

SEPTEMBER 1963 50c

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Guns

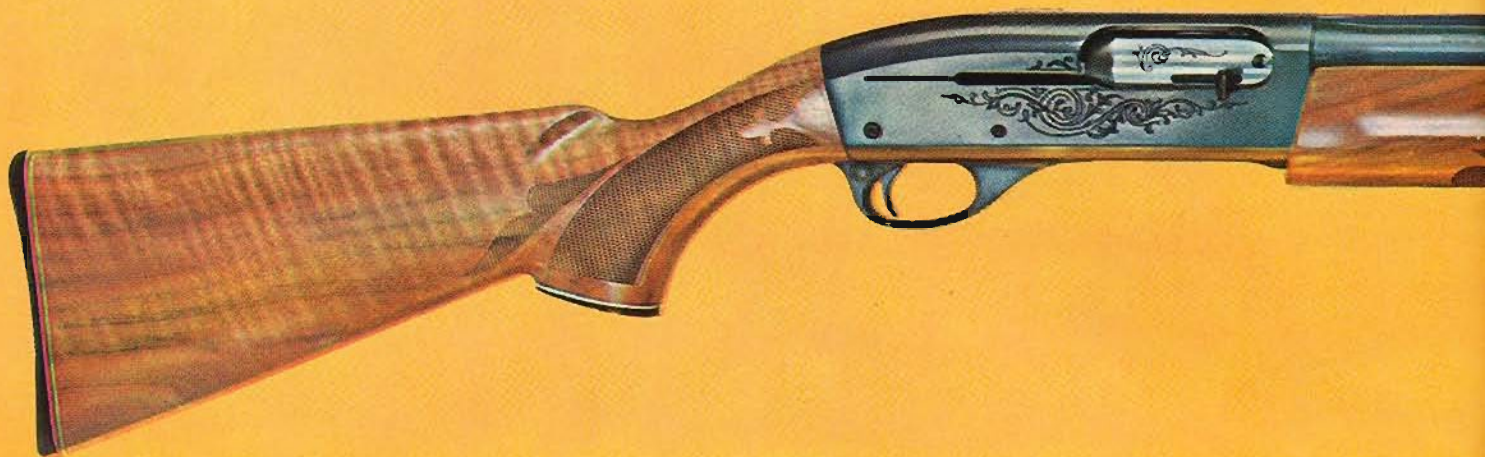
FAST DRAW GROWS UP

A .222 IN AFRICA

**HOW TO HIT
WITH A SHOTGUN**
By COL. CHAS. ASKINS



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This is the new Remington Model 1100 automatic—the shotgun

We have good reason to believe that the new Remington Model 1100 is the finest automatic shotgun ever made. Comparative tests prove it rates first in durability, first in over-all performance and first in shooting comfort... far less "kick" than other shotguns! Here are the facts:

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everybody is excited about.

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH



A MUCH NEEDED Primer Mike is made by Zenith Enterprises, R 1, Box 275G, Del Mar, Cal., and the mike retails for \$6.95. You can adjust tools with a primer stop, or check reloads assembled on tools without one. Seating primers a uniform .003" below the head face eliminates faulty ignition due to crushed or "high" primers. You'll like it. Zenith's new \$6.95 "Site-Lite" is a dandy 2-cell flashlight, and a night sighting device for S & W and Colt police type revolvers. A gun is instantly placed in battery and fired. The yoke is placed against a stop, and the barrel in a "V" rest that automatically turns on the light. The rest adjusts to zero, the sights on the spot. Bullets hit where the spot shines. You don't aim or use the sights. My K-38 works beautifully to about 20 yards. Heavy frame guns, including S & W Magnums and the Colt Python won't fit.

Grip the gun and Site-Lite in one hand, holding the barrel in battery with your thumb. Fire and grease splatters are harmless, but a glove eliminates discomfort for lengthy sessions. For worn guns that spit lead, trigger a S & W with the right hand, or a Colt with the left. A friend, trying my Site-Lite, hit 30 tin cans without a miss!

Zenith sells it as life insurance to lawmen. It would be good for self or home defense. Or for ranchers and farmers to rid their barnyard and poultry house of varmints. It's fascinating where night varmint hunting is legal. Plinking tin cans makes the Site-Lite a real fun gadget.

E. C. Herkner, Box 5007G, Boise, Idaho, has a first in a Shell Holder Head for over-size .38 Specials, notorious for rim variations. It fits the nice ECHO "C" press, or the even nicer heavy-duty Champ. W-W cases are most likely to have large rims, but R-P also make a few. It's irritating when they won't enter a precision shell holder. Sloppy holders cause "leaners" that won't enter a die. Several years ago I had Mr. Herkner make a similar holder for me, so I could load some 4000 hulls. Now it's a needed stock item.

ECHO workmanship is excellent. Their new bullet swaging dies are well made and designed. They are now making reloading dies. We haven't tested any, but I'm sure they will be good ones, at about \$13.50, a reasonable price for good dies. Poor dies and shell holders are a major cause of handloading troubles and inferior reloads.

Mirror-Lube, correctly named, is excellent for cast revolver or rifle bullets at Hi-V or Lo-V. Best feature, it leaves a bore clean, with less splatter to go-up a gun. It cuts clean, and isn't nearly as messy as some. It doesn't bleed-out oil at high temperatures, or crumble at low temperatures. Some .357 guns

are notorious "leaders." I own one. It leads badly with 6 factory rounds. I pulled 30 factory bullets, relubed them with Mirror-Lube, and reassembled the loads. They left the bore perfectly clean! It may not cure leading in your gun, as lube isn't the only cause, but Mirror-Lube is excellent, clean, and it's easy to use. Factories should take a new look at their .357 lead bullet ammo. Solid or hollow sticks of Mirror-Lube, weighing about 20 per cent more than some, are only 50c per stick plus postage, from The Bullet Pouch, Box 4285G, Long Beach 4, Calif.

The big new No. 5 catalog of B. E. Hodgdon, "The Powder Man," Shawnee, Kansas, is a bargain at \$1 postpaid. You get 17 pages of tested data for reloading Hodgdon's rifle, pistol, and shotgun powders, 7 pages on reloading, and 100 pages of components and equipment. Hodgdon has enough powders on hand for about 10 years. You can stock up at low cost, or split a shipment with fellow hull fillers. You may like his new H450 (a ball type) with the approximate burning rate of 4831. Both ignite well with CCI Magnum primers.

Sierra has long needed a faster expanding bullet for a .222 and .222 Magnum. The new 50 grain "Blitz" fills the void. A good load in a .222 Rem. case is 20.7 grains Norma 220 or 20.2 to 20.5 grains IMR 4198 and CCI No. 450 Magnum primers. Loads are close to factory ballistics. The mild report and fine accuracy makes a .222 one of the best moderate range varmint guns in settled areas. Loading for the .222 is easy and inexpensive.

Elton Teague checked Sierra's new 85 grain 6 mm Hollow Point Boat Tail at 200 yards. At 200 yards in a glass bedded Browning .243 with a Weaver K-10 glass, 36.0 grains 3031 and CCI No. 250 Magnum primers grouped in about 1.5" from a cold, fouled bore. This compared favorably with the 85 grain Sierra Spitzer in identical loads. The H.P. has good blowup, but prints about 3" low from this rifle, probably due to the H.P. A Spitzer is my personal choice.

Remington's Model 700 rifles are the best they have ever made. The 7 mm Magnum has long range and flat trajectory, plus a strong belted case. I'm not fond of it with extremely light bullets. A 139 to 160 grain bullet shoots flat 'way across the wind swept prairie. My best load is a 160 grain Speer backed with 68.0 grains 4831 and CCI No. 250 Magnum primers. For a lighter pill use the 145 grain Speer with 2.0 grains more powder, or try a 140 grain Sierra or 139 grain Hornady. These loads are not flat out, but are good ones.

(Continued on page 48)

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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THE COVER

How to get out of Ford squad car and fire at a gun-in-hand opponent is demonstrated by Sgt. Al Kloch during a special instructional session. All pistol training is slanted toward the possibility of a gun fight, and many eventualities are covered in course. Photographed by R. A. Steindler with a Yashica-Mat, professional Ektachrome film at f:16 at 1/250th of a second.

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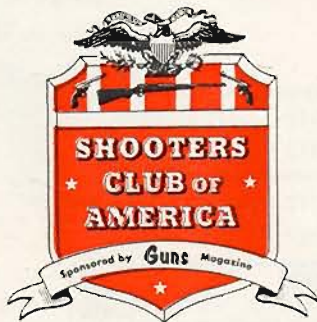
A Report From SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

THIS DEPARTMENT, featured in *Guns* from November '59 to March '62, was acclaimed by many as "the best ammunition ever published for use in political action against anti-gun legislation."

In response to requests from scores of readers, letters have been mailed to every member of both houses of Congress, every member of the Cabinet, and every state Governor, requesting each to express his opinion of the meaning, intent, and present significance of the right bestowed by the federal Constitution for private ownership of arms. We will publish in subsequent issues all replies received. If you do not find your Lawmaker's reply, it is because he did not answer.

This is just one of many phases of the aggressive, professionally directed, and provedly effective campaign being waged for you by GUNS Magazine and SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA in defense of your right to own guns and to carry on the traditionally American shooting sports.

Your reception of SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA has taken us by surprise, producing an unanticipated work load; but we have produced results where they count most, on the legislative fronts at all levels. Our men, your representatives, have met with men in high places (see picture above), throwing your weight against bad laws, with telling effect. And we will do more.



We open this new series with a personal interview with Senator Frank Church, senior Senator from Idaho. We regret that it is impossible to interview every Lawmaker in like manner and give equal space to his answers; but we are proud to be able to re-open this department with a message from your friend and ours, Senator Frank Church.

Your membership in SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA is a vote for gun freedom! Show your colors with a CLUB brassard! Join now! Turn to

PAGE 59 FOR YOUR BALLOT



KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

George Fairchild, CCI; Senator Frank Church; Arthur Arkush, GUNS Magazine, at GUNS booth at the 1963 NRA Convention.



Senator Frank Church Idaho

"Senator, considerable anti-firearms legislation appears at national, state, and municipal levels. Would you express your position concerning anti-firearms legislation?" Senator Church: "The Bill of Rights provides that the right of the citizen to hold and bear arms shall not be infringed. I would certainly oppose any attempt to deprive the honest citizen of this right. Certain restrictive laws in the past have proven that laws alone do not prevent the criminal element from obtaining firearms. Depriving honest citizens of firearms serves no useful purpose; rather, it places them at the mercy of those who flaunt the law."

"Senator, what is your opinion of H.R. 2395, the bill to apply the 11 per cent federal excise tax to reloading components?" Senator Church: This is a House Resolution that has not yet reached the Senate, and I have not yet had the opportunity to study this bill and its possible implications in detail. However, members of the National Reloading Manufacturers Association have pointed out some seeming inequities in this bill. Particularly, I refer to the unfair burden of taxation placed upon non-hunters."

"Senator Church, you have been a champion of the Wilderness Bill. This bill has had overwhelming support. Do you think the House of Representatives will approve it this year?" Senator Church: "The Wilderness Bill is, in my opinion, a very fine piece of legislation. It guarantees to our children and grandchildren the retention of at least a part of our vanishing wilderness. Future generations should have the right to enjoy the natural beauty and recreation to be realized in wilderness areas as God created them. The bill has had strong support from the sportsmen of my State, and from the many citizens who love the outdoor life."

"There are many other reasons for supporting the Wilderness Bill. Preserving certain areas as wilderness protects our watershed and wildlife resources. The bill also restores to the Congress the final authority to determine the areas to be included within the wilderness system, rather than leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the Federal administrators."

"For all these reasons, the Wilderness Bill is landmark legislation in the field of conservation, and I am sure that it will win the support of the big majority of Congressmen, if it reaches the floor of the House for a vote."

"Senator, we in the shooting game are deeply grateful for the meeting you held in your office last year with the gentlemen from the Interstate Commerce Commission and representatives of the reloading industry. Have you any comment on the progress being made toward reclassifying smokeless propellant powder?" Senator Church: "When Mr. Fairchild of CCI and Mr. Raymond Speer of Speer Products asked for the meeting last year, I wasn't sure exactly what to expect. I did, however, familiarize myself with the problem and requested the ICC to be present at the meeting. I was very much impressed by the calm, unemotional, and intelligent presentation by both parties. The problem is somewhat complex and is one that could not be solved without considerable detailed study. The people from the ICC have a very difficult job to perform and, in my opinion, do it well. From their attentive, cooperative attitude, I feel certain that a conclusion that is equitable will be reached. You are to be commended for your awareness of the problems concerning your industry, and I applaud the way you conduct yourselves. There are certainly enough hysterical groups raving about problems. Your approach is the proper one."

"Thank you for the opportunity to express my views."



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DID HE LEARN HIS LESSONS WELL?



■ There's only one way to learn how to use a game call . . . and that's to practice, practice and . . . practice some more. Naturally, you have to know *what* to practice, and to do this you need a teacher. The best thing is to hire a professional "caller" and have him give you lessons, but that's not too practical. The next best thing, however, is to stop in at your Sporting Goods Dealer's and have him show you one of Marble's Game Call Kits. It contains everything you'll need to learn your lessons . . . and learn them well. ■ First, there's the Marble De Luxe Zebra Wood Game Call (duck, goose or crow). They're hand-tuned, true-toned and easy to "sound" with no confusing adjustments required. Then there's a beautiful 28-page full color book on ducks. It tells how to identify them, their habits and habitat, etc. ■ Most important, however, is a real "down-to-earth" L. P. record on just how to use the Marble Call with success. All three are contained in one "do-it-yourself" package. All three have been developed by champion caller, "Tex" Wirtz . . . one of the best teachers you'll ever have. ■ Get your share of birds. See your dealer or write



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QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE

Boy Collector

My oldest boy has become interested in collecting ancient firearms. He has my support in this very interesting hobby. At the present time, he has his heart set on a large calibre cap-and-ball revolver. In the Dec. '62 issue of GUNS, Mr. Wamsley states that the Model 1860 Army Colt shown has very little value, as the loading arm is missing. This sort of weapon would fill my bill perfectly, as a replacement arm could be machined locally.

Would you please suggest a source and approximate cost of something along the following lines: (a) A Walker Colt, in repairable condition for casual shooting; (b) A Colt Dragoon, in above condition; (c) An Army Colt, as above; (d) Any cap and ball revolver, .36 to .45 calibre, in above condition?

I would be most grateful for your help. I would like to find something along the above lines, that I can afford in order to have a present for school grading and that would be something he really would cherish.

W. A. Campbell
New York, N.Y.

Any Walker Colt properly authenticated is of too great a value to be considered as a piece for a child's collection. Of course, if money is no problem, you could try to buy one of the 1100 known specimens.

A poor grade and incomplete Colt Dragoon can probably be bought at a dealer's price of about \$30 to \$90; but most dealers would either restore the piece or not handle it in the first place.

The 1860 Colt Army in poor condition is most easy to find but, because of the value of original parts, the cost would be around \$40 to \$50.

I suggest you take your boy to a local gun collectors meeting and, with your help, he will be able to grasp the ins and outs of the collecting game.—GB

The 6.5 Arisaka

I have a 6.5 mm Japanese rifle. I would like to know if this rifle can be rechambered safely to hold a .308 Win., .257 Roberts, or .30-06 case necked down to .263 caliber, and what loads would be in line, up to a 150 grain bullet.

I like GUNS Magazine very much.

Rom Romerth
Minneapolis, Minn.

The 6.5 mm Japanese action, in good condition, can handle almost any standard factory-loaded round that will fit into the magazine and work through the action. You could make a wildcat from the .308 Win. and call it the .263/.308—and any normal loads for that case will not harm a good Arisaka action.

As to loads, you'll have to play that by ear. I cannot give you loadings unless I

knew what case and what case design you settle upon.

Not enough shooters respect the strength and design of the Japanese 6.5 mm Military (Arisaka) rifle.—GB

Krag Parts

In the January issue, "An Inside Look," the Krag-Jorgenson is pictured and described. My grandfather left me his Krag in his will. While taking it apart the other night, I broke the part that I have checked on the picture. Could you send me a parts list so I can identify the part, and tell me where I can buy one?

Jim Price
Munhall, Pa.

You should have little trouble finding an extractor for a Krag-Jorgenson.

My advice is to contact one or more dealers who advertise that they handle gun parts. One such dealer is Bob Lovell, Box 401, Elmhurst, Illinois.—GB

Army Policy?

I noticed a letter in "Crossfire" (March) titled "AR-15 vs M-14." It reminded me of the controversy which occurred in England a few years ago over the decision by our army to adopt the F. N. Browning semi-auto rifle instead of the British EM-2 (a rifle which performed better in both the British and U. S. tests than any other!)

I believe the decision to adopt the F. N. instead of the EM-2 was because of pressure brought by the U. S. Army, that there should be a standard NATO rifle, the F. N. Could you explain why the U.S.A., after its call for one NATO rifle, now uses the M-14 and not the F. N.?

C. J. G. Elphick
Chatham, England

I can only say that it has been a policy of the U.S.A. to use as an official arm one that was designed by the government agencies.

History has shown us that there have been times when other arms have proved superior. This is not a new thing, and has been particularly obvious since the American Civil War.

Possibly the government wishes not to rely on a commercial product since such a product may be unobtainable in times of need.—GB

Guns For the Kings

In your March, 1958, issue was an article by John Fisher Kerr about shotguns made by Joe Manton during the reigns of King George III and King George IV of England. I have one of these fine laminated steel, double barrel, hammer shotguns made by J. Manton; also a fine double made by "Friedr. Wills. Heym" at Suhl, Germany. I

certainly would appreciate any information on these guns.

Chauncey Lane
Danville, Kentucky

Joseph Manton, younger brother to John Manton, who was also a celebrated gunsmith, opened a shop at 27 Davies St. in London in 1795. He was active in the business until he died in 1835. His son carried on the business as Joseph Manton & Son. The firm ceased in 1877.

I have listings of several "Heym" makers. They were all located in Suhl, Thuringia, Germany, and were all active between 1922 and 1939.—CB

How Many Grooves?

I am interested in rebarreling a Krag .30-40, to shoot lead bullets only. I was thinking of using a 2-groove Springfield barrel. A local gunsmith claims that 2-groove barrels give poor accuracy with lead, and that one should use a barrel with at least 4 grooves. Have you ever had any experience with lead bullet accuracy out of a 2-groove Springfield, as opposed to a 4-groove?

John W. Rockefeller
Grand Island, Neb.

My opinion is that there are other more important aspects than the 2 or 4 groove barrel. If you experiment to the point that you have the optimum bullet hardness and the proper powder charge for the job intended, you will have good results from the 2 groove barrel.

I have used cast bullets through a 2 groove Springfield and had no more headaches than I had with a 4 groove. The loading of your .30-40 Krag round will be your big hurdle. Go ahead and use the 2 groove and I'll bet the saving in money will give you the opportunity and funds to find a very pleasing cast bullet load.—C.B.

Loads For .300 Savage

Can the .300 Savage M-99 develop enough velocity to use the Sierra 110 HP .308 bullet for varmint shootings. If they can be used, what type of powder would you use.

Edwin McGonagill
Artesia, New Mexico

Yes, that Savage 99 can hold up fine under pressures which will make the Sierra 110 grain ball a real chopper for varmints. I would work up a load using No. 2400 powder—but go easy and use caution when using 2400, the stuff can be mean—particularly when you throw a double charge by mistake.—C.B.

Chrome-plated Accuracy

I own a .38-44 S&W Outdoorsman which I fire in competition. I have heard of chroming the barrel, cylinders, and action on the inside to make the weapon easier to keep clean. I would like to know if this is possible and if so, how much it would cut down the inside size of the barrel and cylinder. Also how this would affect the accuracy of this weapon.

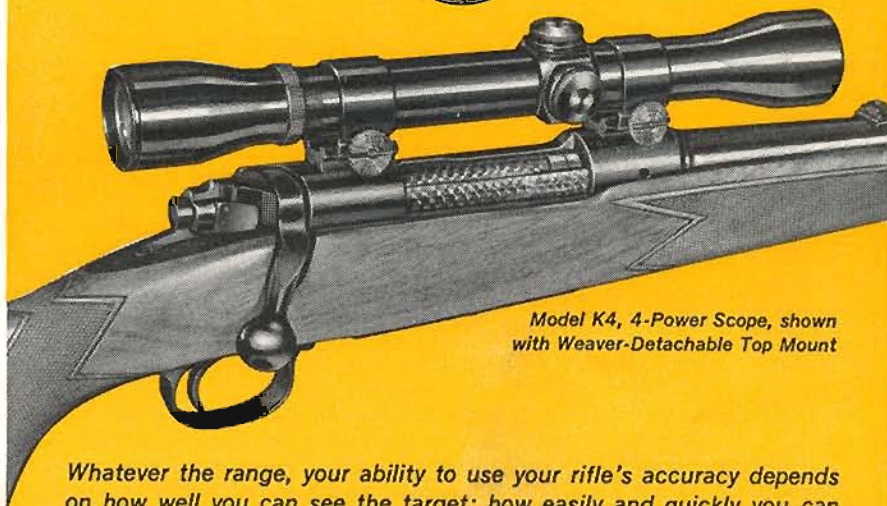
Aymon N. Hall
Tracy, California

There are different methods of chrome plating and because of this the thickness (Continued on page 60)

sighting precision
to match your rifle's accuracy

model **K**

WEAVER  **SCOPES**



Model K4, 4-Power Scope, shown
with Weaver-Detachable Top Mount

Whatever the range, your ability to use your rifle's accuracy depends on how well you can see the target; how easily and quickly you can aim. With a K Model, you can see a clear, sharp image of your magnified target. Your aim is fast and comfortable with maximum eye-relief and just the constantly-centered reticle to align on the target. Model K Weaver-Scopes also feature sturdy construction, nitrogen filling, and O-ring sealing for all-weather accuracy and dependability. See the seven K Models, 1- to 10-power; there's one to suit your shooting and your budget.

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George L. McNicol Ltd., Vancouver

GUN RACK



Pacific's DL-110

This handy shotshell loader was designed by Bob Deitemeyer of Pacific Gun Sight Co., P.O. Box 4495C, Lincoln, Nebraska. Shot-shell loaders that produce large numbers of finished shells per hour are fairly expensive, and a good many shotgunners have rightly felt that reloading hulls is not for them since they don't use up enough shells in the course of a year to make the investment in a large tool worthwhile. With the new DL-110, everybody can reload shotshells and make it worthwhile, not only in cash outlay for the tool but also for the required shot, primers, and wads.

We ran several hundred shells through our test loader and found that it produces good reloads, although at a slower rate than the DL-250. Shells are handled from station to station, and the shot and powder delivery is accurate. Wad pressure control, as on all Pacific tools, is automatic, and there is the added advantage that the DL-110 is a relatively small tool and thus requires little bench space. Even if you shoot only 200 rounds in the course of the year, loading your own hulls is fun as well as economical, and that little DL-110 is just the ticket.

Gun Cleaning

Tom Rice, Rice Products Co., Dept. G, 437 Chilean Ave., Palm Beach, Fla., gave us a chance to test some of his new gun cleaning and gun care products. As Tom points out in a letter, there is nothing more humid than the Florida shore, and guns exposed to Florida weather tend to rust in no time at all. His XF-10 Gun Solvent, the XF-15 Dry Graphite, and the XF-20 Gun Lubricant, all tested under the most adverse conditions, worked fine in the tests we gave them here. You'll get the best results if you follow Tom's detailed instructions. The solvents used in these products are 100 per cent volatile, and effectiveness of the products depends entirely on how they are handled. If your magnum handgun leads badly, you might try Tom's solvent. We had one badly leaded gun and the XF-10 solvent did the trick; no matter how much the gun was used, leading did not seem to be a major problem any more.

Redfield Scope

We reported on the 3X-9X Redfield Variable some months ago. In January, we got our 2X-7X test scope, externally very much like the original Variable scope. Fogging and drop tests produced no untoward effects, and point of impact did not change when the magnification was changed in the course of firing strings of groups.

Optical properties on our scope were excellent, and the delicate crosshairs were not affected by recoil, even when we mounted the scope on our pet Model 70 .375 H&H Magnum for tests. After banging the scope around on two or three big cannons, we settled down to some serious shooting with Remington's Model 700 in the brand-new 6 mm caliber. Maybe it should not be reported here, but in the course of some ballistics experiments, we took the new Redfield 2X-7X, put it on the gun we were working with, and the gun with scope took a nasty spill from the back of our stationwagon. Naturally, the scope hit the rocky ground first, but the only ill effect was a slight scratch in the finish. A touch of aluminum touch-up blue did away with the evidence!

Target Carrier

The Gopher Shooter's Supply Co., Inc., Dept. G, Faribault, Minn., markets a dandy target carrier. Called Loc-A-Leg Target Stand, the four metal legs are fully adjustable, and all you need is a proper backstop to start shooting. The targets are stapled on a piece of 1/2" plywood, and the entire tar-



get carrier weighs only a few pounds. It stores flat, sets up in seconds, and will stand without additional supports even when the lake breezes blow at 25 mph or better. We have seen any number of commercial and home-made target carriers, but this is by far the best we have yet seen or used.

More Federal Ammo

We recently reported on the new Federal Cartridge Corp. rifle ammo. New in the line is the .222 Remington ammo, plus 7 mm and 8 mm Mauser ammunition. Hi-Shock bullets are used and the 7 mm Mauser ammo is now available with the long-popular 139 grain bullet. Federal also loads the 175 grain bullet in this caliber, and the lighter bullet has the following velocities: MV 2815 fps, at 100 yards the velocity is 2570 fps, at 200 yards it is 2335 fps, and at 300 yards it is

still 2135 fps. Federal brass is of very good quality and can be reloaded often and has excellent case life.

Portable Bench Rest

If you have been thinking about building your own bench and have not yet started work, don't bother. Ellis Wood Products, Box 55G, House Springs, Mo., makes a wonderful bench and at a cost that is way below the cost of the lumber alone. We have been using this bench for some time and are completely delighted with it. The bench has 2x4 legs that are fully adjustable, a $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood



top, is very sturdy and rugged, yet weighs only 26 pounds. The legs fold flat against the underside of the bench and storing the bench or carrying it in the station wagon or car trunk presents no problem. You can get a brochure from Ellis Wood Products, and a check or money order for \$29.95 will bring you the bench postpaid. Best of all, you can get the bench for left or right shoulder shooting.

Luger Barrels

If you are the lucky owner of a Luger and enjoy shooting it, you can get a new barrel for the gun—and what a barrel, we should add. We asked John Dewey, master gunsmith, to put one on our Luger and with Dominion ammo, we fired 10 shots from a rest and at 50 yards—the group measured a witnessed 1.25 inches. This is an 8 groove, eight inch barrel, has a headspace of $go + .002$ " and is equipped with a Micro Rear sight and a special front sight. John Dewey, formerly of Roxbury, Conn., recently joined forces with Mason Williams, and the new company, Shooters Service and Dewey, Inc., is located in Clinton Corners, New York. John's Luger barrels are custom jobs and

you may have to wait for yours for a month or so, but it will be worth waiting for. My own Luger belonged into the clunker class when it was shipped to John, but looked brand-new and functioned much, much better after John got through tuning it.

CCI .22 RF Ammo

George Fairchild, V.P. of CCI, shipped us some of his new, U.S. made .22 RF fodder. Put up in red, white, and blue boxes of 50 rounds, and lubricated with a specially designed lubricant, the ammo shoots right on par with some of the match ammo we have been using in our Browning Medalist and our heavy barrel Remington Model 37. We then ran 50 rounds through our snub-nosed Hi-Standard Sentinel and through the Savage .22 rifles we were testing. Does not seem to make much difference in what gun you shoot it, the new CCI ammo does real well.

Browning's Buck Special

Basically, this is the famed and much beloved Browning automatic shotgun. If you have one of these guns, you can get the Buck Special barrel from your dealer. The gun as it came to us for tests, has QD swivels, and the buck barrel has rifle sights. After some 100 rounds of assorted buck shot loads, and some of that ammo was better than five years old, we can report that there was not a single function failure. Patterning of the gun was perfect, and the 24 inch barrel delivers the shot where you aim it. Available in all gauges—that is 12, 16, and 20 gauge—and with the Browning reputation to back the performance and workmanship, the coming deer season should be something to look forward to.

Correction

In the August report on the 85 grain Sierra bullet for the 6 mm, the charge should have read 48.5 gr. of 4831, not 65.5 grains.

Portable Vise

J. L. Galef & Son, Inc., Dept. G., 85 Chambers Street, New York, N.Y., have a dandy new item called the Vacu-Vise. Retailing for less than \$7, this is a small vise with serrated jaws that works on the vacuum principle. A handle on the side of the vise base, when turned toward you, creates a vacuum between the rubber base pad and the shooting bench top. Once locked, it is

(Continued on page 62)

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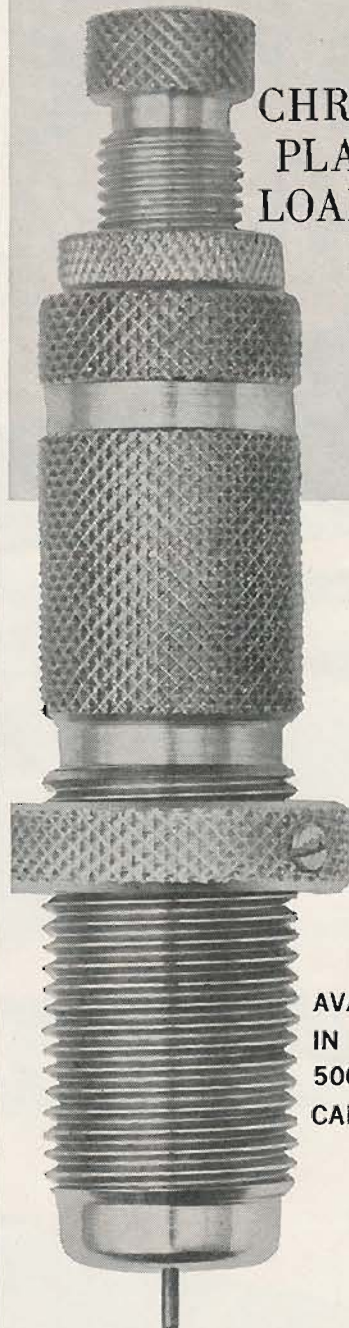
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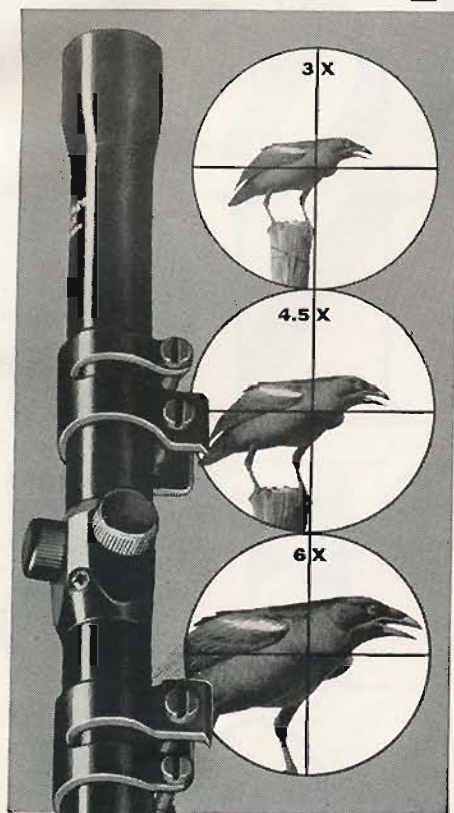


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You can zoom in on your 22 rifle target fast with any magnification from 3 to 6X. The Savage model 3615 is a continuously variable power scope. It's every inch a top-quality optical instrument made to strict Savage specifications. Lenses are

precision-ground and hard-coated for high fidelity brightness. Adjustments made by graduated dials. Sturdy, rust-proof duralumin tube has lustrous finish. Mounts instantly on all modern 22 rifles. Fully guaranteed by Savage. See it today at your sporting goods dealer. You'll be amazed at the price—including mounts, only **\$16.75**.

FREE! Illustrated 32-page catalog of Savage, Stevens, Fox firearms and scopes. Write Savage Arms, Westfield 65, Massachusetts. Prices subject to change. Slightly higher in Canada.



Savage



CROSSFIRE

Wants the M-1 Back

Just purchased your swell magazine, as I always do every payday. One of these days I'm going to save enough money to get a year's subscription and have you send me GUNS right to my company area instead of jogging into town to get it!

In your April issue you had a great article on the new guns for our armed forces. All the guys in the company enjoyed reading this article, as I did. Of all the weapons you wrote about, there is only one that we marines think the government should put into the dippy-dumpster. I am referring to the M-14. We marines want the ole M-1 back! How about making all us good marines happy by printing a big article on the M-1, it's past, present, and future in the armed forces?

Your magazine rates as tops. Keep up the good work. Will be looking for that article on the M-1.

Pvt. Donald R. Becker
Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Best Issue?

The April issue of GUNS Magazine is one of the best issues I have ever read. Especially two stories, "His Guns Helped Tame Hell's Half Acre," and "A Rifleman Remembers."

The story of Wiley G. Haines was of great interest to me. As a very small boy, I lived in Osage County with my parents back in 1910. My father worked on what was known as the Gibson Ranch. In 1911, we came to central Oklahoma settling near Union City. I can remember my father telling about Marshall Wiley Haines. My great uncle, D. C. Moreland, was one of the first real estate men to come to Oklahoma City. He also knew Wiley Haines. So a story like the one of Wiley Haines is real history to me. A man of his integrity is to be highly praised, for it was men like him who brought law and order, and helped make history.

The other story about Willard B. Chappel ranks very high in my books. To me he is very interesting and no doubt a wonderful sportsman. I have had most all of his rifles except the early .44 Rim-fire, and I also reload like he does, and I make the Colorado hunt every year. I wish I could meet him.

Ferrell J. Moreland
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Surprised!

Thanks for the articles on firearms legislation. I was surprised to find people with common sense left!

If our legislators feel that our right to keep and bear arms should be taken away, do they also mean that we should give up our freedoms of speech and worship? For

our sake, I hope not.

I cannot see how a restriction on firearms could be beneficial. If anything, I believe that such a restriction would be detrimental to our nation's defense and security. If I am wrong, I will be more than happy to listen to anyone who can present a *sensible* theory in favor of such legislation.

James Pilotti
Philadelphia, Pa.

Brassards Wanted

I am a regular subscriber to your very fine magazine. Even in this remote part of the world, I and many a friend enjoy each and every article.

As Chief Pistol Instructor of five pistol clubs, I have been using many articles as material for lectures to club members, with only the best results, on account of the high quality of the written articles.

Could you assist me, either through your magazine or with the help of some friendly readers, to find some Brassards for me and my good Lady to decorate our shooting jackets? Even though I am quite prepared to pay for Brassards, I could up to now only acquire four Ruger patches. We two are the proud owners of one Colt Python, one Ruger Mark I, one High Standard Supermatic Citation, and one Colt Cobra.

I hope that some of your readers will help. In advance, please accept my sincere thanks to you and anyone willing to assist me in decorating two Shooting Jackets.

G.J.S. van Dyk,
P. O. Box 113,
Heilbron, O.F.S.
Republic South Africa

Warning

I was very pleased to add the April copy of GUNS to the ever-growing pile in my den, for future reference. I only wish that the stiff-necked English shooting magazines were as informative, instead of printing mostly localized club gossip.

In the interests of the shooting sports, may I hope that you, and everyone concerned in shooting, manage to squash the anti-gun legislations we in England keep reading about. In America, it is a right for a man to own arms; in England it is a privilege for a man to own arms, even a .22 short. As a matter of interest, it took me six months to obtain a .22 rifle permit, and another 12 months to obtain a .22 pistol permit. I dread to think of the time it will take to obtain a permit for a .380 or a 9 mm pistol. So Citizens of America, *you have been warned!*

Good luck and good shooting.

Donald M. Gray
London, England

Fast Gun In England

I am a regular reader of your magazine and enjoy every copy and each article. I am one of the very few here who are able to indulge in pistol owning and shooting. I shoot for all sorts of competitions and demonstrations.

Perhaps this item will interest your readers. I am appearing in a series of TV films, made here, about the 1873/6 period in the American West. I portray a Gunman (English).

I have done Fast Draw for many years, dating back to war service with a Special Service Unit during the war, when I had many occasions to be glad that my gun was fast and accurate. I read all your articles on the subject, and want to find out more about the "no bloodshed" methods, so as I can interest chaps who are not familiar with the sport. I would be glad to hear from Fast Draw addicts to swap ideas, books, etc.

More power to your pens, and thank you for many hours of reading and good hints. Your books are always handy for reference.

Joseph Lees
52 Moorcroft Road
Lawton Moor, Wythenshawl
Manchester 23, Lancs., England

Do It Yourself!

In Robert Broussard's letter in (June '63), he said he "found things difficult" when he tried to purchase a handgun because he's in the service. I know exactly how he feels!

When I was stationed in Maryland, I tried to purchase a revolver, and immediately came up against insurmountable red tape. First, I had to have written permission from my commanding officer, which I couldn't get. (It seemed that such requests were rare and therefore suspicious, and besides enlisted men weren't allowed to have handguns unless they lived off the base.) Second, I would then have to register with the local police for a permit to buy the handgun. If they didn't like my reasons for wanting the permit, it would be turned down.

I was brought up in a shooting, hunting, gun-loving family. To us, guns were not only a pleasure but a symbol of our freedom, and the thought of having to register to buy a firearm, and then register the gun after it was bought, would have my father turning in his grave.

Even though I was trusted to be in charge of a million and a half dollars of electronic equipment, and the lives and value of every plane that used it to land with, I still was not to be trusted to buy and have a handgun.

My enlistment was about up at the time, so I didn't sign up for a second four years of "the benefits." I didn't get out because of guns, but it very definitely was a factor.

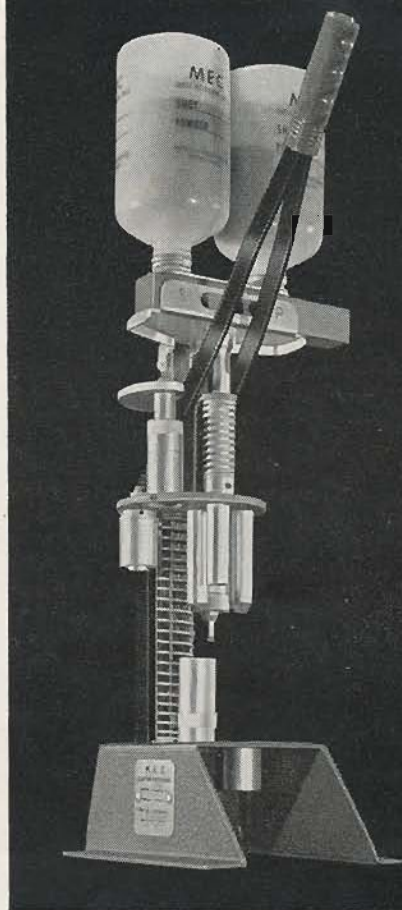
A car by itself never committed a crime or killed anyone. The same is true with a gun. The only way we'll get rid of these outmoded laws, and keep uninformed legislators from enacting more of them, is to write to our representatives, speak before groups, and join gun associations. Like salesmen, we have an idea. In order to sell it, we have to get it in front of the public. Don't wait for George to do it; it'll only get done if you do it!

Victor D. Powell
Oak Hill, W.Va.

all this reloading versatility (any gauge—any load)



from the mec "hunter's" reloader



This is the MEC 400. It's the most versatile of any shotshell reloader on the market . . . it can be readily and easily converted to handle *any* load . . . *any* gauge from 410 to the 3 1/2" 10 gauge magnum. It's ideal for the sportsman who wants to reload for hunting upland game and waterfowl, as well as for competitive shooting. It's fast, accurate, dependable, easy to operate, safe and completely foolproof . . . even beginners have no trouble turning out perfect, high-quality reloads the first time around.

Let's take a look at some of the many features that make the MEC 400 so versatile. First, there's the unique Flip-Type measuring assembly that flips down for easy charging or changing of load. Tool doesn't have to be tipped upside-down . . . no dangerous spilling of powder or shot. Then there's the Direct Reading Pressure Gauge . . . it's designed to automatically compensate for difference in height of base wad. It needn't be adjusted for each individual type of load or shell. The MEC's versatility makes it the easiest of all to convert . . . for instance, you can change from load to load in seconds . . . gauge to gauge in minutes. And these changes can be made without the usual confusing adjustments.

The 400 comes "ready-to-go", available in any gauge. Its price? \$57.75.



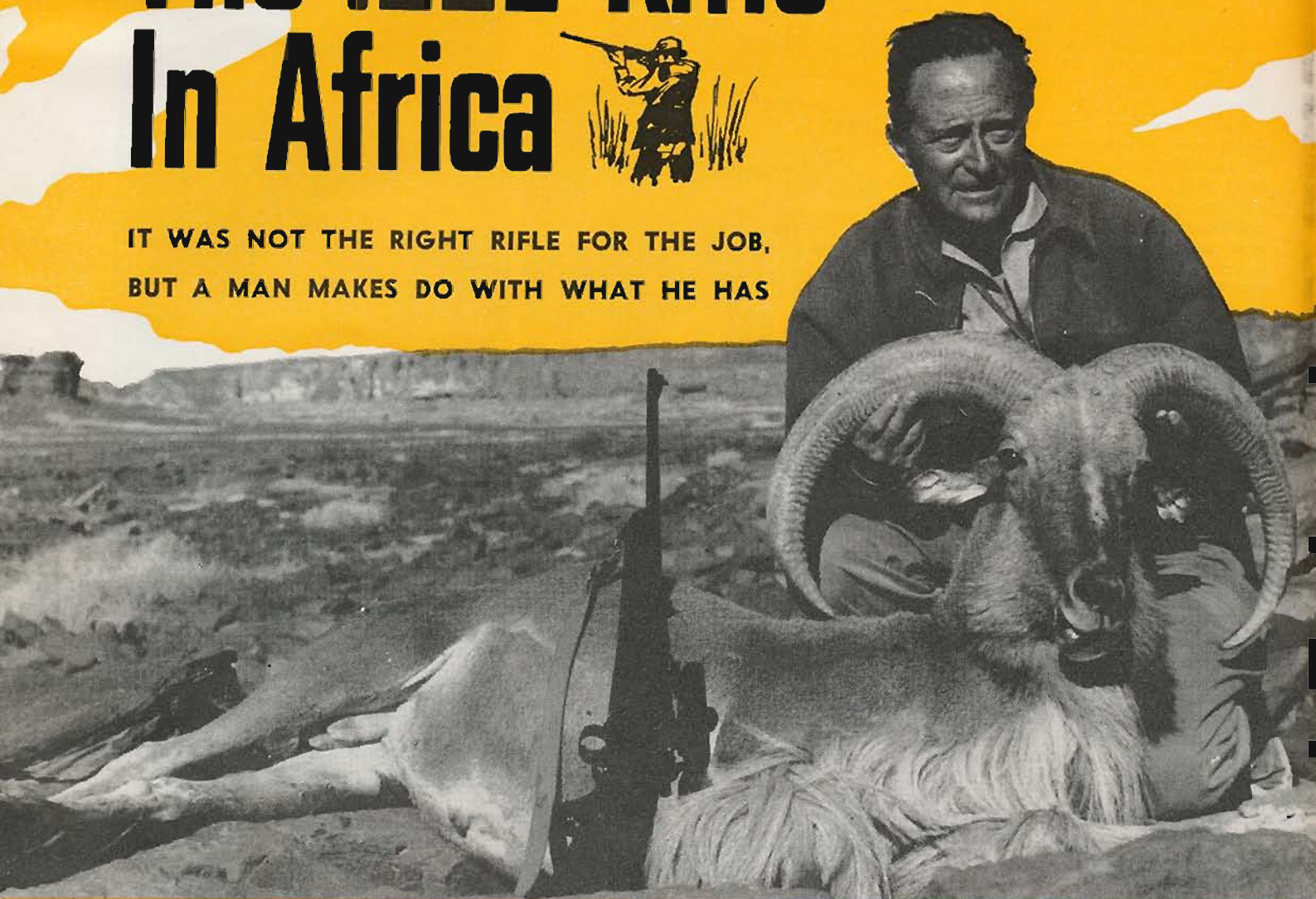
See it at your dealer's or write Mayville Engineering, Mayville, Wisconsin for MEC's complete catalog.

MAYVILLE ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC.

The .222 Rifle In Africa



IT WAS NOT THE RIGHT RIFLE FOR THE JOB,
BUT A MAN MAKES DO WITH WHAT HE HAS



Most of the African plains game animals are big and do require a caliber larger than the .222. With good bullet placement and excellent stalking, author was able to take aoudad, hartebeest, western kob, and many others.





With big rifle out of commission, the .222 Sako rifle was used to collect specimens and feed the expedition.

By JEAN DRAGESCO

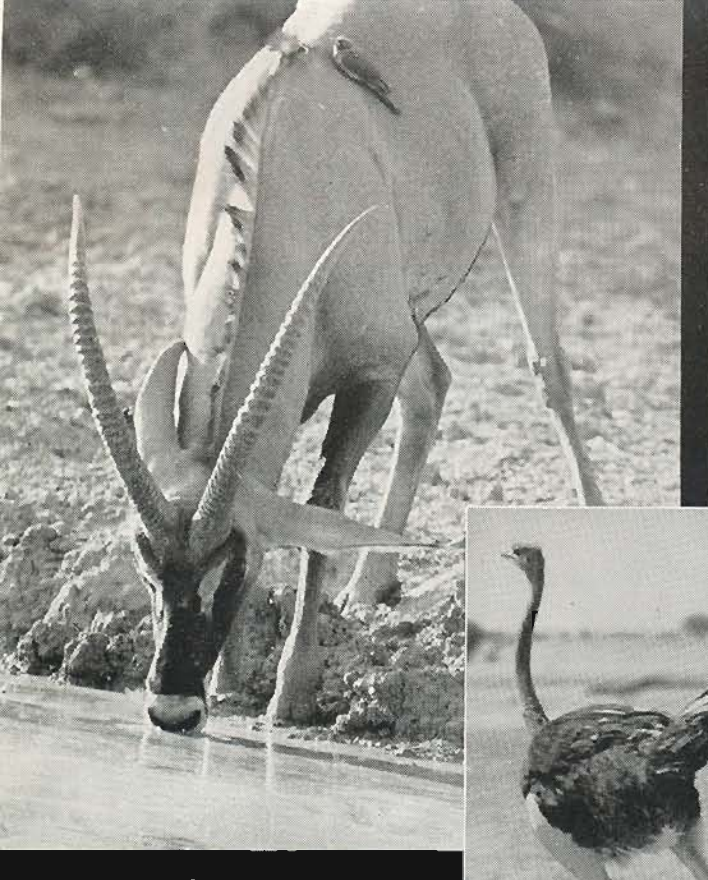
WHAT FOLLOWS will astonish some, raise eyebrows of others, and even arouse some righteous indignation that any man would use such a gun on such game. But I am not recommending this gun for this game, did not use it by choice—and the facts as to results obtained are facts. They happened.

During the years 1957-1958, I travelled 18,000 miles through equatorial Africa in order to carry out scientific research on animals. At the same time, I was shooting full length films on the habits of African wildlife. Being also interested in parasites, I had from time to time to kill various mammals in order to study their intestinal fauna. I had a number of permits, covering both scientific and sport hunting, which gave me a great deal of liberty. In addition, it should be understood that I and my personnel lived for nine months in the jungle, which means that we had to rely a great deal on game for our food. Much of this hunting I did also, as I am by nature a hunter and a lover of arms.

To conform myself to different regulations covering firearms, and also because of the great weight of our baggage, I had to restrict myself to four arms only. They were:

Equipped with 4X scope, Sako rifle took 158 animals, mammals and birds, with 310 cartridges. Small caliber made careful bullet placement essential on all game.





An exceptionally fine roan antelope and the ever-present tickbirds were recorded on film during the scientific safari through Africa.



Though no trophy in the accepted sense, warthogs are not too easily located or killed since they are very wary.

a BRNO rifle, caliber .22LR; a 12 gauge shotgun; a Sako rifle, caliber .222 with a 4X scope; and an F.N. rifle, caliber 9.3x62—a cartridge only a little less powerful than the .375.

The .22 caliber rifle rendered us great service, and it proved to be a good killer against such species as vultures and marabou. The 12 gauge shotgun was of great value in hunting guinea hens, ducks, and other birds for food and scientific purposes. A .410 gauge adapter tube came in handy for smaller birds.

The Sako .222 rifle was originally meant to provide specimens of large birds and small mammals at distances varying between 100 and 200 yards.

The 9.3x62 rifle was supposed to serve exclusively against large game, with the exception of the elephant, which did not particularly interest me.

The .222 Sako was new to me, and I had much pleasure in shooting this small rifle, which is light and precise, with insignificant recoil. I appreciated particularly the quality of the trigger, which is adjustable and admirably designed.

I was surprised also by the precision and above all the power of .222 ammunition, whether of Remington, Sako, or Gevelot manufacture. From the very beginning, I had to give up using it against small birds, for under the impact of the bullet they would be literally blown to bits. Guinea hens, ducks, and francolins were totally destroyed and worthless as food. On the other hand, larger birds, such as geese, bustards, and larger rapacious birds were killed neatly. I should add that when shooting against a large bustard at 100 yards, the sound of the impact was usually accompanied by a cloud of feathers of all sizes.

On smaller mammals, the effect was terrific. Hares, civet cats, and jackals would be, as it were, nailed to the ground, and the wounds were ugly to look at. Among other game for which I thought this caliber to be just right were the various types of gazelles and bush bucks, which were very easy to fell at distances above 150 yards. The shot, though, had to be relatively precise, as a bullet in the abdomen was not immediately fatal.

I have read, as has everyone, stories by experts, including the famed Ruark, that high velocity .22 bullets have very little power, that they explode even on contact with the skin of the game, and that they were totally inadequate against small or medium size game. Yet I had a guide who killed 12 elephants with the 6.5 mm, and I knew that more than 1,000 elephants and as many rhinoceroses had fallen under the bullets of 8 mm Lebel rifles used by some famous hunters of French Central Africa. Wisely, though, I had decided to use the 9.3x62 against all animals larger than duikers.

Unfortunately, my 9.3x62, which was a second-hand gun, had changed hands apparently several times and very rapidly proved itself to be worthless. It was shooting about 12" (30 centimeters) too high at 100 yards, with no adjustment practical since the sights were fixed—and it also had an over-sensitive double set trigger. After a few resounding failures, and after missing a hippopotamus at 25 yards, I decided not to use it.

Inasmuch as I was in the heart of the jungle, I had to make do with what I had, and so I set my eyes on the little .222. I was encouraged by it as a result of the following incident. I was following a herd of western hartebeest. Having set my eye on a fine looking bull, I shot, standing, at approximately 100 yards, (Continued on page 41)

OTHER businesses may boom or bust, but Robert Abels' business gets bigger and bigger. His full-to-bursting shop at 860 Lexington Avenue in New York City is a Mecca for the 800,000 collectors of arms and armor in the United States, and others from abroad—and gun collectors buy guns when they find them.

One of the leading authorities on collector weapons of all kinds, Abels is the author of "Early American Firearms," a collectors' textbook. He travels the world, visiting collectors and tracking down items for his tiny but heavily stocked shop. Swords, pistols, rifles, lances, cannon, crossbows, arrows, halberds, beheading axes, tomahawks, death-dealing oddities of all kinds lend his establishment a grim look, but there is always a welcome



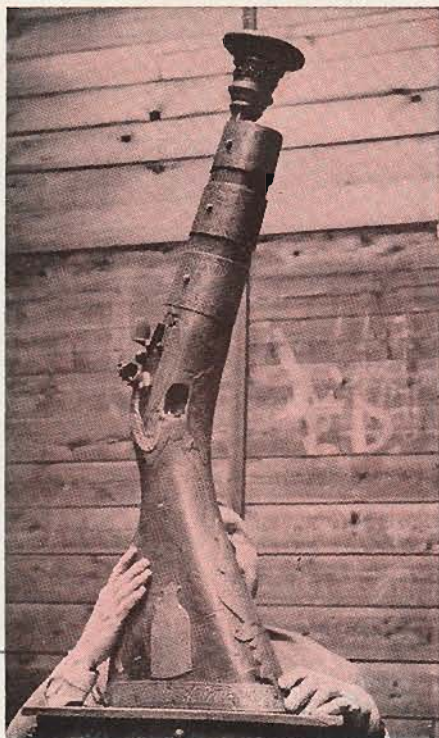
Tiny Paterson has price tag of \$325, was made in 1844. Robert Abels, right, gazes down barrels of a duck foot flintlock made around 1790. Store has many gun oddities.

The Unusual Is His Business

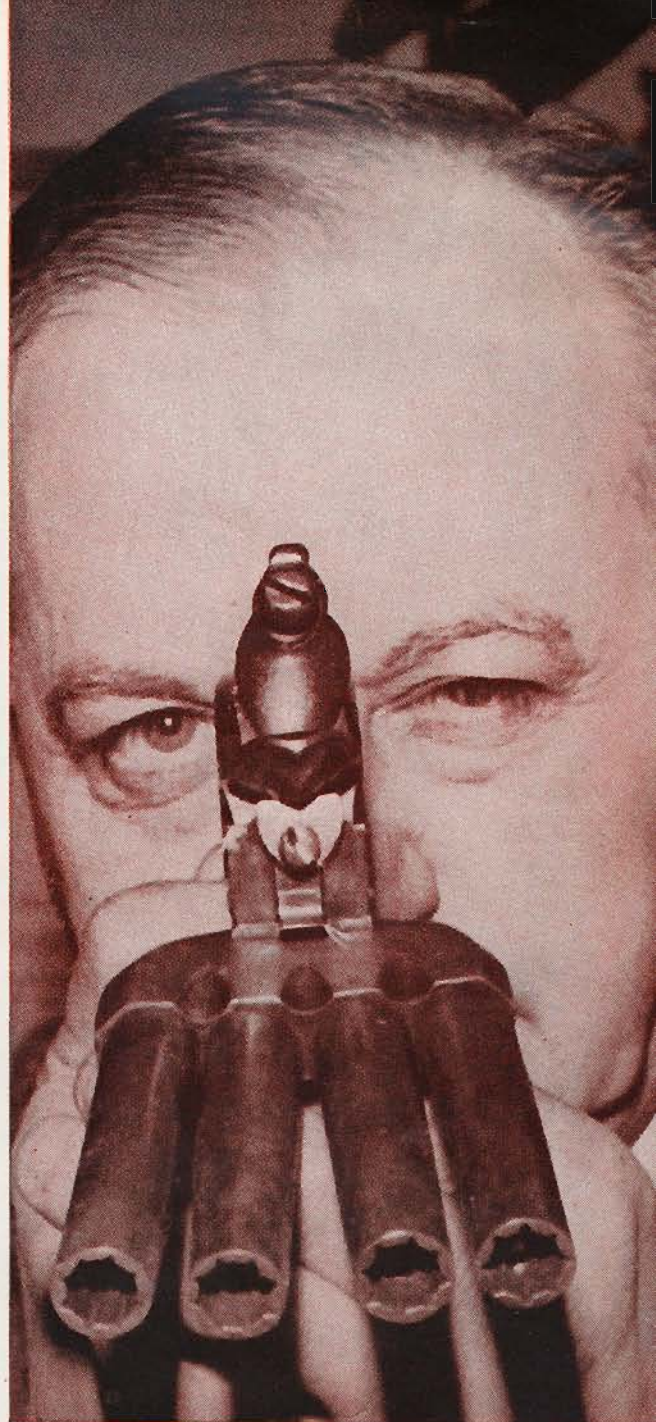
**LITTLE SHOP IS BIG ATTRACTION TO
COLLECTORS OF
GUNS AND ARMOR**

By JAMES MARION

Pictures by United Press International



Vatican City signal gun weighs 65 lbs., has value of about \$1,500.



in it for the collector, whether he comes to buy or to browse. In addition to weapons, Abels stocks such things as helmets, drums, powder horns, holsters, coats of chain mail, and gleaming suits of armor. If it will hold a weapon, or turn a weapon, it is grist for Abels' mill.

Abels' biggest turn-over is in American guns, with Civil War weapons most in demand. Collectors tend to specialize their interests as their experience increases. The man who grows ecstatic over an 18th century musket may be indifferent to a handsome 19th century "Kentucky," and vice versa.

One man wants only Colts, another only martial pistols. Still others collect only powder flasks, or cartridges. Prices here range from a few cents to many hundred, even thousands of dollars.

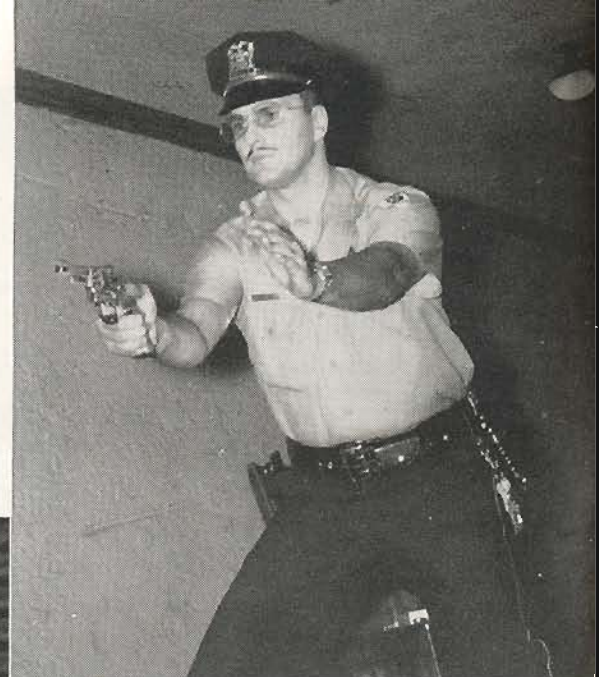
Abels started in business as an antique furniture dealer, switched to arms and armor in 1937. When you visit New York, visit Abels. About the only thing in the way of weapons which you won't find there is the atomic bomb—but that's only because it's not yet on the market. When these become collectors' items, Abels will have them!



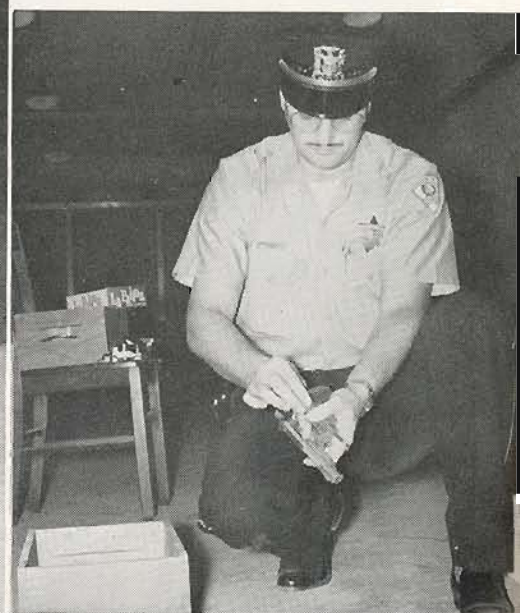


Firing 25 ft. course, right, is demonstrated by Sgt. Al Kloch with perfect score. Good scores in shorter and shorter time are the aim.

Kloch checks 25 yard form of Ptl. Stahlecker before firing for qualification. Good form and score, below, are a credit to the coach.



Body position is the key to firing short course. A change is made during practice run.



Sgt. Kloch demonstrates gun reloading for the 25 ft. course.

THESE COPS CAN SHOOT

By R. A. STEINDLER

TAKE AN EX-MARINE who was on his company's pistol team and who qualified with the M 1, put him into police uniform, and things are bound to happen. When Alton J. Kloch joined the Skokie, Illinois, Police Department six years ago, the first thing he did was to shoot his way into the Department's highly exclusive pistol team by scoring 240 points against the top scorer who fired 255 points, shooting double-action!

In 1960, Al cajoled the department into joining the NRA Police Program, and to this day he proudly holds the NRA Certified Police Instructor Certificate Number 1. When Al joined the force in 1957, firearms training for new officers without previous gun training was sketchy and was largely based on the conventional target shooting system. On his own and without help from "upstairs," Al studied combat shooting methods, experimented, went to meetings and visited other departments. Finally, he received the backing that he had been asking for: an obligatory combat shooting course for every man on the force, and monthly qualification firing in which each man—including the Chief—must make the grade. Those who fail receive personal coaching and supervision until they can qualify, and more often than not in a much better time and with a much better score than required.

After Al got the green light from the department, he obtained the help of several cracker-jack police combat shooting experts from the Chicago area. Sgt. Kloch's system of combat shooting is based on the best points of a practical pistol course and the Gaylord system. Each member of the department gets lessons when he joins the force. Al found that those officers who were target shooters were, because of their previous experience and training, the slowest to get into the swing of shooting the combat course.

With the help of other police officers, the Firearms Training Unit was whipped into shape in relatively short order, and now the members of the Skokie Police Department participate annually in at least one FBI course at Camp Logan, Illinois. There also is a movement afoot for sending a team to Camp Perry and to the Indiana University matches, and if the boys have their way, they'll collect enough hardware to fill a good-sized room.

The combat shooting program is based on stark reality, and there is a constant emphasis on skill, knowledge, and superior equipment. Detectives draw from under their coats, while uniformed policemen wear the uniform prescribed for the time of the year. In the summertime, drawing and firing is relatively easy, but when winter comes and reefers or heavy coats are worn, the officer must draw and fire in the same amount of time permitted during the summertime. Although there is a strong accent on scoring and firing, safety of officers and bystanders is never

(Continued on page 52)

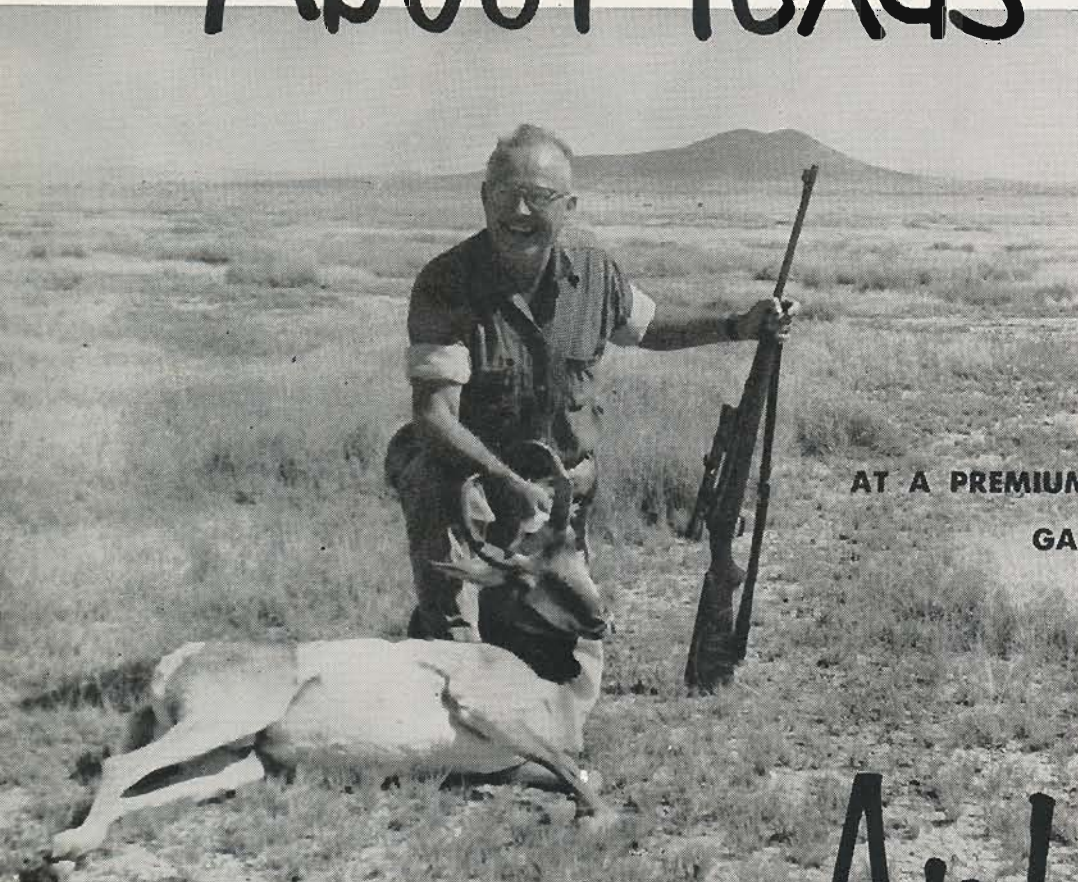


Robot camera records sequence of firing during combat shoot. Below, gun is in full recoil.



WHAT'S ALL THIS

About Texas



**WITH HUNTING LANDS
AT A PREMIUM, HERE IS A LAND RICH IN
GAME, BEGGING FOR HUNTERS**

The happy hunter dropped his Texas antelope with the .270 Winchester. A flat shooting rifle is essential.

Antelope?

By JOHN A. MASTERS

OPTIMISTIC indeed would be the man who said that there is a dearth of hunters in most of the game fields of the United States. In common with just about every other hunter who takes time to think, I have noted with increasing concern the growth of hunting as a hobby, and the shrinking areas available to the hunter.

There is one place, however, where the game exceeds the number of hunters. In the far flung Big Bend country of Texas, antelope permits for the past several years have literally gone begging. *And this despite the phenomenal*

fact that over 98 per cent of Texas antelope hunters fill their tickets!

Before you start laying your plans to head for Texas, let's examine some facts you should know. Texas antelope were almost exterminated at one time but the Game and Fish Commission moved in and, with excellent management, produced amazing results. The herds increased to the point that it became necessary to harvest some of the animals, and a carefully controlled Game Commission hunt was staged, until at last the herds reached the point that



From the top of a ridge, hunter with spotting scope can select the head he wants. Here, long shots are the rule.

antelope is like shooting fish in a barrel; the high degree of success is largely due to the fact that antelope hunting in the Big Bend country, is perhaps the best organized hunting in the United States.

To illustrate the point: I have guided over a hundred hunters over the past few years. The youngest was 8 years old, the oldest 72. A wonderful and varied assortment of guns have been used, from a fine custom built .300 Magnum to the single-shot break-action Savage .30-30. *I have not yet guided a hunter who failed to take an antelope.* This includes parties of men who have hunted all over the world—men who had the last word in rifles—and numerous father-son parties. I have found antelope hunting an excellent way to introduce a lad to big game hunting, and I have seen it provide grizzled veterans with a terrific bit of pleasure.

Antelope can be hunted by a variety of methods. In my opinion, anyone who attempts to stalk an antelope directly on foot is likely to wind up disappointed, since they can run up to 60 miles per hour, and have vision equal to that of a man with 6X binoculars. Nevertheless, they can be hunted and taken, even by a novice.

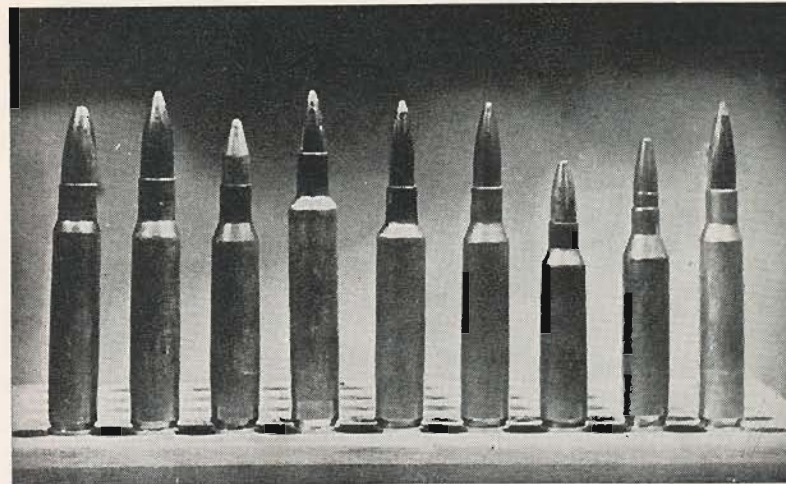
Several things combine to make hunting antelope relatively easy. In the main, antelope live in rolling prairie country, and their distinctive white markings make them visible over long ranges. A lot of their range in Texas permits moving about with a vehicle such as a Jeep, pickup or Scout. Texas law permits the *stalking* of antelope in a vehicle. This gives the hunter a means of covering distances quickly, and can put him close to an "in range" position quickly.

Secondly, antelope are the most (Continued on page 58)

the Commission now only limits the total number taken. This is done by supplying individual ranchers with an allocated number of permits, which they are allowed to sell to hunters. Thus, antelope hunting is strictly "pay hunting" in Texas. But before you decide to forget the whole affair, let's look further.

The fact that the antelope on his ranch is a money crop causes the average Texas rancher to look with favor on the hunter. Most ranchers go to great lengths to assist hunters by having excellent guides available, maps of the antelope ranges, and a wealth of information about antelope hunting. *There is simply no excuse for a hunter not taking an antelope in Texas, if he can shoot.* Not that taking an

Youngster took his first antelope with one shot from cut-down Remington .222 while on choice ridge stand.



These cartridges are satisfactory for all but the long shots. From the left: .30 Dunlap, 8 x 57 Mauser, 6.5 x 57 Mauser, .25-06 Ackley Improved, .257 Roberts Improved, .257 Roberts, .250-3000 Savage, .243 Winchester, and the 7 x 57 Mauser. Know the trajectory of your antelope gun.



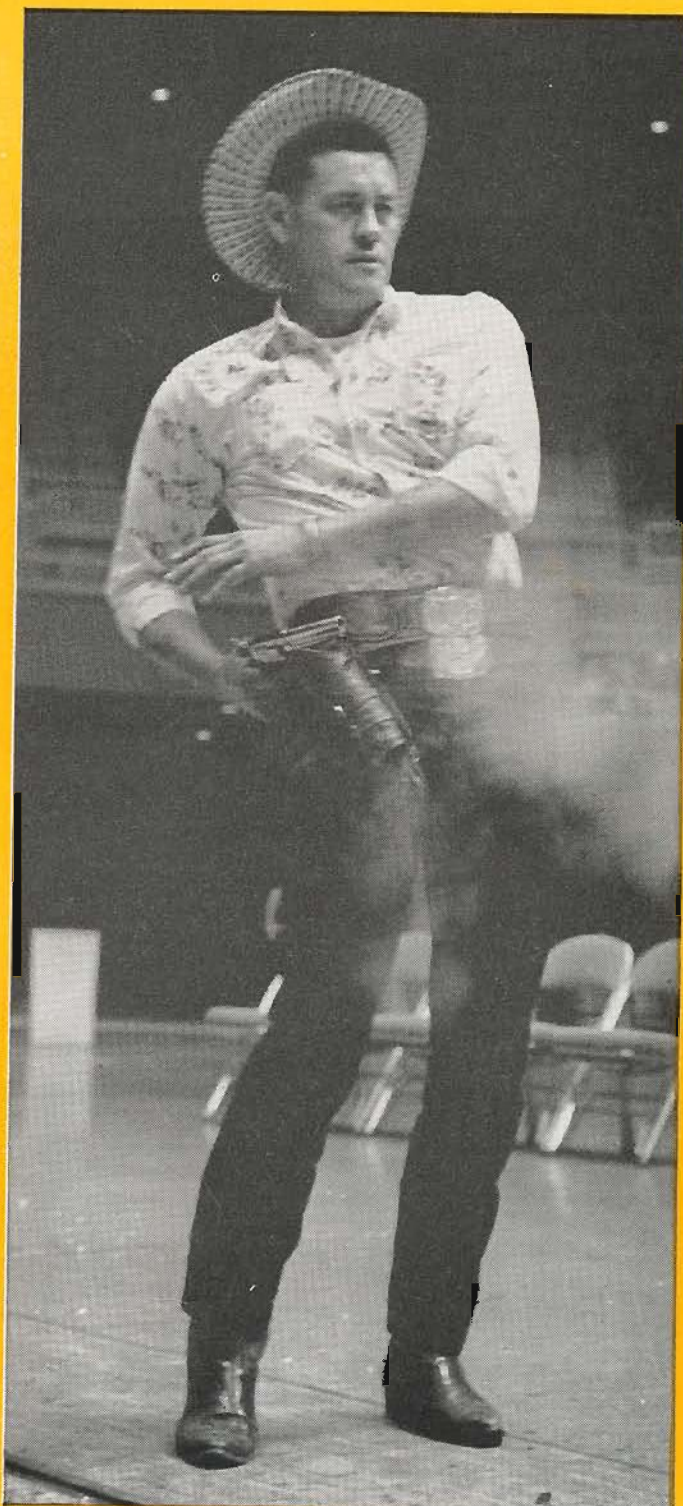
Fastest gun, Vance Anderson, Fred Roff of Colt's, and Ruth Savage, women's National Champion, hold Anderson's towering trophy.

**NO BALL AMMO, NO DANGER
TO SHOOTERS OR SPECTATORS,
BUT FUN FOR ALL! THAT IS FAST
DRAW AFTER SEVEN YEARS**



Al Brian, right, demonstrates the classic example of the twist draw. Women winners pose with husbands. From the left, Art and Ruth Savage, Gene and Doreen Ballard, and Jack and Margie Kneezel who placed third.

Fast Draw



Grows Up!

By JACK LAWRENCE

THE 1962 Hotel Sahara National Open Walk and Draw Fast Draw Championship marked the fourth year of the most impressive shoot in the fast draw sport. Co-sponsored by Colt's, it served to emphasize the changes in fast draw competition over the past four years.

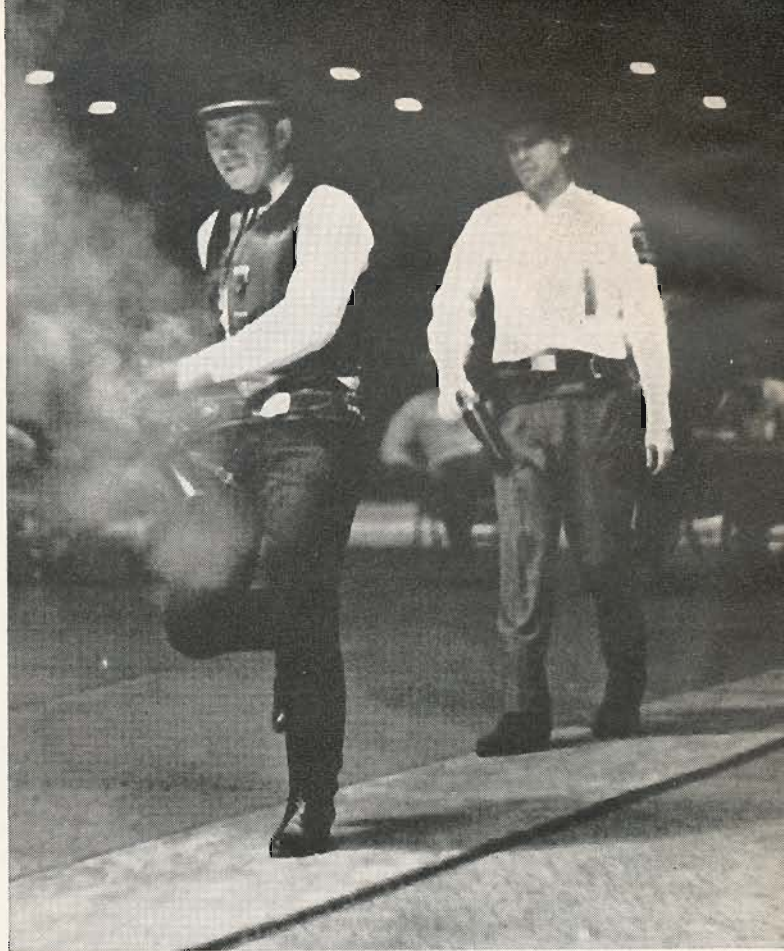
For instance, the winner, 30-year-old Las Vegas Vance Anderson, received almost as much cash as the total cash awards made at the first Sahara-Colt's Open in 1959. Gary Freymiller won the National Championship in 1959 with a draw of 52 hundredths of a second. Anderson had to draw in .31 to shoot down runner up, Bill Lewis, of Richmond, California. The contest has grown in both stature and skill.

The last Sahara-Colt's Open also reflected a more adult approach to the sport. There were no TV getups in evidence among the shooters. No mimic Palladins or Wyatt Earps showed up on the firing lines. The men shooting were serious and dedicated to their sport. Many refinements in equipment and technique accounted for the faster speeds.

We find even sharper contrasts in fast draw competition when the sport is traced back to its origin, some seven years ago. The first formal contests were held at the western ghost town of Knott's Berry Farm, in Buena Park, California. Today's polished competition at Las Vegas is a far cry from the modest, rough-hewn blasts originally held at Knott's. Those embryo contests attracted less than a score of shooters and perhaps 100 spectators, compared to almost 200 contestants and an audience of 5000 at Las Vegas in 1962. Dee Woolem, winner at Knott's, won a shiny silver belt buckle as his reward for being "The Fastest Gun Alive." At the Sahara-Colt's Open, over \$3,600 in cash prizes were awarded, as well as skyscraper trophies and new Colt handguns.

The Fastest Gun Alive shoots were held on a cement platform, within a circle of old covered wagons. Their wheels, anchored in cement, were no longer turning, but the old relics still carried the atmosphere and nostalgia of the old west. The Sahara-Colt's Open was held under klieg lights, in the ultra modern, aluminum domed, \$6,000,000 Las Vegas Convention Center, in the brightest, most glittering vacation city in the world.

The first rules were simple but a trifle obscure in some respects. They required mainly that the hand be kept at least four inches from the gun until the draw, and that the gun be more or less level when fired. The rules used at Las Vegas are considerably more circumscribing, being designed to handle a far more complex situation; but they are a model of clarity, and are being used as a guide by fast draw clubs the country over.



Jack Sims, National Champion in 1960, won with draws of .45-.42, firing a Ruger .357 Magnum Blackhawk.



In this hard-on-guns sport, it pays to be your own gunsmith. Gun gets final check before the contest.



Movie and TV celebrities attended the Sahara-Colt Open as visitors, spectators. Famed exhibition shot Rod Redwing, second from left, gave demonstration.



Jim Arness and Dennis Weaver of "Gunsmoke" on set with holster craftsman Arvo Ojala.



Alfonso Pineda, successful fast draw holster maker, shows new holster to Al Brian, left, and Bob Munden.

The original timer, developed by Dee Woolem, was the prototype of thousands that followed. It consisted of the clock and a button mounted on a waist high stand. Those first shoots were fired "off the button," timing the draw without reaction time. The Chrondek timer used at Las Vegas is a highly developed descendant of that first clock. The Chrondek virtually thinks for itself, first signaling the draw with its own random timer, then picking the winner and recording the time of his draw.

Dee Woolem's simple belt holsters resembled in many ways the actual leather of the real old time gunfighters. The "boots" seen at Las Vegas last year were the result of seven years of inbreeding, and possessed few of the attributes of practical field holsters. They were, however, the *fastest* sixgun rigs ever devised.

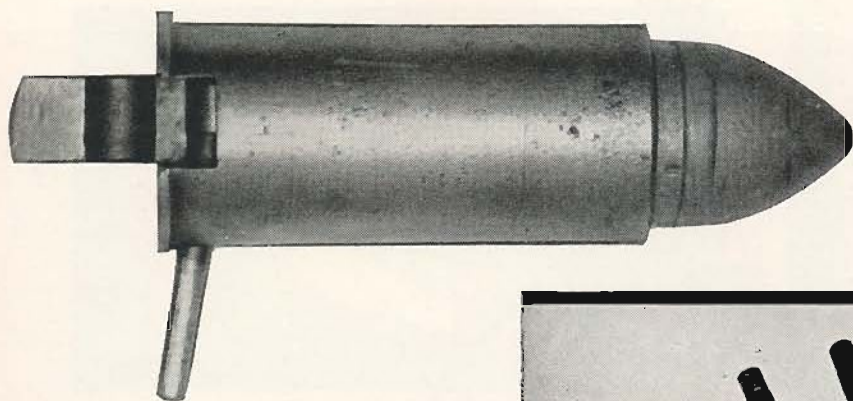
Early fast draw buffs were influenced by the low slung holsters and the elaborate, hand waving draws that they saw on their TV screens. Rodd Redwing, a true pioneer of fast draw, had been quietly teaching movie actors to thumb the hammers of their single action guns in the holsters for many years, but suddenly this "new" draw was introduced with much fanfare. The early TV holsters were nearly all from the North Hollywood shop of Arvo Ojala. Arvo provided so much look-alike leather for the TV heroes and badmen, it was hard to tell the players apart.

Ojala rigs dominated the first Sahara-Colt's Open, but they were largely superseded the next year by the fine leather work of Andy Anderson. Andy brought the holsters up nearer the waist and introduced the forward slant, with his "walk and draw" rigs, speeding times up noticeably. Andy's rigs soon alienated the affections of many TV cowboys. His holsters are well represented on such shows as "Rawhide," "Laramie," etc.

A third holster maker, Alfonso Pineda, arrived on the scene with a further development, a holster that held the gun rigidly, at an outward angle that made it extraordinarily easy to grasp. Ojala's original holster had a sheet steel band encircling the cylinder of the gun and leaving it free to rotate in the holster (necessary to thumbing in the holster), there was also a steel shank for greater stiffness. Andy added even more steel. Alfonso went them both one better by lining the entire holster and part of the belt with heavy gauge steel. He also replaced the familiar thong tie-down with a narrow leather strap around the leg. Alfonso rigs were the most numerous at the National Open in 1962.

The guns have changed little since the first shoot. The most popular is still the Colt Single Action .45. Tuning techniques have been improved to virtually eliminate the old bugaboo of a cylinder skipping past the locking bolt. Nearly all of the guns used had longhorn hammers, turned up and extended to facilitate fanning. They became so long in the beginning that it was necessary to limit them by rule to $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the frame. Most shooters at the 1962 Open were wearing the badge of the fanner, a fingerless leather glove on the left hand.

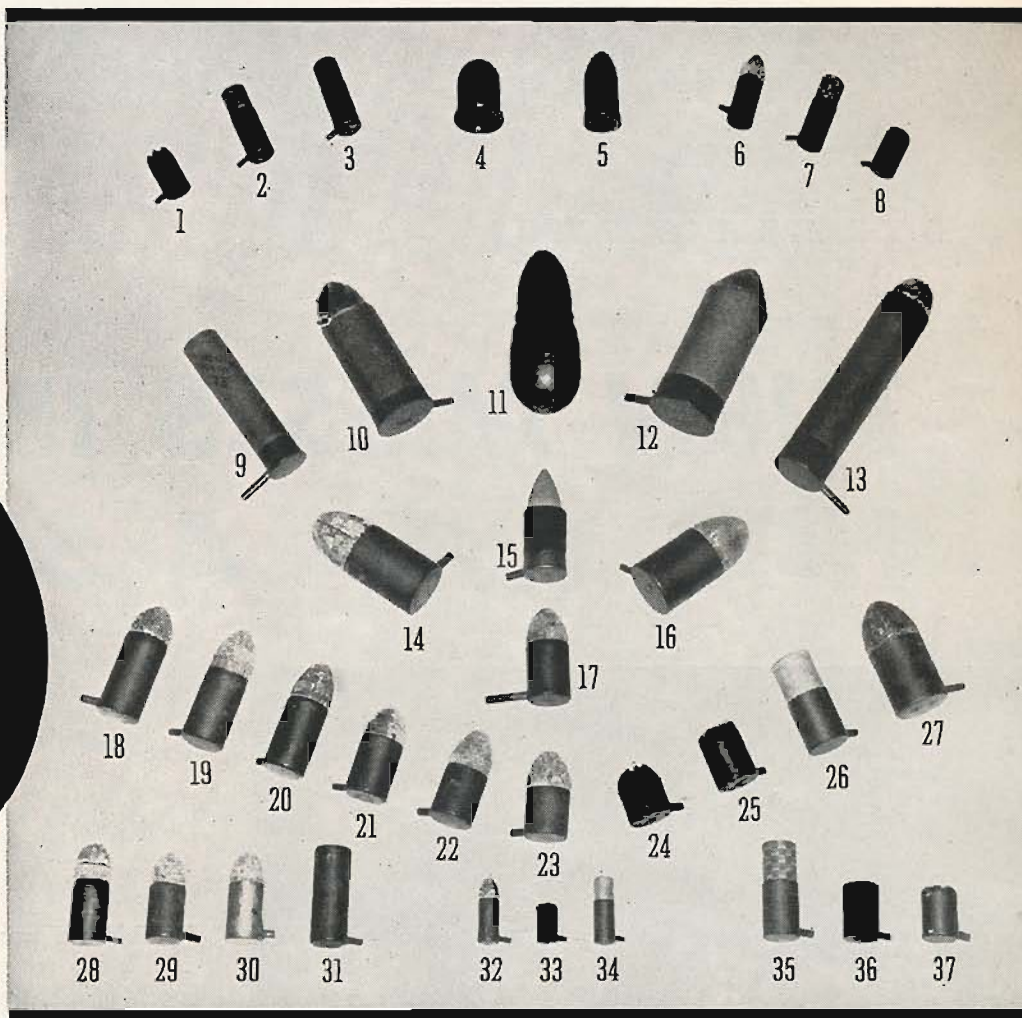
It was in 1961 that young fast draw enthusiast Curt Blakemore of Westminster, California, devised his now famous fan-twist draw. Curt eliminated the arc that the pistol barrel had to describe to level with the ground. He simply twisted the gun out of the holster, so the barrel was level the instant it cleared leather. He held the trigger back as he drew and fanned the shot off, eliminating that split second pause required to (Continued on page 38)



**COLLECTORS IGNORE THEM,
BUT PINFIRES CAN BE
WORTH IMPORTANT MONEY**

Probably of French origin and made for the Robert gun, this cartridge has steel case, measures about 13.5 mm. Trapdoor speeds reloading of a case. Idea for this appears to have been patented by Chaudun in 1847.

Pinfires



By GRAHAM BURNSIDE

MANY COLLECTORS seemingly under-value the importance of pinfire cartridge specimens. They shouldn't! It is true that pinfire rounds abound, that they are usually inexpensive little numbers, found in every general collection. After all, they have been around, in almost their original form, for over 100 years. But many collectors, even the serious ones, do not realize how many different specimens can be found.

The first pinfire ammunition was manufactured in Europe back in the 1840s or earlier. Pinfire ammunition was still made in Italy in the 1950s. Possibly there is still a manufacturer somewhere who makes them! If so, it would make sense; there are a lot of serviceable pinfire arms in circulation.

From a collector's standpoint, the pinfire specimen is in an unusual position. Collectors who want only American cartridges often say the round is foreign, so they don't want it. This is poor thinking when we realize that, during

the Civil War, at least two American concerns manufactured pinfire ammo for use by the Union Army. Also, the common pinfire cartridge was made by the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. in more than one size for many years. These U.M.C. specimens employed a brass case and were headstamped with an impressed "U."

Pinfires are part of American history. Not only were they used by both sides during the Civil War, but early single shot pinfires were carried by the gold seekers of California back in 1849.

Other collectors say that pinfire rounds are too common and they would prefer to collect only rare and very rare specimens. Well, the Gallagher & Gladding .58 is a pinfire, and one sold a while ago for \$375.00! (No. 11 in the photograph). Number 15 in the photograph is the Chaudun rolled paper case type; only ten such specimens are known to this writer, and when the box of ten was broken up, nine lucky collectors got a (Continued on page 45)

A SLIDE RULE IS
NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PRACTICE IN
SHOTGUNNING. THE
X FACTOR IN
THE EQUATION IS YOU

TURN MISSES INTO HITS WITH A SHOTGUN



By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

TO HIT a game bird, it helps to know how fast it flies. Figures are published which tell us a canvasback can rev it up to 60 mph, quail can hit 40, and old John the crow churns along at 30 miles per hour. It is also possible to get velocity and time-over-the-range data on all shot-shell loads. Knowing bird speed and shotshell velocities, all the marksman need calculate is the gun-to-target distance, and he can then resolve the equation of how much forward allowance (or lead) is required to hit the mark. The range can be estimated with a little practice, and—Presto! the marksman hits the hurtling target every time.

Or does he?

Suppose we run this one by a second time just to show how easy it is. We have the speed of the feathered mark, whether wildfowl, upland game, or pest bird. The ammo companies provide velocity figures on all shotshell loadings. The only missing item, then, is that small detail, the muzzle-to-mark yardage.

The gunner brings the 12 to his shoulder, reviews in a flash the 60 mph speed of the cruising duck, recalls that his charge of No. 6s travels 950 fps, and he then estimates that the game is at 40 yards range. Quick as a flash, he knows his lead will be $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet. He swings to gain this lead, presses the trigger—and down plummets an exceedingly dead mallard.



Coach can tell shooter where he should swing gun, but how does he estimate that yard lead in the blue sky?



If you average two shells per dove, you can consider yourself as an expert in the dove fields of the U. S.

Or does it?

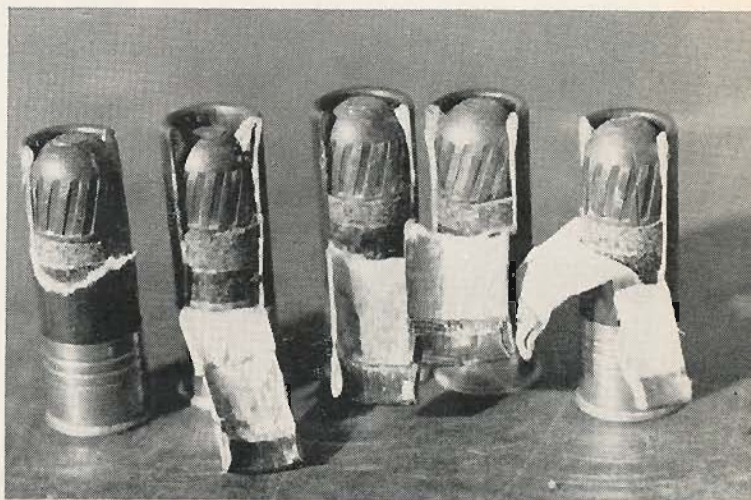
Game birds have been timed over measured distances with various electronic devices so accurately there can be little doubt as to how fast they travel. Aircraft, autos, stop-watches, and other means have been employed to gather this data, and it has been refined over the years. Despite the goodness of these studies, the accumulated data is about two jumps ahead of utter worthlessness.

The trouble lies, not with the man and his machines, but with the bird. The game is a creature given to moods and humors, to hunger, fear, and plain laziness. Unafraid and packing a full crop of succulent caterpillars, an old cock bird wings by with his motor at no better than half-throttle. Dust him off with a charge of 6s, and he will pour on the coal. In a split second, his speed doubles, trebles. The same is true of the migrating teal. He has one speed when he is heading south, another when he is tired and sees an inviting stool of decoys; quite a third when he is shot at. To state dogmatically that a bird flies at any given speed is as phony as contending that one of our jet aircraft has only one gait.

Shot loads are fairly constant. (Continued on page 53)



Colonel Askins fired shotgun slugs at a running deer target at 100 yards to see what accuracy might be. If you use slugs, better stick to shots under 75 yards.



ASKINS SHOOTING CHUKAR IN SPAIN



Shooting driven Chukar partridge in Spain is not easy. Miss a bird with one barrel, then swing on it with other barrel, and miss again. You can hit them if you can dope speed and distances involved, and if you are in luck.



JACK HOXIE: HERO OF THE MOVING PICTURE WEST

FROM BILL HART TO NEXT
GLORIFY THE WESTERN

WEEK'S TV SAGA, "GOOD GUYS" AND BAD
LEGEND, WITH HOLLYWOOD TRIMMINGS

By GEORGE VIRGINES



All the ingredients of the formula Western flic — girl, horse, and guns — appear in this shot of Hoxie and his wife with his horse, Scout.

REAMS OF STORIES, fact and fiction, have been written about the frontiersmen, the gunfighting lawmen and outlaws of the Old West, but let's look for a moment at that other breed of cowboy (real or otherwise) who have reincarnated the old heroes on celluloid for the moving pictures and TV screens. Some, certainly, were cowboys and gunmen in name only; others were the real McCoy of their day—but all have helped to keep western legend (if not western history) alive. However much their feats of saddle and gun may have been exaggerated and distorted, surely they deserve a place, if only as corollary, in the western saga.

Certainly they have a place in the saga of the cinema. The first filmed drama, "The Great Train Robbery," in 1903, was a Western in embryo. Following it are names that do not need even the tag of a picture title to remind Americans of various ages of hours of vicarious adventure—names like William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, Buck Jones, Jack Hoxie, down to Gary Cooper and today's TV Wyatt Earp's and Matt Dillon's. Pick your favorite and you betray your age. And if you don't like Westerns, that's your misfortune, because this is one entertainment medium that has with-

stood all criticism, even contemptuous laughter. The Western is "formula," but it is sure-fire with a vast and seemingly never-decreasing audience, not only in its homeland but around the world.

Bill Hart set the pattern for the cinema Westerner, and the basic ingredients have not changed much in the succeeding years. The "Good Guys" still shoot faster and straighter, ride better, drink less, love the right women. The "Bad Guys" still take it on the chin (or in the belly), just as they did when Hart was the hero. As someone once wrote, "If world affairs could be patterned after the formula Western, history might be bloody but it would always have a happy ending!"

Many of the old heroes of the Hollywood Westerns are gone now. William S. Hart died in 1946 at the age of 76—died in bed, with his boots off. Enamoured as he was with the legend he portrayed, Bill probably would have preferred a death more in keeping with the formula, in which men died with their boots on; but Death writes its own formula. Tom Mix, who got his start with the famed Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch Wild West Show, died in 1940 of that highly un-Western ailment, an automobile accident. His custom-made, tooled leather-upholstered

car skidded as he drove across the Arizona desert, and Mix was killed in the wreckage. Buck Jones, a for-real cowboy who won popularity as a picture hero, died in the Boston Night Club fire in 1942. Hoot Gibson, whose saddle skill was legitimately earned in rodeo, died only recently, in 1962. And shooting lost a real friend (GUNS, August, 1961) when Gary Cooper ended the long string of Westerns that included "The Plainsmen," "The Virginian," and the (Continued on page 51)



Although retired from the movies, Jack Hoxie remains active. Author Virgines, visiting Jack recently, was shown fast draw demonstration.



Jack Hoxie's engraved spurs flank his first Colt, a pair of matched Single Action Colt's, and specially made holster. Picture from old movie shows Jack in action with his revolver.

I AM WELL AWARE that Colonel Charles Askins stated not long ago in this magazine that "Long Shots Are For Bad Hunters." The point made was that the good hunter will not, and no hunter should, attempt shots beyond the capabilities of himself or his rifle. But the fact remains that many hunters *will* take long shots—either from ignorance or from desperation because only long shots are offered on a given day or week-end; and since they will do it, perhaps a tip or two on *how* to do it would be in order.

Over a number of decades, I have seen many hunters shoot, or shoot at, a great many game animals. Time and again I have been surprised to see how many hunters were incapable of hitting a deer-size target at 200 or 300 yards. I have been equally surprised to see how many of those same hunters would, without hesitation, start throwing lead at targets at twice those ranges! This is "bad hunting," just as Colonel Askins said; and I certainly don't mean to recommend to any hunter that he fling shot after shot at long ranges, especially at moving game, in the thin hope

that one of his shots will bring forth a miracle kill. But—

Good hunters learn from their misses, as well as from their hits, until they can score at ranges far longer than would be possible without that experience.

Long shots require an exquisite precision of man-rifle performance that appeals to me, and they have enabled me to take several unusually good heads which might otherwise have escaped me. Those long shots were based on close to five decades of hunting experience; yet, even so, when I try a long shot, I want several factors in my favor.

First, I want a rifle that is above average in game-taking accuracy, and one that has ample power for clean kills on the animal in question—and I mean ample power at the range attempted.

Second, I want to have had enough long-shot practice with the rifle-load combination to know exactly how I should hold at that range.

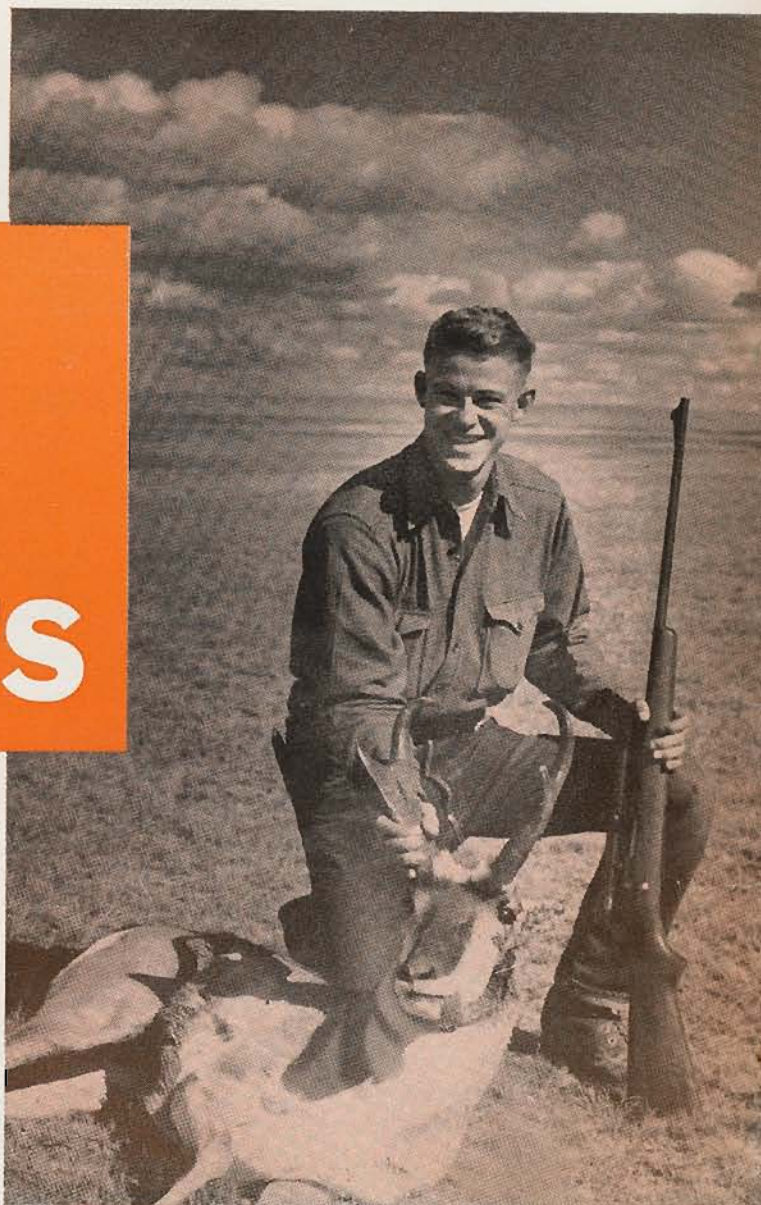
Third, I want a shooting position that is steady enough to send the bullet on its way with a minimum of sighting error.

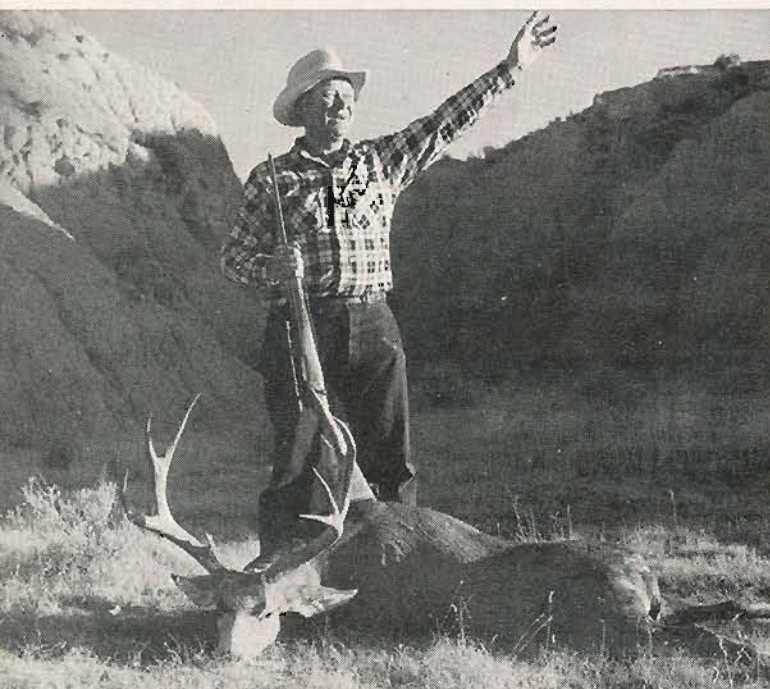
**ONLY THE SKILLED HUNTER WITH
THE RIGHT RIFLE AND CARTRIDGE HAS**

WHAT IT TAKES FOR LONG SHOTS



By BERT POPOWSKI





Popowski stands over fine muley buck he busted at 300 yards. At right, he describes to guide Lee Haynes how careful long shot downed alerted pronghorn antelope.

Fourth, I want a sure estimate of the range, either through linear yardage estimation or from the size of the target as it appears to the naked eye and under the known magnification of the scope.

The hunter who draws down on an antelope at 200 yards with a rifle that delivers no better than four to six-inch groups at 100, is begging for a cripple—if he hits at all. He certainly can't count on putting his bullet into any pre-selected fatal area. At 400 yards, his bullet dispersal would spread to 16 up to 24 inches, even if the human error were zero, which it won't be.

The hunter who attempts long shots with a caliber-cartridge combinations that give him the looping trajectory of a fly ball to the outfield is simply wasting ammunition, or worse. Such cartridges are almost invariably loaded with heavy slugs at comparatively low velocities, which shed so much of their punch over long ranges that they must hit exactly in the lethal area to kill. And this exactness is made almost impossible by the looping trajectory which makes even a few yards error in range estimation fatal to accuracy. I have no quarrel with heavy bullets, as such; they are fine brush-buckers, and they retain both velocity and energy longer than light bullets. But for long-range shooting, I recommend bullets only slightly above the median of available weights for the caliber.

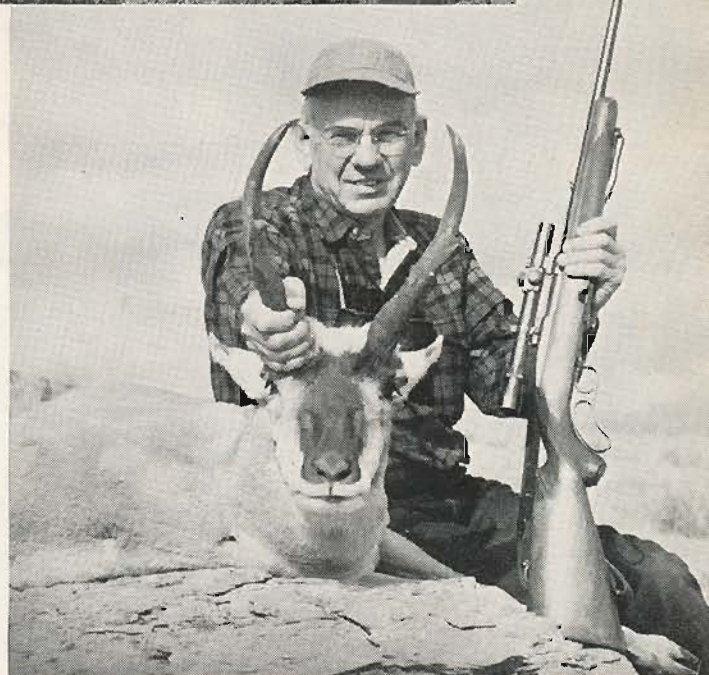
The opposite extreme is also bad. Hunters who tune up on woodchucks with such varmint calibers as the .222, the 6 mm group, or the larger high-intensity caliber with lightning-fast bullets, tend to forget the shocking loss of velocity and power which occurs with these small bullets by the time they reach the 200-yard mark. I have killed many of the smaller big game animals at moderate ranges with these lightweights, but I leave these guns at home when long shots at big game were expected, or when bigger species

were on the day's hunting agenda.

Experienced hunters, guides, and land owners prefer that visiting hunters bring rifles of from .270 up through the .30 calibers, and that they use bullets ranging from 130 to 180 grains for most western big game hunting. Their choice is based on actual field performances, and on their desire to see clean, one-shot kills.

But the problem is not only with the rifle. The hunter who can't tell 100 from 300 yards ranges needs an education. Similarly, guys who get the wind up at the sight of a 100 yard standing animal, throw a wild shot at it, then empty their guns as the critter leaves those unfriendly premises, should have their tails kicked! If they can't hit standing game at 100 yards, what leads them to think they can improve their performance at running game at longer ranges?

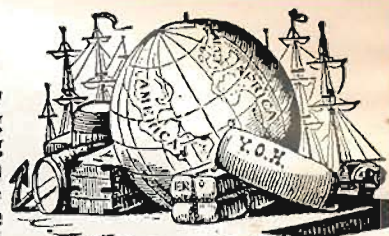
I've one suggestion for all visiting hunters: Zero your scope for 200 yards, and then leave it alone. If you get shots under that range, it won't be too much above of the line of sight. If you get longer (Continued on page 42)



Larry Chaffee, long-time friend and hunting buddy of author, took fine Montana pronghorn buck with carefully calculated, stalk-saving, 300 yard shot.

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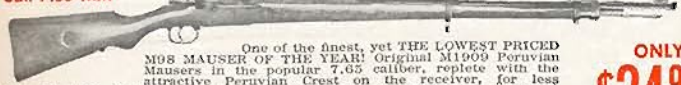
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Cal. 7.65 MM

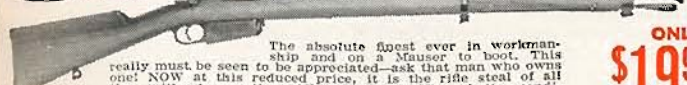


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Cal. .30-06

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Cal. .303

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Cal. 7.62 Russian

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Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

A RECENT ITEM IN the "New York Times" made the writer of this column say to himself, "Miller, you are getting on in years!" The story that elicited this wry assessment that tempus is indeed fugiting was headed "Blonde Model Outshoots Men," and carried the sub-head, "Mrs. Egan's Victory at Travers Island First By Woman."

When I read the story of Sheila Egan's victory over a strong field of 107 top trapshooters, after a shoot-off with NYU junior Donald Catena, I realized that she was the wife of shooting great, Nick Egan.

Mrs. Egan's victory was all the more impressive because of very windy shooting conditions, and the news account of her great shooting gave credit to the patience of husband Nick Egan, and to some shooting tips he had given her.

What makes me feel like a grey-beard is that it seems only a few short years since I watched a 15-year old high-school sophomore named Nick Egan win the Grand American Handicap at Vandalia, Ohio. This seems as if it were barely yesterday, and here the little sophomore has grown into a handsome man, married, and taught his model wife to shoot well enough to beat the best in the East at Travers Island!

Because time seemed to be moving too swiftly, I went to the record books. This short period in my mind's eye is in reality nine years. Almost a decade has passed since Nick Egan's big win in the Grand, one of the best publicized and most popular in recent history of the trapshooting game.

Here's more proof of the contention made from time to time in this column, that the clay target sports are truly universal and family sports. Here's a youngster who won a national championship nine years ago, grew up, married, and continues to follow the game with his wife, who then becomes a champion in her own right.

Bernie Kalapach, from Highland, Indiana, the 1962 High-Over-All winner in the Grand American, doesn't seem to have slowed the hot pace that brought him the big victory in last year's Grand.

News of a shoot at Whiting Gun Club, home club for the champ, credits Bernie with two wins in a registered program. He added a victory in 16-yard Class A, and the doubles race.

Gil Dickman of South Holland, Illinois, annexed Class B in the same 16-yard program. J. V. Martineich of Whiting took Class C, and the Class D title went to George Hawkins from Hammond. George Hanchar of

Calumet City took the handicap event for 18-20 yard gunners, with Whiting's Val Kovalcik second. Long yardage winner was Jess Weaver of Hammond, with Charles R. McClelland of Whiting the runner-up.

George Hanchar was High-Over-All, proving he was not impressed by Bernie Kalapach's Grand victory. Miss Lois Overholser from Chicago won the toss of a coin to best Mrs. Lorraine Kuelper for Ladies' High-Over-All.

Since Pull's Florida bureau is no more, our reporting on trapshooting events in Florida is not complete, but our substitute news-gathering service sends a report on the Pirate's Handicap from the Cigar City Chain Shoot, at Tampa.

Charles W. Allen, Central Square, N. Y., won the Pirate's, and George Cady of Leavittsburg, Ohio, took the runner-up spot.

Other Pirate's event winners were:

- 18-20 yard line—Wayne Richards, Tampa, 91x100 from 20 yards
- 21-22 yards—Dana Stewart, Lancaster, Ohio, 91x100 from 21 yards
- 24-27 yards—Ted Bachhuber, Mayville, Wisconsin, 86x100 from 27 yards

Site of the 1963 NSSA World Championship Skeet Shoot will be the Rochester-Brooks Gun Club, Rochester, New York. The Rochester club is an old and established club that has moved to the front as a site for tournament competition by relocation on a new site, on which a handsome clubhouse has been erected. Dates for the 1963 Nationals at Rochester are August 4-10. Immediately following the NSSA Championships, final tryouts for the team that will represent the United States in the International Shooting Union championships at Caracas, Venezuela, October 24-November 7, will be held.

A preliminary event of 100 international style skeet targets will be held Sunday August 11, with the Caracas team and national championships in International style targets decided concurrently on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 12-14.

The National Rifle Association is cooperating with the National Skeet Shooting Association in the conduct of the international-style targets, and selection of the U. S. team, which is expected to find stiff competition at Caracas.

Scheduling of international events in connection with the traditional homegrown skeet tournament points up the increasing interest in this type shooting by clay target fans in the United States, and should contribute to one of the biggest and best tournaments ever

held in the skeet game.

It happened! We told you in August "Pull" that when Peter Candy of Los Angeles missed a skeet target, news would be made. At the time our August issue was in the making, Candy had a long run of 1537 skeet targets without a miss. He extended the string to 1589 targets, then missed a low house target from station four. Candy was well in front of the former world's record of 1021, held by Georgia's Jack Boardman, when he missed the shot that made news.

Anyone care to hazard a guess how long the record of 1589 broken targets in a row will stand. The old record was set in 1950-51, thus held for twelve years.

Mrs. Van "Dottie" Marker, of Versailles, Ohio, broke one of the long-standing records in trapshooting this year. Mrs. Marker becomes a member of the shooters who have fired more than 100,000 registered singles trap targets. She joins twenty men, who as of 1962 have reached the 100,000 goal, including her husband, who has recorded upwards of 116,700 16-yard targets. The list is headed by Adolph Nelson of Detroit, Michigan, with 236,450 targets at the close of 1962. Records on registered targets fired are kept from 1923 forward. Many of the shooters in the hundred thousand and over group have fired many more targets than those on the books, which do not include any prior to 1923, handicap, doubles, non-registered, or practice targets.

The Grand American Trapshooting Tournament will be held in Vandalia, Ohio, August 19-24, with preliminary days August 16-18.

One of the most hallowed traditions of trapshooting says that few winners in the handicaps events of the Grand ever repeat, even though they may compete over a lifetime. No one has ever repeated a first place in handicap events of the national shoot.

So that our readers may check for themselves the truth in this Grand assertion, I have gone back to the 1962 record book, and list handicap winners. Check them, if you will, against 1963 results:

Grand American Handicap:

1. Milt Youngs—99
2. K. F. Kiplanger—99
3. Ernest Bryant—98
4. Mark Brickl—98
5. Robert Addison—98
6. Keith Keller—98
7. M/Sgt Harold Mason—98
8. Clyde Doss—98
9. Donald Boehm—98
10. Paul Maurer—98

Preliminary Handicap:

1. David Bryner—99
2. Harold Myers—98
3. Willis Anderson—98
4. Annette Schimenz—99
5. Jerry Adams III—98
6. William Casserly—98
7. L. C. Jepsen—98

Vandalia Handicap:

1. Fritz Niles—99
2. Chris Bishop—98
3. Ed Coblenz—98
4. Howard Wilkin—98
5. Ralph Null—97

Note: There are ten trophy places in Grand American, seven in Preliminary Handicap, and five in the Vandalia Handicap!



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Series #66 receiver sight: Identical in features to Series #57 except designed for rifles with flat-sided receiver such as Winchester Model #94. Price \$8.50.

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#31 Dove-tail front sight: High-visibility $\frac{1}{16}$ " bead of ivory, gold, silver or red. Price: \$1.50.

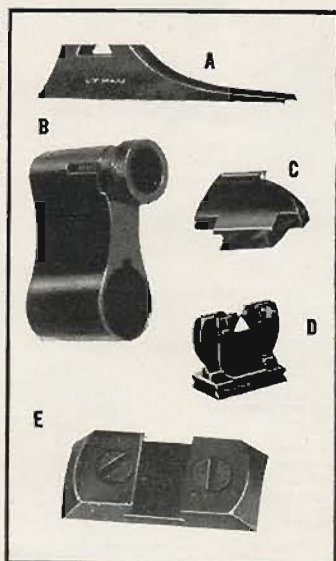
A #18 Screw-on ramp front sight: Ideal utility-type ramp especially suited for low-cost conversion of military rifles. Complete with bead front sight. Price: \$4.50.

B #17A XNB target front sight: All-new target sight for Springfield .03A3 rifle. Completely replaces issue front sight and bead. With seven interchangeable inserts. Price: \$5.00.

C Dovetail bead front sights: Popular, easy to install. Choice of $\frac{1}{16}$ " or $\frac{3}{32}$ " beads; heights .290" to .560". Price: \$1.70.

D #16 Folding-leaf sight: Perfect auxiliary sight for rifles equipped with scopes. Folds flat when not in use. Choice of three heights. Adjustable for elevation. Price: \$2.75.

E #25 Screw-on Dove-tail rear sight base: Permits installation of rear sights on rifles without dove-tail slots in barrel. Models to fit most barrels. Price: \$1.50.



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FAST DRAW GROWS UP

(Continued from page 26)

pull the trigger when thumbing. The gun was fired canted horizontal, instead of in the normal vertical position.

That first year, Curt won over 100 trophies, taking 26 firsts out of 29 shoots. He reportedly won over \$10,000 in cash and merchandise. Since such a consistent winner is likely to find himself rather unpopular with the other contestants, Curt set out to teach his draw to other shooters in the west. He soon developed some creditable competition. One of these fellows, Fred Stieler, shot Curt down in Las Vegas in 1961 to win the National Championship for that year. Curt, who originated the fastest draw ever devised, has so far failed to win the "Big One" at Las Vegas. He came in fourth in 1961 and twenty-eighth in 1962.

One of the surprises of the shoot was that so few of the top guns of prior years lasted into the top ten spots. Jack Sims, 1960 National Open Champion, shot his way into fifth place, and Al Brian, who was second in both 1960 and '61, was eighth in 1962. The rest were new names in the winner's circle. Vance Anderson and Bill Lewis, already mentioned, were first and second; Bob Lewis, of Richmond, California, was third; Jerry Black, also of Richmond, fourth; Bob Phillips, of Modesto, California, sixth; Donald McCawley, of Rialto, California, seventh; Blair McCoy, of Las Vegas, ninth; and George Reza, Garden Grove, California, tenth.

The prizes were, first place, \$1,000 and a matched pair of Colt Single Action .45s; second, \$500 and one Colt .45; third, \$200 and a Colt Frontier Scout; fourth, \$150 and a matched pair of Colt Derringers; fifth, \$100 and one Colt Derringer. The rest of the \$3600 in cash prizes went to the remaining shooters, down to thirty-second place. Every contestant received a certificate attesting to the fact that he had competed in the foremost fast draw shoot of them all.

The fine Colt handguns were presented by Colt's President Fred Roff, in person, at a festive awards cocktail party that followed the shoot. A gaiety minded horde of contestants and guests crowded into the newly completed convention hall at the Hotel Sahara, to watch the presentations and meet the numerous TV and movie personalities who attended the shoot.

Some of the regulars who have been at every one of the Sahara-Colt's shoots were, Jock Mahoney, the new movie Tarzan; "Rawhide" stars, Clint Eastwood, Eric Fleming and Paul Brinegar; Peter Brown, of "Lawman"; and Robert Fuller, of "Laramie." New to the proceedings was actor John Smith, also of "Laramie."

Rodd Redwing, a for-real, as well as for-reel, fast gun, was again on hand with his amazing demonstrations of live ammo shooting skill. His exhibition included several new shooting stunts.

Queen of the shoot was pretty Miss Rodeo American, Karen Lavens, of Jerome, Idaho.

Hotel Sahara Vice President Herb McDonald, who originated the Sahara-Colt's Open, was so impressed by the performance of distaff fast guns at the 1961 Open, that he initiated a separate event, just for the ladies, in 1962. The female contingent acquitted itself well, with housewife Ruth Savage, of Phoenix, Arizona, taking the title of Women's National Champion, over second place Doreen Ballard, of Mesa, Arizona, in two straight draws of .47 and .51. Margie Kneezel of Sacramento, California, fastest female gun in 1961, came in third in the field of 26 women shooters.

The girls did alright for themselves on prizes also. First place won \$200 and a Colt .45; second, \$150 and a Colt Frontier Scout; and third, \$100 and a matched pair of Colt Derringers.

Increasing numbers of shooters are showing up in Las Vegas with all expenses paid

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by hometown sponsors. One whole club, the Virginia City Frontiersmen, came in their own limousine, with each shooter sponsored by a different merchant. The names of the sponsors appeared in bold letters on the sides of the limousine, as well as on the backs of the shooter's jackets. This type of sponsorship could well be the answer to defraying



Dee Woolem making his own holster.

travel costs for Eastern shooters who live farther away from the Las Vegas doings than the Western shooters who have up to now dominated the competition.

Some shooters will not allow distance or any amount of travel to keep them from attending the Sahara-Colt's Open. Spunky Canadian, Dennis Robinson, rode a bus all the way from Vancouver, B. C. "If I couldn't have taken the bus," he stated emphatically, "I would have walked!" Dennis heads the fast draw section of the Coast Marksmen, Inc., a club that shoots target and fast draw. Many average fast draw shooters hesitate

to enter the Las Vegas tourney because they take an "I can't win," attitude against the top guns that inevitably compete for the big money. The fact is, almost anyone has a good chance of winning or at least placing in the Sahara-Colt's Open. A considerable element of luck enters into determining the winners, and even top guns have off days. Sometimes a relaxed novice will surprise the crowd by upsetting a hypertense expert.

Occasional attempts have been made to set up handicaps in fast draw, to encourage beginners. One approach that seems to work rather well is the separate "Cripple Creek" contest, among the losers of the first round. This system provides them a little more shooting for their entry fees, and it offers first round losers a second chance at a prize, shooting against more evenly matched competition.

One current proposal entails having classes, A, B and C, based upon the shooter's average time in registered matches. Shooters in each class would compete for the same prizes. Such a routine has proved successful in target shooting and trap. Unfortunately, fast draw does not possess a national organization capable of handling the mountain of paper work required.

Las Vegas has been the scene of repeated efforts to form a cohesive nationwide confederation of fast draw clubs, but eastern and western groups are separated by a basic difference in their methods of competition. The West has an affinity for blank shooting. The East is equally dedicated to wax loads. This stumbling block to final union may melt away of its own heat. Western shooters are bringing back wax-silhouette shoots along with walk and draw, and eastern clubs are adopting walk and draw blanks as an added event in their matches.

Walk and draw blanks won out with western shooters because the event had more spectator appeal. Western clubs keep their treasuries in the black by giving demonstrations at supermarket openings and shopping center sales, etc. The noise of the blanks,



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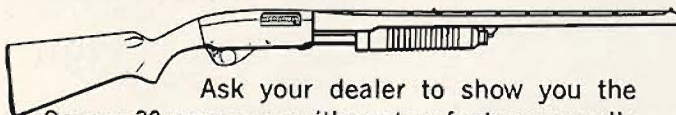


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and the face to face walk down, attract people in droves. Merchants are willing to pay rather well to have contests held nearby.

Wax, with its sodden "pop" of primer-only loads, and the lack of the dramatic walk down, doesn't bring the crowds. Even so, in registered shoots, the wax events are again finding favor west of the Rockies. Combination shoots, encompassing both events, seem to be the future in both East and West.

Such a contest is being planned for the next Hotel Sahara-Colt's Open, in November of this year. When Sahara Vice President Herb McDonald announced his decision over the PA system at the 1962 shoot, he was greeted by enthusiastic cheers from the shooters present. The 1963 contest will be staged as two events, wax and blanks, with winners in each, plus an overall top aggregate winner for the title of National Champion.

Fast draw has prospered in its 7 years as an organized sport, but what of the future? The "fad" is over. The shooters who remain may be fewer in number, but they are dedicated to their sport. Clubs all over the country are endeavoring to add new members who will prove a credit to the game. Fast draw looks stronger than it ever has before.

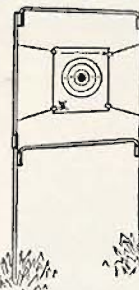
Public acceptance of fast draw is at a higher level than ever before. In the words of one shooter, "The public is finally realizing that fast draw under present rules is the safest gun sport of all." The live ammo clubs which caused some embarrassing comment from the public have largely disappeared in the West. Most fast draw clubs now bar the use of live ammo on penalty of expulsion. The live ammo competitions that are still held are well divorced from fast draw, being billed as "combat shoots." They actually resemble Army and Marine combat training courses.

The future of fast draw should include a national organization to standardize rules and procedures. It may even include some new rig or technique to speed up the already fabulous speed of draw. Draws of .26 and .27 are not uncommon in walk and draw competition. Draws as fast as .23 have been shot in competition often enough to prove they weren't accidental. The draw speed of .20 stands as a goal, much as the 4-minute mile stood as a goal for runners, for so many years. Fast draw has come a long way in the past seven years, but it is still a toddler. Just wait until it learns to run!



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A .222 IN AFRICA

(Continued from page 18)

with the 9.3x62. The animal gave me an interested glance. I shot again. Again nothing. My natives started laughing and looked at me with pity. I fired six or seven more times. Quite upset, I threw away the rifle, while the natives kept laughing, and got hold of the Sako .222.

The bull, apparently amused with all this, had not budged. I aimed at the base of his neck and shot. The animal started moving, staggering. A second bullet in the middle of his neck felled him. When we got close to him he was dead, his vertebral column crushed. I realized then that the .222 was a killer, especially so since the hartebeest is stubborn in giving up the ghost.

Since then, I have gained much confidence in the Sako, and I never had cause to regret it. I should like, though, to make the point again that I am perfectly aware that this was a particular case and that I had acted out of necessity. I would never advise anyone to utilize a .222 for big game hunting. I think, however, that my experience is interesting from a ballistics viewpoint, and for that reason I continue my story.

First, let's note that in most African hunting territories the use of such a small caliber is prohibited by law, and justly so. I must say, though, that the caliber limitation seems a little bit absurd. What is necessary is to always consider the force of shock. Otherwise, a .264 Winchester would be considered in some jurisdictions as a small game caliber. On the other hand, let's keep in mind that the .222 has a force of shock of 180 kilograms. Therefore, in accordance with the concept generally held in Europe, it would be proper to use to fell animals weighing 180 kilograms, or nearly 400 pounds.

I realize that this must only be considered as an individual case, but I have obtained with the .222 results that are almost unbelievable. Getting progressively bolder, I was successful in felling, without any difficulty, all types of antelope (with the exception of the western roan antelope, which, weighing 300 kilograms, is more proper game for high calibers), and generally with one single bullet. My experience should be compared with that of some of my hunting companions, who using the .375 Magnum had to fire seven or eight rounds to kill an animal which would fall from one of my .222 bullets.

The explanation is simple: the .222 is very accurate and has only little recoil. I could, with the help of a scope, use it with great precision, as long as I did not exceed 130 yards. I also always shot in the neck, with shattering results. In the case of animals weighing less than 100 kilograms, I aimed mostly at the heart. Animals thus killed would usually take a few steps forward before falling to the ground. I can truthfully say that I have only very rarely lost an ani-

mal at which I was shooting. I estimate I had about 3% failures, that is, animals which got away, being wounded only. This percentage is smaller than should be expected even of one using larger calibers. I should add that, knowing I was "under armed," I would fire only when I was reasonably sure of my aim, and only shot when supporting myself against a tree or something of this kind.

Every time, when hunting animals in the company of fellow hunters or hunting officials, they were flabbergasted by the efficiency of the little .222. But I never dared to recommend to others the use of such a small caliber for big game, and without false modesty I should like to voice the warning that such a caliber, in the hands of a trigger-quick beginner, could mean catastrophe.

This story is not a plea in favor of the use of the .222 for big game, but rather the story of a ballistic experience which should interest hunters of similar game elsewhere than in Africa, as an example of high-velocity small-bullet performance.

In proof that I am not carried away by the performance of this little rifle which I was forced to use against my own judgment, I promised myself a .300 H&H Magnum, considering that the .222 should be reserved for big birds and mammals of a maximum weight of 50 kilograms. Ironically, though, there being something wrong with the scope mounts of my splendid .300 H&H Sako, I had to resort once more, during my last trip, to the .222. In the future, though, perhaps I will have to leave it behind lest it will keep tempting me!

Since 1957, I have used the Sako .222 during four expeditions in Africa, covering six territories or about 25,000 miles of travel. During these wanderings, I killed with the .222, for scientific, hunting, or food purposes, the following: 1 python, 1 civet cat, 1 ostrich, 11 monkeys, 1 hyena, 6 jackals, 3 painted hyenas, 12 wart hogs, 15 western kobs, 4 topis, 12 gazelles (various species), 10 hartebeests, 7 bush duikers, 4 oribi, 1 bush buck, 1 reedbuck, 5 water bucks, and 4 hares. That is altogether 99 animals—plus 59 big birds, including 21 bustards, 8 eagles, 14 geese, etc. This makes a grand total of 158 animals and birds, for which I used about 310 cartridges.

I would always finish off the big mammals with a "coup de grace" second shot, and I also missed a number of birds.

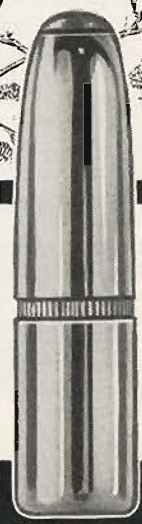
I do not think that there are many .222 rifles that could brag of having produced so much meat—approximately 8,100 pounds.

Two of these animals—one topi and one Western Kob—were record trophies mentioned also in the "Rowland Ward's Record of Big Game—(1962 Edition)." Is it any wonder, then, that I think the story of my little rifle is worth telling?



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WHAT IT TAKES FOR LONG SHOTS

(Continued from page 33)

shots, you'll usually have some time to make reasonable range estimates and hold over accordingly.

Too many of our visitors zero in their rifles at home, almost invariably at lower elevations than our high plains and mountains. This automatically makes their bullets strike above their established zeros because of the thinner air of such altitudes. Add to this that most big game is hit too high by most hunters, plus the usual over-estimation of shooting range, and these hunters shoot over their animals.

It would benefit the novice at western hunting if he checked out his rifle's zero under the guidance and advice of the man who is going to steer him onto game. Too many of the visitors have read about our long range shots; I suspect that some of the reported ranges were over-estimated by 200 to 300 per cent for the sake of an impressive story. And the novice thinks he can do likewise.

Pronghorns have a comparatively small target area as big game goes, requiring the hunter to be capable of telling 200 yard shots on the average. Of my 76 antelopes I've taken them all the way from 15 yards up to one estimated at 525 yards and another that was shot over a paced range of 603 yards.

My other 73 antelopes were taken at ranges from 60 to 100 yards, what I call short shots, up to 300 to 400 yards for the long ones. Virtually all the short shots required hurried alignment of sights and fast shots. On the long shots, I took my time, computing range, wind-drift, and elevation to the very finest nicety of which I was capable. If missed, there was no frenzied throwing of lead in their general direction. Hit or miss, the long shots were always a one-shot proposition.

A 200 yard pronghorn offers a fairish target for the rifleman capable of calling his shots at that range. If one of the beasts turns to offer a head on shot, he doesn't

have much more width than a fat woodchuck at the same range.

All my varmint and big game rifles are sighted-in similarly: For a 200 yard zero. This means that almost all the bullets I use are about 1½ inches above the point-of-aim as they pass the 100 yard mark. I can then shoot all my rifles identically; point-blank up to nearly 250 yards, at which range hits will be some three inches below point-of-aim. Then, if I have a big game rifle in hand when a bobcat or coyote shows up, I can take the critter with a hold that is a duplicate of any used with my varmint rifles.

For big game at 300 to 400 estimated yards, and occasionally farther, I merely memorize the bullet trajectories. To cite one instance, my .30-caliber 180 grain bullets will be, respectively, 7.5 and 21 inches below the line-of-sight at 300 and 400 yards. Since long shots usually offer considerable time to estimate the range, they also offer ample opportunity to recall the trajectory of the bullet and the required hold-over.

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By "hold-over" I do not mean holding that much over the critters' backs. The term is used in the sense of holding that much above the middle of each animal's body depth, which is where I want to plant my hits. With that intention firmly in mind, I am protected against range estimation errors. If the animal is farther away than I thought, I'll still hit in the lower half of its body depth, if I over-estimated, I'll score in the upper half. I've found this a fine method of using the whole body depth to cover up for estimating errors.

To put this long-range theory into actual practice, I hold on the backbone hairline of antelope or average-sized deer at 300 estimated yards, and kill them neatly, even if the range varies from 250 to 340 yards. On big muley bucks, and average elk, a similar hold will give me even greater latitude in range estimation, because their body depths are substantially greater, allowing for clean kills even if the range varies all the way from 250 to some 375 yards.

At estimated 400-yard ranges, I hold at the level of the tops of the horns or antlers of mature pronghorn and whitetail bucks, midway of the height of mature muley antlers, and at the level of the ears or base of the elk antlers for mid-body hits. Some judgment must be exercised, since hold-over depends on the stance of the animal.

The steadiness of the shooter at the moment he completes the trigger squeeze is of paramount importance in making long shot kills. I consider him a poor hunter if he shoots offhand if he can sit, if he shoots kneeling when he can use the prone position. Experienced hunters take the solidest possible position that the circumstances permit.

What is a solid hold? Some tyro hunters merely rest the forearm of their rifle on down logs, or on rocks, without interposing the cushioning effect of their hand between forearm and rest. Others will stand, kneel, or sit beside a sturdy tree and shove the rifle's forearm firmly against such a support, again without cushioning the fore-end.

Consistent performance is important in making successful long shots, and you won't get it if the rifle is rested on wood or rock. I suggest that the hunter learns to shoot "off the meat" of his hand, at targets or varmints at home, in zeroing in his rifle and when hunting big game. Regardless of what rest he finds in the field, he will get constant results by using his hand. He will also be able to hold that forearm firmly at each shot, instead of having it bounce differently with the hardness of a wide range of rests. All this adds up to identical delivery of bullets, which is important in hunting success, particularly at long range.

A sling, properly used, is a must, in my opinion, on critical long shots. It must neither be too loose nor too tight. Don't forget to adjust the sling to your clothing, especially when hunting with an extra jacket or shirt. If the sling isn't properly lengthened to a new fit, it will exert excessive downward or sidewise pull on the rifle's forearm. This interferes with the barrel's usual cycle of whip-lash, and inaccuracy frequently results.

Few hunters appreciate the need of avoiding the "bounce" a bullet may get by being fired too close to any solid obstruction. The slug doesn't have to touch an obstruction to

(Continued on page 44)

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(Continued from page 43)

be deflected some inches out of its normal flight path by the time it has traversed 100 yards. On long shots, such a deflected bullet may miss its point of aim by feet or even yards.

Once a bullet emerges from the barrel, it instantly forms a barrier of compressed air waves ahead of it. Although the bullet is in free flight, it is subject to deflection by any interference with these radiating waves, very much as if it touched a solid twig in its flight. That's why experienced long-range shooters want a completely clear bullet flight path between their rifle muzzles and their targets.

Since a scope is mounted substantially above the rifle bore, it frequently doesn't reveal such hazards. In extreme instances, the scope may not reveal some solid obstruction, usually quite near the muzzle, which is out of focus and, if it can be seen at all, is merely a gray blur. Any bullet that touches it will instantly shatter, while one that passes close to it will deflect.

Good range estimation is difficult. The lay of the land seldom allows a hunter to count off yardage by 100 yard units. Occasionally that's possible, but it can be very tricky when the land undulates. The clear air of the West, where eyesight is unlimited, compounds the problem.

Never attempt a long shot if there is an opportunity to get closer to the game, particularly if it is a choice specimen that might be lost if spooked. Getting close, to insure clean kills, is old stuff to experienced hunters.

Many dude visitors, not desiring trophy animals, think that the merest glimpse of game may be the only shooting opportunity they'll have. This is not so. Last year I counted 97 head of mule deer during the first day of a three-day hunt, and this was not all the huntable game the party of nine saw that day!

Visitors should understand that western bag limits and seasons are set in the hopes that every hunter will fill his tags. Hunting in the West is a harvest of surpluses, not a mere put-and-take matter of a small percentage of hunters finding and getting their game. It's foolish for any visitor to whizz through his hunting, leaving himself wide open to later regrets, either in the quality or quantity of his game.

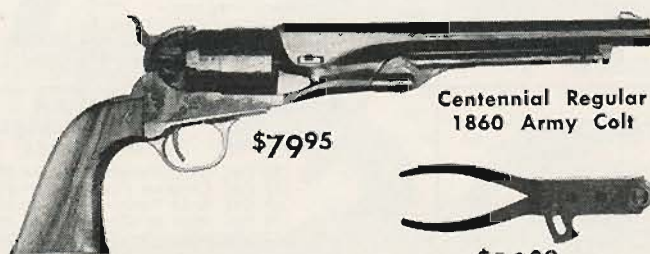
Several western States now offer two-deer licenses for approximately the same costs as for a single deer. Areas where pronghorns and deer are abundant provide excellent opportunities for both species for almost the same total trip expenses. The only additional cost consists of the extra licenses.

Some States offer even bigger bonuses, including combination licenses which lump elk, deer, bear and sometimes antelope, in a thrifty package deal. But none of them offer hunting licenses as mere come-on. They actually have a surplus of game that needs to be thinned by hunting. This supply of surplus game is actually capable of filling every license tag issued, if the hunters have the hunting savvy to collect their game. Those hunters who don't fill out, whatever the reason, are cheating themselves.

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PINFIRE CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 27)

specimen for \$50.00.

All in all, don't sell the pinfire short.

Yes, there are literally piles of pinfire rounds that can still be bought by the boxlot, and many cartridge dealers will sell the commoner specimens for 25¢ each, or less; but there are pinfires—and then there are pinfires!

Right now, the collection contains 110 pinfire specimens of the conventional type. If the more diverse items were included, the number would be slightly higher. These cartridges are products of the following countries: England, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Argentina, Denmark, and the United States. Since a number of items in the collection have headstamps that are unknown, it is possible that other countries are represented.

Briefly, the pinfire cartridge is a round that embodies the firing pin as a part of the cartridge. The pin rests within a percussion cap that is held in place on the inside of the case. Usually, the percussion cap is held in a recess of a cardboard base wad. Pinfire cases are reloadable and special loading tools were designed to remove the expended internal cap and replace it with a live one.

The basic idea of having the firing pin as part of the cartridge was so sound that there appeared an amazing display of patents utilizing the principle. These patents were not only taken out in France, the home of the pinfire, but were also registered in England and the United States. Such names as might be recognized by arms enthusiasts include Christian Sharps, T. C. Sturtevant, W. H. Smith, C. E. Sneider, Gallager & Gladding, and S. S. Rembert, just to mention some of the American patents.

The original pinfire is attributed to a Frenchman by the name of Lefauchaux. His basic patent was a part of a patent for a breechloading firearm, and is reported to have been registered in the year 1835. This patent does not appear in the Bartlett & Gallatin digest of French patents. I have a copy of the Eugene Gabriel Lefauchaux revolver patent of 1854, and in this patent E. G. Lefauchaux states that it was his father who envisioned the original pinfire cartridge in 1846.

At any rate, the pinfire system became very successful. Many inventors jumped on the band wagon. Most of them patented improvements or evasions, and the system became better and better. Frenchmen like Houllier and Chaudun worked with the pinfire system until it was so perfected that general acceptance was assured.

In the large photograph are shown 37

specimens which embrace the vast majority of types encountered. The one specimen was photographed separately to show the trap-door in the base more clearly.

Numbering from left to right and taking them as rows from top to bottom, here is what the large photograph contains:

The first three are variations of the seven millimeter pinfire round. They are rather common and of little value. The first one is a blank cartridge with a gathered crimp. The next two are shot cartridges, one with a paper extension to the case, and the other with the brass case elongated to hold the shot.

Numbers 4 and 5 are what collectors call "horizontal pinfires." This refers to the fact that the pin lies horizontally through the center of the case. In the photograph, one can see the pins protruding from the rear of the two specimens. In this last type, the pin projects forward through the powder charge to the percussion cap that is centered on the base of the bullet. The bullet itself therefore acts as the anvil.

These cartridges, in both the 9 mm and 12 mm sizes, are for unknown arms. It would seem that they were made for handguns, and my guess would be that they are either French or Belgian. Since they are rare, we can understand that the obscure pistol or revolver that used them could be exceedingly rare. By current values, these specimens are worth about \$30 each or better.

The next three (6, 7, 8) are more variations of the common 7 mm pinfire. Number 6 is the usual ball load; number 7 is a variant shot load with paper extension; and number 8 is a blank with a roll crimp to the case mouth.

The second row contains some interesting specimens that brings up one difficult question: "When is a shotgun shell not a shotgun shell?" The first in line (No. 9) is a normal English .360 pinfire shotgun shell with a single round lead ball seated down in the case. In England, the .360 size was used both for rifles and for shotguns. I have seen English .360 rifles that used shot-shell-type cases in the more normal center-fire. This .360 pinfire ball load may have been made for a rifled arm or it may simply be a ball load for a smoothbore.

The next item (No. 10) is a German ball load in 24 gauge. The arm was a side-by-side double rifle that was equipped with a mold of the size to fit the 24 gauge bore. Possibly the man who originally owned this piece also had a 24 gauge shotgun for his bird shooting.

As discussed before, number 11 is the



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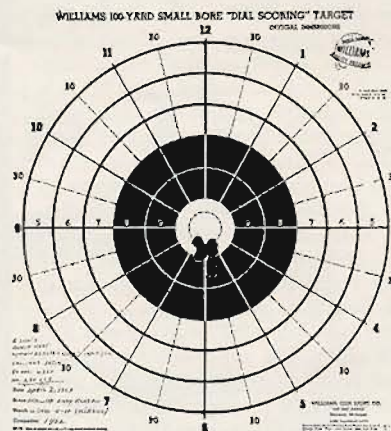
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58 Gallagher & Gladding. This was termed "rarest of the rare" by Herschel Logan in his book "Cartridges." Actually, there are a lot of cartridges that are rarer, but probably none is so highly sought or coveted. This type is an inside pinfire. The blister on the top side of the case positions an internal pin that rests in a percussion cap at the far side of the case. This cartridge and the arm that used it was an American experimental of 1859 that never really got off the ground. Although specimens of the cartridge have sold for as high as \$375.00, lip service seems to indicate that as time moves along this specimen may climb in value beyond all expectations.

The following round (No. 12) is a ball load of the 16 gauge shotgun shell by Eley Brothers of London, England. I have seen a Belgian 16 gauge double rifle that was short chambered, much as this round is shorter in case length than a normal 16 gauge shell. For some reason, the English have always gone for these heavy calibers of low velocity. It may well be that the arms were intended for hunting deer on game reserves where long range was unnecessary and unwanted.

Number 13 is also English and is of a type that deserves special notice. At a glance, it seems to be just a .50 caliber pinfire rifle load—which in itself is unusual. But examination shows that the percussion cap is not altogether on the inside of the case! Almost indiscernible in the photograph is the bottom of the percussion cap, showing on the far side of the case, opposite the pin.

One problem with pinfire ammo in general was the effectiveness of the anvil. When you knock off the priming mixture in any cartridge, it has to bang up against something or it may not detonate. The usual pinfire round has an internal wadding—usually of stiff cardboard—and the system usually works. However, in time the wadding may become weakened, and if you want to reload the case a few times, you've got trouble. This .50 caliber round got around the problem by running the pin all the way to the far side of the case where the base of the percussion cap was against the side of the rifle chamber. This not only gives a very sturdy anvil but also facilitates reloading the case.

Numbers 14, 16, and 27 are variant examples of the fairly common 15 mm pinfire round. The 15 mm was used in revolvers and in carbines. To handle one of the large 15 mm revolvers is something of an experience. To shoot one is disappointing. There is a lot of flash and a noticeable recoil, but one expects more; and when the point of impact is three feet below point of aim at only 15 yards, one gets the impression that there is not much in the muzzle velocity department. No. 14 was made by Eley Brothers, London; No. 16 by V.F.M. & Co. Liege, Belgium; and 27 by Braun & Bloem of Dusseldorf, Germany. There are more 15 mms in the collection, but these three were put into the picture because they represent three different case lengths.

The fifteenth cartridge is the "Chaudon" specimen mentioned earlier. This type is the earliest case construction in the entire selection. The base is a brass cup, and the case itself is of rolled paper. Although a box of ten of these were pictured and de-

scribed in another publication back in December of 1961, not another single specimen has been reported from the ranks of collectors. The rolled-paper-case pinfire back into the 1840's, which makes it quite an antique.

Number 17 has a longer pin than usual. It was made in England by Eley Brothers, and the original box was labeled "Long pin for carbines." In other words, there were carbines made that had a thicker breech section than usual, and a longer pin was needed to reach out to where contact would be made with the hammer.

The eighteenth item is the common 12 mm long that is available from about any cartridge dealer. The specimens are headstamped "H. B. PARIS," which is the mark of Houllier and Blanchard of Paris, France. These very rounds are reputed to have been in this country back during the Civil War, where they were used by both the Union and Confederate forces. This writer knows of no way to prove that the specimens available today were not imported to this country in more recent years.

The next two (19 & 20) were manufactured here in the U.S. during the Civil War. They do not bear headstamps. They are called 12 mm Medium. The first specimen (No. 19) was manufactured by C. D. Leet of Springfield, Mass., and the second one was manufactured by an unknown concern.

There has been some controversy about these two. Collectors are wondering about their rarity and possibly if they employ the Christian Sharps pinfire patent. One of the specimens exactly like number 20 in the photograph was sacrificed for purposes of critical internal inspection. The bullet was not pulled, but rather the cartridge case was sectioned and polished. This gives one a very clear idea of what is inside. What was found was surprising.

For one thing, the internal structure is not what one would expect if the Sharps patent were used. The Sharps patent called for a thickened base of the copper case, and the fulminate compound was located in the center of the copper base in a small revetment. The sectioned specimen had an internal base wad of lead! From observation it is obvious that the lead, fully 3/16 of an inch thick, was swaged in place. The swaging tool also formed the pocket that was to hold the brass percussion cap. The pin travels all the way through the lead wad and detonates the cap against the case wall on the far side. This system agrees, at least in part, with the S. S. Rembert patent of February 18th of 1866, which states in part, "pin extending across case to explode cap on opposite side."

Pinfire cartridges like the sectioned specimen have been found in unlabeled coarse paper pockets not unlike the packaging of the Civil War C. O. Leet rounds. The author's opinion is that they are American, but exactly where they fit into the overall picture is not yet clear.

Images 21 through 26 are ball, blank, and shot variations of the common 12 mm Short.

In the bottom line, the first four and the last three are variant forms of the pinfire in 9 mm. Number 30 is an interesting tin-plated dummy round made by the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. of Bridgeport, Conn.

Number 31 looks as though it would be a shot cartridge with the extended case, but instead it is a very full-charged blank-cartridge as made by Braun & Bloem.

The three items in the center of the bottom line are the three basic variations of ball, blank, and shot, in the 5 mm size. This size is about the same as our .22 Short, but the ammo is not as powerful as our modern day .22 hi-velocity Short.

In general, the 5 and 7 mm sizes were used in pocket pistols. The 9 mm was usually of belt pistol, or coat pistol size, and the 12 mm was holster pistol size. The pinfires that were carried as military sidearms were almost always of the 12 mm caliber.

The cartridge pictured separately is a rare specimen reputed to be for a French "Robert" gun. This type is found both as rifle ammunition and as shotgun shells. The trapdoor feature is said to be one of the Chaudon patents of 1847. The case is of steel, and the caliber is about 13.5 mm.

The trapdoor idea was executed to simplify the reloading of the case. The steel door swings snugly into its slot in the base of the shell. When the round has been fired, the trapdoor can be opened and the expended cap easily removed. Just as easily, a fresh cap can be put in place, and the case is primed and ready for loading. Loaded cases could be kept safe by the simple removal of the percussion cap, and armed again as one would desire. The copper cap can be seen covering the inside end of the pin.

In summary, it can be stated that the pinfire cartridge group embraces items most easily obtainable, and also some of the top rarities. The headstamps encountered are both diverse and interesting. This is a group that should appeal to the novice and expert.

There are pinfire specimens that I have yet to find, and the group will probably never be complete. In the meantime, the enjoyable hobby continues, with unexpected pleasures waiting around every corner of the collecting world.

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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 4)

I don't recommend cutting charges more than 4.0%, nor any greatly reduced loads with slow, single base powders. This, and poor ignition may be a major contributing factor to occasional detonations that wreck rifles. Other major factors may be long (untrimmed) cases with thick (unreamed) necks, after two or more firings. I highly recommend the specified primers for fast, perfect ignition. Primers should be "hot," but never violent, and a minimum amount of primer gas is desirable. We do not believe that a reduced charge of powder (alone) is responsible for detonations. In all tests we have made reduced charges give reduced pressure. Our only conclusion is that other factors are involved. It certainly isn't good loading practice to let such factors be involved.

The "Discardit" hypodermic syringes some doctors use are dandy for getting a drop of oil in hard to reach places. Try one! Most doctors will give you a couple for the asking.

Speer plastic Target-38's, created for Air Force training, are without competition, and a barrel of fun for cheap indoor practice—30 foot accuracy equals gallery loads! Speer Target-44's are now available. Both use large pistol primers only. CCI No. 350 Magnums give best accuracy and longer case life. They eliminate misfires, due to the cushion effect of plastic cases. Being less violent, they reduce case splitting. The accuracy advantage is considerable.

An opossum resided in my porch ceiling. Every evening he came down between the walls to raid poultry houses and commit other depredations. I removed a piece of siding and waited with a K-38 full of Target-38's. When he showed his ugly head a plastic pill bashed his skull as neat as a 12 bore. No mess, and no damage to my home. That's potent for a primer charge at 4 feet! Don't sell these accurate pills short! They punch nice, big gaping holes in scraps of 1/4" sheet rock, the holes looking like lead bullet .45 holes.

Flaig's Millvale, Pa., (send 25¢ for their

big catalog) are noted for fine stocks, Ace barreled actions, Ace trigger shoes, and other fine products. Ace barrels are the Douglas record-setting tubes. I've never heard of one that wasn't satisfactory. Flaig's have a new Ace scope mount for all three Sako rifles, at only \$12.50. It has a dead stop against recoil inertia, windage adjustments, and is nicely blued. There is no better Sako scope mount made, and the price makes it a dandy value. You can quickly install it yourself. The integral grooved base on the fine Sako receivers is a feature that should be on other good rifles.

Weaver's new K-6 scope is a honey! The big nose eliminates "5 o'clock shadow." You can see into the dark shadows where game and varmints are most often found. Try it under rugged conditions and you'll appreciate the optics, that are clear and sharp to the edge, with fine brilliance. It's far better than their old ones.

Federal's switch to the "pie crimp" on shotshells is to their advantage. The 12 ga. Monark 3 dram equivalent, 1 1/8 No. 8 patterned well in my Hi-Standard Trophy. Exhibition shooter D. L. Cooper, the hand gun artist, isn't a shotgunner, but he powdered 25 straight at skeet with these loads. Hulls are reloadable with 209 (W-W size) primers, with a longer wad column than some makes. Shell life is shorter than some, but you'll get at least two good reloads with a hard crimp. Tight crimps shorten shell life. Some chaps reload tubes too many times for uniform ballistics, regardless of make.

We tested Federal Monark .38 Special Mid Range Match ammo, lots A36 A, 2SWM, and A26 L 3SWM. Twenty-five rounds in each lot had uniform charges, with hollow base bullets about .3562, seated not quite flush with the case. Accuracy is much better than the first lot we tested. Primers are not crimped in. A cannellure in the hull matches the third (bottom) grease groove. It's okay in factory loads, but I wish all cannellures were eliminated in cases that may be reloaded.

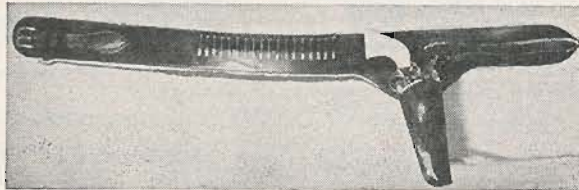
(Continued on page 50)

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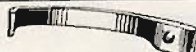
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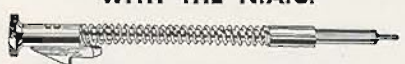


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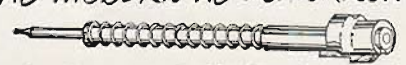
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(Continued from page 48)

These lots functioned perfectly in a Smith & Wesson .38 Master auto target pistol. It's the first production gun that is factory proven and guaranteed to shoot 50 yard 10-ring groups with commercial ammo. Some factory groups run as small as 1.0" for 10 shots, certainly holding the accuracy of top quality ammo. Try Federal's new ammo in your gun. Some makes and lots shoot better in some guns, which is true of all factory ammo or reloads.

Federal's entry in the metallic cartridge field is apt to be successful. Their .30-30 ammo with 150 and 170 grain "Hi-Shok" pills gave good accuracy and expansion at 100 yards in moist sand.

George E. Murphy, of Accuracy Bullet Co.,

is now at 3922 Irvin St., Apt. 3, San Francisco 22, Calif. Request his folder of fine cast bullets. George made extensive tests to determine the best alloys for different pills. His SW-180-1, a Hensley & Gibbs No. 130, is the best cast .45 ACP target bullet, using 11.0 per cent antimony. Backed with 3.5 grains Bullseye and CCI No. 300 primers it makes factory stuff look sick. It's Gil Hebard's favorite. If you don't have Gil's new Handbook-Catalog that lists these, and everything for the handgunner and hand-loader, send him \$1 to Box 1-G, Knoxville, Illinois. It's full of good dope on pistol shooting, casting and reloading.

Hensley & Gibbs No. 68 was the most popular target .45 until No. 78 was introduced. No. 163 was improved with one large grease

groove, now No. 130, that will probably be tops a long time. No. 50 is H & G's best target .38 pill, sold by Gil Hebard and Accuracy cast of 2-3-95 tin-lead-antimony. Back it with 2.7 to 3.0 grains Bullseye and CCI No. 500 primers. Seat flush without a crimp for pistols, or crimp the case in the top groove for revolvers. If the gun holds the accuracy of the load it will shoot in the 50 yard 10-ring every day and Sunday too. For home casting, Illinois Bullet Alloy No. 7 is better than a home mix. It's uniform quality from batch to batch, alloyed with virgin metals, and no more expensive than mixing your own.

A new fun cartridge of the century is a Gevelot .22 L.R. tracer. It's a thrill to see a safe ball of fire zip to a target! Many dealers stock them, or can order from George 30-06 Derbes, Pottsville, Pa., who forwards orders to his distributors. A dealer says they greatly increase store traffic and sales. Shooters love 'em!

A bright red trace burns to 200 yards or so, visible in daylight. It's startling at dusk, on dull days, or at night. The cool burning phosphorescent compound failed to ignite a box of shredded paper. We fired dozens of rounds in it. The compound contains a fuel, an oxygen carrier, a color intensifier and binder. GI tracers are a fire hazard, but nearly all WW-II stuff has deteriorated so badly it doesn't trace today. We found 4 non-tracers in 200 rounds, and several with a short trace, as in GI ammo. We bagged rabbits showing no damage except from the lead bullet, but game should not be eaten.

You can quickly master fast and accurate aerial shooting with .22 tracers in a rifle or handgun. Seeing bullets miss tin cans tossed in the air quickly corrects your holding. Practice on running varmints and you'll soon be deadly accurate with handgun or rifle. Seeing the curved Lo-V trajectory on running game shows the advantage of Hi-V flat trajectory loads. Shock your friends by letting them fire a .22 tracer without warning.

Pull bullets for center-fire reloads. Use a collet puller, or pliers with a bullet shaped cavity cut in the nose. *Warning: Inertia pullers will fire rimfire ammo!* To make a shell holder adapter, cut off a .38 or similar case near the head. Drill the primer pocket for a rim-fire case, with the rim counter-sunk. Load a .222 with 4.2 grains Unique and CCI No. 550 Magnum (pistol) primers. Use 2.8 to 3.0 grains Bullseye and CCI No. 500 (pistol) primers in a .22 Hornet, K-Hornet, Kay-Chuk, .22 Jet, or .221 Rem. Fireball. (The Fireball is really a fireball with tracers!) You'll get a new shooting thrill, thanks to George 30-06 Derbes!

The Powley Computer, at dealers, or \$3.50 from Marion Powley, 17623 Winslow Road, Cleveland, Ohio, is a handy slide chart. It suggests the approximate type and charge of IMR powders for any cartridge, and estimates velocity. Directions correctly tell you to check loads against those in loading manuals, as errors are possible in measurements or slide settings. Check with known data and you'll find you can select good loads. It doesn't replace a good reloading manual, but supplements it. It's good, if carefully used, and isn't too complicated.



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JACK HOXIE—WESTERN MOVIE HERO

(Continued from page 31)

simple classic "High Noon," to name only a few. Coop, like some of the others (and unlike some) was no phony in any sense. He was a real sportsman who knew the West, loved guns, and shot well, at targets or at game.

One of the old-time Western stars who is still with us and still active is Jack Hoxie. Time has been good to Jack. Although he is in his seventies, he is still *mucho hombre*, straight as a ramrod and keen of eye, just as he was in those Saturday matinees of his youth and ours.

Unlike the present TV heroes who get expert instruction in gun handling from professionals like Rodd Redwing and Arvo Ojala, Jack Hoxie learned it the hard way, by trial and error. But he learned! Even last summer, when I visited with him in his home, Hoxie displayed remarkable dexterity with his favorite pair of Colts. It is more than mere manual dexterity with Hoxie, too. Jack and his brother spent their boyhood years on an Indian reservation, where they learned to shoot and hunt as naturally as they learned to walk and ride. In those days, they couldn't afford to waste ammunition, so they learned to make each shot count. That kind of training produces a skill not soon forgotten.

Jack Hoxie was born in Oklahoma in 1888. He struck out on his own to tour the west as a cowhand, working on various ranches, getting a cowboy education that would serve him very well in his future, then unsuspected, vocation. He broke into movies in 1911, made his last one in 1942. Asked how many he played in, Hoxie said, "Maybe a thousand, maybe twelve hundred." If so, that in itself must be a record. He played in nothing but Westerns.

Jack bought his first handgun, a Colt Single Action .45, in Idaho early in his tour as a cowhand, and Colts have always been his favorites. He was an early advocate of handgun hunting, killing bear, deer, and wildcats with his Colts.

In addition to his moving pictures roles, Hoxie also became a star of his own circus and Wild West Show. He was a headliner at other periods of his life with the Kit Carson and Buffalo Ranch Shows, with the Sparks Show, and with the famous 101 Ranch Wild West. He toured the country making personal appearances, and toured Canada and Mexico with his own show. With the 101 Ranch Show, he re-enacted some of the scenes from his movies with his co-star, Dixie Starr, and his famous horse, Scout. His acts always included trick shooting, at which he was most adept.

In Hereford, Arizona, Jack owned a dude ranch called the Broken Arrow, where he practiced shooting and worked with his trick horses. One of his bitterest moments came when that ranch house was destroyed by a fire which took with it many of his prized personal mementoes. However, he still has many relics of the true Old West, including

a saddle once owned by Pancho Villa.

Jack's proudest possessions are a matched pair of Colt New Service revolvers with the consecutive serial numbers 339372 and 339373, caliber .45, with 7½" barrels, silver plated and engraved, with pearl grips. Jack purchased the guns directly from Colt's in 1934 and used them, in custom-made carved leather holsters, in all of his pictures and shows after that date. Jack showed me a demonstration of fancy gun handling with these guns that would challenge most of the "fast gun" experts of today.

Jack is far from being retired or forgotten. He still makes personal appearances with his charming wife, Bonnie, and still receives reams of "fan mail" from a host of friends who will never forget him. He is writing his memoirs.

Jack Hoxie was one of the Hollywood stars who believed he had a responsibility to his public. They saw him on the screen as a rugged, admirable, honest man, and he tried to be, in real life, the same sturdy person as the characters he portrayed. He believes that Westerns are the typical American motion picture type, based on the rough virtues that built frontier America. He is a gun enthusiast, a shooter, a strong proponent of the right of citizens to own and use guns. He is a rugged piece of the pattern he helped to make—the pattern of The West—Hollywood version, but still a part of the saga.

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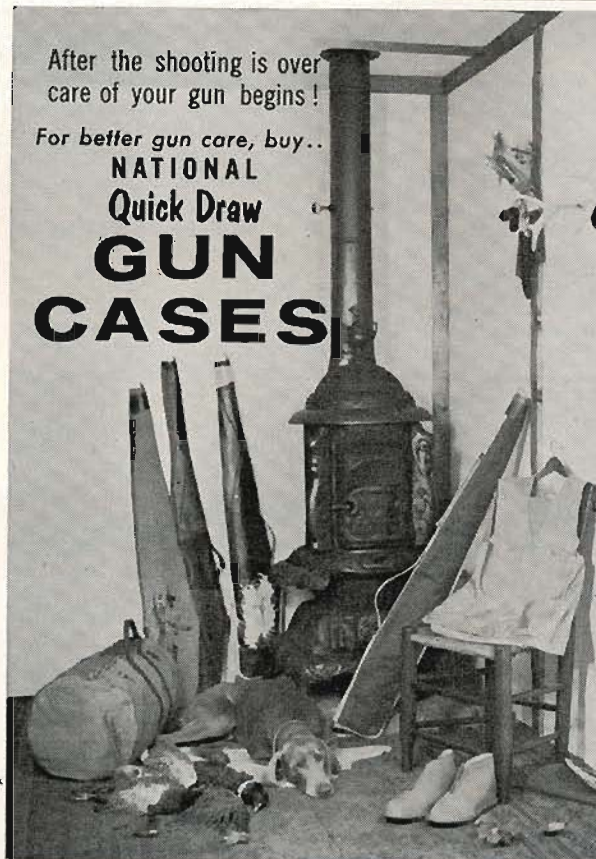
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THESE COPS CAN SHOOT

(Continued from page 21)

jeopardized. Firearms training and qualification is fired on departmental time, and duty ammo and practice wadcutters are furnished. The 75 men of the force fire better than 70,000 rounds of .38 Special wadcutters in the course of the year, and some of the men load extra rounds for their own practice on the police range. The range, by the way, is open to all members of the department at any time.

Guns for uniformed officers can be Colt's or S&W revolvers, with no less than a four inch barrel. Minimum caliber is .38 Special, although a number of the men carry .357 Magnums. Sights can either be fixed or target type, the cylinder must be of the swing-out and simultaneous ejection type, and the gun must be double-action. Extensive experiments conducted by Sgt. Kloch and Sgt. Don Satiro, the range officer, have shown that target grips with the bottom edge beveled and the checkering sanded down can double as combat and target grips. Detectives are permitted to carry automatics of either 9 mm or .45 caliber, and all officers must fire the course with their regular duty gun. Cross-draws are not allowed, and all service guns are worn on the belt.

Before firing the course, each gun is inspected for cylinder locking, locking on full cock, hammer fall, full mainspring tension, free rotation of cylinder, and free extraction. Tightness of grips on frame and tightness of side-plate screws is checked, and the gun must be clean and lightly oiled.

Although no specific make of holster is prescribed, most of the men have swung over to the Schau-Kloch holster for uniform wear.

This is a holster that has gone through several evolutionary stages and was tested by a number of the local police departments. It is of the drop type and has a noticeable forward cant. A safety strap, located between holster and gun, is mandatory and is released by a mere flick of the thumb of the gun hand. Over-all length of the holster is 10 inches from top to bottom, thus permitting access through the slash pockets of the reefer jacket and the holster won't ride up while sitting in a car. A double thickness sheet of aluminum runs the entire length of the holster, thus preventing movement of the holstered gun while the officer is running or jumping. Also designed by the Schau-Kloch team are the ammo carriers which, like the holsters, are made of very stiff skirting leather.

The key theme of the pistol training was summed up by Sgt. Kloch. "The underlying idea is to acquaint the officer with a realistic attitude toward the problem that he may face some day on the street. Surprise and poor visibility are but two of the often neglected hazards." Emphasis is laid on double action burst shooting, that is firing in

bursts of two and three shots, and single action firing is discouraged. A few officers who have qualified over the regulation course, have also qualified with single action revolvers, among them Sgt. Ray Davis who scored identical times in firing both courses.

Reloading the cylinder for the second burst of five shots is practiced under the careful guidance of Sgt. Kloch or Sgt. Satiro, and here is the way one of the coaches explains the course of fire.

"The gun must be level, or you'll shoot into the ground or over the head of your opponent. And once you have the gun levelled and pointed at the target, you'll find that it is almost automatically centered on the target. Never rush while firing, and start your body moving after you have fired the last shot. Moving while firing will spoil your aim." Each officer, while going through the monthly qualification course, is graded, from poor to excellent, for drawing, trigger release, levelling of gun, and gun balance. Before the actual, for-the-record firing, each man is allowed as many trial runs as he desires, and if the range officer feels that more work is needed, the officer has to devote more time to shooting. To keep his men on their toes, Chief Chamberlain has the monthly scores posted on the bulletin board of the Ready Room.

After careful study of the various combat shooting positions, Kloch and Satiro, with the help of other police experts have settled on two basic positions. One position for close-in shooting is used for distances less than 25 feet, and the gun is pointed at the target, either with a straight or bent arm, but sights are not used. While the shooter's back is straight, the knees are bent, and for reloading, the officer drops to one knee. For those who have trouble mastering the system, the Chic Gaylord system of straight elbows with braced hands is permitted and does wonders in giving a man confidence and a decent score.

For long range shooting, the kneeling two hand position is used. Here, as the gun clears the holster, the shooter drops to his right knee with his left foot forward. The fully extended left arm comes up and cups under the right fist (if the shooter is a right hander). The waist, back, neck, shoulders, elbows and wrists are locked. The right upper arm is brought up and placed against the side of the face so that, on recoil, the arm and head move as a unit, and the sight picture is not lost.

That old pistol shooter bugaboo of trigger squeeze is licked in the following manner. Shooting double action, the shooter grips his gun until his fingers show white from the pressure, and with his wrists locked, he pulls the trigger smoothly and steadily, retaining his sight picture. The watching range officer pays particular attention to the muzzle of the gun which is not allowed to move except in recoil. This may sound like an oversimplification, but has worked well with novice shooters and with veteran officers.

The target is the standard, man-sized anatomical target. Trunk hits count 10 points, outside bone hits will get you 5 points, outside flesh hits count for 2 points. But a

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miss is a "lawsuit shot," and that takes some living down. Maximum allowed time for the course, including reloading five rounds into the cylinder, is 27 seconds, and all timing is done with stopwatch and on command of the range officer.

Scoring is based on total points of target hits, time, Kill zone hits, and form. To qualify as Marksman, the officer must score between 60 and 69 points. Sharpshooters must show a score of 70 to 79, Expert from 80 to 89, and Distinguished requires a score between 90 and 100.

All phases of the course are fired in poor light, that is, the lights down-range are dimmed or turned off. Best possible score is 100 with 10 Kill zone hits in 27 seconds or less with excellent form. During the single target course, two officers fire side by side, but while firing at two targets, only one man is on the firing line. In the 25 foot course, the gun is drawn from the holster on command to fire, two shots are fired and the gun is holstered. As soon as the shots are fired, the stopwatch stops. On command, the gun is drawn again, the remaining three shots are fired, and the gun is returned to the holster as soon as reloading is completed. Again the watch stops, but this time when the loaded gun is re-holstered. This cycle is repeated for another five rounds.

On the 25 yard course, the gun is drawn on command, five shots are fired, and the gun is returned to the holster. Elapsed time is recorded, and the course is fired twice.

The average qualification was 68 per cent, but this year the "poor light phase" was added and Al expected that scores would skid downward. Despite the tougher conditions, more officers qualified successfully, and some of the officers have adopted the old Army system of getting the job done and keeping the Pistol Instructor's blowtorch turned the other way. This has created a very healthy spirit of competition and friendly rivalry, and the pistol achievements of the Skokie Police Department have become the aim and envy of several of the departments in the area.

Of the 20 Ford-made cars, 16 patrol cars carry Ithaca riot guns with special gun holders on the dashboard, mounted to the right of the driver so that either officer can reach the gun. The cars have the big V-8 Ford engine and the large transmission, a magnetic police speedometer made by Stewart-Warner, and a loudspeaker system on the roof than can be used as PA system and also transmits radio calls coming in over the car radio.

But make no mistake. This is not a sport for these men, it is a deadly serious business. In the almost three years the course has been fired with live ammo, there has not been a single accident, not one wild shot has been fired. And it seems that the criminal element must have heard about those Skokie cops and their firearms skills. None of the men had to draw his gun yet and their reputation as straightshooters has preceded them.

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TURN SHOTGUN MISSES INTO HITS

(Continued from page 29)

Velocities vary between cartridges, sometimes as much as a startling 150 fps, but still the shot load is the single most reliable factor in our equation.

But, the great imponderable is not the bird, not the shot charge—but the man.

First, the wingshot cannot judge distances. One marksman guesses the range to be 40 yards; another reckons it is more likely 45; a third swears it is a full 50. Then there is the matter of reaction time. Some gunners react more slowly in mounting the gun, use more time in pulling the trigger.

Finally our marksman fires. He has guestimated his lead at 7.5 ft. But what does 7½ feet look like ahead of the duck's bill? He



guesses it off. If I were in his shoes, I too would guess at it. If you were there, you'd apply your guestimator. Which of us would be right?

No one knows what 7½ feet looks like in the sky. Killing game a-wing is not an open-and-shut proposition of applying mathematically calculated leads. If it were that simple, we'd fill the bag with a minimum of shots. It is an equation chuckful of imponderables—making it a vastly mysterious and wholly

entrancing business, learned not with a slide rule and pencil but by getting into the field and shooting.

A shooting crony over the years on marsh and field, uses 7½ shot on everything from geese to jacksnipe. A second hunting mate swears by 5s, and would not think of shooting any other pellet. These mulish companions of mine not only fetch home full bags of game, but they do it with such regularity as to shake your confidence that you must balance shot size against the type of target. But I do not buy this oversimplification.

There is a size of shot pellet to fit every game bird, and the student who takes the time to adjust his load to his feathered mark not only brings to bag more birds for cartridges expended but cripples less.

Shotgun pellets range in size from 000 Buckshot to Dust. The Triple-0 Buck measures .36" in diameter and you will have trouble crowding seven of the slugs into a 12 gauge shell. Dust, on the other hand, runs a somewhat startling 4565 pellets to the ounce, and has a diameter of but .04 of an inch. (Dust is not manufactured regularly; if it can be purchased at all, it would have to be on special order from the factory. It has little practical use.)

Other shot sizes are generally designated by a number, the larger the number the smaller the pellet. No. 1 shot runs .16" and there are 73 pellets to the ounce; but this shot too is obsolete. No. 2s are popular, with a diameter of .15" and some 88 to the ounce.

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This is my favorite for geese. Some waterfowlers like 3s or 4s for the great birds, but my experience has been that 2s are, by a margin, the best medicine.

No. 3 shot measures .14", 109 to the ounce. No. 3s are about as popular as sunburn and are no longer in manufacture. The only man I have ever heard bemoan that fact is Elmer Keith, and just why he held this pellet in such esteem I have never understood.

Number 4 shot is one of our old standbys. It runs .13" in cross-section, and tallies 136 pellets to the ounce. This is a real killer, and goose hunters are forever in disagreement as to whether the lethal 4s with their increased pellet count—136 as against 88—aren't better than No. 2s.

Another mainstay is the No. 5 pellet, measuring .12 of an inch and 172 to the ounce. A few years ago, the ammo makers tried to cashier the No. 5 pellet; why I never understood. There was such a hue and cry that the pellet was hastily reinstated.

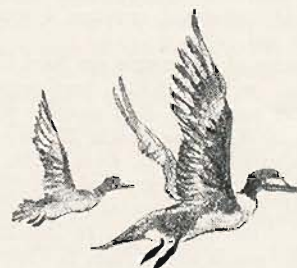
The most popular shot size in the book is the No. 6. The 6 is more widely used on a greater variety of game than all the other sizes put together. A No. 6 measures .11 of an inch and runs 223 to the ounce. The No. 7½ measures .095 of an inch and there are 345 of them in an ounce. No. 8s are .09", 404 to the ounce; No. 9s measure .08", 585 to the ounce.

There are other shot sizes, like Air Rifle (not to be confused with BBs), and there are 6 other sizes of buckshot, as well as such little known designations as BBB, size T, size TT, F, and FF. These latter are not made anymore, and good riddance!

What's more to the point to the practicing wingshot is—which shot sizes will kill what game?

BBs, 2s, and 4s kill geese. These are also big poison on such targets as wild turkey and foxes. Shot smaller than these will kill this game too, but with less regularity.

Ducks over decoys are best strafed with 6s. The same ducks, if you must take them



in pass shooting, should be gunned with 5s. In a 1¼-ounce load, the 5s lack by 64 pellets having as many shot in the load as the 6s, but the energy and retained velocity at the longer ranges more than make up for the fewer pellets.

Pheasants are best brought to bag with 6s, although many ringneck shooters swear by 5s. I like to shoot rabbits and squirrels with 6s, but again you will find any number of old hands who cling to the No. 5 here also. A newcomer to our midst is the Chukar—a tough cookie to grass. Feed him a well-bunched charge of sixes.

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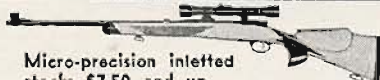


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jacksnipe, I swing between 7½s and 8s. I use the latter during first of the gunning season, and the larger pellet when the season has aged and the game has grown more wary.

There are other shot sizes and other birds that need to be mated. There is woodcock and sora, plover, and that exotic, the Coturnix. These are all naturals for No. 9s. The 9s are skeet loads, too, and provide a dense pattern up to 25 yards.

And then there is the shotgun slug. We have had the single ball load for a long time, but the accent on these big globules of lead



which makes them now one of the most-used loads for taking the annual venison is relatively recent. So much interest has been created that most of the gun makers offer special models designed specifically to handle the big 1-ounce balls. These special scatterguns have short barrels, generally about 22-24 inches, with a set of open sights. The latter provides for more precision in the placement of the slug.

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What constitutes good shooting with a shotgun on game? Must the gunner swap cartridge for bird to be an expert? Or two shells per bird? Or does the score vary depending on the feathered target? Here are one man's opinions, for what they may be worth.

The Duke of Algeciras, with whom I shot in Spain, told me that he never felt sure of his gunning until he had burned up some 5,000 shells during the first shoots of the season. The Duke habitually commenced his gunning during August on the grouse moors of Scotland, and finished the season over Don Quijote's la Mancha the following February. An average day would see his pair of AYA 12s chew up half a case of cartridges!

If this Spanish nobleman believed he needed 5,000 warm-up rounds just to get in the groove, how about the average sportsman who, according to our ammo manufacturers, fire a piddling two boxes of shells during an entire season?

I would not measure the skill of the shooter by the quantity of his game take. We do not shoot to fill the pot these days; we gun for sport. Today's huntsman can bang off a box of 25 shells and come home with no more than a brace of red squirrels, and his heart will be brim-full. Algeciras needed a full 100 brace of Chukars; for you and me, a half-limit of bobwhites will suffice.

But what ratio of birds versus shots fired makes you a good gunner? It all depends.

Take the elusive and difficult dove. I would contend that the really top-flight wingshot will drag down 10 birds with 18 to 20 shells. The "average" marksman will need 25-30 shells for the same take. And the bucko who uses 4-plus shells per bird may be having the most fun!

Next to doves, the cottontail is most shot-at field target. He is a much less trying mark than the dove, but by no means a pushover. The topnotcher will collect rabbits on the basis of two shells for every rabbit. Average performance is 8 to 10 cottontails per box of shells.

Ducks? A good wingshot will take his webfeet with an exchange of 2 to 2.5 shells per bird. The average will use up 3 to 4 shells per bird, and the tyro—name your own figure. After all, the shooting is half the fun!

The Chinese ringneck can do wonders for the winggunner's ego! He rises like a DC-8 and, with many protesting cackles, bores straight away, flat and level. Here the good shooter should tally one for one. Average gunning should be not more than 2 shells per cock.

Without doubt, the most popular game bird in America is the gallant bobwhite. Called "partridge" in Dixie and quail above the Mason-Dixon Line, he is the sweetest gunning fare of all for many. To kill him is no great chore, for his trajectory is arrow-straight, and were it not for the un-nerving whirr of his stubby pinions, his taking would be easy indeed. A hotrock "partridge" man will grass his 10-bird limit with not more than 15 cartridges. The average will use up two to three shells per bird. The mediocre thinks Bonny Bob is the toughest target that flies, and when he connects once with 4 shots he is happily content!

But who cares? He gets more shooting than the experts . . . and the ammunition makers love him!

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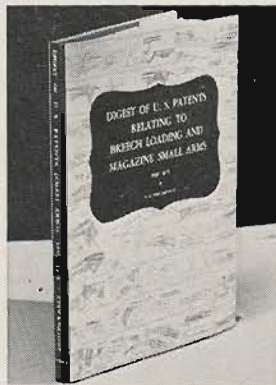
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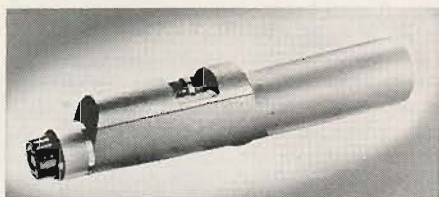
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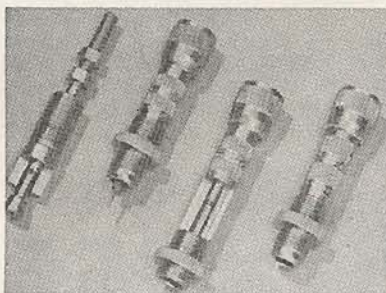
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TEXAS ANTELOPE

(Continued from page 23)

habit-ridden creatures I have ever hunted. They feed in the same areas, water at the same places, and when fleeing a hunter, invariably take the same escape route.

Since most hunters prefer to take bucks, another antelope characteristic works in the hunter's favor. When they seek to escape, antelope always string out, almost in a single file. The young does and dry does lead out; does with fawns stay in the middle; bucks invariably bring up the rear. You need consider only the last half of the herd to pick out a trophy. *Most important, if one animal splits off, it is my experience without exception that it is the best buck in the herd. Furthermore, any "loner" you spot will usually be a good buck.*

Most of the Texas antelope country is hilly. A herd of antelope that has been spooked will, nine times out of ten, run only far enough to put the first ridge between them and a hunter. The same thing is often true of a patch of cover.

To hunt antelope, one needs to know antelope habit patterns, and he needs to prospect his hunting country thoroughly. Ordinary sheep fence will hold antelope. Hence one can hunt out a given fenced area, spot the herds, determine their water hole, escape routes, and feeding areas, and know where to start looking on almost any given day.

I classify my antelope hunting methods as "long range" and "short range." The long range hunter will need a good, scope-sighted, flat-shooting rifle like the .264 Magnum, .270 Winchester, .257 Weatherby, or .25-06. Ranges will be in excess of 300 yards on many occasions.

My favorite long range method works this way: With a hunter who has the right weapon and sight, and the ability to use them, I take off in a pickup with a four-speed transmission. A little cruising in known antelope country usually enables us to find a herd in a matter of an hour. With good binoculars, we can determine from half a mile away if there are likely looking heads. I then move slowly in the general direction of the herd.

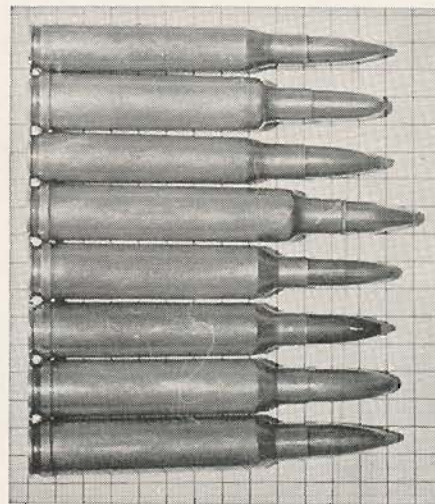
Ordinarily, they bunch up and start moving off. I set my pace to try to close on them slowly, taking care not to crowd them into rapid flight. It's not difficult to close within 500 to 600 yards. Upon reaching that range, I follow without attempting to close nearer until the herd crosses a ridge.

When the last straggler is out of sight over the ridge, I dash up to the base of the ridge, fall out with my hunter and, as quietly as possible, ease up to the crest of the ridge. Virtually without fail, the herd will be 300 to 400 yards out, likely feeding along. The hunter has a few minutes to select a head and get a shot off.

A second highly productive method is to post hunters at vantage points near water holes, or in areas known as feeding areas. This requires a man who can keep still and keep his eyes open. The same technique can be used by posting hunters along known escape routes when other hunters are moving about in the area. Again, this requires a hunter who can keep still and watch, and

also one who can hit a running or moving target. For such hunting, a .257 Roberts, .243 or .244, or the 7 x 57 Mauser are excellent. A good hunter can often have shots well inside 200 yards by this method.

Antelope hunting can be and often is a family affair in Texas because of a pleasant climate which eliminates most of the hardship where ladies and youngsters are concerned. Most of the time, the weather requires only a light jacket. The "mobile" hunting methods help also. On many of the ranches, two, three, or even more members



These cartridges are suitable for long shots at antelope. From the top, the .270 Win., .270 Weatherby Magnum, .30-06, .300 Weatherby Mag., .264 Win. Mag., .30-338, .338 Win. Magnum, and a 8 mm wildcat made by necking down .338 brass to .323.

of the family can go out together. It is a further family advantage that usually two members can take game for under a hundred dollars.

How to go about it? The season for several years has been from October 1 through October 10. Ranchers having antelope hunting permits ordinarily let this be known at the Chambers of Commerce of Marfa and Alpine, Texas. Either organization can put you in touch with a rancher. It is best to start making your plans not later than June. As soon as the Game and Fish Commission makes their annual antelope census and decides on how many permits to issue, the ranchers will start taking reservations.

Excellent hotel and motel accommodations are available in Marfa and Alpine, although these fill up rapidly during the season, and one should have an early reservation here as well as at the ranch.

You will find a hearty Western welcome. Alpine and Marfa both throw huge Western-style barbecues the evening before opening day, and many ranchers have chuck wagon feeds of their own for their hunters. Bring your own jeep if you like, but most ranchers can supply you with a guide and transportation at rates that will astound you if

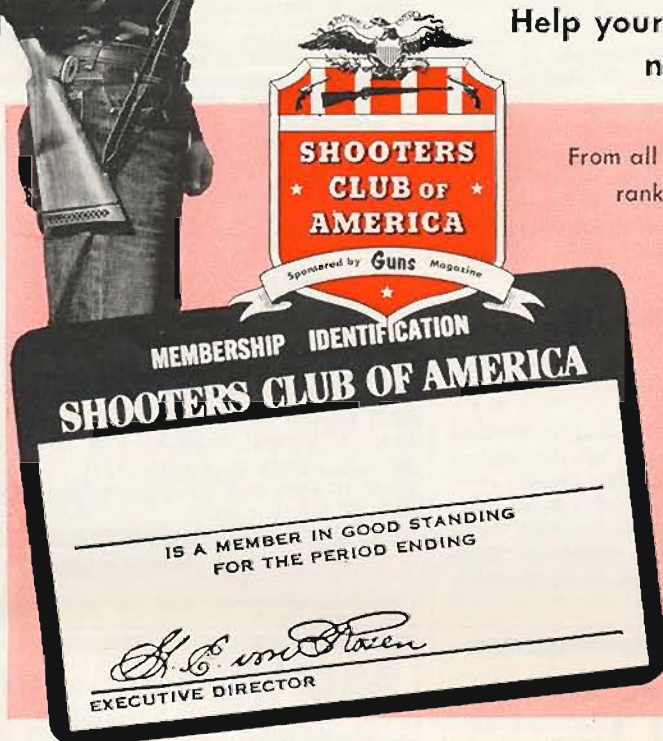
(Continued on page 60)



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(Continued from page 58)

you have made pack trips in some of the more highly commercialized areas.

And as a final matter of interest, antelope meat is, in my opinion, the finest meat to come out of the game fields. There are abundant meat processing plants in the area to take care of your game for you.

In almost 20 years of big game hunting, I have found nothing to beat Texas antelope hunting as a family sport. You can arrange



for a comfortable (not easy) hunt for the less rugged members of the family, or you can make it just as tough as you like. You can make do with a small head, or if you persevere, you can take a real trophy-class buster.

Perhaps best of all, you can hunt in one of the most wide-open parts of the United States, in country that is still near-frontier in character, without spending a fortune to do it.

Texas needs antelope hunters, family style or otherwise. And if my experience can serve as a guide, there are a lot of families that need the sort of hunting Texas antelope has to offer! Families that play together, stay together!



of the plate is a question I cannot answer. The quick "flash" plating as done to machine tools would not put too much metal on the parts.

As to accuracy, I wonder if you can now shoot that .38-44 S&W as well as it will shoot? If you are a better shot than the revolver's capability, then the plating may cause an improvement.—C.B.

Burnside Rifle

I have a .54 caliber Burnside Model of 1864 in NRA "Very Good" condition with the following exceptions: the lettering on the lockplate is not clear, the barrel is lightly pitted around the muzzle, both sights are lightly pitted, and there are a few other small spots of pitting near the breech. The gun works fine and has a fair bore. How much is it worth? Could you give me some data on the Burnside?

Justin S. Crocker
Middlebury, Vermont

The marking on your Burnside lockplate is "Burnside Rifle Co. Providence R.I." (in two lines).

The U.S. Government bought at least 55,567 Burnside carbines of the various models during the Civil War period.

Your specimen as described is worth about \$75 on the current collectors market.

There will be a feature article in "Guns Annual" this coming issue on the Burnside man and arm.—C.B.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 9)

Luger Data

I own a Luger, marked "byf" on the front toggle. I wish to know if this means that it was made at Mauser Werke. On the receiver, over the chamber, are the numbers 41. I believe that this is a date, but weren't most Lugers marked with a four digit date? The gun is in NRA "Good" condition, with all numbers matching. Serial #703 is stamped under the barrel, all parts are marked 03.

Paul Stoddard
Roselle, Ill.

The "byf" code stood for the main plant of Mauser Werke, Oberndorf. The "41" is the year, and although the four digit date is more common, the two digit date is well known to Luger fanciers.—C.B.

Lebel M1917

I have just purchased a French semi-automatic Model 1917 8 mm Lebel rifle. When I purchased ammunition for it, I was warned by the owner of the shop that a great number of these weapons were converted to manual operation by disengaging the gas operating system. This condition seems to exist with my weapon. How can I make it function again.

David Saelens
Mountain Lakes, N.Y.

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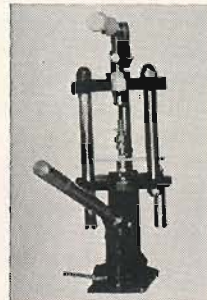
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action was "disengaged," I could advise you. It is possible that a part or two was simply removed. It is also possible that the gas port was plugged. I suggest you take it to a reliable gunsmith and have him examine it. Those French 1917-1918 auto rifles were fairly crude items. I would expect them to be more of a collectors piece than anything else.—G.B.

Remington Lebel

I have a Remington bolt action rifle marked Remington MLE 1907-15 on left side of receiver, RAC 1907-15 on right side of barrel between receiver and rear sight. Military sights, knurled knob on rear of bolt that turns, bolt handle sticks straight out when bolt is closed, and a thumb catch on top of bolt fits into a slot in top of receiver. The bolt has to be taken in two to be removed from the receiver. I think it is an 8 mm Lebel caliber.

Can you tell me if the rifle has a safety? What type clip does it use, and where I might obtain some? What model is it and any general information you might have.

W.D. Berry
Deming, N.M.

The first foreign contact that Remington had in the W.W. I period was with France to supply a few thousand Lebel rifles. You have one of these. The basic model was 1907, but the 1915 modification called for a 5-shot clip, of the Mannlicher type, as against the earlier 3-shot clip.

You probably can obtain a Lebel-Mannlicher 5-shot clip by contacting those dealers who handle foreign military parts.

Most Lebel variations used the halfcock position of the striker as a safety. This is manipulated by the thumb catch on the rear of the bolt.—G.B.

Prize Confederate

I have a Rigdon-Ansley Confederate revolver that was carried by my great-grandfather in the Civil War. The rear of the cylinder is battered and worn, one nipple is blown, the wedge is an old replacement, crudely made. The hand and spring are missing. The rest of the gun is in remarkably good condition, with sharp bore edges. It looks NRA "Very Good" except for the above. It has the usual 12 locking notches on the cylinder and "CSA" on top of the barrel-flat. Serial number is 2077. Matching numbers except wedge.

Approximately how much is it worth? What about replacing missing parts? Would this decrease the value? Are the parts interchangeable any Colt model?

James Farley
Niceville, Florida

Such a Rigdon-Ansley revolver is worth at least \$400 and, depending upon the condition, maybe \$600. These items have to be evaluated individually and the fervor of the buyer and seller is very important.

Careful restoration by a competent gunsmith would not damage the value, but this choice is up to the man who owns the piece. Many collectors wish to leave them "as is."

The parts are not directly interchangeable, but Colt parts could be used in the making of the restorative parts.—G.B.



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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 11)

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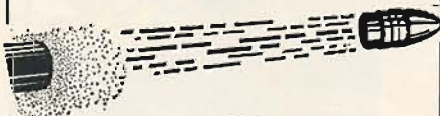
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Ever mount a scope, spent time and effort, then take the gun out of the vise to find that the crosshairs are not lined up? Well, if it has not happened to you, you are indeed fortunate, since even pro's have had this happen.

The B-Square Company, Box 11281G, Fort Worth 10, Texas, has been making a lot of professional gunsmithing tools and accessories and recently they sent us a real handy little item. Called the B-Square Crosshair Square, the plastic precision tool will help you to line up those crosshairs in a jiffy. Remove the bolt from the gun, insert the Crosshair Square, be sure it is level, and the upturned end with the fine gold-filled line will help you to line those crosshairs up in less time than it takes to tell you about it. This is a handy item and well worth the price tag of \$2.95 ppd.

Stock Inlays

Want to improve the looks of the stock on one of your pet guns? Simply get one of those neat little Cahoon plastic inlays, make yourself a little inletting chisel, and there you are. These plastic inlays come in color, in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and best of all, for the novice there is a complete set of how-to instructions. You can even get your initials in an inlay, and a few hours of work will improve the looks of any stock. If you have been casting longing glances at the other fellow's inlaid stock, drop a note to Dana Cahoon, Dept. G, Topsfield Road, Boxford, Mass. You'll get the latest catalog, plus how-to dope. If you want to, you can even buy an inletting chisel from Cahoon.

Rope-Holster

Tom Hayes of the Hayes Mfg. Co., Dept. G, 925 Cunningham, Corpus Christi, Texas, recently sent us one of his rope-holsters. Carrying a rope while hunting deer-sized game or chasing foxes all over the countryside can be a first class nuisance. If you coil the rope up and stick into a pocket of your hunting jacket, it is an even money bet that it will get uncoiled, that things like matches or ammo will get entangled with it. This rope-

holster slips on your belt, and the clever way the rope is threaded through it, makes it a cinch to get the rope out or back into the holster. Dragging game is made much easier if you use a rope, and that little holster is the answer to the rope problem. Holster and rope retail for only two dollars and the first time you use this holster, you'll think of six or seven hunting buddies who could use one too.

What's Your Load?

Ever load a couple of boxes of shotshells and then wonder about your loads six months later? The J. A. Somers Co., Dept. G, 1771 Old Ranch Road, Los Angeles 49, Cal., has the answer for that one. The Re-Loader's Labels are printed on high quality gummed stock, are perforated, and can be



marked with pen or pencil. These labels will fit on any shotshell box, and 40 labels cost only 99 cents. Since we load various sizes of shots and use a variety of powders and primers, we found these labels of real help on our loading bench and a box with such a label looks a lot neater than one that carries the same information scribbled all over it.

Universal Carbine

The Universal Firearms Corp., Dept. G, 3746 E. 10th Ct., Hialeah, Fla., recently sent us one of their fine M1 .30 caliber carbines. These are the spittin' image of the guns many of us lugged around for a while, but there are differences that are not apparent to the eye. We borrowed an issue carbine, got some G.I. ammo, grabbed some of Remington's new carbine ammo and a couple of boxes of the Norma ammunition, and proceeded to produce empty brass at a fantastic rate. Shooting from a rest, the G.I. gun gave us a "best" group of 4½ inches at 50 yards,

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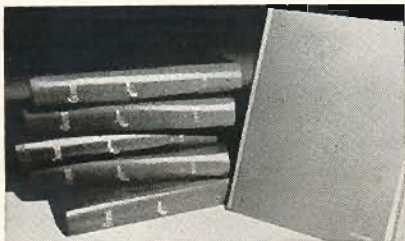
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