw in the Booster, and presto your 4X scope has a 10X magnification. A 3X power scope with the Booster gives you 7.5X, and a 2.5X doubles as 6.25X. The Booster weighs only 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and is not quite 3 inches long. Magnification of the Booster is 2.5X, and attaching the Booster to your rifle scope does not disturb parallax or focus setting of your scope.

Our ScopeChief is mounted on a Winchester .264 Magnum rifle. We settled down with a box of ammo at the 100 yard bench, fired three shots for the record, then attached the Booster scope, and took a look. The

(Continued on page 66)

This is the revolutionary new Remington XP-100. It shoots faster, flatter, farther and tighter than any handgun in history!



GUN SHOWN $\frac{3}{8}$ ACTUAL SIZE

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CROSSFIRE

Good for the Maoris!

In New Zealand it has taken a darn long time to convert the locals from S.M.L.E. ex-military .303 rifles, to the far superior sporting rifles today offers. Yet, as we slowly pick up these new high velocity, high energy firearms, you Americans put yours down, and pick up bows and arrows, and muzzle loaders! Soon you will be using spears, and maybe even rock throwing will account for some venison on somebody's table.

I do not criticize bow hunting, or the use of black powder arms; it is just funny to see how half the world strives to go as far forward as it can, while the other half tries equally as hard to go in the other direction.

Keep this magazine going at all costs! Even the Maoris are reading it now.

G. J. Morresey
Stratford, New Zealand

Discrepancy

As usual, your current issue is full of interesting stories. However, if your otherwise accurate story titled "His Guns Helped Tame Hell's Half Acre" (April, 1963), I find a slight discrepancy. It is stated in the story that the Martin gang was armed with Krag-Jorgensen rifles; yet the photograph of the guns taken from the Martins shows Winchester Model 1895s.

Even today, it is common to find old timers who refer to their M-95 Winchester .30-40s as "Krag." This is because the 95 was very popular in the .30-40 Krag (Government) chambering.

I always enjoy GUNS; it ranks with my favorite periodicals.

Niles S. Vaughn
Tucson, Arizona

Old Subscribers Welcome, Too

In February, I renewed my subscription to GUNS for two years. This month, I received your invitation to join The Shooters Club of America. I would like to join, but don't want to pay \$7.50 and thereby double my magazine subscription. What can I do?

Steve Harris
Washington, D. C.

Anyone who subscribed to GUNS during January or February of 1963, or anyone whose current subscription extends beyond December 1963, may become a member of The Shooters Club of America by sending us an additional \$1.50. He will then receive his Shooters Club membership card and all of the perquisites that go with membership.

The Colt New Service

That was a fine article on the Colt New Service in the February issue. (For Men only: The Colt New Service, by Ray Bearse.)

The New Service is, in my opinion, the toughest revolver ever made.

They were manufactured in many calibers. I have three New Service revolvers that money won't buy. It's a shame that Colt's don't make them any more.

Henry D. Reib
Los Angeles, Calif.

I enjoyed the Colt's New Service article, but you seem to have forgotten the Model 1901 Colt .38. I wonder if I have a rare gun, or if this model was just overlooked in the article.

My gun has the following markings: on bottom of butt, "U. S. Army Model 1901, No. 100,398." On either side of this number, the letters "RAC" are stamped in the plain walnut grips. On the cylinder, "RAC 139 PC." Just above the grip on left side of receiver, "RAC" is stamped again. On cylinder re-

B

lease, "K0398." On receiver, "0398." On cylinder

9

under side of barrel, "K0398." On under side of barrel, the first decimal is hard to read but the last four figures are "0471." Along left side of barrel, "Colt D. A. .38." On top of barrel, "Colt's Pt F A Mfg Co Hartford Ct USA. Patented Aug. 5, 1884, Nov. 6, 88, Mar. 5, 95."

The barrel is six inches long, gun weighs approximately 40 ounces. Cylinder rotates counter-clockwise. Gun is in good condition and fairly tight.

I would appreciate any information available regarding this gun.

Benj. A. Garner, Jr.
Box 166
Leonardtown, Md.

Shooters Club of America

I am already a GUNS subscriber, but when I received your invitation to become a member of The Shooters Club of America, with the stipulation that my new subscription will be added to my old one, I arrived at a speedy conclusion—to join this outfit!

Primarily, I am a sixgun enthusiast, having had for a father the late Eugene Manlove Rhodes, pioneer cowboy in New Mexico and the historical novelist of the cattle kingdom. I was born in Tularosa, N. M., when New Mexico was a Territory and it was still a wild country.

Alan Rhodes
Vestal, New York

We welcome the son of one of the West's favorite sons, who knew the land and its people, and wrote of them with such sincerity and skill that his name stands well above the rest in the list of western writers.—E.B.M.

Thank you for the invitation to become a charter member of The Shooters Club of

America. I am also a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, and I believe in getting together and fighting for a just cause. I sent you, on the back of my membership application, the name of another person who believes as we do in the right to own and use firearms.

Leonard J. Forsythe Jr.

I am much interested in any organization which will uphold our American rights. Here is my membership application. May I buy two extra decals (three in all), so that I can put one on my car, one on my truck, and one on my shooting box? Am also sending you the name of my nephew with whom I do all of my shooting and reloading. I'm sure he will be interested in joining this organization also.

George P. Sanford
Los Angeles, Calif.

I think your Shooters Club of America is something we have long needed, to help inform the average shooter and gun owner of the danger that threatens our cherished right of firearms ownership. I know from my own acquaintances that the average hunter is not aware of the danger of losing the privileges that make his sport possible. He simply does not know about the threats of bad legislation, sponsored by do-gooders and uninformed lawmakers.

I am a member of several clubs and am a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, but I think your Club is another force for our cause. Here is my membership.

Harry B. Walker
Wilmington, Delaware

I am a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, but I am very glad to see this Club started, to help the NRA in its long fight for guns and shooting. Here is my membership and my best wishes for your success.

James A. Manning

Your Shooters Club of America sounds good. While my main work is that of research consultant in science, (ACS, SAE, ASM, etc.) I am also a Life Member of NRA and have a federal dealers license. This anti-gun attitude is, I believe, one of the very few things which makes me more than angry. Perhaps disgusted would be the word. *We are not working for our elected officials, they are working for and paid by us.* My own tax record in every division has increased unbelievably. Why I should help pay the salary of some ignorant (re guns) official, then have him try and tell me what I should do, and why guns are dangerous, is hard to take.

A single action frontier .38-40 is my own working gun; A S & W .44 Magnum hand-loaded up a bit is my hunting gun, and A S & W K .22 masterpiece is my utility gun, using HP LR shells.

George Andrew Rives
Mayfield, Mich.

The Sacco-Vanzetti Case

Just a note of thanks and appreciation for your very fine article (May, 1963) "Were Sacco and Vanzetti Framed?" It asked some very pertinent questions that should have been asked long ago, and for this you are to be commended.

I have long been aware of this case, and

have read what I could find in print about it. As I recall it, the courts pretty much ignored the ballistic evidence, but were more impressed by the contention that Sacco and Vanzetti were draft-dodgers!

I had read Russell's story in "American Heritage," and when you referred to his story, I reread it more closely. I had not realized that the cartridge cases were not picked up by the law at the time of the hold-up. According to my interpretation of evidence, this would throw them out as evidence. Other statements do not stand close examination, either—such as the experts' statement that oiled sawdust leaves distinct marks on bullets.

How often, and with what impression on a jury, does an "expert" testify his opinion as fact! I feel that this is a clear and ever-present danger in court. Since experts differ, an attorney can shop for experts until he finds the answer he wants!

Many thanks for a most enlightening article.

Floyd R. Cox
Arlinton, Texas

Address Wanted

Your article by Louis William Steinwedel (*The Classic Guns of Europe, April, 1963*) was of great interest to me. I would like very much to have the address of the Eusebio Arizaga firm. Can you furnish it?

H. G. Moore
Ingleside, Ill.

Having received several letters similar to the above, we publish the following from Mr. Steinwedel: "Arizaga guns are almost all custom made to individual specifications. Their address is: Eusebio Arizaga, Export Division (Laureano Villar), P. O. Box 186, 30 Fuenterrabia Street, San Sebastian, Spain."

Fast Draw In Scotland

Copies of GUNS over here in Scotland are hard to come by, or I just haven't looked in the right places, so I decided that I had better subscribe, so that I can keep up on the latest in the firearms field. Enclosed is my remittance.

I buy GUNS about every month and read them from cover to cover. I think you have a great magazine, as it covers about everything worth mentioning in the firearms field. I would like to see more articles on fast draw and fast draw clubs, as I am an avid fan.

Before I left home to come overseas on two years of active duty in the Navy, I had been collecting guns for about two years and have started a collection of Winchester Saddle Ring Carabines. I have two of them at home; one is a Model 1892 .44-40, and the other is a Model 1873 .38-40. I also have a Model 1892 Spanish Tigre .44-40 saddle ring carbine. I am going to add an 1894 .30-30 Winchester saddle ring carbine, and as many other Winchester carbines as I can afford of different calibers and models.

I also want to begin a collection of military carbines, both American and foreign, and I wonder if any of your readers have a collection or have started a collection of either type. I would like to find out what luck they have had in obtaining their guns.

You have a wonderful magazine. Keep up the good work.

Gary C. Burton
USS Hunley

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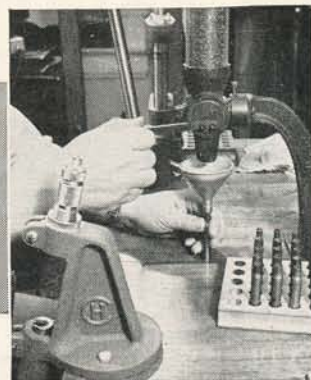
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By KENT BELLAH

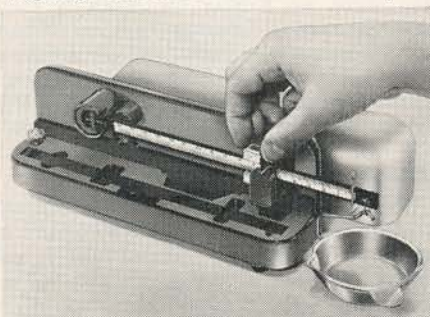


Scales: Use and Misuse

Scales left set-up in the open accumulate dust and dirt, resulting in false readings. Those with integral oil dampers are the worst offenders; oil seeps all over the scale and catches dirt. All 8 Webster models have removable glass jars of oil to eliminate this trouble. After use, remove the beam assembly, wipe the oil paddle dry, and cap the oil bottle. Keep scales covered or stored in a box.

I've seen scales that were left out, with candle bugs trapped in the oil. Obstructions in the oil are as bad as obstructions in a gun bore. Powder charges will be heavier than indicated on the scale. All precision instruments deserve reasonable care.

Lyman's Ohaus 505 scale has a dandy magnetic damper. It's oil-free, and greatly speeds weighing. You can leave the 505 set up for



months, if you use it daily as I do. It doesn't require any attention, except to keep the dust wiped off, especially around the knives and bearings. The magnetic damper has been standard for years on the best analytical balances in the \$650 to \$900 price range. They sell for \$40 less without this feature. How the Ohaus 505 can be sold for only \$19.50 complete with a magnetic damper beats me. But the scales are good ones, and a bargain.

Analytical balances reading to 0.01 mg are far too sensitive for reloading. A milligram is one-thousandth of 15.432 grains. Split it into tenths and it gets pretty thin!

Analytical balances are for lab use. For example, the compound in a primer weighs about 40.0 mg, depending on the make and type. Holding powder charges to 0.1 grain is crude indeed when you think of holding primer compound to 0.1 mg. The complicated formulas must be correctly assembled in precision cups of specification metal, with anvils correctly seated. Yet you can bet your life on a primer that costs you less than a penny!

Average reloaders abuse scales terribly. After a little rough handling and abuse they are best traded in for new ones of good quality that will be given decent care. Dirty

ones can be cleaned by soaking in warm detergent water. Clean with a soft hair brush, rinse, and dry. Cleaning corroded brass beams with steel wool will ruin accuracy. So will nicked knives. The Ohaus 505 does not have enamel filled graduation cuts, but an enamel printed beam that is durable and easy to read. This beam, and nickel plated beams, can be cleaned by merely wiping with a soft cloth occasionally.

Any notched-beam, rider-weight scale can be checked for reasonable accuracy. Check the rider weights in each and every notch by weighing equivalent weights. Inexpensive weights are made by Webster, Pacific, and others. Of course they are not absolutely accurate when checked on an analytical balance, but they are close enough for practical reloading.

There is no advantage in accuracy better than 0.1 grain, if you use this accuracy. We have found some low priced scales that do not have accurately cut beams. One, set at 50.0 grains actually balanced a 54.0 grain charge. Discovering this error solved the problem of excessive pressure in a .30-06.

Good scales are a bargain. You don't want junk at any price. Used scales should be checked for accuracy before buying. I've never found new scales made by Redding, Pacific, Ohaus, or Webster that were not accurate and sensitive enough to load good ammo. Any advantage is mostly in more desirable features on some. All will last many years with proper care.

Scales with oil dampers are best checked without oil. Take readings while the beam is in motion, with the pan swinging. The magnetic damper in an Ohaus 505 brings the beam to a quick stop and holds it. Read it when the beam stops, with the pan swinging. Scales with self-aligning bearings do not need to be zeroed while perfectly level, but I like them on a fairly level surface.

The first Ohaus 505 we tested was plenty accurate. However, it required the leveling screw to be turned down nearly as far as it would go to bring the pointer to zero. That wasn't a fault, but I like for the scale bed to "look" nearly level. I lightly filed a bit of metal from the pan handle, so it would zero nearly level. Accuracy and sensitivity remained the same. You can use this tip on any scale, of course. To adjust in the other direction, put a tiny smear of solder on the pan handle, and dress down to balance. Liquid aluminum solder works well. Scales should always be zeroed before you start weighing charges or bullets, and again at the end of a session. That eliminates errors.

Hardened steel bearings require a trace

(Continued on page 14)

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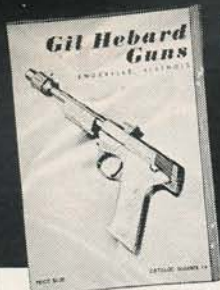
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(Continued from page 12)

of oil to prevent rust. The Ohaus 505 has extremely hard aluminum oxide ceramic bearings that should never be oiled. Never attempt to weigh in a draft. In hot weather, drafts from an air conditioner should be turned away, or the scales shielded.

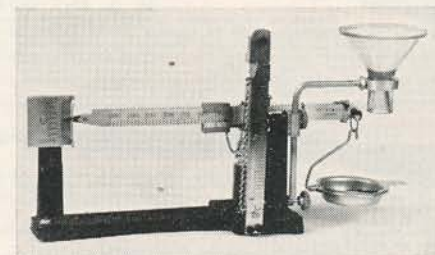
Powder charges held to 0.1 grain won't tighten your groups as much as weighed and sorted bullets. For all practical accuracy, custom swaged bullets made by Hornady, Sierra, Speer, and others, are ready to load without weighing. But for maximum target accuracy, you can quickly weigh and sort these to 0.2 grain, or even 0.1 if desired. The .22 pills are more sensitive to tiny weight variations than larger calibers, of course.

In a batch of good castings, the heaviest bullets are best. Light ones that are perfectly filled out with sharp edges probably have dross or air cavities inside. They won't hold true flight, and should be returned to the melting furnace, or reserved for close range plinking. Castings that run heavy may have been cast with a lead-rich alloy, due to the mix not being well stirred. This also causes light bullets, due to tin and antimony floating to the top of your mix. Heavy castings are often caused by not holding the mould handles fully closed, and by lead splatters holding the blocks open a bit. You can detect this trouble by a distinct line on the castings where the blocks closed.

Quality blocks that are fully closed leave an almost invisible line on castings. A heavy sprue cutter plate that is sharp and perfectly flat contributes much to uniform castings. It should mate perfectly with the blocks,

and the blocks should be perfectly flat and square. Moulds without an adequate vent throw some castings that are not perfectly filled out, or that have surface wrinkles or defects. These also result in casting with blocks that are too cold, or metal that is too cold. A good rule is to use the lowest temperature that casts perfect bullets. Heat hardens bullet metals. Working (swaging) lead softens it. Lead that has been re-cast will be more brittle than virgin metal, and certainly less desirable for bullets.

Castings often have defects in the vital base. One common defect is a rough or ragged sprue cut. This is offset to a great



Webster RW-1 scale and accessories.

extent by using a gas check, after castings have been inspected visually. Many chaps have never cast a decent batch of bullets. Scrap metals are simply not uniform. Lead and alloys used for sheathing, batteries, and other purposes may be entirely satisfactory for the original purpose. Bullets are best made with a really good commercial mix designed for bullets. These alloys cost no more than virgin tin and lead for a home mix, and they are more uniform in the lead, tin and antimony content and hardness.

Oil dampers on scales can be tricky. Their advantage is slowing the oscillating beam to speed weighing. Graduation marks ahead of the pointer may or may not read in tenths of a grain. The pointer should swing above and below the zero mark with the pan swinging. If you are weighing to tenths of a grain, always set this rider weight to the desired figure. Some beam notches are shallow, and it's easy to jiggle the rider weights into the wrong notch when you remove and replace the pan. Sometimes the large 5.0 or 10.0 grain weight is set between notches. Jiggle it when you set the weights to be sure it's in the right notch. Take a good look at the rider weights occasionally while you are weighing.

There is a simple way to insure that your scales are set for the proper number of grains. Make an equivalent scale weight for your most used charges. Thin aluminum or shim stock is dandy. Stamp or scratch the grains on this weight, and weigh it before and after using the scales. This will eliminate all over or under charges due to mis-set scale weights.

Some scale beams stick in the down position. You can eliminate it by hanging a "U" shaped shim in the beam pointer housing. Use a thick strip of sheet aluminum. Scales won't move around in use if you attach guide blocks to the shelf. This helps them hold zero. Small nails or sprigs work just as well.

Some new scales have graduation cuts filled with enamel. This enamel may flake off in time, and this reduces accuracy. To

(Continued on page 65)

HOW TO ADD WEEKS TO YOUR HUNTING SEASON!

Take to the woods with a Bear hunting bow during bowhunting season . . . and pull your gun down from the rack when regular hunting season opens.

The extra weeks of hunting season you get as a bowhunter will sharpen your hunting skills. Improve your woodsman-ship. Enable you to learn to stalk game to within twenty-five yards. And, you'll be enjoying the thrill of hunting while other hunters are still indoors sweating out the opening of the regular season.

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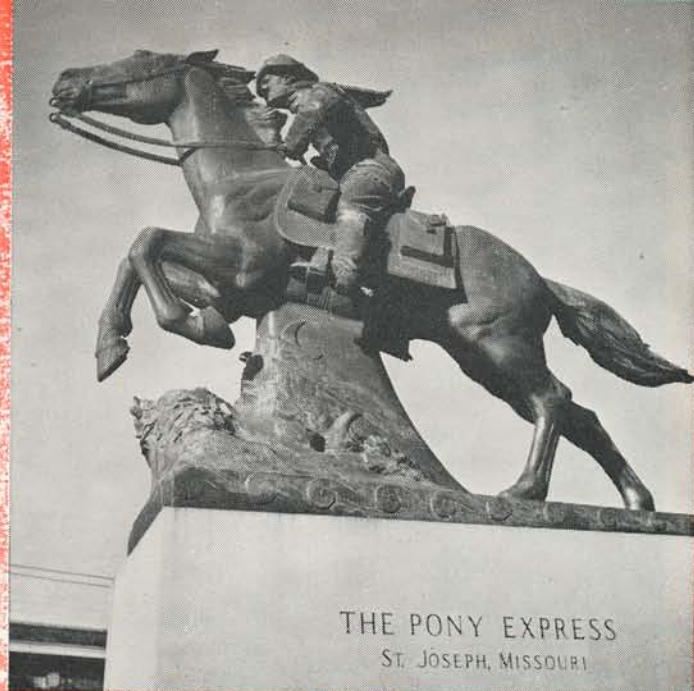
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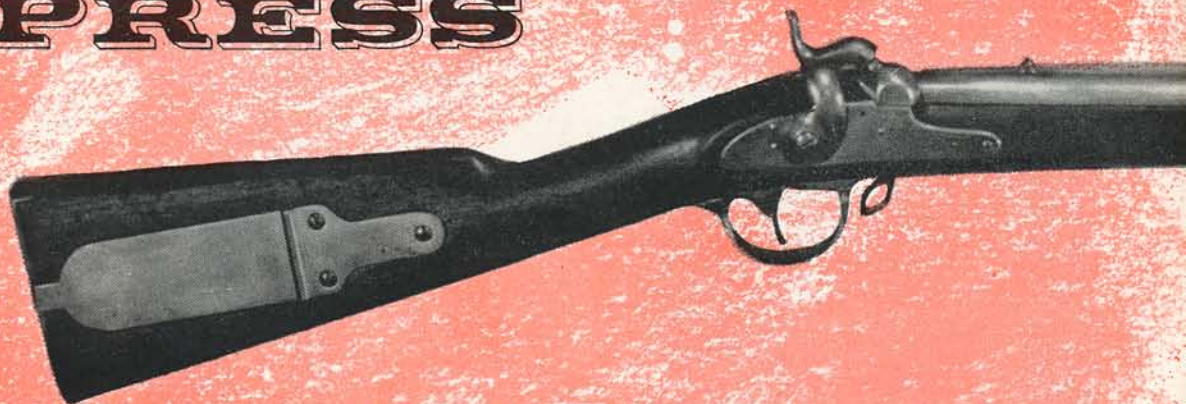
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GUNS OF THE PONY EXPRESS



St. Joseph, Mo., statute dramatically depicts Pony Express.



WHILE MOST OF THE NATION'S MANPOWER WAGED CIVIL WAR, OTHER DARING MEN BRAVED OTHER DEATHS TO CARRY THE MAIL TO THE FAR WEST

By JAMES E. SERVEN

BY 1860, the rumblings of war between the northern and the southern states were loud and ominous. Their warnings were heard far from the scenes of the actual quarrel, carrying all the way to California as well as to Europe. Now that war appeared inevitable, men of vision in distant places faced the harsh question, "How will this war affect us?"

Senator W. M. Gwin of California was one man who was keenly aware of what war would do to California's communications with the East. Other than the slow steamers which brought mail up the coast after a long Atlantic voyage and carriage across the Isthmus of Panama, Butter-

field's Overland Mail Company (established in 1858) was the principal carrier of mail to the west coast. The United States Postmaster General, a Tennessean, had favored a southern route. Consequently, the Butterfield stagecoaches were driven on a looping route from St. Louis south to El Paso, across New Mexico, down the valley of the Gila in Arizona, and thence into southern California.

Senator Gwin feared that if war broke out, the Confederate forces would disrupt the Butterfield mail service. (He was right; this is just what eventually happened.) In 1854, Gwin and Benjamin F. Ficklin, then general superintendent for the Russell, Majors & Waddell freighting



It was claimed that Pony Express riders carried small Colt pocket pistols like the above, but the records show that they used the Colt Navy and Dragoon revolvers.

Thus was born the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Co., under whose auspices the Pony Express would run. And here started a crash program of buying an estimated 500 fast, wiry horses, building a chain of almost 200 relay stations, and engaging station tenders and 80 more riders. These endeavors were undertaken at both terminals of the line—St. Joseph and Sacramento—and at Salt Lake City. Ben Ficklin, Bolivar Roberts, and William W. Finney had an important role in this effort, along with the owners, William H. Russell, Alexander Majors, and William B. Waddell.

Having already built some stations along their busy and prosperous St. Joseph to Salt Lake freighting line, this stretch was quickly prepared. But from Salt Lake westward, across bleak expanses of desert and into the mountains, much of the route was in hostile Indian country, and the construction was more arduous. However, by April 3, 1860, preparations were complete. On that day, with great fanfare, little Johnny Frey pointed the nose of his fast pony westward, the signal was given by gunsmith Cliff who touched off a heavy boat-gun he had constructed to



In 1860, the Army loaned the Pony Express sixty Model 1841 "Mississippi" rifles from the stores at Camp Floyd to defend stations from Pah-Ute raids. Guns were later offered to company for \$13.25, .36 Navy pistols for \$18.



company, had ridden together from California to Missouri. The idea of a fast pony mail across the central route from the Missouri to Salt Lake and over the Sierra into California is said to have been discussed on that journey. A point in its favor was that, if an all-weather central route could be maintained, it would give impetus to plans for a transcontinental railroad to link east and west. However, it was not until early 1860 that William Russell, representing the three freighting company partners, met with Senator Gwin in Washington and, on prospects of future subsidies, glory, and profit, agreed to undertake the venture we have come to call the Pony Express.

slaughter ducks, and away went Johnny Frey from St. Joseph to start the echoes of galloping hooves that were to sound along western trails for the next 18 exciting months.

Johnny Frey carried about 80 letters written on tissue-thin paper (at \$5 per half ounce) and a special copy of the St. Joseph Daily, also printed on thin paper, one side only. On April 14, amid a clamorous welcome even surpassing Johnny Frey's St. Joseph send-off, rider William Hamilton brought that mail safely into Sacramento at the end of its 1966 mile journey on the backs of many different ponies. This was faster delivery by at least ten days than could have been accomplished over Butterfield's long "ox-bow"

Like other mail riders after him, George Chorpennig, operating early California and Salt Lake mail, carried a Colt 1851 Navy.



Typical lightweight saddle used by Pony Express riders, left, and with easily removed leather *mochila* at right. The pouches held about 20 pounds of mail and newspapers.

stagecoach route, or by the even longer journey by steamer.

Thus the Pony Express service was inaugurated. On the same day the first *mochila* of mail was sent from St. Joseph westward by this new flying-horse service, the first Pony mail was dispatched on the saddle of equally capable and dedicated young riders from San Francisco, via Sacramento, thence up through the perilous passes of the Sierras and on eastward.

It was planned that the relay stations would be spaced an average dozen miles apart—some a little less and others longer, depending on the terrain. From St. Joseph, Missouri, the trail dipped westward to Rock Creek, Kansas. Thence it went northwest to Fort Kearny in Nebraska, and west along the North Platte to Julesburg in the northeast corner of Colorado. From here, it looped north past Fort Laramie to Independence Rock in Wyoming, and up through the treacherous defiles of South Pass and down to Fort Bridger. Salt Lake City was next, and this was the largest settlement between St. Joseph and Sacramento.

From Salt Lake, the Pony trail proceeded in a generally southwest direction to Camp Floyd (later renamed Fort Crittenden), to Black Rock and Deep Creek in Utah, down through the Ruby Valley to Fort Churchill and Carson City in Nevada. To the west, over Carson pass into California, the route lay through the unpredictable snowy Sierras, dropping eventually to Placerville and then over friendlier terrain to Sacramento.

The Pony Express route traversed some very rough country in 1860-61. It was little more than a dim trail over which lithe young horsemen rode night and day in all kinds of weather for the grand sum of \$50 a month—a little higher for the especially hard and dangerous runs.

We have come to think of our U. S. mails in a sense somewhat akin to sacredness. It is the same throughout the world. These words of Herodotus, written many years ago, were especially appropriate for the Pony Express riders: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stayed these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Through the months of its relatively short life, the owners and employees of the Pony Express faced many problems. For the owners, the tremendous cost of the operation and the woefully inadequate income placed a steady drain on their resources—the promised government subsidies failed to materialize. They could not raise their rates. At \$5 a half ounce, only the most urgent and important mail was given them; higher rates would diminish the volume further. Yet, despite tremendous losses that were leading to insolvency, Russell, Majors, and Waddell faithfully kept the mail moving until the telegraph line was completed and the Pony Express no longer filled a national need. Thus devotion to an assumed duty gave a bright lustre and an aura of heroism to the Pony Express saga. It was a financial failure, but it was at least a glorious one.

Exploits of the Pony Express riders and the heroism of the station tenders have been detailed in many books and have been described in many other forms of publication. For our purpose here, we need only to touch lightly on these things, but it will be useful (Continued on page 54)

**THE BARBARY:
NEWEST MEMBER OF THE
GRAND SLAM GROUP**

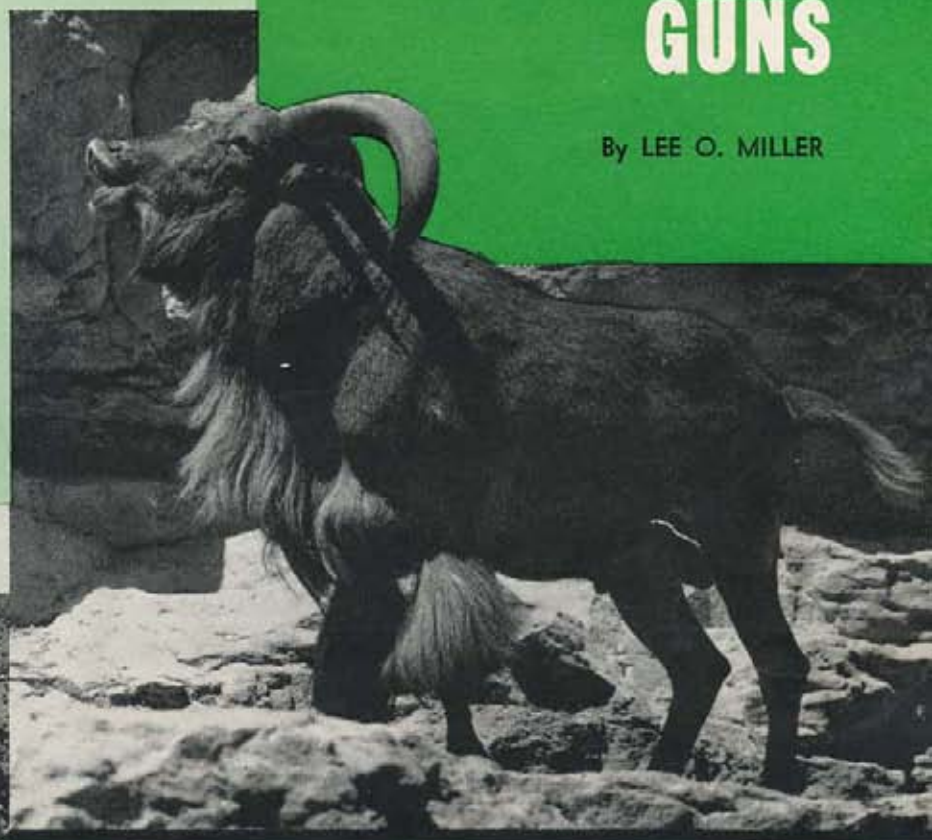
IN FEBRUARY of 1957, the first Barbary sheep hunt in North America took place in the winding, precipitous canyons of the Canadian River in the northeastern quadrant of New Mexico. Since this first hunt, collecting a Barbary sheep trophy has become an obsession with many big game hunters.

Because Barbary hunting is so new on this continent, a good many questions have been raised about gear, what caliber gun is best, and hunting conditions in general. Presently, Barbary sheep can be hunted in New Mexico by special permit only. The Department of Fish and Game, State Capitol, Santa Fe, will send you com-



AFRICAN CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN GUNS

By LEE O. MILLER



A new trophy on the American scene is the handsome and rugged Barbary ram. Transplanted from Africa, the new game animal is doing well in New Mexico's beautiful Canadian River region.

plete information upon request, and the hunts are conducted by the Department during February and March, the mating season of the sheep.

If you can get within reasonable rifle range of the sheep, most of the standard calibers will do the trick. Most popular is, of course, the .30-06, and a number of Barbary sheep have been killed with the old rancher's standby, the .30-30. Excellent results have been reported with the .257 Weatherby Magnum, using bullets in the 100 and 120 grain class. Your gun should be scoped, and a four or six power scope will do fine. One of the new variable

scopes now on the market will do the trick for shooting and some casual glassing. Binoculars are a must for spotting the well camouflaged sheep, whose reddish-brown color merges with the coloration of the rimrock area where they are found.

Because of the terrain and the exertion you will encounter, wear several layers of clothing that will keep you warm during the early mornig. If you have a parka, take it along. The wind at these altitudes can be darned chilly. Boots don't need to be very heavy, but rock gripping soles can save you from a bad spill. With the wind whistling

around your ears, don't forget a pair of good hunting gloves; they will save you from shredding the skin on your hands when you have to climb up or down canyon walls.

The Barbary sheep area along the Canadian River has a continuous bordering of rimrock at its top. From here, there are sheer drops of 200 feet or more to benches and rock-strewn slopes that lead to the river's bottom. All in all, there is about 1,000 feet of treacherous footing, and you'll be lucky if you can get to the river bottom in 30 minutes. Climbing back up can take you (Continued on page 51)

4 Guns in One!



Topper action and ejector are ruggedly simple. Hammer and action lever are easily reached by shooter's thumb.

By R. A. STEINDLER



After initial tests, the 20 gauge was checked on clay birds. Handling qualities, functioning were excellent.

WITHOUT MUCH fanfare and with typical New England reticence, Harrington and Richardson, Inc., of Worcester, Massachusetts, has been building quality guns since 1871. That H&R knows how to build guns is attested to by the fact that the company has been a major supplier of military arms for a long time, and their handguns and single barrel shotguns, though not fancy, have been the stand-bys of farmers and trappers for many years.

Out of H&R's "Topper" line, and under the guidance of Earl Sample, H&R's Director of New Products, comes a new gun—or is it four guns? Well, let's start at the beginning.

In January of this year, Ara Burgess of H&R, invited me to look at this new gun development. Basically, it is the stock and the action of the Topper line, with four barrels that are interchangeable. There are, at the present, two rifled barrels and two smoothbore tubes. The rifled tubes are for the Remington .22 Jet and the time-honored .30-30. The smoothbores are for the .410 and 20 gauge shotshells. All barrels have automatic ejectors, and fitting one of them to the action is about as difficult and takes about as long as it takes to flick a light switch. The rifled barrels will be tapped and drilled with three 6/48 holes for the Weaver #60 blocks and will handle the Weaver J or K series with a high set of rings.

Here are the specifications for the rifle barrels. The Remington .22 Jet barrel has a right-hand twist of 1 in 16 inches, a bore diameter of 0.213 ± 0.002 , land 0.046 ± 0.047 , rifling 0.2215 ± 0.002 . The .30-30 barrel has a right hand twist of one in 12 inches, and bore specifications



Topper was a hit with Gerry Steindler who "liberated" gun, barrels, plenty of ammo from husband's gun room.



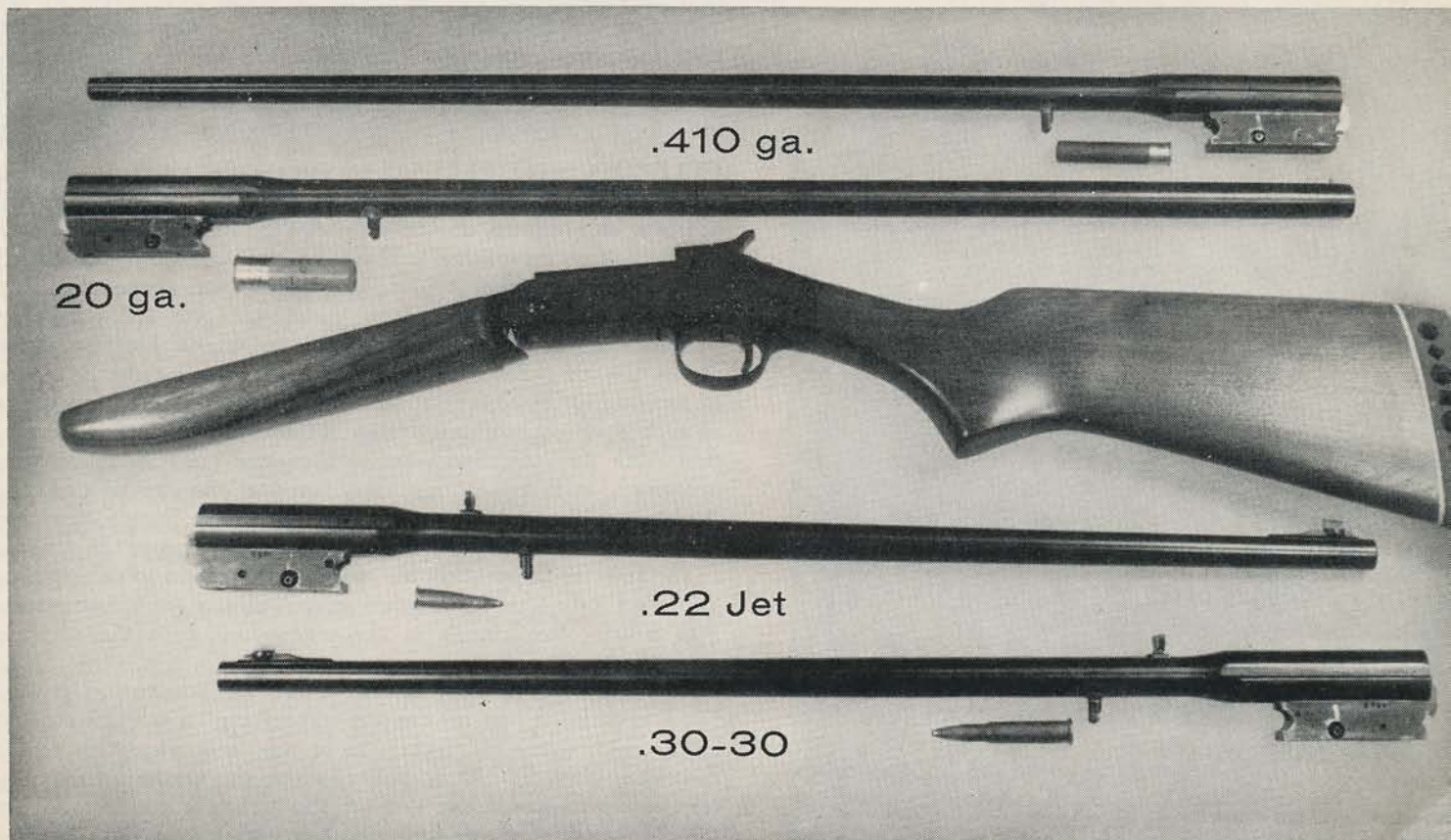
Here is the line-up of ammo that you can use with the Topper: from chucks and doves to bears and pheasants.

are the standard ones for this caliber. Assembled, the overall length of the "rifle" is 37 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the Topper Jet weighing 5 lbs. 10 oz., the Topper 30 weighing 5 lbs. 7 oz. Barrel length for both calibers is 22 inches. The barrel of the Jet weighs 2 lbs. 11 oz.; the one of the 30 tips the scales at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

The smoothbore barrels are presently made for the .410 and the 20 gauge only. The .410 has a 3 inch chamber. The 28" barrel is full choke, while the 26" tube has a modified choke. The 20 gauge is chambered for the 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " shells, and the 26" tube has a modified choke. Plans are now under-

way to produce a longer barrel, probably 28 inches, that will have a full choke. The Topper .410 with the 26" barrel tipped the scales at 5 lbs. 6 oz., while the Topper 20 weighed in at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The .410 barrel alone weighs 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs., and the 20 gauge barrel weighs 1 lb. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.

No concrete plans for other barrels, either for rifle or shotgun, have been made, but Ara Burgess and Earl Sample have several pilot models which are being tested on the H&R range. Neither Ara nor Earl would reveal details, but with the four barrels presently in the production hopper, who needs other calibers? (Continued on page 63)



Smoothbore tubes have one front bead; the rifle barrels have open sights, will be tapped, drilled for blocks.

Shooting of 4300 Yellowstone Park elk last winter was done by Park Rangers. Sport hunting was strictly prohibited.

Should We Open National Parks To Hunters?

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS



When protected game herds grow too large, as they do in such ideal habitats as our National Parks, their numbers must be reduced for obvious reasons. The question of how to accomplish this continues to arouse a storm of controversy. Many solutions have been suggested. Should the herds be cut by shooting by the park rangers? Should the surplus animals be herded out of the park into open country? Or should supervised hunting be permitted inside the park? Here is one hunter's appeal for the "Let hunters do it" solution.

THROUGH ITS REFUSAL to halt the slaughter of 4,300 elk in Yellowstone Park last winter, the National Park Service now has an albatross around its neck. The storm of protest over this kill-off, accomplished entirely by park rangers and denied to the sportsmen of this country, reached such proportions that it finally got to the Congress.

Before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs at this time is S-2545, a bill which would require the Secretary of the Interior to consult at least once a year with the governors of each State containing a National Park, Monument, or Recreation Area, to determine whether big-game herd reductions are necessary, and stipulating that, if reductions are needed, the Secretary will enter into an agreement with the State authorizing licenses to hunters to enter the park areas and remove the surplus.

The Interior Department has asked the Congress to defer action until they have time for 'further study.' This is an ancient stratagem which often results in the pigeon-holing of the measure until the heat is off.

Last fall, when the superintendent of the Yellowstone, Lon Garrison, announced that his rangers were going to gun down 5,000 elk (cows, calves, and bulls), there was little dissent as to his contention that the Lamar Valley, where the northern herd winters, was over-grazed and that the shoot-off was necessary. What the howl was about was the refusal on the part of Garrison and every big wheel above him, right on up to Secretary of the



Ranger greets campers at a National Park, but hunting or firearms are not allowed.

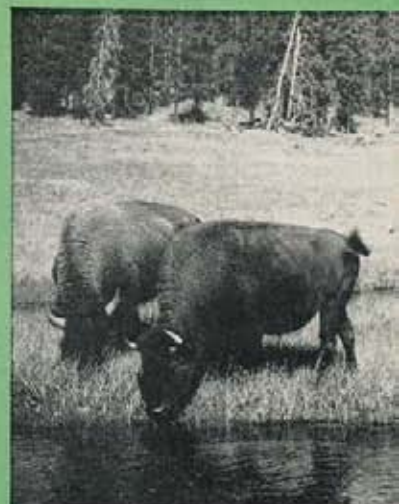
SUPERVISED HUNTS COULD BALANCE GAME HERDS, REDUCE HUNTING PRESSURES, REPLACE NEEDLESS OFFICIAL SLAUGHTER

Interior Stewart Udall, that not one sportsman could set foot inside the sacrosanct confines of the park to share the hunt.

The Yellowstone is located in the NW corner of Wyoming, bordering both Montana and Idaho. When word got around to the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission of the impending rub-out, Commissioner Bob McMannis said to Supt. Garrison, "You call us in today to study your alleged food problem, and then tell us you are going to kill off 5,000 elk. We want to make a thorough study before any shooting is begun". This plea was rejected. Now, however, faced with Senate bill S-2545, which would require any further herd reductions be made in conjunction with state game agencies and would limit the shooting to citizen sportsmen, the park bureaucrats "want time to study and analyze" the proposal.

Outdoors writer Edmund Christopherson, a Montanan, who visited the Yellowstone during the slaughter (a kill-off which accounted for 4300 cows, calves and bulls, and an estimated

Plains bison herds in Wind River and Yellowstone Parks have increased so much that they are over-running their limited ranges. Who will control these animals?



Grizzlies are so numerous in the Yellowstone National Park that they sometimes become a dangerous nuisance for campers.

2000 cripples), says: "The pressures in behalf of National Park hunting are easy to understand. Hunter populations are expanding, and at the same time thousands of acres of private lands are being closed to sportsmen.

"What would hunting in the Yellowstone be like? Hunters would be selected on the basis of a national lottery and would go into off-the-road areas of the park in groups, for a 5-day period, and would be under the close personal supervision of qualified guides. Such a hunt, among the scenic splendors that make such parks famous, could be one of the greatest hunting experiences."

This is the sportsmen's point of view. The park officials insist that an early season would endanger the park tourists. (The Yellowstone contains 2,200,000 acres, an area larger than Delaware and Rhode Island together. Tourists rarely get into the rugged, back areas where the hunters would work.) They also claim that the hunters, their vehicles, and pack stock would do more damage to the range than the current over-population of elk. That a relatively few hunters, expertly supervised, could do so much damage seems somewhat unlikely!

The proponents of the Park view further (*Continued on page 48*)



Shiras moose are plentiful in some of our National Parks. Herds are growing steadily.

Mt. McKinley Park holds large Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep population. Sheep live in area inaccessible for a tourist, few of them ever see a sheep.





An attacker is greeted with a flying night stick and holster-drawn, ready-to-fire .45.

Fast Man with a .45

**IF YOU THINK FAST DRAW WITH A .45 AUTOMATIC IS
A JOKE, READ THIS AND STOP LAUGHING!**



With chamber empty and buttoned holster, draw starts with thumb.

By CHIC GAYLORD

"I DON'T BELIEVE that *any* man can draw a Colt .45 auto from a *G.I. holster*, load a round into the chamber, and fire it in less than a second!"

That was my answer to the sailor who had just told me about a buddy of his who could perform the feat outlined above "in less time than it takes you to blink!" I spoke with absolute confidence! I had been working with many of the fastest gun-handlers in the world for many years, and I knew—repeat, knew—that the G. I. holster just ain't for fast draw! So I had no qualms whatever when this young Shore Patrolman said, "I'll bring the guy around and he'll prove it."

Sure enough, the following afternoon, the sailor was back, accompanied by a stocky Air Force Sergeant. Both men wore the brassard of the Armed Services Police. The Sergeant was grinning as he thrust out his hand. "I'm Loughnan, he said. "The guy my buddy here was telling you about. I don't blame you for thinking he was telling you a tall one, but I'm here to try to convince you."

I said, "I'll believe it when I see it. And if I see it, I'll buy you both all the beer you can drink."

It was a costly comment. Tom Loughnan is almost as fast with a schooner of beer as he is with .45 ACP, and his buddy is no slouch either!

Loughnan unhooked the lanyard from his pistol, removed the clip, pulled the slide back and locked it open. He handed the gun to me to let me see that it was empty. When I returned it, he released the slide, sheathed the pistol, and buttoned the holster-flap. He faced me, his hands at his sides. "My buddy says he said 'faster than you blink.' That's too fast; let's make it 'faster than you can wink—like at a girl. Okay?"

I nodded, and winked. I heard some slamming and clanking, and—just before my eye came open again—I heard the click of the hammer.

I said, "Let's see you do it again." He repeated the performance, and beat me again.

I picked up his clip and thumbed the live rounds out of it, refilled it with de-activated dummy cartridges, slipped the clip into place, and handed him the Colt. "Again," I said. "Only this time, I want to keep both eyes open, so let's make it that, when I see you begin to draw, I'll clap my hands. Let's see if you out-draw my reaction time."

I had noticed that, when he holstered the gun, he left it with the hammer



Thumb opens flap, hand grasps butt of gun, starts the draw. While gun is being drawn, it is twisted to right.

Still-holstered gun is moved forward so that rear sight catches, moving slide back, and a round is chambered.



Colt .45 drawn from custom holster is fanned by heavily gloved left hand with the help of rear sight. Slamming slide back chambers a round and cocks hammer, readying gun for shot.



Drawing from regulation holster and firing rapidly, loaded spare clip is removed from belt. As soon as clip is empty, it is dropped, spare one slammed home.

cocked. He drew—I clapped—and beat him by a thin fraction of a second. I asked him to pull the slide back on the pistol, thinking that he had simply drawn and pulled the trigger, leaving out one of the operations stipulated in the challenge. In other words, I thought he had skipped the little chore of working the slide to pack a load into the chamber. But I was wrong. When he worked the slide, one of those dummy rounds of mine came tumbling out of the pistol!

But he wasn't satisfied with being beaten, even by a gnat's whisker, even by a man whose reaction time is honed pretty fine by a lot of fast-draw practice of my own. "Let's try that again," he said. "I can do this another way that's even faster."

This time, he put a heavy glove on his left hand, holstered his gun, buttoned the flap, and said, "O.K. I'm ready when you are."

His hand flashed up with the heavy automatic—his left hand slashed backwards in a fanning motion, and the hammer fell just a shade before the sound of my hands hitting together! Once more he ejected a dummy round from the chamber!

This time, he had drawn his weapon, loaded a round into the chamber by "fanning" the slide back—and fired—in time that would make a first-class fast-draw sixgun man hustle to beat him! I have since seen him draw, fan-load, fire, and hit a man-sized target at about 8 yards, electronically timed and recorded in 23/100th of a second.

"I've just seen it," I said, "but I still can't believe it! Would you please do it for me nice and slow, so this little old country boy can see what's happening?"

"Sure thing," he chuckled. "You just watch real close. This is a standard Government Issue caliber .45 Automatic Colt's Pistol. There have been no alterations or modifications made on it. The holster is standard, except that the wooden block has been removed from the inside. Regulations require us to carry the piece with an empty chamber, and with the holster flap buttoned down. I open and lift the flap with my extended thumb, grasp the butt of the gun and lift it upwards almost clear of the holster. As I lift the weapon, I twist the butt outwards a quarter turn, so that the rear sight engages the flap above the point of the metal hook that attaches the holster to the belt. I then force the gun downward, so that the slide moving backwards will load a round into the chamber. Then I draw the weapon out of the holster and into firing position."

As he went through the various steps, it seemed even more unbelievable that such a complicated series of motions could be performed in such a very short period of time.

In slow motion, the second "fan" draw was far simpler. The Sergeant opened and lifted the holster flap with his thumb—drew—threw the gun forward toward the firing position. As the weapon thrust forward, his left hand swept backwards, the edge of his palm catching the rear sight and slamming the slide back, thus loading a round into the chamber. The motions were almost identical with those used in "fanning" a single-action revolver.

"How accurate are you with all that speed?" I asked.

"My average is 19 out of 21 shots in the 'kill' area of a man-sized target at seven yards" he told me.

Actually, Loughnan shoots with greater accuracy when firing with extreme speed than he does in slow fire. With no previous experience at aerial (*Continued on page 40*)



IF YOU KNOW WHERE THERE'S ANOTHER RIFLE
LIKE THIS ONE, PLEASE WRITE US

Did You Ever See One Like This?

When assembled, this flintlock gun is a real handful. Take-down is of advanced design and the mechanism, though simple, is very serviceable.



THIS RARE breech-loading flintlock is in perfect working condition. Marked **ISAIAH JENNINGS PATENT** on the left side of the frame, the maker's address, New York, is marked on the top of the frame. The design was patented by Jennings on April 11, 1818, and the mechanics of the gun are highly advanced and somewhat unusual.

The bronze barrel is 41 inches long and weighs approximately 11 pounds. The assembled gun weighs slightly over 14 pounds. The front "trigger" is the release latch that permits rotation and dis-engagement of the "bayonet lock" lugs that are the sole means of holding barrel and action together. The shoulder stock fits tightly into the umbrella-

shaped handle, and is fastened by means of a locking screw.

A rifle of this model is described and pictured in Ray Riling's "The Powder Flask Book." Mine is the only other one in existence—so far as I know.

A later design by Isaiah Jennings, based on the 1818 patent, was a repeating flintlock with superimposed charges. To fire the charges, the lock slid fore and aft; but the 1821 patent papers for this scarce Jennings gun were lost in the same fire that consumed the patent brief of the extremely rare Chambers gun. The repeater is pictured in the catalog of the U. S. Cartridge Company's collection.

By H. H. SEFRIED II





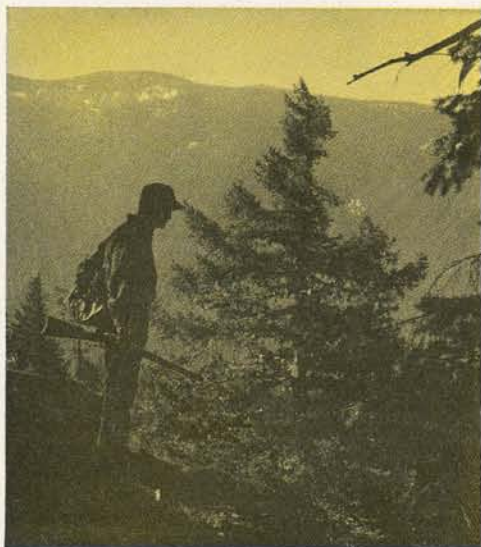
First hunt in swampy area along middle fork of Willamette River was unsuccessful. This area usually holds numerous bears, but neither dogs nor hunters found tracks or signs.

A .22 PISTOL IS NO BEAR GUN, BUT THIS BEAR SORT OF CHOSE HIS OWN HUNTER

By JOE VAN WORMER



"HE LOOKED 12 FEET TALL!"



This is big country and staying with the pack of hounds is not easy. Stops help to locate pack and catch breath.

"DEAD, HE'S NOT a whole lot of bear," Bub admitted, his voice still trembling a little. "But he sure looked twelve feet tall to me, a while ago!"

Bear size does depend considerably on point of view and circumstances, and this one had given Bub a bad time. Even a black bear is no bargain when he's maddened by dogs, wounded, and breathing down your neck in an up-hill chase—and that is what Bub had experienced. He had emptied his gun into the bear's head at close range with no result other than to make the bear charge him. The trouble was that the only gun Bub had was a .22 pistol!

No one in his right mind, of course, goes hunting bear with a .22 pistol. Bub hadn't done that; he had just happened to arrive at a given spot at a bad moment. Having arrived there, it looked to Bub as if he had a choice between doing the best he could with what he had, or letting a bear kill a couple of dogs. Bub loves those dogs.

There were four of us on this hunt: Everett Limbeck and Carl "Bub" Stavang, loggers, and Bill Clark and me. Clark was the senior member of the party, with a lot of wildcat, cougar, and bear kills to his credit.

We had set up camp in a clearing some 30 miles northwest of Oakridge, Oregon. This is big timber country. Giant Douglas firs tower hundreds of feet into the air, blotting out the sky. North of camp, timbered slopes rose steeply to the rocky rims of 5,600 foot Grasshopper

Mountain where deep drifts of last winter's snow remained even now in late April.

Everett had brought along a couple of saddle horses in a big van, and five hounds. Old Limpy, patriarch of the pack, was about through as a hunting dog, but Everett just didn't have the heart to leave the old fellow at home. He was a wise old dog with a lot of cougar and bear trails behind him. The younger dogs were faster, but Limpy was smarter and had a better nose.

Bub had shown up with three dogs. Betty, a spotted hound, was his best trail dog, but he had a couple of rangy red pups that showed a lot of promise.

Bill and I had driven in from Bend, Oregon, with Bill's three hounds. Rusty was an enthusiastic pup. Duke, a large black and white, was not brilliant, but he was dependable. Jack, a husky (*Continued on page 60*)



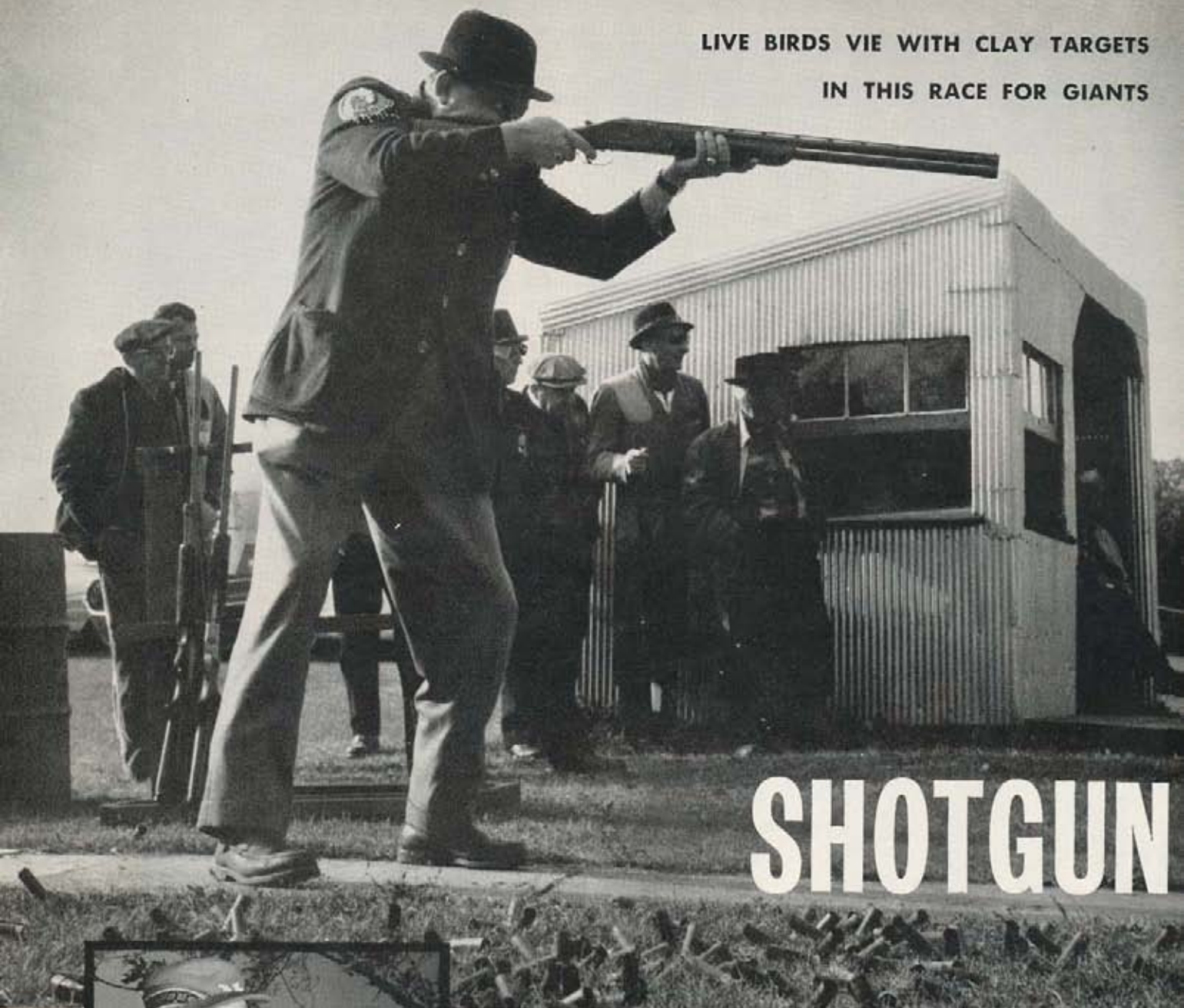
No dog was seriously hurt, but there were plenty of battle wounds. Dogs did stop the bear from mauling Bub badly.



When we reached the scene of the fight, Bub was still staring at the bear with the gun in his hand. Later, during a breathing spell, Bub showed us empty ammo belt. His last cartridge downed the bear.

LIVE BIRDS VIE WITH CLAY TARGETS

IN THIS RACE FOR GIANTS



SHOTGUN



George Snellenberger admires the gold medal which declares him 1962 winner of gruelling Jenkins Brothers All-Around Championship. He used O/U to win event.

By DICK McCONNAUGHEY

WHO IS (or was) the greatest? That question arises in every sport, and it so challenged two shotgun-shooting brothers back in 1937 that they created an Annual Championship which survives almost unchanged today, 25 years later—a shoot to crown the “all-around” king.

How would you determine the “Greatest All-Around” shotgun shooter? In organized competitive shotgunning, skeet or trap, an All-Around Champion is the man whose total of the Championship events (16-yard, handicap and doubles) is highest.

Over the years, in various phases of the sport there have been outstanding names. In 16-yard competition, the great ones would have to include Frank Troeh, Arnold Riegger, and Joe Hiestand. On the basis of handicap shooting, one would remember Mark Arie, Phil Miller, Walter Beaver, Ned Lilly, and John Sternberger. In doubles shooting, the famous names would be Rudy Etchen and his late father, Fred, along with Mercer Tennille, Homer Clark Jr., and Dan Orlich. Of a

completely different nature is live pigeon shooting, and Capt. A. W. Bogardus, J. A. R. Elliott, Bill Crosby, Fred Gilbert, Billy Perdue, and Johnny Broughton were the champions of their day.

It would, of course, be impossible to assemble all these men at one place at one time. In addition, shooters, like all other athletes, have good days and bad days. Realizing all these inequities, the brothers were still trying to arrive at a program which would most equitably determine the "World's All-Around" Champion.

About mid-summer of 1937, the Jenkins brothers, Rock and Ralph, of Orleans, Indiana, announced a new 500-target program that would be shot over their Gun Club grounds, to be called the "World's All-Around Championship." Two days and a \$300 compulsory entry fee would be required for the affair, and it would consist of 100 clay targets from each of the three types of trapshooting: 16-yard, handicap (from the then maximum distance of 25 yards), and doubles; plus 100 Skeet targets, and 100 live pigeons. Nowhere else had such a combination of competitive events ever been tied into one event.

That same year, Rock was finishing his first term as President of the Amateur Trapshooting Association, and was re-elected to serve a second term. Brother Ralph later also served as ATA President during 1944-45 and '45-46, and later also became the first President of the United States Pigeon Shooting Federation.

Typical of the brothers, Rock (five years the elder) gave credit for the program to Brother Ralph—and Ralph, (always respecting seniority) contended the program was "Brother Rock's idea." Many experts who have shot it to their sorrow, have implied that both brothers were ashamed they had created such a nightmare! Those who knew the brothers best, however, knew that each one, (Continued on page 42)



John Loffland, Texas oil operator, has choice words for a bird that got away.

Masters Shoot for Crown



Classic trap stance is exhibited by Mr. Trap himself — Joe Hiestand, Ohio.



The 16 yard event is not too tough, but when you shoot doubles at that distance, it can become a very humbling experience for most.

You May Not Like Its Looks, But When



There's Nothing Like a

KRAG

By ELLIS CHRISTIAN LENZ



Author with pet Krag in "jackknife" shooting position. Springfield barrel is chambered for .30-40 cartridge.

IN 1905 THE U.S. Army retired, with honors, the Krag-Jorgensen military rifle, Model 1898. It was replaced by the clip-loading Springfield, Model of 1903, and the Krag was destined for oblivion. But after 60 years, the Krag still shoots on the ranges and in the field. Of the less than half a million military rifles made, I would guess that most of them are still in use—an unequalled record for an "obsolete" arm and cartridge.

The Krag and its .30-40 cartridge are a sound combination. In the light of modern ballistics developments the Krag and its rimmed cartridge are "old hat," but despite the age, they are both highly effective, from the lowly chuck to the lordly moose.

As to appearance, the Krag's box-like loading gate is its most noticeable design feature. This swing-out cartridge bin has been accused of faults, but never of failure to function. It receives cartridges with deceptive casualness;

it feeds them perfectly; it may be loaded, or emptied of unfired rounds, while the bolt is closed and locked. A few aesthetes have complained that the starboard magazine is unsightly and that it interferes with grasping the gun at point-of-balance. I am in some agreement with these points but I also maintain that Ole Krag and Erik Jorgensen knew what they were about when they hatched this design.

For smoothness of operation, the Krag's bolt movement is one of the blissful realities of rifledom. That bolt slides back and forward without jerk, and, although the Krag greatly antedates the common use of scope sights, its bolt handle requires no reshaping when a modern scope is mounted. The action's design does dictate a side mount, but that's no problem. As with the 1903 Springfield action, a scope will block normal operation of the Krag's safety thumb piece. A gunsmith can easily change the Krag safety's left-to-right operating movement to raise from the

It Comes To Sweet Performance...



Original stock was sporterized, checkered by author, barrel was cut to 24", a Lyman 48 receiver sight and a Springfield front sight assembly completed the job.

right and be on "safe" when positioned against the scope tube. Good receiver sights can be fitted without trouble.

The Krag's steel, though not meeting modern standards, more than met the requirements of its day, and the action will safely handle any factory .30-40 cartridge. The bolt's single forward locking lug could give way if subjected to hotrod pressures, but a sensible person does not try the patience of an old friend. I've done much handloading for my Krags, largely to explore the interesting possibilities of short and mid-range shooting, and my cast bullet velocities seldom exceed a speed of 1800 fps.

I must confess that I have not always been a Krag parti-

san. In 1920, when this rifle was Government surplus at \$1.50 per gun, I was already a devoted .30-06 shooter. Historical interest led to the acquisition of my first Krag with its several hundred rounds of stale military cartridges. I also discovered that the Krag could be resold at a handsome profit if fifty cartridges were included in the deal. The buyer would be carried away with the idea of owning a genuine high-power army rifle. It gave him a good show for his 10 bucks and he'd make penetration tests on big trees until the novelty wore off and the cartridges were expended. Then I'd be importuned to buy the rifle back, at my price. This happened (Continued on page 61)



Another Krag with Mannlicher type stock, removable comb, cheekpiece.



Woodchuck Krag has Bishop stock, Weaver K6 scope with Weaver detachable side mount, and a right-hand safety.



Comb of original Krag carbine stock was raised and a pistol grip added for improved appearance and comfort.



Eugene Ecrement of Kent State University's rifle and pistol team admires modernized Krag. Although loading gate is disliked by some shooters, author found that the Krag rifles functioned smoothly and were accurate.

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(Those few with asterisk (*) above are partially shootable but fully componentable.)

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served "horse laugh." ONLY Ye Old Hunter has heart enough to pass HIS savings on TO YOU. The lowest priced genuine M98 Mauser for '63. Order early and be certain of getting in before still another big price drop. THE LOWEST PRICED M98 MAUSER OF THE YEAR! Don't settle for less than the lowest—leave that to others! Make Ye Old Hunter the source of ALL your shooting needs. Be assured of the best!

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ROYAL DUTCH M95 MANNLICHER JUNGLE CARBINE!

Cal. .303 British



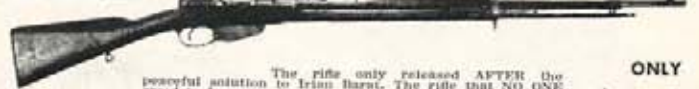
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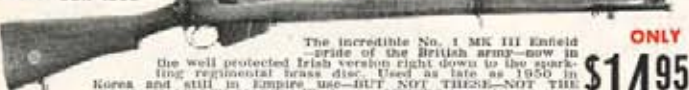
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Cal. .303



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BASED ON SKILL OR LUCK,
TURKEY SHOTS ARE PEOPLE-PLEASERS

Revive this Old American Custom

By CARLOS VINSON



"IT'S GOING TO take a gnat-shaver to beat that shot," said Edward Bond as he handed the target to one of the other judges. The .22 bullet had clipped the edge of the black bull that had been drawn by circling a quarter and then blackening the circle.

Hitting a target the size of a twenty-five cent piece at 40 yards with an open-sight .22 rifle is not easy. Matter of fact, only two of the contestants shooting for the turkey placed bullets in the black. Harold Moore's bullet was a little closer to the center of the bull, and the turkey was his. Nine other shooters tried, but failed on the first go-around. They happily crowded around Ed Bond as he started to sell targets for gobbler number two.

Turkey shoots and other shooting matches are as traditional in many sections of the United States as baseball or beans. These social shooting matches stem from the old flintlock and muzzle-loader eras, and today we find the same type of shooting fun supplying entertainment for thousands of American gun fans. No longer do we aim long muzzle-loading rifles at live turkey heads, but shooting at small paper targets involves the same basic principles.

Shooting matches are often used to raise funds and supply fun at the same time. The Lucky Community Club in the hills of Central Tennessee undertakes many community improvement projects: members of the club erect signs, help needy families, aid for the sick, and carry on experimental wildlife restoration projects.

Many of the matches held today are shotgun affairs. You shoot at a target with a cross at about thirty paces, and each contestant hopes to place a shot nearest the center of the cross. Winning at these matches is largely a matter of luck, but that too can be a lot of fun.

The Lucky Club decided to try something a little different. A suitable range for safe .22 rifle shooting was located near the general store, and the date was set for a match. Guns were limited to .22 with iron sights, very much like those found in almost every farm home. Around here most farmers keep a .22 rifle handy for shooting farm pests, and they rarely think of them as sporting arms until the squirrel season opens. When match times comes each farm rifle is carefully sighted in for the coming event.

On the second go-around Clarence Jones and Gene Medlen tied and there was a shoot-off. Both had barely clipped the black, and Jones won



Happy winners compare scores and sizes of hard-won birds.





Young hunter, driven indoors by rain, takes steady aim out the back window with his autoloader. Young eyes and good shooting brought teenage farm boy a good score and a fat gobbler.



Shooting a high score was not easy and many of the contestants lost by scant margins. Here J. A. George is handing Hal Moore his live trophy.



Backing up a few steps to get a better rest, one of the contestants used one of the community directory posts as a rest for his rifle, and scored.

the shoot-off by a hair's breath. Most of the contestants were farmers, or combination farm and factory workers, with a few spruced-up guys from nearby towns for good measure. Some of the fellows in fancy duds even won gobblers with their high priced rifles. They blended in perfectly with their country cousins.

It is easier to find suitable grounds for shotgun matches than for the .22 rifle matches. The .22 matches, however, are more interesting and require greater shooting skill. At the Lucky Club match contestants were allowed to shoot with a rest or off-hand. For a dollar a contestant's name was written on a target, and ten men competed for one turkey. The farmer supplying the birds was paid the market price, and the rest of the money went into club coffers. There were some club expenses for targets and .22 ammo, and each contestant got one round of .22 Long Rifle ammo. Scopes or peep sights were not permitted, and a fellow either shot straight with an open sighted .22 or he went home without a turkey.

Competition was keen for the third turkey. Four bullets cut the black, and Carl Hale was the winner by about half the (Continued on page 45)

Focal point of activity was scoring table where a lot of good-natured kidding took place. Tie scores are rare and competitors shoot again.

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Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

AS THE MAGIC mid-point of 1963 approaches, clay target shooters all across North America are testing their tournament reflexes, and pointing toward what might well be the record year for both trap and skeet.

On the trap side of the ledger, as this issue of GUNS hits the stands, three exciting trap tournaments kick off the month of June. June 1 and 2 offers the 8th Annual Midland Empire Marathon at Billings Trap Club, Billings, Montana. Over at the Osceola Gun Club on the same days, shooters can test themselves for Grand American distances in the Southwest Iowa Zone Shoot. And in Hoosierland on the same days, Midwestern gunners can shoot in the annual Check Gun Club Marathon, over a lay-out that resembles the physical picture at Vandalia, and with much of the same mental conditioning needed, since this shoot offers 500 targets fired on the same squads with many of the Nation's finest.

The tempo quickens on the following week-end. Texas, Nebraska, and Massachusetts championships will be decided by Sunday night of that week. Texans converge on the Amarillo Gun Club June 6 through June 9, and Nebraskans lock horns on the same dates at Doniphan. Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Sturbridge, is the scene of the Massachusetts tournament on June 8 and 9. Also, the Capt. Billy Fawcett Memorial Shoot at the Twin-City Hopkins Gun Club, Minneapolis, is always a big event in the North country, and it too will be decided on June 8 and 9.

The following week-end in June brings on another rash of state championships, and some big ones. Leading off is the Ohio State Shoot, on the Grand American grounds at Vandalia, which can be said to be a real dress rehearsal for August's Grand wind-up. These dates are June 12-16. Colorado will return its state winners at the Denver Municipal Trap Club on June 13-16. Pennsylvania and Kansas state titles will be decided on the same June 13-16 dates. Pennsylvania host is the South End Gun Club, at Reading, and Kansans meet at the Wichita Gun Club.

The new Memphis Gun Club will dispense hospitality and decide state champs for Tennessee on June 14-16. Focal point in Canada for the week-end of June 15-16 is the Saskatchewan state events at Saskatoon Gun Club.

The fourth week-end in June is almost evenly divided among state shoots and Indian pow-wows. One of the Continent's biggest state shoots is the Illinois event, hosted this year by the Mather Gun Club in Springfield from the 19th through the 23rd. Our new sister state of Alaska will proudly decide state championships at Anchorage on the three days of June 21-23. And another Northwestern contest is the Wyoming State Shoot at the Rocky Mountain Gun Club in Casper, on the same days that Alaskans lock horns.

These dates also see a jump from West to East, where the Maryland winners will be returned from Thurmont, June 21-23. Midwesterners (and all other trapshooters) can have a warm-up for the Northwest Zone Shoot, in the Fort Dodge, Iowa, Gun Club's Pre-Northwest Zone shoot on June 22 and 23.

Another traditional state event scheduled for the week-end of June 22-23 is the Connecticut set-to, at Mohegan Gun Club, Lordship-Stratford.

Speaking of Mohegan, the Indian pow-wows, always full-paint dress rehearsal for big battles, are at Detroit and Graceville, Minnesota. Okoboji Indians make big medicine at Detroit Gun Club, Detroit, Michigan

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1144 BLACK BEAUTY GUN BELT

Fast draw type holster with soft glove leather white lining. Belt and holster in black cowhide only. \$8.99 PP. Send waist size, caliber, model and barrel length of gun when ordering. Double gun set available @ \$13.95 PP.

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This is the improved Hide-A-Way Holster, made of the finest quality leather... the leg strap lined with softest kid to prevent rubbing and chafing... hand stitched by fine craftsmen... snap strap to keep gun in holster. The Hide-A-Way Ankle Holster solves the hidden second gun problem for dangerous assignments. Made to fit any gun from derringer on up. \$5.00 PP. No COD. State make and model of gun when ordering. Send ankle measurement with order.



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on June 20-22, and the Sioux Indians hit the warpath for three days, June 21-23, at Graceville Gun Club, Minnesota.

Three big events write finis to June. Biggest of these is the ATA Western Zone Shoot at Twin Falls Gun Club, Twin Falls, Idaho, from June 27 through June 30. South Dakota returns its state champs from the events at Crooks Conservation & Gun Club, Sioux Falls, on June 28, 29, and 30. Another of the popular 500 target marathons is the bill of fare at Carmel Gun Club, Carmel, Indiana, on June 30.

Many gun clubs will compete with firecrackers on July 4. Two enterprising clubs tie in the theme, such as Catlin Gun Club, Catlin, Illinois' Firecracker Marathon, and the Edwardsville, Ill., gun club's Fourth Of July Shoot.

Ten states will decide their state championships in July. Dates and host clubs are: Michigan-Detroit Gun Club, Walled Lake, July 5-6-7.

Virginia-Winchester Gun Club, Winchester, July 5-6-7.

Montana-Billings Trap Club, Billings, July 11-14.

Minnesota-Twin City-Hopkins Gun Club, Minneapolis, July 11-14.

Oklahoma-Capital City Gun Club, Oklahoma City, July 12-13-14.

New York-Buffalo Skeet Club, Amherst, July 18-21.

North Dakota-Grand Forks Gun Club, Grand Forks, July 19-20-21.

Wisconsin-Madison Gun Club, Madison, July 19-20-21.

New Hampshire, Major Waldron Skeet Club, Barrington, July 19-20-21.

Indiana-Kingen Gun Club, McCordsville, July 25-28.

Some other top-ranking events for July that readers will want to shoot in or see are the ATA Southwestern Zone Shoot, at Topeka Gun Club, Topeka Kansas, on July 5, 6, and 7; and the ATA Eastern Zone Shoot at Thurmont, Maryland, on July 25-28. Two big tournaments, either or both of which could include winners of the Grand American later in the year, are set for July. These are the Hawkeye Handicap at Fort Dodge Gun Club, Iowa, on July 13 and 14, and the always big Great Western Handicap at Wichita Gun Club, Kansas, on July 19-20-21.

And, speaking of marathons, how is this for a program! You can shoot or see one thousand targets in two days at the Carmel Gun Club in Carmel, Indiana. On July 20, the program calls for 500 16-yard targets; and Sunday July 21 gives you a chance to record 500 handicap birds. A shooter may get in almost an average year's target production on that one week-end, and just one month before the Grand.

July is not complete without a mention of the great Greenbrier Open, at Greenbrier, West Virginia on July 19-20-21.

Now you have the dates and places. Good shooting, or good viewing. You'll enjoy either or both.

Over on the skeet side of the clay target ledger, it looks as if this year's skeet nationals will be a blistering race. Skeet records are falling like low-house station 7 targets. No less than five shooters, who recorded 2400 targets or more during 1962, scored 98 per cent or better in combined average by the National Skeet Shooting Association rating

system for the four guns or events.

To qualify for four-gun aggregate average leadership in the NSSA table, shooters must have fired at least 1000 registered targets in 12 gauge events, 600 20 gauge, 400 28 gauge, and 400 four-ten gauge with the short shell. At least one third of the total targets must include the two small guns. (The NSSA system gives a rating based on 42 per cent to 12 gauge birds, 24 per cent on the 20 gauge events, and 17 per cent each for the 28 gauge and 410 short shell events.)

This column goes on record by saying that a combined 98 per cent performance when the idiot stick is included is real shooting! And, let me quickly warn, if you don't shoot the .410 short shell gun, don't call it an "idiot stick." Only the insiders who actually enter the sub-small gauge event fired with the 2½ inch .410 shell are permitted by Skeet custom to call it an idiot stick. Outsiders are expected to be more formal and respectful!

The amazing youngster from Roselle, Illinois, Bob Shuley, topped the select field in the NSSA ratings, with a .9850 on 3850 targets. Other members of the select .9800 quintet, and percentages are:

Barney Hartman, Ontario, .9838

Kenneth Sedlecky, Michigan, .9828

Miner Cliett, Alabama, .9810

John C. Dalton, Jr., Maryland, .9800.

Twenty-two more men recorded performances of .9600 or better. One woman, Marjorie Annon, from Colorado, topped the .9600 figure with a rating of .9603.

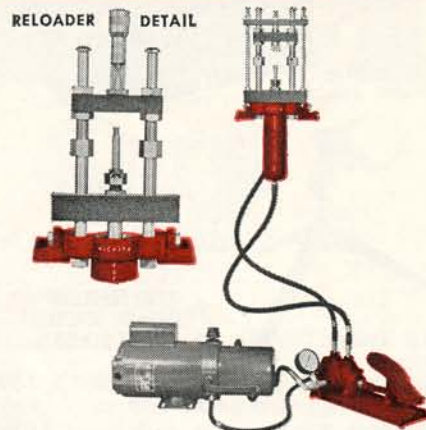
Some of the clubs and dates where these skeet stars and others will be trying to set even higher records are:

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(F.O.B. WICHITA, WITH ONE SHELL HOLDER)
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THE SENTINEL IMPERIAL ...

... .22 caliber on .38 Special-size frame has the feel, balance and sight-line of a peace officer's service revolver — with the economy of low-cost ammunition. Full checkered two-piece grip — ramp front and movable rear sights.

Its design and deluxe finish are widely copied, but no imitator can match the Sentinel Imperial's High Standard polished action, the positive alignment of high tensile steel cylinder, the accuracy of its button-swaged barrel rifling — and the safety of its rebounding hammer with automatic safety block. In midnight blue or nickel finish. Choice of 4 or 6-inch barrel.

Also available in Sentinel standard model. Prices start at \$42.95.



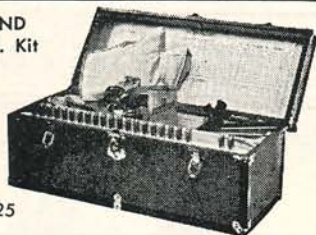
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"SUPREME" BENCHREST
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**ALL ANGLE
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FORE-END STOPS, except M37 & 52-D. \$ 3.00

Fore-End Stop, 52-D \$4.00; M37..... 3.50

FREELAND Tube Rear Site..... 37.50

FREELAND B Shooting Mat..... 18.00

FREELAND 1/4 opening Acces. Kit..... 20.00

" Foam Padded Shooting Glove..... 5.25

FREELAND Sling Keeper..... 1.25

" Mid-Century cuff Comb..... 8.50

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" Schutzen hook for above..... 8.50

" OLYMPIC PALM REST from..... 13.50

10X SHOOTING COAT..... 20.00

FREELAND "61" Butt Plate..... 33.00

Win. 52-D Target rifle Std. or Hvy. 145.00

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Scrubbs pockets quickly, clean & bright. For use in any motor or hand-driven chuck. Or can be manually operated. Fine steel wire brush, with metal sleeve. Only \$1.00 Ppd. Specify whether for large or small primers.

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June

Oklahoma State Shoot—Comanche Skeet & Trap Club, Fort Sill, June 1-2.

Washington State Championships—Spokane Gun Club, June 7-9.

Maryland State Championships, Loch Raven Skeet & Trap, Towson, June 8-9.

New Jersey State Championships—Etna Gun Club, Swedesboro, June 8-9.

Virginia State Championships—Fredericksburg Rod & Gun Club, June 8-9.

Western Open Regional—Golden Valley GC, Pacoima, Calif., June 14-16.

Great Eastern—(31st Annual), Lordship Conn., June 14-16.

Wisconsin State Championships — Sauk Prairie Trap & Skeet Club, June 15-16.

Texas State Championships—San Antonio Gun Club, June 21-23.

Iowa State Championships—New Pioneer Gun Club, Des Moines, June 22-23.

North Carolina State & Open Championships—Camp LeJeune Rod & Gun Club, June 22-23.

Montana State Championships—Missoula Gun Club, June 23.

July

13th Annual Blue Mountain Open—Blue Mountain Skeet & Trap Club, Harrisburg Pa., July 5-7.

16th Annual Soya Capitol Open, Decatur (Illinois) Gun Club, July 6-7.

Hartford Open and Connecticut State championships—Farmington, July 13-14.

South Carolina Open and State Championships—Greenville Gun Club, July 13-14.

Georgia State Championships—Forest City Gun Club, Savannah, July 19-21.

Hawaii State Championships, Honolulu Skeet Club, July 20-21.

New Mexico State Championships and Sandia Open—Sandia Air Base, Albuquerque, July 20-21.

27th Annual Clark Trophy Invitational—Homestead Skeet Club, Hot Springs, Virginia, July 20-21.

These are only a few of the thousands of skeet and trap tournaments scheduled for the months of June and July. There's one near you, no matter where you live, that you will enjoy watching or shooting.

FAST MAN WITH A .45

(Continued from page 26)

shooting. I saw him keep a tin can dancing in the air until his gun clicked empty!

Sergeant Tom Loughnan began his service career not only gun-shy, but completely inept! The first time he was issued a .45 ACP, he accidentally fired it and blew a caster from the desk sergeant's chair. He was immediately disarmed and was not allowed to carry a gun for six weeks while receiving extensive firearms safety training.

Tom did not recognize the importance of guns until he was wounded in a gun fight with thieves in Alaska. As so often happens, it was a case of the bad guys being better shots than the good guys. The thieves got away with army property and Loughnan went to the hospital.

He left the hospital determined to learn

how to use his weapon effectively. Loughnan burned up plenty of G.I. ammo, but later, when he was charged by a mad Siberian husky, he put five bullets into the beast while it was still in the air. He credits Corporal Sam Castiglia with teaching him some of the finer points of fast draw with the automatic.

Loughnan spent a year in Korea, was assigned as an Air Policeman to Air Force prisons, and had a tour of duty in French Morocco. His reputation had begun to spread through the Armed Forces, and he gave demonstrations in fast draw shooting.

For the past four years, Tom Loughnan has been attached to the Armed Forces Police Detachment in New York City, patrolling New York City and its environs within a radius of fifty miles from Columbus Circle. In this neon jungle, Tom does not rely so much on his well publicized mastery of a handgun as he does on his native Irish wits, a mixture of one part blarney and two parts applied psychology. But he can be deadly.

One night, patrolling the notorious 45th Street sector, a hoodlum hiding in a dark doorway threw a fire cracker at Tom's back. When it exploded, so did Tom. He turned, and drew in one motion. The hood was panic stricken when he looked down the barrel of a loaded and cocked .45. He had a right to be frightened; he was just a hair's breadth from eternity!

"My reason for fast draw is simple," he explains. "It could save my life! To me, it is not a game."

Gun safety to Loughnan is not merely a rule, it is a way of life. I have seen him fumble a draw where, if he fired the gun, it might not be safe. Before the weapon could be fired, Tom would flip the safety on. He has very fast reflexes and is constantly aware that his pistol could be deadly.

Through the years, since our meeting in my shop, we have given many exhibitions of fast draw and combat shooting for police organizations. Tom has two feats that he

GENUINE MAUSER RIFLE

CAL. 7MM

Original '93 short rifles—not cut down or sporterized guns.

7MM cal., 22" barrel — the right length for a high powered rifle. Ammo on market. To get this low price

I had to buy more than I needed so I can't select for anyone or check their safety.

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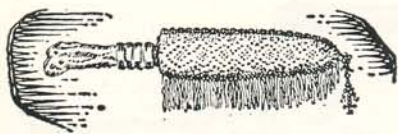
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demonstrates. He draws, holster-loads, and fires seven rounds into the target, drops the clip, slams in a full clip, and continues firing, scoring all 14 shots on the target in the total elapsed time of four seconds.

He enlists the aid of a spectator to show his "stick trick." He has the spectator pretend to be a thug drawing a gun against him. Tom's left hand flashes out, throwing his night stick at the "hoodlum" as his right hand goes for his holstered gun. By the time the stick hits the dodging and ducking target, he has the man covered with a cocked and loaded .45. This trick has put the odds on the Sergeant's side many times when he was on patrol.

One night, after Tom and I had given an exhibition for police officers in northern New



Jersey, we were invited to see the then new electronic combat range at Lincoln Park, New Jersey. We tried out the electronic range, and shot against each other and with a half a dozen New Jersey cops. It was then that Rothnagel invited us to give an exhibition. We agreed with enthusiasm. Because the combat range can only hold a gallery of about 100 people, and many more than that were anxious to see the show, we agreed to do two shows on one evening. We were to try and settle the time-honored argument as to which was faster, the double action revolver or the semi-automatic pistol.

The National Target Range combat gallery is a long narrow room about 125 feet long and 25 feet wide. There are ramped seats for spectators in the rear. The electronic targets are controlled from a large console, and various strings of colored lights indicate when a hit is scored on a target. The targets are made of a sheet of metal and a wire screen separated by pressed wood. The bullet, passing between the metal and the screen, establishes an electrical contact which registers the hit, and the targets are roughly the size of a man. There is a lineup of six targets in front of heavy steel baffles which eliminate any danger of ricochets.

We started on the seven yard marker, drawing and firing at the six targets, hitting them all in the total elapsed time of seven seconds. First Tom would shoot with his .45, and I would follow with my 4-inch barrel Colt .38 Official Police revolver. Both guns were standard issue. We made seven seconds easily and dropped the time to six seconds, —then five,—then four,—then three and a half seconds.

Tension mounted. Over the loud speaker, Rothnagel was telling the audience that this course had never been fired drawing from holsters, and that in his experience the speed of three and a half seconds had never been attained. We hit all six targets in three and a half seconds!

The applause was thunderous! By this time, Tom and I were "warmed up." We dropped the time to three seconds, and both of us blasted the half dozen targets before the automatic targets turned away. Our accuracy was improving with our increased speed. We shortened the time to two and a half seconds.

A funny thing happens to your sense of timing when the pressure mounts in combat shooting. You concentrate so intensely on every facet of your actions that you feel you are shooting with slow deliberation, that you really are taking a frightfully long time to draw and fire the six aimed shots.

Tom hit all the targets in two and a half seconds, and I matched him. We then dropped the time to two seconds. Nobody thought that that time could be made. We weren't too sure about it ourselves! We shook hands and went up to the firing line. The targets turned on.

Loughnan's hand was a blur as he drew, fan-loaded a round into the chamber, and began blasting at the six targets! The gallery was hysterical. He made it! The row of lights gleamed like a picket fence—six shots in two seconds without a miss. Tom was stunned!

I felt a little stunned myself as I went up to the firing line. Don't ask me what happened after that. All I know is that, when I turned around after shooting, all the lights were burning brightly. The match was a tie. Tom and I were pounding each other on the back like a pair of idiots.

That was the end of the show. Twenty minutes later we were committed to do a second show and try and do it again!

We came back and—we did it!

Despite the tension, Tom and I had a lot of fun that night. But we never did resolve the question: Is the revolver faster than the automatic? It's still a wide-open subject for the hot-stove league.



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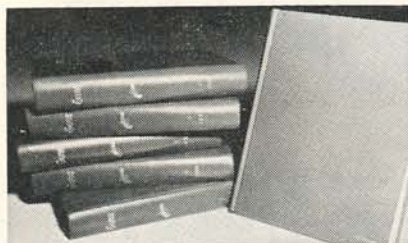
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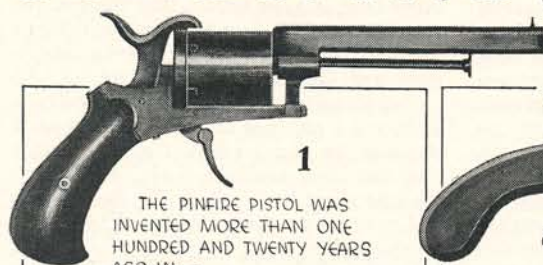
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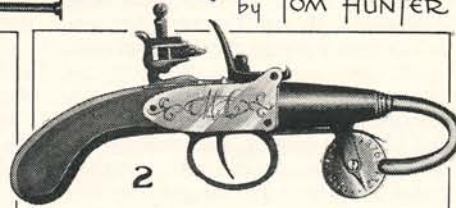
COLLECTOR'S QUIZ

by TOM HUNTER



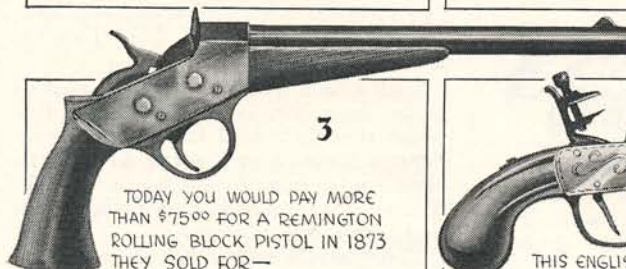
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Answers on page 52.

SHOTGUN MASTERS SHOOT FOR CROWN

(Continued from page 31)

with complete sincerity, wished the other to receive full honor for the unique program.

No lavish facilities enticed a man to enter this first All-Around Championship. Shooters from the entire country continue to meet here 25 years later in an atmosphere of rugged comradeship, to shoot and to renew old friendships and rivalries. Many jet in by commercial airliners to Louisville or Indianapolis and rent a car to the Gun Club. Those who fly their own private aircraft land at Grissom Field at nearby Mitchell (named after the city's favorite son, Astronaut Gus Grissom). Down to earth travelers arrive in compacts, Cadillacs, and Rolls Royces. Outdoor plumbing prevails at the club even today. A major concession in recent years are accommodations for women.

From the exterior, the club house has the appearance of many others across the country. A concrete floored porch extends nearly the full length of the building and faces the firing line. Large glass windows that can be swung overhead during warm weather allow shooters to sit inside on wooden stools and watch competitors. Immediately inside the front door, in front of the scoreboard, is a bushel basket of apples. Many years ago, a Northern Ohio shooter made the All-Around an annual event. He owned an apple orchard and, on one of his trips, he wanted to show off his nice apples. The shooters took to the idea, and the apples became a tradition.

The walls and rafters in the club house are covered with framed photographs of the best shooters of the country during the past 60 years. Most are autographed with personal messages to the Jenkins brothers. Newspaper clippings, score sheets, and other memo-

randa commemorating the shotgun shooting careers of not only Rock and Ralph, but also of Bill Jenkins, Ralph's son and present manager of the club, are framed and mounted on the walls.

One end of the club house contains a small kitchen, presided over by local women. A favorite delicacy of many shooters is Persimmon pudding, the club's autumn specialty. The opposite end of the club house has a counter over which entries are taken, and immediately in front of that is a big, black, pot-bellied stove surrounded by heavy wicker chairs and benches; a resting place between the times a man is actually on the firing line.

Twenty-five years ago, only 10 men put down the entry fee and participated in the first All-Around. Pete Peterson (a future ATA President) came from Montana; Fred King (another future ATA President) and Phil Miller were Texans; Ed Luyben and John Noel came from Tennessee; Ned Lilly was from Michigan; and Joe Hiestand was from Ohio. Hoosiers were Ralph Jenkins, J. R. Johnston, and George Cass.

It should be noted here that Cass was a professional in the employ of the Western Arms Company. In live pigeon shooting, amateurs and professionals shoot side by side for the same prizes. Many professionals have vied for the All-Around title throughout the years, but only Winchester-Western's Cliff Doughman has taken home the medal. He is also one of only six men to win the event twice. He won the Championship in 1953 with a 120x124 score, and in 1956 with 121x124.

A review of the entry list of the first Championship clearly indicates that every man entered had proved himself a shotgun

champion. State, Regional, and National title holders were then, and still are, a commonplace sight at the event.

Joe Hiestand won the first Jenkins' All-Around Championship, but it was far from being an easy win. Phil Miller led the 10-man field after the 16-yard shooting with a 99x100. Hiestand posted a 98, and Johnston a 97. In the 25-yard event, Johnston picked up three targets on Miller and led the field with 176x200. Miller had 174, and King 173. It should be noted that the highest score made from the 25-yard line was 79, shot by Johnston, King, and Peterson.

Hiestand's fine doubles shooting put him into the lead when he broke 97 of his 50-pair. Next high in the doubles was Cass with 88. Peterson and Jenkins tied for third with 86s. Hiestand's total for the first three hundred targets was 266.

Peterson was the man to beat in the skeet event when he broke 98. This was six targets better than Hiestand, King, and Cass, and it brought Peterson within three targets of Hiestand over all. The final score was Hiestand 452x500 and Peterson 449x500; still the three target margin. Each of the two leaders had killed 94 of his 100 live pigeons.

The following year, the program eliminated skeet, since skeet devotees had shown little interest in the shoot. In its place, trap targets from 20-yards were added. The second and final change was made in the 1939 program, when the former 100 target events were reduced to 25 targets from 16, 20, and 25-yards, plus 12-pairs of doubles, and 25 live birds. This produced a program that could be shot in one day's time, with a perfect score of 124x124. This is the identical program shot last October. Over the four traps and two live-bird rings at the Jenkins Club, time allows only 50 to 55 shooters to complete the race in one day. Entries have never exceeded this maximum number.

Shooters with vast experience have always been hard-pressed to adjust to the terrific change of pace required here. Scoring, nevertheless, has always been high. Phil Miller won the 1940 event with 122x124, and everyone predicted his score would never be topped. His only misses were one target from the 20-yard line, and one live bird. Miller's record held up until 1952, when the late Marion Partlow of Casey, Illinois, completed the program with a 123x124 total. His score remains today a challenge to future champions. His lone miss came on one of his doubles targets—long considered his forte.

Joe Hiestand set a record of his own by winning this All-Around Championship the first three years in a row. Miller broke the string by winning in 1940, and then Hiestand bounced back the following year for his fourth title in five years. Wind and bad weather combined to handicap all the shooters that year. The winning score was only 115x124; the lowest ever to win.

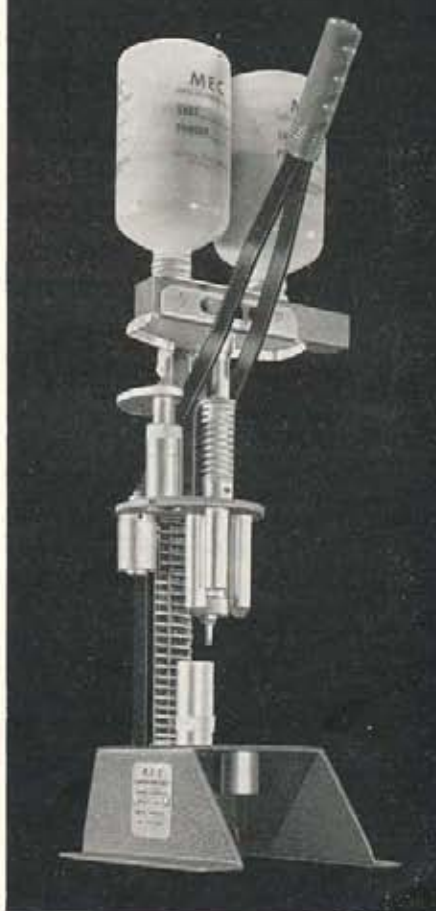
The outbreak of World War II in December, 1941, cancelled future Championships until the fall of 1947. A list of Post War winners reads like a list of Who's Who of the shotgun world. Iowa's Lyle Stephenson won in 1947; Homer Clark Jr., in 1948 and 1955; Herschel Cheek, 1949 and 1954; Marion Partlow, 1950 and 1952; Bob Allen, 1951 and 1958; Cliff Doughman, 1953 and 1956, and Bobby Lee Stifal, 1957 and 1959.

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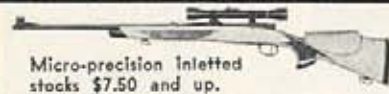


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event signed up. Fifty-two men were forced by darkness to postpone their final five birds until the next morning. Four had the best chances to win: Mercer Tennille of Shreveport, La., and young Norman Fitch of Cincinnati had totals of 113x119; two-time winners Cliff Doughman of Alton, Ill., and Herschel Cheek of Clinton, Ind., had posted 112x119 scores.

Three of the four had real fine reputations after many years of experience in shotgun competition. Tennille had been the country's almost undisputed Doubles king since World War II, in addition to being as tough as they come in all other phases of shotgunning. Professional Doughman was Winchester-Western's Director of Shooting Promotion with more than 15 years shooting under his belt. Cheek, in addition to having been President of the ATA, had at one time or other won just about every title in the mid-west. Norman Fitch, on the other hand was then only a promising young Redleg farm-system baseball pitcher. He was a good shooter, but he lacked experience.

The Championship was quickly decided. Doughman got five straight for a 117 total. Cheek missed his last two; Tennille missed his first and third. Fitch took his five straight to win and beat them all with a total of 118x124.

Twenty years is a long time between wins, but in 1961 Joe Hiestand won the All-Around Championship for the fifth time. Again, as in 1941, Joe had to win a shoot-off to get his gold medal. At the end of the race, Joe had scored 119, as did J. Hood Nichols of Jefferson City, Tennessee.

Once more, the day was done and a 26-target shootoff was called for the next morning at 8 o'clock. After shooting at 15 targets (5 each from 16, 20, and 25 yards) each of the men was without a miss. Three pair of doubles found each man missing one. It was the birds that made the difference. Hiestand missed his fourth bird, and Nichols followed suit; Hiestand got his fifth, but the Tennesseean couldn't get back on the track and missed not only the fifth bird but the Championship.

And so we come to the 25th Anniversary Jenkins Brothers All-Around Championship shot last October 26th. Record breaking frigid weather gripped the mid-west, and with the Cuban crisis, many shooters chose to remain by their home firesides. Only 36 entries were posted.

The attending shooters were sober for another, more personal reason. Ralph Jenkins had died the previous February of a heart condition he had suffered many years. Just as brother Rock's death five years previously had left a void in the shotgun world, so Ralph's death was mourned by all those attending the classic affair created by the two.

Prior to his death the Board of Directors of the United States Pigeon Shooting Federation had unanimously voted to pay tribute to Ralph by presentation of a plaque on the

occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the first All-Around Championship. The presentation was made to members of his family following the Championship.

Due to the adverse weather conditions, the target phase of the contest was particularly difficult. However, some good scores were posted. Leaders at that point were:

George Snellenberger	97x99
Lec Davidson	96x99
Cliff Doughman	95x99
Dwight Brown	93x99
Joe Hiestand	92x99
Marvin Driver	92x99

All, with the exception of Davidson, had many years of Championship performance behind them. Davidson had been shooting competitively for only two years. But at the



Twenty-fifth anniversary plaque.

Indiana State Shoot earlier in the year, he had broken 99 doubles (using a pump gun) and had won the High-Over-All title by breaking 879x900. In addition, he had shot at his first live birds just a year before.

Snellenberger, a 26 year-old meat packer from Angola, Indiana, was also something of a newcomer, having shot competitively for only seven years. During the 1961 Grand American Tournament, however, he and Dan Orlich put their names into the record book. Each had represented his State in the Champion of Champions race. Each scored perfect 100 straights. A few days later, they remained tied, each having added 500x500. At that point, the two were declared Co-Champions and their scores officially recognized as 600x600. Snellenberger had been active in live bird shooting for some years, and had won Championships from Pennsylvania to Nevada. Leading by one target at the end of the target shooting, he was the man to beat.

In the final phase of the shooting Snellenberger lost two of his live birds and won the race with a score of 120x124. Davidson, Hiestand, and Driver lost two apiece to finish with 119, 115, and 115. Doughman and Brown lost five each to score 115 and 113.

And so 21 All-Around Championships are history.

Who is (or was) the greatest? Right now, we would have to give the nod to Joe Hiestand of Hillsboro, Ohio, for his five wins of the All-Around Championship. But the Jenkins Brothers World's All-Around Championship will continue to be held each October, and you can bet there will be new Champions and new records set. And, each year, the man who wins will know he has beaten a real group of shotgun champions to win the coveted World's All-Around Championship medal.

AN OLD AMERICAN CUSTOM

(Continued from page 37)

thickness of a match. "You fellows are going to get to where you can shave off a mosquito's eyebrows at forty yards," remarked Harold George as he brought in the targets to be judged. It was amazing to see how accurately some of those farmers can shoot with their old rifles.

Running a match like this one is very simple. The target boys call off a contestant's name when his target is thumb-tacked to the target board. The contestant advances to the shooting post and waits until the target boys are in the safety zone. When contestants have had their chance, targets are collected and judged. After that, the entire process is repeated for another turkey.

In the black powder days the target was a light spot carved out of a charred board. The light spot was the size of a grain of corn, and all shooting was off-hand at fifty long paces in most of the matches. Many of the old-timers, could behead a gray squirrel almost every shot at sixty or more yards with those old rifles, and they probably would have classed our modern .22's as toys.

There are no hard and fast rules for shooting matches. In areas where they are legal, .22 caliber handgun matches are very interesting. Even bow and arrow matches are held, as are muzzle-loader shoots, using either restored muzzle-loading rifles or shotguns or replicas. Prizes vary, but edibles and sporting goods attract the greatest attention. Live or dressed turkeys, smoked hams, grocery baskets, pen-reared pheasants (where legal), beagle pups, fishing tackle, .22 rifles, hunting coats and boots, and camp lanterns are among the more popular match prizes.

Shooting matches of this kind can be handled in many different ways, indoors or outdoors, in the country, in towns and villages, or even in the big cities. No type of modern shooting match can be more interesting or more fun than the .22 rifle affairs held in the country. There were no fancy shooting positions nor was there any complicated equipment. A shooter either had the skill, or he did not. Ballistics and trajectories mean about as much to the country shooters as honesty does to most politicians.

Before the match ended Howard Pennington, Michael Womack, Henry Mullican, Carl Hale, T. Roller, John Jones, and Norm Hutchins had won turkeys, but no contestant won more than one bird. I tried my skill in several contests, but I did not score. I am used to shooting a scoped .22 and the open sights threw me for a loss. I used to score on gray squirrels at 40 yards three times out of five times with an old Stevens "Crack-shot" single shot, using .22 Short "Lesmoke" ammo. I can still do fairly well with a scoped .22, but the no rest stuff with an open sight rifle is apparently not for me. I attended one .22 rifle match a few years ago where all shooting was at 40 measured yards without rest. Some of the shooters did not even hit their targets, but they all had fun, and some of the fellows shot consistently good scores.

Shooting matches of this kind are legal practically everywhere. Many matches are sponsored by civic organizations, sportsmen's clubs, community clubs, and, in some cases,

even churches. Very few individuals or organizations try to commercialize on matches since it takes most of the fun out of them.

The Lucky Club normally stages three or four matches per year. "Too many will dull the interest," one of the club officials told me. And he was right. I knew of one civic organization that tried to stage a match every 30 days throughout the year, using prizes to suit the various seasons of the year. All went well through the first year. But in the second year, interest began to wane, and before the end of the second year the organization was out of the shooting match business.

The Lucky Club advertises its matches over the local radio station a week before the event, and they never fail to get a good crowd. Sometimes pen-reared pheasants are used as prizes instead of the gobblers.

Even rain does not stop the Lucky Community Club from holding a shooting match on schedule. If it rains, the match is moved into the abandoned school house which has been deeded to the club. I attended one of the club's rainy day matches not long ago. The heavy drizzle in no way dampened the enthusiasm of the competitors, and hunters driven indoors by the inclement weather joined us and made the match a big success.

These matches are fun for the contestants and their families, they can raise money for a club, and they are social gatherings in the best American tradition—
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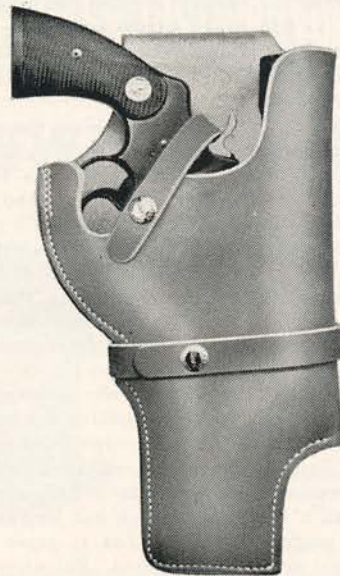
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TRAIL AND TARGET

I THINK one of the most frequent mistakes we gun-nuts make (and it applies also to gun writers) is that we forget how smart we are. We forget that gun talk is a language of its own, and that things we think are too basic to be mentioned are complete mysteries to a lot of people. We want those people to share our sports, to be enthusiastic about them, yet we pitch our sales talk to those people in language that is Greek to them.

Take the man who took me carefully aside not long ago and asked, "What's all this razmataz about sighting in a rifle? All you self-styled experts talk and write about it, but nobody I know ever did it. Hell, they're sighted in at the factory, aren't they?"

This was on a mule deer excursion in Colorado. The man wasn't a gun nut, obviously, but he had killed a nice buck the day before with a neatly placed shot at about 80 yards or so, and it wasn't his first one either. He'd brought meat down out of those mountains every year for more than a decade, and never thought there was anything remarkable about it. He owned a couple of rifles and a shotgun or two and a battered six-pistol that rode his pick-up with him, and he shot them all exactly the way he'd use a saw or a hammer. They were tools; if they got the job done, why fuss with them?

My ticket was filled too, so we had nothing to do but keep camp and sort of browse around the country. We had just topped out on a thin ridge overlooking some grand country, so I hooked a leg over the saddlehorn and went into my sermon. Here is the gist of it:

Yes, rifles are sighted in at the factory. Manufacturers often enclose the sight-in targets, to show that the piece was accurate when they boxed it. That's fine. And, at the risk of offending all the experts, I'll say that perhaps eight out of ten rifles never get sighted in by their owners and serve those owners pretty darned well ever after. This is rank heresy, of course, but so be it. The guns you buy today are well-made tools and, barring the unforeseen, they're okay just as you un-box them. Generally speaking, that is. And by generally speaking I mean okay for average use, by average people.

"Barring the unforeseen" needs some explanation also. I bought a fine rifle once, from a fine maker, which had its own sight-in target right in the box to prove that it could shoot "on the button." But when I fired it, it wouldn't group in a Texas hat at 100 yards. This was right after World War II, when good wood for stocks was a problem, and that rifle had come from the humid east into the arid southwest where wood (and everything else) dries out in a hurry. The forearm had warped possibly an eighth of an inch, and that rifle's accuracy was ruined. Rebedded, it became one of the most accu-

rate rifles in my racks. But if I hadn't sighted it in, if I'd accepted the factory "brag" target, I'd have been cussing that make of rifle till doomsday.

A thing as drastic as that doesn't often happen; but there are other reasons for sighting in your rifle. The man who shot that "brag" target at the factory wasn't you. His vision is probably okay, but maybe yours isn't. My own vision forces me to sight my handguns about four inches high and right for 50 yard shooting. The same "error" in rifle sights could put you well off a buck, even if your hold was perfect.

But there is more to sighting in than just checking a new firearm. If you are a once-a-year shooter, your rifle should be sighted in before every season, before you use it on game. Why? Anything can happen. Maybe the wood got soaked last season and your home was as dry as the Sahara desert. Gun wood is fine stuff and marvelously protected by modern methods, but a little warp can play hob with rifle accuracy, and a few trial shots will tell the story.

There's also the possibility that somebody has fiddled with your sights since last season. It happens. Or a sight can get knocked out of kilter in use, or by a fall, in many ways.

Finally, there's the matter of different ammunition. Your rifle may have been shooting fine with a certain load, a certain weight bullet; but don't expect it to shoot the same way (that is, into the same sight group) with a heavier bullet, or a lighter one, or a different load of powder. A .270 rifle won't put 150 grain bullets into the same place it puts 130 grain bullets; and a .30-06 won't put 180 grains into the same place it puts 150s. Changes like this require another sighting in of the rifle.

A nuisance? Not really. Sighting a rifle is easy, and fun. Certain people who have talked and written about it have made it sound like a highly complicated business, but it needn't be. In most cases, five shots will do it, if you go at it right. But I'll get to that later.

First, let's decide what you want the rifle to do. If you're a varmint, shooting at small beasts at long ranges, your rifle will have to be sighted to put its bullet exactly on target at exact ranges. That's a special sort of problem that does require some pretty special treatment. But if you're a varmint of that type, you are also a pretty advanced rifleman, and you don't need a primer-lesson on how to sight a rifle. Let's look, instead, at the man who uses his rifle for big game, seldom shoots between seasons, isn't in the post-graduate class when it comes to rifle savvy. There's an awful lot of him, in this big country; something like a dozen million!

The man we have in mind, then, is the man who wants to be able to put a bullet

into the lethal area of a deer at any range at which he plans to shoot. This man should certainly not plan to shoot, or let himself shoot, beyond 300 yards, so let's talk about ranges of from muzzle to 300 yards. And note that I said "at any range" between those extremes, because this man (unlike the varmint) doesn't want to have to fiddle with sights every time he wants to take a shot. He wants an "all range" rifle.

There's no such thing, of course, as an "all range" rifle, but proper sighting can make yours act like one, for practical purposes. Let's define an "all range" hunting rifle as a rifle so sighted that, given a perfect hold, the bullet will not fly above (at mid-range) or below (at extreme range) the lethal target area of the animal you hunt, over the ranges at which you will shoot him. You can do this with proper sighting-in. Exactly how you do it depends on what rifle you're using. Also on what sights you're using, because rifles will shoot to different points of impact with scope sights than with iron sights. But you can forget that, unless you want to get technical; the only thing you need to remember is, sight the rifle in with the sights you will be using on game.



Let's say your rifle is a .30-30. With iron sights, a .30-30 sighted to hit 3" high at 100 yards will drop that bullet on the point of aim at about 170 yards. (This is with the 150 grain bullet.) The bullet will strike below point of aim beyond that distance, but it will not fall enough below point of aim to miss the lethal target area of a deer until it gets out to about 225 yards. This means that your bullet, started with a perfect hold, will hit the lethal target area at any point between the muzzle and 225 yards. (I'm not saying that the .30-30 is or is not a 225-yard rifle! Sighting in is a matter of accuracy and the patterning of bullet flight, not of killing power.)

Now here is where we come to the difference between rifles—i.e., between cartridges. A .270, scope-sighted, shooting the 130 grain bullet, sighted in to hit 3" high at 100 yards (same as the previous .30-30 example), will reach out to about 250 yards (or more, depending on scope height) before the bullet comes down to point of aim—and it will not fall below that lethal area on a deer target until it passes the 250-yard mark. My own pet .270 is sighted as near as can be 3" high at hits point of aim at about 270, and is still on the lethal deer target out to beyond 300. Its sights are "locked," haven't been changed for years. I don't plan to shoot the rifle at any living thing that is more than 300 yards distant—unless it's shooting back at me; in which case, I'll gamble that I can guess "Kentucky windage" as well as he can!

A mistake many people make is that of handicapping a fine rifle by wrong sighting. Take the same two rifles and loads. Sight the .30-30 to be on point of aim exactly at 100 yards, and the bullet will be below that point of aim at all ranges beyond 100 yards, and so far below it at 170 yards that you should

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miss the deer you shoot at. Sighting the rifle to hit 3" high at 100, as we did first, won't cause you to miss a deer at that distance; but by sighting it to hit on point of aim at 100, you have wiped 100 yards off the accuracy potential of the rifle!

Sight the .270 to hit on point of aim at 100, and you knock at least 200 yards off the accuracy potential of that rifle!

The rule is, sight your rifle to hit point of aim at the longest range it can reach without sending its bullet too high for effective kills at mid-range. "Too high" would be more than half the diameter of the target you want to hit.

This is not as complicated as it may sound at first reading. You know that a bullet travels in a long, flat arc from muzzle to target. We call that the bullet's trajectory. The trajectory of light, fast bullets is longer and flatter than that of heavy, slow bullets. Hence you can sight the fast, light bullet for longer ranges because it will not

arch as far above the line of sight at mid range as would a heavy, slow bullet with its rainbow trajectory.

The bullet will fall below your line of sight after it passes the range at which it has been sighted to hit point of aim. This fall will be fairly rapid by comparison with its earlier rise and fall, because much of its initial energy has been used up; but it is still an effective bullet, from the standpoint of accuracy, until it has fallen too far to hit the bottom edge of your lethal-area target.

The game rifle for most hunters should be sighted in to take advantage of every possible yard of its accuracy potential. Sight it for a lesser range, and you waste a part of that potential.

Of course, there are fast big bullets, and slow small ones. Each has its own characteristics, its own trajectory, its own sighting-in problem. But it isn't much of a problem. In the next installment, I'll try to tell you how to solve it.

SHOULD WE HUNT NATIONAL PARKS?

(Continued from page 23)

state that a late hunt, when the park is closed to summer tourists and during the zero weather, would not attract many hunters but would resolve into a road hunt. Yet thousands of hunters do go into equally rough country, regardless of weather, where game is not nearly so numerous.

That great land areas like the National Parks can safely open their gates to carefully regulated hunts by limited numbers of sportsmen has been proved beyond question. The military reservations have been so opened, and the transition from the sanctum sanctorum available only to the army has not resulted in a single headache where the civilian huntsmen are concerned.

The Western Association of Game and Fish Commissioners at their last annual meeting voted in favor of controlled hunting inside the National Parks. This was followed by the action of the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners, who at their latest get-together urged precisely the same course. In connection with this stand, the Commissioners met with Secretary Udall to discuss the matter of opening the parks to hunting. The meeting came to naught. It was the impression of at least some of the delegates, who represented 16 States and several million sportsmen, that the secretary did not take them seriously.

The group's temper was evident in a statement issued after the meeting in which the commissioners recommended "That when new areas are turned over to the Park Service, each State will retain jurisdiction over all fish and wildlife. If such State control is not fully assured, the International Association will oppose any move by the Congress or the President to create new units for the Park Service."

These are strong words. Nine new National Parks have been proposed and unless the Park Service changes its attitude, it can expect a vigorous hassle as to who will manage the game on the new recreational areas. In fact, any expansion of the National park system might very well hinge on this single item.

That the attitude of state game department heads since the illstarred meeting of last

winter has been brought home to Secretary Udall is evidenced by a quote from his recent address before the National Wildlife Federation: "Press coverage of the President's special message has emphasized use of the fund for the acquisition of new National Park areas. I want to make it clear that the fund will be used also for the acquisition of wildlife refuges and for the preservation of endangered species. The great national effort to preserve and develop outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife resources to meet the demands of the 20th Century will succeed only if we maintain a united conservation front, differing in specifics, perhaps, but never yielding to the temptation to destroy the whole by trying to assure special advantage to any part. Hunters and traditional park enthusiasts are too frequently at loggerheads over the place recreational hunting has in lands under the administration of the National Park Service."

"I hope," Udall continued, "that both sides in the National Park hunting issue will refrain from demanding a far-reaching rigid decision until the studies are completed and all the facts are in. By studying each area individually, I believe we can make reasoned determinations on the use to be permitted in each area, including hunting, that will yield the greatest return to the public." This is hopeful, at least.

Directly after World War I, we had 3.5 million hunters. The Census Bureau, at the behest of the Fish & Wildlife Service in 1960, made a count of the sportsmen in this country and found that, during the previous twelve-months period, a staggering total of 50,000,000 Americans fished or hunted at least once!

As to those who hunt more than once, we seem to have in the neighborhood of 15,000,000 license-buying huntsmen, plus an estimated 3,000,000 more who hunt but who (for various reasons, such as being under or over age, shooting over his own lands, and other reasons), do not need to purchase a license. As for the anglers, there are about 16,000,000 of them.

In 1923, when we had 3.5 million hunters, it was perfectly all right for the National

Park Service to bar all hunters. For that number, hunting areas were plentiful. Today, with hunting areas reduced and with five times as many hunters, we cannot sensibly apply the prohibitions of 40 years ago.

The 29 National Parks cover some 22,000,000 acres, or 34,532 square miles. They are as large as the States of Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Delaware put together. Under the Kennedy recreational program, it is proposed to add nine more of these mammoth sanctuaries.

In 1872, when the first park (Yellowstone) was established, the National Parks were intended to be maintained as inviolate sanctuaries for wildlife. Firearms were, and are, strictly verboten. It was believed that, as the game increased and over-populations occurred, surplus game would spill over the borders and populate the surrounding country. In this fashion, the parks would serve as breeding reservoirs which would thus be a boon to the sportsmen.

But the experience of the past 75 years has dispelled much of this wishful thinking. Game does multiply within park borders. But parks have not grown so over-crowded that game animals in large numbers leave these ideal surroundings to beef up the herds throughout the surrounding countryside. Where game has been observed to leave the sanctuary, it has been because heavy snows and lack of browse has driven it out.

Of further direct bearing are the established facts that game which is overly protected, (as in our parks) tends to regress. Instead of breeding strong, virile offspring, sickly calves and malformed individuals appear, and there is an increasingly high incidence of barren cows, lack of stamina, lack of resistance to disease, drought, and natural enemies.

Biologists now believe that the game animal, just as the human, must fight and struggle to maintain a hearty, virile species. The panacea of complete and absolute protection has been found to fall considerably short of the full answer.

The Germans, who seem to know more about the propagation of big game than most others, maintain their herds in healthy, vigorous state by selective shooting. Mature and oldish stags are selected for the guns, and this yearly culling keeps the herd robust and strong. The same practice might very well be instituted in our parks. A carefully balanced program of selective shooting, taking only mature and elderly bulls, would revitalize the herds and would provide thousands of game-starved hunters with the opportunity to take a trophy—would, besides, go a long way toward relieving the shooting pressures across the land.

The Yellowstone is as large as the State of Massachusetts. It contains grizzly, elk, moose, mule deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, buffalo, and black bear. Mt McKinley, another giant, comprising 2,000,000 acres, harbors moose, caribou, bighorn sheep, black bear, and ducks. Glacier Park, in Montana, (1,000,000 acres) is home to moose, mountain sheep, black bear, grizzly, and mule deer.

The Olympic is filled with elk. Mt. Ranier is the abode of innumerable Rocky Mountain goats. Yosemite has a big grizzly population. Wind River National holds mammoth herds of both plains bison and pronghorn. When the reader recalls that these areas, combined,

are as large as six of our eastern States, he can hardly fail to realize that the return of such a vast area, prolific with wild game, to the hunting scene would serve to assuage the hunting pangs of countless thousands.

This is not to say that either this writer or the International Association of Conservation Commissioners is advocating anything as wild as an open door policy. Far from it!

Carefully controlled and regulated hunting should be permitted in all our National Parks. The hunting would be under the supervision of park rangers, and only a limited kill would be permitted. The park officials, with a working knowledge of their game surpluses, would designate, annually, the numbers of animals to be shot during the season, and this take would be carefully controlled.

The sportsman could not hunt without a guide, and would move only in designated areas. This could be one of the finest and best organized shooting plans anywhere. Not only would a limited season such as this serve to cull the game, it would relieve shooting pressures in many hard pressed sections of our country.

Since the lands within the parks are all federally owned, this would be a boon to those budget-hampered hunters who cannot presently afford the skyrocketing fees now demanded of the non-resident sportsman when he sets foot across any State boundary. The parks, common property of the people of this country, could not set exorbitant license fees, but would arrive at a nominal figure, if any at all. It is a frequently-made claim that the country belongs to the people. The idea here is—let's let the people use it!

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By Henry P. White and Burton D. Munhall
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Box 331, Bel Air, Md. 1963. \$10.00)

Cartridge collectors will find this book the answer to their prayers, for identification of cartridges they have and for a wish-list of cartridges they want. Other must buyers of the book are police departments and all persons interested in crime detection, since this is a thorough text for cartridge identification. But don't ignore the book just because you don't happen to fall within one of the above categories; it is also a treasure-house of information for every serious student of firearms and firearms development. Fully illustrated, of course. And the names of its authors are as good a guarantee of authenticity as the word "Sterling" on silver! It's a limited printing; better order while you can get it.—E.B.M.

COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO AMERICAN CARTRIDGE HANDGUNS

By DeWitt E. Sell
(Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pa.
1963. \$6.95)

This is a book for reference rather than for straight-through reading; and if anybody thinks this reviewer is going to pin-point every word of it for errors, just to show how smart I am, he's crazy! Errors there may be; there usually are errors in anything printed covering such a large number of items—which may be a back-handed way to say that I haven't found any, which is the truth. The book includes "A Guide to Values," a subject on which nobody will agree with anybody entirely, but Sell's opinions provide an educated point of departure. Pictures range from excellent in the case of the current models, to not very good for the older pieces, but the text descriptions help to cover this lack. The book is a fine addition to any gun library, whether for identification only or for value comparisons.—E.B.M.

LEARNING TO GUN

By John Stuart Martin
(Doubleday & Co., New York. 1963. \$4.95)

This one, on the other hand, is for reading—and I guarantee you pleasure from that reading, as well as instruction. The publishers' blurb says the book was "written as an introduction to hunting for beginners of both sexes, but anyone who has ever crouched in a duck blind or moved up to a dog on point will delight in it." I can't say it better. John Martin is an old field hand who loves the gun, the field, the game, the dogs, and the men who have shared hunts with him. When he teaches, it is from experience, and his love of that experience is apparent. If you're an old hand yourself, you'll enjoy the book. If you have a boy or girl, or a wife or friend, you would like to interest in hunting, the book is a good investment. Try it and see.—E.B.M.



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EASTERN FIREARMS COMPANY, Dept. CM-7, 34-36 Lee Ave., New Brunswick, N. J., offers a catalog of arms and equipment. Send 25c to cover mailing.

AFRICAN CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN GUNS

(Continued from page 19)

an hour or more, depending on the terrain and your physical condition.

Roy, the nearest town to the sheep area, has some accommodations, but if you have a pick-up camper, you might as well use it. To get to the hunting area, you will need a four-wheel-drive vehicle like the Jeep.

The Barbary sheep, or aoudad, said to be a second or third cousin to the African Impala, is a recent import from northern Africa. Many doubted, at first, this coveted trophy animal could be successfully transplanted to North America, but the seed stock introduced into New Mexico some years ago has thrived and multiplied. The typical Barbary is an animal that weighs between 175 and 250 pounds, can climb up and down the sheerest rocky surface with ease, and, unlike the bounding Impala, runs in a swift, straight course at a speed of 10 to 20 miles per hour.

The Barbary ram has thick, curved horns adorning its bearded head, a powerful body, and concave hoofs. The ewe has small,

slightly curved horns, a less powerful body than the ram, and concave hoofs.

These sheep have very good eyesight, a good sense of smell, but poor hearing due to the heavy horns and the very small, pointed ears.

Early in the morning, they graze on the Canadian's grassy benches, below the rim-rock and then nap among the jagged boulders. With a great deal of luck and caution it is possible to sneak up to the rim of the canyon, peer down, and get a shot at a Barbary ram trophy at 200 feet.

By mid-morning, the sheep descend to the river far below to drink and to wallow in the soft, cool sand. They sleep again in the shade of greasewood and mesquite, ascending in the afternoons to graze along the benches again.

When alerted, the Barbary, unlike other game, immediately freezes. Standing still, he blends perfectly with the surrounding terrain, and it is almost impossible to see him without binoculars. He will remain con-

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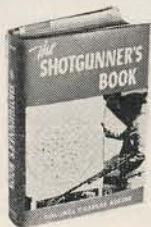
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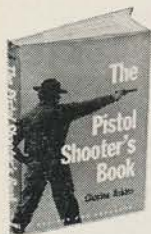
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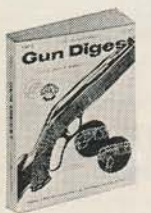
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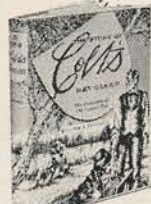
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cealed up to an hour. Fired at, he will run, with lowered head, down the rocky slope to the riverbed, and there he sets a fast, straight course until he is safe.

Stalking a Barbary cornered in a blind canyon can be near-disastrous, as Robert Crompton, of Albuquerque, learned during a recent hunt.

Crompton, Jim McClellan, and I tracked a huge Barbary ram upriver for perhaps a mile, and then into a box canyon. We saw the ram run upslope and disappear behind a large boulder into a niche in the cliff.

It was impossible to see the ram, much less shoot at him. We sat down at the canyon's mouth and waited for him to reappear. After an hour, the old ram still hadn't shown himself.

Crompton fired several rounds at the boulder, hoping to spook him. But—no ram.

Thinking that the ram might have given us the slip, we advanced slowly toward his hiding place. Every now and then McClellan and I threw a rock toward the crevice, while Crompton stood ready with his rifle.

When we were within 20 feet of the niche in the canyon wall—it happened. The Barbary ram emerged suddenly, running straight at us. For a moment we froze in awe-struck stupor. Then we jumped in all directions!

Crompton was struck a glancing blow by the animal's left shoulder, which sent him sprawling, and his rifle clattering. McClellan jumped backward, tripped and fell, legs flailing as he landed. I landed on my right side in the rocks, trying to save my camera.

Crompton, hurt the worst but on his feet first, sighted the ram as it charged for the river bed, and fired. The ram went down, and a second shot did the trick.

Dressed, the ram weighed 187 pounds. The horns had a 29½" spread—the biggest ram taken during that particular hunt. And we have the dubious distinction of being the only men in North America who were charged by a Barbary ram and lived through it. Don't laugh; there are authenticated cases where natives of North Africa, in the Barbary's native habitat, have been killed by charging rams.



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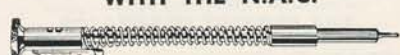


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GUNS OF THE PONY EXPRESS

(Continued from page 18)

to provide sufficient background to put the over-all picture in perspective.

From the start, it was generally known that the 20 pounds of mail carried by Pony Express riders would have little monetary value. The greatest temptation to outlaws and to the Indians was the livestock and supplies kept at the various stations. These marauders were not opposed to taking a Pony rider's horse and belongings, if they could catch him, but the rich bait was at the relay points. Indians and outlaws alike struck these isolated outposts hard and often.

In that section of the route from a little west of Fort Laramie to Fort Kearny, the company decided to fight fire with fire. They placed this troublesome stretch under supervision of the accomplished gun-slinger Captain Jack Slade. If Slade's administration of justice and ideas of the proper way to protect the company's interests were not always strictly legal, they were at least swift and effective. Not much trouble was encountered here after Jack Slade took charge.

There was some trouble with the Kiowas and Arapahoes in the East, but the greatest dangers came from the Pah Utes in Nevada. Throughout the full 18 months of operation, however, Pony Express riders, on their superior mounts and with hard-shooting weapons, were able to outrun danger—all except one who was found dead with an Indian arrow in his back. In an estimated total of 650,000 miles of riding, only one *mochila* was lost.

The station tenders did not fare so well. In lonely out-of-the-way places, they had to maintain constant vigilance for self protection and to prevent theft of the livestock in their care. On May 7, 1860, a group of Nevada Pah Utes under Mogoannoga surprised Williams Station and killed David and Oscar Williams and attendants Sullivan, Fleming, and a fellow known as "Dutch Phil."

This massacre of the Pony Express men at Williams Station, coupled with other vicious attacks made the same time at Honey Lake, at the Truckee River, and elsewhere, touched off open warfare with the Pah Utes, whose leader was Poito, better known as "Old Winnemucca." A little over a month after the Pony Express was started, its riders and stations became prime targets for a large tribe of vengeful Indians.

Appeals were sent out to the California settlements for arms and ammunition. Without awaiting aid, however, Nevadans in the nearby towns formed what was little more than a big posse of 105 undisciplined men. Poorly armed and with little plan, they set out to punish those responsible for the raid on Williams Station.

On May 12, the Nevadans came upon the Indians near Pyramid Lake. Making the mistake of underestimating the strength and sagacity of Winnemucca's band, the Nevadans were led into a trap and mowed down by a hail of rifle-balls and poisoned arrows. They were soon forced into headlong flight, leaving almost half of their number either dead or dying.

News of this tragic defeat, one of the worst for white men in western history,

aroused Californians and Nevadans to quick and determined action. Two companies of United States soldiers numbering 150 men (elements of the 3rd Artillery and 6th Infantry) proceeded from California to Carson Valley. Volunteer groups such as the Truckee Rangers, the Nevada Rifles, the Virginia Rifles, the Sierra Guards, and the Downieville Volunteers marched to strengthen the force until 800 men were gathered under the command of Col. John C. Hayes and Captain Stewart.

The well-organized and ably commanded force now moved toward the Indians' stronghold near Pyramid Lake. This time, the story had a different ending. On June 3, the Indians were met and put to flight with losses so heavy as to bring about negotiations for peace. But the cessation of warfare which followed proved to be a somewhat untrustworthy peace. Hostile feelings and occasional raids continued.

Some days after Col. Hayes' force had taken the field, the Secretary of War belatedly sent this May 31st message by Pony Express to Col. C. F. Smith, commanding the Department of Utah at Camp Floyd: "It is reported that Indians have stopped the mail and killed emigrants between Salt Lake and Carsons Valley. Send out sufficient forces to keep the road open, and protect emigrants and mails."

The Pony Express road west of Salt Lake was certainly not open after the outbreak of the Pah Ute war. Through service was disrupted for about 30 days. The attendants at Dry Creek station had been killed, stations at Cold Creek and Roberts Creek had been attacked and destroyed. All told, seven stations were put out of operation, 16 men killed, and 150 horses lost. These horses, 4-7 years old and about 15 hands high, had cost the Pony Express an average of \$175 apiece. They were always sheltered and fed with great care. Rebuilding and restocking was to cost the company \$75,000.

Bolivar Roberts, superintendent of this Nevada division of the Pony Express, set about getting the mails on schedule again as soon as the Indian hostilities had been quieted by Col. Hayes' men. William F. Finney, an official of the company in San Francisco, appealed through a Sacramento newspaper for help in restoring the mail services. He stated, "What is wanted is \$1000 for the pay of the men, \$500 for provisions, and 25 Sharps rifles and as many dragoon pistols. I will guarantee to keep the Pony alive a while longer." Citizens of Sacramento, desirous of the fast mail's continuation, promptly raised the money and furnished most of the weapons Finney requested.

Help was also coming to the Pony Express from the Federal government. The Assistant Adjutant General, E. D. Townsend, sent this message to Col. P. St. George Cooke of the 2nd Dragoons at Camp Floyd (40 miles west of Salt Lake City): "A communication of Bvt. Colonel C. F. Smith of the 18th of July, 1860, then commanding the Department of Utah, relative to the issue of arms and ammunition to the Pony Express Company to enable its employees to defend themselves from hostile Indians on the road and at the

stations, has been laid before the Secretary of War, who directs me to address you and to say that, under the circumstances, the issue of arms is approved, but the Company will be called upon, either to pay for the arms or to return them at once."

This letter indicates that the army wanted to be helpful if not very generous. Col. Cooke's predecessor in command, Col. Smith, had already issued arms to the Pony Express, and his letter of July 18, 1860, (provided here by our National Archives and Records Service) gives a revealing picture of things

Gas — And The Law

We have had several inquiries concerning the legal status of tear-gas gas devices. The following excerpts from a letter to Penguin Associates, makers of one such device, the "Penguin," should clarify the matter:

"The Penguin pen-type gas gun... was submitted to the National Office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division... Since the tear gas gun does not have a separate chambered barrel capable of firing a fixed round of ammunition, but is capable of firing only the special gas cartridges... it is not subject to the provisions of either the National or Federal Firearms Act."

Gas cartridges are also made in standard calibers to fit firearms, but these are for sale to law enforcement agencies only. This, we think, is too bad, and a lovely sample of fuzzy thinking on somebody's part. The sob-sisters who decry civilian ownership of guns for self protection should, we would think, be delighted if some of those guns were loaded with tear gas instead of bullets! As (whisper-whisper) some are!

We know a chap who carries in his car a .38 revolver loaded gas-lead-gas-lead. A couple of aspiring thugs tackled him the other night. He fired gas into the face of the nearest attacker, dropped the muzzle and drove the No. 2 slug-loaded shot into the dirt, then put No. 3 chamber (gas) into the face of the second man. The thugs were still incapacitated when the squad car drove up. The shooter said, "Those guys were lucky. I was fresh out of gas—and I had no intention of putting those last three slugs into the pavement!"

heretofore unclear. This letter, written by Col. Smith from Camp Floyd, Utah, was addressed to the Assistant Adjutant General at the City of New York:

"The Agent of the Pony Express Company at this place, in view of the reported Indian disturbances on the route to Carson Valley, requested me a short time since to furnish him with a small supply of arms to enable the employees of the Company on that part of the route to defend themselves on the road and at the stations.

"In view of the circumstances I let him have one hundred and six (106) Army sized revolvers and sixty (60) 'Mississippi' rifles, and some ammunition for the same, on the condition of their being returned in good order, or paid for if not.

"This Company ought to arm its own employees. I think, therefore, it should be called

upon either to pay for these arms or return them at once.

"The Commander of the Department has been heretofore in the habit of selling this kind of rifle—no longer in the hands of troops—(issued by authority of the War Dept. to Messrs. Russell & Co., contractors for Army transportation, to arm their employees on the road to Utah, and by them turned in at the Ordnance depot here) to emigrants and discharged soldiers; but I do not feel authorized to sell the revolvers, altho' they are surplus, without the sanction of the War Dept. I would be pleased to receive some instructions in this matter.

"The employees of this Company toward Carson Valley, who are represented to be numerous, are not free from the suspicion of inciting the Indians to menace the stations and run off animals; the latter to pay themselves the amount due them from Mr. Chorpennin, the late mail contractor. The character of the reported outrages, and the few Indians or pretended Indians represented to be engaged in them, render my original supposition that *White Men* are at the bottom of them altogether probable.

"The Express came in from the West a few days since all the way from Carson Valley for the first time in several weeks. The California mail also came in on the same day. They report the Indians troublesome, but nothing definite.

"I have received no report from Lt. Perkins, comdg. the Mounted Company on this road, since that dated June 13 to 16 ult., forwarded by me under date of June 19th ult. I have notified this officer that he will remain out at all events until the first of October; and shall in a few days send him additional supplies for that purpose."

Now, among other things, we know precisely that the Pony Express Company received 106 Colt .44 Dragoon pistols and 60 Model 1841 "Mississippi" .54 caliber rifles from the Army at Camp Floyd. From Sacramento, we know the Pony Express received approximately 25 Colt .44 Dragoon pistols and 25 Sharps shoulder arms, of which we assume the majority were caplock carbines, these being the most popular and plentiful at that time.

In a Sept. 27, 1860, letter to Livingston, Bell & Co., Pony Express agents at Camp Floyd, the Army requested return of the arms loaned. But they stated that if it was desirable for the company they might retain the Mississippi rifles provided they paid \$13.25 apiece for them, and they might exchange the .44 Dragoon Colt pistols for .36 Colt Navy pattern pistols, the Navy pistols to cost the Pony Express Company \$18 each.

(To be concluded)

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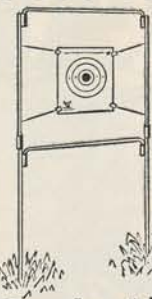
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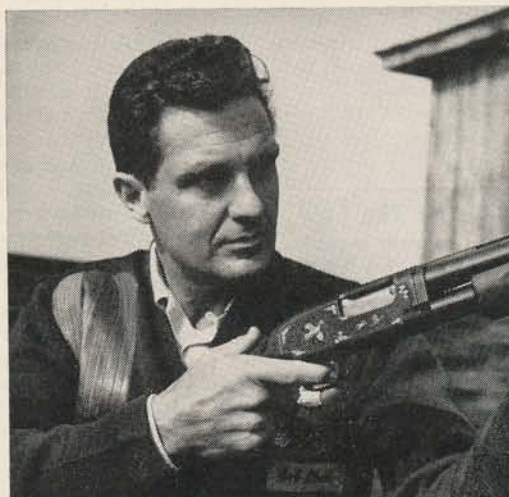
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—Robert Stack.

Bob Stack, ex-skeet champion and star of TV's long-time favorite "The Untouchables," is only one of thousands of gun enthusiasts who have welcomed The Shooters Club of America with instant support and high praise.

Already, people are realizing the profits offered by membership. From New Orleans, a member writes: "The question you answered, free of charge, enabled me to sell a gun to a collector. My profit: \$60.00." A Missouri member writes: "The enclosed order for books, at your discount, saves me \$20.00. Here's my check; extend my membership." A dealer in California wrote: "Your 'Red Book of Used Gun Values' has already earned me twice the price of membership." Another Californian says: "Here's my application and check. My shooting coat, with all its patches, still looks naked now that all of my buddies are wearing your emblem; ditto my car."

But The Shooters Club of America is more than dollar profits, more than emblems. It is a fraternity of shooters joining forces to promote more shooting and more fun from shooting, for more people, and to retain the right to shoot for all people. It is a force that will be felt wherever anti-gun legislation threatens.

Announcing The Shooters Club of America has been a little like hooking onto a whirlwind. We have more than twice as many members now as we ever dared hope we'd have in this time period. We're plowing profits back into services for readers—a new "Question & Answers" department in this issue—a "man in Washington" to keep an eye on whatever gun legislation is pending. These are only beginnings. We have big plans for The Shooters Club of America. The reception given us to date convinces us that those plans can be accomplished.

Like the stock market on a busy day, sales are running ahead of our "tickers," so if your membership kit is a few days late in coming, forgive us. And if you haven't sent in your membership application, get with it! This is a trend, friend! What will you say, dad, when your child asks, "What did you do in the Big War, papa—the war to save shooting?" Show him your Shooters Club emblem. Get one for him! Where could you find a better shooting buddy?

There's a membership blank on the facing page. But we're not sticklers for formality; if you want a membership for that boy (or some other shooting companion, or somebody who's having a birthday, or somebody you owe a favor), just include them in your check and write their names and addresses on a sheet of paper. It's a fine investment... in dollar values, in shooting enjoyment, and in the shooting future of America.

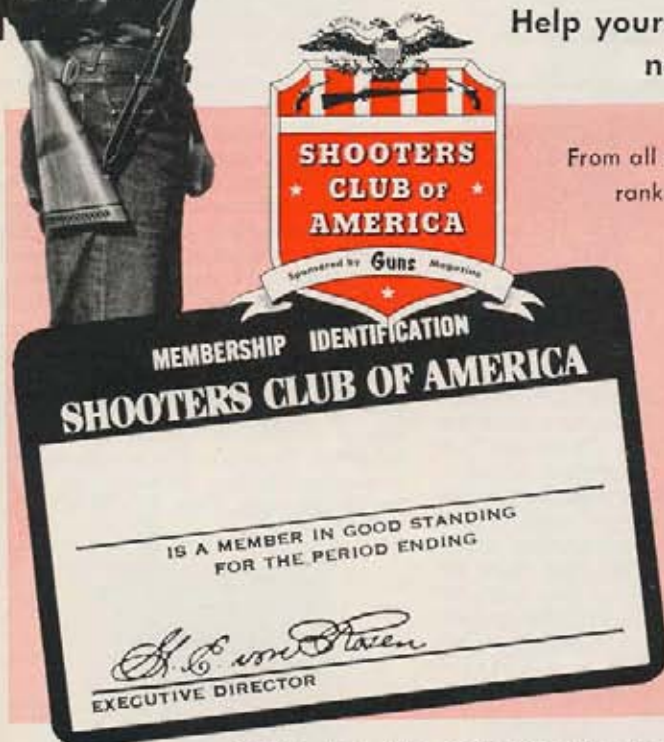
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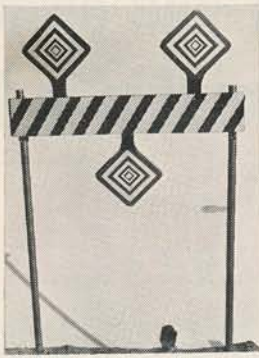
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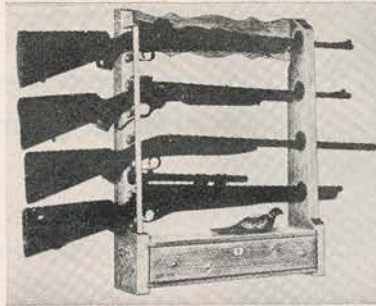


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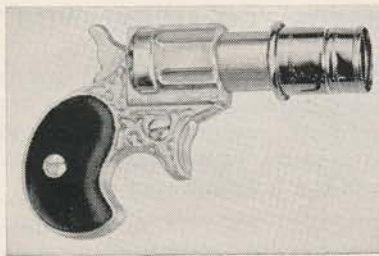
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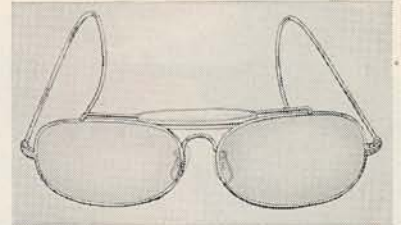
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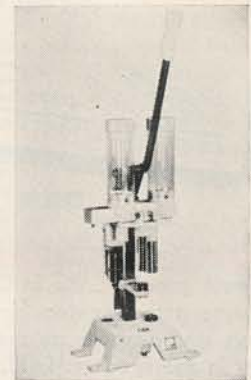
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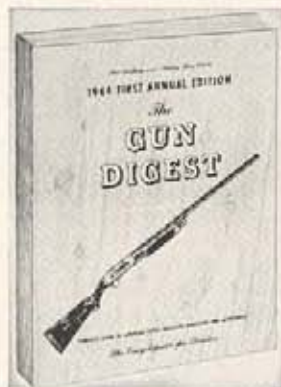


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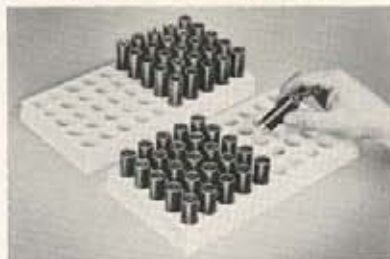
'63 TRAIL SCOUT. Composite of licensable vehicle for street and rugged transportation for sportsmen. Equipped with easy-start 4-cycle 3 1/4-hp engine, recoil starter, muffler, air cleaner, heavy duty self-energizing clutch. Also kick stand, aluminum wheels with 14" knobby tires, chain driven jack shaft. Weight: 83 lbs.; height, 32"; length 50". Produced by Bug Sales, 330 S. Irwindale, Azusa, Calif.

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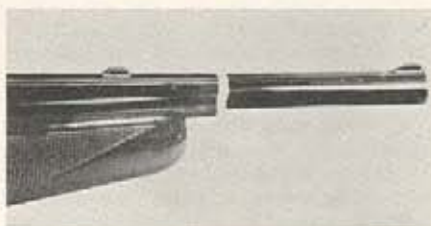


SHOTGUN SHELL RELOADING BLOCK called "Shell Caddy" permits more convenient reloading of shotgun shells, as well as orderly method of storage. 50 shell capacity one-piece, molded block accommodates all shotgun sizes from 10 through 28 gauge, including .410 bore. Unit prevents accidental mixing of inspected with uninspected empty shells, eliminates danger of loaded shells being knocked over or dropped. Shell Caddy lists at \$1.98. A product of J. A. Somers Co., 1771 Old Ranch Road, Dept. G-7, Los Angeles 49, Calif.

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OUTSTANDING COLLECTION POSTAGE STAMPS from Afghanistan. Sensational stamps picture Nomads in combat, fierce Afghan hounds, savage mountain beasts and birds, exotic alpine flowers, many more. Value at 10¢ ppd. Kenmore Stamp Co., Dept. G-7, Milford, New Hampshire.

STOECER ARMS, Dept. G, 55 Ruta Court, S. Hackensack, N. J. The 1963 "Shooters Bible" is a catalog of U.S. and foreign guns, reloading tools and components, scopes and metallic sights, hunting and target shooting equipment, gun books, ammunition, etc., plus extensive ballistic information and 28 brief articles on shooting subjects. Price \$2.95.

"HE LOOKED TWELVE FEET TALL!"

(Continued from page 29)

red hound, was good, but stubborn and hard to control.

Making camp occupied most of the first day, but we had time to prospect a dense swampy strip along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. The results were not encouraging. Elk tracks were fresh and plentiful in the muddy spots, but we saw nothing that looked like bear. The ranging hounds, all eleven of them, didn't let out a single yip.

"Maybe we'd better try Grasshopper in the morning," Bill suggested. "They may have come out earlier this year and are back up on the mountain."

There was a pleasant chill in the air when we rolled out at daybreak, but the gradually brightening sky was clear. Bill and I drew the horses while Bub and Everett took off uphill like a couple of anxious antelope. Every once in awhile they'd let out a yelp to keep us posted as to their whereabouts. Bill kept his dogs with us while the others were following Everett and Bub. We zig-zagged up the steep slopes resting the horses frequently and walking when the going got too tough. Bill was carrying a .30-30, the only bear gun in the party. Bub and Everett each had a .22 handgun and I was doing my shooting with a camera.

These hunts follow a pattern. The dogs take a trail. The hunters try to keep up, taking short cuts as the chase winds through the mountains, hoping to reach a treed bear

before it decides to come down. Sometimes we don't make it, and then we have to go on to the next tree. Sometimes we do make it and the bear decides to come down right in the middle. If there's a .30-30 along, it usually takes care of the situation. If the .30-30 hasn't arrived yet, the best thing to do is to let the bear go until he gets tired of the dogs and takes to another tree. Then again, something happens like it did on this trip, and you decide that the next time everybody better carry some heavy artillery.

Off to the west, the dogs suddenly opened up. Bill's three took off like shots out of a cannon. We turned our horses in that direction, but couldn't make much speed through the thick brush and blowdowns. Finally, Bill called a halt. "We'd better tie the horses and follow on foot," he said.

A quarter of a mile farther on, we hit a deep canyon and we had to climb down, and up and out on the other side. We came out on a steep, rocky side hill with a deep basin below us. We could hear the dogs faintly, and then from way across the basin we heard Bub yell. He was perched high on a pinnacle of rock about a quarter of a mile straight across from us.

According to him, the chase was moving west towards the area in back of camp. Our best bet was to backtrack, pick up the horses, and head back the way we'd come. Bub agreed, and said they'd meet us on the other side. We picked up the horses and literally fell off the mountain. We were just passing camp when we heard a yell. Bub and Everett were there waiting for us.

"What happened?" asked Bill.

"Don't know," said Everett. "We thought we had them dead to rights. Coming down through all those canyons we kept losing them and picking them up again, but we haven't heard a thing for the last half hour."

"We might as well eat," I said. "Maybe they'll move and we can hear them."

An hour later, we still hadn't heard anything, and we headed back up the mountain into the area where Bub and Everett had last heard the dogs. Bub went around a big point while the rest of us moved into higher

country where we could hear better. We stopped every few minutes and listened. It was during one of these stops that Bill suddenly motioned for silence.

At first, all we could hear was the moaning of the wind through the tops of the tall firs. Then, faintly, we heard a hound, and then a yell from Bub.

"Let's go!" Everett exclaimed. "That sounds like pay dirt!"

We tried to hurry, but you can't do much hurrying in that country; the brush is too thick. Fifteen minutes later, we rounded a point of rocks and could hear them plainly. They were below us and not too far away. We heard a shot. Then two more followed quickly and the dogs all started yammering at once.

"Let's get down there!" Bill yelled. "Sounds like trouble!"

It seemed like a half hour before we found a spot where we could get the horses down, and even that spot was no bargain. Given a choice, I wouldn't even have tried. The noise was closer now. It sounded like a real free-for-all, and the worrying thing was that, every so often, that little .22 of Bub's would pop.

"We better get down there!" Everett yelled. "But if that bear's on the ground fighting the dogs, we'd better not get the horses in too close!"

"You're right!" answered Bill. He scrambled off his horse and went jumping down the mountain with the .30-30 in his hand and Everett and I right on his heels.

Moments later, we got our first glimpse of the activity below. It looked as bad as it sounded, with the dogs all going at once, and Bub yelling and shooting. At first it seemed as if bear, dogs, and Bub were all mixed up together. Then we could see that Bub was on the other side of the melee. Dogs seemed to be flying in all directions. Bub was standing only a few feet away with his pistol leveled.

Bill raised the rifle for a shot, but there was too much danger of hitting Bub or a dog. Then Bub cut loose again with his gun. He fired once and a few seconds later, again. The bear went down! The dogs jumped him at once, but there was no need. By the time we covered that last 50 yards, the bear was all done.

Bub was just standing there looking at the bear, the gun still in his hand, when we came up. He looked up and grinned. It wasn't a very good grin, sort of shaky.

"You guys missed all the fun. I'm not so sure but what I wish I'd missed it too!"

He showed us his gun and shell belt. The shot that finally dropped the bear had been his last one. All in all, he'd put 15 bullets into the animal. This isn't surprising; it's a wonder that 15 did it! A black bear, even though he's not terribly big, can pack a lot of lead, and when one gets all worked up from being chased by a pack of hounds, he can carry more. Some have been known to keep fighting even after absorbing a handful of .45 slugs.

We sat on a log and took it easy. The dogs, all showing marks of battle, were doing the same. None had been seriously hurt. Several were limping and most were bloody, but they could all navigate. Bub told us what had happened.

Shortly after he'd left us, he'd gone around a hill and suddenly heard the dogs

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below. It was one of those freak things that happens in the mountains. A ridge or hill, coupled with wind direction, cuts off all sound from certain directions. You get past these sound barriers, and everything is suddenly loud and clear. This happened to Bub. He was there in minutes.

The dogs were gathered around a giant fir. Sixty feet up the trunk was the bear. There were no limbs for him to rest on. He was just hanging by his claws. No telling how long he had been there, but it had been at least four hours since we'd lost the dogs that morning.

Bub yelled for us, but we didn't hear him. After a few minutes, he decided to try some signal shots. He snapped off three spaced shots and then waited. He tried a few more yells, but got no reply. The bear seemed to be getting restless. It was probably getting tired too. Bub fired a couple more signal shots, and the bear decided to get out of there. He started down the tree, and Bub



splattered bark in his face with a shot, thinking it might keep him in the tree.

It had the reverse effect. He came down faster. The dogs jumped him as soon as he hit the ground.

"It was a pretty good scrap for a while," Bub said. "Then he got Betty down and it looked like he was going to bite her head off. So I shot him right between the eyes."

"It didn't seem to bother him much, but he did let go of the dog. All this time he'd been sort of sittin' on Lady. I could just see her sticking out from under his rear. So I took another shot at him right between the eyes. He blinked a couple of times and started towards me. I left!"

"I was scrambling up the hill and not making very good time, so I turned 'round and shot him again. He swatted a couple of dogs and came on, so I emptied the pistol at him and ran like hell."

"The dogs kept grabbin' him, so after a short chase, he forgot about me and went to work on the dogs. That gave me a chance to reload. I moved in close and started shooting at his neck. Those head shots didn't seem to bother him any more than mosquito bites. I'd shoot him a couple of times, then he'd take after me. I'd run until the dogs grabbed him by the seat of the pants again. Then I'd get up close and give him a couple more."

"Man, was I glad when that last shot dropped him! That was it! I didn't have any more!"

We looked the bear over and decided there was no use skinning him out, but Bub took the scalp for a trophy.

We picked up the horses and headed back to camp. "Say, Bub," asked Bill, after a few minutes. "Tell me something. Did you know that was your last shot when you fired it?"

Bub grinned that slow grin of his. "No," he said. "I'm glad I didn't. If I had, I'd probably been afraid to use it. I didn't know you guys were there—supposin' that last little slug hadn't done the trick?"

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A KRAG

(Continued from page 33)

a number of times, and I came to regard that Krag as fondly as one would a two-egg-a-day hen. Finally, I had the Krag back again. There were no more cartridges, and no one seemed to love the rifle for itself. Just as I considered investing in some more brass "inducements," an elderly gent asked if I'd sell the rifle. He didn't mention cartridges. I'm afraid I showed some reluctance to sell, particularly after he handled the rifle as though it were a long-lost Cremona violin. He worked the grease-smooth bolt, he thumbed open the magazine and clacked it shut, and he seemed satisfied that rifling remained in the bore. He asked the price and I named it, plus severance pay, and the Krag was his. I must have been considerably impressed by this buyer's lack of insistence to receive cartridges with the rifle, for thereafter I had a recurring dream in which I trundled a wheel-barrow-load of 30-40 cartridges, searching for an old man who had only a Krag. It was to be ten years before I handled another Krag, the carbine model.

Few present-day shooters have had the opportunity of seeing an armory-new Krag carbine. Through luck a friend secured a new carbine from a storage depot. Except for its military rear sight, this short, half-stocked model was already a handy hunting rifle. My friend figured that the carbine would fulfill his wife's desire to be a voting member on their annual big game hunt. I was commissioned to ready the carbine for the hunt. I attached suitable hunting sights, raised the stock's comb, replaced the military buttplate with a shotgun recoil pad, dovetailed a pistol-grip into the stock and checkered it. Clyde Baker's gunsmithing book stated I could do all these things and I found him to be a truthful man. The doctor was quite amused by all of this, for he intended to retain his title of Chief Deerslayer. His wife fired but one shot from the carbine during their trip, and to it fell one of the largest moose ever to come out of New Brunswick. The doctor was a true sportsman. The great head was

hung in his reception room, and for years he told the bitter truth about it.

In 1934, I noticed several guns stacked in a corner of a friend's service garage. The box loading gate identified them as Krag rifles. The barrels and forestocks had been shortened and, without front sights, they were huddled like three blind beggars. These guns had been used as drill and ceremonial pieces by a patriotic organization and had been discarded in favor of unserviceable Springfields. I required a Krag action and I asked the loan of one of these guns. I was invited to take one, and keep it, for that would solve one-third of my friend's disposal problem. After serving its purpose, the rifle was set aside for a year before I bothered to examine its bore. I then found surprisingly good rifling under the accumulated dirt. It occurred to me that the rifle might be useful as a knockabout chuck gun, and a long and deep scar in the buttstock showed that the rifle had had considerable use.

In working on that Krag, I became increasingly fond of it. Again, Baker's gunsmithing text was very helpful. I wished to retain what was left of the full stock, a lá Mannlicher, and to that end considerable fitting was necessary to develop a practical assembly that would include a Springfield front sight. The military rear sight was removed and, wishing to retain the handguard, I grafted a slab of walnut into the opening previously occupied by the sight. A rugged

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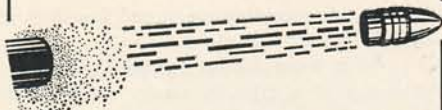
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Redfield receiver sight completed the sighting system. Installation of that sight was easy, but it required dispensing with the rifle's magazine cut-off lever. It was a case of the sight being more important than the lever. A little judicious stoning and polishing of the rear notch resulted in a brisk trigger pull. Then, as my graduation exercise in the Baker school, I steamed out the unsightly groove in the buttstock.

I was already loading a 110 grain jacketed hollow-point bullet into the .30-06 case for use in a scope-sighted Springfield chuck rifle, and the bullet got away around 3300 fps. I tried the same bullet in the Krag's .30-40 case. I settled on a charge of 36 grains of HiVel No. 2 and got good hunting accuracy. With this load the iron-sighted Krag accounted for 82 chucks in the summer of 1936. Most of them were taken at less than 100 yards.

In retrospect I see how that Krag benefited me. The effort and time spent in making it serviceable developed a rapport seldom attained with a "store bought" gun. And my use of metallic sights helped recapture that youthful zest for hunting the woodchuck; again I felt part of the scene, and not a spectator gazing through glass at a far-off varmint and coolly pressing the trigger. The Krag made me feel carefree; it seemed oblivious to scrapes that ruin stock finish, and there was no scope to be knocked cockeyed by a blow. That Krag also helped me socially. I was no longer straining to top another chucker's account of a head shot at 400 yards, and so became highly regarded as a listener. I appeared hopelessly beaten as a raconteur. But the weak usually develop some effective defense. I shan't forget the day I discovered that I could command sympathetic attention by reciting, with gestures, the details of missing a chuck at short range.

In 1947 the old Krag was fitted with a Weaver K 2.5X scope. This helped me greatly, particularly on those shots in gullies at sundown. But I was not to be without an iron-sighted Krag; in fact, by that time I had two more. They were also altered as to barrel length and stock, and in good shooting condition. I was then increasingly interested in producing cast bullet loadings for the Krag, and used a variety of plain base .30 caliber bullets in the 150 to 170 grain weight range. Velocities were in the 1100-1400 fps bracket and target accuracy was good at 50 and 100 yards. I was aware that these alloy bullet loadings, while interesting, were not really appropriate for the cartridge. The throat of the Krag chamber is designed to receive the 220 grain military bullet and any other bullet, cast or jacketed, should also be long and heavy for best bal-

istic performance. I began to experiment with .30 caliber mid-range loads and gas check bullets.

Handloading data for the .30-40 cartridge are plentiful. Its mid-range loadings, with modern powders and primers, leave little to be desired at the 1800fps velocity level. In 1955 I discarded all but the action of my old chucking Krag. It was fitted with a new barrel, a Bishop sporting stock, and a Weaver K6 scope. That outfit delivers the 207 grain Ideal gas check bullet, made of linotype metal and pushed along by 28 gr. of 4895, into an inch at 100 yards. Hollow-pointed, this bullet makes a bag of debris out of a big chuck, and seldom exits. Best accuracy with a cast bullet is achieved when a hard alloy is used. Bullet trajectories are on the uphill side and registering a deadly hit at 200 yards requires some calculations on the part of the rifleman. I like that—the Krag permits me to do some of the shooting.

My chucking log for the 1961 season shows that I favored the rehabilitated Krag over two other, more sophisticated, scope-sighted rifles and their cartridges. Chucks shot with the Krag account for one-half of the total kill. I admit that I find an indefinable satisfaction in being the Krag's silent partner.

The true Krag buff knows every model, every official design change, and has the lowdown on the Krag's relatives that remained among the fjords. This information is found in older gun books and occasionally in current periodicals. In his early book, "The American Rifle," Col. Townsend Whelen wrote about the Krag. Philip Sharpe gives appropriate coverage in "The Rifle In America." There is also a slim volume titled "Modern Rifle Shooting From The American Standpoint," by W. G. Hudson, M.D. This clothbound book, sometimes called "Hudson's little blue book," was published in 1903 by the makers of the smokeless powder then used in the Krag's military cartridge. The doctor was an outstanding civilian rifleman and arms student, and his text deals with Krag target shooting and has the essential military overtones. His book and the Krag-rich early Ideal hand books are now difficult to find. I have yet to own a copy.

I suspect that my own case of Kragitis is an isolated one. The affliction, I am afraid, will not assume epidemic proportions—there never were that many Krags. I appreciate the sound workmanship reflected in the manufacture of the gun's action. It was a difficult one to make, but the Government armorers slighted no detail. To me, the Krag is much more than an outmoded military rifle: It is a sturdy old oak in the forest of guns.

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LITERATURE ON REQUEST

THE BULLET POUCH
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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Continued from page 7)

antelope rifle, mostly varmints. Could you tell me a good cartridge, or cartridges?

I would also like to know if I can have better sights put on it, and could you suggest some?

I know it can be scope mounted; is a side mount best? If scope mounted, and the old sights can't be changed, would I still be able to use the old sights?

Bruce Bennecoff
Egg Harbor, New Jersey

The 6.5 mm Italian Carcano carbine is a very poor choice of arm on which to spend any amount of money to rebarrel or re-chamber. The action type and quality is not conducive to make a good varmint or hunting rifle.

If you must use your Carcano, my advice is to use it much as it is, with the 6.5 mm Carcano ammunition and with the original sights. You might put on an inexpensive scope, but any other investment is impractical.

Your best bet is to either keep the Carcano as it is, or to put that equity into a good Mauser or Springfield that can be made into a fine hunting arm.—GN

German Military Arms

For several years, the writer has endeavored to obtain certain military weapons of World War II German origin, from such sources of supply as Interarmco, Retting, Forgett, and Agramonte, but without success thus far. In the hope that your best informed

experts on the subject of military arms, will have knowledge of private collectors who might have such as I require for design research, may I seek your assistance and co-operation towards procuring one each of the following items in original excellent to new, fully functioning condition:

(1.) FG-42 German Semi-auto Paratroop Rifle, with selective fire full automatic feature, and attached folding bi-pod, cal. 7.92 mm.

(2.) M. Kb.—42 (W) German Machine Carbine by Walther, cal. 8 mm (K) Kurtz, similar to MP-43/44. We believe that this M. Kb.—42 (W) was imported in quantity some three to four years back, by firms in the United States, but we do not know which firms.

(3.) German Volksturm Geschuss (or Gewehr) "People's Shooter" cal. 8mm Kurtz.

(4.) A quantity of 8 mm Kurtz German military ammunition, say 1,000 rounds, reasonably priced to assist in offsetting Canadian Import Duty and Custom's Surcharge, amounting to approximately 50 per cent on the declared value.

Canadian Government Import Authorization covering these models has been outstanding for quite some time, and they are urgently required at reasonable cost.

James M. Stewart
68 Elm St. North
Timmons, Ontario

FOUR GUNS IN ONE

(Continued from page 21)

The Topper four barrel unit, shipments are slated for late July 1963, will set you back \$76.50, and the barrels will be fitted at the factory. If you start out with the Topper Jet or the Topper 30, the unit will retail for \$35.75. A barrel in either .410 or 20 gauge will cost you \$12, while the Jet tube will set you back \$16.75. If you started with the Topper 30, your gunsmith can easily fit any of the other barrels. Earl Sample very carefully saw to it that there would be enough metal left for the gunsmith to do a good, tight fitting job, and the barrel fitting takes only a few minutes.

Like all of H&R's Topper models, the gun has a rebounding hammer, and the breaking lever is on the right side of the hammer, easily reached for fast ejection and a second shot. A good quality rubber recoil pad is standard, and stock finish, bluing, and qual-

ity of workmanship are very good. Trigger pull is 4 pounds.

When Burgess promised to send me a prototype gun for extensive tests, I did look forward to giving the gun the standard wringing out. After five minutes of handling it, I fell in love with the Topper, so much so that I ordered a complete unit, to be delivered as soon as possible. After firing 400 rounds of assorted ammo, I am more anxious than ever to get my gun—and there are more guns in my own personal gun cabinet now than is fitting and proper for one guy to have. When my wife, who also is a gun nut, had a chance to handle the latest H&R baby, she categorically declared that if and when Ara would send "our" gun, she would start to stockpile her own hoard of ammo. Looks like I lost a gun before it even got here...

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Because my test gun was checked out of the factory in a hurry, we used the standard folding leaf sights on the rifle barrel. I checked the sight settings with the Swamy Sight-A-Line collimator and found they were set for 100 yards. With a 6 o'clock hold, the first bullet from the box of Winchester .30-30 Silvertip ammo thudded right into the point of aim. Shooting from a rest and with iron sights, one five shot group measured a scant 3½ inches, others spreading up to 4½ inches. It must be kept in mind that I was shooting iron sights, something that I have not done for a long time, and that the gun must be re-aligned for every shot since it must be moved from the rest to eject the empty hull and feed a fresh round. Thus, I don't want to guarantee that I was holding correctly. I am convinced that a scope would have helped me to get better groupings, if grouping is that important. But I have yet to see a whitetail buck run very far when hit at appropriate range by a pill from a .30-30 if the shot was placed properly. Let's face it, most of us cannot hold minute-of-angle or even near it under hunting conditions, and even four inches gives you plenty of leeway on a buck.

After I had checked the accuracy of the
(Continued on page 65)

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(Continued from page 63)

Topper 30, I decided to see what I could do with "rapid" fire. With one round chambered, and two held between the fingers of my left hand, I selected a rolling target and let fly. Ejecting the empty, feeding a new load, cocking, pulling the trigger again, and repeating loading and firing, I managed to get three shots off before my target had moved more than 150 feet—two shots were hits, while the third one was a miss by about two feet.

When I came to firing the .22 Jet, I was most pleasantly surprised. The 15 rounds of Remington factory ammo made one ragged hole, and 100 reloads later, I was completely sold on the accuracy of the .22 Jet in the long tube. Unlike the handgun, the Jet in the rifle barely kicks, and the noise level is such that it is quite possible to shoot over 100 rounds without affecting your hearing. H&R tested the factory loads on their chronograph and came up with 2930 fps. With the Hornady 40 grain bullet and 10 grains of 2400 kicked off by a CCI #550 primer, my Hollywood chronograph registered 2901 fps. The difference is slight, and factory loads tested under controlled temperature and humidity conditions are probably correct. During my range testing of the Topper .22 Jet, the temperature dropped 10 degrees, and toward the end of the tests it began to rain and winds became very gusty.

Accuracy with factory loads and with home-made fodder were excellent and when I get my gun, I'll slap a scope on it and will be in business for some of the crows and foxes that populate my neck of the Illinois woods.

I don't know why I bothered wasting time and effort counting pellet holes in paper when I fired the 20 gauge and the .410 barrels. Both barrels patterned modified—just as H&R said they would. With the .410 barrel in place, I had a very pleasant surprise. Firing at Blue Rocks with this little gauge has never been my strong side but, after the first three misses, I got into the swing of things and went 25 straight. I quit while I was ahead! A later session at the Trius trap

with the .410 netted me a 23 broken bird run, and I can assure you that it was not the gun that made me miss those birds. If you'll permit an alibi, I had backed off to 30 yards and a cross wind was doing things to the birds that made them look like a bunch of doves flying to water.

Everybody who had a chance to see the gun had the same comment: H&R hit the jackpot with this Topper combination. First of all, workmanship and performance stack up very well and the unit is a fine representative of the H&R gun selling philosophy: A good, durable gun within everybody's means.

Why buy the Topper unit? Here are a couple of darned good reasons. Broken down, one guy can stick the four barrels, the forend, and the stock into the duffel bag and take it camping. It fits into a pack basket and, with its versatility of calibers, it makes a fine gun for the trapper. For the man who is lucky enough to live in country where he can shoot all year long, varmint or game, the choice of barrels and the handiness of the gun is just the thing the gun doctor ordered. And if you have kids around, that Topper makes a fine training gun. With a single shot, gun safety is easily taught, and you can start a kid with the .410 gauge and the .22 Jet. By the way, H&R has junior-sized stocks! As lessons progress, graduate the youngster to the 20 gauge tube, and then the .30-30 is the next logical step. The stocking of the gun is so well designed that I felt less recoil on the .30-30 than on another gun of the same caliber that reposes in my gun cabinet, and light recoil lets kids (or women) learn faster.

As professional gun nut, I am afraid that I often look at new guns and sort of shrug them off. It is not often that I go whole-hog over a gun, and when I do, it is usually not over a single-shot. But this H&R Topper unit is a wonderfully fascinating gun that has given me a great deal of pleasure. Maybe it will help to overcome the fever that so many shooters suffer from: Semi-automatic Magnumitis.

HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 14)

repaint, smear very thin black lacquer over the beam. Use a small cotton swab twisted on a toothpick, and wipe the beam surface immediately. If the flat surface doesn't clean up immediately, wipe it with a bit of lacquer thinner or nail polish remover on a soft cloth.

This idea works for any stamped lettering on metal. For example, lettering on guns or equipment can be filled with contrasting lacquer or enamel. First clean the surface with lacquer thinner to remove oils. Swab on the paint and wipe the surface clean. White, gold, silver, and black are the colors you'll generally use.

Webster's most practical scale is the RW-1. It has wide, deep notches graduated in 10.0, 1.0, and 0.1 grains. If you have been using scales with 5.0 grain graduations, you may get mixed up when setting the Webster the first few times. Bearings are hardened steel, self-aligning, and should last the life of the scale. Sensitivity is factory adjusted for about 0.1 grain. You can turn the adjustment nuts on top to adjust sensitivity to 1.0 grain, or as fine as one-fortieth grain, if desired, as

indicated by the pointer. At the finest sensitivity you can sort primers. I'm not sure this gives any advantages, as the major weight variation in primers is in the metal rather than in the compound. Webster's RWC is exactly the same, except it has an additional 1/20th grain scale for direct reading. You can easily estimate 1/40th or 1/80th grain direct.

Test your scales by weighing a weight 10 times without a change in the setting. The reading should, of course, be the same every time. If not, it may indicate nicked knives, or sloppy manufacture. Try it with knives moved both left and right.

Loading on a springy bench may jiggle a small rider weight into a different beam notch. You can easily beef up a springy bench top. A 1" board helps a lot. You can provide a much larger bearing surface for your tool base with a 3/4" sheet of steel. Screw or bolt it to the bench top. Drill and tap it so the tool can be screwed to it. This is better than drilling through the bench for bolts, as the tool is attached directly to the steel. It's also easy to remove the tool.

Incorrect scale settings are the major cause of incorrect charges. Always look twice at the setting, just as you look twice at the label on a powder can. Some chaps do their reloading in a dark corner. If it's dark, it isn't a fit place to load. The work area should be brighter than generally used for reading, at least for case and charge inspection and weighing, or any fine work. If the work light isn't adequate you can generally supplement it with an extension cord and a pin-up or some other type of lamp.

Norma Powders

Norma is making a serious bid for the canister powder trade. Their first powders to hit the U.S. market are rifle types, No.'s 200, 201, 203 and 204. These are comparable to our IMR 4198, 3031, 4064 and 4350 respectively, although they are not identical, and do not use exactly the same charges. Norma powders are certainly good, if the proper type and charge are used. Your best deal is to send 25c to Norma-Precision, South Lansing, New York, for their Gunbug's Guide, that lists charges for most cartridges.

Norma's listed charges are tops and should not be increased. Increasing top loads is an idiot practice. A bit more powder isn't apt to wreck a gun, due to the large margin of safety. However, unpredictable things may happen when you increase top loads, or use heavier bullets. Sensible people always start with about a 5% lighter charge than a full load, and work up if desired, and no indications of excessive pressure show up. On that basis you are perfectly safe, provided your gun is a good one and in good mechanical condition.

SEE PAGE 57 FOR SPECIAL
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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 8)

target looked 50 feet away rather than 300 feet. Now you can use your 4X hunting scope for varminting with the help of the Bushnell Booster—a case of having your cake and eating it too!

Remington Shotguns, Ammo

In the March 1963 issue of GUNS, Editor Mann reported on the new Remington 1100 shotgun. Since then, we have given the 1100 and the Model 870 a good workout. The Model 870 is internally the same old gun, but with Remington's new stock finish and checkering, the gun has a great deal more eye appeal.

Very unfortunately, American shooters do not give trophies or medals to the men in the research and development departments of our firearms companies. Maybe we should start such a move, giving one such award to the men of Remington for coming up with the Model 1100 shotgun. Pattern of our gun was right on the button, functioning was flawless, and—to come to the gun's major feature—the recoil was much less than that of other semi-automatics we compared it with.

The proof is in the shooting. We got a shooter who started to flinch last fall, and let him shoot the gun for 10 rounds. Since flinching is something highly individual, and we cannot be certain if the shooter would have flinched with another gun—he refused to shoot another 12 gauge gun we had ready for him—we must assume that the recoil from the 1100 was reduced to such an extent

that he did not have another bout with flinchitis. The who or what is academic in this case, but the fact remains that the gun kicks considerably less than any other 12 gauge semi-auto we fired.

Boyt Cartridge Holder

Jim Boyt of the Boyt Company, Box 1108G, Iowa Falls, Iowa, recently mailed us a sample of his western style cartridge carrier. Slipped on the belt, it will hold ten magnum



cartridges, and with the bottom part folded up and held in position with the snap fastener, it makes a neat little package. When you want a cartridge, simply flip up the cover. You should be able to get it in your gunshop for \$1.95, or they can order it from Boyt for you.

Norma Ammo, Guns

We borrowed an U.S. M1 .30 caliber carbine from a friend and took a couple of boxes of the new Norma carbine ammo to the range. Although this is an issue gun, either it has been tuned or that Norma ammo is super-accurate! Off-hand and at 50 yards,

we first fired a five-shot group that measured 2 inches. Our buddy backed off another 10 yards and shot three five-shot strings that measured less than our group—and again off-hand. Since the issue carbine is not famed for a high degree of accuracy, it must be the Norma ammo.

At the NRA show, and even before we went to Washington, we had a peek at the new Schultz and Larsen rifles that are now being imported by Norma Precision, Dept. G, South Lansing, New York. The Model 65 DL is de luxe all the way through and



is now available in three calibers,—7x61 SH, .308 and .358 Norma Magnum. The S&L guns are among the best made in Europe today, and those who want a real fine gun and can afford the price tag of \$245, should give these serious consideration.

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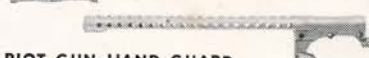
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