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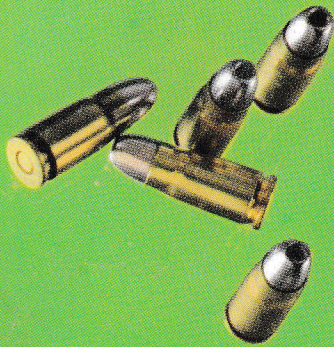
# Guns

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**Bill Jordan on**

**GUNFIGHTING**



**Georg  
Luger**

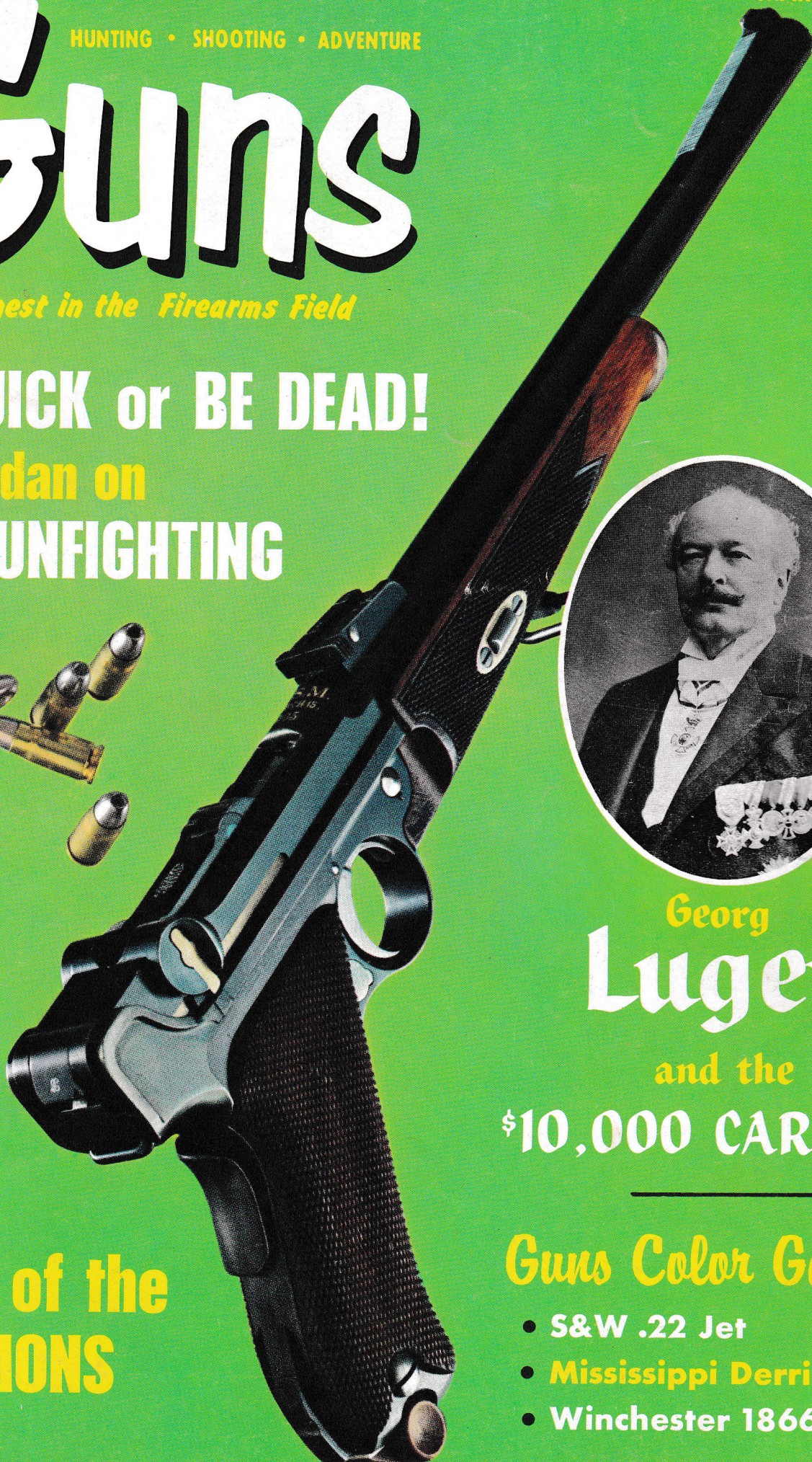
**and the**

**\$10,000 CARBINE**

**GUNS of the  
MORMONS**

**Guns Color Gallery**

- S&W .22 Jet
- Mississippi Derringers
- Winchester 1866



# TRIGGER TALK

AS MUCH as we would like to take this space to "blow our own horn," I think that our advertisement on page 12 pretty much tells the story of what's to come in GUNS Magazine in the future. As a matter of fact, you can expect the big show to begin next month, with some of the best material I've seen in any gun magazine.

But for now, let's talk about this month's offerings. We have had many fine cover photos in GUNS in the past, but few will match the Luger carbine this month. To fill you in on the story, Ralph Shattuck, one of the nation's prominent Luger collectors, and owner of the carbine on the cover, gives details of these special presentation carbines in his article on page 18. Charlie Askins is never at a loss for words about pistol shooting, and whether you agree with his conclusions or not, his article on revolvers vs. auto pistols, on page 22, is must reading.

Letters from foreign countries are always intriguing, and when the Halperins offered us a story on the unusual guns of Ghana, I could hardly wait to see it. I think you'll find it fascinating, and a change of pace from the normal fare.

Added to these articles you'll find a comprehensive test report on the Ithaca .22 rifle by Harry Dean; a most interesting report on how guns played a part in the growth of the Mormon church in the U.S.; and others. In addition, there are the usual excellent departments, including the new "Gunsmithing Tips," by Wm. Schumaker.

I talked recently to a visitor from France, and during the discussion of that nation's economy and business potentials, this gentleman said: "If you really want to make money in France, all you have to do is sell guns on the black market. There are restrictions on just about every type of firearm except shotguns, and I recently saw five rather poor automatic pistols change hands for something close to \$600 dollars." He went on to add that these restrictions were not the result of one single anti-gun campaign, but rather because of an accumulation of small "riders" added to what was initially a relatively mild piece of firearms legislation. Take heed!

## THE COVER

The article by Ralph Shattuck on page 18 gives full details on this fine presentation Luger Carbine. As any Luger collector will tell you, carbines are, in themselves, quite rare, but to be able to own one which was a special presentation model is something extra special. We think that it deserves a place on our cover, and we hope that you agree. The excellent photograph was made by Robert Hughes of Birmingham, Michigan.

**MARCH, 1967**  
Vol. XIII, No. 3-147

George E. von Rosen  
Publisher

Arthur S. Arkush  
Ass't to the Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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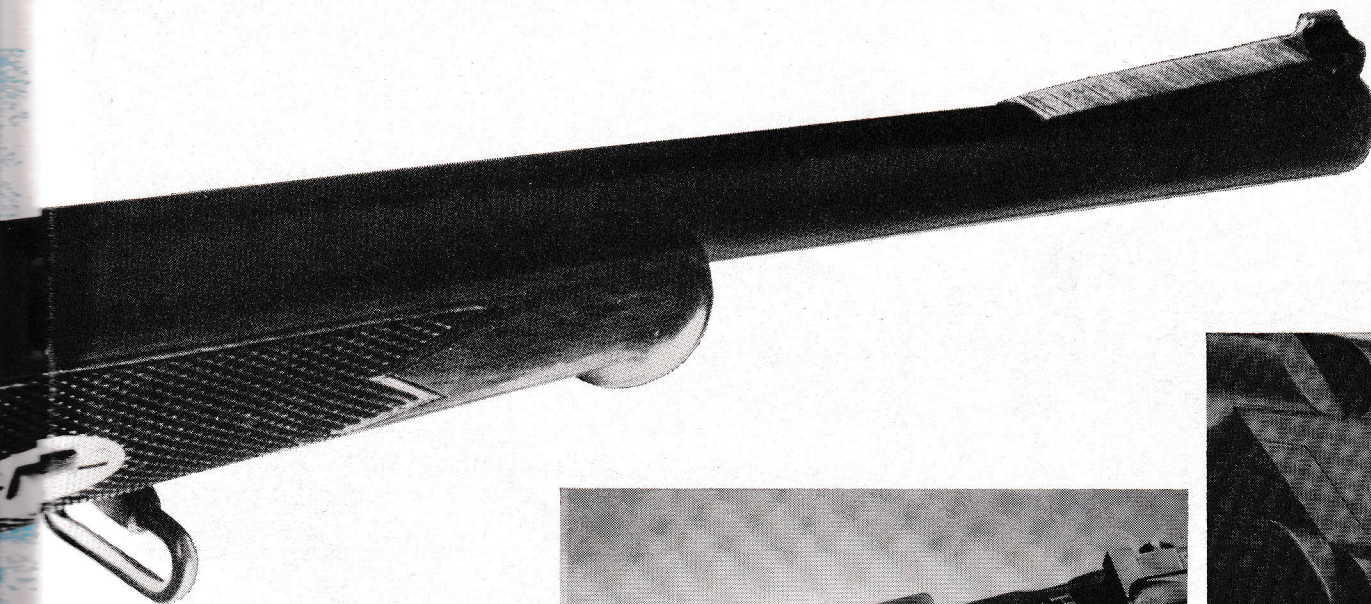
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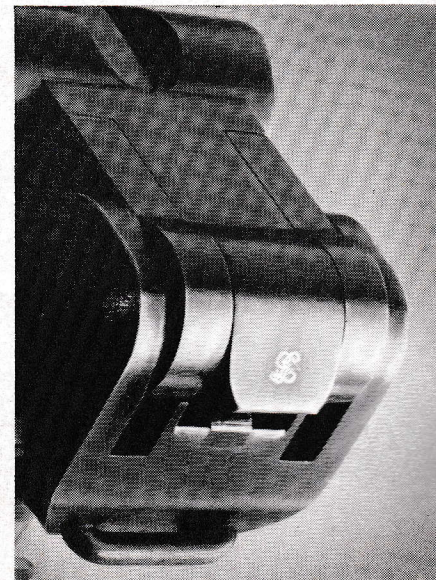
# Georg Luger's

The author's Presentation Carbine, together with its accompanying stock, is in virtually mint condition.





The author's Luger Presentation Carbine is a 1902 Model with serial number 9109C, a script "GL" monogram on the rear link, and "H.S.M. MARCH 15, 1903" inlaid in gold over the chamber.



# PRESENTATION CARBINE

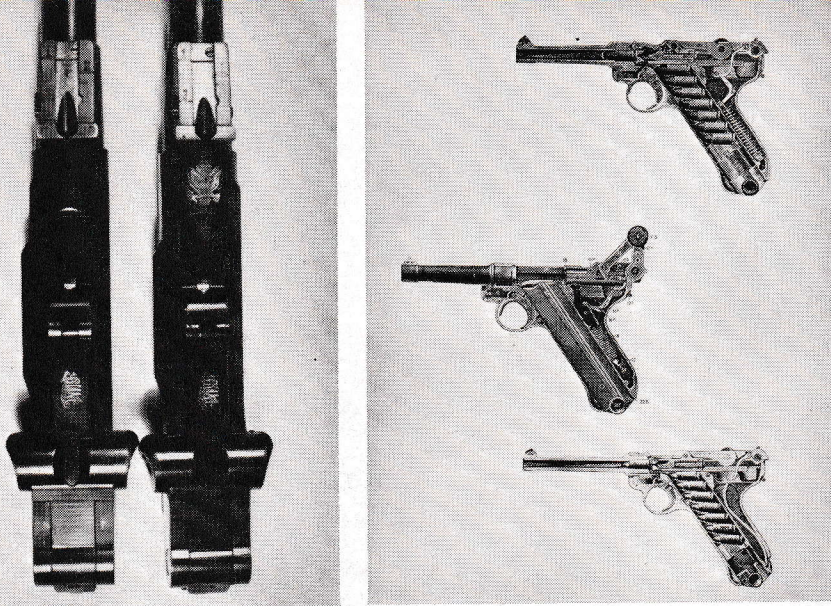
By RALPH E. SHATTUCK



Leather carrying case holds gun, cleaning rod, 2 clips.

HAVING BEEN A LUGER COLLECTOR for the past 20 years, I can attest to the fact that Luger collecting is a rewarding and gratifying (albeit sometimes frustrating) hobby. The decision as to whether or not a particular piece should be placed in the collection is based on its comparative availability and condition. Very few Luger collectors have more than 25 pieces; many possess only about ten items. A close personal friend of the writer owns only twenty Lugers, yet it is felt that his is one of the finest collections in existence. This person is well versed in the history of each individual model in his collection since much satisfaction is thereby derived. It is apparent, therefore, that stress is placed on quality as opposed to quantity. Many collectors confine themselves to the collection of particular models—such as commercial, military, rare experimental, those with squeeze grip safeties, etc.

Several excellent books and numerous articles have been written extolling the merits of the Luger, which has been employed by more—approximately forty—sovereignties than any other sidearm in the history of firearms. The Luger is often referred to as "the most controversial pistol" due to the fact that there are in excess of 275 Luger variations produced by seven major manufacturers: DWM, the original producer; Erfurt, a government controlled German arsenal; Simon, Vickers, Bern, Krieghoff, and Mauser between the years of 1898 and 1942. Krieghoff also continued the production of some handcrafted models up through 1945. The variations cover a wide range with respect to sights, squeeze grips, thumb safeties,



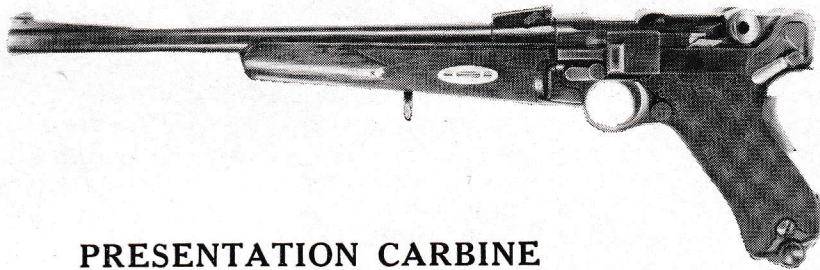
Left: A regular 1902 and a Stoeger "American Eagle" Carbine. Right: First Luger model had a leaf rather than coil spring.

trigger widths, crests and placement of crests, proof marks, etc., while the barrel length itself runs anywhere from 3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches on a short barrel model to 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches which is found only on the carbine.

Whether a collection is composed of one or one hundred pieces its prize item will be the Luger carbine, which is considered to be *the* classic Luger. The carbine was produced in two basic models—the classic 1902 model and the 1920 model. Both are chambered for the 7.65 mm cartridge and both have squeeze grip safeties and stock lugs. Each has an 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch barrel and a beautifully checked foregrip of high quality walnut, thus adding graceful form to enhance the beauty of the piece. Both models have a front sight typical of that found on the finest sporting rifle and an adjustable ramp type rear sight which can be graduated from 100 to 300 meters. At this point the similarities between the 1902 model and the 1920 model end.



Luger Carbine with and without shoulder stock.



## PRESENTATION CARBINE

A deep, rich blue and a classic dove, or scooped, toggle distinguishes the 1902 carbine while the toggle assembly of the 1920 is comparable to that found in models produced during the years of 1906 and 1945. Another characteristic of the 1902 model is its 1900 recessed breech block assembly with a flat strawed extractor. The serial number of the 1902 models consist always of five digits and never bear a suffix (with the exception of the Presentation Carbine which will be discussed at length subsequently), as opposed to the 1920 models on which are found serial numbers of from two to four digits. The 1902 weapons were released in two issues with serial numbers of the first issue ranging from 21,001 to 22,400 inclusive; second issue items bear serial numbers from 22,401 through 23,400. The two issues are identical except for the size of the screws in the foregrip. Although extremely rare, the much-sought-after 1920 carbines are mainly Lugers comprised of parts bearing unmatched numbers and random assemblies from 1914 military weapons.

One of the most interesting anecdotes (although I cannot vouch for its veracity) relative to the history of the carbine is that Kaiser Wilhelm, being an avid huntsman and afflicted with a defective left arm which rendered him ineffectual in the use of the rifle, urged George Luger to develop a (Continued on page 77)



Among the members of the Baerenzwingler Pistol Club of Berlin were Georg Luger (far left) and Georg Luger, Jr. (far right).

# GEORG LUGER PRESENTATION CARBINE

(Continued from page 20)

weapon which would permit his pursuit of the sport and at the same time minimize his handicap. At any rate it is a certainty that the carbine was introduced in late 1902 or early 1903 as a sporting weapon and, although original expectations for it were never realized, there is considerable contention that its small 7.65 mm caliber is more effective against small game than arms geared to the more popular 9 mm caliber. The weight of a carbine—two pounds, fifteen ounces—makes it ideal as a hunting weapon and the stock, unlike other Luger stocks which are flat, is rounded or contoured to facilitate its conversion to a small rifle. The stock is checkered to match the foregrip. Accessories include a fitted leather carrying case to house the carbine itself as well as cleaning rod, stock, shoulder strap, and extra magazines.


As stated in the second paragraph of this article one of the prime factors responsible for causing confusion to the Luger enthusiast centers around the vast number of variations. One of these is the rare Stoeger Carbine. These pieces were specially ordered by Stoeger. They retain all the characteristics of the 1902 second issue carbines, in addition to which they bear a deep stamped American eagle on the chamber. They were also normally reconditioned or refinished to Stoeger specifications subsequent to the stamping process. Records on the Stoeger carbine are inconclusive and therefore it is uncertain as to the exact number ever produced. I can state positively however that manufacture was limited to a very small quantity as I am aware of only two others, in addition to the one pictured here, in existence in the United States at the present time. A Stoeger carbine is worth approximately \$2,000 today.

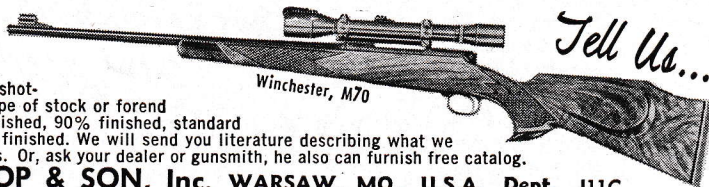
Intensive research indicates that fewer than ten pistols were made during Luger's lifetime which bear the coveted GL (George Luger) monogram. Each of these was produced under the personal supervision of the inventor, and each was intended for a very special purpose: either for a critical military trial or for presentation to a highly placed and therefore influential individual. Probably the rarest of all Lugers is the George Luger Presentation Carbine, of which only one or two were ever produced. The estimated value of such a piece to the collector ranges anywhere from a minimum of \$5,000 upward to \$10,000.

The author's George Luger Presentation Carbine pictured on the front cover embodies the characteristics of the standard 1902 carbine. The extreme rear portion of the rear toggle link carries the script GL monogram. On the chamber appears the follow-

ing inscription, inlaid in gold: H. S. M. March 15, 1903 (three lines). The serial number, 9109C, appears only on the metal extension securing the forestock to the weapon and is a distinguishing feature in that it bears four, as opposed to the standard five, digits and also because it carries the suffix. Serialization throughout the parts is in the commercial style. The serial number appears on the matching stock minus the "C." There are no numbers on the magazine wood bottom pieces. No proof marks are evident anywhere on the pistol; no markings of any kind appear in the well. The weapon and

stock are both in virtually mint condition. Perfect checkering appears on the highly grained walnut of the forend, grips, and stock. The matching and finishing are excellent; the lands of the bore, sharp; and the grooves, dark. The carbine is complete with original miniature sling, two spare magazines, cleaning rod, and leather carrying case.

Carbines are extremely rare and therefore prized possessions due to the fact that fewer than 3,000 of the 1902 models were ever manufactured; production of the 1920 models probably never exceeded two thousand in number. In 1927 a carbine could be purchased for around \$65 plus \$6 for the case. At today's levels a near-mint 1902 model commands a price of approximately \$1,200; and the case, an additional \$150. The 1920 model presently has a market value in the neighborhood of \$650. 



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## WHAT WILL THE .22 DO?

(Continued from page 33)

a fairly respectable velocity. But there is still a catch. Remember that factory velocity and pressure data is taken from a pressure test gun that doesn't have the cylinder/barrel gap, may have a tight (minimum) chamber, and probably has a barrel that is longer than average.

Still some of the .22 WRF Magnum aficionados smugly compare their factory ballistics with the actual velocity of the .22 Jet handgun cartridge without realizing that their factory figures are nearly as far off percentage-wise as was the originally published Jet velocity.

A friend of mine ran a velocity test on magnum ammo in his 5½ inch barreled Ruger Convertible Single Six the other day. The highest velocity was 1339 fps, lowest was 1236 fps and the ten shot average was a shade under 1300 fps. Talk about a deflated ago. . .!

And, the .22 High Speed Hollow Points are scarcely "explosive" or "bonecrushing." If you don't believe it, compare the effects of shooting a full quart can of water with a .22 pistol and one of the centerfire magnums. The .22 barely moves the can while the magnums rupture the seams and flatten the cans.

Greater velocity of the magnum pistols hikes the killing power in several ways. For

one thing, it makes bullets expand quicker, even to the point of appearing to "blow up." This greater shocking effect results in more instantaneous kills.

Too, higher velocity gives a flatter trajectory. A .22 rimfire pistol would need plenty of "guesstimated elevation" between 50 and 100 yards—in fact, that's clear out of its practical hunting range. In comparison, my Ruger .256 Magnum, sighted for 100 yards, strikes virtually the same point of impact from 50 to 125 yards thus eliminating any need for holdover at these ranges. And, the 8¾ inch barreled .22 Jet gives nearly equal performance.

The .22 is too often praised as the ideal sidearm for the big game hunter. Promoters of this say the .22 can be used around camp without unduly alarming game, for shooting grouse for the pot, and for dispatching wounded game.

Well, in the first place, most any handgun can be fired around the base camp because there are a variety of other sounds made by the human occupants that would alarm game just as badly, such as talking, coughing, and rattling and banging pots and pans. Secondly, many hunters like to fire one or two sighting shots with their big game rifle for a final check on the zero, which is a good idea. And, then while actually hunting, the

object is to keep quiet to avoid spooking the quarry and this does not include plinking even with a .22. Besides, the .22 gives pretty miserable performance on grouse unless a head or neck shot is secured.

Critics of the magnum handguns also claim that the recoil is too great for most shooters. Though some may never get used to the .44 Magnum, recoil of the .22 Jet, .221 Fireball, or the .256 Magnum is not excessive and nearly everyone could learn to use them to their best advantage. Yet, strangely enough, those who deplore the recoil of the magnum pistols often cheerfully use lightweight 12 gauge Magnums or .300 Weatherby types that churn up five to ten foot pounds more recoil energy than the big .44.

One criticism of the magnum handguns that may have some merit is their loud report. Yet, though their muzzle blast is quite loud, I do not consider it to be worse than that of many magnum rifles. For comfort though, use the muff type ear protectors during target practice and if desired, ear plugs or valves could be used in the field.

Why do some people give up hunting with handguns after a few tries? Some like to say that the aforementioned recoil and muzzle blast of the magnums scares off potential handgun hunters. Perhaps, but I'll bet that more have turned from handgun hunting because the first handgun they used was a .22 rimfire that they had laying in the bureau drawer and they were disillusioned by its lack of killing power, poor trajectory, and their inability to succeed with it.

While this is partly their fault for trying to stretch the short range of the .22 rimfire, it is also the fault of those who have praised the .22 pistol as the "perfect weapon" for everything from harmless snakes to coyotes.

It's no fun to pass up most of the shots you are offered because you are under-gunned. And it's inhumane to lose patience and try shots farther than you should.

Small game and varmints are probably the most common targets for pistol hunters. They are often very tenacious and hard to kill. Even a bad shot with the legendary .220 Swift can't accomplish miracles.

In this writer's experience the .22 WRF Magnum cartridge is the lightest that should be contemplated for hunting and then only at close range. Considering its low velocity, the longest practical barrel length available would be desirable.

If the regular .22 rimfire pistol is used for hunting it should be restricted to starlings, sparrows, small squirrels, and the like. It does do a fair job on such as the English Sparrow.

It seems that every time that a new magnum caliber is introduced, hunters immediately vie to see who can kill an animal at the greatest distance. This is not necessarily their best use. The hottest handguns

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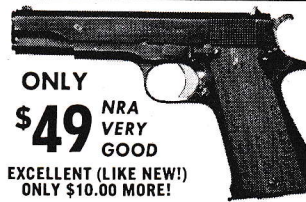
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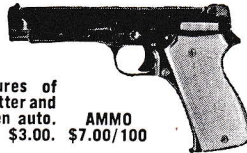


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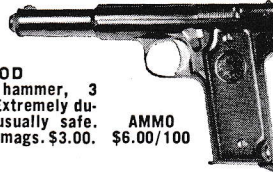


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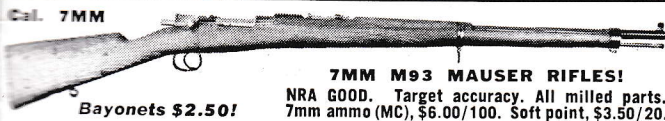
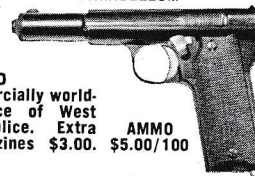


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