

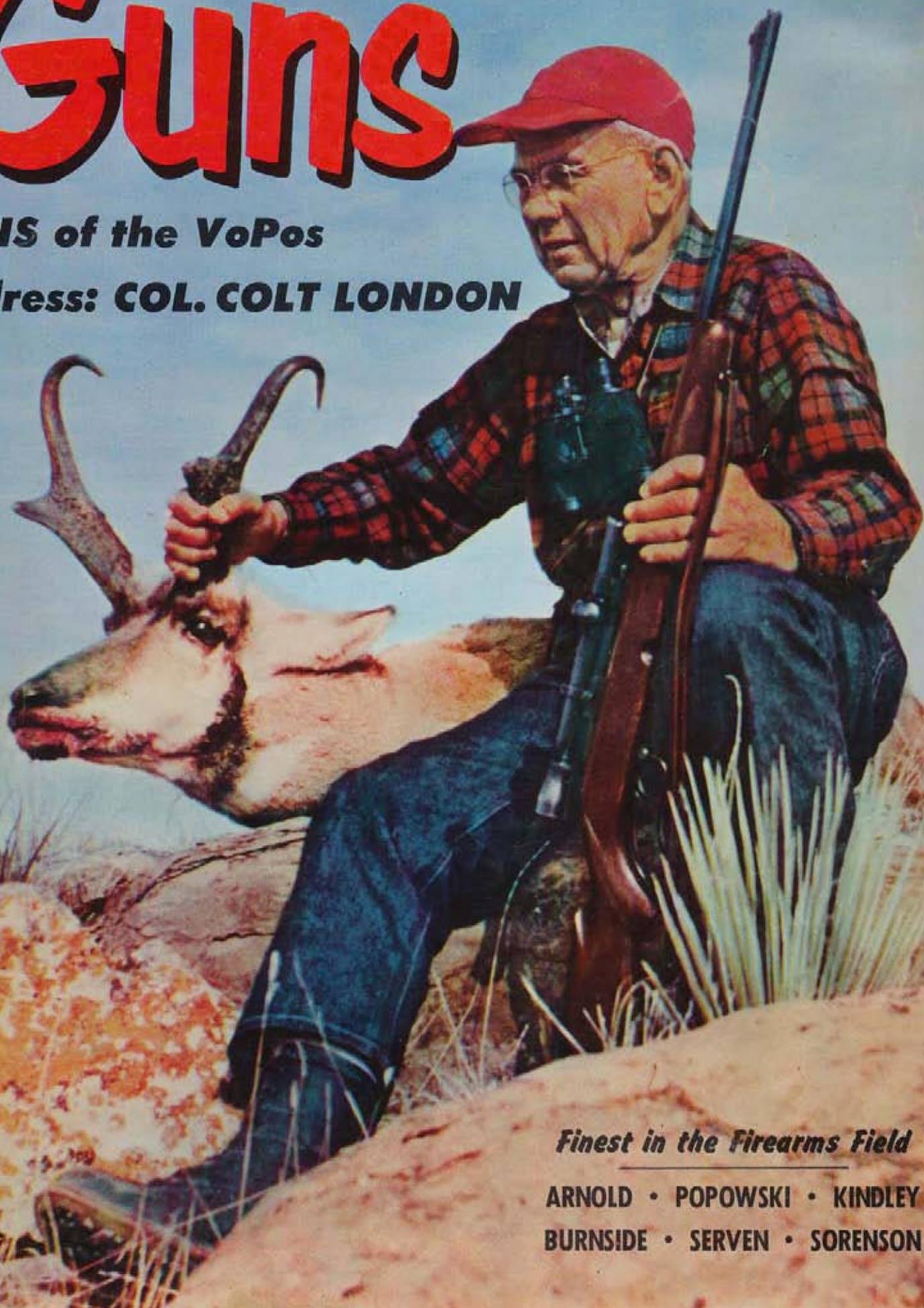
NOVEMBER 1963 50c

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Guns

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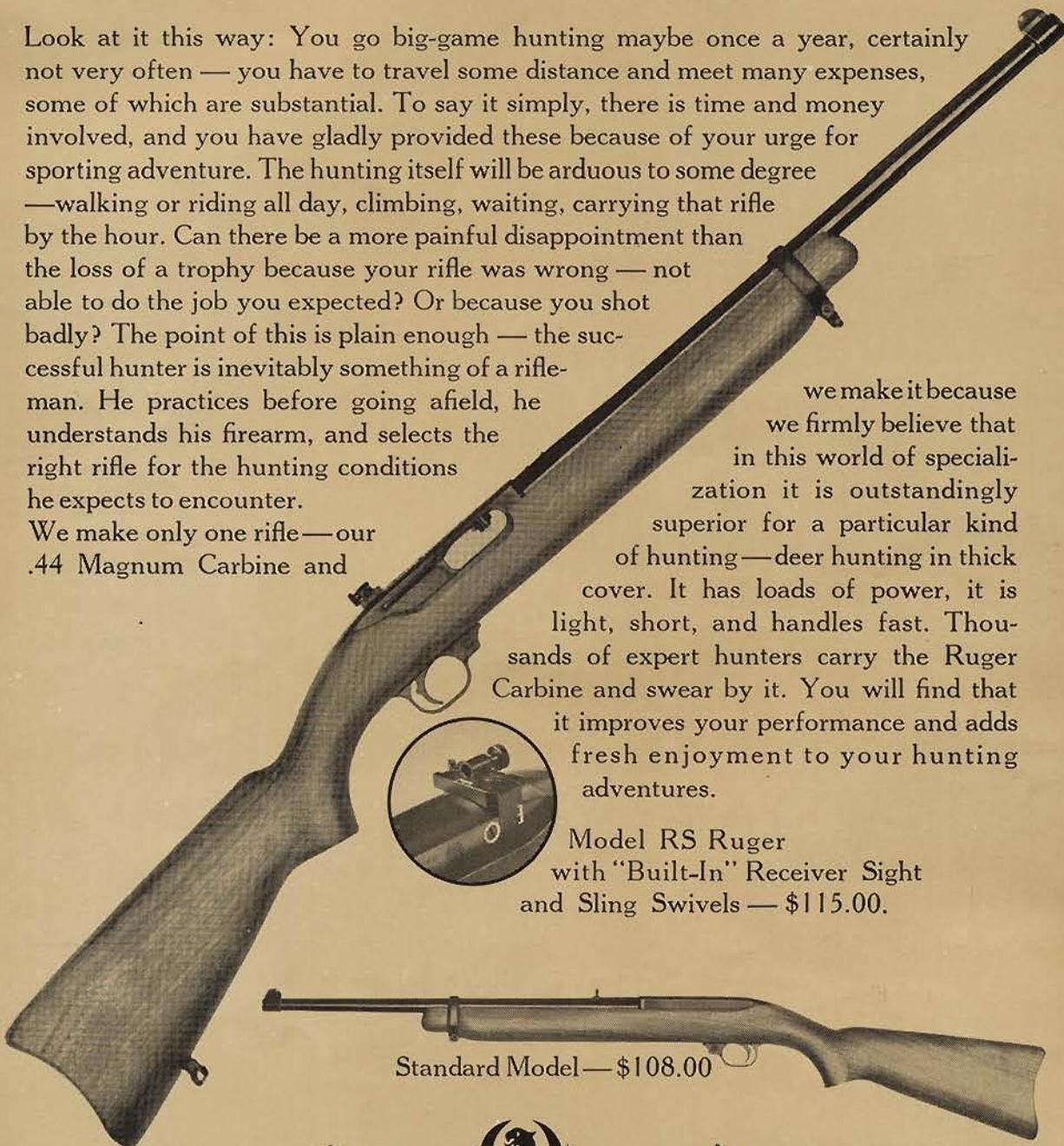
The Perfect Brush-Country Deer Rifle

Look at it this way: You go big-game hunting maybe once a year, certainly not very often — you have to travel some distance and meet many expenses, some of which are substantial. To say it simply, there is time and money involved, and you have gladly provided these because of your urge for sporting adventure. The hunting itself will be arduous to some degree — walking or riding all day, climbing, waiting, carrying that rifle by the hour. Can there be a more painful disappointment than the loss of a trophy because your rifle was wrong — not able to do the job you expected? Or because you shot badly? The point of this is plain enough — the successful hunter is inevitably something of a rifleman. He practices before going afield, he understands his firearm, and selects the right rifle for the hunting conditions he expects to encounter.

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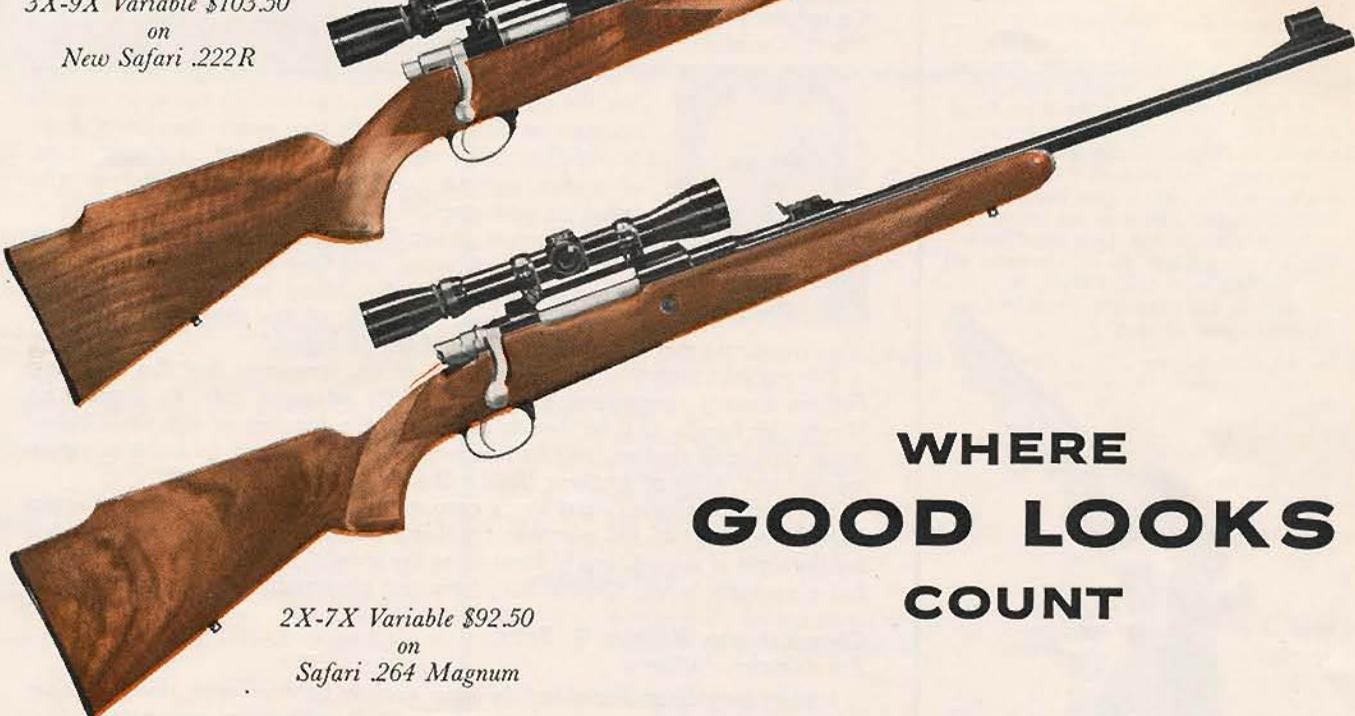
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3X-9X Variable \$103.50
on
New Safari .222R



2X-7X Variable \$92.50
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Safari .264 Magnum



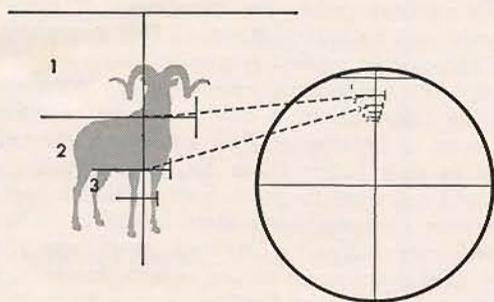
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A Browning Variable Power Scope sets low and firm, blending nicely into rifle contours. And, of more importance, it gives you the type of *look* you need when zeroing-in on a distant trophy.

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KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

Congressman Harold D. Cooley North Carolina



By ancient law, handed down through time, a man has the right to protect his fig tree, his fountain and his homestead. Down through the years free men have armed themselves against tyranny and oppression and, of course, against marauders and against thieves who break in and steal.

The framers of our Constitution possessed an intimate knowledge of tyranny, and they knew the dangers and necessities of the frontier. They wisely wrote into this sacred document "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

It is my interpretation of the meaning of this language that the Founding Fathers therein recognized the responsibility of each man to protect his liberty, his family and his home; moreover, the framers of the Constitution were convinced that so long as free men were armed, no tyrant ever again would rear his head in these United States.

We must, of course, exert every care and precaution in keeping weapons out of the hands of the miscreants within our society. But the basic reasons for the right of our citizens to keep arms, for a valid purpose, as stated simply but eloquently in our Constitution, have not changed.

Congressman William G. Bray 7th District, Indiana

I have long been interested in guns and in hunting and, therefore, am very happy to give you my opinions on this Constitutional guarantee.

The Constitutional guarantee of the right of the people to keep and bear firearms was not made by accident, but was the careful intent of the framers of the Constitution. From their vantage point, the importance of allowing each citizen to keep arms could not be underestimated. This guarantee is one of the most fundamental safeguards against tyrannical government. So long as the citizen has the right to keep arms, oppression by a tyrant is much less likely. Of course, the reference to a militia formed of citizens quickly taking up their own arms in defense of their country is somewhat dated. The guardsman called to duty today takes his station beside our most modern weapons. He would not want to go to battle with his hunting guns. Nevertheless, the importance of maintaining State militia or national guard has been demonstrated repeatedly, for in each large war these citizen soldiers have been the vital supplement to our regular forces. I, for one, after many years of interest in guns and hunting, will continue to do all that I can to see that this privilege is maintained.

Congressman Joel T. Broyhill Virginia

I can conceive of no reason for the law abiding citizen not to be permitted to freely possess firearms. Efforts should be made on the court level to fully enforce present legislation which deals with the misuse of weapons in the commission of felonies, but I feel very strongly that the law abiding citizen should not be hampered by legislation which would restrict his legal ownership and use of firearms.



Congressman Frank T. Bow 16th District, Ohio

In response to your question, it seems to me that most legislation seeking to restrict the right of the people to keep and own firearms is intended to make it difficult for criminals to acquire guns. I do not think such legislation would be effective, and I will continue to oppose legislation contrary to the Second Amendment.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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THE COVER

Larry Chaffee, a director of NRA, took this fine pronghorn antelope with one shot in Montana. Gun is a Winchester Model 88 in caliber .308, and scope is Lyman's Alaskan in Redfield Jr. mount. Chaffee used 150 grain Sierra bullet in front of 46 grains of 4320. Larry's old friend Bert Popowski acted as guide on this trip and took cover photograph.

IN THIS ISSUE

special...

GUNS OF THE VOPOS.....John F. Arnold 20

western...

THE SHARPS AND THE BUFFALO (Part Two).....James E. Serven 32

hunting...

COY IS THE COYOTE.....Cloyd Sorenson, Jr. 23
 SAVE ONE FOR TEACHER.....Bert Popowski 24
 SIT DOWN AND SHOOT.....Bob Kindley 26
 TRY THIS FOR GROUSE.....Gene Hornbeck 36

collector...

WHEN COLT'S WAS IN LONDON.....Joseph L. Rosa 28
 ONE OF TWO: 8 mm RAPHAEL.....Graham Burnside 31

shooting promotion...

SHOOTERS FOR TOMORROW.....Homer Circle 34

departments...

KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS.....4
 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.....Graham Burnside 6
 GUN RACK.....8
 CROSSFIRE.....14
 HANDLOADING BENCH.....Kent Bellah 16
 SHOOTERS CLUB NEWS.....18
 PULL!.....Dick Miller 40
 ARMS LIBRARY.....42
 SHOPPING WITH GUNS.....Roslyn Wallis 64
 THE GUN MARKET.....72
 NUGGETS FROM THE MORNING MAIL.....73
 INDEX OF ADVERTISERS.....74

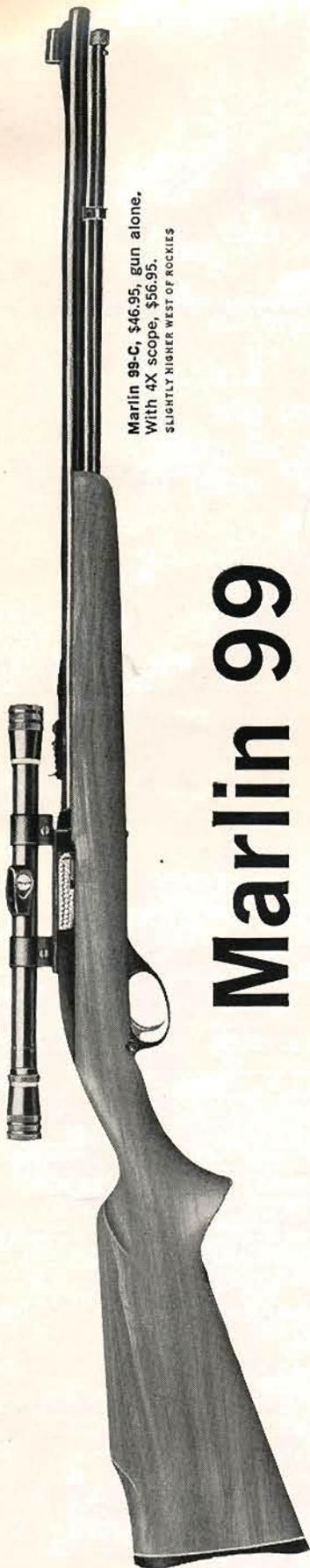


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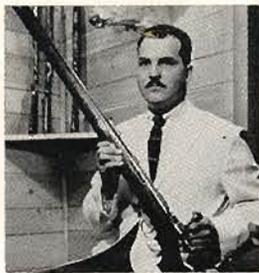
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QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE

Kick Question

Which has the most kick—a sawed-off shotgun, or a gun of the same gauge and model but with a normal barrel?

Raleigh S. Kike
(No address)

Assuming that the sawed-off shotgun has a barrel long enough to contain the round until all raw powder had been rendered to gas—say about 12 inches or better—the sawed-off shotgun would kick slightly more. This is true because of the weight factor. By removing part of the barrel, you bring down the weight and the recoil index goes up. Some shooters have added weight by leading the stock under the buttplate and have reduced recoil—C.B.

Two Rare Ones

Can you give us approximate values of these two guns: (1) Double barrel 16 gauge hammerless with .25-25 rifle barrel underneath. Extra trigger in front of trigger guard cocks rifle. Hollenbeck Gun Co., Wheeling, W. Virginia, No. 478, Pat. Feb. 12, 1900. Damascus steel. Beautiful designs on all metal parts.

(2) Double barrel scissor-break hammer gun, left barrel 12 gauge shotgun, right barrel .44-40 rifle. George Fisher; Serial No. 7126.

Edgar Purdy
Wapello, Iowa

Your 3-barreled Hollenbeck gun is an American rarity that is not well known by collectors. Hence, the dollar value is not high. I would guess that in excellent condition it is worth about \$150 to \$200.

F. A. Hollenbeck was the man responsible for your arm. He was located on Water St. in Syracuse, N.Y. before the company was formed in Wheeling, West Virginia. The Hollenbeck period of operation was from about 1910 to about 1914.

I have no listing of the George Fisher who made your side by side 12 gauge-.44-40. The piece seems American and in top condition should be worth about \$100.—C.B.

Ballard Carbine

Could you give me any information on this rifle: the markings on the top of the barrel are BALL & WILLIAMS. The serial number is 6153. This is all that is marked. It is .44 caliber, rim fire, with a 20½" barrel. It has a lever similar to a Maynard, but with a falling block action. Could this be a Civil War carbine?

William A. Witnik
Ingersoll, Ontario

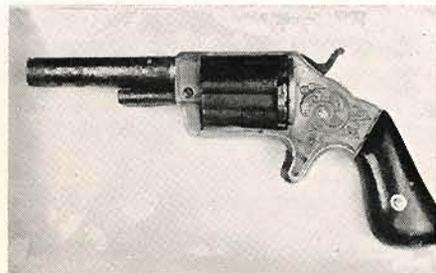
What you have is a "Ballard" carbine that was made by Ball & Williams. Yes, it could be a Civil War carbine, as the govern-

ment bought a bunch of them in .44 rim-fire. Proof of such ownership would be government inspectors marks in the wood as well as in the metal parts.

Look at the left side of the wrist of the stock for some fancy initials in an oval. If such a mark is there, you can be sure that the piece was owned by the U.S. Government.—C.B.

Slocum Revolver

Photograph enclosed is of gun which I recently purchased. Can you tell me any-



thing at all about it?

I believe it is the pin cartridge type, and the number "1631" appears on the trigger guard.

Any information as all would be greatly appreciated.

Marie Di Giovanni
Union, New Jersey

The revolver you have is a "Slocum." It was patented by F. P. Slocum of Brooklyn, New York, on April 14th, 1863, patent number 38,204. By writing the U.S. Patent Office, Washington 25, D.C. you may get a copy of the patent papers for a nominal fee.

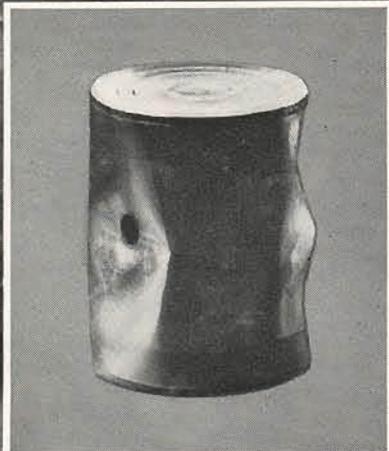
Normally, Slocum revolvers are marked "B.A. Co. Patented April 14, 1863." The B.A. Co. stands for "Brooklyn Arms Co.," the manufacturers.

The Slocum used conventional 32 caliber rimfire cartridges, inserted into the chambers by slipping and sliding the cylinder sleeves around so that the side of the cylinder is opened.

Slocum specimens are well liked by collectors. I would guess that your piece is worth about \$50.00.—C.B.

Any Offers?

I have a Winchester Lever Action, Model 65, .218 Bee, Serial Number 1004643. I understand this gun was produced in limited quantity and has some value as a collectors piece. This gun is in factory new condition, never disassembled, barrel like new, with the blued finish faintly marred. Rear sight is unusual in that it is adjustable both hori-
(Continued on page 12)



a 230 grain .44 bullet
coasted into this tin can
at 385 f.p.s. with 3 grains of
Bullseye powder behind it



that's the same size slug slamming
into a water-filled container at 1800 f.p.s.
driven by a red hot magnum
load of 25 grains of 2400 powder

Same slug, same gun that's Lyman-loading for you!

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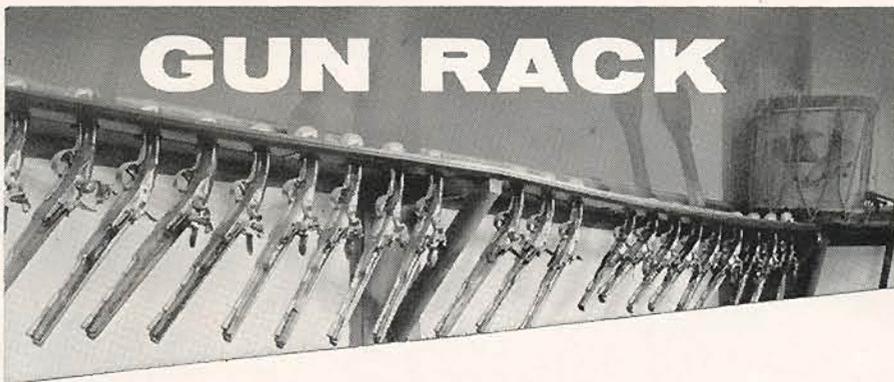
*NOTE—Available in .25 cal. 100-120; 6.5mm 120-140; .270 cal. 130-150-170; 7mm 130-145-160; .30 cal. 150-165-180; .303 cal. 150-180; 8mm 150-170-225; .33 cal. 275; .348 cal. 180-220; .35 cal. 180-220-250; .375 cal. 235-285.

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GUN RACK



Winchester Offers a De-kicker

Just received as we go to press is permission from Winchester-Western to tell you about the sensational recoil-reducing device for shotguns, "Hydro-Coil," which we tried out at the W-W seminar at Nilo Farms last January.

Hydro-Coil is basically a hydraulic piston cylinder system that acts like the shock absorber on your car, using air as the compressing agent. According to laboratory tests, it reduces shotgun recoil "from 280 pounds to a gentle 38 pound shove." Those of us who shot guns so equipped at Nilo can testify that it takes the punishment out of even the heaviest loads.

We'll be reporting on Hydro-Coil in full as soon as possible. Can tell you now that it will be available on both the Winchester 12 gauge Trap and Skeet Model 12 slide actions, or it can be purchased separately for any existing Model 12 Trap or Skeet shotgun.

Freeland Scope Stand

For years we have had our B&L spotting scope on a Freeland tripod stand. Having recently acquired an assistant on our testing range, we found that the scope on its tripod took up too much space on the limited bench area at our disposal. Al Freeland had the answer for us—a special scope adapter that makes it possible to mount the B&L scope on a heavy duty photographic tripod. With the pan head and the spotter sitting comfortably in a chair, spotting has become a simple and easy matter without inducing fatigue and strain on the spotter's eyes or neck muscles. Al has many such items in his catalog, and if you cannot find what you are looking for, Al Freeland can probably help you. Write him at his shop at 3734 14th Ave., Rock Island, Illinois.

Brownell Screwdriver

At least once a year, we splurge on a new and different set of gunsmith's screwdrivers. Hollow ground, plain, or whatever other shape or form, they all, sooner or later, give up the ghost. Then they are re-ground, break again, and sooner or later, they wind up in the junk box.

Bob Brownell of Montezuma, Iowa, offers one in his catalog, and the description was

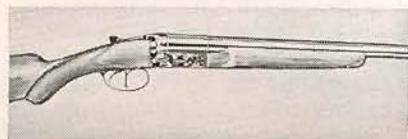
intriguing enough for us to order one. Called 4 in 1 Screwdriver, the tool has a plastic handle and a reversible shaft that holds a metal tube with spring action ball bearings. In the tube there are reversible screwdriver blades, again held by spring action. They are ground to fit most of the commonly encountered gun screws, but they are not hollow ground and thus the strain is not put on the thinnest part of the blade. The 4 in 1 retails for only \$3.75, extra standard bits for \$1.25, the GS or gunsmith bits go for \$1.75. We liked ours so well that we brought a second one, and a number of our friends have acquired one or more of them too. A good screwdriver is the cheapest insurance for not lousing up screw heads, especially on scope mounts.

Adjustable Triggers

These adjustable triggers are hand-made from aircraft alloys and can be installed in a jiffy in a good many of the surplus military rifles now on the market. We put one into a Mauser 98 and found it to be a fine trigger that is fully adjustable and fits perfectly. Retailing for only \$3.50, they can be had from D. E. Hines, 11035-C, Maplefield, El Monte, Cal.

Robust Shotgun

A side-by-side in the classic tradition, the Robust shotgun, available only in 12 gauge, rang the bell with those who had a chance to shoot it. A fine side-by-side usually requires a fair bundle of bills, but the Robust will cost you only \$285, and that includes a 5 year guarantee. This is the first surprise—the price. The machine-made gun,



finished and assembled by hand, has chrome lined, heavy proof barrels, a fitted cross bolt and mono-block breech, and auto ejectors using helical springs. All in all, the Robust is built to last a long, long time, and it seems certain that the guarantee will be outlived by the gun by many years.

At first glance, the stock appears to be somewhat on the straight side, resembling a trap stock; pitch down is 2¼", drop at comb is 1", drop at heel is 1¼", pull is 13½", and the test gun weighed exactly 7 lbs. Barrel length and chokes, from 26 to

(Continued from page 69)

Which one should be your next big-game rifle?

THE REMINGTON MODEL 700?

(left) If you're a bolt-action fan, you can't do better. The 700 gives you a butter-smooth action (the world's strongest), famous Remington precision rifling, a short, crisp trigger pull, plus the added comfort of a Monte Carlo stock and cheekpiece. The balance and handling qualities are superb. And the finish and checkering are worthy of guns costing far, far more. Calibers? Choose from 12 top ones, including the hot, new 6mm Remington, plus: 222 Rem., 222 Rem. Mag., 243 Win., 264 Win. Mag., 270 Win., 7 mm Rem. Mag., 280 Rem., 30/06, 308 Win., 375 H & H Mag. and 458 Win. Mag. In two de luxe grades. From.....\$114.95*

THE REMINGTON MODEL 742?

(center) This automatic gives you speed and power in one neat package. Get off up to five shots as fast as you can squeeze the trigger . . . in calibers that will drop any North American big game. And it's the only automatic that handles the powerful and versatile 30/06 Springfield cartridge—available in five different bullet weights. Another important advantage: the "Power-Matic" gas-operated action cuts recoil and "barrel whip." You get back on target faster when you need that second shot. Calibers: new 6 mm Rem., 280 Rem., 30/06 and 308 Win. Also made in 18½" barrel brush model. From. . . \$139.95*

THE REMINGTON MODEL 760?

(right) If you like a pump-action shotgun, then you'll want the only pump-action big-game rifle made—a Remington "Gamemaster". It's fast-handling, lightweight and gives you the extra reliability that makes pumps—especially Remington pumps—so popular. Double action bars mean smooth, trouble-free action—no wobble. The bolt is the famous rotary, multiple-lug type for extra strength. And the free-floating barrel gives increased accuracy. In five powerful calibers: 280 Rem., 270 Win., 30/06, 308 Win. and 35 Rem. Also in 18½" barrel brush model. From \$124.95*

Made your decision? Now pick it up at your nearest Remington dealer's. *Remington guns are better because they're made better.*

*Prices subject to change without notice.

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Annual Membership in the NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Over 500,000 hunters and shooters—the members of NRA—invite you to join the National Rifle Association and enjoy the many benefits reserved for members. You'll get prompt answers from our Firearms Information Service; gun law bulletins; information on how, when and where to hunt and low-cost gun insurance; an opportunity to purchase from the Army such firearms, spare parts and military targets as are made available for sale to NRA members at cost-to-government prices. You can participate in year around shooting programs and be eligible for marksmanship instruction. In addition, NRA will introduce you to a rifle and pistol club in your community, or help organize an NRA club. And your support will help preserve the right of free Americans to own and use firearms for lawful purposes. Remember, the NRA has stood as a bastion against countless ill advised attempts to disarm U. S. citizens—since 1871.

Join NOW! and receive this gold-filled NRA membership lapel button. Sells regularly for \$1.50—yours at no extra cost. (Lapel button shown actual size)



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[Signature]
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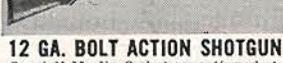
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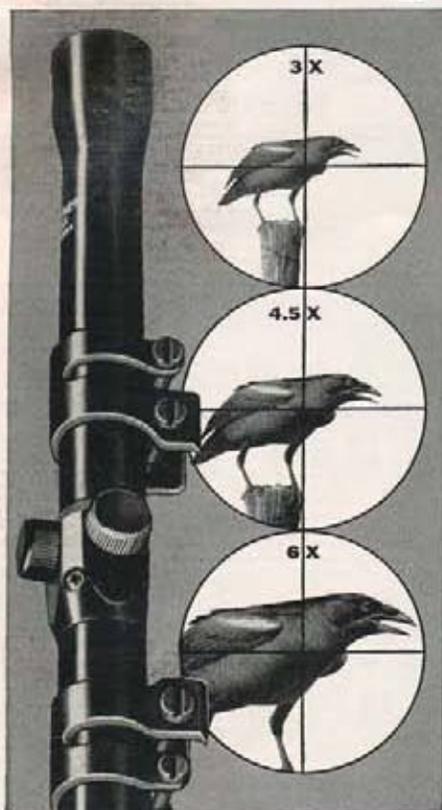
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Savage

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 6)

zontally and vertically, and is machined as an integral part of the bolt, moving along with the lever action. This is an excellent varmint rifle and inquiries toward it's sale are invited if you publish this letter

I would like to know the year of it's manufacture (around 1937), the number produced in this particular caliber and it's value.

I also have a 12 gauge, double barrel, hammer type, 30" barrel, German shotgun marked as follows:

Receiver: (HZ) 6956.
Barrels: Top: (Right) Acier KRUPP Best German Steel "Seglaby." (Left) SEG-LABY FIREARMS Bottom: (HZ) 6956 850 KG (3, 8, or 5 not completely stamped) choke 17.5 17.9 18.6 18.6.

This gun is in it's original, blued, perfect, "mint" condition. Receiver and barrel breech end, trigger guard, etc. are embossed with light scroll work. An unusual feature is that the barrel locks to the receiver in addition to the standard thumb lever catch, with a cross locking block of sorts. A square block slides out of the receiver when opened and slides back in through a square hole in the barrel extension when closed.

What is the choke equivalent of these barrels in American terms and what is this gun's value? This is truly a beautiful looking shotgun with a mirror smooth bore and a blued finish not equalled in an American gun. I have an idea the gun might be of fairly recent vintage with the hammers put on by the factory as a special request item.

Andrew C. W. Dion
Bangor, Maine

The Winchester model 65 was introduced in 1933 and discontinued in 1947. Winchester produced 5,704 of them. They are not commonly encountered today, but are not considered rare. Yes, it has value as a collectors piece, but it is hard to say what that value is when the collectors are not yet seeking that model. From what you have said, I would guess its value to be about \$100. The Winchester company can tell you when that particular rifle was shipped from the factory.

I can find nothing on the "Seglaby Firearms." Seglaby may have only been a retailer. The gun was made between 1898 and

1910, as indicated by the choke marking. One barrel is 17.5 mm at the muzzle and 17.9 mm at a point 22 cm. from the breech. This would make it a full choke. The other barrel is a recess choke as shown by the 18.6 mm being repeated, and would about match our cylinder bore. Value of shotguns is low due to low interest. I'd guess the piece to be worth about \$60 or less.—C.B.

Is It Safe?

I would like information on a Winchester Model 1901, lever action 10 gauge shotgun. In particular, how safe it it?

John Bloomquist
Palmdale, California

If in good tight condition, the Winchester Model 1901 lever action shotgun is a good safe arm. The standard grade 1901 model cost \$30 in 1907. The fancy grade arm was listed at \$45.00.

There is a possibility that your arm is unsafe if you have a damascus or twist barrel. Winchester would supply the 1901 shotgun with a "good 3 blade" Damascus barrel for \$15 additional, or a "good 4 blade" for \$20 additional. Damascus barrels should not be used with any modern smokeless shells. I hope your 1901 has the standard Winchester "rolled steel barrel." —C.B.

Colt Pocket Navy

Do you have any information on the availability of parts, or data for loading, the Navy .31 cal. Navy Five-Shot Pocket Pistol by Colt? I have two with serial numbers 178006 & 168612 that I would like to rebuild and possibly shoot. These have small parts broken.

Joe P. Patillo
Orlando, Fla.

You might contact the Dixie Gun Works, Union City, Tenn. for the parts you need.

As to shooting those colts, as long as you stick to F/g. black powder you can't overload a Colt in good condition. Play with the loading until you find what you want, and then make a measure out of an empty cartridge case to hold the load you like.—C.B.

(Continued on page 71)

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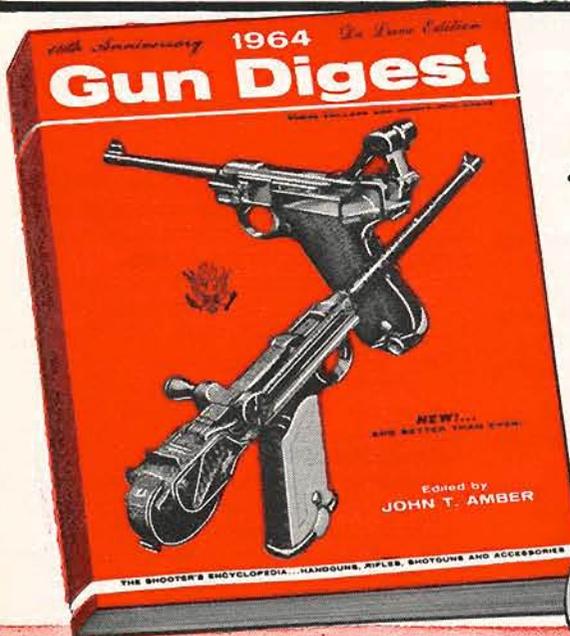


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CROSSFIRE

Tip For Parents

I live in Forth Worth, Texas, but at present I am doing a two year hitch in the Navy in Holy Loch, Scotland. I recently subscribed to your fine magazine, and want to congratulate you on the many fine articles published in it, especially those on what the anti-gun fanatics are trying to do to disarm America. Only by taking a firm stand, as your magazine has been doing, can we ever hope to defeat those who are trying to take away our right to keep and bear arms.

I especially liked the article "Boy Stocker" in the May issue. I wish more kids would taken an interest in guns as Robert Bell has. I am 21 and have been shooting and collecting guns for the past six years. Some people tried to discourage my interest in guns when I first began and if it hadn't been for my mother's help and understanding I might not have the interest and love for guns I have today. She always said she would rather have me collecting and using guns in an honest way than to have me go behind her back to find out about them and maybe mis-use them.

If more parents would encourage and help their children learn about guns and teach them the correct and safe use of guns, instead of forbidding their children to even touch a gun as many parents do, juvenile delinquency would be greatly reduced.

Gary C. Burton
USS Hunley

Legal or Illegal?

I am very glad indeed that I have a subscription to your magazine. In the last issue the, story "Legal or Illegal" was very comprehensive, well written, and well defined. This controversy about stocked Lugers and Mauser pistols has gone on for a long time around this part of the country. There are a few people who might have trouble with the law over this. I hope they all read this excellent article and take heed.

Richard L. Greve
Omaha, Nebraska

Other Places, Other Problems

Your Magazine is one of the most popular over here and is steadily climbing to take the very top position.

You are having firearm law troubles, and the gun bigots state that with the abolition of all handguns, crime would grind to a stop. Rubbish! Apart from the military, police, and collectors items, handguns are practically non-existent in N. Z. Yet we recently lost four good men of the police force in a space of three months. Ex-military rifles were used in these slayings, not hand-

guns! But we are not recommending the abolition of rifles and shotguns. That would mean nothing more than a crowded, diseased race of dying game animals, eating us out of our homelands. And if anyone doesn't believe that, just check on the deer population figures of N.Z.!

G. J. Morresey
New Zealand

Article Suggestion

As a long-time subscriber to your excellent magazine, I have racked my memory, but have failed to recall any article on the use of the .58 caliber Springfield muzzle-loading rifle as a hunting weapon. I'm lucky enough to own one of these interesting old Civil War blasters in very good condition, and have been amazed at the accuracy and power that can be obtained from it. I intend to use it on a hunting trip by canoe in the Allagash wilderness this Fall. If I'm successful, would you be interested in a story with photographs covering experiments in developing loads with Minie and round balls, the hunting trip, and an analysis of its adequacy as a deer-slayer?

I know the growing fraternity of muzzle-loading buffs would gobble up any first-hand information on the use of a big bore rifle on game. Some articles on hunting with ML shotguns and pistols have been printed, but precious little has appeared on the big rifles.

As an ex-Border Patrol officer gone Immigrant Inspector, I'm always interested in articles by Askins, Toney, Skelton etc. These boys know whereof they speak concerning the Southwest and their stories on the Mexican border country are colorful and authentic.

David J. Saunders
Fort Kent, Maine

We envy you the trip! Send the article along; we'll be glad to consider it.—Editor

Stop and Think

Some twelve years ago, when I was in Alaska, I became very interested in shooting (not hunting; I let Kansas City slaughter my steaks for me). In the past several years, I've become more and more concerned by the short-sighted and erroneous attitudes of the anti-shooting cult.

I am presently serving with the United States Air Force in Africa. I still don't kill for sport, but I still love to shoot as much as I did when I was a 19-year-old kid in Alaska. I have observed first-hand the fact that the people in the Middle East and Africa do not have as much individual liberty in many ways as we do as Americans. One of the things that few private citizens can own is a firearm of any description—

and many of them (Africans, particularly) are living in the World's most famous Big Game Hunter's paradise. It makes one stop and think. . . .

I am a member of the *National Rifle Association*; and I am enclosing my check for \$10.00 to join the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. All I want for my \$10.00 is the membership card, and the assurance that is being done to save whatever is left of the second amendment to the Constitution.

Bruce W. Pollica
APO, New York

No Behrens Guns For Sale

Somehow, we left the impression that Henry Behrens was still actively making guns for other people. I have spent hours and hours answering letters which were very nearly valid orders for custom gun work.

Please print something in the letters column about this, to head off any more letters.

The most popular item was Henry's .22 over .45 pistol; then his .22 side-by-side double pistol. A number of people wanted one kind and another of combination long arms. Letters came from as far as Northern Rhodesia, but Tennessee led all the rest.

Anyway, Henry Behrens is not taking in new custom work at the present time, and none of his guns are for sale.

Ken Warner
Sarasota, Florida

Collector

Just a short letter of appreciation for your fine magazine and the articles and information that it contains. I especially enjoyed the article on Mr. Chappel who happens to be a personal friend. That man is a wizard with guns despite his age. I can shoot too, but not in his class.

I have been a Deputy Sheriff for going on 12 years, but thank goodness I have never been called on to use my skill with firearms. Several years back, I started to collect guns and now have somewhere between 70 and 80 in my collection. They range from a restored wheel lock to Remington frontiers. I have quite a few Winchesters, Marlins, Sharps, Springfields, Harper Ferry's, and some that are not identified. Have several historical guns, as a S & W marked with W F & Co. Ex., and one Merwin & Hulbert with State of Kansas markings that the Kansas State Historical Soc. is unable to identify. This is why I am interested in all the information I can get to help identify some of the treasures I have accumulated, and I believe your departments will be able to help us small collectors.

M. C. Forester,
Pueblo, Colo.

Chicken?

Regarding Col. Charles Askins's "Learn to shoot offhand!" (*March, 1963*) I heartily agree with Askins that for a shooter to decline offhand shooting at all times means passing up some mighty fine rifery, but it seems to me that the good colonel then proceeds to line up behind that my-way-is-best-and-every-other-way-is-wrong group.

When the hunter has the time and opportunity to assume a more steady position and blasts away standing on his tippy toes anyway, merely to demonstrate what a he-man he is, he may well find that his ego is all

that gets fed. Or, in the case of the combat soldier, his widow may have to find another less manly but more lively male to feed the kids.

As for the Army's "whumped up" squatting position, its sole purpose is to afford the smallest possible target to the enemy while firing from ground contaminated with chemicals or radioactivity. When used properly, this position is far more steady than the unsupported offhand. Also having had a round or two pitched at me, I sure appreciate a pitching-back stance showing as little of me as possible! Chicken? Maybe, but healthier.

Charles L. Nottingham
Moore, Montana

He Likes The .25RF

I read with interest your article (*April, 1963*) about and in collaboration with Mr. Willard B. Chappel. (Not the first article I've ever read of yours, by a long shot. I still have articles of yours, written in the thirties, about the much-neglected .25 calibers.) In the case of the obsolete .25 RF, I couldn't agree with you more. My grandfather had a heavy-barrel Stevens pistol with special sights for his old eyes, with which he downed all local species of small game—and, to tell the truth, an occasional deer! I used to shoot a Stevens Ideal in the matches, and won quite a bit of money with it. And we used to have a neighbor, a Swedish homesteader, who had a Marlin pumpstick chambered for it who used to say, "Well, it does cost twice so much a box as .22s, but I hardly effer haff to shoot twice."

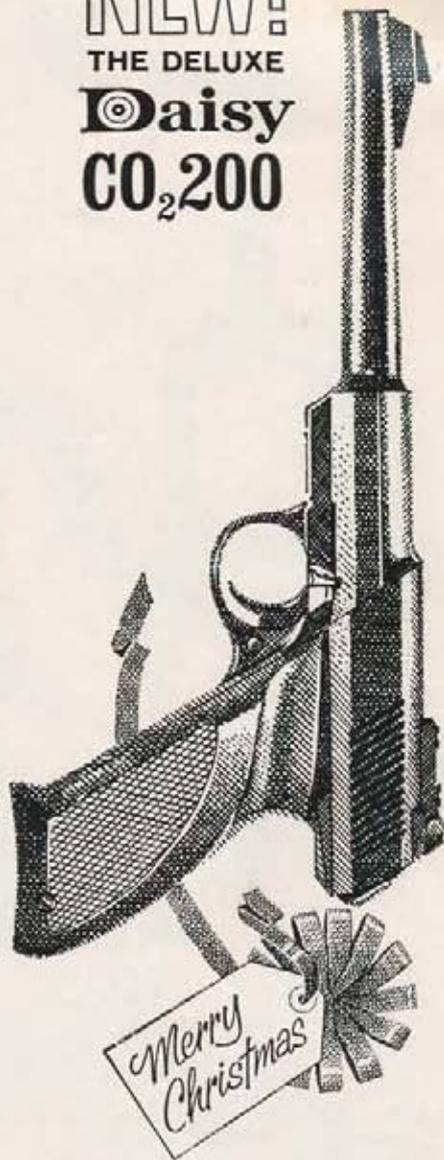
I really wish that the companies had revived that caliber instead of the .22 WRF Magnum. I like the new Magnum, but with the HP bullet, in a rifle, it is too destructive on edible game. In the pistols, it is just about right. The only .22 I really care about is the .22 WRF Hi-Speed with solid lead bullet. The new .22 Maggie in a pistol just about matches the ballistics of the .22 WRF Hi-Speed in a rifle. For that let us be thankful.

However, I have my own approach to the problem. I am building a .25 Luger, which is simply a necked-down .30 Luger with 17-inch twist, (just as the old .25 Stevens used), and with a cup-based 67-gr. lead bullet. It will possibly have just slightly more velocity than the old .25 Stevens load. The Luger's extra-long sight is fine for accuracy, and the popular idea that one cannot get a decent trigger pull on a Luger is just another myth. I know that I can, and so has Mr. Vickery, of Boise, Idaho, a Luger specialist. The gun is not yet finished, but I expect performance equal to, if not superior to, the old Stevens pistols, plus a repeating action, which is certain to be a help to a person who is getting old and shaky as I am.

I also constructed a cartridge which was simply the .22 Hornet expanded to take the same 67-gr. lead bullet. Oddly enough, the powder capacity was almost identical to the old .25 RF with its thinner case. Ideal revolver fodder, and it could be good in some of the fine old single-shot actions—but I like auto pistols. I don't want a noisy Magnum which blows a grouse into hamburger; any of our good varmint calibers will do that. I do, however, want clean kills, which the .22LR will not consistently give.

Jack G. Horsfall
Nashville, Oregon

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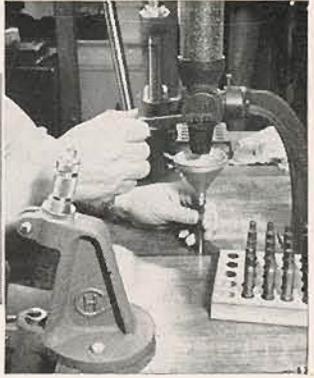
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH



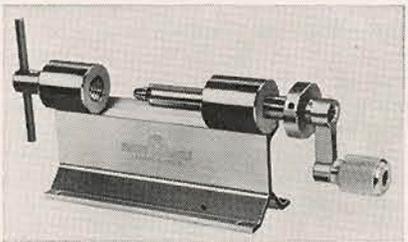
Case Conditioning

Poor loading practice and equipment accounts for most sub-standard reloads. For tighter groups use one make and lot of cases. Dimensions affect accuracy, and under certain conditions, safety. New cases don't give the same center of impact as fired ones from the same lot. Groups change as cases are fired more times. We use new cases to work up top loads, as pressure runs a bit higher. Fired cases give better accuracy, and we can hold the length and neck thickness to closer dimensions than the factory.

Very common is the failure to keep cases trimmed to uniform length, and necks reamed, or turned, to proper dimensions. This can result in high pressure with normal loads. It may be a contributing factor in detonations with light charges of single-base powders, although this theory has not been proved. It isn't good loading practice to use extremely light charges of slow, single-base powders, or over charges with any powder. It's good practice to keep every component as uniform as possible.

Maximum case dimensions are in the Speer and Lyman manuals. Actual case length is not too important if it's uniform and not over maximum. Cases such as the .45 ACP, that headspaces on the length, may give poor ignition if trimmed too much. Listed at .898 maximum, about .890 cleans up most hulls. A non-uniform length gives erratic ignition.

The Forster Precision Case Trimmer is a



miniature machine shop for all case conditioning and hollow pointing bullets. You can trim at the rate of over 600 hulls per hour, holding dimensions under .001 for real precision. Here are tips for obtaining the ultimate efficiency from this very versatile tool.

It can be screwed to the right hand end of a bench, with the handle extending. It's best screwed to a 3" x 6" board, that can be held in a vise, or screwed on your bench at any convenient location, or even on the wall if your space is limited. A dime store No. 18 rubber furniture tip pressed over the crank, and 1 1/4" lengths of rubber or plastic hose pressed over the collet handles makes it easier to use for long runs. Windshield wiper

hose, lubed with glycerine is good for collet handles. The new "L" shaped bed, far better than the old "Y" type, is handier to operate. The new short screws eliminate removing the trimmer from a bench or board to adjust the collet housing or cutter bearing. They hold these vital parts in perfect alignment, necessary for accuracy.

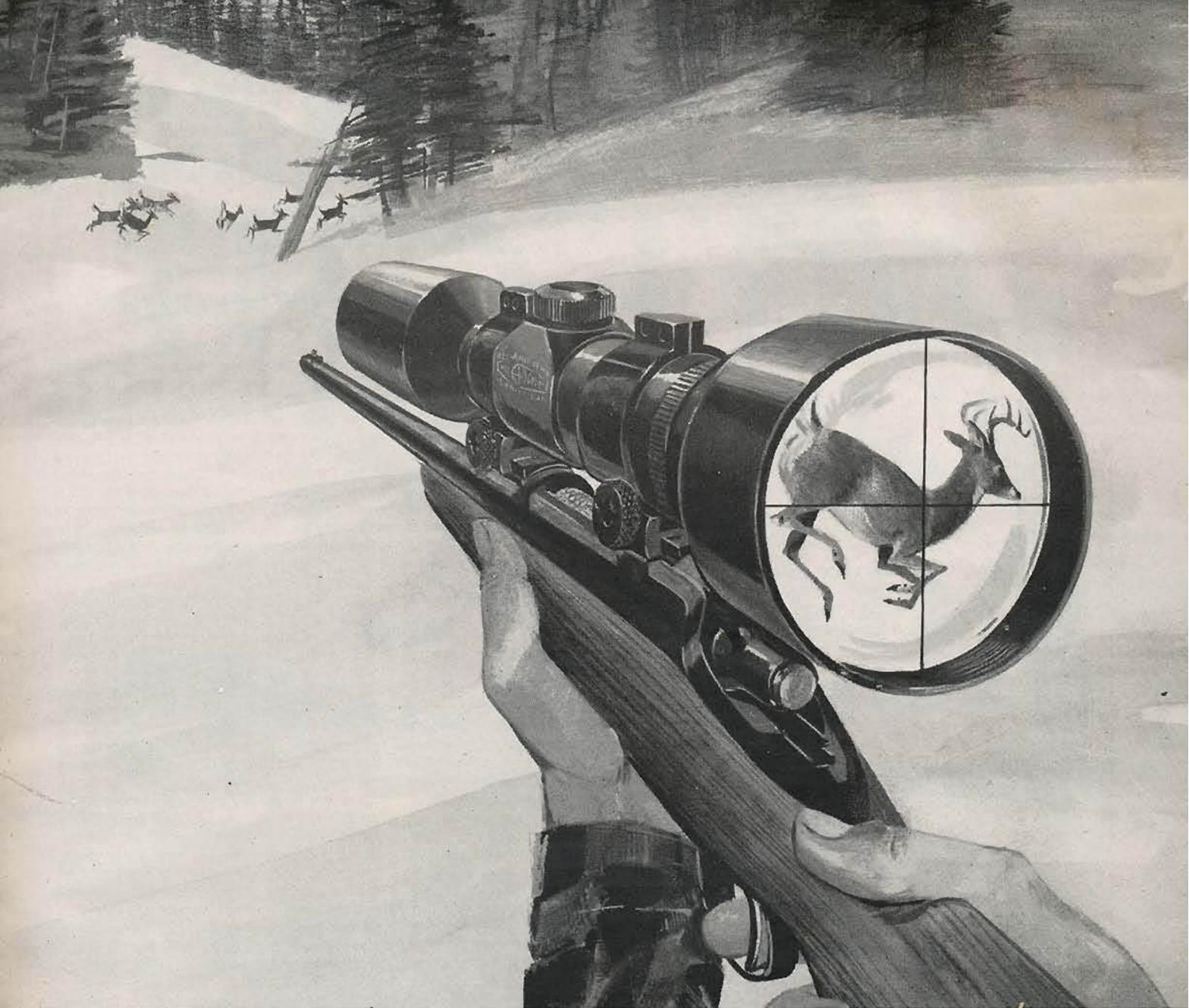
If you load in fairly large volume, or for several cartridges, it's real convenient to keep one or more trimmers set up for cases used in volume, and one trimmer to adjust for different calibers and operations. We have seven at present. Cutters trim many tens of thousands of cases before they need sharpening or replacement, and I've never worn one out! If a cutter gets dull on one caliber, such as .45 steel cases, it's good as new for all other calibers. The hardened steel bearings should never wear out if kept lightly oiled. Brass cuttings don't have to be brushed off the tool. It's simple and sturdy for real precision work.

To set the trimmer, chuck a fired, unsized case in the collet. Lightly press the cutter shaft against the mouth. Lock the stop collar to contact the bearing, and back out the fine adjustment screw about 1/4 turn. This crude adjustment is approximately right for most once-fired cases. It's better to use a Forster Case Length & Headspace Gauge to trim to minimum length, for accuracy. Far more important, it checks vital headspace, that is more often incorrect due to the case than the gun. It's especially desirable for rimless cases.

Factory cases vary greatly in length. Max for .38 Special brass is 1.155". They run about 1.140 to 1.158. We trim to 1.142, which cleans up nearly all hulls. Shorter ones are discarded. Hot rifle cases, such as a .220 Swift (2.210" max) stretch rapidly. We trim to 2.205, and gauge after each firing. It's good practice for hot-shots such as the .243, .264, and .30 Magnums.

Inspect case mouths after trimming and before deburring for uniform wall thickness. Visually examine several cases at a time. Your eye is fairly accurate on fresh cut brass in good light. Bench resters use a wall thickness mike in four positions around the necks. L. E. Wilson, Box 324, Cashmere, Washington, has them at \$30. You can make one from an old 1/2" or 1" mike. Cut off the anvil and solder on one made from an 8d finishing nail, and zero the mike. It's the variation that counts rather than the actual thickness of cases or bullet jackets. Visual case inspection is good enough for all normal shooting. Excessive wall variation causes large groups and flyers.

(Continued on page 62)



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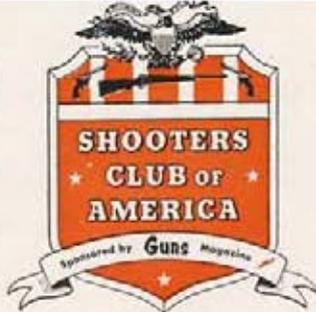


- 1 Proof-tested steel barrels. Choice of 12, 16, 20 or .410 gauge.
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SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

VALUABLE FIREARMS PRODUCTS GIVEN AWAY FREE!

Early in the spring of this year, GUNS Magazine announced its brand new SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA. Response from all over the country has exceeded our every expectation. Membership is growing by leaps and bounds. Thousands of gun enthusiasts have welcomed the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA with instant support and high praise.

In the beginning, we stated our aims as follows: to promote more fun for more people in more shooting; to build a better "climate" in which to enjoy the finest family of participation sports in the world; to help you shoot and hunt better... and, to defend your right to keep and use your guns—for sport and for defense.

The reception given us to date convinces us there is a vast potential for the SHOOTERS CLUB. That is why we have embarked on this all-out membership drive. You'll surely want to participate, because valuable firearms and accessory products will be given away free for signing up new members.

Here is a golden opportunity to select from a star-studded line up of finest quality rifles, shotguns, handguns, scopes, reloading tools, firearms accessories, books, club jewelry, and other valuable items from some of the top manufacturers in the industry.

Whatever you want... whatever you need to enjoy greater shooting pleasure, you can get it free by participating in this all-out drive to build the SHOOTERS CLUB.

But beyond the valuable free prizes, you benefit in several other ways. First, a larger SHOOTERS CLUB membership will provide you with more services and privileges—a bigger GUNS Magazine, more facts, more information, increased field testing reports. Secondly, when you help build the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA you are helping to combat anti-gun legislation; you are defending your right to use and enjoy guns—promoting more shooting, greater enjoyment of the shooting sports; and, you're helping us create a better public image of guns and of shooting through favorable as against unfavorable publicity. You enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are doing your part to make the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA a powerful force for the millions of gun users all over the country.

All members are invited to join in this effort. Non-members can participate by joining up now. Tell your gun friends and acquaintances all about the many practical and worthwhile benefits the SHOOTERS CLUB has to offer. Emphasize the need for every gun sportsman to participate—to help preserve their right to use and enjoy guns. Write us for promotional material and application forms to distribute at local club meetings. Keep a record of the names you submit. We will

maintain a file in our office for verification. When you are ready to order your prize, send us a copy of all those you have signed up. If you are an officer in a local gun club, perhaps your group is in need of some new facility. By participating in the SHOOTERS CLUB membership drive, you can get these valuable prizes without depleting the Club treasury. And if there is some specific product your Club could use—whatever it is, even cash—let us know about it and we'll tell you how many new members you need to recruit to get it.

Right now, the important thing is to promote the SHOOTERS CLUB wherever you go. Display your Club decal, wear the official brassard on the shooting range, while hunting. Invite questions and discussion.

The SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA was formed as a strong new force, not to supplant or compete with existing groups, but to join with and strengthen all the forces that exist for the promotion of more shooting and greater shooting enjoyment.

Not enough can be done to combat ill-informed restrictive gun legislation. It is only through united, organized action that we can preserve our right to use and enjoy guns. Within the past few months the SHOOTERS CLUB has mailed thousands of cards warning and urging gun sportsmen to take action against bad gun legislation threatened in their states or communities. Similar mailings would have gone to various other areas had we been notified that they were needed.

We have been in touch with every member of the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives on matters of firearms legislation. Their stand is reported every month in our "Know Your Lawmakers" column.

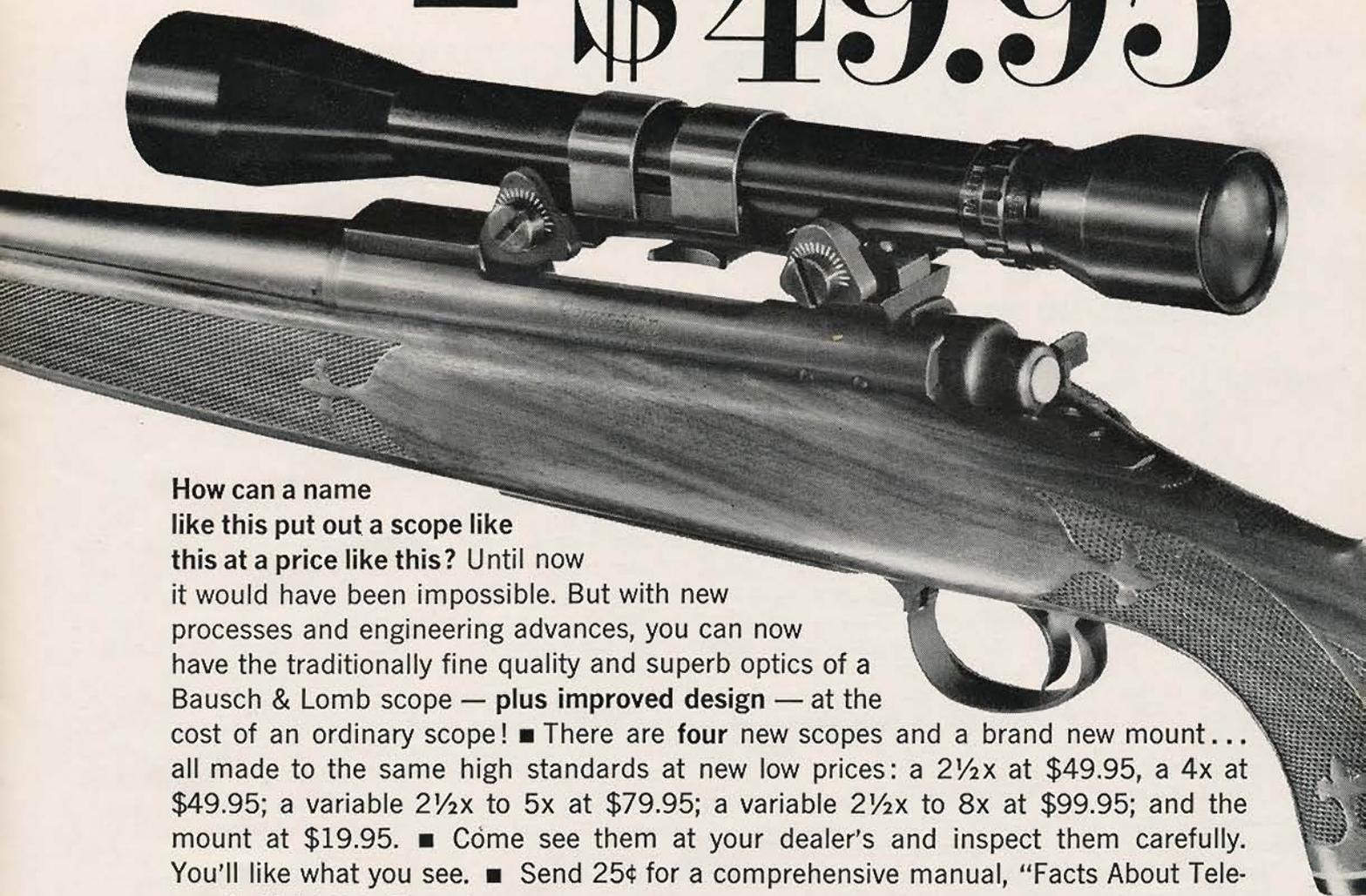
The SHOOTERS CLUB Newsletter is loaded with timely news items of anti-gun legislation and practical advice on what each individual can do to fight it.

More and more action is being planned and will develop as the SHOOTERS CLUB grows in strength and numbers. You are the man who is needed—you and your millions of like-minded gun owners and shooting sportsmen.

If you are already a member, start your own personal campaign drive now to build the SHOOTERS CLUB. If you haven't as yet joined, do it now!

Use the handy application form on page 59 of this issue. We'll send you all the Shooters Club credentials and other material you're entitled to, plus complete information on prizes and application forms so you can start signing up new members right away. Do it now! The SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA is in this fight to stay—and win. We ask you to help us.

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BAUSCH & LOMB





Armored cars constantly patrol Brandenburg Gate and a fully armed Vopo is stationed at Wall where two made escape by crashing truck through wall.

Guns of the VoPos



RUMORS NOTWITHSTANDING, EAST GERMAN POLICE ARE BEING ARMED WITH THE LATEST RUSSIAN GUNS, EQUAL TO THE BEST

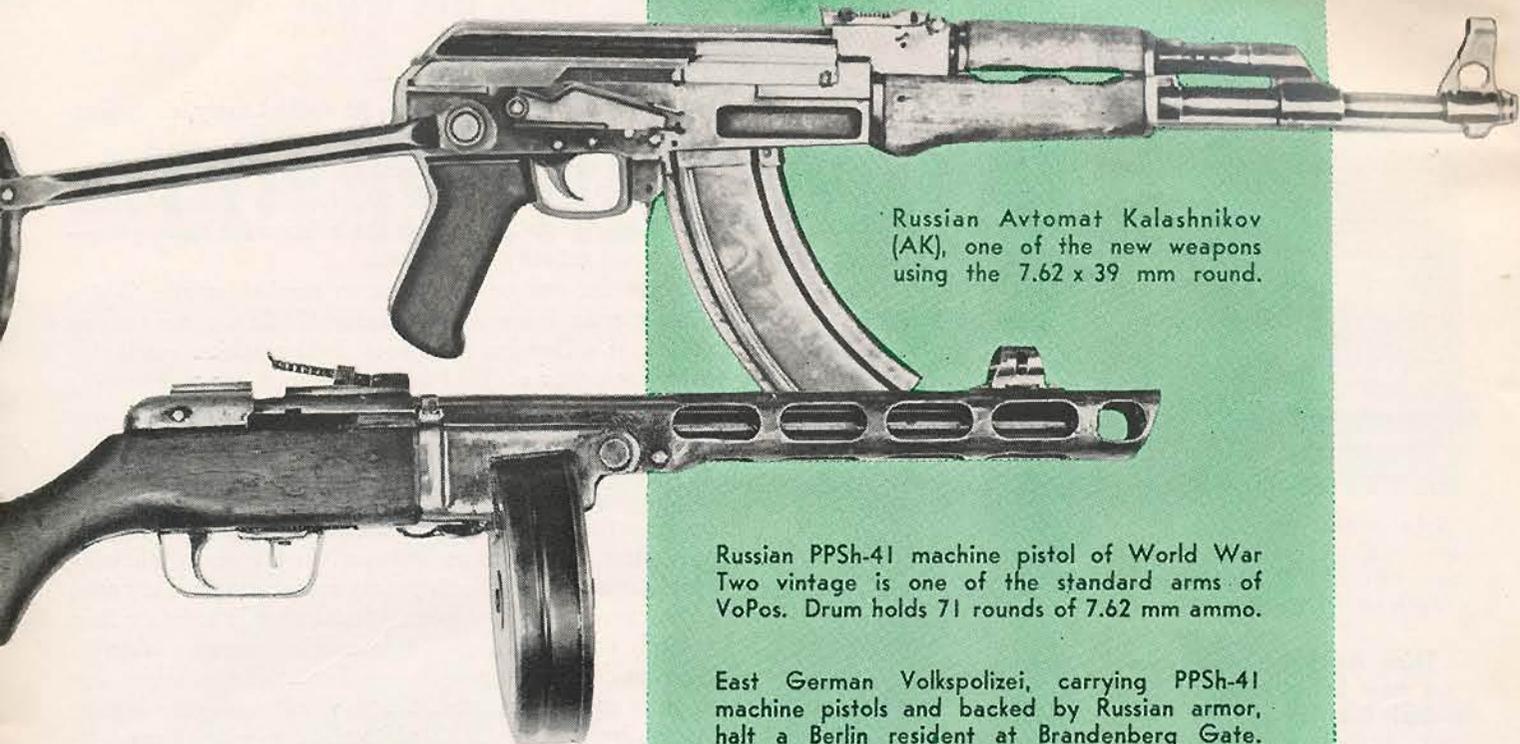
By JOHN F. ARNOLD

SINCE the building of the wall which divides East and West Berlin, the East German Volkspolizei, (called "The VoPos") have become increasingly prominent in European events. Almost daily in the year and a half of the "Wall's" existence, the major newspapers of the world have headlined their activities. Accompanying newsphotos have shown them to be armed in most instances, but the interesting part is that, until recently, these photos seldom showed a standardization of the weapons with which they were equipped.

The East German forces are not necessarily well equipped troops. Up to about 1958, they were issued, almost without exception, leftover small arms from the Second World War. Many of these were German weapons; bolt-action Mauser K.98k's, Luger and P.38 pistols, MG-42's, etc. Some, such as the PPSH-41, PPS-43, and Degtyarov, were Russian automatic weapons. In fact, just about everything capable of functioning properly and that could be found behind the

Iron Curtain was put into the hands of the "VoPos." Most were entirely satisfactory arms, the best examples of both German and Russian ingenuity throughout World War Two. Some were less desirable, but *all* were capable of performing the task to which they were set. They had killing power.

My first personal contact with a "VoPo" was in the summer of 1956 during a visit to Berlin. While on a U. S. Government guided tour of the Russian "Garden of Sorrow," the huge war memorial situated in East Berlin, I noted that the majority of people on the streets were in uniform. Most of these were "VoPos," though a goodly number of Russian troops were in evidence. The latter were usually in groups of squad strength, being transported hither and yon in light troop-carrying vehicles. At that time, these Soviet troops were armed with their old World War Two weapons: Mossin-Nagant bolt-action rifles, Tokarev pistols, and Nagant revolvers.



Russian Avtomat Kalashnikov (AK), one of the new weapons using the 7.62 x 39 mm round.

Russian PPSH-41 machine pistol of World War Two vintage is one of the standard arms of VoPos. Drum holds 71 rounds of 7.62 mm ammo.

East German Volkspolizei, carrying PPSH-41 machine pistols and backed by Russian armor, halt a Berlin resident at Brandenburg Gate.



VoPos

Upon our arrival at the memorial, I noticed a "VoPo" casually guarding the large central structure. What I noticed most, however, was that he was wearing a typical leather holster for the German Luger pistol. Curious, I approached him and asked him, in German, if it was indeed a Luger, or "Parabellum," which he was wearing. The surprise on his face turned almost immediately to some-

thing else and, without a word, he walked away, disappearing around the corner of the edifice.

Later, I saw that almost every guard carried either a Luger or P.38, with one or two Russian Tokarev pistols thrown in. At least, they wore the holsters for those guns—I never did actually see a pistol.

Except for one or two German semi-automatic G-43's, all long arms I saw were Mauser K.98k's. I caught one glimpse of a Russian Degtyarov light machine gun being tended by a pair of "VoPos" as our tour bus was nearing the checkpoint, headed back for West Berlin. And that was about it.

That brief encounter with the Luger-toting "VoPo" at the Russian War Memorial was the bug that bit me, and from that time on I have tried to learn as much as possible about these East German weapons. In the years following my 1956 visit to East Berlin, many rumors reached my ears, some true, others completely false, but all interesting. Probably due to the hush-hush security measures taken by all Soviet dominated peoples, good information concerning the arms and armament of the "VoPos" was quite difficult to come by. This only added to my curiosity. I carefully watched the newspapers and especially the television newscasts for the slightest clue to any change in the ordinary pattern of Luger, Mauser rifle, and other weapons I had already established as being standardized among the East Germans.

The rumor which was most difficult to believe, though constantly bandied about, was one which indicated that Luger pistols were being manufactured or assembled from leftover Wartime parts in the Eastern zone of Germany, most probably in the famous arms center of Suhl in the Thuringian forests. But try as I did, these rumors remained just that; rumors. Friends returned from trips to Germany and other European countries always bearing the same old story, and always with the same, monotonous lack of even the slightest shred of evidence. I had pretty well made up my mind that this was wishful thinking on the part of the many hundreds of collectors who would actually like to believe that new Luger pistols were available somewhere in the world, even if it was East Germany. But I had learned that where there is smoke there is almost always fire, and I refused to discount the Luger rumors completely, though not ready to accept them as fact until I had some more tangible proof.

It was about this time that the first of the new Russian family of small arms began to pop up and come increasingly into prominence. A photo in the papers of a guard at the Russian Embassy in East Berlin armed with the first I'd noted of the Avtomat Kalashnikov immediately aroused my interest. Then came photos and newsreels of East Germans with the trim semi-automatic Siminov "SKS-46" rifles and, here and there, the new Russian "RPD" light machine gun. All three of the new arms were chambered for the "new" Russian assault rifle cartridge, the 7.62 x 39 mm Model of 1943, originally introduced in the SKS-46 and later in the Kalashnikov ("AK") and RPD.

It seemed obvious that the Russians were in the process of rearming the East Germans with the latest of Russian weapons—and fine weapons they (*Continued on page 43*)



Third Reich Luger in caliber 9 mm is now being re-issued to VoPos in East Germany. Note unusual grips.



Russian Tokarev pistol (TT-33), caliber 7.62, was noted on several of the East German VoPos.



Soviet military double action automatic, the Makarov, Model MP, chambered for cartridge slightly over 9 mm.

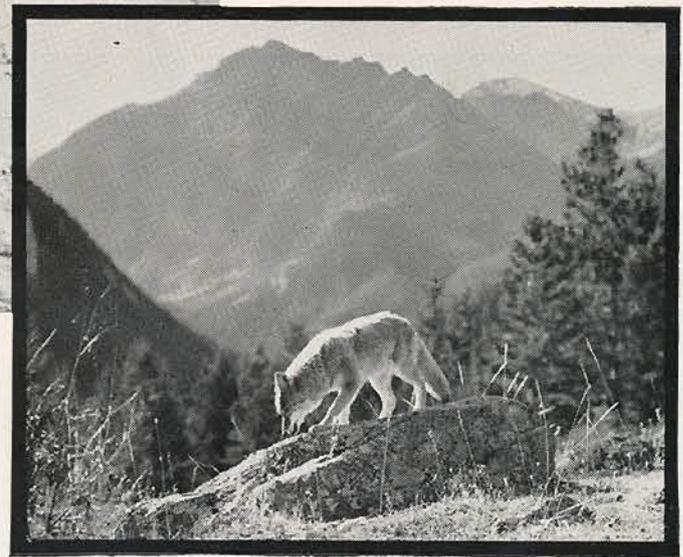
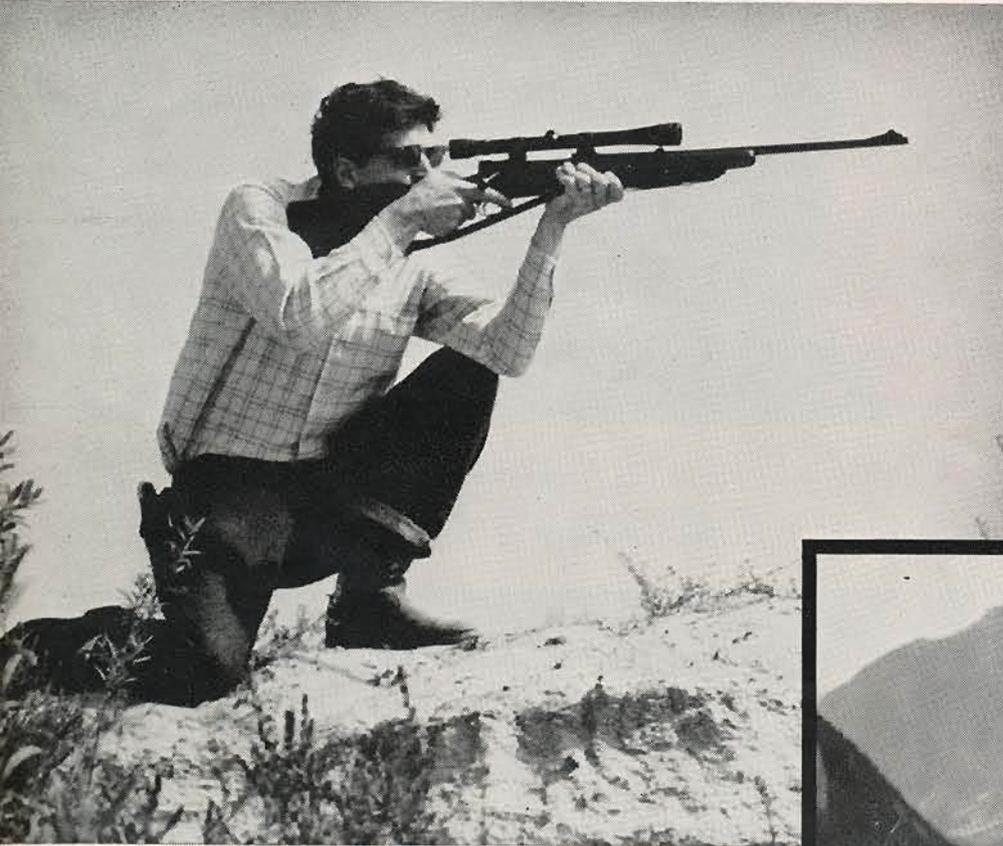
TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM — AS ONE OF
THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST TARGETS!

COY IS THE COYOTE



Howling coyotes make night music in the West, but are seldom seen close, and not very often in the daylight.

Author, with a scope mounted rifle, hopes for clear, fast shot at the elusive coyote, shown here busy on the scent.



By CLOYD SORENSEN, Jr.

NO OTHER VARMINT—or big game animal either, for that matter—can provide more of a match of wits for the hunter than the cunning and evasive coyote. Hunted, trapped, poisoned and cursed as a destructive predator, he has adjusted surprisingly well to the pressures piled upon him, and to the hardships of modern civilization. In many areas, his numbers are actually on the increase.

Opinions vary as to the coyote's actual worth. One rancher, who lets me hunt game on his property, won't allow coyotes to be shot under any conditions. Another rancher I know wants them exterminated. There is no doubt that the coyote keeps the fast-multiplying rodents under good control, thus saving the rancher a lot of money from the tremendous amount of crop damage that results from an over-population of hungry rodents.

Hard, fast-running shots at Mr. Coyote, often at 400 yards, are the rule, and for that reason a hunter should not go after him undergunned. In the Southwest, he is often seen in open country, and a flat-shooting, wind-bucking cartridge is in order. I have found the .270 Winchester,

pushing out a 130-grain bronze-point bullet, a superb coyote-buster.

The hot .22s are in good favor with coyote shooters, and fine rifles such as the .222 Remington, .243 Winchester, .244 Remington, and .220 Swift probably top the list as good coyote-stoppers, followed by a Heinz variety of super wildcats, such as the .250 Donaldson.

A high-powered scope with as much light-gathering power as you can get is a must when gunning for the coyote. I would suggest no power less than 6X, and no more than 10X, as practical. Since most coyote shooting is done in early and late hours, you need all the light you can pull. As for scope reticles, the most popular cross hair, or cross hair with range finder, (Continued on page 51)

"Lady Luck— Save One For Teacher!"

By Bert Popowski



Above: I compliment "Bill" on her dandy buck, wondering how tasty it would be. Below: Jerry passed up a number of nice racks until he found the five-pointer he wanted.



IT'S A SORRY DAY WHEN AN OLD PRO FAILS BEFORE HIS PUPILS . . . BUT EVEN THE LONGEST WORM WILL TURN

THERE ARE YEARS like that. One member of a hunting party can't buy the sight of legal antlers, while his companions are constantly sighting splendid hat-racks, attached to gorgeous hunks of venison. The sorry part is that it was I, the veteran hunter, who was the fall guy in this hunting comedy, while hunting companions I'd trained made me look like a novice.

We were three: Willella Herbert—"Bill" for short—the hardworking neighbor gal who tends my mail when I'm off on a hunting, fishing or writing jaunt; Jerry, my younger son, who spent every weekend during the hunting season in our company, carrying a full college study load between hunts; and ill-starred me, bumbling around every place except where the bucks were.

It began early. The second day of the season, Jerry and I had separated, planning to swing left and right and then back to where Bill was on stand. But, when we saw her, Bill's Sako was leaning against a tree and she was enjoying a cigarette.

"Now that's a hell of a way to hunt deer!" I remonstrated. "Smoking on stand, and with your rifle plumb out of reach!"

Bill looked hurt. "I saw only one buck—over thataway." She pointed, indicating a jackpine thicket maybe 100 yards away.

"Did you get a shot at him?" I demanded.

"Only one," Bill admitted.

It was open country and I walked straight into the trap.

"Why didn't you whack away at him?" I asked.

Bill really harpooned me. "Why?" she demanded. "There was only one buck!"

I might have known. When we got to the jackpine thicket there lay the buck, the third one of her career, and our first of the current season. He was a husky four-pointer, and Bill had laid him out very neatly with a center-of-the-lungs hit.

During the rest of that weekend, Bill and I concentrated on putting a buck within range of Jerry's Model 70 Featherweight .308, scoped with a Weaver K-V—a scope now obsolete. But the boy was choosy. He passed up a forkhorn, then a buck with a very small rack, and wound up the weekend with his hunting tag still unfilled.

During the following weekend, we hunted a new area each day, working toward the limestone benches where minerals in the soil and plants tend to produce somewhat larger whitetails. Locally dubbed "The Lime," that country is regularly buried deep in snow in winter, and deer that summer there—bucks to grow their hatracks, and does to bear their fawns in seldom-disturbed and food-rich haunts—regularly migrate to lower elevations as colder weather comes on. We meant to intercept that migration to have a choice of the two bucks we needed.

Jerry connected late that second weekend. Bill and I had worked out a half-dozen thickets, working slowly about 60 yards apart, and had stopped for a blow at the foot of a draw that led toward the notch which Jerry was covering. The shot half-lifted me off the log on which we were resting. It seemed much nearer than the 200 yards where Jerry was placed. So I was instantly on my feet, watching for a buck that might break back toward us. But I stood there for some minutes without glimpsing a sign of anything.

Then Jerry showed up, easing along behind his ready rifle. He moved so carefully that I stayed in place, until there was not the least chance of a buck being hidden between us. Jerry saw us as we started to move up the notch toward him, but it was five minutes before we joined forces.

"Get him?" I murmured.

"Yep, I think so," he said, flashing a grin. "I had a dandy hold, and heard the bullet 'whump.' Then he buck-jumped and came this way."

For a few minutes, I had misgivings. It's unusual for a hard-hit buck to go up a slope. Bullet-tagged bucks usually turn to level going and, most frequently, slant down-hill. Yet certainly no buck had come past us since Jerry's shot.

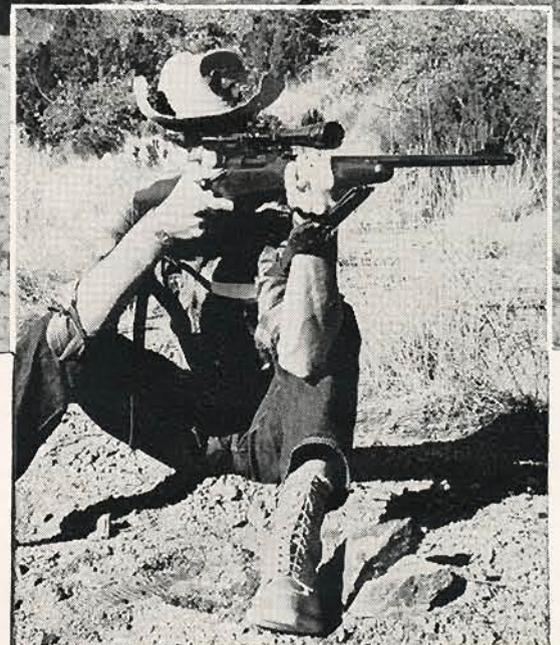
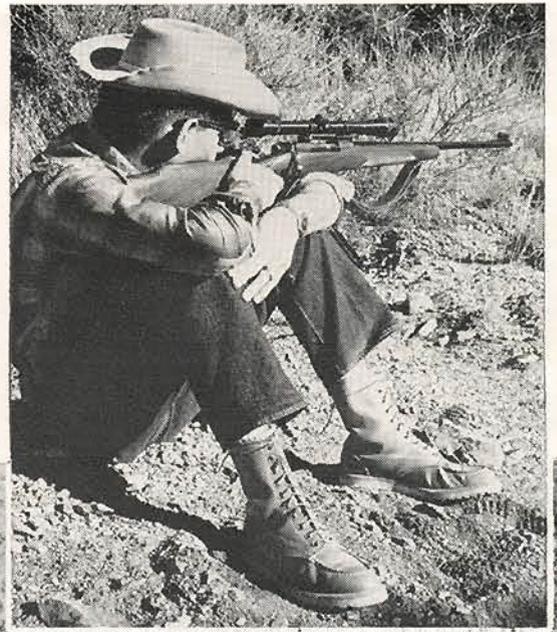
"Let's start from where you shot him," I suggested. (Continued on page 52)



Jerry's five-pointer is admired by "Bill." She proudly poses with her buck, a dandy four-pointer (below).



Sit Down and Shoot For Better Big Game Scores



**THE SITTING POSITION GIVES YOU A STEADY
HOLD, ADJUSTS TO SUIT THE TERRAIN,
EVEN LETS YOU SWING FOR RUNNING SHOTS**



The various styles of the sitting position are shown on facing page. Whichever you choose, it should be the most comfortable for you. Author's son (above) sits for a long range shot at a prairie dog.



Properly adjusted sling, tight and high on left arm, assures rock-steady hold.

By BOB KINDLEY

A WELL-ROUNDED big game shot must be able to adapt himself to a situation and shoot *accurately* from *all* positions. However, the sitting position is one of the most flexible, handiest, and probably the most used position the rifleman will use in the field. Seldom is there a situation where there isn't time to "park your fanny" and shoot. Jump shooting in brushy country is an exception; but even the deer hunter in heavy cover will often find it to his advantage to use the sitting position to see *under and through* intervening brush.

I learned the value of a good sitting position on my first antelope hunt. My permit was for the big T O spread, just east of Raton, New Mexico. The south pasture, where I hunted, was broken up into a series of flat, table-top mesas, I parked the station wagon at the base of one of these, and started to climb. Just as I topped out, three evenly spaced shots sounded off to my right. A moment later, a nice buck antelope came busting by at about 150 yards, running easily at the rear of his harem of three, not too alarmed, plump does.

I flipped the safety off the .257 Roberts, and dropped into a quick sitting position. The buck didn't seem to be running very hard, so I put the pointed post about two feet ahead of his brisket and, swinging with him, squeezed the trigger. This was my first antelope and I sure misjudged his speed. The 117 grain Sierra boat-tail kicked up dust at least two feet behind his rear end.

When the rifle cracked, the buck slipped into another gear and ran as only a spooked antelope can. I racked another shell into the chamber, caught him in the scope, increased my lead to at least two full lengths, and sent another slug on its way. A satisfying "whock" indicated a solid hit. I had my pronghorn.

Both of these shots were taken from a good sitting position, the same as that taught by the military. On the running shot, I swung with the buck as easily as if standing, and the rifle was a lot steadier.

Except for shooting prone or over a rest, a good sitting position is one of the steadiest the rifleman can use. If the shot can be taken prone or with a rest, by all means do so. However, the opportunity to use either doesn't present itself as often as does the sitting position.

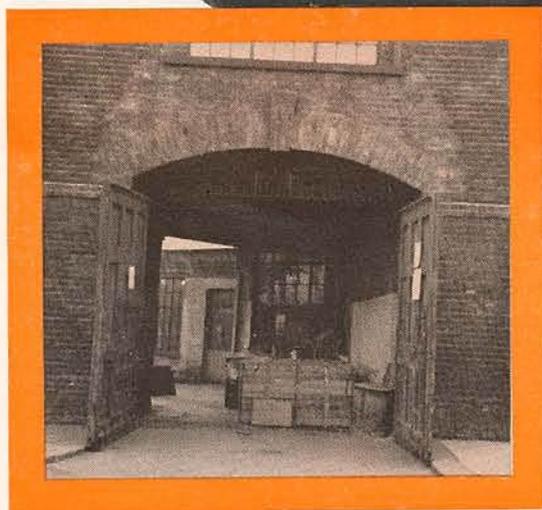
In my years of big game hunting, I've used the prone position to shoot two antelope. Both shots were taken under ideal conditions. On the other hand I've used the sitting position to collect two other antelope, several mule deer, and a lot of big black-tailed jackrabbits, clobbered at long range by using the sitting position and picking them off when they stopped. Sitting was the only way to get the rifle high enough to clear the sage between me and the bunnies.

Since the sitting position is the one the big game hunter will use most in the field, he should study it carefully. Practice is necessary to be able to drop into it without taking the eyes off the target. The hunter must be able to park his fanny, roll forward to support his arms on his legs, and squeeze off a shot in the minimum time. Only a lot of practice will perfect this technique. When still hunting, the rifleman should sit so that he can get into and shoot from a steady sitting position with a minimum of effort. My rifle usually rests across my knees so that I can ease it to my shoulder with very little tell-tale movement that could spook game.

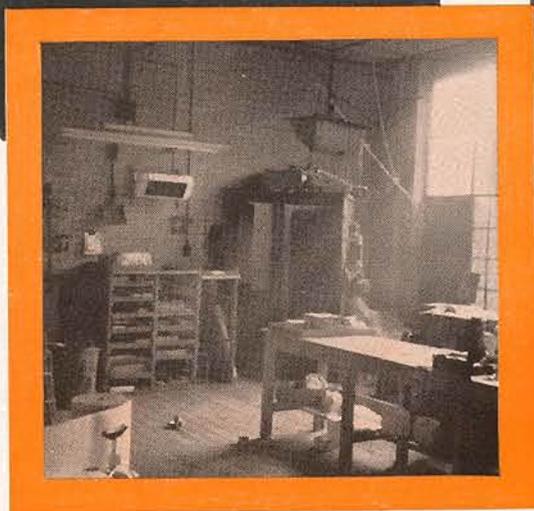
One of the best and probably the most familiar sitting position is that taught by the military. In this version, the rifleman sits with his body (Continued on page 49)

109 Years Ago—

WHEN COLT'S WAS IN LONDON...



Old Colt factory in London and the gateway to plant are still being used today. Long gone are many of the rooms and WW II fire damage is still apparent in the building.



By JOSEPH G. ROSA

I HAVE A Navy Colt on which is stamped those words so familiar to collectors, ADDRESS COL. COLT LONDON. I love the old gun, and not long ago a friend and I took it home, back to the place in which it was made 109 years ago—to Colt's London Armoury, in Bessborough Place, Vauxhall Bridge, Millbank, London.

A Saturday quiet enwrapped the massive old building as we approached it. The few passersby, lacking the pressure of weekday hustle and bustle, paused to watch our antics with our cameras, their faces eloquent of that amused but benevolent tolerance with which Londoners witness human

foibles. Even the present occupants of the building itself were startled. "Colt?" said the company director's secretary. "Good heavens! We have heard that the place was once an armoury, but—was it Colt's?" But metalcraft still lives here—our hosts were a famous firm of makers of surgical instruments—and permission was freely given to explore and take pictures.

The building still retains its original gateway, through which Sam Colt walked daily on his business rounds. Above it are the same grim-looking windows, set in dark, soot-grimed brickwork.

Inside the gate is a courtyard, littered with packing cases, little changed from the Colt days. A rusty iron staircase and external piping are probably more recent, but the same stone steps that Colt must have climbed still link three floors—the original wooden handrail mostly gone (burned out in the World War II blitz), but even the replacement sleek and dark with age. Some rebuilding was necessary following the blitz, and one section—apparently that which once extended riverward and carried on its roof the boldly white-lettered legend, "COL. COLT'S PATENT FIRE-ARMS" (visible in the old contemporary print)—had to be completely demolished. But the rest is pretty much as it was.

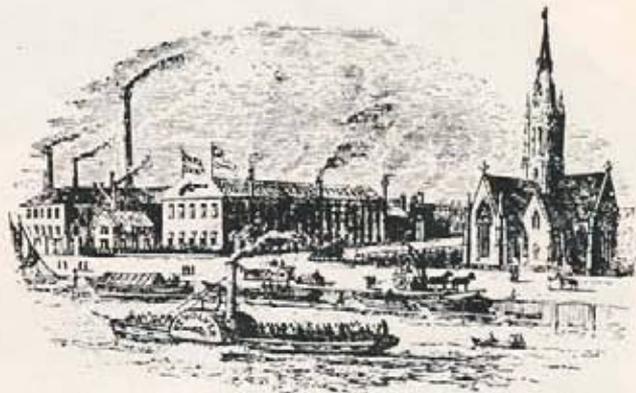
The factory is actually some distance from the river Thames, separated by a road and several warehouses, although the old print gives the impression it is set on the bank. This print does not show the block of flats between the church (Holy Trinity, razed along with many other buildings during the blitz) and the factory.

We walked down to the basement (what there is left of it) to see where the steam engine had been. Here, in Colt's time, a 30 horse-power engine toiled daily "in the hot suffocating smell of rank oil down in the little stone chamber." At least that's how Charles Dickens recalled it in an article in *Household Words* for May 27th, 1854; but on the occasion of our visit the "little stone chamber" was blocked up by a confusion of old sacks, and its aroma was not the same.

Naturally, after more than a hundred years, there is no trace of the once beautiful ornamental garden, the show-rooms, the restrooms and baths for the workmen that were there in Colt's day. The colonel was proud of his achievements, and what's more, was a good employer, setting an example far ahead of his time. His men worked ten hours



This Colt revolver, serial number 948, although it bears the famous London address, was actually made in Hartford in the early days of the London factory.



SAM COLT AND HIS FACTORY MADE NEWS IN LONDON. EVEN DICKENS WROTE ABOUT THEM



Two views of the author's Navy revolver. Manufactured at Colt's London factory in 1854, it is unique in the absence of any proof marks. This and other odd features lead to theory that it was factory reject.

a day, but he saw to it that they got periods of rest, and he in turn got good results.

But if the building has lost all traces of Colt occupancy, it has not lost the atmosphere of the old days—at least not for an arms-lover. Standing in the courtyard, it was not difficult to imagine the scene as it was a hundred years or so ago, when the throng of men and women (Colt employed a lot of women) moved about their tasks amid the hum of machinery and the clang of hammers and forging. Armed with my Navy Colt and a copy of Dickens' article, we tried to visualize the factory as it was then, floor by floor and stage by stage in arms production.

"We are on the threshold of Colonel Colt's factory," wrote Dickens, "in the sombre and smoky region of Millbank. Under the roof of this low, brickbuilt, barrack-look-

a week—being at this moment in store. For there is a new government order for the Baltic; and as fast as they are finished the pistols are sent away, packed in deep cases . . . with their conical balls and bullet-moulds, powder-flasks and percussion caps that take up more room than the pistols themselves.

"Out of the hot atmosphere, and the all-pervading odour of hot oil, we pass a yard ankle deep in iron chips . . . into a long out-building, in which only genuine smiths are at work. . . . There is little of the noise of a smithy here, except the roaring of the furnaces. A workman rams the end of a long bar of steel into the fire and, taking it out glowing with heat, strikes a bit off the end as if it were a stick of peppermint; while his companion, giving it a couple of rough taps upon the anvil, drops the red-hot morsel into a die.

"This die is a plug-hole shaped something like a horse-shoe, at the foot of a machine, bearing a painful resemblance to a guillotine. While they have been breaking off



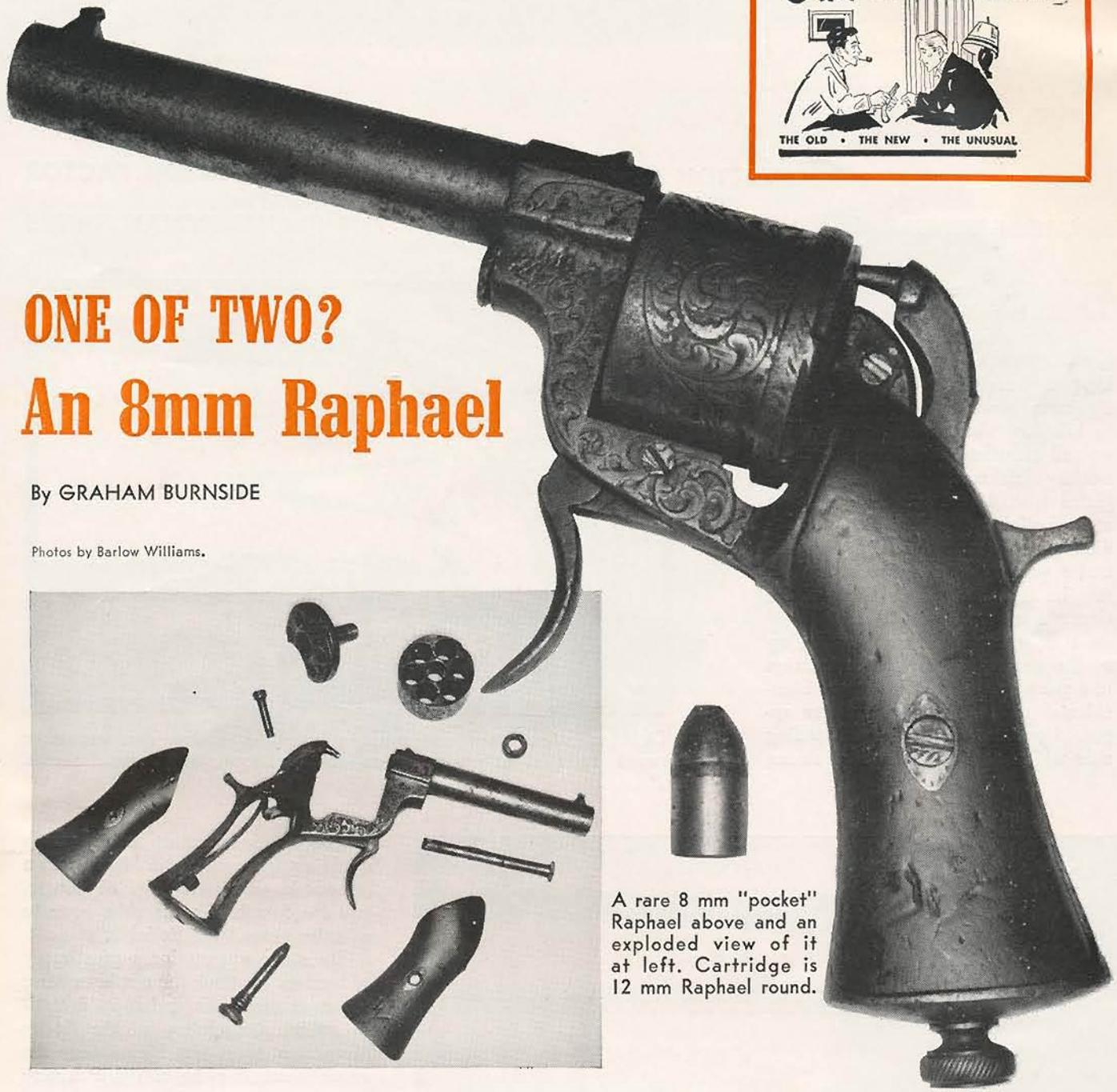
When gun is cocked or hammer on a nipple, rammer won't fit into two chambers. Cased London Navy was property of King Faisal II.

ing building, we are told that we may see what cannot be seen under one roof elsewhere in all England—the complete manufacture of a pistol, from dirty pieces of timber and rough bars of cast steel, till it is fit for the gunsmith's case. . . . The steam engine . . . performs nine-tenths of all the work that is done here. Neat, delicately handed, little girls do the work that brawny smiths still do in other gun-shops. Some 200 men—carpenters, cabinet-makers, ex-policemen, butchers, cabmen, hatters, gas-fitters, porters or at least, one representative from each of those trades, are steadily drilling and boring at lathes all day in upper rooms. . . .

"We pass into a long room hung with portraits of targets as they appeared after firing at them with Colt's revolvers. All the bullet marks are, of course, very near the bull's eye. . . . Beyond this is the store room, lined with wooden racks up to the ceiling, which are almost naked now, only five pistols of all the number that are made here—six hundred

the bit of steel, a huge screw has been slowly lifting up the iron hammer-head, which plays the part of the axe in the guillotine: and now the great hammer drops, and with one stroke beats the piece of iron to the form of the die. It has cooled to a black heat now, and is shaped something like the sole of a very narrow shoe; but it must be heated again, and the heel end must be beat up at right angles to the long part—taking care that it be bent according to the grain of the metal, without which it will be liable to flaw. Thus the shield, and what may be called the body of the pistol, are made in an instant."

Also on the ground floor were the planing and stock-turning machines, where the one-piece stocks would be turned out in moments, complete except for final fitting and polishing with a coating of shellac. Close by were the lathes used for making new tools for the cutters and boring machines on the floor above. These (Continued on page 46)



ONE OF TWO? An 8mm Raphael

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE

Photos by Barlow Williams.

A rare 8 mm "pocket" Raphael above and an exploded view of it at left. Cartridge is 12 mm Raphael round.

SOME YEARS AGO, "The Gun Report" published an article titled "The Raphael Revolver," by Charles R. Suydam, in which reference was made to an 8 mm Raphael cartridge. This was rather startling news. The known, though uncommon, Raphael revolver of Civil War use is 11 or 12 mm, and nothing was then known of a revolver of the Raphael system with 8 mm chambering.

Mr. Suydam, in his search for information concerning Raphael revolvers, stated, "No reference to the 8 mm (revolvers) was found, and it remains a mystery weapon."

Now the mystery has been solved. Mr. Suydam's assumption—that there must be an 8 mm Raphael revolver because an 8 mm cartridge of Raphael type had been found—was

logical; more to the point, it was right! Pictured here is a revolver that is 8 mm (or, more accurately, 8.4 mm); and, although the piece is unmarked except for insignificant numbers stamped on the frame, from its design it is obviously a product of the Raphael system.

It all happened this way. A letter was received from Robert James Brom, of Bob's Gun Shop in Minneapolis, indicated that he had what he thought was a Raphael pocket revolver in the 8 mm size. He very kindly sent the gun to me for inspection and study. What he sent is pictured here.

The usual Raphael revolver has a greater overall length and a conventional trigger and (Continued on page 54)

The SHARPS and

DECIMATION OF THE GREAT HERDS WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE DEFEAT OF THE PLAINS INDIAN TRIBES

By JAMES E. SERVEN

BY 1872, there were on the plains no less than 5,000 professional hide hunters and almost an equal number of pleasure hunters. Just as our big-game hunters now go to Africa, big-game hunters from abroad came to kill the "American Bison" which we call a buffalo. Sir George Gore, a wealthy Irishman, went out on the plains with 40 servants and shot so many buffaloes that, for fear the Indians would massacre him and his entire party, the government had to step in and take the itch out of Sir George's trigger finger.

All these conditions were leading up to the greatest wholesale destruction of a game species known to man. Coincidental with other factors, there appeared on the market a breech-loading rifle which was fast shooting, strong



Octagon barrel (top) was preferred on Sharps over less expensive round barrel. Bullets were made on the range, using mould shown.

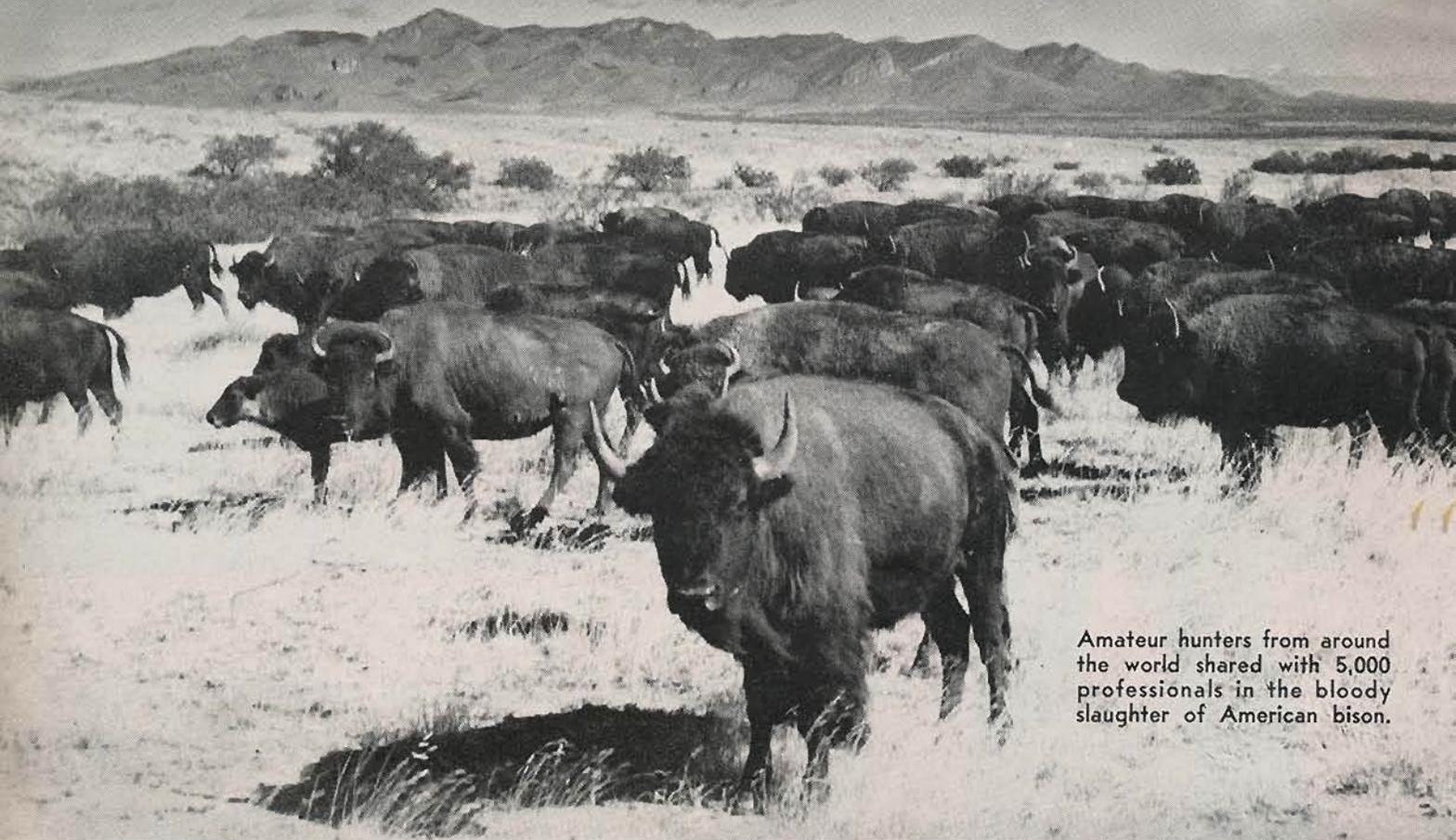


Three guns at top (Spencer, Henry, Winchester Model 66) used rim-fire, not reloadable, ammo. Winchester Model 73 (bottom) handled reloadable ammo, but like guns above, lacked power for long-range buffalo hunting.

and durable in construction, and which could accurately throw a big bullet an incredible distance. This, of course, was the famous Sharps rifle, soon to win the name "Old Reliable."

The stage was set for a great army of hunters to attack the southern herd, the most numerous and most accessible. With a backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains were the amphitheater for the killing in a very few years of more big game, pound for pound, than would be killed in the entire century following. Eastern hide buyers had sent men to Hays City and other settlements fringing the buffalo country, to promote hide and robe hunting as a profitable operation. Now this promotion began to bear fruit.

With the Sharps rifle as a deadly instrument for striking down the buffalo at long ranges, a sure market for robes and hides, and the railroads to haul the skins to market, prospects were attractive to that class of men who had a strong stomach, a hardy



Amateur hunters from around the world shared with 5,000 professionals in the bloody slaughter of American bison.

adventurous nature, and a preference for the uncrowded outdoors as a locale for their business occupation. They say these buffalo hunters had "a tough hide but a tender heart." If so, the buffaloes and the Indians saw no evidence of the latter. Many of the hunters were veterans of the War between the States, and killing was not a new experience to them. Like Billy Dixon, many had learned to favor the Sharps from having used the earlier military Sharps carbines.

Billy Dixon was among that great army of hunters who swarmed into Dodge City in 1872. The population was about 4000, of which two-thirds were buffalo hunters. Dodge was then the terminus of the Santa Fe. Along with Wichita, Medicine Lodge, Baxter Springs, Hays City, and other settlements, the principal industry was killing buffaloes. Whisky and women took a lot of the free-flowing dollars. Zimmerman's Hardware, Gun and Ammunition Store in Dodge did a big

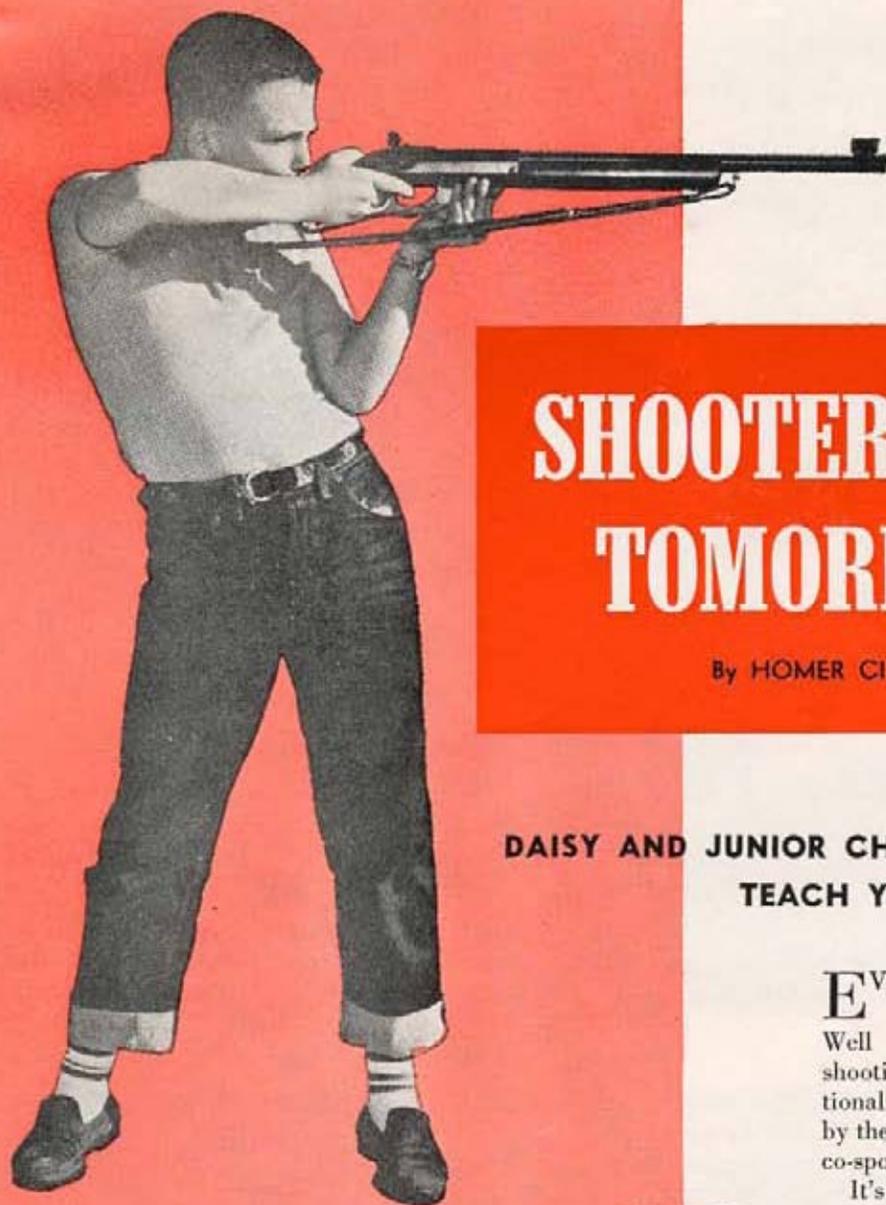
business. They bought lead by the ton, Sharps rifles in case lots, and all the other components in proportion. Sharps rifles that were listed at \$30.00 retail in the Sharps catalog would bring \$100.00 out on the range. Within 60 miles of Dodge, in the hunting season of 1872-73, there was a hide harvest from 75,000 slaughtered buffaloes. Col. Richard I. Dodge, a prominent personage on the frontier, estimated that, through the years 1872-73-74, a total of 3,698,730 buffaloes were killed, the majority from the southern herd. That adds up to over *three billion pounds of meat*, most of it wasted—the greatest waste of game ever known. The wolves, eagles, and buzzards got fat.

I don't want to burden you with too many statistics, but when you realize that, in auctions at centers like Fort Worth, 200,000 skins were sold in one day, the tremendous scope of this hide-hunting business will be more easily visualized.

All killings (*Continued on page 56*)

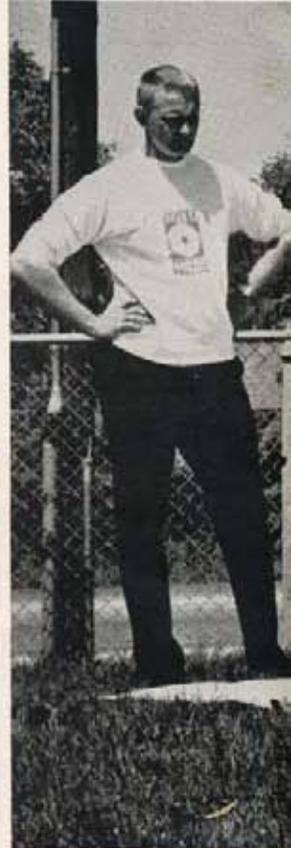


Maurice Clark with buffalo he shot in 1935, and the Sharps rifle, caliber .45-3/4", used.



SHOOTERS FOR TOMORROW

By HOMER CIRCLE



DAISY AND JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CLUBS TEACH YOUNG AMERICANS TO SHOOT

EVER HAVE the satisfaction of watching a "Lad and Dad" and a "Mom and Daughter" shoot? Well it's something to warm the cockles of any shooting enthusiast's heart! It's a part of the national shooting education program recently adopted by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsored by Daisy Manufacturing Company.

It's one thing to hold a shooting program for youngsters, but when you tie in the parents, well, there's no better way to ensure a broad base of acceptance—and remove the misconception held by many parents that guns of any kind are bad. In fact, results of programs to date find parents among the more solid supporters of future programs because they see the benefits of training in proper gun handling.

How did the Jaycees happen to adopt such a program? Like all worthy projects conducted by the Jaycees, it didn't just happen; it was adopted only



Learning proper position is the key to good scores, and shooting good scores is an incentive for the youngster who is interested in guns.



Interest of parents and neighbors in the Jaycee Shooting Education Program stimulates kids' enthusiasm for sport.

after thoroughly researched pilot programs. Here's how it all began. . .

For many years, Daisy President Cass S. Hough had a growing conviction that adult gun accidents and youthful gun incidents could be avoided through early education covering guns in general. And so, in 1955, Daisy set up a Training Services Division headed by Dave Gates, successful coach and former star athlete, who traveled across the nation, talking shooting education to teachers, camp directors, youth groups, physical education directors, scout troops, etc.

Working with the National Rifle Association, Daisy set up approved range procedures and put together several booklets giving detailed instructions on how to conduct a shooting program for youngsters in the 7 to 14 age group.

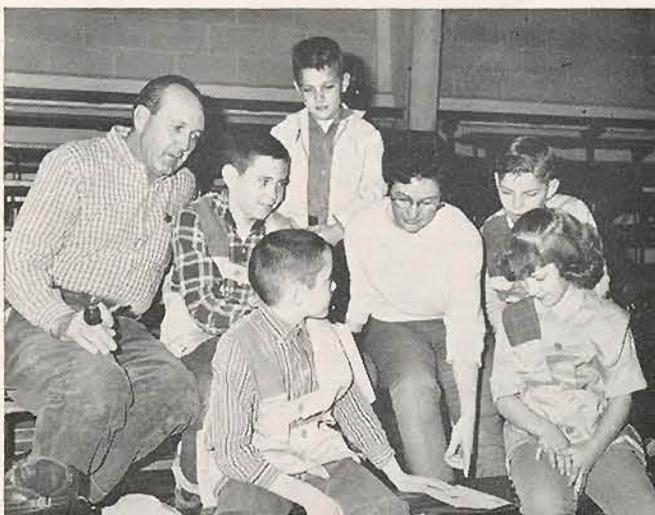
Spring-type BB guns were used in these programs—and who should know youngsters and guns better than Daisy? The spring-type BB gun has a carefully controlled velocity of about 300 feet per second. This allows the use of minimum range requirements (15-feet is all that is required from muzzle to target to simulate actual shooting conditions of .22 caliber competition) and provides low-cost shooting (less than 1/20th of a cent per shot).

After seven years of actual field experience with various youth groups, and after an amazing total of 4 million youngsters had been instructed through these programs without a single accident, Daisy arrived at these conclusions:

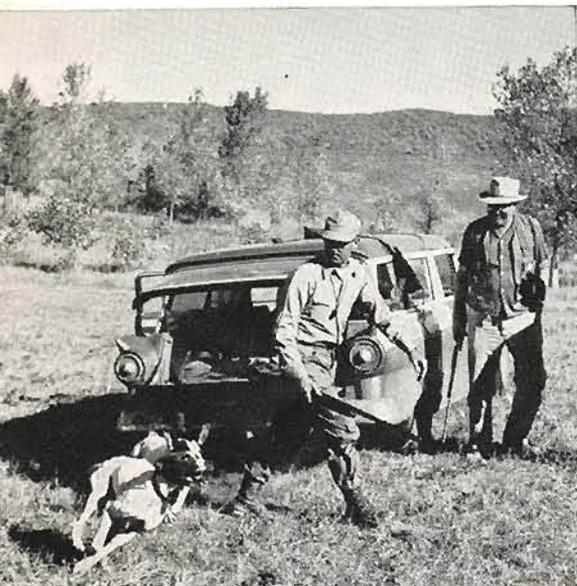
One, that the program should be made available throughout the nation and two, that the Jaycees would be the best organiza- (Continued on page 74)



Daisy President Hough and Terry McCann of Jaycee program discuss plans that will lead to gun training sessions like shown below.



Try This For GROUSE



Dick Shin, right, watches admiringly as Randy gives the anxious dogs, Skip and Sparky, the word, "go gettem."



"BEST GROUSE HUNTING IN THE NATION" IS NEBRASKA'S CLAIM FOR ITS VAST SANDHILL AREAS

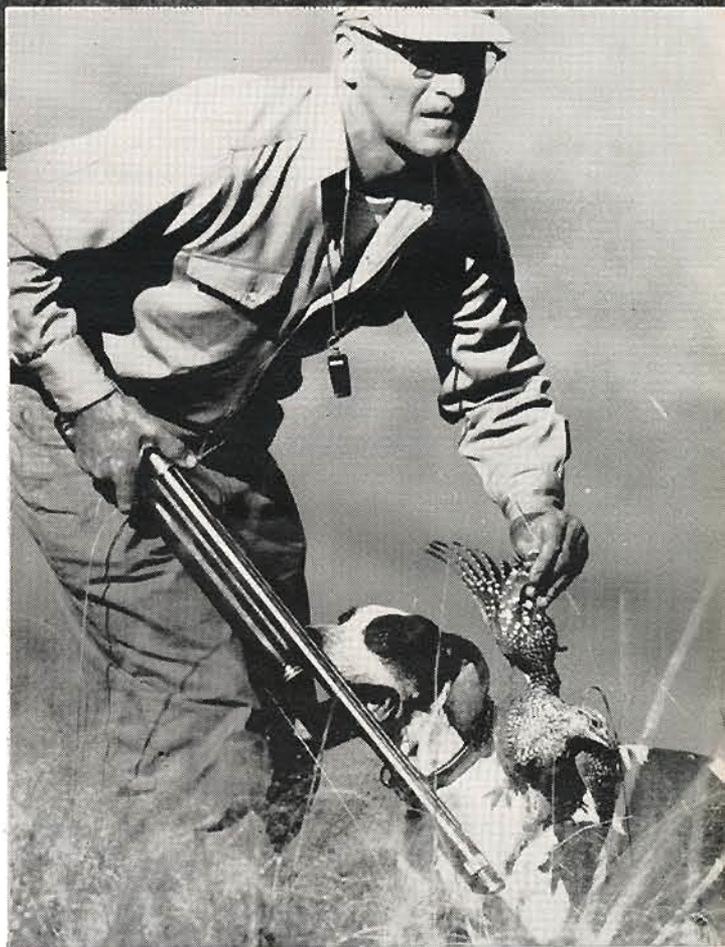
By GENE HORNBECK

CHECKING the patches of cover at top speed, the big pointer cast out across a narrow valley, then swiftly up the opposite hill, quartering as he went. A full eighth of a mile away, he started making game. His pace slowed. Stalking cautiously, he pussyfooted into the wind, drifted toward the crest of the hill, then eased into his classic point.

"He's pinned them," Harold Ensley called. "It's your go, Gene. Make tracks, before they flush."

I half slid down the steep, grass-covered slope. Somewhere across the hills, I heard guns booming as others in our party of eight worked on prairie grouse. My companions were Randy Horsley, Lincoln businessman and owner of a kennel full of top notch pointers, and Harold Ensley, Kansas City TV sportscaster. The remainder of our party, (Bob Munger, Lincoln newspaperman, Pete Czura, outdoor writer, Bill Bailey, Nebraska Game Commission biologist, Floyd Roberts, Kansas City sportsman, and our host, Dick Shin, Thedford turkey ranch operator) had split into two teams to probe the rough Nebraska Sand Hills for the elusive game.

This is one of the unique game areas in the world. This great panorama of grass covered sand spreads over some 20,000 square miles, across the northern boundary of the



Skip, Randy's retrieving pointer, not only found the prairie chicken, he also saved a couple of cripples that might otherwise have gotten away.



Surprisingly the remaining two birds did an about face and winged back up the opposite side of the valley. Randy was square in their path. But his luck didn't hold. The sharptails evidently saw Skip, Randy's retrieving pointer, and flared back across the valley where I was spotted.

"This is one for the books," I thought, crouching behind some yucca. "Who would ever believe that these wary birds would make a complete circuit of three gunners?"

Once in range, I ramrodded into shooting position, taking the duo coming in. The first shot boomed past without touching a feather. The birds were not to be turned this time, and I swung around for a going-away shot. The pump clickity-clacked a fresh round into the chamber, and I pulled on the lead bird, put about a foot of daylight between him and barrel, and jerked the trigger. The sharp-tail exploded, showering feathers like a punctured pillow.

Randy sent Old Skip in for the retrieve on my birds. The old warrior couldn't cover the ground in this big country, and he was most satisfied to leave the hunting to his young running mate, Sparky. His job was keeping an eye on the boss and retrieving downed birds. Sparky had shown his running ability the previous day as he ran for six hours, in temperatures near 75 degrees, without faltering. The big dog was in splendid condition, fresh from winning the U. S. Amateur Pheasant Shooting Dog Classic at Hastings, Nebr., the previous week.

"That was one of the finest bits of dog work I've seen yet," I said. "You boys sure played those birds just right. It was real thoughtful of you to make them swing like that to give me a second shot. How did you do it?"

"You know something, Randy," Harold chimed in with mock seriousness, "I think this youngster is giving us the bird, and it's not of the prairie variety either."

"We had better move up with (Continued on page 67)

state. Its great hills are awe inspiring as they sweep up from broad river valleys, spring from the meadows, and sweep away to the horizon.

Here is the last stronghold of the prairie grouse—sharp-tails, and prairie chickens. Nebraska is endowed with one of the largest, if not the largest, greater prairie chicken populations in the nation.

My pulse pounded from more than exertion as I pushed hard to get into shooting range before the birds took wing. They were evidently moving on the dog, because he inched toward the crest of the hill.

Sparky gave me a look of encouragement as I stepped past him. A soft spoken "Whoa" locked him motionless to await the shot.

A patch of yucca about 40 yards ahead suddenly came to life as four sharptails exploded into the sun-drenched sky. I slammed a quick shot at one of the birds, and he tumbled. The other three were beyond range for my modified 12, and I watched them sail toward Harold at the far end of the valley.

He crouched low, hoping they would come within range. They did just that, gliding directly over, about 35 yards high. Harold snapped a shot and one wavered hesitantly, then sideslipped down into the valley, the Kansas Citian hot on his tail.



Nebraska Sand Hills are tough to hunt, but with the help of well-trained dogs, you can get your limit. Above, a bag of sharptails are proudly posed. Right, Skip does a good retrieving job.



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SMITH & WESSON .38 SPECIALS!

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The ultimate in handguns at a price! The biggest here for the least cash ever. The Tommy's World War II favorite sidearm—so potent it was almost barred by the Geneva Convention. Dependability at its best and plenty of ammo in stock. In NRA Very Good or better condition at only \$39.95!

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For the first time in five years—the sought after heavy duty Smith & Wesson Revolver in .455 caliber. Superb pre-war workmanship with commercial type finish and walnut grips with GOLD monogram and only \$29.95 in VERY GOOD condition. Some EXCELLENT only \$5.00 more. A few Triple Locks at a give-away \$39.95 in NRA VERY GOOD CONDITION! Terrific!

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Col. 8mm

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Col. 7.65MM

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Col. 8MM

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Col. .30-06

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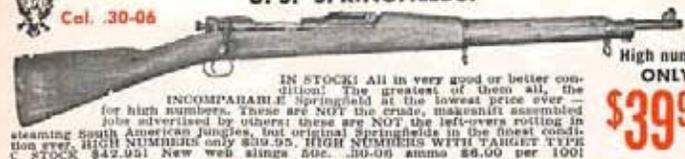
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Col. .303

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Col. 7.62 Russian

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7.5 Swiss Soft Point (20 rds.)	\$5.00
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New production KYNOCH 9 X 57 MAUSER Soft Point ammo (245 Gr.) ONLY \$3.50 per 20 Rds. (Almost half-price)

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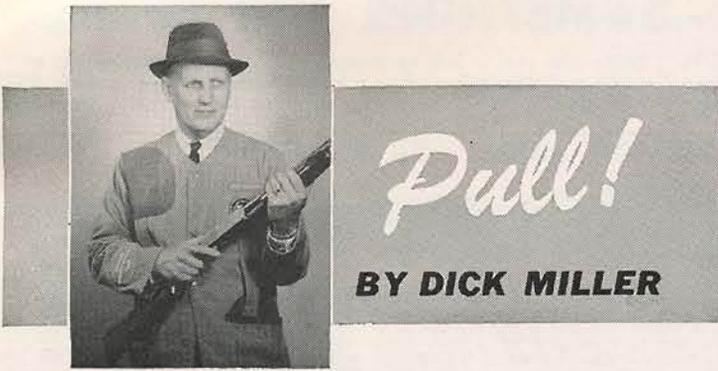
1963 production—150 grain expanding bullet—non-corrosive, non-mercuric boxer primed—extra strength case shoulder annealing.

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CAN YOU IMAGINE a baseball pitcher throwing a no-hit, no-run game on his first day in organized ball? Or a batter hitting a grand-slam home run his first time at bat in league baseball? One or more of these unlikely occurrences may have happened, but here's one for record-books in the field of trapshooting:

William H. Davis of Mulberry, Indiana, won the 16-yard event in the Indiana State Trapshoot preliminary days on his first day of registered trapshooting! Not only did he win the title in his first tournament, he won it with 100 straight targets, followed by another 100 straight in a shoot-off!

A writer could just about run out of superlatives trying to describe Davis' feat, but that's the way it happened. Richard Mores of Whiting, Dr. T. P. Elliott of South Bend, Richard Williams of Salem, and Edgar Kuhlenschmidt of Evansville were victims of Davis spectacular shooting. Williams, Kuhlenschmidt, and Davis stayed with him for three extra rounds of 25, but Davis ground out the full extra hundred for the amazing victory.

Other winners on Preliminary Day in the 63rd Annual Hoosier event were Dr. C. A. Laubscher of Evansville, the double-duty skeet and trap fan and former NSSA director, who fired a perfect 25 in a shoot-off with Gene Chappelle of Lafayette for the handicap trophy.

Sharon Kingen from McCordsville was high Hoosier lady; J. B. Kirby of Noblesville was the winning junior; and Mike Mitchell of Waveland was the top sub-junior in 16-yard competition.

Dick Shroyer of Dayton, Ohio was high pro. Ralph Seymour from Springfield, Ohio took a shoot-off from Homer Clark Jr., East Alton, Ill., for high out-of-state trophy.

Penelope Coblentz of New Madison, Ohio, was high out-of-state lady in the 16-yard division. Joan Seymour from Springfield, Ohio, topped the out-of-state ladies in handicap events.

High out-of-state handicap gunner was veteran Henry Austin of Champaign, Illinois, with a 95 from long yardage.

High Hoosier lady on Preliminary Day was Daretta Walker from Mitchell, and runner-up went to Mary Sullivan of Indianapolis.

Johnny Sternberger showed the way in doubles competition by breaking the perfect 50 pairs for his second time, and also showed that he was pointing for another of his great years in the Grand American.

Ralph Seymour of Springfield, Ohio took the runner-up spot with 96x100. Rain and a heavy entry list slowed the running off of 16-yard singles day at the Hoosier event. Part

of Saturday's program had to be devoted to breaking ties from the previous day's Class Events in 16-yard competition.

Bernard Kalapach of Whiting, 1962 High-Over-All Grand American winner, kept up his winning ways by taking the AA trophy from another tough competitor, Herschel Cheek of Clinton.

John Sternberger stayed hot with an extra 200 targets in a shoot-off with Hugh Driggs of Palmyra, Mich. for out-of-state AA, after both had broken the perfect 200 over regulation distance.

As this is written, the only other title secure on the banks of the Wabash was high lady, which went to Mrs. Mary Sullivan after a shoot-off with Miss Sharon Kingen. Names of other class winners and final days of the Hoosier event are not available as we go to press.

• • •

Bob Steber, writing in his "Headwaters 'N Tailfeathers" column in the Nashville "Tennesseean", says that the skeet shooting boom is the biggest in sports today. In the same day's column, Bob says that skeet shooting is catching on like the phenomenal rise in bowling a decade ago. Clubs are springing up like mushrooms throughout the nation. Of the local scene, Bob wrote: "Here at Nashville, the local club added one skeet range last year, built two new ones for the State, and will add one or two more next season, according to Lowell Hill, secretary."

All of the new facilities were needed when one of the classiest fields of skeet gunners in the nation converged on Nashville for the biggest Volunteer Open and Tennessee State Championships on record. Last year's record entry of 85 soared to 103 for a new record in 1963. Because of space limitations, we report Tennessee State and Volunteer Open champions by gauge and class.

410 Championship:

AA Champions: Miner Cliett and J. T. Heffron.

Open AA Champion: David Smith, Starkville, Miss.

Tennessee AA Champion: Dell Williams, Sewart AFB.

State Champion: Shuford Johnson, Chattanooga.

Open A Champion: Capt. Harold Edwards, Colorado Springs.

A Champion: Jimmy Cates, Nashville, Tennessee.

State B Champion: Don Pitt, Oak Ridge.

C Champion: C. M. Walls, Oak Ridge.

28 Gauge Championship:

Open Champion: Dan Hester, Tupelo, Mississippi.

AA Open Champion: T. J. Heffron, Lackland AFB.

State Champion: Bill Brackman, Nashville.

State AA Champion: Harry Wolberg, Nashville.

A State Champion: Jimmy Cates, Nashville.

B State Champion: Shuford Johnson, Chattanooga.

B Open Champion: David Smith, Starkville, Miss.

State C Champion: Don Pitt, Oak Ridge.

C Open Champion: A. R. Harris, Tupelo, Miss.

Twenty Gauge:

Open Champion: T. J. Heffron, Lackland AFB, Texas.

Open AA Champion: Miner Cliett, Childersburg, Alabama.

AA Champion: William Brackman, Nashville, Tennessee.

State A Champion: Harry Wolberg, Nashville.

State Champion: Tommy Vaughn, Nashville.

Open B Champion: Jim Running, Dallas, Texas.

State B Champion: Major Mack Hunter, Fayetteville.

Open C Champion: A. R. Harris, Tupelo, Miss.

State C Champion: Don Pitt, Oak Ridge.

State D Champion: Col. Ralph Disser, Nashville.

Open D Champion: Mrs. Cassie Kuhns, Dayton, Ohio.

Professional: Kirby Cade, Tupelo, Miss.

All Gauge

Tennessee State

State Champion: Lt. Shuford Johnson, Chattanooga (100 straight. Johnson also repeated as High-Over-All champion with this year's 388x400.)

Class A: Tommy Vaughn, Nashville—99.

Class B: William Wooten, Ft. Campbell—98.

Class C: Lowell Hill, Nashville—98.

Class D: Charles Heifner, Nashville—94.

Class E: Walter Vaughn, Nashville—93.

Ladies Division: Mrs. Jackie Spain, Nashville—89.

Junior Division: Tommy Tillman, Nashville—94.

Sub-Junior: George Wade, Nashville—90.

Volunteer Open

Champion: T. J. Heffron, Lackland AFB, Texas.

Class AA: Miner Cliett, Childersburg, Alabama—99.

Class A: Ed Ruby, Louisville, Ky.—98.

Class B: Ed Chastain, Atlanta, Georgia—99.

Class C: E. F. Langer, Florence, Alabama—97.

Class D: E. W. Eckl, Florence, Alabama—94.

Class E: George Shehan, Decatur, Ala.—94.

Ladies: Mrs. Kuhns, Dayton, Ohio—91.

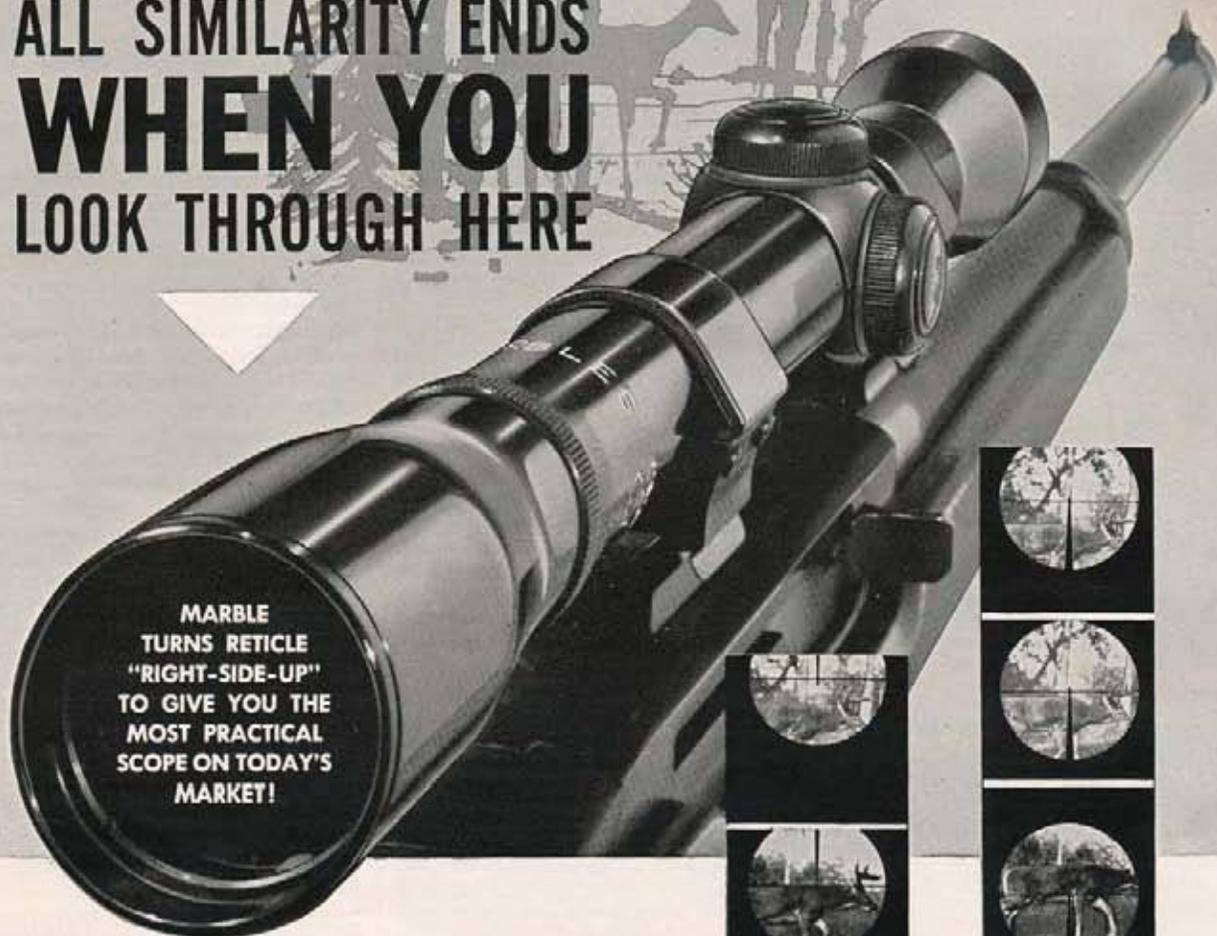
High-Over-All: T. J. Heffron, 391x400 (after shoot-off with Miner Cliett).

• • •

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GUN DIGEST

Reprint of the 1944 First Annual Edition (*The Gun Digest Assoc., Chicago, Ill., 1693, \$2.95*)

Early copies of "Gun Digest" have been selling for rather fancy prices in the last few years, and the first volume of the "Gun Digest" easily commands the average asking price of around \$50. If you did not save your old copy and do want to complete your set, here is your chance to do so. This reprint is identical in all respects to the original edition with the exception of a foreword by John Amber. It is fascinating to contemplate how many things have changed in less than 20 years, how many of the now obsolete calibers were then the latest word in ballistics. And it makes you wonder ever so slightly what the fate will be of some of our new hot-shot calibers. This is a worthwhile buy and you should not miss it. Other reprints of early editions of "Gun Digest" are slated for the future, so keep your eyes open for them.—R.A.S.

WELLINGTON IN THE PENINSULA

By Jac Weller
(*Thomas Yoseloff, New York, N.Y., 1963, \$10.00*)

Jac Weller is best known as a gun authority and ballistics expert. But author Weller is also a student of ordnance and strategy, and his studied and careful approach to the subject at hand is most gratifying. In studying existing material about the Wellington battles, Weller visited the battle fields and the reader gets a first hand picture of the terrain, the strategy, and, from Jac's own wealth of knowledge, the weapons used in the war—an amazing variety of information presented in a manner that is, in spots, quite entertaining, and in other parts somewhat too pedestrian for easy reading.—R.A.S.

NELSON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CAMPING

By E. C. Janes
(*Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York, N.Y., 1963, \$7.50*)

Too many books labeled Encyclopedia are merely listings of subject matters, but this book on camping deserves the title. There are some things lacking, but these are so highly specialized that their absence won't be felt by most readers. This is the sort of book that contains a wealth of good material and that should be on your bedside table for constant reference and reading. Although I have done a great deal of camping, I found several new ideas in this big volume—I am sure that you too will find much of value.—R.A.S.

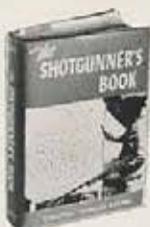
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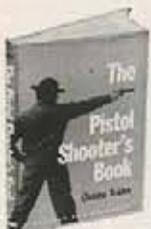
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GUNS OF THE VOPOS

(Continued from page 22)

are. But although photos and newsreels indicated an increasing number of these new Russian "tools" in the hands of the East Germans, it became obvious also that the familiar Lugers, Mauser rifles, etc., were still around, and in decidedly large quantities. The same was true of the old Russian Maxim, the later Russian Degtyarov, the German MG-42 light machine guns, the German MP-44 and MP-40, and the Russian PPSH-41 and PPS-43 machine pistols. The little Russian carbine, Model 1938 and Model 1944 with folding bayonet, both of the Mossin-Nagant bolt-action system were noted quite frequently, too. So were the standard Mossin-Nagant Model 91/30 rifles and a veritable collection of other World War Two arms.

The picture was a pretty confusing one for a while, until it became apparent that the Russians wanted the Western world to believe that the East Germans were armed with all of the latest Russian weapons, whereas the truth was that only first-quality troops were so armed—the ones who had their pictures taken by Western photographers most often. The majority of the troops were still lugging their antiquated Second World War guns. But don't forget—many of these, such as the German MG-42, are still as good as or better than most weapons of their type in the world.

Throughout the late 1950's and into 1960, East Germans might be seen carrying almost any and every type of weapon employed in the days of World War Two. Standardization appeared to be unknown east of the Brandenburg Gate, and yet the new Soviet small arms were ever more prominent, especially the SKS. The interesting part of this was that not one could definitely be attributed to East German manufacture or even East German assembly! And still the old rumors of "new" East German Lugers were repeated—with no proof forthcoming.

Then, in 1960, came the first rather blurred pictures of the "VoPos" armed with a new handgun. This was known to be the new standard Soviet military pistol "Makarov," caliber just over 9 mm, employing a cartridge of a size somewhere between that of

the 9 mm Short (.380") and the 9 mm Luger-Parabellum. From all indications, this "new" pistol gave the appearance of being nothing more than an oversized Walther "PP," and the cartridge was compared to the 9 mm Walther "Ultra," an experimental mid-velocity World War Two failure.

With extremely favorable reports of the high quality and desirability of the AK, SKS, and RPD pouring in from all sources, why would the Russians choose such an antiquated and completely unoriginal design for their latest in handguns? It was completely incongruous. But on came the Makarovs, nevertheless, by the thousands and the tens of thousands. For some time, there was nothing else to believe except that the Soviets had goofed. This pistol was an obvious joke, made even more ridiculous by irrefutable evidence that the SKS was a fine semi-automatic rifle, the AK was probably the best assault rifle in the world, and that the RPD was revolutionary in design and thought. The Makarov was chalked up as being the weak link in the strong chain of Russia's new family of small arms.

The erection of the "Wall of Shame" which has divided the Eastern and Western portions of the city of Berlin since the summer of 1961 literally transformed the occidental portion of that metropolis into an armed camp. While the old standby World War Two weapons were still to be seen on every side, even the SKS became relegated to "obsolete" and second-rate category. Now the "VoPos" were proudly displaying large quantities of the highly desirable Avtomat Kalashnikovs, but no longer the full wooded stocked type. Paratrooper versions with folding metal stocks were everywhere. Intelligence indicated that variations were beginning to appear, and it soon became quite obvious that the East Germans were finally producing weapons, probably in Suhl. Workmanship on these East German arms was found to be of the very high pre-War and Wartime standards set by the Germans from the times when weapons were first produced in that Thuringian area hundreds of years ago. They were superior to the original Russian manu-



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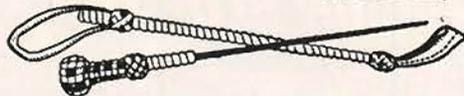
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factured weapons by a fair degree, and manufacturing variations appeared to further set them apart from the original Soviet-made examples.

Not only were the Kalashnikovs pouring from the factories in Suhl, but now came SKS rifles; and now rumors were accompanied by proof (of sorts) that these arms were being produced in East Germany. The Makarov, too, was reportedly being manufactured in Suhl. Apparently, the RPD of German make is a reality.

It was not until the late summer of 1962 that all of my deductions, conjectures, and suspicions were confirmed as to exactly what was standard with the forces of the East Germans. At that time, I not only had very precise reports from friends travelling the Continent, but a small book fell into my hands—a book entitled "Handbuch fuer den Kaempfer" (Handbook for the Fighter) and dated "1962." In it were listed all of the small arms which were considered "standard" with the "VoPo's!"

First comes the old German Mauser Karabiner '98k bolt-action rifle. Examples noted are of very late World War Two manufacture, but a few have been seen which bear dates of "1943" and "1944." None, however, unless assembled, were produced in the German Democratic Republic. There is no way to identify one of these Mausers as definitely being of East German origin, as none that I have seen has proofs or other markings other than those of the Third Reich.

Next, we find the Russian Mossin-Nagant Carbine, Model 1944, with folding bayonet. This, too, is strictly a weapon left over from World War Two. It is exactly the same as

those encountered during the War and in Korea during the "Police Action." The standard rifle-length Mossin-Nagant is not mentioned in the book, nor are any other rifles of Soviet or German origin.

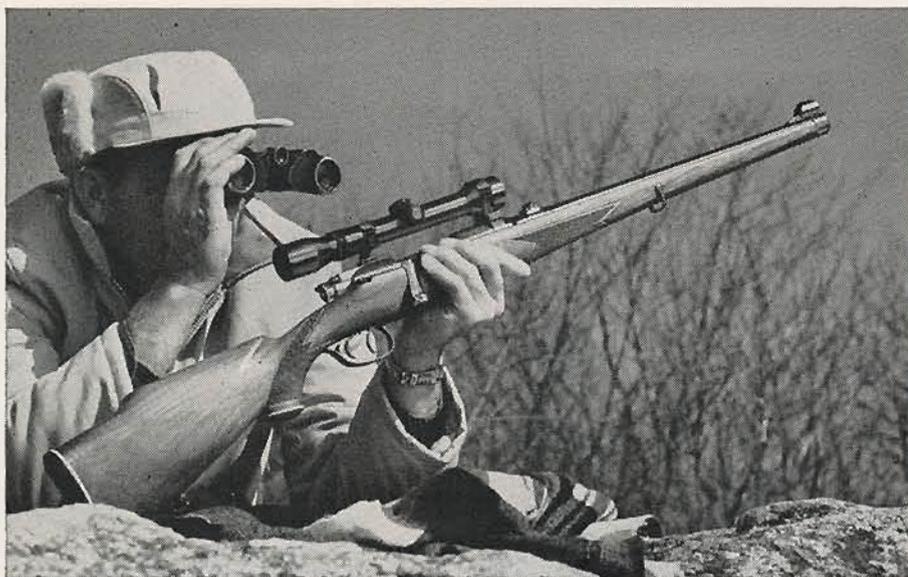
Under machine pistols we find the normal and quite frequently encountered Soviet Shpagin PPSH-41 with 71-round drum magazine and wood stock. These relatively crude but usable weapons are encountered quite often in Austria also, as the Russians sold or gave a large number of them to that country after the Soviet withdrawal in the 1950's. These, too, without exception, are of World War Two manufacture. The only other machine pistol listed is the German MP-44, the original "Sturmgewehr" or Assault rifle of World War Two. It is evident that many thousands of these weapons were left behind the Iron Curtain after the partitioning of Germany at the close of the War.

The pistols found in the handbook are interesting but not unusual. They consist of the Russian Tokarev "TT-33," which is in reality the variation of 1935 and a relative Browning design known to most weapons enthusiasts. These pistols are no longer manufactured in the Soviet Union, but are probably still made in Poland, Rumania, Communist China, and North Korea. It is extremely doubtful that they were ever produced in the D.D.R.

Next we come upon one of the finest handguns ever used anywhere at any time, the Luger-Parabellum. The photos in the handbook are a bit misleading, as they show unusual grips upon what appears to be (and is) a standard "P.08" of World War Two vintage. All of these pistols I have seen have been made prior to the end of the War. The grips, however, are undoubtedly of post-War, East German manufacture. They are of a dark brown plastic, and bear a design imbedded into the upper middle portion which resembles a round "bullseye." Otherwise the grips are unmarked.

The pistols themselves are mostly P.08's of World War Two manufacture, with a few of First World War or "in-between War" production. They are almost always reworked, but not necessarily refinished. In many instances, the serial numbers have been changed and parts added or replaced. All bear markings, undoubtedly of East German origin, which are believed to be inspector's markings to indicate that the weapons have been completely checked over and passed for issuance and use by the forces. These markings vary, but the "standard" seems to be a number such as "12," "31," "39," which is surrounded by a rectangle, circle, or shield, and the whole surrounded by a wreath. It is assumed that these numbers indicate the specific inspector or area of inspection where that task was accomplished.

Some of these pistols bear more than one



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marking which are not identical. The markings are usually found on the frame just forward of the side plate. They may also appear on the left side of the frame just above the top of the left grip, on the backstrap just above the stock lug, on the left front of the receiver (barrel extension), and possibly other places. These are the only marks, except for the easily spotted plastic grips, which indicate the East German Luger-Parabellum pistols. So, all of you Luger collectors, keep your eyes open! In all probability, not too many of these will be forthcoming, as they are not easy to come by even in Berlin.

The other pistol in the handbook is, of course, the Russian Makarov, listed as the "Pistole Makarov" or "PM." It is listed as "9mm," although the cartridge actually measures about 9.2 mm. This is a double-action pistol of the Walther "PP" type, a straight blowback of rugged, sturdy construction. The double-action mechanism is quite smooth, almost equal to that on some of the best American revolvers. The single-action pull varies with the weapon, but is far from being "undesirable." Being larger over-all than the Walther, it fits the average hand much better. The velocity is listed as 315 m.s. or about 1033 f.p.s.—not to be considered "underpowered," but not up to that of the Luger-Parabellum and 7.62 mm Tokarev. It is listed in the handbook as being for use in areas up to 50 meters from the shooter. East German factories are now producing the Makarov, and the workmanship is equal to that of any pistol ever produced in the forests of Thuringia, including that of the pre-War Walther pistols!

Strangely enough, the handbook lists the old water-cooled Maxim machine gun, Model 1910, but does not list the Degtyarov Model "DP," most common of all later Soviet light machine guns. It does, however, list the Model "DTM" (Degtyarov Tank Modified), undoubtedly for use on light armored vehicles, scout cars, and jeeps. Included among the machine guns is the heavy machine gun of caliber 12.7 mm, which has been a standard weapon in the Russian army since 1943. Completing the weapons pictured are the 82 mm mortar, and the 45 mm light anti-tank gun, both of Russian origin.

All of the weapons listed in the handbook are the "official" weapons of the "VoPos," but are not necessarily all which they utilize. The Degtyarov Model "DP," the P.38 pistol, the German Schmeisser MP-40 machine pistol, the Russian PPS-43 machine pistol, and many other common (and a few uncommon) weapons of World War Two are encountered frequently in the hands of the forces of the D.D.R. (*Deutsche Demokratik Republik*), the (East) German Democratic Republic. One in particular is an exact copy of the Walther "PP" of pre-War and Wartime manufacture. An example of this pistol which I examined could have been made from scratch by the East Germans, or could have been assembled from parts taken from Walther's former plant in Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia. It could also

be a reworked Wartime pistol. The markings on the slide are probably some sort of manufacturer's code or model number, as no name appears on the pistol. The proof marks are interesting in that one is the same as the old pre-Nazi commercial proof (Crown over "N"), whereas the second is a strange sort of eagle never before encountered on any weapon I have seen. The magazine is almost definitely of recent manufacture, as are the plastic grips. The rest? Who can say? A serial number in the "teen" thousands indicates a fair-sized production, but very few of these East German Walthers have appeared. Also seen have been a couple of "Easternized" P.38's, bearing heavy metal grips and a "Russian-type" 5-pointed star; but these are not often come by either.

So there is the picture as it stands today: a complete conglomeration which would give logisticians nightmares. The cartridges needed for the "official" weapons include the 7.62 mm Tokarev pistol, 7.62 mm rimmed Russian rifle, 9 mm Makarov, 9 mm Luger-Parabellum, 7.92 mm German "Kurz," 7.92 mm German rifle, and 12.7 mm Russian machine gun rounds. We know for a fact, however, that even though not included in the "official" listings, the SKS, AK and RPD all require still another cartridge, the 7.62 x 39 mm Russian Short; and the Walther "PP" is chambered for the 7.65 mm Browning (.32 ACP). It is more than likely that there are some of the old .25 and .380 pocket pistols such as the little Russian Tula-Korovin and Walthers or other popular pistols in the latter size around somewhere. As a matter of fact, I have a Russian .380 cartridge dated "1959" in my junk box; an empty case picked up on a German shooting range.

What other arms of still other calibers are the "VoPos" using? Probably a good guess would be—almost anything! The only weapon they *don't* seem to have is the new Russian Stechkin machine pistol, a pistol with a wooden holster-stock and a change lever with a 20-shot magazine. That seems to be one weapon the Russians are keeping entirely to themselves!

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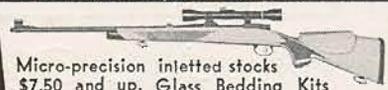


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WHEN COLT'S WAS IN LONDON

(Continued from page 30)

tools in themselves were marvels of the age—tools specially manufactured in the United States and shipped to England under the care of Gage Stickney, who had been with Colt since the history-making year of 1847, when Sam produced his "Big Bertha" of pistoldom, the famous Colt-Walker Dragoon. Apparently, many parts of the London Colt revolvers were manufactured in the United States in the early days of production, but soon Colt was able to produce every part in the London factory.

Revolvers brought over for the Great Exposition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace were marked with the New York address, and were equipped with small trigger guards and slim stocks; but when production got under way in the London factory, on January 1st 1853, subtle changes were made. Larger guards were produced, and the stocks were turned out with broader heels and shoulders. Unlike their American counterparts, the English-made Colts retained the narrow cut-out in the barrel lug for loading. Raw steel and roughly forged barrels were supplied by Naylor and Company, and by Thomas Firth and Sons (now part of the huge Thomas Firth & John Brown Limited group),

Trigger guards and backstraps made for the London pistols were of iron, whereas brass was practically standard in the United States. One distinct feature that has presented itself to me is the fact that the center hole of the cylinder and arbor (basepin) of the American Navy pistols appear to be slightly smaller than the London variety. A trial 'test' on at least four American Navy revolvers, found that to put the cylinders on London pins would require a slight reaming job. Interchanging of barrels would also need some patience and skill with a file (in both English and American models), simply because each pistol, at the time of manufacture, was given a final fitting by hand. Small internal parts and screws are mostly interchangeable.

On the first floor were the cutting and boring machines, and the rifling machines, each capable of rifling up to one hundred barrels per day. "It was a long room," wrote Dickens, "filled with machines, and rather more redolent of hot rank oil. Considering that the floor supports a long vista of machinery in full action, the place looks clean and neat, and is not very noisy. Girls quietly attending to the boring and rifling of the barrels—having nothing to do but to watch the lathe

narrowly, and drop a little oil upon the borer with a feather now and then—men drilling cylinders, holding locks to steam files, cutting triggers, slotting screws, treating cold iron everywhere as if it was soft wood, to be cut to any shape, without straining a muscle... The bores of barrels and cylinders must be mathematically straight, and every one of the many parts must be exactly a duplicate of another so that each piece may be taken at random from a heap, and fixed to and with the other pieces until a complete weapon is formed; that weapon being individualized by a number stamped upon many of its component parts... In every case of revolvers are placed, when sold, a number of such parts of a pistol as are most liable to accident; and, with these, any soldier or sailor may, in a few minutes, repair his own weapon.

"In the top floor, just above this, men and women, with black hands and faces, are polishing at lathes still moved, as everything is moved, by the steam engine in the hot stone chamber below. Here is our friend, the butcher, still wearing a blue smock, and very busy polishing cylinders."

The polish on those old Colts was the real secret behind the beautiful finish. Great care was taken to see that every scratch and file mark was removed. Along with the polishers were the assembly benches, where a number of workers did nothing else but assemble pistols. When numbered, the parts of the pistols were carefully placed in boxes or cases ready for the fitter, who had ten little cases containing various parts—triggers, bolts, screws, and so on. After a hammer had been fitted to the frame, the correct barrel and cylinder was attached, and so on to completion.

Having progressed this far, the weapons were taken away for proofing. Such was Colt's pride in his product, that he built his own proof house, where all his weapons underwent a preliminary proofing before being submitted to the official Government proof, where the familiar crowned 'VR' (for viewed) and 'GP' (for Gunmaker's Company—the official proof house in London) were stamped on the barrel lug and between the shoulders of the nipples on the cylinder.

It was "by no means, the dark, mysterious iron-plated room, in which I have been taught to believe that guns are proved" wrote Dickens, "but an ordinary workshop, with two

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square wooden pipes, fixed horizontally, and open at the end, breast high. I am invited to prove a pistol, by firing it into one of these pipes, which, I am told, afford sufficient protection to the firer in case of a barrel bursting—an event, pains were taken to assure me, of very rare occurrence. After a little practice, I find that a mere novice may, with one hand, discharge the six rounds as rapidly as the eye can wink.”

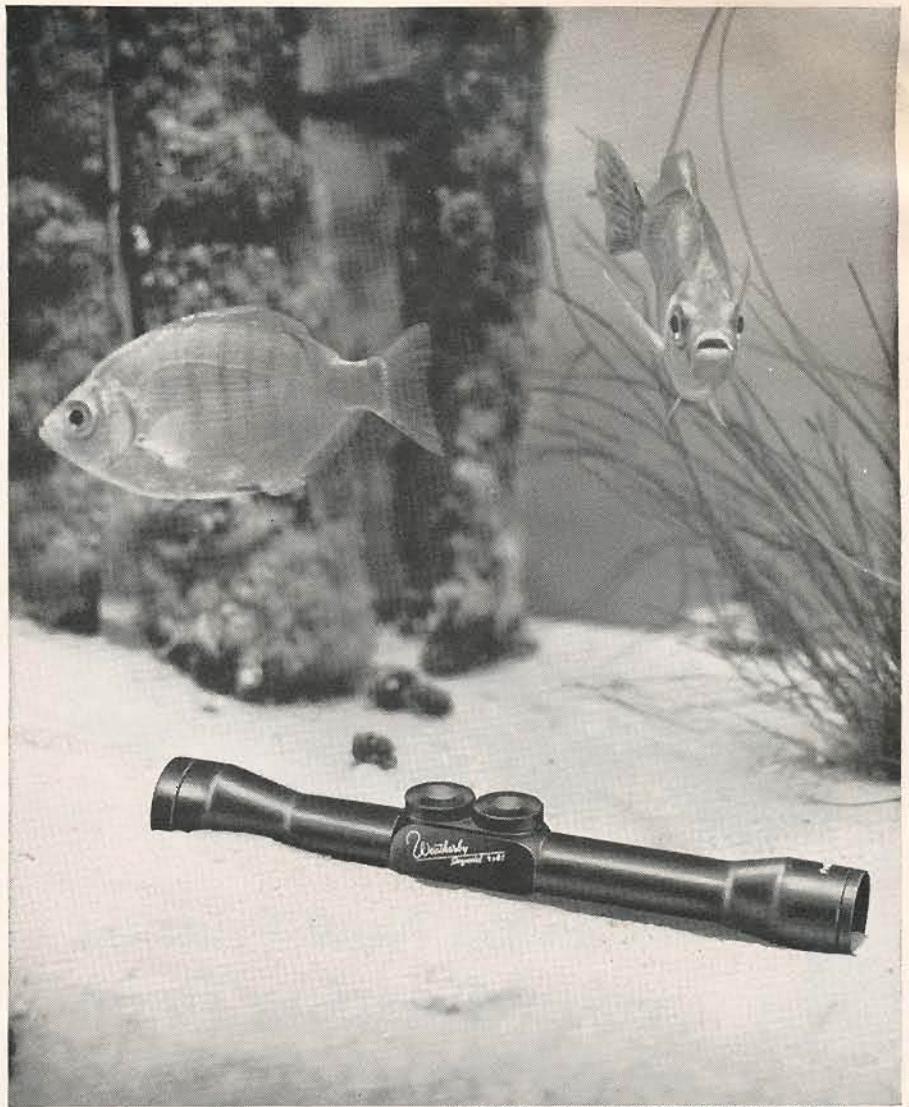
On return to the factory, the weapons were stripped, cleaned, degreased, and given a final polish. Unless they were to be engraved (in which case they would be sent, in the white, to either the factory engraver or some outside engraver under contract), the frames, rammer assembly, and hammers would be taken away and case-hardened, leaving the barrels, cylinders, screws, grip straps, and trigger guards to be blued in the typical old English fashion—a charcoal brazier, fish oil, cotton waste, and lime, resulting in that deep blue that enhanced the beauty of the weapon.

Head and shoulders above his contemporaries, Colt featured cylinder engraving. The familiar naval battle scene used on the Navy and the 1860 Army models, and the other scenes on various models, were all put on by die-rolling, the impression being made at great pressure, a system unknown commercially in England. Copperplate and steel engraving by hand was standard so Colt's method (patented in the early 1830's by an American named Perkins) was sensational.

When the pistols were assembled for shipment from the factory, they were given a final check by the factory inspector, who usually stamped his mark just at the rear of the barrel lug, alongside the breech end of the barrel. With each pistol went a powder flask (usually supplied by James Dixon and Sons of Sheffield, or C. and J. W. Hawksley), a box of percussion caps (made by Ely Brothers), a nipple wrench, and bullet mould.

Turning now from the main factory, a visitor glimpses the show rooms, where Colt's choicest arms were displayed. Between 1853 and 1857, when the factory closed, Colt produced his model 1851 Navy, the pocket pistol of 1849, and several sporting rifles in the London armoury. A weapon chosen in the morning could be picked up the same evening, fully finished and proofed. In this way it is likely many specimens escaped the official proof.

The pistol in the writer's possession could well be one of these; but several features of it lend credence to the theory that it was in fact a reject. When first obtained, it was found to have a faulty hand, which continually rubbed on the frame channel, later re-



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vealed to be due to a fault in the manufacture. The muzzle of the barrel still had file or saw marks which seemed to indicate that it had been cut, though it was of regular length. Another puzzling feature was the fact that, with the hammer down, the rammer would drop into all but two of the chambers, whereas in most pistols it drops into all-six. Set at half-cock, it works perfectly. Further examination disclosed that in two places, the bolt stops on the cylinders had been milled slightly out of line, in order that the chambers would line up with the barrel. The weapon will shoot perfectly, but from the razor-like edges of the rifling and the perfect state of the bore, it seems likely it has never been fired. Here, indeed, would be a story!

Having got his pistol, and a handshake from the colonel, the visitor would go on his way, fully convinced that he had witnessed a miracle. In some ways, Colt's factory *was* a miracle. Great Britain knew nothing of the mass-production system. When weapons were required in a hurry for military purposes, contracts were placed with gunmakers all over the country, and the parts finally assembled in London or Birmingham. But Colt proved it could all be accomplished in *one* operation and in *one* place. Naturally, the English gunmakers did not take kindly to this, and soon tried to beat him at his own game; but it was a long time before they could successfully compete. Even so, gunmakers such as Adams, Tranter, Beaumont, and even the famous Egg family, gave Sam a few headaches. But his pistols continued to hold their own throughout the percussion era, despite competition in his own country from Remington and others.

And now, for us, as for those earlier visitors, it was time to leave. We had stood where Colt stood, walked where he walked, imagined scenes that might have been. Almost sadly, the Navy Colt was replaced in my briefcase, and a few steps brought us once more to the main gate, out into the sunshine which, almost as though it shared our inner thoughts, had come to mellow the old building. One last look at those grim windows, and the silent structure in whose shadow the ghost of Colt's day and age will always linger.

We walked quickly to the end of the street, pausing only for a last glimpse of the building, alone with its memories of a day and age forgotten, except for a rapidly decreasing number of firearms whose barrels still proudly bear the name of an armasmaker who was able to change the course of gunmaking the world over—ADDRESS COL.

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SIT DOWN AND SHOOT

(Continued from page 27)

approximately at 45 degrees to the target. The feet are spread 16 to 18 inches apart, depending upon the physique of the shooter. The left leg is bent at the knee to make an angle with the ground so that the flat underside of the left biceps can be supported on the flat upper part of the left shin. The left elbow and forearm are directly under the rifle. Normally, the underside of the left knee will be about 8 to 10 inches off the ground.

The heels may be planted in holes for better support. However, in the field, the feet will usually rest flat on the ground. Use whichever is the most comfortable. But don't try to hold the toes upright. This strains the long muscles on top of the shin, and results in muzzle wobble.

Any good sitting position must be comfortable. Muscle strains must be eliminated for steady holding and good shooting. Any effort to keep your left elbow and forearm under the rifle means that your fanny is at the wrong angle to the target. If your knees are farther apart than your feet, your dogs aren't spread far enough apart. In either case, muscles are strained and wobbles result. Rest your elbows on your kneecaps, and you might as well try to balance your rifle on a pair of universal joints. Shooting from your "hind laigs" would be more effective.

Use your sling if at all possible. Just make sure it is well up on the left arm, and tight. Ram your left hand out against the front sling swivel. Don't grab the forearm of the rifle; just let it rest on the palm of your left hand. This eliminates strain. Sling tension will pull the underside of your left upper arm in against the flat of your left shin. Remember, flat against flat for steady support.

The underside of the right upper arm rests against the inside of and just below the right knee. Support is added by the right arm by pulling the rifle butt into the shoulder. However, the left arm and leg are

the most important for steadiness. The main function of the right hand is to control the trigger squeeze.

One important factor for a good sitting position is to relax the legs. If you dig in your heels, let your toes drop forward. No matter which position you adopt, remember to relax. Tension in any muscle will cause trembling. Trembling, in turn, causes muzzle wobble, and muzzle wobble causes misses.

There are several good variations to the standard sitting position. In one, the shooter sits with the legs crossed at the ankles. The flat underside of each upper arm rests on the inside of the respective knee. The sling is kept tight and high on the left arm. Many riflemen find this position more comfortable, due to peculiarities in their physical make-up. However, it has one distinct disadvantage in that the line-of-sight is a lot closer to the ground. In many areas, particularly varmint shooting on sage brush flats, it may not clear as many obstacles between the shooter and his target as does the regular sitting position.

A sitting position often favored by varmint hunters with rifles with light recoil is the "knee-hug" style. Here the shooter parks his rear end and draws his knees up higher and closer together than in the regular position. The rifle forearm rests across the bent left forearm. The left hand is placed back under the buttstock and rests on the right biceps. Both arms are supported by the knees.

A lot of rifle overhangs the left arm in the "knee-hug" version, but with heavy barreled varminters it is very steady. Remember two very important points when using this position. First, use it on stationary targets. Second, don't try to use it with any cannon that has a lot of recoil, for the eye-piece of the scope is very close to the eyebrow.

For that matter, any sitting position will place the eye too near the rear of the

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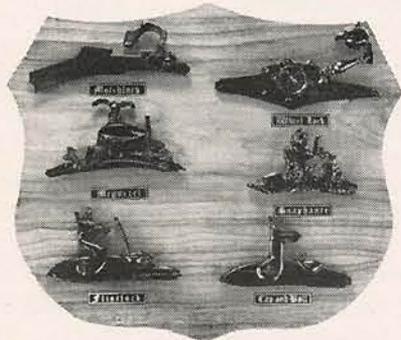


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scope if it has not been properly adjusted. Nothing is more disconcerting than having the scope tube cut a half moon out of your eyebrow! This is not conducive to good shooting, and I know from experience.

Most hunters adjust the eye relief in their scopes for the standing position. This often places the rear of the scope tube too close to the eye for the sitting position, especially if your smokepole has considerable recoil. Check the eye relief in all three positions—standing, sitting, and prone. Select the best compromise position for all three; then tighten the scope rings.

The sitting position is adaptable to almost any terrain. I've used it on moving game, and in shooting both uphill and down at relatively steep angles. In fact, the first javelina I killed was shot from a sitting position with the rifle pointed down almost between my feet.

Running shots, too, are relatively easy from a sitting position. A very small amount of muzzle swing covers an awful lot of country out at ranges at which game is usually shot. And being closer to the ground makes it a lot easier to spot where your shot landed in case of a miss.

A lot of practice under simulated field conditions will help develop a good sitting position. Set up a row of clay pigeons, or the tops of two-pound coffee cans, at various ranges. Then, on a signal, drop into a sitting position and see how many you can hit in five seconds. This training will teach you to get into position quickly, line up on your target, and squeeze off your shot as soon

as the sights are aligned. It is also invaluable practice in working your rifle action from a sitting position.

My son and I use the half-size, full-color running deer target a lot. This target is taped to a piece of stiff cardboard mounted on a 1" x 3" lumber frame. The frame is fastened to a 2" x 6" plank with a pair of hinges. A long length of stout cord allows the frame to be snapped upright at the will of the operator.

When using the above target, the shooter walks slowly toward it. When he sees the target, he drops into his sitting position



and squeezes off a shot. Only hits in vital areas count. With practice, the rifleman will develop his timing to a point where he can get off two well-aimed shots in five seconds. The trick is to be able to squeeze the trigger the instant the sights are lined up.

A lot of our deer hunting out here consists of parking on one side of a canyon and watching the opposite slope. This affords an excellent opportunity to use the sitting position. I sat on a rimrock just below Capillo Peak in the Manzano Mountains here in New Mexico one November morn-

ing, watching the far side of the canyon. The steep slope below my stand was covered by a shin-oak thicket that spread down to the canyon floor. Here the cover thinned out and opened up into a series of open glades among the big pines.

About ten minutes after I sat down, a couple of hunters came up the canyon floor. Suddenly, I caught a flash of gray about half way up the opposite hillside. As I watched, a big buck slipped out of the brush, sneaking up toward the ridge. I put the scope on him and waited. In typical muley fashion, he paused at the very crest of the slope and looked back.

It was a good 300 yards from where I sat to the top of the opposite ridge, so I held the horizontal crosshair level with his back and squeezed the trigger. The 150 grain slug from my '06 took him high through the lungs, and he dropped in his tracks. The shot was as easy as collecting a 5 on the range. When I took my position, the rifle rested across my knees. I simply snugged down into a good sitting position when I spotted the buck, and collected some prime venison.

Steadier than offhand or kneeling, more flexible than prone, the sitting position offers the hunter one of the best all-around positions for the majority of game shots. Develop your sitting position by a lot of practice under field conditions. Use it when target shooting, plinking, or varmint hunting. Cultivate the habit of planting your posterior to shoot, and it will pay dividends on big game shots.

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COY IS THE COYOTE

(Continued from page 23)

will help you estimate the long range shots so often encountered when hunting coyotes.

Sight in a suitable, scope-mounted varmint rifle to shoot two inches high at 100 yards, and you should be in good shape to tumble a coyote at almost any range.

The coyote is mostly nocturnal, but you



will find him looking for groceries in open fields, meadows, and near ponds, in early morning and late evening. In hunting coyote, I have had good success driving back trails and stopping on high points to glass the fields below.

Once you spot a coyote, your chances of getting closer, or within range, before he sees you, are pretty slim. One good trick, which sometimes helps to outsmart him, is to determine in which direction he is working. By putting cover between you and Mr. Coyote, you can sometimes work your way around and ahead of him—if the wind is

right—and be waiting for him as he tops the next rise on his endless search for food.

If you can keep low and out of sight, it is often possible, with the wind in your face, to stalk him for a good standing shot; but much more often he leaves you frustrated. While you are painfully crawling towards him, he is making his way, tail between his legs, to a safer place miles away.

If you are lucky enough to get a snap shot at a coyote, take it fast, because once he sees you or gets your scent, it is rare that you will have a chance at all. I have on occasion stopped a running coyote for a few seconds by blowing hard on a special dog whistle. It is not too uncommon for him to stop when he hears a strange sound which human ears cannot detect. A spooked coyote has a ghostly way of disappearing in almost no cover at all, so don't hesitate—shoot!

One of the greatest hunting thrills I have ever experienced was watching an avid varmint hunter near Sierraville, California, tumble a coyote head-over tail as he was running on an open hillside some 400 yards away. This varmint shooter was well armed with a .250 Donaldson wildecat, scoped with a 10X Weaver. On the third shot, that coyote went over, never knowing what hit him.

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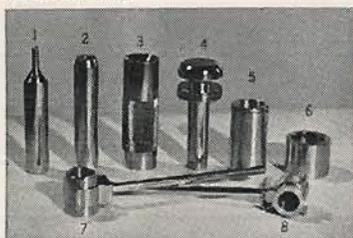
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SAVE ONE FOR TEACHER

(Continued from page 25)

"That'll be easy," Jerry assured us. "I tied a bandanna to the jackpine beside which he was standing when I whacked him."

I got a kick out of that. This boy had remembered his teaching! Sure enough, that made it easy. The trail was visible and, sure that we could follow it, we sent Bill up to the notch to rest and wait for us.

That buck had gone downhill until he was concealed in jackpines, a matter of three or four jumps. Then he'd cut through the thicket and turned sharply uphill. Thus Jerry had followed the original direction of flight, while the buck had completely reversed the field, hugging cover every yard. It was a neat maneuver, but quite unorthodox for a hard-hit deer.

It was slow going, up hill and pretty densely wooded, and Jerry and I were both a bit winded but still on the blood-and-hoof trail when we got up into the notch... And—there was Bill, sitting comfortably against the bole of a big Ponderosa pine, and wearing that cat-that-ate-the-canary look. Less than 10 yards away from her lay a dandy five-point buck!

"You boys having it tough getting your vension?" she asked. "If so, why don't you take this one. I got my buck a week ago." Jerry was tall in triumph and delight over the first whitetail buck he'd ever downed. But he was not so gleeful that he forgot our party rules. Gravely, he hauled out his hunting knife and offered it to Bill. "It's your

turn," he said. "Get to it!"

We have a standing rule, you see, all other things being equal, that the successful hunter may stand back and offer sage advice and cheerful insults while his kill is dressed out. It's our way of paying a dividend on hunting success. I chuckled. Bill had had her fun, with her wisecracks; now she could pay the piper.

Jerry's shot had been at about 75 yards. The 150-grain .308 bullet had hit midway of the chest and ranged slightly backward. It had shredded the rear of one lung, sliced through the diaphragm, and cut a thumb-deep notch out of the liver.

Bill can take it. Without a word of protest, she shed her jacket, rolled up her sleeves, and went to work. Maybe I didn't help as much as I should have; after all, since I had taught so well about the get-your-buck angles of hunting, it would be too bad if I didn't let her learn the later, somewhat messier angles...

Jerry's fine kill left it strictly up to me to complete a successful season. Between them, Bill and Jerry had seen eight bucks, all of them shootable. I was still seeking my first sight of a mere forkhorn. I'd seen perhaps 30 or more does and fawns, but always before bucks had joined them or, perhaps, any bucks with them had detected my approach and skeddaddled.

"We've about two hours of hunting time left today," I said, after the buck was full-

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dressed. "I'd like to use up about half of that on a slow gamble. How about it?"

"Anything you say, Dad," Jerry answered.

"This ridge makes a fishhook bend and ends about a half-mile away. Give me about 15 minutes to get over there before you start dragging this buck toward the car. It's all downhill, so you shouldn't have any trouble skidding him, Jerry.

"When you get there, have a cup or two of coffee, just to make sure I've plenty of time to get in place. Then, Bill, you drive the car up the valley road, about 100 yards at a time



between stops, so that Jerry stays almost abreast of you. Let him get ahead at every stop."

"Will do," agreed Bill.

"Jerry, you climb about halfway up the side of the ridge and then parallel the winding trail. There are quite a number of jack-pine thickets on the flank of the ridge, and a buck could be bedded in any one of them. Try to comb out the densest parts of those thickets."

"Don't worry," Jerry promised. "I won't leave an undisturbed cottontail in anyone of them."

"Fine. Give me 15 minutes before you start dragging; kill some more time at the car; and, eventually, pick me up where that ridge-end leans down toward the trail. When you both get there, stay put, because I might be waiting for a skulking buck to offer a clean shot." I concluded, picking up my Weatherby and chunking a load into the chamber.

Staying behind the ridge top, I hustled along to where I wanted to be. Perhaps 100 yards from the ridge end was a slight saddle, and I cat-footed through that, finally settling in place between a nubbin stump and a runty deer-pruned juniper. It was a perfect ambush spot, with openings ranging from 75 to 125 yards of shooting range.

I hadn't been in place for more than five minutes before two deer, probably a doe and her fawn, shuffled across one narrow opening. Moments later, another doe, came through the same spot. If my timing was right, Jerry was nicely underway dragging his buck to the car. Action would improve as time went on, especially when he started his sidehill drive. The line is wonderful country for calculated deer drives.

Two more does came through a more distant opening, and right on their hocks was a third deer that my binoculars identified as a forkhorn buck. It looked as if business was picking up.

That forkhorn was within nice rifle range, but I held up. Since he was coming closer,



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there was time; besides, something more desirable might be on the way. If Bill and Jerry were following instructions, they were probably still sipping hot coffee. So it was very unlikely these deer would spook.

Fifteen minutes later, that hillside was plumb crowded with deer, I saw over a dozen head. And, lovely to behold after my long drought, I'd checked four separate bucks among them. Two of them were good ones but, stealthily slinking through the jack-pines, it was tough comparing them.

Moments later, catching movement out of the corner of my eye, I instantly discarded both of those earlier bucks. The one loping easily along the curve of the ridge was better than either, and was obviously heading directly at my ambush. Unless I stopped him, and soon, he was going to instigate one helluva deer stampede. If he held his course, he'd run right into me.

I cautiously eased the Weatherby around and, when he was about 60 yards away, I used a device that has stopped many a running deer for me—a guttural "Whoa!"—a sound almost identical to the call the bucks themselves use in announcing themselves to

each other, or to does. Properly delivered, it will stop deer of all species and ages, of both sexes.

When he heard my command, this bonny buck eased his rocking-chair lope, dropped down to a half-dozen trotting paces, then pulled up. My crosshairs settled on the lowest curve of his neck, right where it melted into his brisket. The bullet was instantly on its way. Hit at a mere 40 yards, almost head on, the buck stumbled a few steps, and went down. He slid, kicking, maybe a dozen yards toward the trail some 150 yards away.

By the time Jerry broke out of the last jackpine thicket, I had my buck gutted and draining. My bullet, hitting on a downward angle, had split his heart in two and then exited at the bottom-rear of the chest cavity, just forward of the diaphragm attachment. In all of my years of deer hunting, that buck was the only one I shot in exactly that way. And, finally, in view of my long buck drought during the season, it gave me a workmanlike satisfaction to have finally wound up the proceedings in this very satisfactory fashion.

Life with Jerry and Bill would have been horrible, if I hadn't!

ONE OF TWO?

(Continued from page 31)

trigger guard, as opposed to the unprotected folding trigger shown here. The design of the mechanism and the general style of Mr. Brom's gun is definitely "Raphael"—there can be no doubt about it.

During the Civil War, the U.S. Government purchased 978 of the larger French Raphael revolvers, paying about \$16.34 for each gun. Today, this commoner, but still rare, Raphael is worth close to \$100.00 when in fine, original condition.

Cartridges for the Raphael revolvers are unusual. They do not have a rim on the cartridge head; the brass case is simply a stamped-out cup. The priming is internal, even in the specimens which seem to have a large primer cap in the base. As can be seen in the exploded view of the revolver, the cylinder has two parts. The rear plate keeps the rounds snugly in their chambers. The hammer has a fairly long striker that reaches

through a tapered hole in the cylinder plate, firing the round.

It has been reported that an eastern arms dealer has one of these pocket Raphaels, and it appears to be a specimen in much finer condition than the one shown here. If the rare, but still commoner, Civil War Raphael is worth \$100.00, what might the value be when there are only two known specimens? The casual arms enthusiast would say that the two should be worth many, many hundreds of dollars, but the truth is that the value is probably nominal.

This is unfortunate, but values of foreign pocket guns are not very high. Arms used during the Civil War have greater historic interest and therefore also have greater value. Rarity alone does not dictate a high dollar value, but this does not make the 8 mm Raphael revolver any less desirable or interesting to the gun collector.

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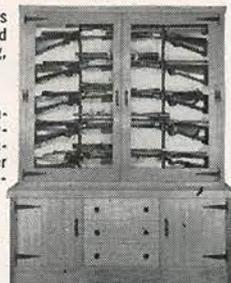
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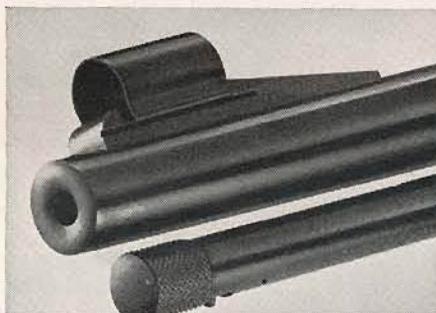


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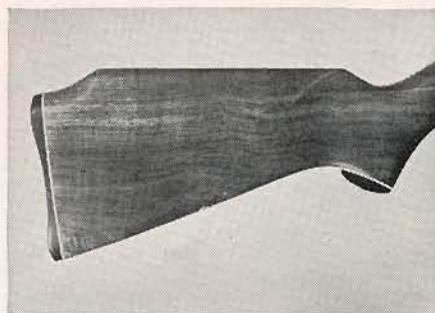
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THE SHARPS & THE BUFFALO: PART II

(Continued from page 33)

of the buffalo was not limited to the professional hide-hunters. The Indians, of course, were the early masters of this game, and they had a number of ingenious ways of gathering in their shares of buffaloes.

A method which usually involved more work than the Indian fancied called for the construction of a camouflaged log pen, with funneling wings, usually in a wooded area, somewhat like the corrals used by wild horse hunters. Small bands of buffaloes were driven into this trap and, when impounded, were killed at will.

More suited to the Indian's taste was the "surround." By this system, a great circle of riders slowly tightened the circle until the frightened buffaloes were milling in a compact mass. Any animal that tried to escape could be quickly overtaken and killed, while those bunched together were easy targets.

The most spectacular of the Indian buffalo herding operations that of driving the easily stampeded beasts toward a cliff. Before the leaders could stop or turn, the momentum of their mad flight and the frantic pushing of those behind would send many over the edge. Other Indians waited below to dispatch any animals who were merely crippled.

Of all the methods pursued by either red man or white, the most sporting was known as "running the buffalo." To approach the herd closely, Indians often covered themselves and part of their horses with buffalo robes, as pictured in one of Frederic Remington's famous paintings titled "Simulating Buffalo." Having approached as closely as possible before being detected, the horseman would then speed up his horse and overtake the lumbering herd. He would select an animal, and then proceed to dispatch it with lance, arrow, gun, or pistol. This was one of the most fundamental methods of securing a robe or buffalo meat, and it was not without elements of danger. Dust from the herd in

its head-long flight often made it impossible for a horse or rider to see the ground, and many a horse and rider have come to grief when a hoof sank into a prairie dog burrow. At times, a buffalo bull, tired of being pursued, would stop short, whirl on his front legs, and charge his pursuer. He was not a fellow to knock heads with, as the engineers of many derailed wood-burners could testify.

In this chase, there was great excitement and always the risk of being engulfed in the herd, being unhorsed, or running into other unexpected dangers. Steady nerves and a well-trained horse were more important here than enthusiasm or marksmanship.

The most publicized pleasure hunter to appear on the plains was the Grand Duke Alexis of Imperial Russia. When he first tried running the buffalo, Alexis had a hell of a time trying to knock down the unpredictable beasts with his fancy gold-inlaid Smith & Wesson revolver. But Alexis did better than one of his companions, General Geo. A. Custer. The first time General Custer ever ran a buffalo, he shot his own horse in the head, killing the horse instead of the buffalo.

Running the buffalo was too slow and laborious for the money-minded professional hunters. Thanks to their long range, hard-hitting rifles, they devised a method to do the job wholesale. Their method, called the "still hunt," was the most deadly of all.

A hide-hunting outfit might be made up of one or two riflemen, five or six skippers, and possibly a man or two to stretch hides. Two wagons and appropriate teams of horses, mules, or oxen were needed, one wagon to be fitted up like a hay rack to hold stacked-up hides for transportation to the nearest shipping point. There were the usual food supplies. Most important was the supply of rifles, lead, powder, cartridge cases and primers. Most of the hunters loaded their



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own cartridges. The empty cases were about \$20 a thousand cheaper than loaded cases. It was not only cheaper that way, but many had favorite charges or methods of loading.

For instance, the .50 caliber Sharps rifles, sometimes called the "big .50" or "Texas .50," were chambered for two different lengths of cartridge case. The earliest guns, when the Sharps was first converted from the caplock to a metallic cartridge gun, had the 1 1/4" case of government .50-70 cartridge. More power was desired, so the chamber was deepened and a 2 1/2" case was used. In this shell, hunters could use 90, 95, or even 100 grains of black powder. Some time later, a few guns were chambered for a 3 1/4" case, holding 140 grains of powder. If it were not for the fact that these guns were made with very heavy barrels, that charge would have knocked down a mule from the butt end as well as the muzzle.

The Sharps rifles had the fortunate combination of efficient rifling, precise chambering, and other factors that made them outshoot most guns then on the market. In 1872, a hunter named Cooper wrote from Bozeman, Montana, that he had won a bet of \$10 because his Sharps rifle, using the same powder charge as a Springfield rifle (erroneously called a needle-gun in those days), had shot two inches deeper into wood blocks.

In the same year, R. W. Snyder wrote that "the man I sold my .44 to killed 119 buffalo in one day with it. That beats me with my big .50, as 93 is the most I ever killed in one day."

Another comment on a .50 caliber Sharps came from a man in Ellsworth, Kansas, who claimed that his friend, Zack Light, sheltered in a buffalo wallow, had killed 74 buffaloes with a gun of that caliber from one spot. He said Zack had killed 2300 buffaloes that year—most of them shot through the lungs with conical bullets weighing almost 500 grains. This is a lot of buffaloes, but it is still short of the record said to have been made by Billy Tilghman in taking 3300 hides between September 1st and April 1st of one hunting season.

The still hunting methods of the hunters varied a little, but in general proceeded along this pattern: Having located a herd, the hunters and skinners would drive out from their base camp with a wagon, approaching down wind behind what cover might be afforded to within a half or three-quarters of a mile from the herd. The rifleman would then proceed on foot. The buffalo would not be alarmed if approached in a straight line to within about 400 yards.

When the sentinels at the edge of the herd began to get uneasy, the hunter would drop down in the grass. Then, employing what natural shelter he might find, he would edge forward until within 100 to 250 yards of the buffaloes. Selecting an animal that appeared to be a leader and the most restive, the hunter would aim for that vulnerable spot behind the foreleg and let go his first shot.

The noise did not seem to alarm the herd too much if they could not see whence it came, or if no signs of danger were visible. Although endowed with keen scent, the buffaloes had very limited vision. Then, one by one the hunters would slowly down buffaloes, selecting those that seemed most in-

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clined to flight. The stupid animals would often stand dumbly watching their companions die. If the herd took to flight, the hunter would rise and run rapidly after them, not being readily visible to the animals as they lumbered ahead. Usually they would not run far. When they slackened their pace and stopped, the hunter dropped down and began the carnage all over again. The skinners followed up with their wagon to collect the hides.

This kind of wholesale butchery took a heavy toll of the buffalo population and the great southern herd began to retreat farther south, away from the railroads and from that horde of hunters which had swarmed over favored grazing grounds in Kansas and the adjoining areas.

When the buffaloes were driven down into Texas, Fort Griffin (near Abilene) became the general rendezvous for hide hunters. Here E. C. Conrad operated a trading store that made the hearts of Sharps rifle officials very happy. Many cases of Sharps rifles passed in and out of the Conrad store.

When the center of the hide-gathering business shifted to Texas and the wholesale killing proceeded there at a fast pace, the people of Texas became concerned. An effort was made in the legislature to give some protection to the buffalo. But General Phil Sheridan, in command of the military department of the Southwest, came forward to express the government's view. Speaking of the buffalo hunters he said, "These men have done more in the past few years to settle the vexing Indian problem than the regular army has done in thirty years." The General told the legislators it was a sentimental mistake to legislate in the interest of the buffalo, and that instead they should give a vote of thanks to the buffalo hunters and each one should be presented with a medal showing a dead buffalo on one side and a subdued Indian on the other!

The General's view prevailed, and the destruction of the herd continued. In the

months of December 1877 and January 1878, more than 100,000 buffaloes chewed their last cud. By the end of 1878, except for a few wary individuals the great southern herd had been wiped out of existence.

Up above the Platte valley and extending far north toward Great Slave Lake, the northern herd of buffaloes had fared better than their southern brothers. This herd was only about half the size of the original southern herd, but it had a range twice as large. Their range reached to the Rockies on the west and almost to Minnesota on the east.

Because of the transportation problem, hunting here had been relatively light. But in 1880, the Northern Pacific Railroad was built across Dakota and Montana, and buffalo hunters flocked to the area like moths around a flame. As an added incentive, the robes from the buffalo cows in the north commanded a higher price, going up to \$4, whereas when the market was glutted in the south, prices had dropped as low as \$1.25. Here were a million or more buffaloes awaiting the hunter, so up to Miles City and other towns the hunters swarmed until four or five thousand were spread over the territory.

One of the Miles City hunters was Jim McNaney. Jim set out for a big hunt during the 1882-83 season with this equipment: 2 wagons, 2 four-horse teams, 2 saddle horses, 2 wall tents, a cook stove, three Sharps rifles (one .40-90, one .45-70, one .45-120 Sharps straight), 50 lbs. gunpowder, 550 lbs. lead, 600 brass shells, 4500 primers, 3 sheets patch paper, 60 skinning knives, 3 butcher steels, a portable grindstone, and miscellaneous food supplies. A little fire-water went along, too. The entire outfit cost \$1400.

Perhaps you will have noticed that Jim McNaney did not choose one of the .44 or .50 caliber Sharps rifles so popular in earlier days on the southern range. Ballistic ideas were changing in those days as they are today.

Christian Sharps, designer of the dropping block Sharps system, gave the basic principle and his name to Sharps buffalo rifles, and little more. He had dropped out of the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Co. in 1853. Developments from that time forward (particularly in the transition period of change from cap-lock to metallic ammunition), were directed by the very capable Richard S. Lawrence.

Despite the brisk western trade in Sharps rifles, right at the peak of the hide-hunting activity, the Sharps people ran into unfortunate litigation and economic problems which brought about a drastic reorganization. On August 1, 1874, new management took over, the name was shortened to Sharps Rifle Co., and the manufacturing plant was moved from Hartford to Bridgeport.

The new managers devised some improvements in the Sharps sidehammer rifle and in 1878 brought out a new concealed hammer
 (Continued on page 60)

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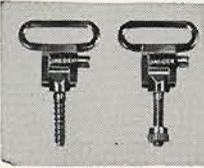
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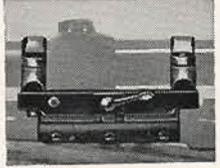
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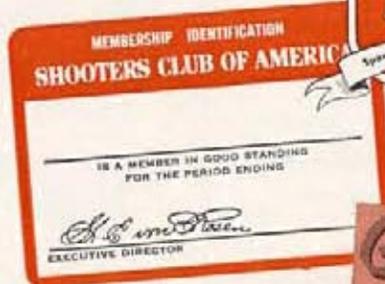
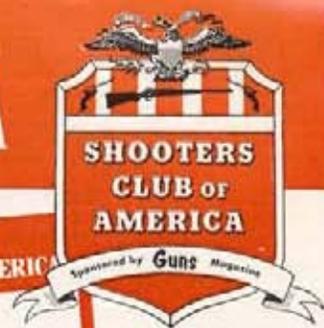
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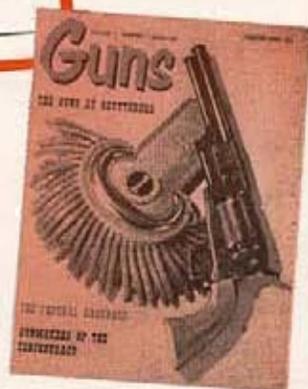
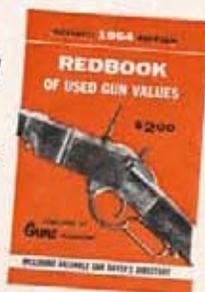
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(Continued from page 58)

model called the "Borchardt." One of the most significant advances, however, was in the ammunition. When first introduced in 1869, the .50-70 army cartridge was the standard chambering. The longer 2½" case soon appeared, generally called the .50-90. Richard Lawrence designed the bottle-neck .44-77 cartridge with a 2¼" case, and soon thereafter came a more powerful .44 bottle-neck cartridge with a case 2½" long. These .44 caliber and .50 caliber guns were favorites in the great banging away at buffaloes in 1872-73-74. Weights of the barrel varied, guns weighing a total from 8 to 16 or more pounds. Round barrels were cheaper than octagon, but not many were used by the professionals.

Complaints reached the Sharps Company that the bottle-neck cartridges were more inclined to stick in the chamber. Further, straight-case cartridges needed less or no re-sizing. By 1880, Sharps had had a lot of experience in gun-making and in making metallic ammunition. Other ammunition manufacturers also were making the Sharps sizes. Emerging as favorites were a line of .40 caliber and .45 caliber Sharps cartridges. The .40 calibers were made with both straight and bottle-neck cases, but the .45 cartridges, varying in length of case, were made only with a straight case. The .45 caliber Sharps became a great favorite with hunters in the early 1880s.

These hunters were no less ruthless than those who had annihilated the southern herd. In 1882 alone, one New York hide-buyer, Joseph Ullman, paid out \$216,500 for hides

and robes. By the end of 1884, the great northern herd was little more than a memory. In the 25 year period following 1869, those millions of great shaggy beasts had been pursued and shot at until little more than bleaching bones remained. Even these bones, found to have commercial value, were gathered up and sold for making fertilizer or to make carbon used in sugar refining. The buffalo wallows gradually filled with rich top soil and, in the spring of the year when the grass here was especially luxuriant, these spots on the prairie were sometimes called "fairy rings."

The few buffaloes that had somehow escaped all the powder burning were relentlessly sought out and killed, until the buffalo, like the carrier pigeon, seemed headed for total extinction. But at last some farsighted and influential men stepped forward and turned the tide.

Col. Charles Goodnight of Texas had started a small domestic herd of buffaloes back in 1866. Col. Charles J. Jones of Garden City, Kansas (widely known as "Buffalo Jones"), built a private herd. The American Bison Society was organized in 1905, and its members, among whom William T. Hornaday and Martin S. Garretson were especially prominent, did much to arouse the public and the government to the need for a conservation program. Today, a number of private and government herds peacefully crop the grass and put up a ferocious appearance to remind onlookers that they once were the mighty lords of the prairie.

The title used for this review of those sanguinary years is not intended to convey

the idea that the Sharps rifle was the only weapon worth carrying out on the buffalo range—it was the predominant weapon. Remington rifles also had partisans among the professional hunters. Amateurs might be found with Henry repeaters, Spencer repeaters, and later the models 1866, 1873, and 1876 Winchester repeaters.

The Henry, Spencer and 1866 Winchester rifles used rimfire ammunition, much less powerful than the Sharps cartridges and not reloadable. The Winchester 1873, a gun that was a great favorite for lighter game, did not have the range or power desired by the hide-hunters for still hunting. The Model 1876, a great favorite of Teddy Roosevelt, came nearest among the repeaters to equaling the performance of the Sharps. Bill Cody in his early buffalo hunting days did well with a .50 caliber Springfield rifle he called "Lucretia Borgia." Later, he used Sharps and Winchester rifles.

To the Indian, the story of the Sharps and the buffalo is a melancholy one. Very few white men opposed civilizing the Indian by starving him, or felt that hide-hunters made improper missionaries in the spiritual task of making good Indians. When the buffalo disappeared, there came the "government beef," the wool blanket, and the canvas tent. Some Indians have little more today. They doubtless will never forget that one day the Indian, and not "the Great White Father" in Washington, was the paternal over-lord of buffalo land—once a land where, as one frontiersman put it, "the sight of a great black sea of buffaloes was such as to excite even the dullest mind."

← MORE ← MORE



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- **NEW BUGGY RIFLE**—light and fast, only 5 1/2 lbs. Octagonal cut rifled 21" barrel. Either .36 or .45 caliber.
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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 16)

Rifle case necks should be reamed to a uniform diameter after firing and before re-sizing. The Forster Neck Reamer fits the trimmer pilot hole for in-line reaming, cutting beautifully without chatter. It's .002-.003 over bullet diameter to allow the proper amount of "young" gas to escape on firing, without erratic or excessive pressure. It helps insure a uniform bullet pull for best accuracy. Case life is greatly increased, as brass is worked less in sizing. You can quickly gauge or ream necks after every firing if desired. After being reamed cases generally hold dimensions for several firings. Dropping a standard bullet in fired cases is not a check for adequate or uniform throat clearance.

A reamer does not insure concentric necks. It should be used on cases that pass a visual or mike inspection after trimming. Bench resters use a Forster Outside Neck Turner in the trimmer to insure concentric necks. It tightens groups a bit by starting bullets in perfect alignment with the bore. But most chaps get along nicely with the reamer after visual neck inspection. It's best to discard an entire lot of cases if more than 3 or 4 in 100 have non-uniform neck walls. That indicates a sloppy lot.

Some lots of cases are much better than others of the same make. Variations are in the length, the body, neck and web thickness, diameter of the flash hole, rim and head, primer pocket depth and diameter, and hardness of the heads, bodies, and necks. Cases are truly complicated "chamber liners." Brass

quality and structure also varies. A good lot of correctly conditioned cases are a real treasure. They last for many loadings, giving superb accuracy you can't obtain with non-uniform hulls. Case life may be one round or 100. It depends on many, many factors.

Trimming handgun hulls insures a uniform crimp with good dies, if mouths are uniform in hardness and thickness. For accuracy, discard loads with a non-uniform crimp all around. Cannelures, that factories should eliminate, cause stretching, and are a weak spot. I've had .357 Magnum factory ammo pull apart, causing no end of trouble. GI crimp pockets can be conditioned with a Forster Primer Pocket Chamfering Tool in the Trimmer. GI and off-beat .38 Special pockets may detonate a live primer in seating. Discard or recondition these.

Forster's Deburring Tool is sharp and hard, fast and accurate. Hold two or three trimmed cases and deburr lightly outside. Reverse the tool and deburr heavier inside without sharpening the case mouth. Tools cut clean without chatter. Tap case mouths lightly on the bench to expell brass cuttings.

A Forster Primer Pocket Cleaner & Center in the trimmer does a perfect job of removing primer residue. You can use a wire brush made for this purpose, or a dowel cut to exact size. Clean pockets aid seating primers uniformly for better ignition. They permit inspection of the web and vent, which I recommend. Vent diameter isn't important if it's uniform and within reason. An ice pick blade makes a dandy gauge. Blunt it, insert in a vent, and put tape or a nail polish mark just ahead of the case head face. Discard cases that show more or less blade exposure. One chap drills all small vents with a No. 46 drill, and larger ones with a No. 45 for uniformity. Extra large vents and cracked or broken webs cause over ignition. Such cases should be discarded. Actually, visual inspection will detect vents that are over or under size. Examine several hulls at a time in good reflected light, to see the flash hole clearly.

Priming is the one operation factories can do better than most of us. Some primers are critical in seating. Some are too hard, and some compounds crumble easily, giving erratic ignition. CCI primers are not critical in seating. All makes should be slightly below the case head face and deep enough to contact the bottom of the pocket. Pocket depths may vary .012, and primers an equal amount. You have poor seating with a short

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BIANCHI HOLSTERS

BOX 217

MONROVIA, CALIF.

primer in a deep pocket, or vice versa. It isn't fully corrected in tools with a primer stop, or by experts who "seat by feel" after long practice.

CCI primers compensate for considerable seating variation. They solve the problems of erratic ignition or even hangfires in rimless cases, especially in guns such as the S & W .45 Target. Like other fine guns, this one is temperamental in handling sloppy reloads. There is no excuse for sloppy loading.

Brass with expanded pockets should be discarded. It indicates excessive loads or soft heads, generally the former. Monroe Thomas, who helps us, found some .300 Weatherby ammo that had expanded pockets. As a test, he reloaded these by greatly compressing CCI 250 Magnum primers. They fired perfectly. The excellent design of Weatherby's Mark V rifle prevented hot gas escaping in his eye. The test was to check for good ignition with crushed primers. Please don't try this experiment. CCI Magnum primers work perfectly in all cases with all coated powders.

You can't always detect slightly loose primers by decapping and sizing in one operation. You can detect it every time by decapping only. One way is to use a $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 30 T.P.I. Lyman decapping die in Lyman's adapter for your standard $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 14 T.P.I. press. A knock-out punch also works. You can remove the decapping unit from a sizer and use it with a mallet or a knock-out punch if you suspect your loads were hot enough to expand pockets. Such loads, of course, are entirely too hot, in normal brass. I don't recommend reaming primer pockets with a hand tool. Gas leaks often result.

I suggested that Forster-Appelt make a Hollow Point Accessory for their trimmer, and they did. It's a honey. Their Universal fits all calibers. We did a lot of testing to determine the cavity size and depth for adequate expansion. The company used our test findings. For .38 to .45 handguns use the $\frac{1}{8}$ " drill, with .357 and .44 Magnum bullets drilled $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep. For lighter loads drill about $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep, or no more than $\frac{5}{16}$ ". For calibers smaller than .30 use the $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill. For .30 and larger use the $\frac{1}{8}$ " drill. Rifle bullets work well with $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep cavities, or a bit deeper for Lo-V cast loads, on varmint. Speed the drilling by applying turpentine to the drill occasionally with a wad of cotton twisted on a matchstick, a watercolor brush, or piece of felt.

You can hollow point factory ammo or reloads to double the shock. A drilled cavity opens faster than one cast or swaged. Accuracy sometimes improves. Cast or jacketed pointed bullets require the nose faced off.

(Continued on page 66)

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Yes, the genuine Government-Issue Carbine bayonet (not an import) in excellent condition. Ideal for hunting, camping, skin diving, etc. Length of blade, 6 1/2" — overall length, 11 1/2". Blade has parkerized finish. Comes with self-sharpening plastic sheath. Leather tie-down thing is attached to sheath.

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Designed for the M1 30 cal. Carbine, 37" overall length. Made of highest quality, sturdy olive drab canvas. Has zipper opening and adjustable web carry-strap.

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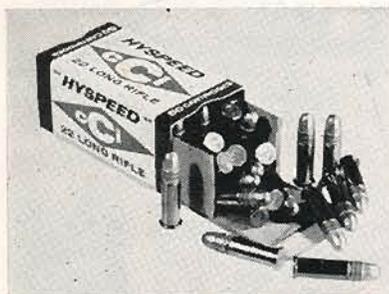
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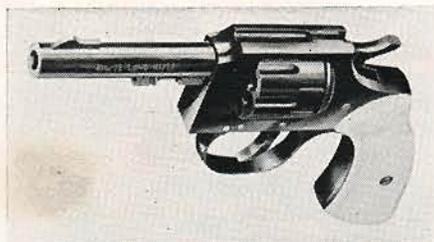
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ARMY DUCK COAT. Designed for hunting, coat features water repellent rubberized yokes on back and front; rubberized sleeve linings; two side entrances to zipper drop seat; blood-proof, rubberized seamless game pocket; full bi-swing back. Flannel lined hand-warmer pockets cover and protect all gauge elastic shell loops and large side pockets. Breast pocket has button flap, sleeves are ventilated. Smart corduroy collar. Priced at \$21.95 from Trigg Mfg. Corp., Dept. G-11 Box 360, Cadiz, Kentucky.



CASCADE CARTRIDGE, INC., Dept. G-11, Lewiston, Idaho has entered into .22 rimfire production, first occurrence in several decades. Annual production of .22 rimfire ammunition in U.S. is several billion rounds.



8-SHOT .22 well-made handgun imported from W. Germany. Fine for target shooting, varmints, plinking. Features side gate loading ejector rod, steel rifled barrel with blade front sights. Fires American made .22 Long Rifle ammo. Choice of 2-, 4-, or 6" barrel models. Priced \$14.95. For details write: Seaport Traders, Inc., Dept. G-11, 1221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 15, Calif.

SHOPPING



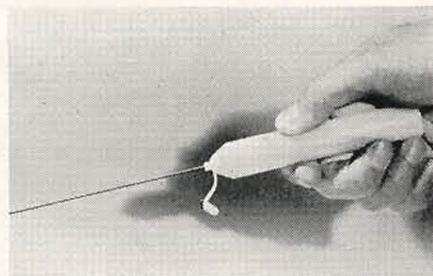
SHEEP LINED VEST. Of rugged gabardine, garment is water-repellent and stain-resistant. Generous sheepskin lining gives warmth without bulkiness. Extra long back for bending or reaching. Zipper front. Color-Brown. In sizes 36-50. Priced at \$10.45, ppd. from Corcoran Inc., Dept. G-11, Stoughton, Mass.



"O-PEN-ER" Beer can punch-bottle opener. Attractively styled pen can be clipped to pocket. Punches cans, opens bottles while camping. Metal parts of stainless steel, pen cartridge of plastic. \$1.00 ppd. from Maison International, Ltd., Dept. G-11, 30 W. 15th St., N. Y. 11, N.Y.



EXTRA LARGE GAME CALL for ducks made of quality aged woods. Perfect gift for sportsman who wants best. Features fine tone, quality craftsmanship. Measures 11 3/4" overall. Lists at \$14.95. From the line of Faulk's Game Calls. Dept. G-11, 616-18th St., Lake Charles, La.



OIL-MITE PEN OILER lubricates instruments, gages, gears. Plastic container features extending-retracting "needle-thin" stain-

less steel tube with overall reach of over 9". Tube retracts into container where captive cap seals end of tube. Produced by Armitage Laboratories, Dept. G-11, 1845 Randolph St., Los Angeles, Calif.



4X SCOPECHIEF 22, high class, precision riflescope. Non-removable, one-piece turret/mount slides directly onto grooved receivers. Crosshair always appears centered, under normal shooting conditions. Priced at \$19.95 from D. P. Bushnell and Co., Inc., Dept. G-11, 565 Bushnell Bldg., Pasadena, Calif.



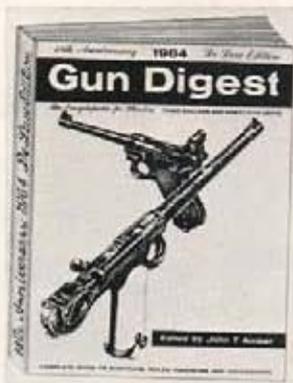
MADE-TO-MEASURE stocks for new Browning Automatic by Herrett's Stocks, Dept. G-11, Box 741, Twin Falls, Idaho. Beautiful stocks available in select grade walnut and exotic woods. Current deliveries being made within two to three weeks.



POLYETHELENE WAD combines cupwad, fillerwad and shotpouch for 7/8" column 12-gauge shells, available from Fordwad, Inc., Dept. G-11, P.O. Box 2772, Cleveland 11, Ohio. Known as Yelo-Wad, it is designed to give better-than-original performance. Yelo-Wad burns powder cleaner, prevents leading. Test package of 10 Yelo-Wads priced at 35¢ for all 7/8" column shells.

2-PLACE GUN RACK of cherrywood hand-rubbed finish in a rich walnut tone. Shipped unassembled complete with screws. Stylish 4- and 6-place Gun Racks also available from: Academy Import Corp., Dept. G-11, 655 Broadway, New York 12, N. Y.

WITH Guns

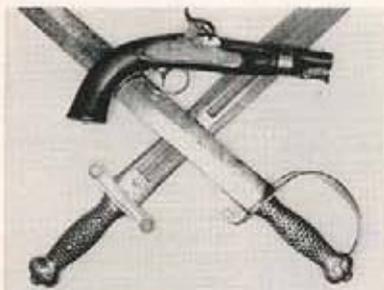


1964 GUN DIGEST. Contains 50 valuable original articles by famed gun experts, important ballistics data, giant gun and accessory section with illustrations, complete "specs", prices. Added bonus: rare Sears, Roebuck catalog of 1908. Priced \$3.95 at dealers or ppd. from Gun Digest Assoc., Dept. G-11, 4540 W. Madison St., Chicago 24, Ill.

NELSON'S ENCY. CAMPING. Comprehensive volume by Edward C. Janes offers basic camping information. Covers variety of related sporting fields. Volume contains 512 pp., is priced at \$7.50.

ALLEN-EDMONDS BOOT-SKOS. Quality chukka lasted by hand without single nail. Made of genuine Boarhide, among mightiest and softest of leathers. Boot-Sko designed for sure-footing, with non-slip, deep-treaded sole and heels. Completely washable, require no polish. Priced at \$23.95. From: Fellman, Ltd., Dept. G-11, 6 East 46th St., New York.

POCKET RADIO TRANSMITTER. Transmits on regular radio band to home, car, portable radios. Can be used as wireless intercom or walkie-talkie. Only 3½ x 2½ x 1 inches. Uses standard 9-volt transistor battery. Guaranteed. Ppd. price \$9.95. (Battery 65¢). Order from: Johnson Smith Co., Dept. G-11, 6615 E. Jefferson, Detroit 7, Mich.



AMES PISTOL AND SWORDS. Ames Model 1843 boxlock percussion U.S. Navy pistol and U.S. Naval cutlass, Model 1841, and Model 1833 U.S. Foot Artillery Roman Style sword by Ames offered for sale in 216 page catalog from Museum of Historical Arms, Dept. G-11, 1038 Alton Road, Miami Beach 39, Fla. Book of authentic weapons available for \$1.00, deducted from first purchase.

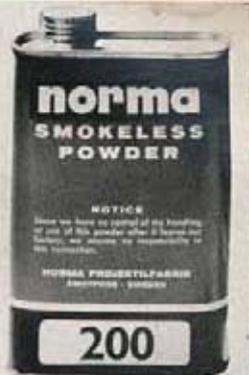


REFRIGIWEAR INSULATED UNDERWEAR with insulation of Eastman Kodol polyester fiberfill. Outerfabric is durable, water-repellent 70/70 denier nylon taffeta with nylon bulk knit collar and cuffs. Action back, duratherm quilting, utility pockets. Zipper closure on jacket and pants. To be washed or dry cleaned. Available in small, medium, large, extra large, and super large sizes; color beige. Retail at about \$40.00. Manufactured by Eastman Chemical Products, Inc., Dept. G-11, Kingsport, Tenn.



SENTINEL TARGET is two targets on single sheet of heavy, 60-lb. white paper stock. Originally designed by Jay Gallagher for sighting in scope-sighted rifles at 100 yards, bottom 8" bull is sufficient for iron-sighted rifles at 100 yards. 4" inner white cross of lower 8" bull designed for low-power scopes; 2" inner white cross of top 4" bull for high-power scopes. Sharp sighting picture, convenient graph enable quicker, easier, more economical sighting. Contact Sentinel Targets, Dept. G-11, 23 Pleasant St., Keene, N.H.

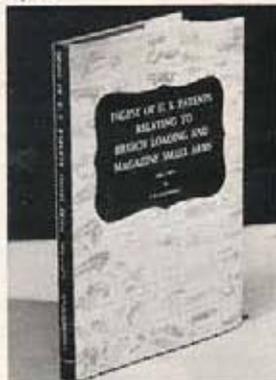
BREDA MARK II Autoloader available as Skeet gun as well as Trap Gun. Skeet gun has semi-fancy stock and fore end of skeet design and dimensions. Equipped with special Skeet Bore 26" barrel, Simmons Deluxe Ventilated Rib and Glow-Worm front sight. Available in 12 or 20 gauge from \$210.00. Trap Gun's special full choke 30" barrel equipped with Glow-Worm front sight and Simmons Deluxe Ventilated Rib. Available 12-gauge only at \$219.50, from The Biddle Co., Dept. G-11, 4165 Broadway, Kansas City 11, Mo.



NORMA 200 ultra-modern rifle powder. Specially adapted for small capacity cartridge cases such as .222 Rem., it is fastest burning of Norma rifle powders. Commonly used with .308 Win. when loaded with 130 gr. soft point pointed boattail. For all details about Norma 200 rifle powder write to: Norma-Precision, Dept. G-11, South Lansing, N. Y.



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"DIGEST OF U.S. PATENTS Breech Loading And Magazine Small Arms" published by Norm Flayderman, Dept. G-11, 44 W. Putnam Ave., Greenwich, Conn. Primary source of arms information, of eminent importance to all interested in arms collecting, historical research, inventing, design, development, manufacture, and patents. Contains over 800 patents and accompanying illustrations of each weapon as well as their major functioning parts. Basic source of information on U.S. firearms design and development.

(Continued from page 63)

The Forster 30-06 Bullet Nose trimmer does it accurately in their trimmer in this caliber.

Forster Headspace Gauges, in "Go," "No-Go," and "Field," for most rifles, are excellent. For just one gauge buy a "No-Go." If it chambers the rifle has excessive and perhaps dangerous headspace. All new rifles are very apt to be right. Headspace increases

with firing. Check all old or much-used rifles occasionally. A gunsmith will do it at low cost. These are not a substitute for case headspace gauges. I've found factory cartridges with excessive headspace that caused people to think the fault was in their rifles. I strongly recommend a case gauge first and always, especially with rimless calibers.

The first indication of excessive headspace in rifle or ammunition is generally an indistinct mark around part of the body near the head. It's difficult to describe or picture. It indicates the brass stretched a bit in that area. In advanced conditions the brass nearly cracks in that area. A complete head separation is very apt to wreck the rifle. Powder gas under high pressure often blows out the floor plate, shatters the stock, and causes other damage. Some loading dies or shell holders set back the case shoulder, and this is quickly detected with the Case Length & Headspace Gauge.

Tolerances are quite small. The .358, .308, and .243 Win., for example—all use the same headspace gauge—are 1.630 for "Go" and only 1.634 for "No-Go." The "Field" is a dangerous 1.638. Good loading dies are very carefully made, checked and inspected. Don't settle for cheap quality dies or shell holders.

To sum up, turn or neck ream all rifle cases. Trim all once-fired cases to minimum length, preferably with a Case Length & Headspace Gauge. After sizing, check all rimless rifle hulls in the same gauge for excessive headspace. Don't slight visual case inspections. No trimmer I have used is better or more versatile than a Forster. Their power model is equally good in a drill press. We use both types. We prefer the hand crank

model for most jobs, and keep several set-up for various cartridges and operations. The advantage is to save a few minutes time making adjustments.

Forster-Appelt Mfg. Co., Lanark, Illinois, will send you a free catalog on request. All of their items for shooters and gunsmiths are well designed, of high quality, and are reasonably priced.

A new item, not yet listed, is a clever Handgun Sling. All handgun hunters will

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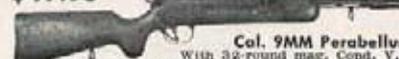


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TRY THIS FOR GROUSE

(Continued from page 37)

Sparky," Randy said, "or we'll lose him in these hills."

The three of us hurried to catch up with the high-balling dog as he quartered a hillside some distance to the north. "With all this buckbrush he should hit something hot pretty soon," Randy panted, as we hoofed across the meadow between the hills. "The grouse will be loafing in the brush with the temperature up as high as it is today."

"Why don't we split up and each take a section of that hill?" Harold suggested. "That way, one of us will be near Sparky when he pins birds."

Randy took the center route while we flanked him, ready if sharptails flushed wildly. Just before we reached the sidehill, Randy hollered "Point."

I scanned the hillside for the dog, and finally saw him partially hidden by brush. Old Skip, seeing the young dog on point, loped up behind and eased into his loose but handsome honoring point.

Over 150 yards divided us from four prairie chickens, and our quick dash was to no avail. They cackled out across the sidehill, glided up over the hilltop, and disappeared behind the rise.

Grouse in this area were primarily sharptails. These were the first prairie chickens we had seen. Their dark markings and square tails distinguished them from the sharptail. The beginner may have trouble telling the two birds apart in flight, but with a little experience, he soon becomes able to recognize them.

The dogs were off and cruising again. About halfway up a hill, we heard someone call "Point," and glanced up to see Floyd Roberts motioning us to hurry. Topping the hill, we saw that Skip had this time been the first to find the birds, and Sparky was honoring the oldster. It was one of those picture settings, with a long yucca-studded draw stretching its finger into the slope, an azure blue sky forming a colorful backdrop, and the two liver-and-white pointers standing like statues pointing to the bird's plum-brush hideout.

Randy and I stood back, allowing Harold and Floyd the honor. They walked in at the ready.

"Chickens!" Randy exclaimed, as four prairie chickens came bombarding out of the brush in front of Floyd. The Kansas Citian was up to the task, and made a neat double with his autoloader.

Taking a breather, we asked Floyd how the rest of the party was making out. "Bill, Bob, Pete, and Dick are pretty close to their limits," he answered. "They've been flushing birds out of the rough hills to the south. I just filled my limit with this double."

"What do you think of our grouse shoot-

ing?" Randy asked, mouthing a fresh pinch of his favorite chew.

"Let me put in a word for it first," Harold injected. "I've hunted chicken in Canada, and had some fine shooting; but this sharptail hunting in the Sand Hills is the finest upland game-bird shooting I've had yet!"

Harold wasn't exaggerating. We filled our first day, and this, the second, was to be a repeat performance. Much of this vast yucca-covered hill country never sees a hunter.

This reminded me of another hunting trip when Jim Tische and I traveled to the northeast part of the Sand Hills for a hunt near the little hamlet of Ericson. We were heading into virgin territory, an area which had not been open to grouse hunting for 32 years. The Nebraska Game Commission decided to open more grouse territory when studies showed that regulated hunting has had no particular effect on grouse numbers. Populations in both hunted and non-hunted areas have been identical throughout the years.

It was the first of October, and puffs of white clouds were drifting in the dark blue sky when we headed into the choppy hills, and we found out quickly that 32 years of rest had not taken any wariness out of the birds. Even in the areas where birds were hunted in the past, many generations live and die without coming under the gun. Also because of the size of the area, 20,000 square miles, a hunter can go a day in the hills without bumping into another hunter. The grouse aren't affected by hunting very much

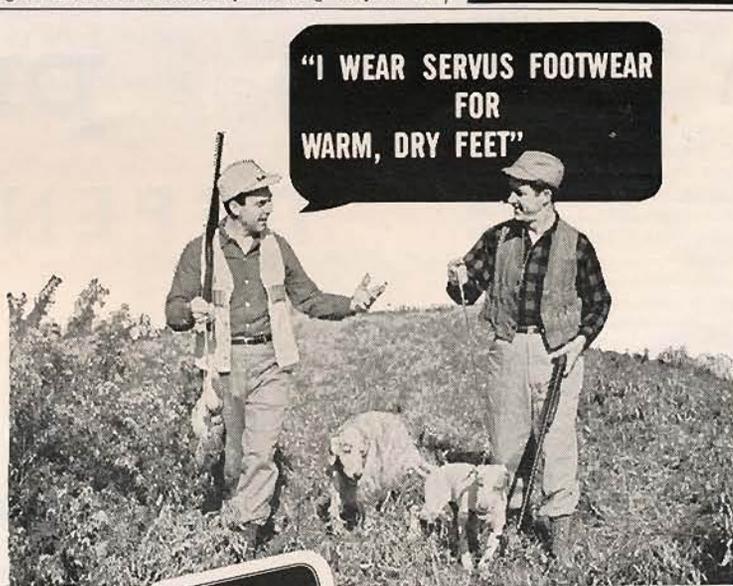
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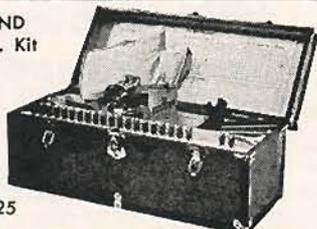


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(Continued from page 67)

because the country is populated by few people; and the hunting is rough enough that only the hardy sportsman is likely to make a serious try at the birds.

Hunting the grouse is not for the hunter who likes to ride the cushions of an automobile. I have heard hunters complain that there aren't very many birds, and they should not be hunted. But it always turns out that those hunters have been driving the roads and meadows looking for birds. Those who really hunt, find! Though some birds are found in the meadows in the early morning and again in the evening, most frequently the high, rough hills produce best results. Grouse can also be found in cornfields, stubble-fields, and on the small rolling hills in the mornings, evenings, and cool weather. Clumps of brush are commonly used for loafing during midmorning and the afternoon hours.

But there is only one way to get plenty of shooting, and that is walking the hills. The successful hunter stays below the hilltop and walks around them. In this way, he doesn't expose himself to the birds.

On some days, the birds will be wilder than others. A good wet morning is perhaps the best bet. Even a slight drizzle is good as the birds set tight. Grouse are extremely wild when it is dry and windy. On such days, they can be found in the grassland along the crest of the hills. The birds will flush wildly and may be difficult to get within range.

Early-season gunning is best, since the birds are then in small groups. As the season progresses or cold weather moves in, the size of the flocks will grow. These sometimes

number 100 birds. Then they become hard to approach, and often flush far beyond gun range.

The use of a good pointer or setter is invaluable in hunting grouse. Prairie chickens will hold better to dogs than the sharptail. Good grouse dogs are hard to come by; it takes a real seasoned veteran to handle the birds. A wild-running, haphazard dog is better left in the kennel. He will flush more birds than he holds.

After flourishing in the early days, the grouse, particularly the greater prairie chicken, almost became extinct. Both types once inhabited the entire Midwest, and were staple in the diets of the early settlers. Grouse were shipped out of the Midwest by the wagon load, 300,000 being sent out of Nebraska by market hunters in 1874.

The decline of grouse continued until the mid-30s, when an all-time low was reached. Then the trend changed. Conservation measures and the return of abundant rainfall combined to influence a noticeable increase in the grouse populations by 1940.

Now, through land management and conservation practices, states with grouse populations are trying to restore suitable grouse range. The grouse has come fighting back to take its place as a true game bird, one to give a worthy challenge to the hardy.

On every grouse hunt that I have taken, the hunters have dropped bone-weary into the cars at the end of the day. There was that tired but contented look on their faces. It's a challenging sport, but their feelings are that of a noted soldier who once said, "We shall return." Once you try grouse hunting, it's habit-forming!



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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 8)

30 inches, and from IC&M to F&F, are available. You can get complete details either from your dealer or from Firearms International Corp., Dept. G, Washington 22, D.C.

Function, left, patterns, and general performance of the Robust was most satisfactory, and testing the gun was a real pleasure. We started with W-W factory loads, fired six boxes at clay pigeons, and had so much fun that we trotted out a partial case of reloads and fired them. In all, during three testing sessions, we fired over 700 rounds of ammo, mixed lots, various hulls, factory and handloads, all sizes of shot—and there was not a single malfunction or mechanical failure of any kind. Right from the first shot, the gun broke easily and closed smoothly, and patterns were as advertised. Although most familiar with the single sighting plane on smooth-bores, the sighting plane of the Robust with its twin tubes did not affect trap scores in any appreciable fashion—we still averaged our usual 20-21 birds. Summary: A fine side-by-side that will take its share of game for the gunner without costing a small fortune and without the fancy frills that do not help to grass game.

Gun Cleaning Kit

The Gun-All cleaning kit is a handy item, so handy in fact that we ordered two of them as soon as our tests were completed. In this plastic zipper bag, you'll find a pull-through cable, plastic covered for bore protection, patches made of sponge plastic that will fit all calibers and gauges, plus an aerosol spray that will clean the gun inside and out, protect the bore, and prevent rust and corrosion. Made by McKee Products Inc., Dept. G, 2500 Toledo Road, Elkhart, Ind., the kit will retail for \$2.98—the best and handiest gun care method you can find on a hunting trip, and also the best gun insurance.

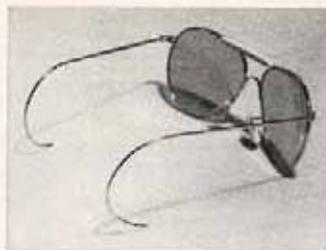
Handy Vise

Have you ever tackled a job on your bench and wished that your bench vise would rotate 360 degrees in all directions? If you have had this experience, then you should investigate this new vise. Sold under the tradename of #301 Panavise, and available with either steel or nylon jaws which are interchangeable, the Panavise rotates in all directions and locking it in position is easy and positive. The jaws open 2½ inches and construction of the vise is rugged, yet it takes little space on the bench. We found many uses of the Panavise and are now using it a great deal more than our heavy bench vise. Retailing for \$15.60 and

available either from your hardware shop or from the Custanite Corp., Dept. G, 1225 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 3, N.Y., we think that you'll find the vise one of the handiest, if not the most handy, vises for gun work.

Shooting Glasses

We have been using new shooting glasses for some time now and want to tell you about them. Made by M. B. Dinsmore, Box 21G, Wyomissing, Reading, Pa., the glasses,



available in a wide variety of tints, are heat treated and are thus virtually shatter-proof. These glasses retail for \$12.95, while the deluxe shooting glasses retail for \$19.95. Also new in the Dinsmore line are heat-treated and tinted clip-on glasses, which, for the occasional shooter, are a most welcome item. You can get those Dinsmore glasses either from the gun shop, or through Stoeger's. If you cannot find a dealer near you, write to Dinsmore, and he'll contact your dealer for you.

Mauser Sporter

The military Mauser 98 action is one of the most popular actions for conversion, wildcatting, and sporterizing. Kodiak Mfg. Co., Dept. G, 112 Quinpiac Ave., North Haven, Conn., has taken these actions, al-

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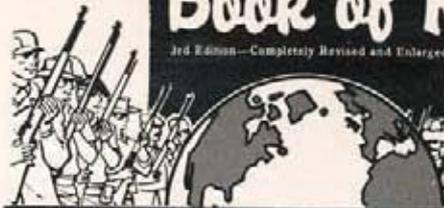
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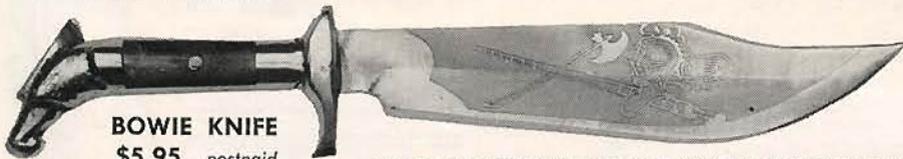
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tered them where indicated, added a new sporter stock and barrel—and presto you have a fine, lightweight, sporting rifle. Drilled and tapped, bolt handle bent and with a low scope safety, in your choice of .243, .270, .30-06, or .308 Win, these guns retail for only \$109.95—a bargain any way you look at it.

Our test gun in .243, with Weaver mount and a Redfield 4X scope, grouped 1 3/8 inches at 100 yards with factory ammo. Several handloads, notably the 85 grain Sierra and the 105 grain Speer bullets, did exceptionally well, with groups going slightly under MOA. These results were of particular interest to me, since an M 98 action had recently been barreled and stocked in the same caliber by a custom gunsmith—at greater cost and with considerably less accuracy. These guns by Kodiak seem to be a good bet for anyone who wants a gun in any of these calibers and does not care to spend a great deal of money on a once-in-a-while use rifle.

Safe-Site

Made by Safe-Site Co., Inc., Dept. G, Bay City, Michigan, this little plastic gadget will, when inserted into the action of an auto-



loader or pump shotgun or rifle, gather enough light to make visual inspection of the barrel, from either end, a simple matter. Retailing for only two dollars, it could easily pay its way when you are shopping for a used gun or looking over a gun to add to your collection.

C-H Shotmaster

The Shotmaster, latest C-H Die Co. tool to reach the market, is a greatly simplified version of the fine C-H Shellmaster. Complete for one gauge, the tool retails for \$56.95, and extra die sets, in all but .410 gauge, are available for \$16 per set. The tool handles all shells, has adjustable wad pressure guide and seater, and an adjustable crimping die. Nine motions, not counting the movement required on the handle, are needed to make one good shell, and for the shooter who loads only a few boxes every week, the Shotmaster will soon pay for itself. The shell is retained in the sizing sleeve throughout the loading operation, and this of course insures a perfect sizing of the case as it is being loaded, and even excess wad pressure cannot bulge the hull. Shot and powder measures are operated manually, and you can load paper, plastic, and metal hulls on the tool. This is not a production tool, but the shells we made on it fed without trouble through a very finicky autoloader—the best endorsement we can give any loader.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 12)

Sedgeley Barrels

I have a 1903 Springfield with a U.S.M.C. Sedgeley 4-groove barrel dated 5-42. I have always heard the name Sedgeley used in connection with U.S.M.C. arms. I would like to know if the barrels made by Sedgeley are better, and if so in what respect, than the regular Army ordnance barrels.

H. Fred Martin
Aiken, S. C.

The Sedgeley organization made many Sporting Springfield rifles, and were well known for their work. I'm not surprised that you have a 1942 Sedgeley barrel on your Springfield.

I have no reason to believe that the 4-groove Sedgeley barrels were or are any better than the more usual arsenal 4-groove barrels.

I was in the U.S.M.C. during W.W. II and fired more than a few Springfield rifles, and do not remember seeing even one rifle such as you describe.—C.B.

Belgian Percussions

I have been looking for information on two muzzle-loading percussion pistols which I own. They are shaped like duellers, 15" over all, multi-grooved barrels (browned), checked grips, lock and lock plates engraved. Markings are on under side of barrels, covered by forestock. Both are marked S. J. Boy #8531, also 401-HL. Proofs marks are ELG in an oval. We cannot find anything about S. J. Boy in the gun books; can you help us?

Donald R. Miller
Gary, Indiana

I can find nothing on "S. J. Boy." It may well be that he was just the barrel maker and did not make or assemble the pistols. Usually, when a maker marked his pieces, he put his name on top of the barrel in such a way that it was quite obvious to all.

The "E.L.G." proof mark tells me that the arm was proofed in Belgium. If the two were made during the normal period for such guns, they were made in the 1850's or 1860's.—C.B.

Danish Rolling Block

I would appreciate information as to history, identification, and value of the following firearms.

Action—Rolling Block Cal.—.45-70. Receiver on left side stamped M-1867 below a crown and script letter "R" Both hammers stamped with a crown on left side.

On top of tang stamped words KJOBENHAVNHAVNO TOIHUJO, 1882. Inside tang: no. 61491. Barrel is marked .45-70 but otherwise plain. Condition of this piece is excellent but I don't believe the barrel is original.

I would also like to know where I can purchase a magazine catch lock for a colt 45 automatic.

Richard L. Gauger
West Chicago, Ill.

Originally, your rolling block rifle was a Danish military piece. It was chambered for the 11.7 mm Danish centerfire cartridge. It was the model of 1867, but the rifle was actually manufactured in 1882.

These Danish rolling blocks were sold in this country a few years ago for about \$10. or \$12. each. Since yours is rebarrelled to 45-70, it should be worth more.

A number of dealers who handle parts for military arms advertise in "GUNS". One such dealer is Bob Lovell, Box 401, Elmhurst, Illinois.—C.B.

Streaks On M94 Receiver

I have a Model 1894 Winchester rifle, cal. .38-55. . . . The receiver appears to have long scratches the full length of it, on each side. I have been told that these are the result of the receiver having been wrought rather than machined. Is this possible?

Andrew Robinson
Davison, Mich.

The streaks on the receiver of your 1894 Winchester are commonly encountered. Those marks—or at least the metal stress that caused the marks—are due to the process of manufacture. So far as I know, there has never been a faulty Winchester due to a bad receiver because of the manufacturing process which displayed those streaks.

Your 1894 rifle in its condition should be worth about \$80.00.—C.B.

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NUGGETS from the morning mail

Hunting In National Parks

I wish to take the opposing viewpoint with regard to national park hunting. There seems to be a trend in American thought away from conservatism to the liberalistic philosophy that if an institution hinders a particular faction, then that institution should be eradicated. This seems to be the thought behind Charles Askin's "Should We Open National Parks to Hunters?"

The fact that 15,000,000 persons, not necessarily rational sportsmen, buy hunting licenses each year, should not dictate the policy that hunting should be incorporated within national park boundaries. Should not the other 167,000,000 Americans who enjoy the aesthetic values found within our national parks receive priority?

The article implied that the reduction methods employed by the National Park Service left much to be desired. This may be partially true; however, there is very stable ecological evidence behind the elk herd reduction, based on many years of scientific investigation. This reduction by present means is by far the most satisfactory method of control known at the present time. But you say, "Replace needless official slaughter (of elk)." What with? Irresponsible slaughter of elk, bear, moose, deer and other wildlife, by public hunters? The average hunter's value in "selective shooting" would be so far inferior to the highly skilled park ranger that this idea warrants absolutely no merit. You would desire to replace highly competent ranger reduction methods with "can't-wait-to-get-a-shot" methods of public hunters.

If you go against park service policy and allow elk hunting, why not allow hunting for bear, moose, deer, and other animals? Within Yellowstone Park we might also lengthen the list of abuses by adding commercial fishing, mining, and logging operations. Why not? To quote your article, "The country belongs to the people . . . let's let the people use it."

This may sound extreme, but it would not be unlike Americans to completely ignore sound conservation practices for immediate (and costly) personal pleasure. It has hap-

pened before, and it could happen here. Our national parks constitute a heritage second to none in the world. Will we sacrifice this for the pleasures of a few? After Pandora's box is opened, who will close it? What part are you going to play in leaving our national parks unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

R. Wayne Habermehl
Manhattan, Kansas

Just finished reading the article in the July issue by Colonel Askins about hunting National Parks, and agree with him 100 per cent. Just to read about a slaughter like that in the Yellowstone last winter makes me sick!

Keep up the good work you have been doing all along.

Grover C. Smith
Holbrook, Arizona

Askins' article on National Park hunting is sure to arouse much favorable response amongst your readers to opening the Parks to hunting. Certainly there is a grave situation in the Parks and for far too many years these lands and game herds have suffered from overprotection. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind that those herds *must* be brought down in numbers, and not be allowed to rebuild to excessive levels.

It is a grave problem, and certainly controlled public hunting could well be an economical and practical means to solve it. But is it the best method? And is it compatible with the purposes for which the Parks exist? I have strong suspicions that, on both counts, the answer would be found to be no. I think that hunting—be it by paid shooters or paying ones—is directly contrary to the existence of National Parks, for presumably their purpose is to preserve as much as possible the natural conditions of the land and to make these areas accessible to the public.

Allowing hunting will help greatly to preserve and regain *some* of the natural conditions, but at the sacrifice of others. The goal that we should work for is to establish and build up the populations of the great predators—the wolf, the lion, and the grizzly bear—to the point where they take care of a part of the surplus game animals. Likely there would still be a considerable surplus that would have to be taken by hunters—and maybe even a few surplus predators to be taken too.

Ray Colyer
Mancos, Colorado



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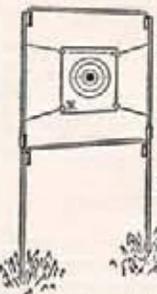
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(Continued from page 35)

tion to get the job done because of their outstanding record of community service. Jaycees require their members to be in the 21 to 35 age group, ideal for the type of individual required to work with youngsters. And, with about 230,000 members in some 4,800 communities in the U.S., ample manpower was assured.

The first step was to get pilot program experience. Starting at Daisy's home base, Rogers, Arkansas, the local Jaycee chapter welcomed the chance to try the program. It was so successful that they recommended its adoption as a state-wide program the following year.

Both Arkansas and Kansas adopted it as state programs and, from the experience gained working with many Jaycee chapters, a course was settled on involving 13 lessons. These were made up in kit form and adopted as a national program by the Jaycees.

The 13 lessons take about one hour each over a 13-week period. The first seven lessons cover hunter-safety training, familiarity with all types of guns, sighting, breathing, trigger squeeze, triangulation, range procedures, and marksmanship. The second phase consists of team units of five youngsters, shooting in competition.

The benefits of this program to the shooting sports is obvious. The youngsters who participate will carry the training they receive

into adulthood and will provide examples of good gun manners good sportsmanship and



respect for firearms to other youngsters, in the field and on the range.

The benefits to the community may not be as apparent, but they are important. The program provides youngsters with wholesome, supervised recreation, and brings them in close contact with responsible adult leaders of the community. Because of the participation of the parents, it provides a new area of common activity for father and son and mother and daughter.

If your local Jaycee chapter is forming a shooting education program, participate if you can—or at least let them know that you appreciate the effort they and the local sponsors are putting forth. If no program has been announced, do what you can to get one started in your community—the dividends will be well worth the effort.

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

GUNS and AMMUNITION

ROBERT ABELS.....	68
ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO.....	45
ACC-U-REAM.....	52
ATLAS ARMS, INC.....	57
BROWNING ARMS COMPANY.....	3, 46
BADGER SHOOTERS SUPPLY.....	74
CASCADE CARTRIDGE INC.....	68
DAISY MFG. COMPANY.....	15
NORM FLAYDERMAN ANTIQUE ARMS.....	58
GLOBAL TRADING CORP.....	57, 70
GREAT WESTERN ARMS CO.....	57
HARRINGTON & RICHARDSON.....	53
HIGH STANDARD MFG. CO.....	48
HUNTERS LODGE.....	38, 39
INTERARMO.....	45
PAUL JAEGER.....	58
KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS CO., INC.....	11
S. E. LASZLO.....	51
MARLIN FIREARMS CO.....	6, 55
MARYLAND ARMS CO.....	52
MERCHANTS.....	70
MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL ARMS.....	71
NORMA-PRECISION.....	54
NOSLER PARTITION BULLET.....	69
NUMRICH ARMS.....	60, 61
P & S ARMS.....	63
PARKER DISTRIBUTORS.....	56
PENDELTON GUN SHOP.....	49
PHARR FIREARMS.....	70
POTOMAC ARMS.....	66
REMINGTON ARMS CO.....	9, Cover IV
SAVAGE ARMS CORP.....	18, Cover III
SERVICE ARMAMENT CORP.....	4
SPEER PRODUCTS CO.....	8
STOEGER ARMS CORP.....	44
STURM, RUGER & CO.....	Cover II
TEXAS GUN CLINIC.....	57
TRADEWINDS, INC.....	46
WEATHERBY.....	47

HANDLOADING EQUIPMENT

CARBIDE DIE & MFG. CO.....	57
----------------------------	----

HERTER'S INC.....	46
B. E. HODGON, INC.....	71
LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORP.....	7
R.C.B.S.....	16
STAR MACHINE WORKS.....	58
WICHITA PRECISION TOOL CO.....	73

HOLSTERS, CASES, CABINETS

BIANCHI HOLSTERS.....	62
COLADONATO BROTHERS.....	54
S. D. MYRES SADDLE CO.....	45
PACHMAYR GUN WORKS.....	52
JULIUS REIVER CO.....	49
TANDY LEATHER CO.....	58
WHITCO.....	43

SCOPES and SIGHTS

BAUSCH & LOMB, INC.....	19
CRITERION CO.....	49
FLINT-KIT, INC.....	66
FREELAND'S SCOPE STANDS, INC.....	68
LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORP.....	17
MARBLE ARMS CORP.....	41
SAVAGE ARMS CORP.....	12
W. R. WEAVER CO.....	50

STOCKS and GRIPS

E. C. BISHOP & SONS INC.....	69
C. D. CAHOON.....	53
FITZ GRIPS.....	12
PETERSON GUN STOCKS.....	44
ROYAL ARMS.....	70
SPORTS, INC.....	69

TOOLS and ACCESSORIES

GEO. BROTHERS.....	45
THE BULLET POUCH.....	47
CRAFT INDUSTRIES.....	70
DARE ENTERPRISES.....	57
FEDERAL INSTRUMENT CORP.....	53
FLAIG'S.....	56

JAY'S GUN 'N LEATHER SHOP.....	48
JET-AER CORP.....	44
FRANK MITTERMEIER, CO.....	52
NEW METHOD MFG. CO.....	73
RADIATOR SPECIALTY CO.....	62

MISCELLANEOUS

AMERICAN MARKETING CO.....	73
AUSTIN BOOT CO.....	54
EDDIE BAUER.....	14, 70
L. L. BEAN, INC.....	57
BURNHAM BROS.....	49
R. J. COFFEY.....	63
DOUGLAS JACKSON & CO.....	67
STAN DE TREVILLE.....	68
DREMEL ENTERPRISES.....	71
EDWARDS-BARNES CAST PRDTS.....	71
FAULK'S CALL CO.....	44
GANDER MOUNTAIN, INC.....	71
GUN DIGEST.....	13
HEIRLOOM PRODUCTS.....	49
SHOOTER'S CLUB OF AMERICA.....	59
ARTHUR M. JOHNSON, INC.....	57
KASENIT COMPANY.....	56
THE LEONARD CORP.....	43
MISSION LIQUIDATORS, INC.....	56
MITCHELL SHOOTING GLASSES.....	67
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.....	10
NEVADA OIL LEASE CO.....	62
OUTERS LABORATORIES, INC.....	58
PENNSYLVANIA GUNSMITH SCHOOL.....	71
THE POLY-CHOKO CO., INC.....	7
HOMER POWLEY.....	56
PRODUCT MASTERS MFG. CO.....	73
RAY RILING.....	51
SERVUS RUBBER CO.....	67
SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA.....	59
SHOTGUN NEWS.....	66
SIGMA ENGINEERING CO.....	73
STACKPOLE CO.....	69
TEXAS PLATERS SUPPLY CO.....	60
TIMSTON CORP.....	70



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