

Gunfacts

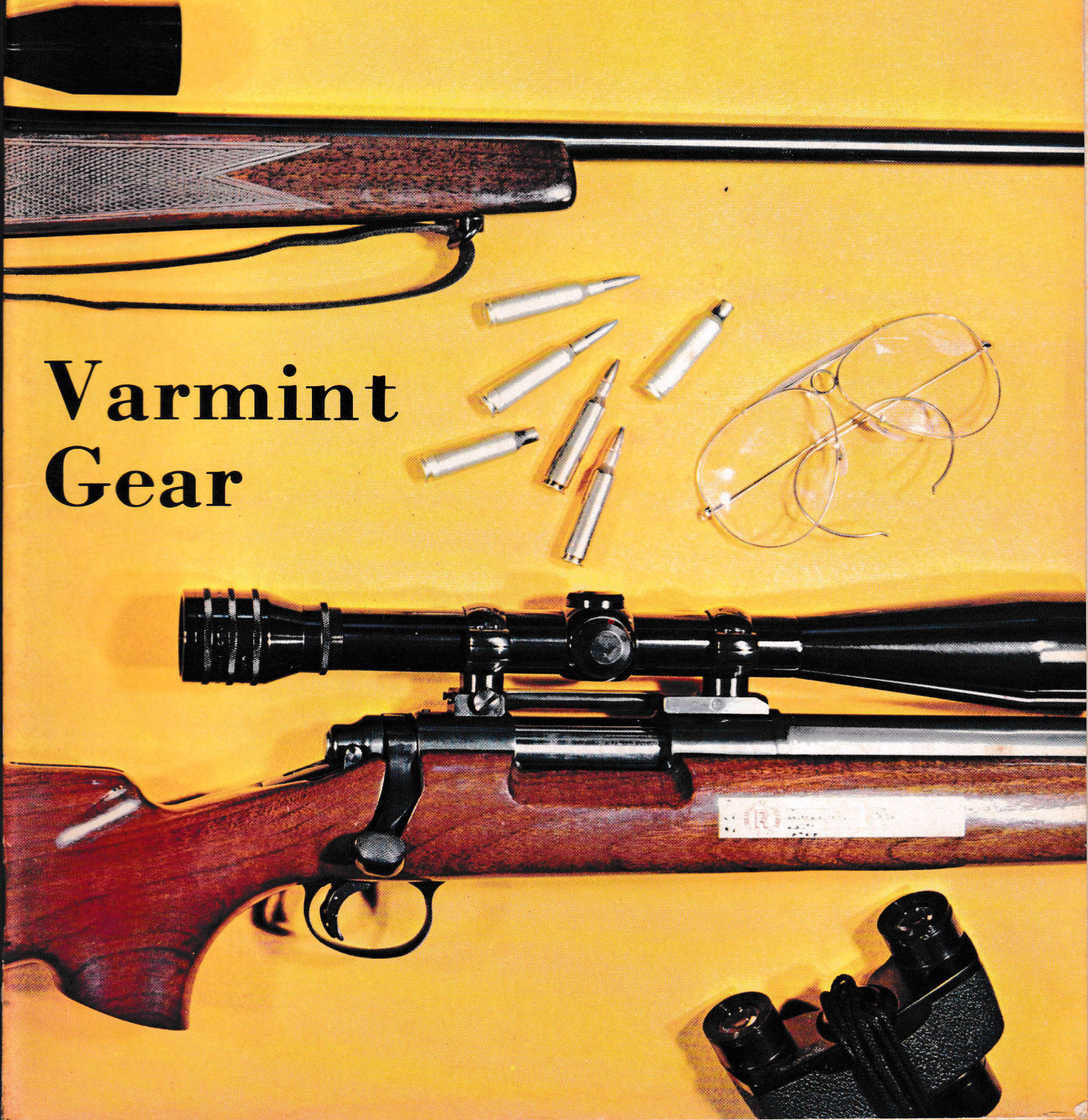
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Gunfacts

THE MAGAZINE FOR SERIOUS STUDENTS OF THE GUN

Varmint Gear



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THE MAGAZINE FOR SERIOUS STUDENTS OF THE GUN

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Table of Contents

3 Editorial	
5 The 1969 NRA Show	Staff
8 Troubleshooting The Czech P-27	J. B. Wood
10 Varmint Gear	Staff
11 Mauser's Mock-Up Parabellum	Jan Stevenson
14 How I Test Shotguns	Francis E. Sell
18 Don't Shoot Too Early	Leonard Lee Rue
20 Varmints As Targets: How Big?	Leonard Lee Rue
23 Varmint Scopes	Bob Bell
28 Scoped Handguns on Varmints	Nick Croyle
30 Holster Handguns on Varmints	Gene West
34 We Never Had It So Good	22 Varminter Gebby
36 A 17-Caliber Pist-ifle	G. O. Ashley
40 The 14-Caliber Hornet	Larry S. Sterett
43 Rangefinding Varmints	Staff Report

COVER PHOTO: This collect of shooting gear is actually used in the field by Gunfacts' staff. Shown is a Sako rifle in 223 with a Universal 10X scope in Sako mounts; a Stoeger bipod; two pair of Bushnell binoculars; a pair of clear Bausch & Lomb shooting glasses; a Remington 40-X in 22-250 with Redfield 12X Master scope in Redfield mounts; and appropriate ammunition. Photo by Fred Davis and Ken Warner on 4 x 5 Ektachrome using floodlights.

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the editor says

Did you ever say "I wish I'd said that"????

Well, so has this writer, and most recently it was after reading a gun column in *The Mid-Atlantic Sportsman*, a monthly outdoors paper meant for people who live in and around Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The columnist in this instance is a fellow named Bob Esher and unknown to me, but he makes sense and his editor has kindly allowed us to reprint that sense:

We have asked that each and every one of you act like a missionary for the shooting fraternity. You know—a missionary doesn't stay home and preach just to the good people whom he sees in church every weekend. He goes out and beats the bushes—looking for those who would never hear him otherwise—makes conversions. How about you making a few for us?

You probably won't be able to convert the really pathological examples—Dodd, Tydings, Blondes, etc. That's a job that is probably beyond the skills of even a professional psychiatrist, so deep rooted is the anti-gun attitude in this type. Their equivalent at lower levels—the loud mouthed anti at the lunch table, or in your church group, or car club may also be beyond saving—but here there is a solid reason for trying, if you handle the situation right. You will often find that a third party, listening in, will conclude that you are the sensible, reasonable guy and that the anti is some kind of a nut. When you have done that, you have done a lot!

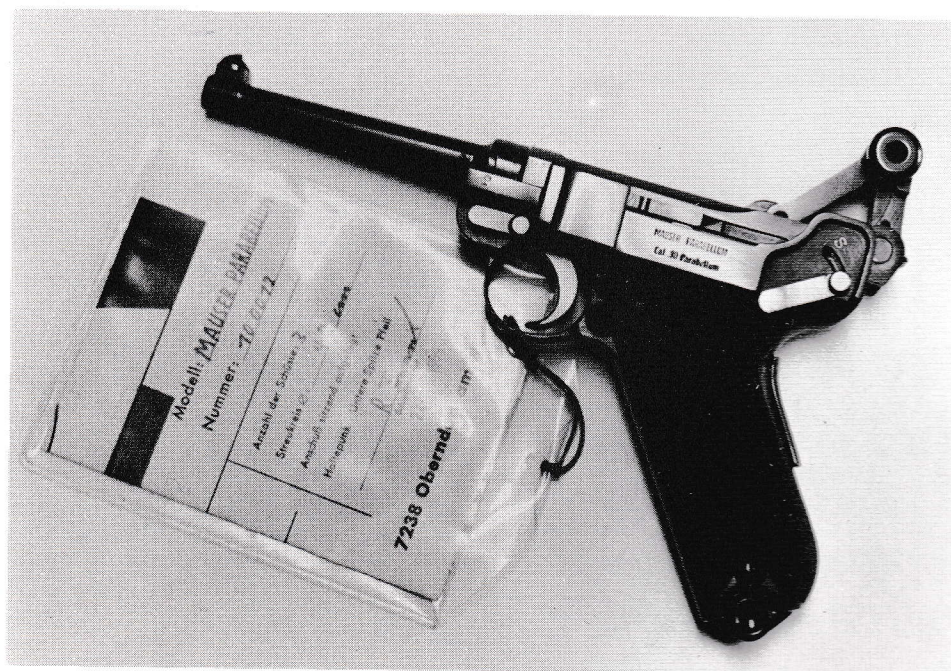
Keep Calm

It depends on how you handle yourself. Keep calm. Don't engage in a shouting match. A good technique is to ask questions, leading ones, rather than making direct statements. Your question makes people think—a flat statement invites a defense. When possible, try to avoid questions than can have yes or no answers. It takes practice, but you won't learn any younger, so get started now.

Your questions should invite thought—not defense—No Perry Mason or Mr. District Attorney nonsense with the accusing finger shaking under his nose.

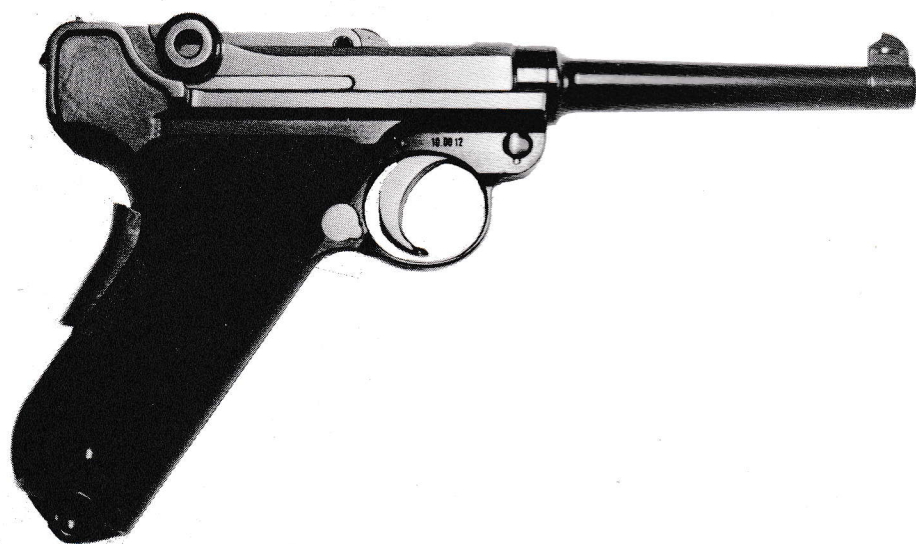
Lets look at an example. We'll give you a few statements by Joe Antigun and some thought-provoking questions that Charlie

MAUSER'S MOCK-UP PARABELLUM



This reworked Swiss M1929 shows essentially what the new Mauser will look like, which is why they made it. 4-3/4" barrel, shown here, will be cut back to 4" or extended to six, as you like it.

by Jan Stevenson

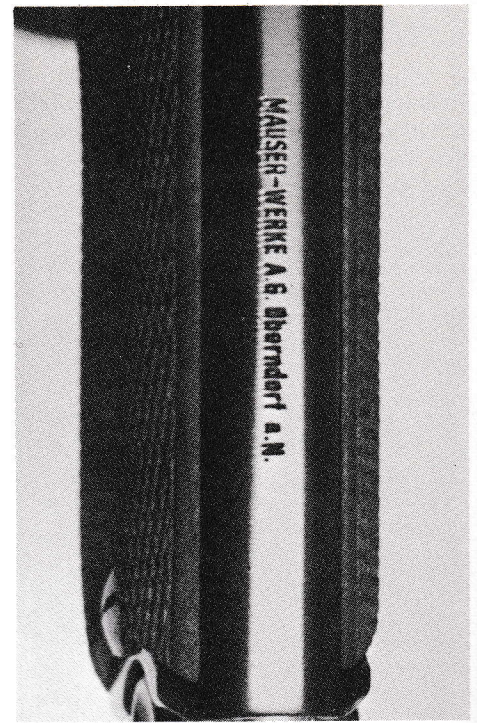
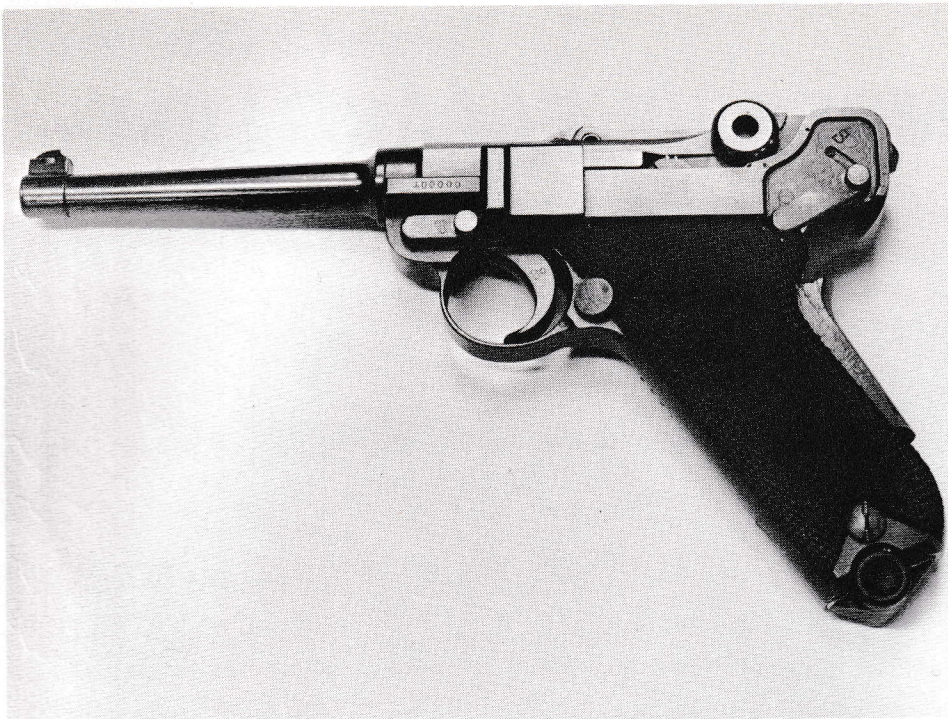


Right side of gun is pleasingly clean. U.S. export model will have Interarms logo garishly chiseled all over the frame per Treasury prescription.

Building a Luger pistol is about as simple a task as unhitching the Gordian knot. With the NSGA and NRA shows looming up, and no prototypes ready, Mauser, like Alexander the Great, took the easiest—indeed the only—alternative. A handful—perhaps a dozen—Swiss M1929 pistols were hastily rounded up. Mauser stripped them down, ground off the Swiss markings, and polished, remarked, and reblued them. The plastic Swiss grips were replaced by walnut panels checkered 21 lines to the inch; the grip safety was shortened to 1³/₈”; and the trigger, thumb safety, magazine latch, dismounting latch, and ejector were given a beautiful amber heat finish. The result was a clutch of handsome handguns which people could handle and admire, and which would serve as visual attention grabbers to the fact that a new Luger was definitely forthcoming from Oberndorf—something no amount of proclamations could accomplish.

The guns aren't Mauser *prototypes*, and they aren't really Swiss anymore either. “Display pieces” seems the only accurate label. Shooting one wouldn't really tell us anything at all about the guns Mauser will make, but since there one was, and nothing else tangible was in sight, we went ahead and shot it right there in Oberndorf.

The gun was 30 caliber, proof marked 1969, and the test target said



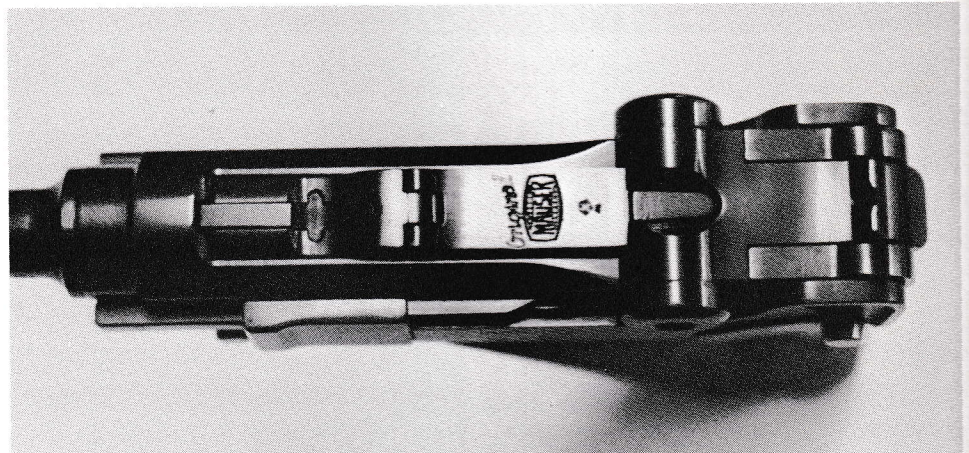
Mauser's mock-ups started off as genuine Swiss M1929 service pistols, which is about as close to crudely functional as the Luger ever got. The specimen shown here is entirely common, save for the curiously round serial number, some 20,000 digits above the cutoff point, according to official Swiss serial number lists. Note the long grip safety, shortened on the Mauser reworks.

Front strap inscription will probably be moved before gun reaches production. New receiver ring will come flush with frame, leaving no unsightly gaps as here.

24 January. Herr Frank, the inspector, had put three shots at 25 meters into 17/8". Firing with the butt of the pistol on a sandbag—no elbow support—our first five-shot group at 25 meters went into a respectable 1 5/8". Since the gun had printed nearly 3" high for Herr Frank, we held on the bottom edge of the target in an effort to counteract the pyramid sight's proclivity for vertical stringing. It worked the first time, but the second five made a classic pattern: the group measured 3/8" lateral by 3 1/8" vertical. Ammo was Remington, and there were no malfunctions once the magazine finally decided to feed the first round of the day.

An additional 35 rounds was run through the pistol in a hasty function test. The gun was fired in three-shot bursts, as fast as the trigger could be worked—right side up, upside down, and on either side. There was one failure to feed the first round and one fail to feed during firing—about par for 35 rounds through a Luger in my experience. In one instance the sear failed to hold the striker back when the breech block went forward—the toggle knuckle had to be broken upward far enough to recock the piece before the chambered cartridge could be fired. Primer indentation was deep and narrow, and ejected cases had the mouth and shoulder bashed in on the left side—trademarks any Luger fan will recognize.

Trigger pull was fine if you hurried through it, but showed up as a 3-hop



Mauser crest looks rightfully at home on the Parabellum. Receiver ring will be milled, rather than lathe-turned as shown here, to make room for the American eagle.

TABLE OF MARKINGS

INSCRIPTION	LOCATION
MAUSER PARABELLUM	Left side of frame
Cal. .30 Parabellum	
MAUSER-WERKE A. G. Oberndorf a.N.	Front strap
10 00 12	Right of frame above trigger guard
Made in Germany	Rear face of frame
Mauser crest surmounted by "Original" in script	Front toggle
German Nitro proof stamp	Frame, fork, front toggle, and barrel
Ulm proof stamp and '69 date	Receiver fork, left side
C } Significance of these two	Heel of frame
LC } marks is not known.	Sear
Geladen	Side of extractor
S	Left of frame, near safety knob

creep if you really settled down and concentrated. In fairness, I've seen only one Luger—a 1900 model—with a markedly better trigger. The only real objection to the Mauser display piece was that the grips were a loose fit on the frame. Curiously, they had been inletted for the long Swiss grip safety before it was cut down to the dimensions of those on the forthcoming Mausers.

Serial number was 10 00 12, meaning 30 caliber, display series, pistol # 3. The first gun of this group would have been # 10 00 10. Barrel was 4 3/4" with rifling 4 grooves right—obviously Swiss. New production will be 4 and 6 inch with 6 grooves right, in 9mm at any rate. The lathe-turned receiver ring was another Swiss expedient which won't appear on new production.

A table of markings is included for curiosity's sake, but the locations will probably switch a bit before the gun reaches the market. Those destined for the U.S. will carry Interarms inscriptions on the right side of the frame, and the American eagle on the receiver ring.



Stevenson's first five landed in 1-5/8" at 25 meters. Second group strung badly, which he blamed on pyramid sights, but squeezed into 3/8" lateral.

SPECIAL NOTE: Interarms will not have final specifications or any information or other data before late summer. Guns won't arrive before September. It is suggested readers wait for further word before writing to Interarms.

NEXT MONTH:

THE PARABELLUM STORY

PART I

Rarely in firearms history has a qualified observer been right where it's happening, but 1969 is different. This year, Jan Stevenson was on hand as the great Mauser-Werke went into labor on that new version of the collector's favorite —

THE MAUSER PARABELLUM

In an exclusive story for Gunfacts, Stevenson tells all in a three-part major coverage — tools, techniques, business deals, factories, production decisions. It's all in Gunfacts — next issue.