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30 M1-B

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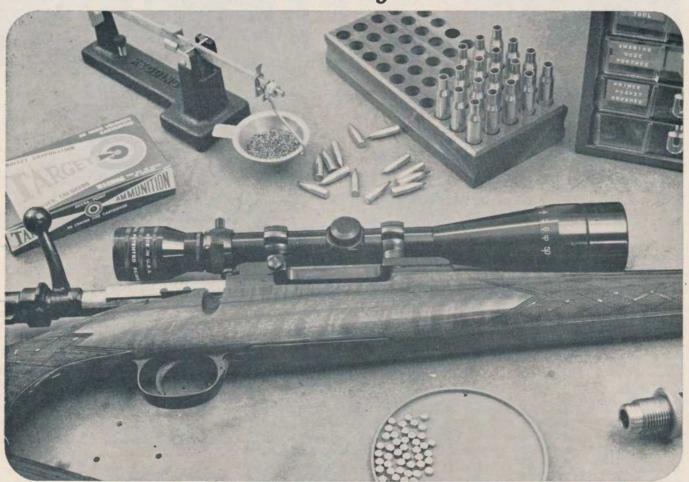
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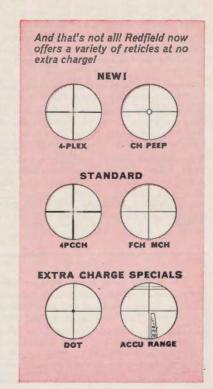
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TRIGGER

In these troubled times, it is easy for any magazine publisher to get into a lot of trouble just by mentioning the fact that crime is on the rise, and that any lawabiding citizen who feels the need for self-protection in the form of firearms should prepare himself. The recent case of the complete misinterpretation of an editorial in the Rifleman, in which almost every newspaper in the country told its readers that the NRA was advocating armed vigilantes, is an excellent example.

Let's get one thing straight; neither Guns Magazine or any other responsible media says that everybody should have a gun. As you and I well know, there are some people—law abiding as they may be—who should not own firearms. We hope that the article this month will stress this fact; at the same time, pointing out that no responsible citizen should be denied the opportunity to some means of defending his life, his home, or his family.

We are especially proud of two features of this month's Guns Magazine. The first is what we consider to be one of the most dramatic photos of a Luger pistol ever published; you'll find it, and a short article on page 39. Starting on page 42 you'll find a comprehensive article on the guns of Jonathan Browning. Here you'll find not only the complete story of Browning's early years but also an interesting story about Browningmade Dragoon pistols—or were they really made by Browning?

Just to be mean, I'd like to tease you with some hints of what is coming up in future issues of Guns Magazine. Next month, a new article on a man of mystery; his life, his guns, and his impact on gunmaking. Also, a look at how our State Department trains South American police officers in a unique wax bullet shooting course. Coming up soon is a first hand report on a brand new submachine gun; a test of Russian .22 cartridges; and a report on the big military controversy in the news today. These, and many more exciting features will be a part of a new, bigger Guns Magazine, with more pages, more full color, and just more about guns and shooting. What ever you would like to see we are ready to deliver. Let us know your wants.

THE COVER

The photos show a revolving cylinder rifle and a sliding percussion repeater designed and manufactured by Jonathan Browning. Both were made around 1834-1842. More photos of Jonathan Browning guns will be found with the feature article beginning on page 42. Photos by Nelson Wadsworth, Salt Lake City.

AUGUST, 1967

Vol. XIII, No. 8-152

George E. von Rosen Publisher

Arthur S. Arkush Ass't to the Publisher

special . . .



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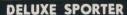
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By DAVE WOLFE

Editor and Publisher of The HANDLOADER Magazine

PRIMERS, PRIMERS, everywhere—upon the shelf in my loading room I count 9 different brand names, with from four to eight different primers bearing each name. And that includes only those intended for use in metallic cartridges-we'll get around to shotshells some other time. Looking hack to the times of a couple earlier wars, I feel primer-rich-for I remember very well those days when a hundred primers were worth their weight in gold. I can remember long evenings spent very carefully dissecting scrounged .30 M-1 carbine ammunition just to get a few primers so I could load some working ammunition for my pet .357 Magnum. Then there were only two makes of primers available and virtually all of them were going into military ammunition.

But if we are primer-rich today, that very richness brings about some problems of its own. With so many available today, it sometimes becomes a headache just to decide which one to use for a given caliber or load. Take, for example, the venerable old .30-06 that you might want to load with 180 grain bullets at 2600 fps to insure a full smokehouse for the coming winter. Where you would have once merely made a choice between either Winchester-Western or Remington-Peters large rifle primers, there are now, if memory serves me aright, 13 different ones to choose from. Or, consider the fine little .222 Remington varmint cartridge-there are only a dozen for it.

And in both cases, every one of those primers will do a good job-but perhaps one or two will do just a little bit better job than the others.

And therein lies our problem. How do we select the best (or for that matter, the worst) to fit a given loading situation?

To set things right at the beginning, let me state emphatically that everyone of those nine makes of primers on my shelf are good. They are good in that they will provide excellent ignition, velocity, and accuracy with standard loads in modern arms in good mechanical condition. They have to be good-or they simply will not sell, and the maker would soon go out of business. In addition to that, you would be surprised at the number of makes of primers that are produced to exacting U.S. military specifications. To do so makes the manufacturer able to fill military contracts (which are certainly not inconsiderable these days) with a standard primer-thus avoiding special production runs when opportunities for military sales arise. Consequently, there is no such thing as a bad primer on today's market. Of course, out of the billions produced, an individual bad one may crop up occasionally. However, if you are the average Joe who loads merely a few hundred assorted rounds each year for general hunting, plinking and informal or unregistered competition with non-specialized guns, than you can probably draw any primer name from a hat, use the right size, and load happily and effectively the rest of your life-without a single complaint directed at the primer. As proof of that I offer that any gun in my rack will, when used with standard full-charge loads, deliver entirely acceptable hunting accuracy with 100% reliability with any proper-sized primer I choose to stick in the cases. You perfectionists and half-minute-of-angle shooters are free to criticize that statement in any manner you wish-but I stand on it. All other things being equal, and with full charge loads approximating factory ballistics, the difference in accuracy produced by the various makes of primers is an insignificant quantity.

Consequently, the average handloader is far better off if he forgets about primer difference-we'll get around to you perfectionists another time. He'll do better if he selects at random a particular make and then sticks with it while refining the many other loading variables. Percentage-wise, far less variation is produced by the primer than by loading techniques, powder and bullet selection, and the general level of quality and uniformity of the work performed during leading.

Next time select your primer this way: if to be of Federal, W-W, or R-P make, look at the ammunition catalogs distributed by those same people and use the same primer they do for your particular cartridge. The tabular section of such catalogs normally identifies the primer used in each caliber. If you want to use a primer of independent make, then simply use the one recommended by that maker for a particular caliber.

So those are my views, based on quite a few years and quite a few thousand of rounds.

Far more important, actually, than primer selection is proper handling. Inexperienced or sloppy efforts to get that little brass and chemical gadget from carton to cartridge case can reduce the finest primer in the world to a useless assembly that merely stutters and sputters (or even does nothing) when struck by the firing pin. The proper mechanical mating of primer to cartridge case is probably the most important single operation in the production of a good reloaded cartridge.

Both primer pockets and the primers themselves are produced to very exacting tolerances in diameter. More generous tolerances are allowed where length of assembled primer and depth of pocket are concerned. While we normally speak of primers and pockets both being of (in the case of large rifle size) .210" diameter, pockets are smaller than the primers. This difference in diameter produces what is called an "interference fit." The primer cup is soft and malleable enough to swage down as pressed into the pocket.

In factory-loaded ammunition, this interference fit serves two vital purposes. It insures that there will be no gas leakage rearward around the primer, and it holds the primer tightly in place so that when struck by the firing pin it will resist the hlow sufficiently to provide uniform crushing of priming compound against anvil. In loading plants, primers are seated to a specified distance below the face of the cartridge case head. Due to cumulative tolerances in primer length and pocket depth, the anvil may or may not be resting on the bottom of the pocket. This method of seating is simple, fast, and economical and works quite well with new cartridge cases.

But in reloading we have a somewhat different problem. Each time a cartridge case is fired with anything approaching full-charge loads, the primer pocket expands very slightly. In addition, a minute amount of wear takes place as new primers scrape their way in, and old ones are pushed out. Consequently, after each firing, a given case will grip its new primer somewhat less tightly than before. This means simply that after a couple of loadings, the primer is not gripped tightly enough to resist the firing pin blow well enough to insure adequate and uniform crushing of compound against anvil.

For this reason, handloaders must use a different seating method if best ignition is to be obtained. Primers must be seated so that the legs of the anvil rest solidly on the bottom of the primer pocket. When so seated, it is impossible for the primer to yield or slip forward when struck by the firing pin, even though the pocket exerts very little grip upon the primer cup.

Due again to varying and cumulative tolerances in pocket depth and primer length, this type of seating can be achieved only hy "feeling" the primer into the pocket. Take a half dozen factory primed cases and upon examination you will note that all primers are seated to a specified depth below the face of the head. Then examine an equal number of handloaded cases that have been primed in the foregoing manner, and you may find as much as .008" or .010" variation in the distance the primers rest below the case head. Yet the latter will provide ignition at least as uniform as that of the former.

While some presses are better in this respect than others, I have long since determined that none of the reloading presses on the market provide the degree of feel really necessary in seating primers properly. This is not intended to be a criticism of any particular press, but merely a statement of fact. The massive size and weight of moving parts in some presses, in addition to the friction involved in their working parts, and in pulling the case over the expander, all added to the great amount of leverage applied through the linkage, makes them too insensitive to feel the anvil first reach the bottom of the pocket. With most presses, by the time you feel the primer bottoming, it has already been forced so tightly against the bottom that the pellet of priming compound may be cracked or overly compressed against the cup by the anvil. Such damage causes considerable variation in the sensitivity of the priming compound and consequently to the uniformity of the ignition it will supply to the powder charge.



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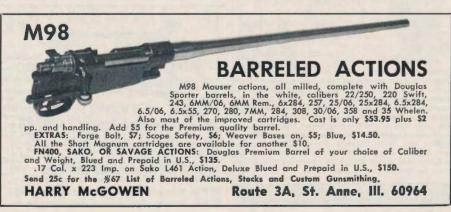
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Because of this, for over a decade now, I have done nearly all of my priming as a separate operation on small tools intended only for that purpose. Small in size, and with light weight moving parts producing less friction, and with relatively low mechanical advantage, these tools allow one to feel the primer carefully into its proper relationship with the pocket. One of the first such tools on the market was the Lachmiller. It is not only the simplest of the lot, but the cheapest. In addition, it does at least as good a job as others on the market costing more than twice as much. It's only drawback (if it can be considered that) is that it is not provided with any auxiliary automatic primer feed. Because of this, some people consider it slow in operation-but I don't because many times I have primed several hundred cases per hour on it.

The first Lachmiller tool I obtained is still in use and has primed at least 40,000 cases—and is still as good as new.

The various types of seating depth stops and adjustments available on both reloading presses and priming tools are of little value. The cumulative tolerances of primer length and pocket depth previously mentioned make the use of stops impractical. If a stop is set to bottom a short primer in a shallow pocket, then it will cause a long primer in a short pocket to be crushed; a long primer in a long pocket to be seated approximately correctly; a short primer in a long pocket to be seated short of bottoming. Then, as if that isn't enough error introduced, tolearnces in shell holder recesses and in case rims add considerably to the problem. For this reason I always back the stops off and seat primers purely by feel.

In essence, handloaded primers are properly seated when the anvil rests solidly on the bottom of the primer pocket and the surface of the primer cup is flush with or somewhat below the rear face of the case head. It is not unheard of for a combination of shallow pocket and long primer to leave the primer protruding above the case head when bottomed in the pocket. If that situation is encountered, by far the best thing to do is discard that particular case.

But that is by no means the complete story on primer seating. It is possible to vary the sensitivity of primers by varying the amount of pressure with which the anvils are forced against the bottom of the cup. This forces the cup down over the anvil, compressing the priming compound between cup and anvil nose. Increased compression means generally increased sensitivity up to just short of the point where the pellet of priming compound begins to crumble or crack. Thus it can be

seen that while the anvil must rest solidly on the bottom of the primer pocket, excessive pressure can be detrimental to ignition—and so can variations in pressure. Thus, it behooves us all, if we want the best ignition possible, to make sure that seating pressure is as uniform as possible once the anvil touches the bottom of the pocket.

All of the foregoing is based on the assumption that you will be dealing with clean primer pockets. While the presence of burned primer residue is not necessarily injurious in any other way, it can interfere with smooth, even seating of a fresh primer. Any significant accumulation of residue can also cause variations in the anvil's contact with the bottom of the pocket. Any of the primer pocket cleaners on the market seem to do a good job, but the bristle brush type chucked in an electric drill is by far the fastest. Simplest of the lot is just a cheap screwdriver filed to form a scraper that you can twist in the pocket.

Lack of proper alignment of case, shell holder, primer, and primer punch often results in distortion of the primer cup and cracking or crumbling of the compound. Many times I have looked at reloaded ammunition and noticed that some of the primers had been seated at an angle or that the mouth of the cup had caught on the mouth of the pocket and crumpled. Deformed in this manner, no primer can do its job properly. Never shove a primer into a case by brute force. If any unusual resistance is felt as the primer starts to enter the pocket, back off and start over-with a fresh primer. Make certain alignment of primer with pocket is correct. The radius on the mouth of commercial primer pockets is sufficient to accommodate a modest amount of misalignment-in that it will guide the primer into the pocket without damage. A certain amount of play is inevitable due to the tolerances to which cases, shell holders, and other parts of the priming tool must be made. If all of these tolerances happen to fall at the same end of the scale, then your tool may have so much slop in it that primers are difficult to seat correctly. Such a condition in the tool can be corrected, but it is best left to the manufacturer unless you have a well equipped shop and/or lots of patience.

In the final analysis, remember that priming is not nearly the simple operation you might think. Properly seated primers give proper, uniform ignition—and if all of the rest of the factors about your load are good, performance will be good—but seat primers improperly and the odds are pretty good the load will be less than perfect on target.



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COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By ROBERT MANDEL



THE COMPANY of Gunmakers of London obtained their charter of incorporation in 1637, and their second charter in 1672, and it is therefore somewhat difficult to identify and date an English- or London-made arm manufactured before this, for with the advent of these charters, they became first entitled to proof and mark all types of handguns, large or small, and also stamp every part, whether it was made in London, or a suburb, or within 10 miles, or imported from foreign countries for sale in England. Finding a firearm with the name "London" without a proof mark of any type is not a guarantee that the arm was made prior to the 1672 charter, but it does give the collector a point to ponder, though in most cases the type and design of the arm itself should give a good idea as to the date of manufacture.

Many early London-proofed pistols are found to have their proof mark hidden under the trigger guard or in some other odd place, for in its early stages, the mark seems to have been thought unbecoming to the arm. With the exception of service or military arms, the proof marks of the company are all to be found on barrels and/or frames of late 17th Century English arms, along with the maker's name and town, which makes it simple to find the date of manufacture.

Another interesting change in the firearms design of the 17th Century was the reduction of barrel length of the long arms used on horseback, for muskets were found to be clumsy and almost impossible to reload without dismounting. The first Dragons (Dragoon carbines) were muskets shortened to a barrel length of about 16 inches with full musket bore, and which were fitted "with iron work, and to be carried on a belt of leather, which is to be buckled over the shoulder and under the arm, having a bar of iron with a ring through which the arm runneth up and downe." The arm slung in this manner could be reloaded with ease and without dismounting; thus with the pistol, saber, and short musket, the mounted soldier became a very well equipped fighting man. Much of the early mounted soldier's or cavalary man's equipment was found to have been specified as part of his arms: "He must have two holsters with good firelock [wheellock] pistols hanging at the saddle, the barrels of eighteen inches and a bore of twenty bullets to the pound."

The perfection of firearms seemed to increase quickly during the 17th Century, and to me one of the most interesting of firearms

modifications of this period was the bayonet. Before 1650, the foot soldier was defenseless once his arm was discharged and he was too often overcome by the hard riding cavalryman. Many attempts were made to convert his musket into some type of pike to be used to keep a horseman out of sword's reach. The bayonet, introduced in around 1650 by the French, was in its early stages just a long blade with a tapered wooden handle made to drop and hold in the muzzle of the musket. This type of early bayonet had many disadvantages: the musket could not be reloaded without removing the plug bayonet, and also if it were plunged into a horse or man, it would in all probability stay with the enemy instead of in the barrel of the arm. By 1690 the socket bayonet came into being, and with its design the pikeman became obsolete, and the man in armour received his final blow as well, for the protection that his armor gave him disappeared with the piercing of metal by bullets.

Truly, the 17th Century was a period of changes in the arms field, for in this period of time the repeating arm was not really a new idea, for a few earlier arms had been made to take more than one charge, and to fire more than one projectile.

But now in the 17th Century, the true repeater was born. They had a cylinder block which contained two or more cavities that held the powder and ball, and was rotated with an internal lever. Some of the early repeaters had a self-priming device, and some had powder and ball reservoirs in tubes under the barrel. The repeater using loose powder was a very dangerous firearm, and though many types were constructed, they never really were anything other than dangerous curiosities.

Workmanship of the repeating firearms during this period was and is something to behold, for even if they were only a vogue and their period of manufacture relatively short because of the dangerous nature of the arm, here was the hegining of gunsmithing which in just a few years would become the backbone of a great industry. For names like Collier, with its self-priming pan; Cookson, with its recess in the stock that held reserves of powder and ball, and with its principle of rotation of a wheelshaped breech block; Charles Cardiff, with his double lock system with separate touch hole for each, and many others who endeavored to design and produce sucessful repeating firearms, will be long remembered as among the great firearms pioneers.

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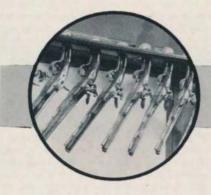


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GUN RACK

International Free Rifle

For a period of weeks, I fired 40 shots every other day at a 2½" bullseye, at 50 yards. The rifle was the Anschutz Model 1408. This is the standard ISU match rifle. It weighs 11 pounds with 27¾" heavy barrel. The trigger pull is adjustable to 1.1 lb. and while there is a set of superb micro-movable sights, I elected to pull the iron sights and install a Browning 4X scope. I fired 1000 shots at my bulleye, all of the firing offhand, and I missed it an average of 2 shots out of every 10. It was all done to keep me in form for my game shooting.



Now I have the Anschutz Model 1413, imported by Savage Arms Corp., as is the Model 1408, and I have commenced another 1000 shot run. The 1413, also known as the Model 54, is the last word in the fine international free rifles. It weighs 15½ pounds and is going to take some practice to hold for my usual stint of 40 shots, I'll tell you! More on this great shooting piece later.—Col. Charles Askins.

New Browning

The latest superposed Browning is truly a super light, model. It weighs only 6 lb., 6 oz. Barrel length is 26½ inches and the stock bas no pistol grip. The forend is tapered in front and slimmed down somewhat throughout its length. This is a 12 gauge and is intended only for 3 dram loads. It is the quail



gun par excellence and good too, on such close rising game as woodcock, snipe, and ruffed grouse. Boring is modified in the under barrel and full choke above; or better still, improved cylinder in the lower and modified above.

Stocks specs are normal, that is, 141/4 length of pull and 1-5%" drop at comb with

2½" drop at heel. There is no recoil pad—it would have been better had a pad been attached. There is a new raised solid rib, said to be a slender taper. The side ribs have been narrowed and thus eliminate some of the weight to reach that 6 lb., 6 oz. heft.

This is the prettiest of all Browning over/unders. It is the more handsome for the elimination of the unsightly pistol grip. This accessory ruins the lower lines of any shotgun. It is of some help on a pump repeater where you must shuffle the slide but on two-barrel guns such as the over/under it serves no purpose at all, none save to persuade the buyer, somehow, that he is getting more for his money. I'd predict this new super light uplands 12 will be a hotrock best seller.—Col. Charles Askins.

Weatherby .22-250

Three years ago Weatherby announced the .224 Magnum. This was a scaled down version of the Mark V action and the cartridge was a brand new one. Designed by Weatherby it is not a take-off on any other. It is a belted case, a sweet little number, and capable of hyper-velocities with the 50-grain bullet. Velocities are 3750 fps and trajectories out to 300 yards a skinny 4.7 inches. This splendid rifle and its equally worthy load should have been instant ten-strikes. Neither has quite crested as I was sure each would.

Roy Weatherby has done something about this. He has chambered the lilliput Mk V for the .22-250 round. This is the most successful wildcat ever whumped up. It is the old .250-3000 case necked down to .22 caliber.



The 55-grain bullet is forced along at better than 3800 fps, this from a 26-inch barrel. Remington now regularly loads the .22-250 and so do a few million homebrew enthusiasts. There just may possibly never again be a wildcat quite as widely used as this baby!

The new Weatherby Varmintmaster .22-250 can be had with either a 24-inch or a 26-inch tube and either in a lightweight barrel (the company calls it a "standard" weight) or in a semi-bullgun weight. In the latter the business end has the lengthhened dimension. Just as it comes from the plant the rifle has no sights. The new owner can attach whatever suits his fancy.—Col. Charles Askins.

Savage

The two best Savage rifles, the splendid, everlasting Model 99 and the bolt action 110, can now be had straight over the counter as scope-equipped numbers. A lot of dealers will swing a scope on the hunting arm, whether it is Savage or some other, if you just give them the nod. But few indeed are those who can offer the gun-and-glass combo at a figure as attractive as that of Savage. A 4X hunting glass on the Model 99 together with the sturdy Savage mounts comes only \$25 extra. On the Model 110 bolt gun the same 4X scope raises the ante by twenty-four dollars. Pretty hard to beat that, believe me!

There used to be a time when huntsmen went afield with iron sights, generally the as-issue kind, an open rear and an iron bead front; or if he was a pretty savvy hombre he had a Lyman peep behind and a gold bead in front. If you will go into a hunting camp anywhere in the U.S.A., this next season and count the straight-over-the-counter iron sights you see you'll find these are precious few. The American sport these days is a confirmed user of the telescope. He may be as ignorant as Lil Abner or as broke as a sailor on shore liberty but he is still smart enough and financial enough to equip his favorite musket with the improved apparatus.

There isn't anything particularly original about Savage offering a rifle of theirs with a scope on it. Marlin did this years ago, and still does. But where Savage really rings the bell is with the altogether appealing price tag.

I have a Model 110 with a Savage 4x scope in Savage mounts. The rifle is a left-hander

for this southpaw shooter. It is a .284 caliber. The .284 has all the swoosh of the venerable .270 Win. and the newer .280 Remington. I like the caliber. It is potent medicine for such critters as deer, antelope, caribou, and sheep. In the M110 with its handy bolt swung over on my side of the equation this represents one of my most favored rifles.

Last year Savage showed that Jack Knode, its head man for design, has not lost any of his touch when he came along with a detachable magazine for the Model 99. This rifle is our most streamlined. It was developed in 1899, some 68 years ago, and you might



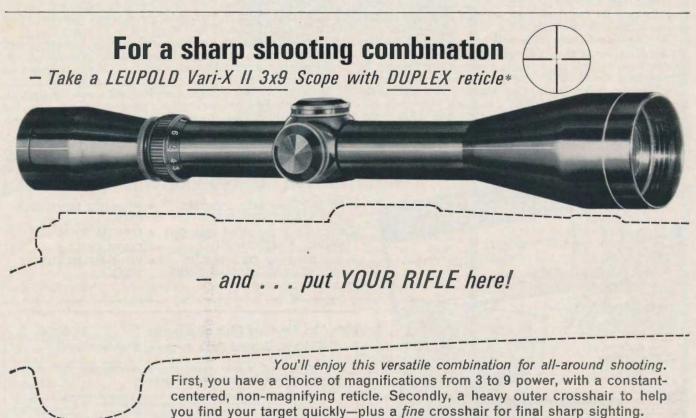
think that a musket as old as this could not be improved. Knode, by redesigning the magazine, not only made the rifle a lot faster to reload but he succeeded in doing this without altering or doing injury to the handsome lines of his fine old perennial.

Here much more lately the M110 has been altered to take a separate box magazine. You can have this fine rifle either with or without the detachable clip, as you like. Personally I like this improvement. These days, with everyone using a scope, it goes without saying that to reload is a laborous business. You must reach beneath the scope to add new cartridges, one by one. The ability to just slam in another magazine in a twinkling is really worthwhile.—Col. Charles Askins.

Free Rifle Coat

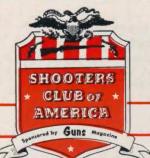
The Ruskies came to the bi-annual world matches in Egypt, where the temperatures along the muddy old Nile stood at 102 degrees. All of them were cinched up in leather coats which reached almost to their knees. It was obvious the Commie gunners had something! As soon as our people got home they went to the 10-X Mfg. Co., Dept. G., Des Moines, Iowa, and asked for an all-leather coat, built purposely a bit too small, and with a whole series of saddle cinch straps down the front. As soon as the first jacket was finished, it became obvious why the Muscovites suffered all the agonies of hell in those Egyptian summer-time temperatures. The new coat was virtually a corset, It supported the spine, gave help to the hips, and strengthened the shoulders, Clever tailoring permits free movement of the arms.

The 10-X company has shipped me one of these garments for my practice with the Walther free rifle. It is a help; there is no doubt about that. And it is perfectly legal in free rifle competition. Once you are all cinched up in the rig, you can lean backward as you must do to balance the 15-lb. rifle and you have the sensation of leaning comfortably against a handy hitching post! Made slightly too small, it is best to have some buddy not only help you into the coat but also jerk up on all the cinch straps which grace the front. At a weight of 9 pounds, made of high grade, dark brown cowhide, without collar, or cuffs, and lined, there are pads in all the proper places, a big compartment in the tail, this big number sells for a hundred bucks .- Col. Charles Askins.



* See your dealer or send for illustrated catalog showing all six of the Leupold "golden-ring" scopes and the choice of five reticles.

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News from the ...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

The Federal Government is subsidizing an anti-gun crusade. As a result, Congress is receiving substantial amounts of mail calling for firearms controls.

Behind this development is the newly formed "National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy." President of the Council is James V. Bennett, former Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Secretary of the organization is J. Elliott Corbett, Director of the Washington Study Program of the Methodist Church.

Bennett is still very much on the Federal payroll as a consultant to the Justice Department, where he maintains a staffed office in Suite 662. Elliott, coordinator of the group, maintains offices in the Methodist Building.

Bennett's position is particularly questionable, for he travels about the nation actively seeking converts. Among the groups he has influenced is the powerful American Bar Association which he represented during Senate hearings on firearms legislation, and he is also running for state level political office in Maryland. Although the matter has never been raised officially, his many-hatted role constitutes a conflict of interest. In addition, it is curious that Bennett has never been required to register as a lobbyist.

The "National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy" was formed to encourage enactment of gun laws, in the individual states, and on a national level. Under the blessings of Nicholas deB. Katzenbach the Council flourished. Katzenbach was then Attorney General, the top man in the Justice Department. He has since been removed from Justice, and appointed number two man in the State Department.

The 73 year old Bennett has built many relationships during his long tenure as a Federal employee. He became a driving force to limit the sale and ownership of firearms by helping form the so-called "National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy" earlier this year. It was formed at the request of Carl Bakal, a former free-lance writer who authored the anti-gun book, "The Right To Bear Arms."
In publicizing his book, Bakal appeared on numerous radio

and television shows, and wrote several serialized versions for newspapers and magazines. He also testified before Congress during the House gun hearings earlier this year.

Strangely enough, Bakal is also head of the magazine department of one of the nation's biggest public relations agencies, Carl Byeir & Associates, Inc., 800 Second Avenue, New York. This agency numbers among its clients two major corporations in the firearms and ammunition business: the Emhart Corporation which owns Savage Arms, and which referred in its 1966 annual report to Savage as "the other main element of the Hardware Group;" the other Carl Byeir client, which Bakal must service as a press agent during his daily round of duties is Omark Industries, which owns 57% of Sporting Arms Ltd., and which recently acquired Cascade Cartridge.

Bakal burns his candle at both ends. With one hand, he campaigns against the interests of legitimate sportsmen, and with the other hand, he promotes the sale of firearms and ammunition. At best, this seems to be a two-faced existence.

Bennett, Corbett, and Bakal have enlisted a number of top names as members of their Council in its campaign for passage of the so-called Dodd Bill. As we all know, Dodd is now under heavy fire by the Senate.

At this point, the Legislative battle over firearms is wide open in Congress, and no one can predict the outcome. But one thing is sure, the fact that Bennett is a consultant of the Justice Department (which is credited with writing the Dodd Bill), puts the stamp of government sponsorship on the "National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy."

In the face of this powerful, well-planned barrage against our freedom to own and use firearms in the legitimate shooting sports, we must act with resolution. If you have not already supported the shooting sports by joining the S.C.A., do so today. Only through complete unity, and the strength of our numbers, can we stem the surging anti-gun tide. It's not too late yet, but it soon will be if you delay any longer. Join the S.C.A. right now!

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CROSSFIRE

Gallup and Gun Laws

I have just read "Control of Firearms" by Jerome Rakusan in the May issue. If the Gallup poll contacted me about my opinion on registering firearms, I did not know it, nor was anyone with whom I've discussed this. No more gun registration laws is our general opinion. Let the criminal be punished when firearms are used by a criminal when committing a crime. So keep the public informed on this matter. You are already doing a most satisfactory job.

On your new color arrangement: I like having no printing on the plate. The whole color gallery is excellent. I like the detail and the depth of the plates. The pictures are

well presented.

"Backfire" by Shelley Braverman was most informative. I am glad to read something published that had plain facts for the public to understand. The new feature, "Guns and the Law," is a welcome addition. I hope this is read by everyone that reads Guns.

I note that on page 26 that the rifles are not in the same order that they are listed in the caption. In closing, may I say that I enjoy reading Guns from cover to cover every month.

Jim Turner Honolulu, Hawaii

Well, we did goof. You see, halfway through a long caption writing session, we got a little cross-eved and ...—Ed.

Beat the Cong

I have just finished reading your article entitled "How to Beat the Cong" in the June issue. Great Stuff! I intend to "modify" some 7.62 Moisin cartridges with a good brand of Yankee pistol powder and make them available to any of our GI's wishing to donate to the VC war effort.

I can't buy the argument that our own troops might accidentally use the stuff. Keep in mind that the Moisin is a rimmed cartridge and probably wouldn't chamber properly in any of our weapons even if somehody was foolish enough to try it, which I doubt.

Imagine the morale problem if the rumor spread through the VC ranks that a good part of their ammunition was sabotaged. A lot of them would think twice before pulling that trigger. Thanks again for an excellent idea!

Steve Nichols Sacramento, California

Annie Oakley Pistol?

I'm sending you a picture of the .25 caliber screw barrel, cap and ball pistol we had a question about recently. The gun supposedly passed down to Everett Lawton of Dayton, Ohio, from his father, Harry Lawton (1868-1955), formerly of Richmond, Indiana. The Lawton family tells the story that Harry Lawton was a friend of Annie Oakley's and this gun was given him by her as a keepsake.



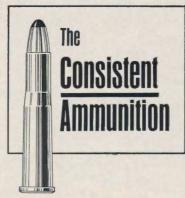
Local gunsmiths have tentatively identified the pistol as a copy of an Allen wheellock. There are no markings on it, except a model number "251" below the cap. We realize the possibility of connecting this pistol to Annie Oakely is remote, but anything you can tell us would be helpful.

> John Sweeny—Action Line Dayton Journal Herald Dayton, Ohio

Your "Annie Oakley" pistol is interesting, but I can find nothing in the rather extensive material I have collected that connects the gun and the woman. This does not disprove the connective; Annie must have owned many guns in her lifetime, and it would be impossible to trace all of them.

I have also tried to find some reference to Harry Lawton, again without success. The nearest I have come is a reference to "Jim Lawson." This is on page 38 of the book "Annie Oakley of the Wild West," by Walter Havighurst. The difference of one letter in the name could easily be explained by writer's error, printer's error-many things. The difference in first names, however, lessens the possibility. Anyway. Havighurst says: "Jim Lawson, for years a side-kick of Buck Taylor . . . was a rare combination of plains lore, cow sense, horsemanship, and general West-ern nerve and knowledge." This is the only time the name is mentioned in that book, and I have not found it in any other writings .- E.B.M.

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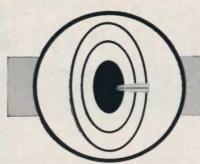
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POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE THOMPSON/CENTER "Contender" single shot pistol—in its variation of calibers, offering as it does the .22 Long Rifle, .22 RF Magnum, .22 Hornet, the .38 Special, as well as the .357 Magnum, and all of these available by the quick exchange of barrels—is undubitably the most versatile of any one-shot pistol we've seen. There have been a rather surprisingly large number of one-lung handguns during these last 30 years, almost all of them good hardware.

Smith and Wesson had one called the Straightline. It was a twenty-two and was built like an automatic, that is with the square stock and a barrel with some 2by4 lines to it. The name "Straightline" came from the design of the hammer, which didn't swing in the conventional arc but moved forward in a straight line—like the striker in a

and suggestions of his shooting amigos into the Straightline model.

The pistol turned out to be a thorough dud. Instead of the in-line hammer falling like the sledge of Thor, it moved as though cutting a passage through cold molasses. Not only was lock time eons too slow but the striker traveled three times too far. It was impossible to shoot competitive scores with the gun.

Directly after the S&W fizzle Colt came along with the Camp Perry model. It was a single shot made on the .41 caliber frame. Instead of a cylinder it had a single chamber which was integral with the barrel. The same latch was used, along with the same crane. An identical extractor lifted the long rifle cartridge after it was fired. Some attempt was made by Colt engineers to speed up the



From left: H&R's U.S.R.A., Tompkins, and Hartford; all are single-shots.

bolt action rifle. The idea was a good one for it was believed by the designers that this in-line movement of the hammer would be extremely fast and would not strike the cartridge with a force apt to jar the gun.

The Straightline was designed for target shooting and members of the U. S. Revolver Association around Springfield were pretty happy with the new pistol when it was abuilding. Doug Wesson was the tycoon at S&W in those days and he was an enthusiastic handgunner. He maintained a close liaison with the local pistol shooting fraternity and incorporated quite a number of ideas

locktime. This was done by shortening the hammer travel: also a good stiff mainspring was installed to give the arcing hammer a bit more zip. The Camp Perry model was no success. It was too light in weight, the barrel was too waspish and would not hang dead-steady on the bull, the axis of the bore was too high above the axis of support, and along with these things the pistol had the abominably poor sights of that ancient day.

If you think these bloopers discouraged the whumper-uppers of the mid-30s then you haven't gotten the story. The next one-barrel

(Continued on page 60)

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WASHINGTON



CARL WOLFF

DODD, THE KENNEDYS, AND COMPROMISE LEGISLATION
"See what the boys in the back room will have,"
went the words to a song of some years back. Congress
had outlawed drink in what socialists now refer to as
the "noble experiment." The experiment didn't work
and drink is back under local government jurisdiction.

Firearms are also under local jurisdiction, but Congress is again in the business of legislating prohibition—the prohibition of local gun regulation through federal outlawing of movement. Just how much gun prohibition will depend upon what the boys of Congress are having in the back room.

Obviously, from watching the doors to the backrooms and sniffing inside, the boys are having compromise and a big dose of it. Judging by the smell the compromise will be most distasteful to the handgun shooters and the long gun users will experience more red tape difficulties.

Compromise started two years back but failed. Regular readers will recall that the National Rifle Association, and representatives from industry and the President's Administration, met on the House side of Congress to discuss reaching agreement. Katzenbach's Justice Department killed the compromise efforts.

The passionately anti-gun Nicholas deB. Katzenbach has now left as head of the Justice Department to accept the number two position in the Department of State. The new Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, has a more sane view of firearms.

The new compromise movement started when a representative from the White House called upon the Senate Judiciary Committee where the anti-gun bill rested in the Senate. The thinking was that feelings were about to be hurt in the House. There, the Judiciary had just finished public hearings upon the House version.

Members of the Judiciary had indicated that only a compromise bill could possibly be reported out of committee. During adjournment between this and last Con-



gress, the bill had been rewritten to refer it to Judiciary. The rewrite was a power play, an insult to the members of the Ways and Means Committee which reviewed the legislation last Congress.

Involved in the compromise would be another rewrite to amend the existing National and Federal Firearms Acts instead of killing the two acts and putting federal firearms controls under Title 18 of the Criminal Code which the bill before Judiciary did. The National and Federal Acts exist under the federal government's constitutional taxing authority which is strictly a Ways and Means Committee jurisdiction in the House. If Judiciary were to report out a compromise in the form of amendments to the two acts. Ways and Means members would squall like wounded mountain lions. Such amendments would never pass the Rules Committee which directs what legislation the House body will take under consideration and vote upon. If by hook or crook the amendments did reach the House floor other taxing measures pending before Ways and Means would be as in the wounded lion's den.

To sum up, the Administration was willing to compromise, but the compromise could not take place in the House. It was a good idea to bounce the action back to the Senate before the House side moved further.

Shortly after the White House called upon the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate bill (S. 1, as amended) was referred down to the Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, the Dodd domain. Dodd under censure pressure had little if any objection. His friends in the anti-gun fight, the most liberal of the lawmakers, were expected to disassociate themselves with him as expeditiously as possible.

Dodd is according to his voting record a conservative. Most conservatives in the Senate oppose the anti-gun drive. The liberals would vote for censure, but Dodd could cement friendships among conservatives and with the White House by supporting compromise gun legislation.

Agreeing to a compromise had another advantage. Dodd, along with the White House and the National Rifle Association and other interested groups, could all claim credit for "enacting a sensible firearms bill." Interested parties met and agreed to work out a compromise. Only, before legislation could be drafted, the Kennedy brothers got wind of the developments.

The Kennedys threw sand into the works and the secret agreements were secret no longer. Like last Congress the compromising was blown to the surface if not out of the political waters. (Continued on page 78)

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SCIF-DCFCMSC AND ATTITUDES

6 Only a criminal or a tyrant is afraid of the armed citizen. 77

By JEROME RAKUSAN

EVERY TIME WE PUBLISH AN ARTICLE on self-defense guns, our mail is filled with letters from readers. Almost all of them show an appreciation for material on this subject, and this is natural in these days of increasing crime rates and civil strife. Many of the letters ask specific questions about guns that could or should be used in defense of the home. And, as could be expected, some of the letters take us to task for not recommending a certain favorite gun in our discussions. All in all, the volume and content of the letters show a need for more discussion on the subject, and some of the questions and ideas found in these letters will provide the basis for this article.

First, let us define the limits of our discussion. We will avoid the situation of defending yourself while outside of your home. To talk about this would bring in problems of the carrying of concealed weapons; the prob-

lems of shooting into an area crowded with people, etc. This will be covered in a separate article. Let us, then, stick to the defense of life within one's home or place of business.

The first question, and the one most frequently asked is: "What is the best gun for self defense?" It should be emphasized here that there is no single answer to this question. What may be the right gun for one man could be the wrong gun for another. Without specify-

ing a certain make, model or style firearm, there is a good general answer to this question. The best self-defense gun is the one that you, as

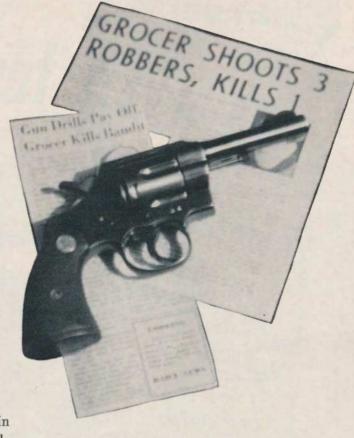
an individual, can handle safely, effectively, and with complete confidence. I can recall a state police training

officer saying to his class of rookies:

"To be able to defend yourself in an emergency, you must know three important facts. 1. That your gun is in perfect mechanical condition. 2. That you will not fumble when reaching for the gun. 3. That you will not miss your target."

And, this applies to the civilian as well as to police officers. The answer to the question of the best gun for the average reader of this magazine is very simple, for most every hunter

or shooter has at least one gun that he can handle safely,





Know the responsibilities of gun ownership.

effectively, and with confidence. For some this may be a pet revolver; for others an auto pistol; for still others, a favorite quail gun.

Facing an armed adversary is a whale of a lot different than popping targets or pheasant hunting. There is little, if any, time to think about how a safety works or whether the clip is loaded, and any familiarity with the gun chosen for defense use is an added advantage for the person in an emergency situation.

The next logical question to follow is this: "But I am not familiar with firearms, now what is the best gun for me?"

To properly answer this, we must consider three factors. How seriously you intend to assume the responsibilities that go with owning and keeping a firearm; whether you are willing to spend a considerable amount of time in learning the fundamentals of gun safety, gun handling, and gun proficiency; how is the gun going to be used, and where will it be kept. Let's take these one at a time, and find out why they have a bearing on the choice of a self-defense firearm for you.

Before a person should even begin to choose a gun for defense, he should realize that with the purchase of a gun—any gun, whether it be for sport, defense, or just a collection—goes certain responsibilities. The first of these is that the owner will keep the gun out of the hands of children and other irresponsible persons. Next, that he will treat the gun with the respect due a potentially dangerous weapon. And last, that he will purchase and use the gun in strict accordance with the law of the land.

The second factor, that of spending time to learn how to handle and shoot the gun, is of utmost importance. The mere presence of a gun in a house does not mean that the house is safe. Unless you are willing to take the time to get the best instruction possible on the use of your gun, don't buy it! By "best instruction" I don't mean the few moments that your local dealer may spend with you, showing you how to load and unload the gun. I mean that you should have enough instruction so that you can load, fire, hit a target, unload, and reload again, all without hesitation, and all with a confidence and understanding that will preclude any fumbling, searching for the safety lever, and horseplay. Learning to handle a gun is serious business, and if you will remember that how well you learn may determine whether you live or die, you will treat your instruction as serious.

Assuming that the above factors are clearly understood, and that your mind has been set on getting a gun for self-defense, let us then go on to the actual selection of the gun. The first consideration is what type of gun, rifle, handgun, or shotgun. Let us, for simplification, rule out rifles for the people unfamiliar with guns; they are cumbersome, and are not truly "defensive" (Continued on page 66)

New Orleans has followed Orlando, Florida's lead in teaching women to shoot. Responsibility begins with keeping guns away from children.

Marlin Single Shot





W HILE SHOPPING in Sport-A-Rama, a Huntington, Long Island, sporting goods store, a few months back, Marty Brown, the co-owner of the store, pulled

me aside with a conspiratorial look. Knowing that as a gun nut of the worst type, I collect rifles and firearms of all types, he asked me for my opinion about

a most unusual rifle.

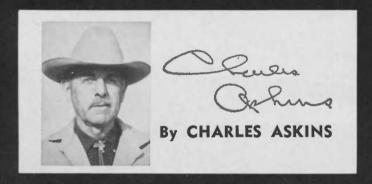
The gun is a Marlin Model 336 in .35 Remington. "Not unusual," you say. Look again. This Model 336 is a single shot, and has a one inch diameter bull barrel. "A fake?" you ask. Well, close examination of the rifle revealed that it has a 221/2-inch bull barrel, and a barrel inspection reveals the familiar Marlin microgroove rifling. The gun is equipped with a ramp front sight, with Lyman receiver sight on the rear. Wood is well-finished French walnut.

A few months ago an unkind burglar visited Sport-A-Rama and probably as a futile attempt to cover his theft, set the store on fire as a parting gesture. While the fire did not get to the Marlin, smoke effectively removed the blue, and most of the stock finish. At this writing, the rifle is being completely refinished, and soon again will become part of Sport-A-Rama's extensive stock.

Mr. Brown bought the rifle from a collector, who wishes to remain anonymous, but all tests revealed that the gun is a genuine Marlin. There are no markings on the rifle, and while the checkering job appears to be amateur, the butt stock has the familiar Marlin Bullseye. Borrowing the rifle for a while, I went out to the Huntington Rifle Range, and ran a box of Remington 200-grain Core Lokt bullets through it. Groups at one hundred yards went from 1 5/16 to 2 inches, which isn't bad for a .35 Remington with iron sights. When the gun is refinished, I am thinking of adding it to my already overstocked gun cabinet, after mounting a four-power scope, but who hunts woodchucks with a .35?

For those who claim that the rifle is a standard 336 with a bull barrel added, take note: No loading gate in this rifle. It's a true one of a kind.

Let's Talk Triggers...

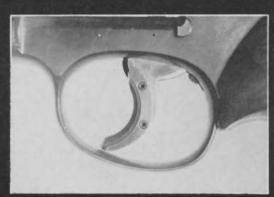




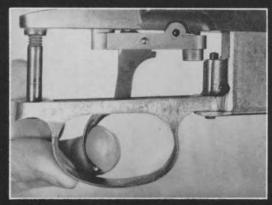
Trigger and sear arrangement on Winchester Model 70



All triggers should be pressed with the tip of the finger, not with first joint.



Trigger shoe, shown here on a revolver, should be used with any narrow trigger.



Military actions can be improved with installation of new commercial trigger.

THE BIGBORE RIFLE trigger should have a weight of pull of not more than four pounds, but many triggers pull more. The rifle will heft from seven to nine pounds and the trigger should never weigh more than half the total poundage. Game is missed by jerking the trigger; the heavier the pull, the healthier the jerk—and the wider the hit. The Germans, who realized this business of yanking the trigger under the duress of the excitement of facing the game, got around the heavy trigger by developing the set trigger with a pull of six ounces instead of six pounds. This resolves the problem, but the set trigger for game shooting has never caught on over here.

The shotgun trigger, a lot of fellers contend, can be heavier. A $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb. twenty gauge will support a 6 lb. trigger, they declare. I don't agree; a scattergun trigger should be between 4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and I favor the lighter pressure. A shotgun is not fired by a slow, even pressure at all. It is touched off abruptly, and while, certainly, this pressure is not a squeeze as we use the term when firing the rifle, at the same time it is not a slap. If you smash into the trigger with a force of 8 or 10 pounds

you disturb the entire gun.

While it might seem that by the nature of the arm—a smoothbore spewing forth a mess of pellets—can be made to hit by a sketchy sort

of trigger action, the facts are it simply ain't so!

The shotgun is susceptible to a flinch on the trigger, and a rough slap on the trigger, as a surprisingly large number of shotgunners advocate, amounts to a flinch. It contributes to missing and never think it does not. The heavier the trigger the more force must be applied, and since the average scattergun does not weigh over 7½ to 8 pounds, the pull had better be kept within useable limits, not over 4½ pounds, certainly, and should be somewhat less.

The handgun is by far the most critical of all sporting firearms on the score of trigger weight. Regardless of caliber, weight of gun, or type (whether revolver or auto), the pull should not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Some of the big autos, the .45 as a notable example, sometimes will not stand cocked at this poundage. The hammer will follow the slide forward and will stop in the safety notch. Most of our handgun trigger pulls these days, and certainly the better centerfire revolvers and all our best .22 auto pistols, can be reduced to 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and at this weight will hold indefinitely. The best of our .22 self-loaders can be safely reduced to 2 pounds but this weight is for target shooting and is a mite on the light side for all-around usage.

Sometimes we don't realize the fact that the centerfire handgun only weighs $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. When you put a force of 3 or 4 pounds against the trigger you are shoving against the gun with more weight than the total tonnage of the piece. This in principle is something like asking the 180-lb. man to pick up a 200-lb. weight. He maybe can do it but he'll stag-

ger under the load.

A sixgun has mighty little to support it. It is extended some 33 or 34 inches from the body and grasped in the one hand. Where the rifle and the shotgun are held in two hands, with the buttstock pressed solidly into the hollow of the shoulder and the cheek rested atop the comb, it has four good solid points of support. The handgun swivels at the end of a ball joint; small wonder it is a tough proposition to manhandle.

For these reasons the pistol is pretty critical on the score of trigger letoff. While 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds is desirable when considering the family of onehand hardware, the fact is that if the gun is one which will hold a lighter sear then by all means it should be engineered. I am thinking now of the .22 autos, virtually all of which will support a trigger of 2-lb. weight. As between a 3-lb. letoff and a two-pound, there is the difference between a great deal more hitting in favor (Continued on page 52)

Few shotgun triggers have had the benefit of the improvements in helping toward better, lighter letoff found in handguns and rifles.



GUNS • AUGUST 1967 23



The technical and political pitfalls in selecting a standard military cartridge



Glorg

By Maj. George C. Nonte



Line-up of some experimental cartridges, left to right: .276 Pederson, 7 mm FN, .224 Winchester, 7.62 mm M-43 Russian, .223 Russian, and the .280-30 British.

THE DYED-IN-THE-WOOL gun nut or militaria enthusiast is always interested in the world's latest military small arms development. In following this interest we always pick up bits and pieces of information concerning items that almost achieved official status and then slowly or suddenly, depending upon the circumstances, disappeared from sight and interest. And there is much to be learned concerning the military philosophy of various nations and ethnic groups simply by examining the approaches taken to various problems of development.

So let's look backward just a bit, at some of the more interesting and valuable (and I do not mean value as interpreted by a collector) experimental military cartridges. In order to keep from writing a book on the subject, we will stick to those cartridges which were fully developed and at least produced in sufficient quantity (along with guns chambered for them) to be seriously considered for adoption. And to keep from getting even farther afield, let's stick to those that came into being since the turn of the century. There is a story behind each one.

Back in 1910, the British War Office asked the Small Arms Committee to consider the subject of a rifle and cartridge to replace the .303 Lee-Enfield. The rifle that grew out of this request was the Pattern-13, later to become the P-14, and eventually the U.S. M-1917, the latter two of which are quite widely known.

The cartridge, though, was another matter entirely and has long since been forgotten by all but collectors and serious students. Called variously ".276" and ".276 Enfield Pattern 13," it was intended to provide flatter trajectory, and greater range and penetration than the .303 Mark 7, adopted in 1910. A 150 grain bullet was specified, and in order to produce the desired velocity, a relatively "fat" case was required. This because a relatively large quantity of propellant was necessary—and using a stubby case to hold it kept cartridge length (and consequently bolt throw) within reasonable limits. The resulting cartridge bore a striking resemblance to the .280 Ross of 1910, the case being of approximately the same head diameter and approximately \(^14''\) shorter. Bullet diameter was 7 mm—.284".

By 1913 problems of metal fouling had been eliminated by switching to cupro-nickel coated steel bullet jackets, and bullet weight had been raised to 165 grains. Loaded with 49.3 grains of cordite M.D.T., a muzzle velocity of 2785 fps was produced, resulting in the mid-range trajectory of 5.23 feet for 800 yards range, as opposed to 9 feet for the .303 Mark 7. Ballistically the new .276 was vastly superior to the .303.

One thousand P-13 rifles and a goodly supply of .276 ammunition was produced for Empire-wide troop test. Shortcomings were uncovered, especially that of very short barrel life, but overcoming them appeared only a matter of some modest further development. However, that development ran head on into the world wide conflict that flared in August of 1914. Further development was terminated insofar as the .276 cartridge was concerned, the war office rightly determining that the beginning of a war would be a most inopportune time to rearm British troops, even with a superior weapon. After the war development was never revived.

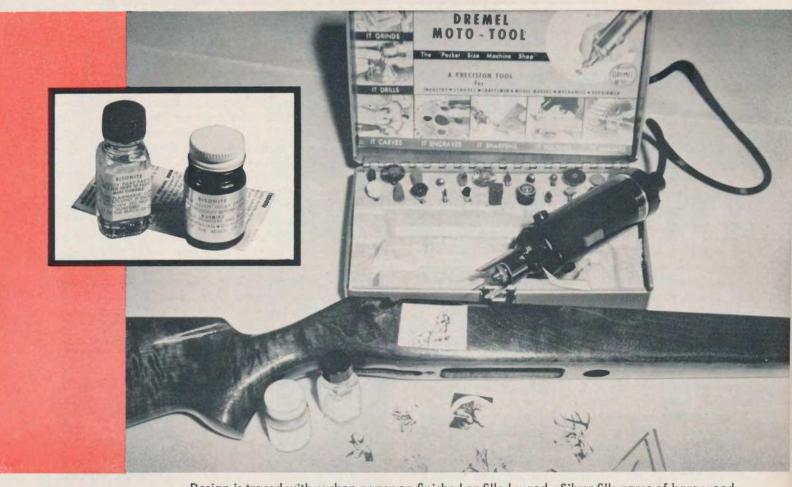
The .276 Enfield Pattern 13 was the most advanced military cartridge of its day, and would have, in this writer's opinion, been superb for sniping or the long-range machine gun tactics developed during WW I. Even by today's stan-

dards it is no slouch. Offered in evidence of this statement is the fact that the popular 7 mm Remington Magnum (some 50-odd years later) produces only 400 fps greater velocity and requires 40 per cent more powder to do it.

During WW I, the United States had initiated a vigorous semi-automatic rifle development program. Though emphasis on this program decreased after the war, work did continue and in 1922, J. D. Pedersen was engaged by Springfield Army to develop a rifle design he had submitted. As part and parcel of the rifle submission, Pederson offered a .276 (.285" bullet diameter) cartridge which his calculations indicated would be ideal for a semi-automatic military rifle. Previous tests and experimentation within the military establishment had satisfied authorities that bullets of .256" or .276" would provide adequate wounding power, flatness of trajectory, and penetrationwhile at the same time allowing the soldier to carry more ammunition, and reducing fatigue due to recoil. Pederson's .276 (shortly and thereafter to be called generally ".276 Pedersen") utilized a nicely-streamlined 125 grain boattail bullet driven at a muzzle velocity of 2700 fps. The loaded cartridge was smaller in diameter, shorter and lighter than the then-standard .30.

An ordnance summary of progress issued in 1925 acknowledged a number of advantages possessed by the Pedersen rifle and cartridge over others in existence or under study. The cartridge was considered promising enough that the Garand rifle (being developed concurrently with the Pedersen) (Continued on page 56)





Design is traced with carbon paper on finished or filled wood. Silver fills pores of bare wood.

Decorate Your Gun Stock

DECORATING YOUR RIFLE STOCK WITH SILVER INLAYS IS NO LONGER A JOB FOR AN EXPERT WHEN YOU USE THIS NEW PRODUCT

By HARRY O. DEAN









G UNSTOCK ORNAMENTATION has a long history. You can trace it back as far as the existence of the gun itself. Carving, checkering, laminating, and inlaying are the most common methods. Of these, inlaying is, or was, one of the most painstaking methods. Now it's easy. A new product allows anyone who can draw passably well to do beautiful inlays in wood—and do it in silver!

A new product called Bisonite Silver Inlay Paste is the answer to the problem. It is only necessary to find a line drawing of the subject you wish to inlay. It must be of a size and position that will lend itself to the area of the stock that you wish to decorate.

A word of caution here. You must also pick a subject that remains within the bounds of propriety and good taste. For example: If your pet .22 is the best doggone squirrel gun in the country, you certainly don't want to put a charging lion on the stock, do you?

Once you have selected a good design, you can whisk some very fine steel wool or wet-or-dry garnet paper over the stock area lightly. This will kill the gloss enough to allow you to make a carbon copy of your design on the stock. This design can then be cut out with small chisels or with a hand motor tool like the Dremel. I much prefer to use the excellent Dremel tool with a fine dental burr. If you talk nice to your dentist, he will be happy to give you a couple of worn out burrs. When they have become too dull for molars they are still dandy for wood. You want the

On our gunstock, no undercutting is necessary. When the design is completed to your liking, we will add the silver paste. One sixteenth of an inch is deep enough to allow the inlay paste to (Continued on page 75)

very fine ones.



Author uses Dremel Moto-Tool, with fine dental burr, to cut design into the gunstock. Bisonite paste is pressed into cuts and allowed to dry.



After silver paste is dry, very fine "wet or dry" garnet paper, or fine steel wool, is whisked over the completed design. Author's Mossberg bolt action shotgun, used with slugs, sports a deer on the side panel.





GUNS • AUGUST 1967

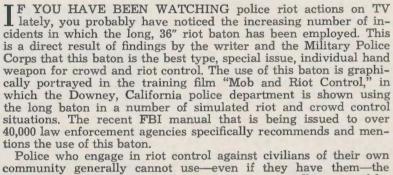
27



GUNS and

THE LONG RIOT BATON

BY COL. REX APPLEGATE



Police who engage in riot control against civilians of their own community generally cannot use—even if they have them—the rifle and bayonet. This type of weapon is not generally accepted by the U.S. public as a legitimate police weapon, and it is only in the last stages of a violent riot, and after all other degrees of force have been unsuccessfully tried, that the rifle-bayonet combination is ever used along with firepower. In most of these situations, the military is usually called to help or take over from local law enforcement.

The policeman should not be expected to face a violent mob, maintain discipline, and undertake offensive action without some sort of weapon in his hands that he can utilize freely, without undue restraint, when so ordered. The long riot baton is such an indicated personal weapon, and is certainly preferable to a rifle and a bayonet when these weapons can't be used for political or other reasons in the manner for which they were originally designed.

The long riot baton is basically designed as a two-handed weapon. Trained men armed with it will have no hesitancy in taking offensive action and in engaging in physical contact with riotous elements. All of the regular blows and strokes learned in bayonet drill with the rifle can be similarly executed. In addition the long baton gives the trained man a much greater flexibility in dealing with his opponent. He can use his baton offensively or defensively in many ways with a minimum of serious casualties likely to be inflicted. The long baton lends itself to a combat use that will disable the rioter but not injure him fatally. The full value of this



The long riot baton is demonstrated in the training film, "Mob and Riot Control," under simulated condition







the LAW

weapon in riot control has yet to be fully realized by both the military and civil law enforcement.

In riot control, the two-handed baton is not intended as a weapon that each man uses as he sees fit to engage in a series of individual combats with separate rioters. It is a team weapon to be employed by disciplined police or military units. All the traditional military formations normally used by soldiers with the rifle and bayonet, in riot control, can also be successfully employed using the long baton as the basic individual weapon.

The world press and television during the past year has frequently shown scenes in which long lines of European riot police are seen breaking ranks and using their short riot batons, or night sticks, to club the heads of individual rioters. In this type of police tactics and action, discipline and formations break down due to the very nature of the weapon employed, which only lends itself in a violent action for individual police use as a striking instrument. In this type of riot control the value of the disciplined formations, which puts the usually outnumbered police more in balance with the rioters, is lost. The success of the troops of Alexander the Great in combatting the Persian hordes and of the Romans with their famous phalanx was due to the fact that they employed their troops in tightly compact, mobile ranks and formations. In this fashion they were able to defeat forces many times their own number and suffered a minimum of casualties. The use by police of tight, tactical formations armed with long riot batons is exactly similar in modern riot control.

Due to its design and length the long riot baton is a weapon that is flexible and (Continued on page 54)



Shall We Disarm

The Police?

REX APPLEGATE SPEAKS OUT!

POLICE HAVE always been hated by the criminal and borderline elements of society because they are the force that requires conformance with law and order—or pay the penalty. Recently, there seems to be a trend, materializing very strongly, that gives evidence of a doctrine against law and order, and preaches, as the next step, wild disorders and rioting.

We read newspaper accounts of vicious rioting against police and the public interest because a police officer found it necesary to shoot (in self defense) a suspect who menaced him with knife or gun. Protests have been made and endless petitions signed, because police use tear gas against rioters who were plainly outside the law. Electric shock batons, in reality a very humane weapon, have likewise come under fire.

Should the police abandon the use of these and similar items (heaven forbid) and go to the use of foam and sound machines, what will be the next step? Judging from present trends, there would likewise be public outcry against use of such "soft" weapons as foam and sound, for they too would restrict or deny certain elements of society the "right" to raise hell in any way they please.

Many courts are dealing out "tap on the wrist" sentences and fail to use laws that would eliminate multifelony offenders from a generally law-abiding society. It is suspected that criminals have "cased the situation" as one favoring their escaping harsh punishment for their crimes or getting none at all. If this is not inducement to a continued high crime rate, what is?

One of the speakers at the First National Symposium on Law Enforcement Science and Technology, held in



Chicago in early March this year, stated that police intelligence net-works in California had learned that criminals were counseling each other to run if accosted by police while committing a criminal act and not to fear police gunfire. California police, along with those in many other areas, have become afraid to fire to stop a criminal caught in the act for fear of reprisals either in court or in the press. "Be safe rather than sorry," seems to be the philosophy being forced on the police. Naturally, the police and some of the public are disturbed and curious about this attitude on the part of the courts, which seems to indicate policemen are the offenders, not the criminal. It is only natural, then, that police officers think twice before doing anything that places their jobs or themselves in jeopardy, even when they are sure they are right.

In a recent press release the President's Crime Commission is quoted as saying, "Only one person was executed in the U.S. in 1966, as judges, juries, and governors are more reluctant to impose and carry out the death sentence."

Coupled with this statement is another in the same release which is most revealing. It reads, "Insofar as its deterrent effect is concerned, the Commission found that there was no discernable correlation between the availability of the death penalty and the homocide rate." "Availability" is the key word. Certainly the penalty is available, but if it is not used—note the first quote—what deterrent effect can this penalty have? For that matter, what deterrent effect will any law have when it is not used?



Five of Bowman's rifles illustrate models and calibers for antelope, left to right: Weatherby 7 mm; Remington Model 700 in 6 mm; Remington 740 autoloader; Browning .243; and a Biesen custom Mauser in .25-270 caliber.

Rifles for Antelo

Rifles for Antelo

By LES BOWMAN

GUNS • AUGUST 1967

The sportsman in quest of antelope cannot be careless in his selection of gun, ammunition, and equipment

THE NORTH AMERICAN antelope or Pronghorn has always been one of our most interesting game animals. It is one of our more elusive targets, and is also one of the most desired trophies. But, I believe it is hunted more carelessly by hunters than any other animal I know of. Perhaps this is due to the terrain in which it is found, truely the "wide open spaces."

For any good hunter, the success of his hunt should be based on the kind of kill he makes. I take no pleasure in having to shoot an animal more than once. I want a gun that can deliver a good one shot kill with minimum damage to pelt and meat. As there is enough error already built into me, I also want the most accurate gun, the best loads, proper sighting equipment and all the help I can get from field rests in making this kind of shot.

The antelope is a relatively small and lightly built animal. It stands about 32 to 36 inches high at the withers, and is about 18 inches from bottom of brisket to top of withers. The sure killing area of the lungs is about 12 inches in diameter. It can be killed, and so can most any animal, by hitting it in other parts of the body, but the lung area is the surest kill area, spoils the least meat, and does not ruin the cape for mounting.

No game animal that I know of is subjected to more poor sportsmanship than the antelope. They run in herds and are hunted in fairly open country, and perhaps it is because they are seen out in open country that most hunters seem to think they can hit one running. Nearly every hunter tries this at some time, and all too often with an off-hand shot, at that. Few hunters can hit running game with any certainty and especially one that goes as fast as the antelope. Only the hunter who has practiced shooting running game, such as jack rabbits or the predators in the coyote class, until he is proficient should attempt shots at running antelope.

Any legal size hunting rifle caliber can be used on antelope, but the best cartridge and bullet weights for the antelope often do not fit in with the other game that a huner may be after. Even the combining of deer and antelope hunts often call for different type equipment for best results. Deer are too often hunted in some other locality such as heavy timber or brush country. Many hunters that come west to hunt antelope are also planning on hunting elk, deer, bear and perhaps sheep and moose. Some of them only have one rifle to do all this, and frequently it is a large rifle with heavy recoil. I once saw two hunters using heavy big game rifles fire over 80 rounds at antelope in two days hunting, and never collect one. There was no way of estimating how many they may have wounded.

I have seen far more antelope wounded and get away to die, when shot at with large calibers and super magnums, than I have with smaller, easier to shoot, and just as deadly calibers. I have checked kills made with every conceivable size of cartridge from my .230 Ackley, with its 70 grain bullet, to the .458 Winchester with its 500 grain bullet, and I certainly recommend the smaller, faster, flatter shooting cartridges over the larger slower ones. The average hunter can shoot them more accurately and place his shots.

Let us take the smallest legal production caliber as an example. I'll use the 6 mm Remington, as I am quite familiar with it. The .243 Winchester would also be in this class and very little different. It takes approximately 1,000 foot pounds of energy at point of impact for good kills on big deer; antelope take even less. At 400 yards, the factory loading of the 6 mm, using a 100 grain bullet, still carries 1060 ft./lb. With my handloads this is a bit higher. Many times I have seen such a bullet penetrate an antelope and lodge in the hide on the far side or go all the way through. Whichever it does it leaves a wound channel that is lethal if the bullet was placed in the right area.

In the heavier, medium velocity range, such as the .270, .280, the .284 and .30-06, the combination of size, velocity, and expansion again will give good kills. When we get into the higher velocity class then we have a much greater hydrostatic shock wave built up, and that alone will do terrific tissue damage. Besides checking bullet damage in the field, I have examined hundreds of carcasses at the locker plant, after the game has been skinned out. Meat that had been hurt by (Continued on page 62)



Author uses 100 grain handloads in 6 mm Remington, shown here with Riflemate rest attached to fore-end.

HOW REMINGTON READS YOUR MIND!

By E. B. MANN





IS IT MERELY AN ILLUSION caused by being too close to the target, or is it a fact that the American shooter is the most demanding, the most cantankerously critical customer in the national economy?

For instance: Do you demand as much from your car as you demand from your rifle, either in mechanical perfection or in performance? Think it over before you answer. Your investment in the car is far greater, but do you demand the same perfection in its door-fit, in its trim, in its upholstery finishing, that you demand in (to mention just Since crystal balls are difficult to come by, it must be apparent that planning at this stage has to be a matter of highly educated guesses, of feeding endless data to computers in search of answers that may be proved wrong by unforeseen changes in shooter-whim, or by the appearance in the market of new competitive models. This is expensive guessing! Three years and millions of company dollars went into this research in the case of Remington's new rifles—a sizeable ante in the high-stakes game of trying to read the mind of the American shooter! Whether it



Designed especially for varmint shooters, the Model 700 Varmint has heavy barrel, scope blocks, plus sling and QD swivels.

one item) the wood-to-metal fit in your rifle?

"But," you say, "wood-to-metal fit is a factor in rifle performance!"

All right, let's look at performance. Unless you are a race driver in one or another of the several categories—how often, if ever, have you had your car fine-tuned for peak performance? Do you, for that matter, even know what "peak performance" is for the car you drive? Would you know how to use it if you had it? Take it from a very amateur, strictly arm-chair hot-car addict, you don't and you wouldn't. If we were all as demanding of our cars as of our guns, every car would have to be, not merely a Rolls Royce or a Mercedes Benz 600, but a race-ready Grand Prix or Indy Special.

But when it comes to ammunition—no factory offering lives as much as six weeks before it is being 'improved" by experimental hand-loaders!

I'm not saying that this is bad, you understand; I'm one of the more demanding types myself. But it does present some real problems to factory designers and planners! Just how real and how difficult these problems are can be suggested by synopsizing the procedures preceding Remington's announcement of their new family of bolt action rifles:

More than three years ago, Remington experts began elaborately meticulous studies of the entire rifle market. Were there caliber gaps to be filled? Why did Brand A, Model Z, outsell Brand B, Model X? What features of design (appearance), function, price, and sales methods caused the greater demand for one model than for another?
. . At this point, the question is, "What do shooters want?" And if that isn't a question requiring a crystal ball, I never saw one!

is a winning gamble or not will be known only when sales results are totaled.

Once an answer is accepted as to what shooters want, designers and planners burn midnight oil, in collaboration with production engineers, sales experts, and promotion whiz-kids (all "grocery clerks" have been frozen out, by now!), to design the guns needed and scheme up production methods capable of producing them within price ranges at which they will sell. This is where the real squeeze comes; and it is out of this squeeze that arise the new devices—plastics instead of steel in minor parts; forgings instead of machine-tooling; machine-instead of hand-checkering—that offset high material and labor costs and keep prices below ceilings shooters can be expected to accept. These cost-savers are accepted with the full knowledge that shooters won't like them, at first—but in the belief that shooters will like even less a gun priced above their ability to pay.

(And let's face it: many of the new materials and manufacturing shortcuts which aroused bitter shooter protest when they first appeared have proved to be entirely acceptable, and even of better quality than the old. This does not excuse sloppy quality-control, which does occur sometimes; but American gun makers are, themselves, highly demanding, highly critical of their own products, insisting on wide margins of safety, high standards of performance, and a uniformity of excellence seldom equalled in other mass production.)

The final step for any new product is, of course, presenting it to the people. For some years past, Remington (and other manufacturers) have invited a dozen or more gun editors and writers to annual "seminars" at which they present their new brain-children, (Continued on page 68)

A BETTER GRIP FOR THE COLT SINGLE ACTION



BACK IN 1928, I was a wet-eared kid just old enough to join the NRA and qualify for one of those \$1.50 Krags. Of course I eagerly awaited the monthly arrival of the "Rifleman," as in those distant days it was the only magazine in the country devoted exclusively to guns.

The September issue of that year had the first article by Elmer Keith that I had ever seen. It told of an improvement on the Colt Single-action grip. Now, several generations of shooters would feel that this was hard to do, but this grip did it. Designed by Harold Croft, it was actually a modification of the Colt Bisley

grip, and was basically accomplished by grafting a Single Action trigger guard onto a Bisley.

The reason for this is that the Bisley grip is fine and high in the rear, but too high in front, right behind the trigger. On the other hand, the SA grip is just right behind the trigger, but is too low in back, where the web between the shooter's thumb and forefinger rests.

Shuffling these parts around produces what looked to me like the ideal grip, low in front and high behind.

I immediately wanted one and started looking for a Bisley I could afford. In those days a used SA went for



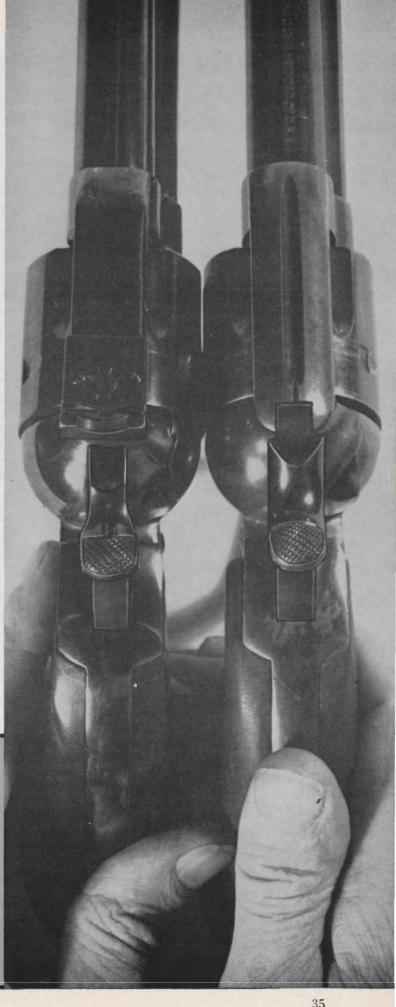
Author's modified Colt, shown at top, as compared to the standard Single Action and original Bisley models.

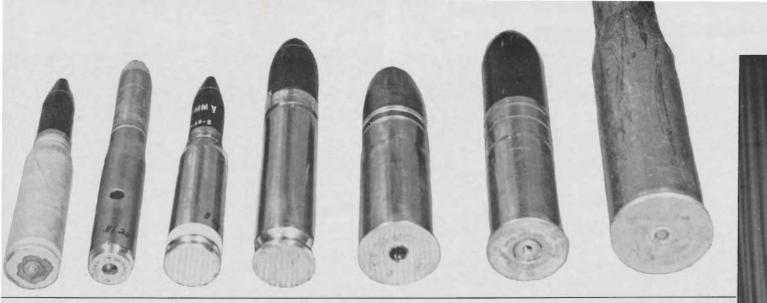
Dotted lines show where semi-circles of metal were removed from one side to make the hammer lighter.

Flat top strap, Micro rear sight, and the modified hammer are evident on the author's reworked Colt.

eight or ten dollars, but Bisleys were about double that. College had a dampening effect on the search, but about 1935, after graduation, I finally found the one I was looking for. This was a .38-40 in tolerable condition except that some joker had welded a lump of metal on the top strap in order to make a high rear sight; why, I don't know. Anyway, it was ruined as a collection piece and it didn't matter what I did to it.

A buddy who is a good welder took it in hand. I wanted a flat-topped frame in order to be able to mount a target sight. He built up the top-strap by acetylene welding so I could (Continued on page 50)





CARTRIDGE TRADERS CLAIM THAT THEIRS IS THE FASTEST GROWING AREA OF ANTIQUE FIREARMS-SO DON'T WAIT



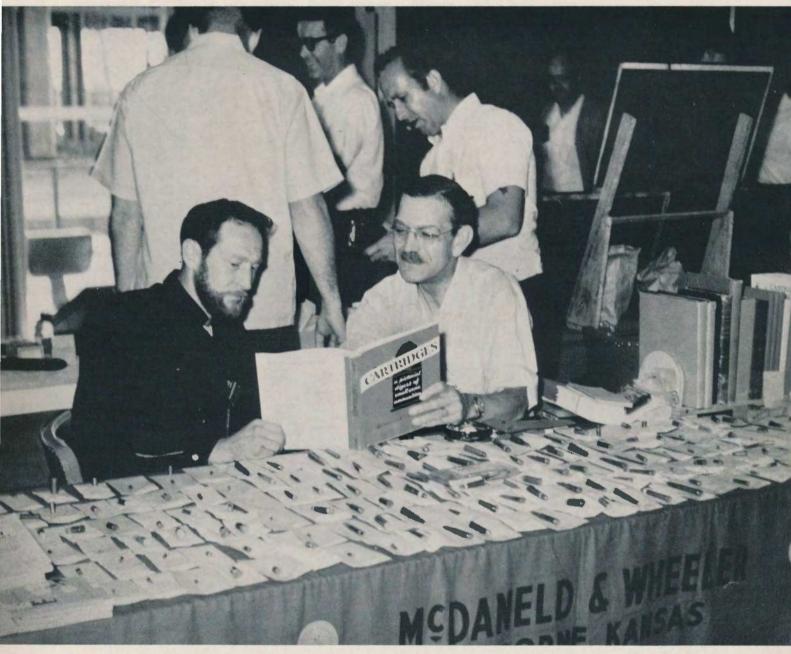
Corrugated cardboard keeps cartridges from rolling around inside protective glass-front display case.

START COLLECTING NOW!

By CARL FISHER

IT ALL BEGAN during the California Arms Collectors Antique Gun Show at Disneyland in 1965. While he had attended several of these shows in the Los Angeles area before, looking for a Sharps rifle he could afford to buy, this was the first time Ernie Trusty had closed his shop on a Thursday afternoon and spent the whole weekend at the displays. He examined each interesting item eagerly and avidly engaged the owners of the fabulous pieces in technical conversations. All the collectors were amazingly liberal with their information and help but, by Saturday night, Ernie's ownership of that Sharps rifle was still outside the realm of possibility.

At the club's banquet that night Ernie explained his predicament to two friends who were gun and cartridge collectors with many years of experience—Sherm Jones and Frank Wheeler.



Frank Wheeler looks up the specifications of an antique cartridge for Ernie in "Cartridges," by H. C. Logan.

"I found several interesting pieces," Ernie told them, "but they're all much too expensive for me. I guess I'll have to wait until I've saved more money before I can start a gun collection."

"How much can you spend?" Sherm asked Ernie.

"Fifty dollars is about all I can afford right now," Ernie replied.

"Then you should start by collecting cartridges," Frank told him. "Pick up individual Sharps cartridges from various sources and sell them as a complete set. In a few months' time you can triple your money."

"Right," Sherm added. "Then you can buy that Sharps rifle you long for."

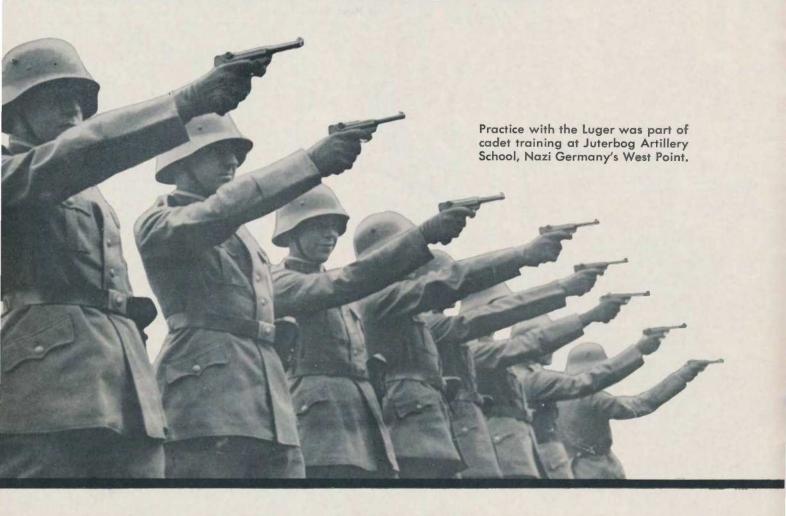
"If you still want it . . ." Frank said with a twinkle in his eyes.

Ernie had kept a careful notebook record of the Sharps

rifles and cartridges on display at the show and, on his last day at Disneyland, he spent a part of his allotted money and bought a few good cartridges. The word got out that Trusty wanted Sharps cartridges and, during the next few weeks, collectors telephoned him and came by his shop to show him their selections. Most of these calls were from collectors with limited selections and Ernie soon came to realize the strategy in Frank Wheeler's suggestion to collect Sharps cartridges in complete sets. He kept a careful record of the names and addresses of these collectors for possible future contacts. It's hard to turn down a good buy and, instead of planning for just one complete Sharps collection, Ernie found that he had a second one well begun before his first collection was complete.

Ernie was amazed that his first complete Sharps collection sold for several times (Continued on page 77)

THE LUGER



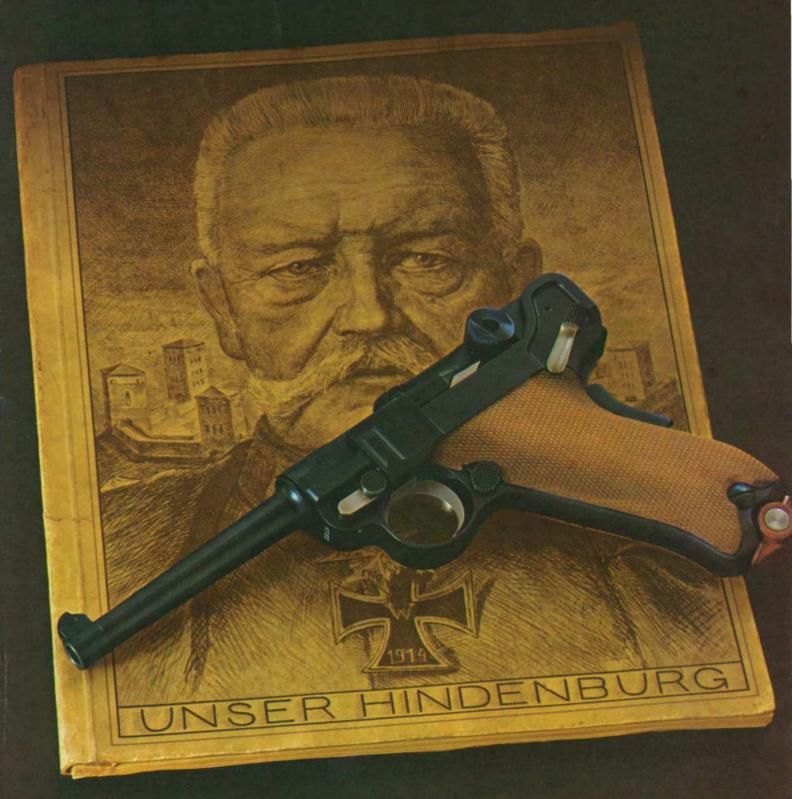
As a military pistol, the Luger is generally conceded to be inferior to the Colt .45 automatic, yet few modern handguns have gained so wide a reputation. Before the days of James Bond, no respectable foreign agent in the movies would be seen without one. But perhaps the greatest interest in the Luger pistol has come from gun collectors in the United

States. The last collector's list I have shows the lowest price for a standard Luger in excellent condition as \$95.00; more than double its original price when new. And, this is a standard model. Today the Luger collector who does not have at least 10 different variations, markings, or dates, is considered only a beginner.

Whatever the reasons for the popularity of the Luger, both to the collector and the many governments which adopted it as their official sidearm, one of the major factors was the intensive promotional campaign put on by its producers, which included these words on the cartridges: "As regards the calibers selected (7.65 and 9 mm) the automatic action of the pistol does not in any way depend on the size of the caliber but on the total energy. . . This energy may vary to a considerable extent, but its minimum should be sufficient to disable the enemy . . . who is in full service uniform, protected by all sorts of equipments. . . and perhaps under additional cover of planks or brushwood, or

behind a closed door." (From the original Luger manual.)

PISTOL...



An ordinary Luger, placed on an original copy of "Our Hindenburg," reflects on a troubled time in the history of Europe.

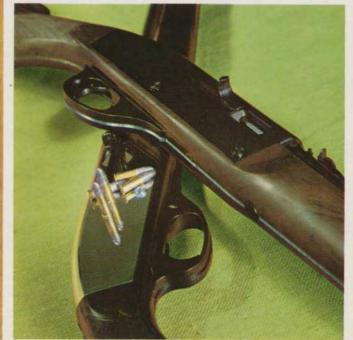


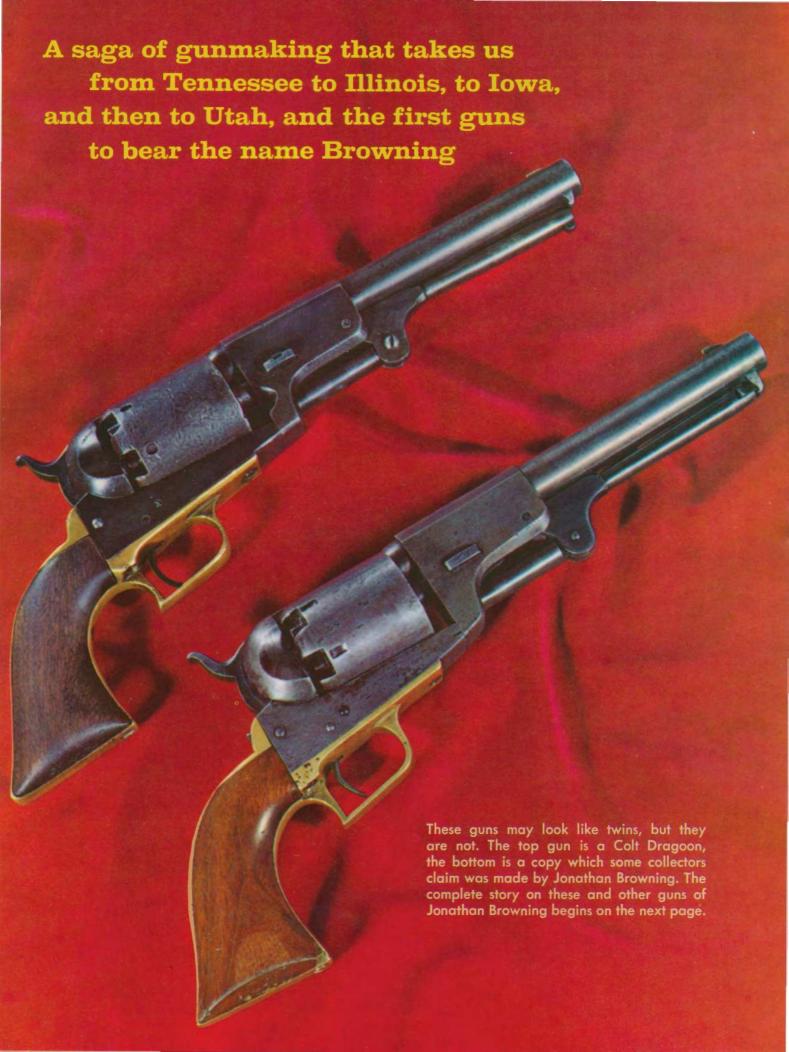


REMINGTON NYLON 66

When this rifle was first introduced in 1959, the first reaction by many was a look of disapproval at the stock. Yet today, it is one of the more popular of the .22 rifles, and owners report it to be a real "tackdriver." The entire gun was designed around a one-piece stock made of structural Nylon, and although it may be a problem for tinkerers, it has won the approval of many shooters.









Jonathan Browning

The Guns of JONATHAN

THE GENIUS OF JONATHAN BROWNING has been all but lost amidst the widespread acclaim that has been heaped upon his inventive son. John Moses Browning invented so many guns that historians tend to hurriedly gloss over the achievements of his gunsmith father. In his lifetime, the son patented no less than 128 different gun inventions, many of which are still in use today, though the inventor himself has been dead since 1926.

Jonathan Browning, on the other hand, never patented one single firearm, but there can be no doubt that he invented many, most of them simple and practical rifles that were well adapted to the rigorous life and thin pocketbooks of the pioneers.

To many gun collectors today, the elder Browning is virtually unknown, as are the fine weapons that he left behind. Only on rare occasions is either he or his guns even mentioned in collector's handbooks, anthologies of values, and books on antique guns.

In one particular book, the only mention of Browning is not about Jonathan but about his son: "No finer pistol or revolver was carried than the automatic invented by Browning, and named for that Yankee genius, Samuel Colt," the book says.

Ironically, the elder Browning was a contemporary of Samuel Colt, but other than the fact that both were gun makers, there was little similarity in their lives. Colt was born in Hartford Conn., in 1814; Browning in the backwoods of Tennessee nine years earlier.

Browning made his first rifle at the age of 19 in the gunshop of Samuel Porter at Nashville, Tenn. The year was 1824, some six years before the idea of the revolver occurred to the 10-year-old Sam Colt. Actually, Colt was not the first to think of the revolving cylinder for guns, but he was the first to utilize the principle, patent it, and produce

BROWNING...

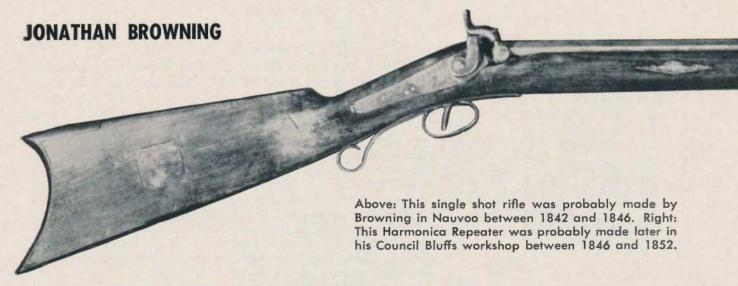
By NELSON WADSWORTH



A monument to skillful workmanship, Jonathan Browning's home in Nauvoo still stands solidly after 125 years.



Browning's "Harmonica Repeater" was one of the first repeaters anywhere. Early Harmonicas had their hammers underneath.



a commercially successful firearm.

When Colt filed his patent in 1832, Browning was making guns in a small shop near Gallatin, Tennessee. Four years later, when Colt began producing guns at the Patent Arms Manufacturing Co. at Patterson, New Jersey, Browning had moved his growing family west and was inventing weapons in a small shop at Quincy, Ill. While Colt produced guns in his factory, Browning was content to turn out custom-made rifles and handguns within the limitations of his shop, which consisted of forge, anvil, vice, foot lathe, and some hand tools.

One cannot help but wonder what Browning might have invented had he been equipped with the best machinery of his day. Despite his limited equipment, Browning did produce a number of fine guns in Quincy, including a number of single-action revolving rifles which look much like Colt's. Also at Quincy, sometime between 1834 and 1842, Browning invented one of the first repeating rifles . . . his slide percussion cap repeater, nicknamed "the harmonica rifle." This was among the simplest and most practical repeaters ever made and was especially adapted to the rigorous life of the trail blazers.

The slide repeater had a minimum of parts and could be turned out easily in Browning's humble shop. Because of its simplicity, it was inexpensive, yet capable of rapid fire without malfunction. The magazine for the slide gun was a simple, rectangular bar, chambered like the cylinder of a revolver. Most of the magazines held five shots, though Browning made them with up to 25 shots.

To fire the gun, the shooter loaded the magazine with powder, balls, and percussion caps, inserted the bar into the reciever, pushed down a lever, cocked the hammer and pulled the trigger. By pulling up the lever and pushing it back down, the shooter moved the magazine to the next chamber for the second shot and also cammed the bar forward for a gastight fit against the rear of the barrel. The hammer was underneath with a tempered steel trigger guard serving as a mainspring.

A finely-preserved example of Jonathan Browning's slide repeater can be found in the Browning Museum in Ogden. Markings on the barrel say, "Browning Warranted. 1847." However, it is the same design the gunmaker was producing in Quincy as early as 1834.

While operating the shop in Quincy, Browning was elected justice of the peace, an office which was to earn him the title of "Judge" for the rest of his days. But something else happened to the gunmaker in Illinois that was to eventually move him further west three more times.

In 1839, shortly after their expulsion from Missouri, the Mormons had gathered on the banks of the Mississippi near Quincy and began to build the city of Nauvoo. Quickly the city rose from the swamplands and promised to politically dominate the area. The Mormons were evangelists and the gunsmith, then in his thirties, listened, studied, and finally was baptized as a member of the Mormon Church in 1840. Two years later, Jonathan moved to Nauvoo, where he built a two-story house using handmade bricks, which still stands today.

Few of the guns Browning made in Nauvoo survive. Since he did not stamp the year on all of his guns, and sometimes didn't even stamp his name,



it is difficult to date those that do survive. One fine example, probably made by Browning in Nauvoo, is a single-shot percussion rifle owned by Gary Saunders, a collector in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is typical of single-shot percussions on the 1830's and 40's except that it is engraved "J. Browning and Sons." Saunders purchased the gun for the remarkably low price of \$90, indicative of the fact that most collectors are not aware of the worth of the early Browning guns.

Religious and political turmoil followed the Mormons to Nauvoo and spread through the Illinois countryside. In 1844 the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith, and his brother were murdered by a mob in Carthage. Two years later persecution uprooted the Mormons again and drove them west in the middle of winter. Jonathan hurriedly loaded his family in wagons, salvaged what he could of his shop, and fled with the rest across the frozen Mississippi.

Jonathan settled on Mosquito Creek at Kanesville (Council Bluffs), Iowa, with his family which now included a number of sons. So in 1847, when Colt was contracting with Eli Whitney to produce the Whitneyville Walkers, the Mormon gunsmith was setting up his shop, deep in the Western wilderness. However, with Mormon wagon trains outfitting and nearly ready to push on west, there can be no doubt



that the services of a gunsmith were very much in demand.

Browning stayed in Council Bluffs for six years, during which time he manufactured a number of fine guns, including some revolvers. The remarkable workmanship of his arms turned out with such humble tools, is indeed a marvel and speaks for the genius of the man. On Sept. 19, 1849, he inserted the following advertisement in the Frontier Gardian, Kanesville, Iowa, under the heading "Gunsmithing":

The subscriber is prepared to manufacture, to order, improved Fire-arms, viz: revolving rifles

and pistols; also slide guns, from 5-25 shooters, all on an improved plan, and he thinks not equalled this far east. (Farther West they might be). The emigrating and sporting community are invited to call and examine Browning's improved fire-arms before purchasing elsewhere. Shop eight miles south of Kanesville on Musquito [sic] Creek a mile south of Trading Point.

Jonathan Browning

The sense of humor of the Mormon gunsmith can be seen in his sly notation that his guns were not equalled this far east but farther west they might be. It is interesting to note that Browning was also making revolving rifles and perhaps even revolving pistols in Council Bluffs, though the latter is doubtful. A number of his Council Bluffs arms survive, but all of these, with the exception of a lone single-shot handgun are rifles, most of them either "harmonica" or revolving repeaters.

The Browning single shot pistol was found in 1900, by an eleven year old boy who was playing along the old pioneer wagon trail east of Ogden, Utah. It was a fairly simple design, with a barrel (Continued on page 64)

GUNS THAT I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER

By BERT POPOWSKI



DURING THE PAST half-century I've often noted that opposites have a fatal fascination for each other. The beauteous dame, the toast of the town, winds up marrying the battle-scarred football hero—often from the wrong side of the tracks. And the pin-up male finally chooses someone who couldn't win Miss Ubangi honors, and neither could care less. It's the ancient story of Beauty and the Beast; one is beautiful in face and figure and the other matches that with peerless performance.

That's the way it should be with tried and true guns. Any blued-steel and polished-walnut darling has to prove its worth in everyday use before I want it in my arsenal. And the wear and tear it accumulates in such proving merely adds to my high regard for its honest worth. Oh, sure; I like to have a new gun look beautiful, which merely proves it was made with tender loving care to appeal to its owner. But if it proves inaccurate or can't stand the traffic of ammunition poured through it I'm all through with that primary confidence pitch. I want a gun that'll be in there tough when it's third down and six to go. If it makes the yardage and picks up some bruises in the process that merely makes me regard it more highly. Beautiful or not, a gun that punts when it's third and three finds no ready welcome to space in my gun cabinets.

Decades ago, when my eyes were sharp, my reflexes quick and my nerves steady as a rock, I owned a Colt



Woodsman .22 handgun. That gun hung on my belt during nearly 20 years of rifle and shotgun hunting for both small and big game. It was in and out of its basket-weave holster so often that it lost virtually all of is original blueing. When I wanted close-range small game for the pot it produced almost unfailingly. When I ran a trap line it clipped the bigger animals of my catch without ruining their pelts. On a couple of occasions it finished off deer that were down but still alive, thereby saving some edible venison.

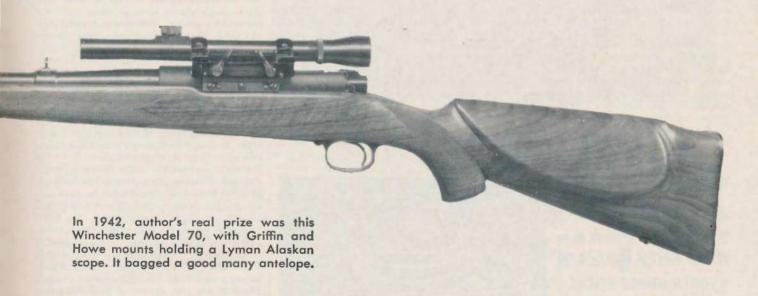
Times were tight in those depression and dust bowl days. Actual money was a precious commodity. The difference between the cost of a shotgun shell or a rifle cartridge, and a .22 long rifle load, was highly significant. That cost variable is still with us though the spread is now much greater. Nowadays you can reload shotshells and all centerfire rifle ammo but it's only worthwhile if you use a lot of it. But, then as now, you paid for .22 long rifle ammo on a oneuse basis.

Juvenile thinking led me to trade that .22 Woodsman for a Winchester .22 rifle. That shoulder arm had been beautifully cared for, on the outside. It looked like a good swap, based on superficial exterior appearance. But that rifle hadn't been cleaned regularly and its bore and rifling was a horrid mess. It also spread its bullets over most of the West Forty, regardless of where they were aimed.

other guy-I jumped a flock of prairie chickens at about a five-yard range. When the gun was empty of its five shells I had five chickens; the first dropped maybe ten yards away and the last a winged cripple which I quickly caught. Only one who knows how fast chickens fly can appreciate that as damn fine gunning. There was my day's limit, filled out of the only flock I'd found during a time when prairie chickens were deep in their decline of the late 1920's. It was a feat that I've duplicated only a dozen times since, but only on slower forms of shotgun game and when using the stouter loads of a 12-gauge.

Where is that Model 17 now? Right in my gun cabinet. It now wears its third stock, its second breech block and its third firing pin. It is scarred and rubbed with its long and honorable life but I'm not about to retire that gorgeous performer to the brutal mercies of an owner who hasn't seen it perform at its beautiful best. I'd just about as soon send a proven hunting dog to the pound or sell a faithful aged saddle horse to the zoo for ravening beasts to feast on.

People who own many guns don't acquire that strong affection for their partners of many noteworthy field excursions. They pick this gun for one hunt, another for the next, and seldom really get acquainted with any of them. Such hunting feats as they jointly perform are lost to memory. But the man and gun who intimately know



Shots that I'd made with the Woodsman were utterly foreign to that longer and, supposedly, more accurate rifle. That's when I first learned that exterior appearance was highly treacherous, whether it consisted of choosing gals, guns or geneology. I've never forgotten that first and bitterest lesson. I never found another Colt Woodsman that performed with comparable silky smoothness.

The first shotgun that was all my own was a Model 17 which Remington made only in 20 gauge. I'd been punished by the brutal recoil of my daddy's Model 97 12 and frustrated by the stiffness of its action, so I wanted no more of that even when I was a grown man. In comparison that 20 was light, fast and, when I learned to steer it properly, very deadly. About two years after I got it as a college graduation gift-from a gal who married the each other occasionally perform wee miracles.

Take the Model 54 .250-3000 Winchester which the late Al Haugan honed to a razor edge and then sold to me at a ridiculous price. It wore a semi-heavy barrel in a marksman stock and weighed in at an even 12 pounds when fitted with a Fecker six-power scope and a laced-on cheek rest. The twist was 1-in-12 and we early learned of its great fondness for bullets in the 100-grain class. An especial favorite was the now obsolete Winchester flat-nose, ahead of 36 grains of 4064 powder. No pointed bullets of other make or ogive laid in there like those blunt-noses. Even when we removed from three to six grains in hollowpointing those slugs for finer expansion they seemed to home in on targets like today's Sidewinders going up the tailpipes of enemy jets. (Continued on page 58)



N OW IS THE TIME for all good trapshooters to come to the aid of their prospects in the Grand American. You can set
the tempo of your Grand shooting during the
remaining weeks before the annual trek to
Vandalia (Grand week-August 21-26, preliminary days August 18-20). Momentum is important to the shooter, just as it is in other
sports. Perhaps my preoccupation with momentum is due to some TV exposure during
the last few days, in which I saw some teams
in three sports gain momentum and win,
while at the same time, of course, three good
teams lost momentum and the marbles.

I have always felt that my two best years in the Grand, one with a trophy and the other with a Ford Purse, were more than anything else the results of momentum gained just prior to the big one. I had not put together many hundred straights before the first Grand trophy, but I'm sure that a 50 straight at handicap and 50 at 16 yards on a hot Sunday in Henderson, Kentucky, the week before the Grand helped my confidence, shooting, and momentum the next week in Vandalia. Not only is momentum important in shooting as in all sports, but it complements and becomes a tangible part of tournament readiness.

All shooting authorities agree that how a shooter reacts to tournament pressure ranks even higher than his shooting ability when

he toes the line in the Grand American. I've heard some very wise and distinguished shooters give their own versions of how important being tournament-hardened is to the shooter, and some of them rank ability to withstand pressure as much as 90 per cent of the total pie. In other words, they feel that the proportion is 10 per cent ability to shoot, and 90 per cent adaptability to pressure. I'm not sure I can vote for the 90-10 split, but I am convinced that at least half the shooters at any given Grand are so close in ability to break targets that ranking them is next to impossible. I am as firmly convinced that the factor which gives trophies to a few and denies them to many, is more the ability to function under tournament conditions than it is to break targets. And, there is only one way to become pressure or tournament hardened and that is to shoot in tournaments. When the Grand becomes simply a repeat of what you have been doing for weeks, or months, but on a different field, you have a good chance to take home some of the satisfaction that goes with money and trophies, or just good performance.

Not only is tournament trap or skeet shooting a fitting reward for the shooter. Making the tournaments can be a real family experience. One that I learned about last week stands out especially as a chance for the shooter and his family to experience a great

vacation. One of the most exciting and interesting events held anywhere on the North American continent is the annual Calgary (Alberta, Canada) Stampede. The Calgary Stampede has been called the Rose Bowl, World Series, and Mardi Gras rolled into

Barrie Deakin, president of the Calgary Gun Club, just gave me the great news that the Calgary club will be hosting the Canadian Centennial Trap Shooting Tournament just prior to and during the Stampede week, This event will guarantee \$7,000 in purses and 46 open trophies, plus a Calcutta auction, July 5th through July 9th.

I don't think any Pop who is a trapshooter will have any difficulty at all getting Mom and the kids to combine Stampede Week with the Calgary Gun Club Centennial tournament. And, if time permits, the whole family could travel on to Expo 67 for the vacation and experience of a lifetime. Pop might be able to finance the whole trip if he has a hot hand at Calgary, too. Since time is short, better contact Mr. Barrie Deakin at 262-4303 in Calgary, or at Post Office Box 1206, also in Calgary.

. . .

There are two versions of the wind in Texas. One is the comic routine or public information media version of the garrulous Texan who generates a lot of wind via conversational methods. The other, to which I can personally attest, is that in much of Texas, there always seems to be a wind, of the genuine version. Two wind-seasoned Texans, both from Lackland Air Force Base, found this wind-tempering valuable preparation for the 20th Annual Mid-Winter Sahara Gun Club tournament in Las Vegas (where also blows the wind). Airman (no pun intended) Chuck Poindexter shattered 660 of 700 targets in the Sahara event, worth upward of \$20,000 total prize money to best 904 entries for high over all. Appropriately, another airman, Ken Jones, who covered himself with glory at Weisbaden, won the All-Around trophy with a stellar 397x400. Jerry Johnson of Ogden, Utah, won the distinction of being the smallest gunner on the grounds and the Sub-Junior trophy. Dean Unruh from Denver took the All-Around Junior title. The biggest payoff on the field went to grain mill operator Elmer Frederes of Alton, Iowa, when he ground out the winning score in the final day's Sahara Handicap. Six new traps have been added to the Sahara layout, bringing to 20 the total number of fields for handling the big events there, and more expansions are scheduled for 1968, in keeping with the booming West.

. . .

If the reader feels that I may have seemed obsessed by the wind in my account of the big Sahara event, it is because I'm still thinking of what happened to me a week ago today at the Salt Lake City Gun Club. I haven't shot in an appreciable wind for some time, and after last week's fiasco, I am inclined to observe ungrammatically that it DO make a difference, especially if it is blowing in toward you. It did not seem to bother my shooting buddy Gary Alfertig too much, but it caused me to ventilate a lot of sky. That's why I give special credit, even though it is not needed, in view of their performances, to Chuck Poindexter and Ken Jones.

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Torresdale-Frankford Country Club clinched the 1966-67 title in the Pennsylvania Women's Interclub Trapshooting League, during the ninth match of the season, on their home grounds. Even though they finished second to Huntington Valley in the ninth match, they had recorded a total of 35 points to HVCC's 30, and the final match at Valley Forge did not affect the results. Huntingdon Valley scored 232 in the deciding match, topping the host club's 226. Valley Forge was third, at 223, with Philadelphia CC at 212, and Aronimink Gun Club at 201 Three women broke 48x50 of the rainsoaked targets, Mrs. Edward C. Howell of Philadelphia CC, Mrs. Charles J. Schenkel of HVCC, and Mrs. Otto Neiderer of Torresdale.

The same observations regarding momentum and tournament experience made earlier in this month's column with regard to trap shooting applies in spades to skeet, and to a skeet shooter's prospects in the 1967 NSSA World Championships at Forest City Gun Club in charming Savannah, Georgia, July 29 through August 5. That these observations are true is born out by word from the annual Flamingo Open at Trail Trap and Skeet Club in Miami, Florida, where no less than 22 shooters broke the hundred straight in the 12 gauge portion of the race.

• • •

Momentum and tournament hardening have to come into play here, When 22 shooters are perfect, there is no questioning of their basic shooting skill. Incidentally, after two hours of shoot-off, Jimmy Prall of Lackland AFB had the momentum going for him, along with tournament seasoning.

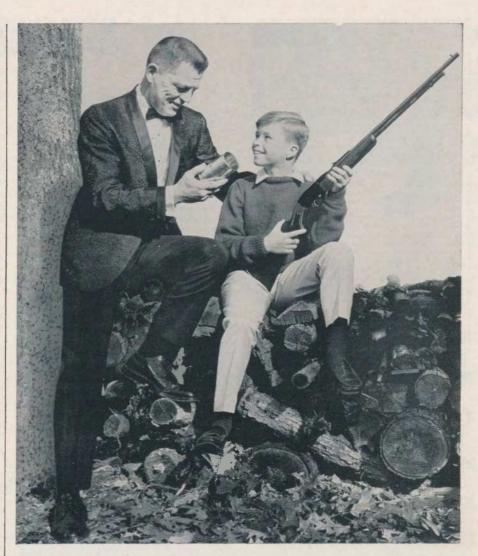
It is perhaps difficult for a club shooter, who shoots regularly on the same field, and with the same shooters, to understand what tournament pressure can do to a good shooter. It may even be difficult for a shooter who shoots in a small geographical area, under similar conditions, with many of the same familiar faces, to accept that he or she needs the experience of shooting with a squad of strangers, on strange fields, and in distant areas to insure top prospects in the big ones.

. . .

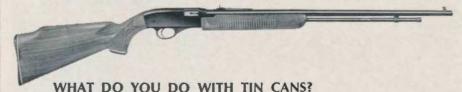
Every shooter, trap or skeet, ought to make a point of at least one trip during the season, possibly while on vacation, to a more distant club, for no more than tournament

How do I know? Most of my early competitive career in skeet was fired entirely within the confines of my native Indiana. I did some things in my first skeet nationals at Dallas, Texas, that I hadn't done in ten years, and wasted about half of the tournament before becoming acclimated (that's why preliminary days are valuable). Like the good doctor who tells you to do as he tells you to do, but not as he does, I can tell the would-be trophy winner in the clay target sports to do as I tell you to do, but not as I have done, in the case of skeet.

Get lots of tournament experience, some of it away from home grounds, get a lot of momentum going for you just prior to the big ones, and shoot your best. You still might not win, but in the shooting sports, you can have one heck of a good time, winning or losing.



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A BETTER GRIP FOR THE COLT

(Continued from page 35)

mill it into correct shape. That's when I started to learn. The welding warped and shrunk the frame so that the cylinder couldn't be installed. We finally reheated the strap and applied pressure while it was hot and took the shrink out of it.

Came then the installation of the triggerguard: This is simple, as the screwholes match nicely. However, the backstrap is too long, and must be cut and welded in order to effect a proper marriage, and the mainspring must be shortened to correspond. However, this was soon accomplished, and I then hastened to carve up a block of fancy walnut into a pair of grips. Man, did that handle feel GOOD! Low enough to rest firmly on the second finger, high enough behind to really fill the hand. With a heavy load the piece should push the whole hand, rather than rolling back and necessitating a shift back to battery before the next shot can be fired.

The top strap was dovetailed and a temporary rear sight installed. Then, before shooting it a final inspection was given. The frame was found to be warped just enough to get the chambers about .010" out a line with the barrel, a state of affairs that would result in shaving lead from every bullet. I was stumped. I didn't know what to do, so the project was shelved for what turned out

to be about ten years. In that time I became acquainted with a Bridgeport mill, and one fine day it suddenly dawned on me that I now could correct that sad cylinder situation. The frame was clamped in the milling vice with the cylinder installed in the proper relationship. Then the cylinder pin hole was indicated and the hole in the frame was bored concentrically with the cylinder pin hole. A new cylinder pin was turned, with the front bearing portion enlarged to fit the over-sized frame hole. While I was at it I made a large, knurled head, for easy grasping. Of course such a head must be slabbed off on one side to let it fit up against the barrel.

When this lash-up was complete a careful check revealed near-perfect alignment between barrel and cylinder and the frustration of years was washed away!

A used but perfect 7½" barrel and cylinder in .44 Special were located and installed, the asembly nicely blued and the project was complete after a mere 20 years! Sights were Micro rear and a Williams "Shorty" ramp front bearing a specially made post with the face at a 45° angle. A block of phosphor bronze let into the face made it act like a Redfield "Sourdough" sight to catch the light and be good for woods shooting.

The first group fired after sighting in was with factory ammo. Then we went to a load consisting of the 235 gr. Keith bullet in front of 8 grs. of Unique, This load approaches the Magnum category and has lots of authority, yet with the Croft grip is very pleasant to shoot. Fifty such loads in one sitting did not leave the hand numb as the factory Magnum grips do.

Another important factor, I believe, in accurizing an SA, is lightening the hammer. The original is far heavier than it needs to be, and when it lands the resultant jar is hard on accuracy. Acordingly, I carved off the ribs that follow the top line of the hammer, but left the thumbpiece full width. Then I went in with a 3/16" face Woodruff cutter as indicated by the dotted lines in the photo, and removed quite a bit of metal. Much the same thing can be accomplished with any SA hammer, without altering the exterior lines. This is often done by drilling holes through the hammer, but they are quite obvious and not so pleasing to the eye.

I believe the project as outlined above produces the most accurate SA ever made, and the grip is the best for heavy recoil that hot loads possibly could produce.



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HOME GUNSMITHING TIPS

By WILLIAM SHUMAKER

O UT-OF-CENTER positioning of receiver sight apertures, open rear, or front bead sights is sometimes necessary in order to compensate for installation errors or imperfections in barrel straightness. Many gun owners become unduly alarmed upon discovering that one of their sights appears not to be dead center. Without first targeting the rifle to determine if it is really out of zero, they adjust it left or right until they are convinced it's straight over the barrel.

Some will be so confident of their work that sighting in will be foregone. Others try firing a target, assuming all shots will now head straight for the bullseye. When they consistently shoot to one side they are deeply puzzled, take it to a gunsmith to be zeroed—and a week later refer to the smith as a "damphool" for again moving their right and the second and the second are transfer to the smith as a "damphool" for again moving the second and the second are transfer to the smith as a "damphool" for again moving the second and the second are transfer to the second are transfer to

ing their sight out of center!

Sighting in rifles is normally quite easy if the basics and reasons for moving sights are understood. First, realize that all man-made objects do have at least some microscopic defects. When working with normal acceptable variations, we must realize that if a dovetail rear sight notch is tipped very slightly left or right, and the front sight dovetail or ramp should be perfect, some adjustment must be made. If the front sight installation should per chance be tipped identically with the rear, both can then conceivably be in the center of their notches, even though both sights would then appear not to be perfectly on top of the barrel.

When rear and front sight installations lean slightly in opposite directions, and required windage adjustment is made on the rear open sight, correction for the double error places it quite obviously out of center. In such a case, provided the front sight can be moved, about 50 per cent of the adjustment can be made there. Always move the REAR sights in the direction you wish to move the bullet's striking point. If you move it

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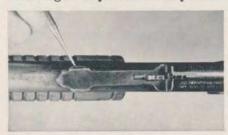
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left, it makes the gun shoot left. Moving it right makes the gun shoot right. Raising rear sights makes it shoot higher, and lowering them brings the shot group down. Front sight movement produces the exact opposite results.

Barrels that are bent so slightly as to escape visual detection will usually perform well when compensated for with sight adjustment. Adjustable



sight features are built to be used as a convenient means of overcoming the well-known variables of arms and ammunition, as well as sighting in for different ranges. If sight installations are rigid, and your rifle can be sighted in, don't worry about a slight off-center look.



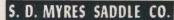
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LET'S TALK TRIGGERS

(Continued from page 35)

of the feathery pull, I am spoiled with light triggers and I will not have a .22 that goes more than 21/4 pounds. There is, God knows, quite enough work in making a handgun hit close without fighting a too heavy sear!

The trigger, when considered in its basic design, is pretty simple. It consists of two elements, a nose on the trigger portion of the sear and a notch on the hammer. There are literally hundreds of minor exceptions to this fundamental arrangement but regardless of the refinements all designs are essentially the same. The nose of the trigger is slipped out of the notch in the hammer by pressing on the curved exterior of the trigger. This releases the hammer and the gun fires. It is just that simple.

It is no chore for the gun maker to get a fit between the two parts of his sear. What isn't so simple is to get these parts to separate without creep, drag, overweight, or dangerous lightness, and all by pressure from the shooter's trigger digit. A useable trigger, and it does not matter whether it is on the pistol or is part of rifle or shotgun, must release without perceptible movement if it is properly engineered. A creepy trigger may have a total weight of only 3 pounds but if it indicates any perceptible movement, either to the finger or to the eye, then it is sorry in-

A great deal of progress has been made by the gun designers in the improvement of the firearm trigger. It seems to me that most of this betterment has been made since the conclusion of WW II. It was once that we had more poor triggers than good on our sporting ordnance. This is simply not true today. Now on such well-made guns as Remington, Winchester, Weatherby, and Savage in the rifle line, and on such scatterguns as the Browning, along with handguns from S&W, High Standard, and Colt, the trigger is invariably topflight.

We have several outfits in this country that make a business of offering accessory triggers for our centerfire target and sporting rifles. and also for the top quality .22 target guns. These are Canjar of Denver, Timney of South Gate, Calif., and Dayton-Traister of Edmonds, Washington, all of whom will provide at relatively modest prices a replacement trigger assembly which at once transforms the sorriest trigger to a bangup good one. Such old clunkers as the war surplus Mauser, the '17 Enfield, the '03 Springfield, and some of our older commercially-made bolt guns, are markedly improved by the installation of these accessory designs. On the shotgun side there is the Miller single trigger made by a firm by this name and located in Millersburg. Pa. This trigger is so outstanding that one of the regularily imported over/under shotguns is equipped with the Miller before it is offered to American shooters.

Along with the install-it-yourself accessory triggers is another simple device called a trigger shoe. The shoe slips over the curved exterior portion of the trigger and is then held firmly in place by tightening two Allen screws. The shoe is some two to three times wider than the trigger and this instantly gives the pull a feeling of some one to two pounds less weight. This apparent lightening of the sear is accomplished by providing the trigger finger an increased surface against which to work.

Frank B. Mayer, one of the last of the old buffalo runners, wrote that he filed away the sides of his trigger until it was knife-blade sharp. He then sandpapered his trigger finger until it was raw. His theory was that between cutting away the surface of his trigger until it was no thicker than his skinning blade plus abrading his shooting finger until it bled, he achieved a better trigger letoff. His approach was dead wrong.

The best trigger, and it does not matter whether it is on a rifle, shotgun or pistol,



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wants to be not less than 5/16" to a full onehalf inch in width. You can scarcely make it too wide! The greater its dimension, the better control you exercise over the pull; too, the lighter the sear will seem, and the less tendency to flinch along with a steady ability to hit closer.

A decade or so in the past the business of trigger shoes was a booming one. Today it has slowed to a crawl. The reason is that many gunmakers have wised up and now rifles from our better manufacturers, and the better pistol makers too, are offered as standard with much wider triggers. Only the shotgun has been neglected in this betterment. Triggers on our scatter guns are ridiculously narrow. Here, certainly, the shoe is badly needed.

A trigger, whether or not equipped with a shoe, does need a trigger stop. The stop is a simple device which brings the curved fron to an abrupt and definite halt the instant the sear is released. If there is any movement or unnecessary travel in the trigger after the sear breaks, the gun will be affected while the bullet is in the barrel.

The design people with our better guns builders are aware of the necessity for the trigger stop and seldom do you test a new rifle or pistol these days that you are not appreciatively aware of the excellent built-in stop. On the most of the older models you are just as unpleasantly conscious of this shortcoming! Most shotguns are to this day, not designed to halt the trigger the instant after the sear breaks.

There are an endless number of systems for pressing the trigger to make the gun fire. The most widely followed of the several shooting styles is the jerk. This will fire the piece every time and it requires no particular learning. Beyond that it seems the most natural style of all. This might, on the surface, appear a fortunate circumstance but actually it is not. The fly in the ointment is that when a trigger is jerked it displaces the sights and accounts for a miss. Despite this, it has always been my contention that further study should be given the matter in the hope of developing a technique so that we could jerk the trigger uniformly each shot. If this could be perfected somehow-the uniform vank that is-it would work as effectively as any of the more popular systems. The trouble is, of course, that no one has developed the completely coordinated jerk.

The trigger on a rifle or a six-gun must be pressed. We use the expression "trigger squeeze" but this is a poor descriptive term to apply to the exercise. To squeeze an object you apply pressure from every side. This isn't done on a firearm trigger at all. The trigger is pressed.

The pressure on a three or four pound trigger is applied while the sights are in good alignment with the target. This pressure is applied in a series of start-and-stop movements. When the sights are in good alignment with each other and with the target, pressure is exerted on the trigger. When the front sight (or the crosswires in the scope) swings off the mark the pressure on the trigger is checked. It is not loosened, mind you, just checked, neither lightened nor yet made inadvertently heavier, just held.

Then the gunner gently nudges the sights back into the middle of the target again

and when post or crosshairs hit the middle of the mark, he tightens on the trigger.

With a trigger of three pounds, the gunner aligns his sights and as the front comes to bear he puts from eights ounces to a pound of force against the trigger. While doing this the gun may swing off. He maneuvers it back, holding onto the trigger, and on the next time, with the sights dead on, he presses off another eight to 16 ounces. The process may be repeated a third, or a fourth, or maybe as many as five times before the gun fires. This is the only successful way to shoot a rifle or a handgun. Sometimes the marksman may take a full minute to go through this routine and then it is easy to press on the trigger when the sights are perfectly true, holding the pressure when they are not. Actually this selfsame system can be applied when the gunner has no more than a halfdozen heartbeats to perform the whole sequence. It depends on practice.

Our better pistol shooters fire a shot every two seconds from 25 yards and run up scores that are just as good as the fellows who take a full minute per blast. It is all a matter of applying the principles of trigger control and then speeding up the process.

There is one part of the trigger finger that should be used against the trigger. That piece of the digit between the very tip and the first joint is the most sensitive. Here all the nerves come to their ends, here these nerves are nearest the skin surface, and here you will develop the most control over the trigger. The poorest part of the finger is the joint. It is largely insensitive, has other uses, and for the finicky business of touching off a good shot it is a poor choice.

The finger, when placed against the trigger should be bent abruptly at both first and second joints. This is so it will not touch the side of the gun frame, does not make contact with the trigger guard, and most especially, so that it falls across the trigger at abrupt right angle. Pressure should be precisely rearward in parallel with the axis of the bore.









THE LONG RIOT BATON

(Continued from page 29)



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can be used offensively and defensively. Replacing the rifle and bayonet in tactical formations, police units trained in correct twohanded use will be able to dominate the more disorganized mob. It can be safely said that any riot formation that is used, where the men are untrained in the two-handed baton technique and who are armed with the short type batons or nightsticks, will not be able long to maintain its structure and integrity in mob combat. The short baton, normally used with one hand, as a clubbing instrument, makes it extremely difficult under the stress of combat for the men to maintain their place in the formation. The tendency is for each man to break ranks and engage in combat with individual rioters and the inherent combat advantage of trained men operating together as a unit is lost.

The tip and butt end of the long baton are used to deliver blows, smashes, slashes and jabs. Its full length is used in restraint and in defense. Its thong is used as a means of restraining prisoners. In addition, its use in drill and dress formations adds much to the disciplined appearance of the unit, which in turn has a sobering effect on the mob.

Recent tests and tactical use indicate that the long wooden riot baton should be made from a medium weight, tough wood like hickory or ash. Many departments, and the writer, prefer batons made of the heavier jungle-type hardwoods or plastic. Hickory or ash batons can also be made much more effective by inserting lead weights in each end. These variations are a matter of departmental preference and regulations.

The special issue two-handed riot baton should have a minimum length of 26". The 26" length can also still be used as a onehanded weapon. Actually, a longer baton is preferable. The 36" length with a 11/4" diameter seems to be most adaptable for use by men of the stature of the average American police officer or soldier. The length of the long baton is variable. The basic criterion for length is that it should permit approximately four inches of the baton at either end to protrude beyond the outside edge of the hand. This protects the fingers and enables each end to be better used for jabbing, smashing or alashing purposes. When the baton is grasped in this manner its length should still permit it to be freely maneuverable when the arms are outstretched. The baton is too short if the correct grip of about 4" from each end results in the arms and elbows being in a cramped position, too close together, etc.

The long riot baton should have a grip that will not cause the hand to slip, with or without gloves. In combat the palm is usually moist with perspiration. The best all around grip is one that consists of longitudinal grooves. It is recommended that such grooves be cut for the hand grip on each end of the baton. The more conventional type grip consisting of grooves cut around or in the direction of the circumference of the baton may present a better appearance but is not nearly as efficient.

The thong of the long baton should be about %" wide, made of either chrometanned, sweat-proof leather or nylon webbing. The thongs should be long enough to enable each man to tie and adjust the loop to his own hand. Thongs of the common rawhide, boot-string type are not the best. They cut the back of the hand when under tension and will stretch.

Batons can be stained, painted, dipped in hot oil, finished in natural wood color or varnished, etc. Some departments paint them to match the color of the helmet so as to provide a more uniform and snappier appearance.

Trained units in sufficient number using the long baton alone are capable of handling crowds and mobs of large size. When the riot stick is combined in the unit with the capability to use chemical and smoke munitions and firearms, a complete range of weapons is available to apply the principle of "necessary minimum force."



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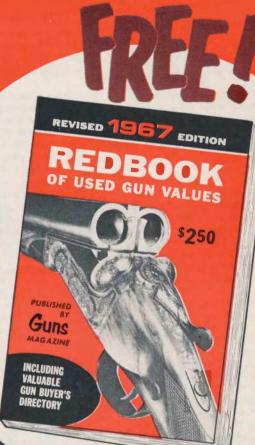
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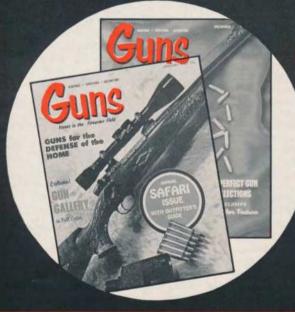
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MILITARY CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 25)

was also adapted to it. Inventors were encouraged to submit other rifle designs adapted to the same cartridge, and in 1929 the .276 advanced in favor to the point where the Ordnance Department was ordered to discontinue development of .30 caliber semi-automatic rifles.

In late 1931 and early 1932 the semiautomatic rifle board recommended acquisition of 125 Garand .276 caliber rifles for extended field test, with a view toward adoption of the new cartridge in the near future. That would normally have settled the issue, resulting in standardization of the .276 caliber cartridge for U.S. military use. In February of 1932, however, .276 caliber development and acceptance came to a screeching halt with the disapproval by then Chief of Staff of the Army, General Douglas McArthur. General McArthur's reasons for insisting on retention of the .30 caliber were valid, and as subsequent events were to prove, the decision was certainly the correct one.

So died the .276 Pedersen cartridge, which also had received more than passing attention abroad. Existing rifles and amunition were disposed of. As late as 1942 members of the NRA could still purchase for about 1½¢ per round residual stocks of .276 ammunition manufactured during the test and

development period. Ballistically the cartridge is most interesting, and back on a dimly lit shelf in my gun room are quite a few boxes of original Frankford Arsenal .276 ammunition for which one of these days I am going to build a rifle.

Chronologically, the next cartridge that didn't quite make it (even though it did see wartime use in some quantity) was the German 7.92 mm Kurz. This cartridge resulted from a German development program set into motion in the late 1930's. German authorities had foreseen the need for a selective fire or full-automatic weapon of general submachine gun configuration, which would surpass the SMG in power sufficiently to replace the infantry rifle for many tactical applications. Thus was born the first so-called "Assault Rifle," in the early 40's called the MKB-42. The 7.92 mm Kurz cartridge remained the same, but the weapon underwent considerable evolution eventually becoming the STG-44, with final weapon designation being MP-44.

The 7.92 mm K was thus the first of what we now call "intermediate" military cartridges. It used a lighter bullet driven at a lower velocity than conventional rifle and machine gun cartridges of the day. Its obvious advantages were lessened recoil and considerably reduced use of metals and chemicals, as well as its lighter weight enabling the individual soldier to carry a larger basic load of ammunition. After passing through several stages of development, the cartridge case was finalized as the standard 7.92 mm (8x57 mm) case shortened to a nominal length of 1.30". It was reduced at the mouth to hold a 125 grain, .323" diameter pointed bullet. A very short case neck and gradual shoulder slope were utilized. The cartridge produced a velocity of slightly under 2300 feet per second in the 16" barrel of the MP-44. While brass cases were probably used in early development, simply for ease of fabrication, every production specimen examined by this scribe has been loaded in a lacquered steel case.

The cartridge saw wide use in the closing months of WW II, after having been initially blooded on the Eastern Front in late '42. The crushing defeat of Germany removed it from the active list, and no guns or ammunition in this caliber have been produced in the Western Hemisphere since. There have been reports that until relatively recently some East German troops were armed with the MP-44 and that ammunition was being produced for them,

Following WW II the Soviet satellite, Czechoslovakia, was apparently somewhat dissatisfied with the arms and ammunition furnished by Mother Russia. Consequently a new rifle and light machine gun were developed, along with an intermediate cartridge called the 7.62 mm M-52—sometimes called the 7.62 x 45 mm Czech short. This number appears to have been nothing more than the Russian 7.62 mm M-43 case lengthened by about ½" and with slightly less body taper. It might also be likened to a

shortened 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Schoenauer loaded with a .30 caliber bullet. Case length is 1.75 inches. In the Czech M-52 rifle this cartridge drives its 132 grain bullet at 2440 fps, making it slightly more powerful than the Russian cartridge. This cartridge passed well beyond what we would normally consider the experimental stage. In fact, it was for some years the standard Czechoslovakian rifle and light machine gun cartridge. Quantities of the ammunition have been supplied to other Soviet Satellites and to revolutionary groups throughout the world, for use in the Czech M-52 rifles and machine guns also furnished.

It is significant, that as the Soviet 7.62 mm M-43 cartridge and weapons became widely distributed among other Soviet satellite nations, Czechoslovakia dropped the 7.62 mm M-52 and adopted the Russian cartridge. Consequently, the Czech cartridge had what is probably the shortest service life of any standard military cartridge in recent years. All Czech M-52 cartridges I've examined have been assembled into steel cases coated with a gray-green lacquer. Even though this cartridge did make the grade as the standard service round of a sovereign nation, it was for an extremely short period of time and cannot really be said to have "made it."

In searching for a new rifle in the early post WW II years Great Britain harkened back to the light weight and recoil of the .276 Pedersen. The outcome was an experimental selective-fire rifle of unusual configuration and a short intermediate 7mm cartridge. In its final form the cartridge was called the .280/.30 NATO. The cartridge case measured a trace over 1.7" in length, had a short neck, and was of the same base diameter as the U.S. .30 and experimental 7.62 mm T-65 round. It was loaded with a 140 grain bullet at a velocity of 2500 fps.

Britain tested this cartridge rather extensively, as did the Fabrique Nationale in Liege, Belgium. The British were completely satisfied with the cartridge, and therefore, as a point of national honor, campaigned rather heavily for its adoption as the NATO standard. It was apparent that many nations would have been willing to adopt the cartridge, however, the United States was not. U.S. military thinking of the time was that nothing less powerful or smaller in caliber than the T-65 with its 150 grain bullet at 2800 feet per second could be accepted.

There was no reconciling these differences at the technical level—neither country being willing to give in. Consequently, perhaps remembering that the bulk of British small arms ammunition for two wars had come from U.S. plants, a high level British political decision was made to drop the .280 and adopt the 7.62 mm T-65. The United States did also, and shortly thereafter the cartridge became known as the 7.62 mm NATO and was adopted by all principal NATO nations.

The British .280 cartridge is an excellent one in many respects, exceeding the German, Czech, and Russian intermediate calibers in velocity and energy, yet retaining the advantages of compactness, light weight, and light recoil generally associated with the class. This cartridge was also produced in Europe under the name "7 mm NATO", and Fabrique Nationale produced some FAL rifles to bandle it.





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At the end of WW II a Mauser Werke engineer named Vorgrimmler escaped to Spain along with details of his new design for a roller-locked breech rifle, which had in prototype form designated STg .45M. CETME (Centro de Estudios Tecnicos de Materials Especiales) developed the Vorgrimmler design further, substituting for the original 7.92 mm K cartridge a very unusual and interesting design. By 1953 the design was farily well finalized, consisting of a 1.6" long case with a very short neck and head diameter approximately identical to that of the U.S. .30 caliber. To this point the cartridge was conventional, but the bullet was something else-consisting of a solid machined aluminum core surrounded on its bearing surface by a gilding metal band or half jacket. It was designated 7.92 mm CETME and used a 105 grain bullet .325" in diameter, driven at a velocity of 2690 fps. Due to the low specific gravity of aluminum as compared to lead which is normally used as a bullet core material, this bullet was actually longer than the empty cartridge case. It had an extremely slender, sharp point extending well over 114" beyond the case mouth.

The 7.92 mm CETME was tested extensively by Spain, and also by other countries, including Israel. In spite of optomistic claims of excellent accuracy and complete helmet penetration at 1000 yards, no nation could be persuaded to adopt such a light bullet which would quite clearly lose velocity and penetration rapidly, as well as be badly affected by cross winds. Not succeeding with the 7.92 mm version, CETME revised the cartridge slightly to use 7.62 mm (.308-.311" diameter) bullets-no doubt hoping the "7.62 mm" designation would cause the cartridge to appear in a more favorable light when compared with the obviously superior 7.62 mm NATO.

After several years, CETME evidently gave up all hopes of peddling this cartridge as a standard military service round. It is interesting to note that in order to salvage the rifle, which had been designed specifically for this type of cartridge, a much-improved version was prepared to handle the standard 7.62 mm NATO cartridge. Thus all was not lost.

The 7.92 mm and 7.62 mm CETME cartridges are probably the scarcest of all postwar military experimentals. With that long, slender, sharp bullet protruding way beyond the case, this cartridge has a strong aesthetic appeal to almost all who see it—in spite of the fact that it couldn't quite make the grade,

In 1957 the United States Continental Army command took delivery of two prototype, high-velocity, .22 caliber, light-weight, selective-fire military rifles. Borrowing concepts and proven features from several earlier development programs, Winchester had produced a rifle that was essentially a highlydeveloped version of the M-1 .30 caliber carbine and a companion high-velocity .22 center fire cartridge. The latter was developed essentially from the .222 Remington cartridge case, slightly lengthened and with the shoulder moved forward to produce a onecaliber length neck. Consequently it held considerably more powder than the Standard .222 and very nearly the same amount as the .222 Remington Magnum-and just as a matter of interest, the .222 Remington Magnum actually resulted from a military development contract terminated earlier because the cartridge was too long to be handled by the guns for which it was to be developed. Civilian production of that cartridge did not come until after termination of the contract.

The .224 Winchester was loaded with a 55 grain jacketed bullet driven at approximately 3250 feet per second. Today, only ten years later, most people have forgotten the .224 Winchester cartridge and it is seldom encountered other than in collections. During initial tests the .224 and its companion rifle competed against the .222 Special and the Armalite AR-15 rifle. The .222 Special cartridge had been developed by Armalite and in its final form was very nearly identical to the .224 Winchester, The similarity was so great that the .224 Winchester cartridge could be fired in the .222 Special chambered AR-15 rifles safely and provide normal functioning. Due to a slightly longer neck, the .222 Special would not function in .224 cham-

After early tests, emphasis (of all sorts) was placed on the AR-15 and its companion cartridge which was then designated .223. Consequently when initial small quantities of the AR-15 were purchased by the U.S. Government, they were chambered for the .223 cartridge and the .224 fell by the wayside. As is well known by now, the Armalite rifle became the U.S. Rifle, Caliber .223 (5.56 mm), M16. With the governmental acceptance of the .223 (5.56 mm) cartridge, all further development of the .224 by Winchester ceased. The .224's performance is for all practical purposes identical to that of the .223.

Back in 1964, when the controversy over the .223 (5.56 mm) cartridge and the accompanying AR-15 rifle was rocking along in fine, spirited style, some samples of a similar Soviet cartridge showed up in this country. Known specimens bear typical Soviet Arsenal markings for the year 1963. We have no way of knowing whether this cartridge was developed before or after the domestic .223, but that head stamp would indicate arsenal production in some quantity, which implies a fair amount of previous development.

The Russian cartridge appears to be simply the 7.62 mm M-43 case necked to .22 caliber and with the shoulder set back sufficiently to provide a fairly long neck. The bullet has a shorter ogive with a more pronounced curvature than that of the U.S. .223. Powder capacity of the case appears to be nearly equal to that of our own .223, so it is only logical to expect that the Soviet rounds performance is equal to our own.

By using the existing Soviet service cartridge and merely necking it down, it should be relatively simple to convert current rifles and machine guns to handle the new high-velocity number. In short, the Soviet Union could reap the benefits of this particular cartridge without the necessity and expense of developing a new family of weapons—as has been necessary in this country.

Quite possibly the true fate of the Russian .22 has not yet been decided, nevertheless, it seems fitting to include it here as an "almost was" service cartridge.

During the early 1950's, prior to the NATO adoption of the U.S. 7.62 mm cartridge, Fabrique Nationale lengthened the .280 British

cartridge case to hold a bit more powder. The 1,930" long case was loaded with a very nicely pointed 140 grain bullet and approximately 36 grains of square-flake powder. The case neck was slightly greater than one caliber in length and the shoulder quite similar to that found on the 7.62 mm U.S.

Though not at all highly publicized at the time, F.N. produced substantial quantities of both this cartridge and the F.A.L. rifle. The sample cartridges I have examined came from a lot sold to Venezuela along with rifles to use them, and are headstamped FN 53, indicating 1953 production.

Apparently Venezuelean authorities thought better of the choice after a relatively short period and converted the rifles to 7.62 mm NATO. Remaining stocks of this "7 mm Medium" cartridge were sold on the surplus market. Thus ended this particular cartridge's life as an official military round.

Pistols, too, came in for their share of development though to a lesser degree then rifles. Back in 1910, or thereabouts, U.M.C. made up some semi-rimmed 9.8 mm automatic pistol cartridges for Colt. In 1910 Winchester produced 9.8 mm cartridges for the same buyer. In its U.M.C. form this cartridge was nothing more than a larger-diameter version of the semi-rimmed .38 ACP. The Winchester-made 9.8 mm cartridges were identical except for being truly rimless. There is ample evidence that the cartridge was produced specifically for trials in middle European countries in 1911 and 1912. Little else is known except that obviously the cartridge was unsuccessful or available references would list it. Interestingly enough, the 9.8 mm Colt appears to be a rimless version of the older .41 Colt to adapt it to self-loading pistol use.

Our other "almost standard" pistol cartridge is the 9 mm Ultra manufactured in small quantities late in World War II by Gustav Genschow & Company for the German Luftwaffe. The case was only a few thousandths of an inch shorter than that of the 9 mm Parabellum, and was a perfectly straight, rimless case as opposed to the tapered, rimless form of the Parabellum. The cartridge was developed concurrently with and for an experimental, light-weight pistol designed for case and economy of manufacture. While the 9 mm Ultra did have definite possibilities, termination of the war threw it out of the picture, and there was no revival thereafter.

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GUNS I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER

(Continued from page 47)

Many crows and jackrabbits hung out there out of the accuracy range of ordinary rifles. That gave Al and me time to carefully calculate their range, set that Fecker scope to our estimate plus, maybe, a touch of windage, and touch off successful shots that average varmint hunters with run-ofmill rifles only dream of.

I've kept that rifle as a memorial to the many fine days Al and I spent in fatally shocking ultra-wise crows. And among my most treasured possessions of that period is a five-shot 200-yard group that you can cover with a dime. When we missed with that rifle we darn well knew Al or I had goofed on range estimation, windage setting or had plain pulled a bad shot. That rifle goofed only when we did.

After a few years of enjoying such accuracy a man gets a taste for it, even when choosing a hig-game rifle. Mine was a Model 70 which Winchester fitted with a Lyman Alaskan scope on Griffin and Howe mounts. I shot that combination enough to know that I had a real prize, both with factory ammo of 130-grain bullets-150-grain commercial ammo wasn't then yet available, and with handloads of up to 160-grain Barnes

bullets. Naturally, since that .270 wore a 7mm 154 gr. With a single Hornady 7mm 154 gr. Spire Point, Jim Devere of San Pedro, California, downed this magnificent Stone ram from

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24-inch barrel of hunting weight, it wasn't as accurate as my Model 54 .250-3000. But then neither has any other hunting rifle I've ever known.

This was about 1942 when pronghorn antelope were making a comeback in several states; in some of them providing open seasons for the first time in 50 years. Like many other hunters I sampled this revival of a grand plainsland species and immediately fell in love with the graceful, handsome, eagle-eyed plainsland speedsters. Pronghorns are still my favorite form of big game even though, if I shoot just one more, my lifetime total will stand at 90 head. Many of those were taken with that .270, plus a latterday pair of .222's, a .308 featherweight Model 70 and a .300 Weatherby magnum. All of those shared some grand hunts hut that first Model 70 .270 turned in far more than its share of really significant performances.

The very first pronghorn buck I shot was taken in the famous Red Desert area of Wyoming. His head still hangs on my wall, not because it is a record-breaker but because I called a heart shot at 175 yards and put that bullet right on target. Also because this head has rugged half-inch side growths on both sides of its main beams which makes it much more attractive than the usual slickbeamed headgear. I've shot antelope with bigger heads, some of them bossing harems of up to 33 head of does and young stuff. but none that were more handsomely rugged.

That .270 is battered and scarred from its hard use in the game fields. But occupies an honored niche in my gun cabinet. In one stretch of three years of hunting seasons it accounted for ten head of assorted big game -muley and whitetail deer, antelope, elk, sheep, mountain goat and antelope-with just 12 shots. None of those were outright misses. I shot a burly bull elk twice to keep him from falling into a goshawful canyon and a billy goat to stop him from going off a cliff and ruining his brittle 101/2-inch horns. But the other eight head were all one-shot kills, all taken with 130-grain Rem. Kore-Lokt bullets.

A couple of years later that .270 was the only rifle in a three-man spring bear hunt in British Columbia. It took three bears on

that outing, two blacks and a grizzly with a spendthrift seven shots. Maybe I got a touch of bear-fever during that five-day hunt but I also blame some of that on a switch in ammunition. For the two blacks I used Peters Protected Point commercial ammo and those bullets didn't open up as rapidly as advertised. And for the grizzly I was loaded with 160-grain Barnes bullets and had to hit him three times to still bis awesome roaring. Every bullet went right where I held so maybe the fault was mine. Each of the blacks-though one was a deep chocolate brown and the other a straw-hued tan-took two shots and the grizzly took three. But in no case was any bear going anyplace after he was hit with the first bullet.



One of the alltime favorites in the author's arsenal is Colt's Woodsman.

When Remington brought out its now famous .222 I got a copy, fitted with a Weaver 6-power scope. The astonishing flatshooting qualities of that wee cartridge buffaloed me a good many times before I got used to it. The .220 Swift which I'd previously used, and disliked because of its high vulnerability to wind drift, was even flatter in trajectory. But I was just nonplussed that the tiny .222 could be so fast, flat, and accurate despite its tizzly recoil and other admirable qualities. I missed coyotes and bobcats that I'd normally have had in my pocket with a .22 Long Rifle because I held right on their top hairline and that's exactly where the 50-grain .222 bullet went. Until I got used to it that was a thoroughly frustrating caliber in my Remington Model 722. Up to 150 yards I invariably hit higher than I wanted to, or plain overshot.

Some years later I got a Sako .222, fitted with a Bushnell 6-power scope. It came encased in a leather fleece-lined Boyt case, a gift from a grateful Detroit sport whom I'd helped in filming an antelope movie. It was stocked in well-cured blond birch and was about as light and handy as most rimfire .22's. It also shot like a house afire, racking up quarter-sized, five-shot, 100-yard groups almost on demand.

In the hands of an eager-beaver neighbor lady that Sako collected a dozen head of deer and antelope, all bucks, taken with just 13 cartridges. It wasn't thrift that produced that astonishing record, by a gal who'd never previously rifle-shot anything bigger than rabbits or woodchucks. After plenty of practice on prairie dogs and magpies she merely transferred the meticulous marksmanship they demanded to her big game targets. Furthermore, she hated the thought of cripples so she intimately informed herself on the location of hig-game vitals and unfailingly planted her wee bullets where they killed most efficiently. In short, if she didn't get a shot she liked she simply waited for

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a better and surer opportunity. The fact that she was never skunked during any big game season was the ultimate proof of her sound performance.

I must confess that that Sako got the redcarpet treatment while it was in her hands. It was seldom out of its case unless in actual use. As a result it showed far less field wear than any other of the rifles which performed up to the high standards I demanded of them. Although it has fired a thousand rounds or more in taking hundreds of varmints and some 25 head of deer and antelope it is still in almost factory-fresh condition

Of late years I've been using a .300 Weatherby Magnum as my main meat and trophy rifle. Of course it's much too much rifle for the average deer or antelope at moderate ranges. But if hit properly one need not pick up his game in hunks; it isn't damaged any more than if hit with a .308, .270, .30-06 or even the fast-stepping .243. Also, when I hunt in areas which may produce elk during concurrent seasons, or a rare grizzly which may have found meat left out overnight and wants to stake a possession claim on it, that Weatherby is a powerful persuader.

The very longest shot I ever made on antelope was a heroic 600-yarder. Ordinarily I wouldn't have attempted such a shot, with any rifle with which I'm familiar. But this Detroit friend had blown several chances, the season was in its last afternoon and so I leveled down in a do-or-die effort. It seemed like seconds after the Weatherby cracked before the pronghorn buck fell, got up and

took two jumps, fell again, then got up and took two more jumps and fell dead.

The 180-grain bullet had drifted more than I'd anticipated or allowed for and had penetrated the neck, just ahead of the shoulders. Entry and exit holes were about the same size, attesting to the huge velocity loss over that extreme range.

"We might as well let him lay and find another buck," suggested the guide. At my horrified look he added, "By the time we get to him he'll be spoiled anyway."

Presumably, on a tougher animal, like an elk or a grizzly for instance, such a longrange hit would have had slight immediate effect unless it happened to land exactly on poorly protected and extremely vulnerable vitals. At 600 yards, even when shooting at a much bigger target, such exact bullet delivery would have to be pure luck.

Not long ago I showed a visiting scribbler how to kill a buck antelope with one shot from that Weatherby at 200 yards without messing up the cape or the meat carcass. He had previously mauled down his buck at about the same range with three horrible hits which left him a half edible carcass but with the cape intact. His wife, who is a game cook par excellence, followed my example on both antelope and deer to fill the family freezer for their winter eating.

True to its wide use in many game haunts that Weatherby is honorably scarred and worn smooth of finish and blueing in some spots. Even the Bear Cub scope it wore for many years had a sizeable dent in it. That has been recently rectified by installing a personalized Redfield 2-to-7-power variable of magnificent optics. That rifle-scope outfit is going to account for a good many more memorable kills before I permanently hang

My most recent rifle is a copy of the Remington Model 600 carbine in its powerful .350 Magnum caliber. That's too new to have acquired any field scars, or even to have been leveled at any big game. But the laminated stock, the smooth bolt action, the crisp trigger break and its handy weight all point to the high probability of its being broken in to game use at the earliest possible opportunity. For several years I've had several invitations to visit Alaska. I might shortly accept and take that Model 600 along to test it on caribou, moose, grizzly and brown bears. Then just watch the scars of honorable use accumulate on that powerful little beauty.



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(Continued from page 14)

one-shot model was by Harrington & Richardson. It was fathered by Walter Roper who was a competent firearms designer. Roper had been variously employed by Smith and Wesson and later by Savage. He had a hand in the design of the Straightline and by the time he came to H&R he knew something about the pitfalls in the makeup of a firstwater target arm.

The pistol which resulted from the Roper efforts at H&R was a bangup good one. It was patterned after a revolver so far as configuration went but there was not, of course, a cylinder. The stock had the revolver outline and felt like a sixgun when you gripped it. The barrel was long and waspy and could be had in any length from 7 to 10 inches. The sights were crudely adjustable. The pistol had an outside hammer and featured a powerful hammer blow. This provided pretty fast locktime and this along with an excellent sear accounted for a trigger letoff which was invariably good. It could be reduced to 2 pounds. Probably the most appreciated feature of the pistol was the stock. It came in 7 different sizes and shapes. Every handgunner liked this and depending on his shooting style and the size of his mitt could secure a comfortable feeling grip.

The H&R appeared about 35 years ago and it enjoyed quite a good popularity for several years. It finally faded from the scene, not because there was anything especially wrong with it but more due to the fact that the headliners in the target game found they could shoot scores with the Colt Woodsman automatic and even the earliest versions of

the High Standard self-loaders which consistently totalled higher. When these truths became known to the fraternity, the last sad rites were read over the Roper masterpiece.

The war interferred not only with the regular production of handguns but also with the sporting use of them. There was a lapse which was filled in a minor way directly after the embroglio ground to a halt. This was by a limited production of an entirely new single shot pistol. This was the Thompson: it was named after the designer-builder. He is no relation to the present manufacturer of the Thompson/Center Contender.

The new pistol was of target type. It had a unique action which bore a good deal of resemblance to the old Springfield 1873 rifle. The breechblock was hinged at the front and when the latch was released the block swung upward and forward to expose the chamber. There was an outside hammer.

The pistol looked like a duelling model of the 18th century. It pointed quite naturally and felt good in the hand. The sights were crudely movable and once a zero had been established it was best to leave them severely alone! The lock time was too slow and this hurt scores but it was not this fault that killed the Thompson. It died more because of the fact that directly after WW II there was a strong resurgence of interest in the three stage pistol game—that is the slow-timed-rapid kind of shooting. This requires a repeating handgun.

A good deal of water spilled over the dam and finally there came a veritable rash of new handgun calibers. There was the .22 Remington Jet, the .22 Rimfire Magnum, the .256 Magnum and lastly the .221 Fireball. The .22 Remington Jet and the .256 Magnum were designed around the .357 case. This casing was necked down to .22 caliber in the case of the Remington Jet, the designers settling for a long sloping shoulder. The .256 was not squeezed quite so hard and settled on an abrupt shoulder. Winchester had brought along the .256 and it can be noted in passing that of the two it is much the better.

The .22 Remington Jet was taken up by Smith & Wesson and one of the excellent K series revolvers was chambered for the new load. Until Thompson/Center came along with their Contender there was no single shot pistol chambered for this cartridge. In the case of the .256, however, Sturm Ruger brought out a handsome single shot pistol. The .256 has some imposing ballistics, the 60-grain .25 caliber bullet is driven at 2800 fps MV and churns up 1040 ft. lbs. ME. These are rifle performance figures and to get ballistics such as these from a handgun, made the pistol very appealing to many handgunners.

With the introduction of the Ruger .256, the fad for placing low-power hunting scopes on the handgun grew apace. The Ruger was a natural for the attachment of the 1.3X scope.

Today the .256 Magnum cartridge continues to be loaded by the manufacturer but the Ruger pistol is no longer around. It went off the market because of a lack of demand. It had utterly no appeal to the target marks-

man and as for the hunter-plinker he apparently soon tired of the novelty. Indeed he found that for the same financial outlay he could pack some breed of repeating handgun, complete with a low-power scope if he wished and thus get more and faster action.

The Remington XP-100 single shot followed the Ruger. It is chambered for the .221 Fireball, a round which varies precious little from the .222 Magnum rifle cartridge. The XP-100 is a rifle without the buttstock. It weighs 3-¾ pounds and is 16-¾ inches in length and has to be shot two-handed. The XP-100 has a crudely adjustable rear sight. It is as plain as deGaulle's nose that Remington intended that the owner would attach a low power scope. The XP-100 is still in production.

This brings us down to the Thompson-/Center "Contender," the newcomer with the instantly interchangeable barrel system. The pistol at first blush appears to be a target model; it has in many details the appearance of a continental free pistol. It is not a target gun, neither for our bullseye game nor yet the tougher one played on the continent. The Contender is a sort of all-around handgun with the most of its appeal directed toward the huntsman and the plinker-shooter. This is not to say it will not shoot good scores at the bullseye-punching sport. It will. However the rear sight is far too crude in its adjustments to make it a gun in serious competition for the targetman's vote.

The pistol is intended for the low power scope and when so equipped will plop its bullets into the target, whether animate or inanimate, at ranges well beyond those fired by the target-panning fraternity.

The advent of the lightweight Browning superposed model, which this oldline firm has elected to dub the Browning "Superlight," serves to remind this observer of that old saying, "imitation is the most sincere form of flattery." The Browning over/under shotgun is now the most widely copied of all.



The Browning barrel-over-barrel model is a good and sturdy gun. I possess seven of these shotguns and seldom go afield without shooting one or the other. I have never had a Browning fail me. I have heard stories of the top rib shooting loose. It has never occurred to any of my guns. I have listened to other tales about the failure of the single trigger. It is odd but my single triggers never give anything save the most perfect performance. Doleful sagas are bandied about as to busted ejectors. I have yet to see this happen.

My over/unders include a battery of 12's, a single 20, and a one-and-only 16 gauge. This latter is not an as-issued job; it was made up for me by the remarkable Ernie Simmons. This wizard took a pair of wornout 12 gauge barrels, hacked them off about four inches from the breech, bored out these stubs and into them fitted two Winchester 16 gauge pump gun barrels.

Today's Browning is the most widely copied, probably the strongest, certainly the most durable and trouble-free, and far and away the most popular of any barrel-over-barrel model.





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For all that I do not acknowledge that it is the most perfectly designed from an engineering standpoint. It locks up with a latch situated below the lower tube. This gives the receiver too much depth. The design would have been improved had it locked up into the face of the standing breech. This would have produced a shallow action, a highly desirable feature in the over/under shotgun. Scatterguns like the Boss, Westley Richards, and the Woodward all utilize this manner of breech fastener. This would have been desirable but it is dollars to t'ruppence that a sturdy Browning will continue to shoot trouble-free long after the best of the Britisher's doubles have been returned to London for overhaul!

I shot a spittin' image replica of the new Superlight model through the best bobwhite season we've had in Texas in the last 30 years. My gun is a 12, weighs 6 lb., 7 oz., with 26-inch barrels bored improved cylinder in both lower and upper tubes. It is sans pistol grip. This is the most deadly smoothbore I have ever shot on the fast rising game. Because of its feathery feel it comes dead on the hurtling bird in a twinkling and permits me to get off a lethal one-two some 3-4 yards before the ordinary gun. At the end of the day because of its next-to-nothing poundage, I come in still fresh and ready to take yet another covey rise. With our present light loads of only 2-% drams equivalent of powder and 1-1/8 oz. shot about the recoil despite the negligible weight is nothing.

. . .

John Swiss, who has probably skinned out more polar bears than any guide in the game today, uses a folding blade knife. It is made by the Case Co. The blade is 3-¾" in length and is thick and heavy along the back side with a point which has little upturn to it. Swiss breaks off from his chore of removing the hide from the 1200-lb. Arctic bruin occasionally and industriously whets his cutter, not with a stone but on a sharpening steel.

More than once I have lent a hand when the 35-degrees-below-zero temperatures on the ice of the Chukchi Sea made it manditory that the great skin be jerked off pronto-like. Sometimes I use the Russell knife, a Canadian-made cutter and a good one. Other times I have depended on a Lee Olsen, but most of the time I depend on a favorite Randall knife. Bo Randall made this knife for me after a pattern furnished him by Tommy Tompson, the well known Arctic guide-outfitter.

If a good belt knife wasn't quite enough, I pack the new Buck-built Stocksman's knife. This is a folding blade pocket knife and while it is too small for the great bruin it is excellent for wolves and caribou.

Just about everybody who hunts has a favorite belt knife. Too, virtually every manjack who has skinned out as much as a single squirrel figures himself the last authority on what's best in skinning cutlery. I would hesitate to advise the other feller on the knife he ought to use to degut and lift the hide from his annual kill. He'll know better than me.

As for myself I want a knife that is not too long, but heavy. A blade of 4½ inches is aplenty, but it should be a heavy shaft and one with a thickness to it. A hunting knife is not a kitchen tool and it does not want to resemble its domestic counterpart. A blade for

ripping into big game like moose and buffalo and the Kodiak brownie should be not less than one-quarter inch thick on the back and the blade measured from top to bottom needs no less than 1-%" in width. Such a cutter will weigh from 12 to 15 ounces.

The heavy knife relieves you of much work. It literally does the job for you due to its weight. Some gents like a hunting knife with more curve in the blade than a Sarcen's simitar. These curved numbers are best to rip into the paunch when you open up the critter. A proper skinning blade has mighty little curve anywhere along its length.



Some of the brightest sagas are bandied about on the score of sharpness and the ability of this knife or that to remain sharp. "I skinned two moose and four bears before I ever sharpened my new Wonder-Gutter blade," reads the testimonial. Bologney! The hide on an Alaska moose is ground full of sand, lava, and shale from calfhood onward. The Ananias who claims he skinned even a single bull without whetting is a monumental liar. There is no disgrace in whetting the hunting blade. All of them must be sharpened and this has to be done frequently. Actually a lot of the extremely hard blades now favored in many of our expensive knifes are an infernal nuisance. Once you dull such a blade it will take a half-day of solid work to put it back in shape again. It is far better to have a blade with reasonably soft steel in it and then a dozen guick strokes with a good sharpening steel will put it in shape for another 25 minutes of the hardest work.

The guns builders are growing bolder these days. Sometimes they offer a new rifle without sling or sling swivels. It was once that the absence of a sling would have drawn such loud protests from the shooting fraternity you could have heard the wails from here to Albuquerque, but not any more.

.

A sling is fine on a target rifle. Too, it looks good when the soldiery pass in review. But on a hunting rifle it has mighty limited utility. I can see some good in the thing if the huntsman is scaling the lofty reaches in search of the elusive Dall ram but other than these times when he needs both hands for climbing, I see little real worth in that ribbon of cowhide. When I make up a new rifle I am always emphatic that I want neither a sling nor swivels on the new ordnance.

I was a fairly consistent user of the sling until I went to Indo-China. Here the cover is such that you can see your game at 20 yards. In stalking to these distances you damn sure don't need a loop of dangling bullhide to snare each bramble as you pass. In the alders of Kodiak Island, when you get eyeball to eyeball with the giant brown bear of that famed refuge you again can think of a lot of places where you'd like to stuff that flapping length of leather, most especially when the sling winds itself around a growth of devil's club just as you are ready to shoot.

P. O. Ackley, the well-known Salt Lake City guns builder has developed a new pressure gun. He says, "I thought I would let you know about the new pressure gun we have fixed up. It works on the English system and is a whole lot more consistent than our American-type gun. The action is actually a silly looking contraption. It is fixed with interchangeable bushings so that we can use the customer's own barrel to test his own loads.

"All we have to do with the barrel is to unscrew it from the receiver, then use the proper bushing which adapts it to our action. No holes or alterations of any kind have to be made to the barrel. This can be of great advantage because there is so much difference in the pressures of identical loads in different barrels. Naturally when we don't have to make a new barrel for every cartridge it is going to cut the cost to one half or so of what the other system requires. In other words we can make a pretty thorough test for anyone for \$25 plus shipping charges."

The English method for taking breech pressure as referred to in Ackley's comments above include oiling the casing before it is fired for test. The cartridge, because of its slick outer surfaces, cannot adhere to the walls of the chamber and the thrust comes on the bolt head. Here the pressures are actually measured. Our system includes a special gun which has a hole drilled through the walls of the chamber and this holes exactly matches a hole drilled in the cartridge casing. The pressures flow through these holes and impinge on a piston. In turn the pistol crushes a copper cylinder. The cylinder is measured before and after firing and pressures are calculated by the help of a tarage table. The Limey system is considerably more handy and certainly if Ackley has gotten his ducks all in a row with regard to his tests, it will appeal to every handloader, virtually, to run tests on his on kitchen brew, and fired in his own ordnance.



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RIFLES FOR ANTELOPE

(Continued from page 31)

spoilage was terrific, sometimes because the animal had been hit too many times and often because it had been hit by the wrong type bullet. The use of bullets of varmint weight and structure on this small game animal is foolish. It is true it will kill and has plenty of penetration, but at the same time it practically disembowels, and disposes of the carcass at the same time, due to the destructiveness of the bullet.

Antelope are not hard animals to kill and the distance as which they can usually be shot at is around 200 yards. Long shots up to 400 vards are sometimes necessary if you are after one of those wise, much shot at old trophy bucks. If a hunter will take the time to look the country over, he will nearly always find it possible to make a stalk to within reasonable shooting distance. Even on quite close-up shots, good bullet placement is necessary for clean, one shot kills, and this is the reason I like the smaller caliber, flat shooting rifle, with less recoil that allows for more accuracy in shot place-

There are two other aids to successful antelope shooting, a good scope and a good rifle rest. Most antelope hunting is done in open rolling country, where sometimes a stalk of an hour or two has to he made. Then, when you finally made it to the top of the last ridge, and you find the grass too thick and high for a prone shot, or you're too wobbly for an off-hand shot, a rifle rest just might get you that accurate bullet placement you want.

For good antelope hunting, I believe I would list four items as necessary. A good rifle, the right cartridge and bullet, a scope sight, and the rifle rest. For the hunter of today, there is a wide range of choice in these articles.

I have had some of the world's most experienced hunters out for an antelope hunt. The more experienced the hunter is the more likely he is to make use of all the help he can get. I have never seen one of these experts shoot carelessly. They all shoot from a sit or sling, or use some sort of rest, either natural or artificial. Most all use a small to medium caliber with the proper weight bullets. All use a good scope of 4X to 6X, or variables. I have

watched Jack O'Connor of "Outdoor Life," with his pet .270 equipped with a 4X scope, using 130 grain bullets; Prince Abdorezza of Iran using a Biesen-made 7x57, 139 grain, Dominion loads, and a 4X scope; Warren Page of "Field and Stream," with a 6 MM, 100 grain bullets and a 6X scope; and Pete Brown of "Sports Afield," using my .230 Ackley with 70 grain bullets and a variable scope.

All of them stalk to as close as possible, and all like to shoot from a sit at running game. They are all quite expert at this from long practice on varmints and predators. They all make good clean kills with the equipment they use, out to 400 yards. This doesn't mean that the equipment is the best or the only kind that is good. It does mean that this type is perfectly adequate for antelope. There are many excellent rifle-bullet-scope combinations good for this game animal.

What bullet weight is proper for antelope and why? My own choice would be the lightest game bullet in any caliber, but never a varmint type bullet. I want to get the game, but I also want edible meat to take home, and maybe I want a head to mount. A game bullet, in any weight, if it is made for the velocity level of the gun being used, has controlled expansion, not blow-up qualities. It expands, but penetrates and kills well because it make an adequate wound channel. In using the larger rifles that are also big enough for the game animals of elk size, one should remember that bullets good for these animals are too heavy for use on antelope, but that all of these calibers have an excellent choice in bullet weights for all types of North America game. For the .243's and the 6 mm's the heavier hullet hucks the wind best, carries energy out to greater distances and kills well, without spoiling a great deal of meat. Actually, these heavier bullets seem to be made especially for game such as open range deer and antelope. The lighter bullets in these calibers are strictly for varmints and predators and should not be considered to be game bullets.

Quite often a hunter comes out for a combination hunt equipped only with a magnum rifle. I certainly like magnums gut for the general type of antelope hunting





it is just too much. It's really too bad that some inventive genius can't devise a way to flick a button on the rifle that will slow the magnum down for close up shots but let us have all of the useful velocity for those way-out shots.

I have seen the effects of hundreds of magnum shots on antelope. At 300 to 500 vards these are not too severe, but at closer distances they develop such extreme hydrostatic waves that they ruin meat in all directions from the wound. This is even true, to some extent, when a heavy jacketed bullet is used to eliminate most of the expansion. If this extreme speed and shock is magnified by the use of a varmint type bullet, you may just as well throw the whole animal away, because there won't be much edible meat left. I have never been able to figure out why the person who sells ammunition for these calibers invariably recommends the light-structure, explosive, varmint type to antelope or deer hunters.

An example of this is the excellent long range .257 Weatherby Magnum. Many times a hunter comes here for his hunt equipped only with the 100 grain bullets, planning to use these on all his game. In this fast caliber the 100 grain is strictly a varmint load. It always blows up on impact on the larger animals. The 117 or 120 is best and I certainly recommend the Nosler and its controlled expansion feature, for use in this rifle for game hunting. The .264 Winchester is another fast rifle that should never use varmint bullets for game hunting. The 129 grain Hornady is the lightest game bullet I have used in it. I have not yet had an opportunity to try the new 120 grain Remington bullet that is made for the 6.5 in magnum loads; It may do quite well in the .264 also. Usually, I recommend the 130 grain and heavier bullet for this gun.

The .270 Weatherby Magnum, the 7 mm Magnums, and all the various .30 caliber magnums should be used only with game bullets, never with the lighter varmint bullets, when you are hunting antelope and deer.

Every year, during our hunting season, we always had one or more hunters who had come out with one of the fast magnums and usually bullets too fragile for good game kills. They would get their game, and looking at it on the ground, with the hide still on it, never realized the damage his one or several shots had done to the meat. After delivering the animal to the locker plant, he took off for home, anticipating all the good meals he was going

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to have from all that game. It wouldn't be too long after his hunt that we would get a letter or phone call. "That blankety-blank locker plant owner stole most of my meat and only shipped about a half of what I ought to have. You see him, and get the rest shipped to me right away."

I would go to town and talk to the locker plant owner. Sure, he had cut, packaged, and shipped the meat. Even made a note to the effect that the meat had been badly shot up. Blood shot all the way through, and the hunter was lucky to get anything edible at all. Then I would go talk to his guide and find out that he had shot a number of times at each head of game; hitting it but having the bullets blow up and not penetrate. When the guide had quartered the meat for packing in, he had to cut out and leave a lot that was too badly blood shot to even carry in. I would get on the phone and try to explain to the hunter what had really happened to his meat. I never really knew how many believed me. Since meat processing of game is charged for by the total weight brought in, and not for the meat that is saved and can be used, the hunter had paid for meat he never received, but it certainly wasn't the fault of the processor.

To complete our rifle for antelope shooting we need a good scope, and this is mostly a matter of preference. A straight 4X is sufficient for most anyone, and a good variable really is an excellent choice. There is a new scope ready for the market that I think will be tops for this and for varmint shooting also. This is the new Redfield 4 to 12 variable, with parallax correction, such as most good varmint scopes have. It is called the Redfield Big Game-Varminter. I have one on order now to be equipped with Redfield's Accu-Range distance finder. If I can't hit them this fall with this kind of equipment, I'll just

There is one more item I want for my completely equipped antelope rifle and this is a good rest that will help me to place my shots more accurately. I use the old reliable 11/2 oz. in weight, homemade rest that I have carried from Old Mexico to the Arctic and used on animals from varmints to Polar bear. However, there are several production models that are excellent. The Rifle-mate, made by Ten Ring Manufacturing Company, 44 Main Street, New City (not New York City), New York 10956, is one of the best. It can be attached to or taken off the fore-end of the stock in seconds. It weighs only 9 ounces, and I like it especially because it has telescoping legs that allow adjustment to any height from 81/2 to 13 inches from the ground to rest top.

The antelope is one of our most interesting and challenging game animals to hunt, and I think every sportsman should give careful consideration to the manner in which he hunts it, by the use of any type of equipment that will help him to get the best results. It is getting more and more necessary to discourage the deplorable habit of "herd shooting," indulged in by so many hunters who come antelope hunting. The real joy of any hunt should be the stalk.

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GUNS OF JONATHAN BROWNING

(Continued from page 45)

eight inches long. The stock had long since rotted away leaving the inner mechanism exposed. The nipple for the percussion cap was attached to the bottom of the brass frame. After the rust of the barrel bad been dissolved the true character of the pistol emerged. The barrel was marked: "Council Bluffs, Iowa . . . J. Browning."

"Council Bluffs, Iowa . . . J. Browning."

A beautiful example of his revolving rifles made in Council Bluffs can be found in the Browning Museum in Ogden. The stock of the weapon is elegant tiger-grain maple, probably salvaged from an old Kentucky rifle and refinished. Unlike Colt's patent, the six shot cylinder had to be moved manually after each shot to advance it to the next chamber. Powder and ball are loaded into the cylinder one chamber at a time through a groove in the stock on the underside of the weapon. Engraved on the barrel right above the cylinder are these words: "J. Browning & Sons, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Cast Steel."

Another interesting gun probably made at Council bluffs now owned by a grandson, Frank M. Browning, is displayed in the Bank of Utah in Ogden. This rifle is an improved model of the "harmonica" repeater. Instead of having the hammer underneath like the earlier models, it has been relocated in the conventional place above. The gun is

heavier and better built, but there are no inscriptions on the barrel,

In 1852 Jonathan Browning packed up his family, loaded his tools in wagons once again and set out for the Western horizon. He was appointed a captain of 10 wagons in the Henry Miller Company, and because he was a crack shot, served as hunter along the trail. When the train arrived in Utah, Brigham Young sent Browning and his family to Ogden to settle. So while Samuel Colt was getting ready to open a factory in London to expand the worldwide sales of his new 1851 model, Jonathan Browning was opening another shop, this one even humbler and less well equipped than those he had before. It was also in Ogden, in a log cabin in 1855, that Jonathan's second wife, Elizabeth Clark Browning, gave birth to John Moses, a baby destined to begin inventing guns where his father left off.

In the new pioneer settlement, Browning's inventive genius was channeled into more pressing avenues. He continued to make and repair guns, but the demand for other things soon became too great. There were so many other projects in the new community that absorbed his mechanical talents that apparently he stopped inventing guns. He opened a blacksmith shop, making not only guns but plows, mill irons, and even factory machinery. To Browning goes the credit for building the first iron roller molasses mill in Ogden, the first sawmill, flour mill, tannery, and nail factory. The few guns made by Browning in Utah were probably like the ones he made in Nauvoo and Coun-

One reason why Browning didn't make many new guns in Utah is the fact that raw materials were extremely scarce. Iron, steel, brass, and other metals were in short supply, and a good gunsmith or blacksmith also had to be a good junk collector to keep up his metal stocks. Frank M. Browning, grandson of Jonathan, tells the story of how his grandfather traded the most valuable lot in Ogden for a wagon load of steel tires that an enterprising teamster had salvaged from the burned wagons of Johnston's Army, wagons that had been destroyed by guerrillas from the Nauvoo Legion (the Mormon militia) during the Utah War of 1857-58. But even at this Jonathan made a profit, since he had bought the lot for a small barrel of molasses not long before.

There are several rare revolvers in existence today that some collectors believe were made by Jonathan Browning shortly before or during the Utah War. They look exactly like the 1848 Colt Dragoon .44 and purportedly were made by Browning in his Ogden shop. However, only circumstantial



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evidence can be found to support this. Nevertheless, the guns in question could easily have been made by Browning. And since Colts commanded a much higher price in the West, the Mormons may have decided to manufacture their own. This could explain the rarity of Browning handguns. If he took to copying Colt Dragoons, there would be no need for him to make his older and probably less popular pistols. Several of the suspected Browning "Dragoons" are in the hands of gun collectors across the country. They all bear serial numbers, the highest being number 60. One such gun is owned by Gary Saunders, an avid collector from Salt Lake City, who is convinced his gun was made by Browning. In fact, he is so certain that he traded a Wolf-engraved presentation model '62 Police Colt and two Starr Percussions for it. He values the socalled Browning "Dragoon" copy at more than \$750.

Close inspection of Saunder's gun shows it to be an exact replica of the 1848 Colt in almost every detail. Each part is stamped with the number "39," but there are no other marking. The revolver is a little heavier than an ordinary Colt Dragoon and, if anything, the action is a little smoother. Each gun was obviously handmade, and one can still see the forge marks on the brass trigger guard, reminiscent of the crude brasswork on the Browning single shot pistol found in Ogden.

According to Saunders, the gun was originally owned by Benjamin Thomas Mitchell, a Mormon stone mason who helped survey and lay out Salt Lake City. He cut the meridian stone which still stands as the geographical baseline for the grid survey of the entire Intermountain West and helped lay the cornerstone for the Salt Lake Mormon Temple. Mitchell was also a captain of a company of 50 men in the Nauvoo Legion, the Utah militia organized to protect the people from Indian attack... hence his need for a revolver. He was also among those men called out to repel Johnston's Army in the "Utah War."

Saunders claims Browning made a number of the Dragoon copies for the Nauvoo Legion and that they were carried by officers like Capt. Mitchell. There is logic in this, but no historical documentation survives. However, with word that Johnston's Army was marching on Utah, great preparations for the impending "invasion" were taken by every Mormon in Utah. For gunsmith Browning, what better way than to manufacture guns? And since he had not worked on any new inventions since Council Bluffs, why not use the nearest Colt Dragoon for a pattern?

Jonathan was a close personal friend of the commander of the Nauvoo Legion, Lt. Gen. Daniel H. Wells. They had known each other since 1839 when Browning operated his shops in Quincy and Nauvoo. Is it possible that Wells made an appeal for arms to his friend? But even if the militia had wanted to outfit its officers with Colt Dragoons, it is debatable whether Browning

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could have produced more than a handful in his humble little shop . . . if for no other reason than the fact that raw materials were so scarce.

On the other hand, several of these revolvers have turned up in and around Ogden, Utah, . . . and Browning was the only gunsmith within a thousand miles capable of making them. We will leave it to the reader's own judgment whether or not these beautiful copies were made by Jonathan Browning or not.

Browning outlived Colt by 17 years. But the last 27 years in Ogden, Utah, were unproductive from the standpoint of inventing and making guns. The frontier had been too demanding of him: It spread his mechanical abilities too thin. He was more interested in building up his community and the "kingdom of God" than he was in inventing new guns.

Jonathan Browning died in 1879, leaving behind three wives, ten sons, eight daughters and 91 grandchildren. He left his humble Ogden gunshop in the hands of a son, John Moses Browning . . . a son who was to invent so many guns the manufacturers couldn't keep up with him, who was to supply the allied armies of two world wars with their basic weapons. What foot soldier who ever went into battle did not get to know intimately one of his guns . . . the BAR, the machine gun or the "Colt" 45? But we should always remember that it was the father, Jonathan, who blazed the trail.





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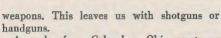
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A reader from Columbus, Ohio, wrote us after the January article: "I am glad to see that cuns Magazine has taken so positive an approach on guns for self-defense, but why did you not mention the shotgun as the best gun for this task? I have kept a loaded shotgun in my home for many years, and the feeling of security it gives me cannot be measured." And, this gentleman's letter was only one of several that took us to task for not including the shotgun as a desirable defense arm.

It is the consensus of opinion that for the person who is familiar with shotgunning, the selection of a smoothbore would be satisfactory. However, to those unfamiliar with guns, the shotgun might prove to be the wrong selection. Like the rifle, the shotgun is cumbersome, and to keep one in the home strictly for protection could pose some problems. The gun should be stored where it is out of the reach of other persons—especially children-and yet readily available in an emergency. In the case of a person totally unfamiliar with firearms, the first shot from a 12 gauge shotgun is sometimes enough to make them shy away from any gun. The noise and recoil of a scattergun can be a frightening thing to some people, and an unpleasant experience at the outset of instruction could lead a person to lose all confidence in himself and his gun. For the moment, then, let us say that the shotgun, while it may be a perfect self-defense gun for some, should not be considered the answer to everyone's problem.

This leaves us with the handgun in its various forms. If we will remember that we are speaking now of the person who is not familiar with firearms of any kind, let us forget the powerhouses—the .44, 41, and except as described later, .357 Magnums.

There is little doubt that these calibers are by far the most effective of any handgun calibers, but to suggest that the beginning shooter should start right off with any of them would be a bit ridiculous. One of the most difficult things to do is to teach a beginner with too-big a gun. Therefore, let's approach this problem from another tack and try to find the smallest caliber that a person can handle with ease, and still maintain some sort of man-stopping effectiveness.

I am sure that everyone will agree that one well-placed shot from a gun shooting a .22 hollow point is better than a .38 Special slug that misses. So why not a .22 if that is the caliber that you can handle comfortably? Of course, there is much to recommend a bit more power and a bit heavier bullet than a .22. Then why not work up the caliber scale and stop when you have reached the point where recoil, muzzle blast, and a larger frame prove to be too much.

SELF-DEFENSE

(Continued from page 20)

For those who have never fired a handgun before, the best beginning gun would naturally be a .22 caliber. The fundamentals of shooting are the same as with a heavier caliber, and yet the necessary amount of practice firing will not be expensive or tiring. After all of the basics are learned, and the shooter becomes proficient with the .22, then they can easily move up to whatever larger caliber they might choose.

Many law enforcement officers and expert pistol shooters recommend the .357 Magnum revolver as best suited for self-defense; and some of them claim this caliber to be the minimum that should be used. There is much to say in favor of the .357 Magnum, over and above its obvious power. First, it is available in several handgun styles, and generally, the frame and grip are not too large for most people. Secondly, there is a wide variety of loads available, including those in .38 Special, which the .357 Magnum revolves handle interchangeably. Thus, a shooter could begin his orientation with the relatively mild mid-range match loads in .38 Special, and work up to the full-power .357 Magnum loads when he feels he is able.

All of the above is written to point out several things. There is more to self-defense than the material items that you buy; there is a need for serious thought as to a person's attitude toward the gun; his desire to become not only a gun owner—a responsible gun owner. A gun in the home is not the final word in self-defense. It is the homeowner who has taken the time to train himself properly in the handling of that gun and who is ready and able to assume the responsibilities of gun ownership.

Someone is certain to ask at this point; "What has this to do with me; I have owned and shot guns all my life?" The answer to this is important. There comes a day in every gun owner's life when a friend or relative will ask advice on a gun for home protection; and the answer could either be a cursory "Get a .45 Auto," or a discussion of the pros and cons as written above. If you were not familiar with firearms, which answer would you like to get?

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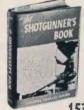
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HOW REMINCTON READS YOUR MIND

(Continued from page 33)

tell us what thinking lies behind then and what processes have gone into their production. This must be a time of mixed feelings for the designers and planners, because if the average shooter is critical, these writer-"experts" are more so, and some of their comments are blunt, to put it mildly. They also contradict each other which, whether or not it proves their "expert" status, does prove that they are typical of "their public!"

Remington's 1966 Seminar was held in late November, at the Remington game farm near Chesterton, Maryland, with some fifteen editor-writer guests attending. What we saw, as the end product of Remington's three-year and multi-million dollar effort to read the minds of you twenty-odd million American shooters, was a whole new line of bolt action rifles. The comments of the writer-"experts" were (or seemed to me to be) less critical than usual, which may or may not reflect how you will like them.

Test reports will come to you on GUNS pages as our own "experts" examine and evaluate them; but here, as early as our publishing schedules permit, is a first-sight description of them:

The new "family" of Remington includes three new .22 rim fire numbers: the Model 580 single shot, the Model 581 clip-fed repeater, and the Model 582 tubular magazine repeater. All are completely new in design, and all include features of strength, accuracy, and appearance closely comparable to their companion (in this family) center fire brethern. All three handle short, long, and long rifle ammo interchangeably and without adjustment.

Instead of the single-point-of-contact lockup common in .22 rim fire rifles, the new Remington series locks with six sturdy lugs, integral with the bolt, turning into forged-in receiver slots. This internal locking system eliminates the groove in the receiver formerly needed to permit rearward bolt travel; and the width of the front receiver cut is only 60° instead of the usual 180°, thus permitting the receiver to enclose a much greater area of the bolt and thus promising smoother bolt operation as well as greater strength.

Strength is reflected also in the look and feel of these rifles. Holding their external design close to that of the companion center fire model has given these .22's a "man size" look and feel that we think you will like. This "big rifle" appearance and feel is borne out hy Monte Carlo-combed stocks, ribbed rear sight bases, and one-piece American walnut stocks which give the guns a sleek "quality" silhouette.

Big Brother to the new rim fires is the Model 788 center fire-Remington's bid for favor from those shooters who, they believe, "have been looking for a basic, moderatelypriced rifle that meets modern high standards of accuracy and dependable performance. The Remington Model 788 will be priced at "less than \$100"-looks like more money, and should meet even the most demanding requirements as to strength, durability, and performance. It will be chambered for both varmint and big game cartridges: .222 Remington, .22-250 Remington, .30-30 Winchester, and .44 Remington Magnum. (Offering both of these last two calibers seem to me a redundancy, but that may be because I've never 'outgrown" a liking for the .30-30, and have never been to enthusiastic about the .44 Magnum, for handgun or rifle.)

The Model 788 has a newly-designed locking system consisting of nine locking lugs, integral with the bolt, which turn into contact with shoulders forged directly into the receiver. These lugs are in three sets of three each, set exactly 120° apart, to provide uniform distribution of locking strength. This lug placement also reduces upward-downward bolt rotation, permitting faster bolt operation for quicker second and third shots. The new lug placement also permits the receiver to enclose more bolt area, providing additional bolt support for smoother, more positive operation.

A new trigger mechanism gives the rifle an extremely fast lock time, reducing the interval between trigger-break and firing-pin strike.

The Remington Model 788 carries a brandnew, detachable box magazine, grooved to slide smoothly over a guide bar on the receiver, which aligns the box for fast, easy insertion. A release catch built into the bot-



tom of the box permits quick, one-hand removal; and extra magazines can he ordered for convenient carrying of extra rounds for fast reloading.

These features, coupled with the usual Remington dependability and accuracy, plus the trim look and handy "feel" of the rifle, should make it attractive to many shooters. There should be merit, too, in the close similarity between the Model 788 center fire and the companion .22 rim fire numbers. Many shooters have liked the idea of having a "mated" .22 for practice, and this new Remington family should serve that purpose.

ington family should serve that purpose.

Another Remington "new" for '67 is an addition to the Model 700 family—the Model 700 Varmint. The already versatile 700 (14 calibers) will not increase its scope with this Varmint Grade, custom-looking, heavy barreled, super-accurate rifle in five of the most popular varmint calibers: .222 Remington, .223 Remington, .22-250 Remington, 6 mm Remington, and .243 Winchester. The rifle includes all the features of the Model 700 BDL, plus the heavy barrel, full-checkered full-length stock with Monte Carlo comb and cheek piece, forend tip, grip cap, white line spacers, quick detachable swivels, and carrying strap. The fixed box magazine has a hinged floor plate for bottom unloading.

New in ammunition by Remington-Peters will be a third bullet loading in the 7 mm Remington Magnum cartridge: this one a 125 grain slug, to complement the present 150 and 175 grain bullet loads. The new, light bullet will give extremely flat trajectory and sustained high velocity at long ranges, and this should make it a favorite for such hard-to-approach game as pronghorn, sheep, and mountain goat.

In shotgun ammo, Remington-Peters will, in 1967 extend their "Power Piston" wad column to their 2¾" 16 gauge shells, and to their 2¾" and 3" Magnum 20 gauge Magnum loads. "Power Piston" will also be used in a new 16 gauge skeet loading.

Where shotguns are used for deer, Remington's new-for-'67 "Power Pakt" buckshot loads will be big news. These new shells will include finely granulated polyethylene as a filler material between the shot pellets, acting as a cushion to prevent shot deformation under firing pressures. By reducing pellet deformation which causes erratic flight, Remington claims up to 20 per cent improvement in buckshot pattern density—enough to turn wounding hits into clean kills on woodland whitetails.

These, then, are the things Remington mind-readers thought were what you wanted the New Year to bring you. Were they right, or wrong? It will be months yet before they, or we, or even you, will know. That's the trouble with these multi-million dollar gambles: a man can age a lot, waiting for the answers!

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FREEZE-DRIED FOODS are the lightweight way to camping and hunting. Stow-A-Way Products Co., leading supplier of these remarkable products, has released their completely new 1967 catalog which is crammed with valuable information for campers, hunters, fishermen—literally everyone who cooks out of doors. The booklet provides a single, complete source for all lightweight food requirements, whether for a weekend pack trip or for an extended expedition. Products from leading manufacturers, as well as many packaged from Stow-A-Way, are described



fully, including net weight, amount of water used for preparation, cooking time, and number of calories for each. Anyone heading beyond the end of the power line and asphalt strip will find the guide invaluable. Weight savings with these products run up to 90 per cent, food waste is greatly reduced, and no refrigeration is required. There is a special sampler pack, consisting of beef soup, fruit cocktail, Apple Splendor, chocolate milk shake, peas, onion slices, juice crystals, beef patty mix, egg salad mix, chicken salad mix, and waterproof matches for just \$7.70 prepaid via parcel post. The new 16-page guide is free from Stow-A-Way, Dept. G-8, 101 Ripley Road, Cohasset, Mass.

REDFIELD'S new 4x-12x "Big Game-Varmint" variable scope is, without a doubt, the last word in variables. This new scope has all the same fine qualities of the other Redfield variables, including a constantly centered, non-magnifying reticle. Designed for the man who hunts and shoots year-round and who wants one scope to do several jobs, the 4x-12x has a wide field of view at low power for close in hunting and exceptional



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SHOPPING

EDDIE BAUER'S Reversible Gunner's Coat allows you to shoot your best with complete freedom of action and keeps you warm at the same time. The exclusive action back and action-set sleeves allow you to make any motion, unrestricted by bulky layers of cloth. Both body and sleeves are warmly insulated with 100 per cent premium quality goose



down. There are snug handwarmer pockets beneath the full bellows pockets. The comfort range of Bauer Gunner's Coat is from 60° above to 40° below zero. It comes in autumn tan or forest green in sizes from 36 to 50. For further information on this and the many other fine products in the Eddie Bauer line, write Eddie Bauer Expedition Outfitter, Dept. G-8, 417 East Pine Street, Seattle, Washington.

THE BRONCO is a brand new concept in sporting arms from Firearms International. There are two versions of the Bronco—one in .22 LR and one in .410 gauge, and neither uses a bit of wood or plastic. The receiver and stock are a single metal unit. The stock itself is well proportioned and skeletonized to make the guns lightweight, just 3 lb., 8 oz. for the .22 and 4 lb., 3 oz. for the .410 shotgun. There may be fancier guns, but Broncos do just what guns are supposed to do—stand up under abuse and shoot accurately. The



shotgun has an 18½ inch barrel with full choke; the rifle a 16½ inch barrel with adjustable sights. Both are equipped with a positive manual safety. Special introductory prices are just \$9.95 for the rifle and \$19.95 for the shotgun. For further information, write Firearms International, Dept. G-8, 4837 Kerby Hill Road, Washington, D.C.

CONETROL, makers of absolutely projectionless split mount rings, have announced the introduction of three bridge bases for the 600 Remington—regular, median and forward. The regular base is designed for standard eye relief scopes and position the rear ring just ahead of the last screw hole in the 600 receiver. The mediun base, also for standard eye relief scopes, is designed to meet the needs of the shooter who cares for a bit more latitude hetween his eye and the scope's eyepiece. It enables him to position his scope a bit farther forward on his 600,



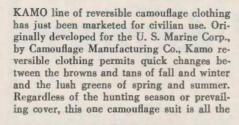
and is especially handy for the variable power scopes, which might otherwise be located too.close for comfort when heavy recoil is involved. The forward base is designed to mount intermediate eye relief scopes, which are normally situated ahead of the rifle's receiver over the barrel. List price of each of these new hases is only \$9.95; four cone screws are needed and cost 15¢ each, with Nylock cone screws at 45¢ each, from Conetrol Scope Mounts, Dept. G-8, Hwy. 231 South, Seguin, Texas.

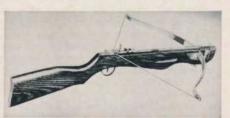


MARKSMAN'S electrically operated moving target provides real shooting gallery fun for the entire family. Strong and sturdy, Marksman's Moving Target can be used with all air pistols and rifles, CO2 guns, spring guns, pump guns, either in .177 or .22 caliberliterally anything that shoots pellets or BB's. The complete home shooting gallery, it features a continuous line of moving "knockem-down" duck targets, and "ring-the-bell" bull's-eye targets. With rigid heavy-weight steel construction, the target has the UL approval on its heavy duty 110 volt motor. The scientifically designed pellet trap completely eliminates ricochets. The target comes with a 34-piece set of replacement targets. See your Marksman Products dealer today.

WYITE Guns

BLACK BEAUTY Powermaster Crossbow is engineered and manufactured to the highest specifications. For centuries crossbows were the most accurate and deadly of all weapons; today, crossbow shooting is an exciting and modern sport. The whole family will find fun and relaxation shooting right in the back yard. Sportsmen can use the Black Beauty to hunt squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, and other small game. The fishing attachment allows





the hunter to take fish and frogs. The Black Beauty crossbow has an 80-lb. pull. The bow itself is 32 inches long and is made of high test aluminum. The stock is 33 inches long and made of highly polished hardwood. The complete Black Beauty crossbow outfit includes the bow, two target arrows, one hunting arrow, a fishing arrow, the fishing attachment, and a leather quiver. The complete price is just \$35.95 from Bill's Military Stores, Dept. G-8, 224 West Forsyth Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

hunter needs. Made of water repellent 8.2 oz. sateen, the all-cotton material is completely washable and the colors are guaranteed to stand up under repeated use and washings. The Kamo line is marketed nationally at better sporting goods stores. For a free catalog, write Camouflage Manufacturing Co., Dept. G-8, P. O. Box 16373, Jacksonville, Florida.



LEUPOLD & STEVENS has just introduced a new, full-color 8-page catalog showing the latest products available from Leupold. Illustrated and described are six "Golden-Ring" scopes, with two variables and four fixed power models; the Model 3 and Detacho mounts; a new concept in optical bowsights,

HOW TO CALL WILD GAME is an attractive 2-color, 28-page booklet about calling varmints and crows by Johnny Stewart of Waco, Texas, with an introduction by Byron Dalrymple, well-known outdoor writer. It contains chapters on the operation of an electronic call, equipment needed, choice of guns, bow and arrow hunting, calling foxes, coyotes, bobcats, wolves, and crows, and night hunting and photography. The booklet comes with a free recording of various wildlife distress calls, crow calls, mountain lion screams, etc. A catalog of recorded calls and instruction recordings for deer hunters and varmint hunters is included. Just \$1.00 from Johnny Stewart, Dept. G-8, Box 7765, Waco, Texas.



and Leupold's professional-type Sportsman compass. Also included are detailed descriptions of Leupold scope construction, exacting quality tests, their lifetime guarantee, and complete specifications on the entire line. For your free copy, write Leupold & Stevens Instruments, Inc., Dept. G-8, P. O. Box 5082, Portland, Oregon.

1968 GUN DIGEST, classic of the hunting and shooting world, is now available. This 22nd annual edition contains over 40 original, carefully researched articles by leading authorities on new and historically important guns and accessories, target shooting, handloading, and hunting. The complete reference section—worth in itself the price of the volume—contains illustrations and specifications of U.S. and imported sporting rifles, shotguns, handguns, scopes, and shooting accessories. In addition, there is a very useful directory of foreign and U.S. manufacturers, shooting publications, arms associations, cus-



tom gunsmiths, barrelmakers, etc. Up-to-date tables give the most wanted ballistics information on nearly every caliber in use to-day. The 1968 Gun Digest includes a special 16-page full color section of superb illustrations of guns significant in the evolution of breechloading firearms together with a feature article on their development. The volume's 400 pages are edited by John Amber, famous in the field of firearms writing. It's now available at sports, book, news dealers, and department stores, or just \$4.95 prepaid from Gun Digest Association, Dept. G-3, 4540 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois.



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Panel of Experts

Because of the heavy influx of questions, it has become necessary to limit the number of questions submitted in one letter to two. Your questions must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, must carry full name and address, and your Shooters Club of America membership number. If you are not a member of the Shooters Club of America, send a dollar bill with each question. Questions lacking either number or money cannot be answered. If you want a personal answer, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each question.

Colt Revolving Shotgun

I have in my collection of guns a Colt revolving shotgun. I have had this gun since June, 1917. It is in good shape. Markings on top of the frame over the cylinder are: "Col. Colt Hartford, Conn.;" and on the cylinder, "Pat. Sept. 10, 1850;" on the side of the frame, "Colt Patent Nov. 2," with the year not readable.

It has the gold dust reservoir in the stock. The overall length is 47.44 inches. The bore is 34 inch. Can you give me any information on this gun.

John J. Walsh Saratoga Spring, N.Y.

The Colt revolving cylinder shotguns, Model of 1859, were made in two calibers, .60 and .75, and marked with the 1856 dates. The two calibers are very unlike each other as to overall size of the frame, cylinder, and stock. The .75 caliber seems to have been the most popular, and made in the greatest quantity and cost about \$50 in 1867. Your stated "has the gold dust reservoir in the stock" gave me a puzzled moment, but I think that you are talking about the hole in the stock where the cleaning rod extension pieces are stored. Interest in the Colt revolving shotguns has been fair in the last few years, and one in fine condition would bring around \$450. This to me seems odd, as the Colt revolving shotguns are among the rarest in the Colt long arms line.-R.M.

Winchester '94

I just purchased a rifle I would like to know more about as to its date of make, if it is original or worked over, and its approximate value. It is a Model 1894 Winchester in 32 Special with serial number 430363. It has the old rifle style capped forearm and crescent buttplate stock. The 20 inch barrel has 12 inches of octagon and 8 inches of round nickel steel. The front end of the barrel has a nice, factory-looking crown finished on it. It is take down style and has a full mag-

azine. It is equipped with a saddle ring and stud and has a small front sight and the buckhorn rear sight.

Ray W. Argetsinger Couderay, Wisc.

Your Model 1894 Take Down was introduced in 1895 and some did have a 20 inch part octagon, part round barrel, so yours might well be original. In good condition it might bring as much as \$150.00 from a serious Winchester collector.—s.B.

London Armory Conversion

I have a .44 caliber five shot revolver which has been converted from percussion cap to center fire metallic cartridge. I purchased this gun from the Johnson Sporting Goods Co. (the then Abercrombie and Fitch of Boston) in 1917 and paid \$25 for same. It was described by them as a "genuine Civil War battlefield relic," which I accepted due to being only 16 years old at the time.

It will be seen from the enclosed photo that it has a side hammer, one piece checkered walnut stock, ejecting and loading gate. The barrel length is 5-%" and the barrel is integral with the frame and bas five lands. Serial number, 2445, is stamped on the underside of the barrel and number 165 stamped on the left side of the frame and of the left side of the hammer. There is a proof mark on the left side of the frame. No other markings on the pistol.



On page 34 of "Confederate Arms" by William A. Albaugh and Edward N. Simmons, which I recently acquired, is shown a picture of Kerr's Patent Revolver as made by London Armoury Co., a percussion cap design. Some of these were shipped to the Confederacy. This revolver in overall appearance is very similar to mine, making allowances for the conversion to metallic cartridges.

I would appreciate any information which you can give me in connection with my pistol. Were such conversions made for Civil War use? Any idea as to its value? It's in good working order.

Douglas P. Steward Pittsburgh, Penna.

It is true that the Confederate States did use many arms from other countries, but as far as I know they did not use any that used the metallic cartridge . . . as the use of large caliber metallic cartridges really did not come into its own until some five years after the Civil War. So in my estimation, your revolver is not a "genuine Civil War battlefield relic" as stated by Johnson Sporting Goods Co. of Boston. It is possible that it may have been used here in percussion and then converted to cartridge later . . . but from your picture, the conversion looks to be of factory type.—R.M.

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Winchester 66 and Kennedy 79

I have located an 1866 Winchester, serial number 90,136, in very good shape and with "W.F. & Co." on the receiver which I believe stands for Wells Fargo and Company. Do you agree with my thinking on these initials; also what would you estimate as the value of a gun of this type?

I also have located a Whitney-Kennedy rifle, 1879, in .45-70, in very good shape and was wondering if this is a rare gun and what the

value of this gun might be.

Jack Ooley Liberal, Kansas

One of the biggest problems today is putting a value on a collectors firearm without seeing it, and trying to guess what is meant by "good shape." Winchester Model of 1866 (Is it a carbine or rifle?) in good condition a carbine today should bring around \$175 to \$225, and more if the condition is better. A 66 rifle will bring \$225 to \$300 and also more if the condition is better. How much more they will bring depends upon the gun . . just how good it is. With its "W.F. & Co." if correct would enhance the price much more. Your Whitney-Kennedy rifle has a collectors value of about \$125 to \$175 in good to fine shape .- R.M.

.222 to .223

I have a Model 340 Savage rifle chambered for the .222 Remington cartridge. I would like to know if this rifle could be converted to fire the new .223 Remington cartridge without too much trouble? Would there be an increase in velocity and performance with this conversion?

PFC Waldo L. Stoner APO San Francisco, Calif.

Lengthening the .222 Remington caliber chamber of your Model 340 Savage to the ,223 Remington (5.56 mm) would not be practical due to the M340 magazines having a bullet point protector rib pressed into them. The shoulder of the slightly longer .223 case would prevent magazine loading. A velocity gain of only about 50 to 100 fps would be achieved, depending upon whose charts you read.

If it is increased velocity you are after and are satisfied with the Model 340, you could probably trade in your ,222 Remington caliber on one of their newer .225 Winchester calibers, which shows an appreciable gain of about 250 fps. An accurate comparison in all bullet weights can be had by checking Speer's No. 7 handloading manual. Cartridge dimensions are also shown, along with about half a page of interesting general caliber and cartridge information .- W.S.

Reduced .458 Loads

Since I've had the good fortune to be stationed on Crete with ready access to military aircraft traveling to Ethiopia, I've contacted one of the safari outfits in Tanzania and am awaiting confirmation of a hunting trip in that country.

I've also purchased a .458 Winchester Magnum and have had the blazes kicked out of me by the storebought ammunition. I have a Lyman Ideal reloader in .458 Winchester

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\$695 Improve your shotgun shoting with this .22 Shot barrel insert. The Barrelette is inserted and ved from your gun as simply as a shell. The pattern e .22 shot is controlled by your gun's own boring, for playing minature trap and skeet or training a full beginner, too young to stand the impact of gauge shot shells. \$6.95 each.

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DECORATE YOUR GUNSTOCK

(Continued from page 27)

bond. If you are poor at drawing, GET HELP! This is really so easy that a woman or a skilled youngster can do the work. Always have some sort of finish or fill on the wood. Why? Well, this doggone silver paste is so tenacious that it fills the wood pores and leaves the raw wood full of tiny sparkles!

Are you ready? Let's mix up the Bisonite silver paste well and press it into the design carefully. Yes, we want to leave it a little high but the less surplus the better.

I must confess that the first time I tried this, I really "buttered up" the area with the silver. It was a real job to file it off! You can profit from my error and use the silver paste neatly and sparingly. When it is dry, you can ease off the surplus with a fine jewelers file or scrape it off carefully with a sharp blade. The final smoothing is done with very fine steel wool or a good grade of fine wet-or-dry garnet paper. When the decorated stock area is refinished, the bright silver of the inlay design may take on an amber or "golden" cast from the finish.

I used Bisonite stock finish and find it to be a good reliable urethane based compound that stands up well to weather and hunting punishment. It rubs to a beautiful luster

with rottenstone and oil.

The silver paste inlay idea can also be applied to numerous other items. You can use it on any wood surface. Examples would be: Hunting bows (grip area only), coffee tables, coasters, end tables, furniture and any other applications you can dream up. The designs, whether on gunstocks, furniture or what have you, can run from animal scenes, scrollwork, decorative borders, monograms or extend to combinations of inlays and checkering or inlays combined with carving. As you can see, the variety of applications is limited only by the versatility of the users imagination. How limitless can you get?



The illustrations show the simplest form of stock inlay-done from a line drawing. This is to assist and guide the beginner and the amateur. A highly skilled individual like an engraver could inlay a solid animal profile and then carve its features in raised

The amateur will do best with simple forms. May I recommend that you do a practice inlay on scrap walnut before you start humming your Dremel tool or burying your chisels in your pet gunstock. This will give you the feel of the tools and acquaint you with the handling properties of the Bisonite silver paste.

It's really quite easy to do and I am sure that you will find it an exciting and beautiful way to individualize your guns and other possessions.



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Best quality material and construction, rugged and durable, 18" logu x 83/4" deep x 123/4" high. Separement sory compartment 41/4" x 31/4" x 3

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DENT PLUGS
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GUN ENGRAVING REVIEW

E. C. PRUDHOMME

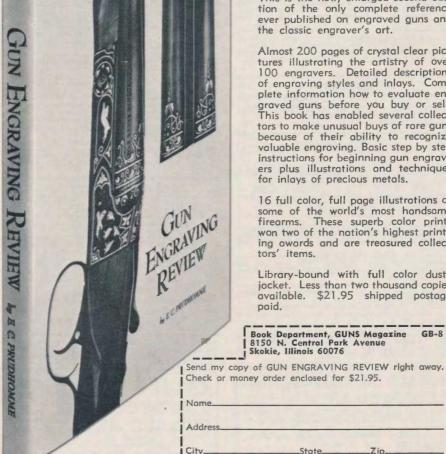
This is the new, enlarged second edition of the only complete reference ever published on engraved guns and the classic engraver's art.

Almost 200 pages of crystal clear pictures illustrating the artistry of over 100 engravers. Detoiled descriptions of engraving styles and inlays. Complete information how to evaluate engraved guns before you buy or sell.
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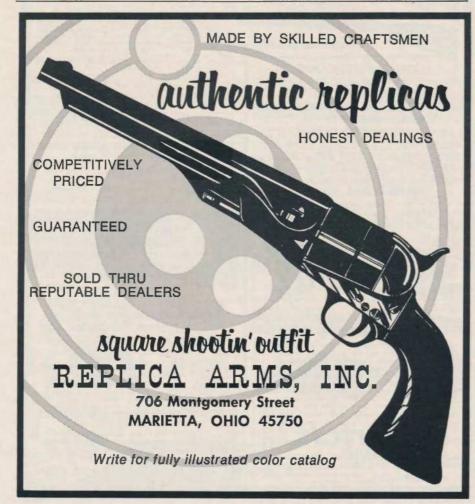
Library-bound with full color dustjocket. Less than two thousand copies available. \$21.95 shipped postage paid.

Zip.









Magnum and would like to load a medium power load in this caliber using Hornady 350 grain round nose bullets and the same powder I use in my full power loads, Hogdon 4895. I would also like to know if you recommend using cotton to keep the powder at the base of the case. This load would be used for medium-sized, soft-skinned animals such as eland, lion, and stateside moose. A major requirement would be for this load to have a similar trajectory to the storebought 500 grain full metal jacket load. Sure would appreciate your assistance.

SSgt. Peter R. Fisher APO New York, New York

Reduced powder loads are entirely practical in the .458. I recommend 50 grains of DuPont 3031 behind the Hornady 350 gr. bullet. This will give you a velocity of a bit less than 2000 fps. With this powder you may go as high as 70 gr., producing 2200 fps at a pressure less than 30,000 psi, As you can see with this size charge (even with the 50 gr.), there is no need for any filler to hold the powder rearward. If you prefer to use 4895 powder, 71 gr. will give 2100 fps, 78 gr. will give nearly 2300 fps. By adjusting powder charge you should be able to make the 350 gr. bullet strike the same point of aim as the 500 grain. However, it is not possible to actually match the two trajectories.—D.W.

Savage '05 Pistol

I have a Savage .32 caliber pistol with the following markings, "Manufactured by Savage Arms Co./Utica, N. Y., U.S.A. Pat. Nov. 21, 1905 Cal 32." The serial number is 73080.

This pistol differs from the description of the Savage in the January issue in that it does not have "SAVAGE" on the left side of



the frame. In fact, this word is not on either side of the frame, and also this pistol has a hammer. Otherwise, it is identical in appearance to the picture shown. The condition of my pistol is as good, if not better, than the one shown in the article. Please advise if this pistol is of any value as a collector's item and if so, what it is worth.

John S. Kuntz Allentown, Pa.

Stern's article featured the 1915 Model Savage. Yours is the 1905 Model and you can see by the serial number of yours (73080) that it is one much more common than the other. A very good 1905 is currently worth \$35; I think that this will jump to \$70 or more within 10 years.—S.B.

THE GUN MARKET

Classified ads, 20c per word insertion including name and address. Payable in advance. Minimum ad 10 words. Closing date Oct. 1967 issue (on sale Aug. 26) is July 7. Print carefully and mail to GUNS MAGAZINE, 8150 North Central Park Blvd., Skokie, Ill. 60076.

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RARE, USED AND NEW Books on big game shooting; firearms. Free list. Paul Drabeck, Dept. GA, 2886 Roosevelt Ave., Bronx, New York, 10465.

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CANNON FUSE 3/32 diameter waterproof 75 feet \$1.00; fireworks making supplies list and fuse samples 25¢. Caseco, Box 77, Dept. G, Riverdale, New Jersey 07457.

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START COLLECTING NOW!

(Continued from page 37)

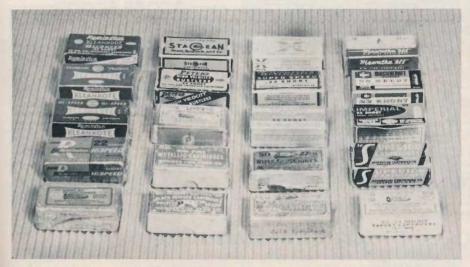
the price of the individual cartridges, so he continued to buy more. It became increasingly difficult to avoid duplications, so he always had several unfinished sets in his possession. Then he received two books from Frank Wheeler on cartridges and Sherm Jones stopped by his shop one day with a collection of magazines devoted to old rifle and pistol cartridges. Always an avid reader along the line of his interest, Ernie devoured this printed information.

"Why not collect complete sets for other old but well-known rifles and pistols?" Ernie asked Sherm.

"That's an excellent idea," Sherm told him. "If you collect cartridges which are cartridge collection that goes with it.

"It seems only natural to supply as much of the ammunition used in these antique guns as I am able to find," he said. "It completes the picture!"

You'll find countless sources of supply for your cartridge collection. In addition to the collectors who use the mails and magazines to advertise their wares, each locality has its own unique sources. Gun repair shops often carry an interesting selection of cartridges for antique guns and the owner usually can give you the names and addresses of his customers who have limited collections. In the eastern states, interest runs to Revolutionary War arms; in the



Collecting boxes of .22 Shorts offers a broad and interesting field for Ernie.

out of manufacture now, you'll find a good demand for these complete sets."

By now the money he had allotted for the cartridge venture had increased considerably, so he began collecting paper cartridge sets. Before he realized it, he was building up quite a good collection of his own. He found that he had made enough money from his cartridge sales to purchase the Sharps rifle he wanted so badly several months ago but, by a strange twist of fate, he was now more interested in cartridges than in guns. Studying cartridges had stimulated his interest immeasurably.

Your decision to collect guns, cartridges, or both, will be the key which will unlock the door to an ever-increasing knowledge of firearms—a vast sesame of endless and fascinating information for you. It's a known fact that you can learn more about firearms in one month of serious collecting than in a lifetime of hunting. While cartridge collecting has "come of age" only within the last few years, it is not a new enterprise for gun collectors. For years, Sherm Jones went to great lengths to procure cartridges used in the antique guns of his collection. He often displays his rifles with their entire cartridge family in separate cabinets in his display rooms. When another collector buys the gun from Sherm, he invariably buys the

south, weapons used in the Civil War rate top honors, while, in the west, guns and sidearms used by the '49ers during the covered-wagon era of our nation's history will be more prevalent.

Old ranches of the west often bouse a veritable arsenal of antique firearms and cartridges. Many of these items hold only a small sentimental interest for their present owners and often can be purchased for a fraction of their market value. Trusty once swapped a handful of .30-30 shells which an eastern California rancher could use in his field gun for two Sharps cartridges, either of which were worth the price of several boxes of .30-30 ammunition. To the rancher who is not himself a collector, these old cartridges are "just no good no more."

Once you let it be known that you're looking for antique cartridges, your friends will unearth all sorts of interesting pieces for your inspection. These often will turn up in the least likely places. A young collector was overwhelmed one day when a confirmed pacifist thrust a box of assorted cartridges into his hand which had "lain around the house for ages," and he only wanted "to get them out of my sight." Trusty glanced in the box hurriedly and in the pile were two .28 caliber pinfires!—

a gift to gladden the heart of any collector. Let your friends and associates know of your interests—their cooperation will surprise you. There's nothing quite so rewarding as walking about the face of this old globe and talking to some of its inhabitants,

Before starting your cartridge collection, visit several display rooms where these items are shown; or, better still, attend your local antique gun shows. See what other collectors are displaying and you'll have a better idea how to start your own collection. It will be better to generalize before you specialize. Some localities produce more of certain types of cartridges and, at the beginning, you'll want as large a volume as you can get. Remember that cartridge types which are readily available in your area may be nonexistent in another area, where they are in great demand.

When you have acquired a good, working knowledge of the possibilities in general cartridge collecting will be the time for you to specialize. If you decide to specialize in Civil War cartridges and you want to deplete your general collection of Sharps ammo, find a collector who specializes in Sharps. The two of you probably can swap out even, to the advantage of both. To a collector, swapping is much more interesting than buying! Use every avenue open to you to get your name before the collecting public and you'll unearth an ever-increasing supply of interesting material.

By attending all the gun shows in the area and by running his own display booth in many of them, Ernie bought, sold, and swapped cartridges with other collectors. Although his collection is presently quite varied and general, he hopes to specialize in a few broad lines very soon. He finds that display booths at the shows and magazine advertising are helping to establish his name as a cartridge collector and he's real proud of the many interesting letters he has received from collectors all over the world.

Ernie will leave his shop any day he can inspect an interesting cartridge collection. He knows what he wants and he's always prepared to buy the item he needs if he finds the price is right. His cartridge collection has become his most prized material possession and, do you know what?

He still doesn't have a Sharps rifle!

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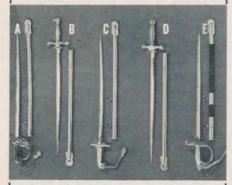
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 17)

On May 2, 1967, Dodd announced after a meeting of his Subcommittee there was "a strong sentiment on the part of the Committee to report out a firearms bill as quickly as possible." He stated that Senator Roman Hruska (R.-Neb.) had asked the Subcommittee members if they would agree to hold more hearings before moving the bill and its members agreed.

The hearings were tentatively set for some time in June. Sen. Hruska's purpose for requesting the hearings was to develop testimony and support for his measure in the Senate. Last year the Dodd Subcommittee only really considered the original Administration bill. A public hacking for a compromise had to build.

Thus, the Kennedys prevented a quick movement of a compromise bill. Now they are in the position of having stopped the forward motion of firearms legislation. Being the brother of an assassinated President means power, a force to be reckoned with, when gun measures are discussed.

Johnson and the Kennedys are already having all but open political war. This makes the hostility even more acute. The Kennedys are expected to make stiff demands for stringent controls. Thus, the compromise will be something between the Hruska-type bill of last Congress and the Administration bill of this Congress.



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