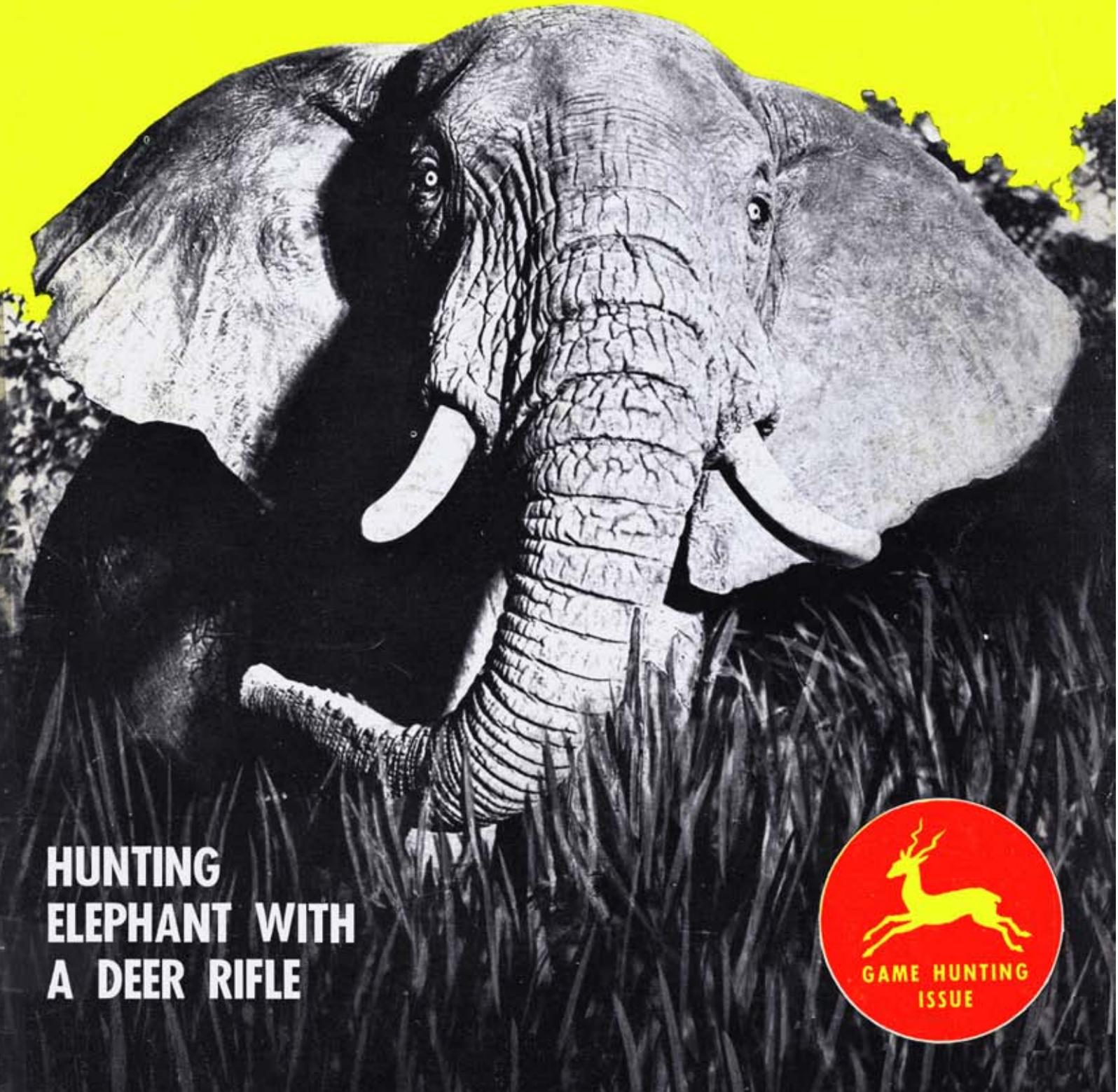


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**CROSSFIRE**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Hunting Accidents**

Harry Botsford ("Will You Kill A Man This Fall," GUNS, October) sings the same old song about hunting accidents, makes the same old guesses (plus some new ones) as to their causes—and then comes up with nothing better than the "test all applicants" answer. You wasted just so many pages in an otherwise good issue.

Sure it might help if every applicant for a hunting license had to pass something equivalent to an Air Force physical examination plus a college entrance exam on gun savvy, plus maybe a personal demonstration of marksmanship and safe hunting practice. It *might*. Lots of states require pretty strict examination before the issuance of driver licenses, and the road toll doesn't improve much. More cars—more accidents. More hunters—more accidents. It's as simple as that.

But examinations for hunters are plainly impossible, and Botsford should know it. No state game department has, or can have, the personnel necessary to handle the sudden, brief, but urgent deluge of hunters lining up to buy their "permits to kill." It has been tried. And men like Botsford would not be the last to scream if the price of hunting licenses went up to what it would cost to back such a system. Because the experienced, "safe" hunter would have to pay, along with the greenhorn.

Botsford hit the only workable answer, earlier in the article. Teach kids to hunt, the way he was taught. Don't blame your state game department for your failure as a parent!

Lee Wolf  
Denver, Colorado**Hugh O'Brian on Wyatt Earp**

The article by Hugh O'Brian, "Was Wyatt Earp Hero or Heel?" in GUNS was a decided relief after the recent flood of Earp stories in other magazines. Earp was human; a tough man in a tough country in tough times, big enough to make his mark on the country and the times. If O'Brian keeps his TV presentation along the lines of his article, he won't stray too far from the facts.

But I very much doubt that O'Brian can make the time he claims with a Colt Single-action. Not if he means, "and hit a target." Two-fifths of a second is the best time ever officially credited to Ed McGivern—and if McGivern isn't (or wasn't) the fastest man on earth with a handgun he was that man's equal. O'Brian shoots holes in own claim when he bases his claim on stop-watch tim-

ing. That kind of timing includes all kinds of reaction-time lags and anticipatory reflexes on the part of the timer. Let O'Brian draw and shoot (and hit!) against the scientifically accurate and photographic timers used by McGivern and other of the fast-draw speedsters. He'll find that his time comes nearer to the full second than to the 2/5s record. And that's still fast, brothers! That's still fast.

Ed Conroy  
Kansas City, Missouri

Congratulations on your fine magazine. It is my favorite magazine on guns. Have been buying it ever since it was published. Enjoyed the story on Wyatt Earp. Keep up the fine work, especially on articles dealing with old and rare arms. Liked the cover of August and September issues.

Henry Kakehaski  
Chicago, Ill.**New Russian Cartridge**

I just saw the article on the new Russian cartridge in the September issue of GUNS. Good article. Could you possibly give me the diameter of the case at shoulder, and shoulder angle, please?

J. Schultz  
Pottstown, Pa.

*Ed. It was not possible to measure one of the Russian rounds exactly in these dimensions. Later, for test, a shoulder of 60° was formed on the reamer, with a body taper of .030" per inch. This allowed cases to extract easily from the rolling block test rifle.*

**Shooting For Youngsters**

I read your article "What's Wrong With Target Rifle Shooting?" in GUNS of March, 1956. I am a boy of 15 and own a .22 rifle. It is a Sears-Roebuck. My father bought it for my birthday in New York upstate. My friend and I go out target shooting almost every day after school.

My father is in the army and gets transferred a lot; we are now at Fort Dix, New Jersey. And the law says no-high powered guns allowed. Is a BB gun a high-powered gun? We can't even go target shooting with a BB gun. It makes me sick to have to park my rifle. Can't there be target ranges or wooded areas set aside with the sole purpose of target practice, areas with adult guidance and to give us kids a break. I for one believe it would give us something to do and fill up a lot of spare hours.

Kenneth Davis  
Browns Mills, New Jersey

# SHOOTING NEWS

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Vandalia, Ohio. As the reports of a million-and-a-half shells faded away, Joe Hiestand of Hillsboro, Ohio, emerged for the seventh time as the star of the Grand American trap shoot. The lanky farmer broke 963 of 1,000 targets. Bob Diefenderfer of Reading, Pa., crowded close for second place with 959 . . . Dan Orlich was crowned all-around champion based on 400 targets of the Grand American, the North American 16-yard championship, and the doubles. Score of 384 reflected credit to the Reno, Nevada, shooter's skill. That Harold's Club range really keeps shooters in top form . . . Doubles honors went to Ned Lilly of Stanton, Michigan, who broke 98 x 100. Lilly won the doubles championship once before in 1937 . . . The famous Grand American Handicap shoot, climaxing the week-long event, was won by C. W. Brown of Dayton who before a gallery of 10,000 finished first in a field of 2145 shooters to win with a score of 99 x 100 at 20 yards. Brown tied with Durwood Baumgartner of Crestline, Ohio and in the shoot-off broke 23 to Baumgartner's 18 to win. Brown and the runners-up divided up \$12,000 prize money . . . Mrs. Louis Wolf of Philadelphia scored high gun in the lady's division with 97 from 19 yards, topping Mrs. Annabel Stallcup of Bloomfield, Ind., coming in second with 94 from 18 yards . . . A 16-year-old Eagle scout, Jon Cottrell, of Wilmington, Dela., shot first for the junior title, and 14-year-old George Williamson of Compton, Calif., copped the sub-junior laurels smashing 93 from the terrific handicap of 23 yards . . . Professionals Tom Frye of Maumee, O., and Bill Adkins, Louisville, tied for top honors in the pro class with 94's and Frye won the shootoff for the championship . . . The characteristic upset of the classic trapshooting race occurred in the preliminary handicap when 33-year-old Shelby Edwards of Central City, Ky., broke 98 x 100. Picking up \$7,500 in prize money his first time at the Grand, Edwards outshot the largest field ever entered in this event, 1775 top shooters from all over the nation.

Camp Perry, Ohio. Joe Benner won his fifth national pistol championship at the lakeside matches with a terrific score of 2610 out of 2700. This is by no means Benner's highest aggregate score but was, as they say, "just enough to win." . . . CWO Offutt Pinion, USN, earned a free trip to Australia by winning the free pistol match shooting a Hammerli free pistol. Offutt won first place in the final tryouts for the Olympic team at Perry.

Oakland, Calif. More than 250 gun nuts kicked off the blanket roll early to show up at the Oakland pistol club's monthly Sunday shoot. This was a surprise crowd because Saturday was opening day of Southern Cal's deer season. But those slick medals and trophies the club hangs on the winners drew top guns from all over. Many shooters staggered to the lines faint from loss of sleep after having driven all night to get to the shoot from the deer chase in order to qualify for the 1956 aggregate championship trophy . . . Top scorer was Ted Elton, USN, who anchored the trophy by finishing third in the first match, second in the second match, and first in the third and aggregate matches . . . The "kick" of the day happened when Scott Nolan of Fort Ord, checked with the scorer at his table. Nolan knew he had shot two 9's, three 7's and five 8's. What a howl went up when Scott looked at the jumbled score and found that he had been given eight 5's . . . Team match was won by that hard-shooting California Highway Patrol team and a tough aggregation to beat: Boomhower, Jacobs, Kolb and Thomas.

Mount St. Bruno, Quebec, Canada. Dark horse, terrific upset to the wise money, or just a darn good showing—call it what you will, Sgt. Clement Tremblay of Chicoutimi with the bottom-rung classification of tyro won the Lieutenant Governor's silver medal and was crowned provincial champion . . . Tremblay, who shoots for Le Regiment de Chaudiere Rifle Association, had earned his first major victory. In addition to other successes he copped the Province of Quebec Rifle Association grand aggregate and the Tyro Grand which earned him more cash, a silver tray, and three medals in all . . . Provincial prize money of \$75 for first and second was split between Tremblay and Sgt. M. S. Kent, veteran marksman from Lounge Pointe Military Rifle Association who matched the tyro's 816 score . . . The shoot was one of the best in Quebec's shooting history, with a record 174 entries including 3 U.S. riflemen and a few top-flight marksman returned from Bisley . . . Royal Canadian Air Force team won the Banker's team match with 370.

Reno, Nevada. Carola Mandel of Chicago finished the skeet season with 99.5 average in 12 gauge, highest ever achieved by a woman shooter and bettering her 1955 record when she became the first woman to compile a 99 per cent average . . . Winning the Women's National 12 gauge skeet championship with 247 x 250 was part of her success. The slim Chicago scattergunner blasted the birds to win the women's overall championship a full ten targets ahead of her nearest rival . . . Col. Leon Mandel and Carola teamed to win the national husband-and-wife title with 489 x 500 . . . Jay Swardenski of Peoria swung on 249 birds out of 250 with black-dust success for the junior 12 gauge champ title . . . With a shattering top score of 1221 x 1250, the Illinois squad of Bob Rath, Winnetka; Col. Mandel; Dick Halseth, Crystal Lake; and Chicagoans Nick D'Andrea and Jay Schatz, shot together for the Class A team title.

Moscow, Russia. Warming up for the Olympics, Soviet marksman Anatoly Tilik bettered the world's 300 meter prone record shooting 395—a bare twitch short of a possible.

Coral Gables, Florida. With a 563 apiece in the centerfire aggregate, Harvey Dunn and John Goodfellow battled in paper punching for the gold trophy first award of the Coral Gables Police Pistol Club. Dunn took the .45 grand aggy in the open with 1689 while M/Sgt. Goodfellow won the expert class bronze trophy with 1642 . . . Sharpshooter George Hardie, Jr. topped eight placing sharpshooters for the bronze trophy with 1542 in the aggy.

Middlefield, Conn. A free trip to Perry was won the hard way by Marylander Art Cook, leading 186 competitors at the Northeastern smallbore tourney. Cookie topped some stiff competition including Bill Schweitzer of Hillside, N. J., who equalled the National iron sight 50-yard record of 400 - 39X. The record was an old story at Middlefield. It was set on that range in 1948 by Ed Cushing in the state championships . . . Ransford Triggs was chief triggerman and a close contender to Cook in every match. Going into the last match of a rainy Saturday, Triggs lead by one point and 5 x's. Cook came through with 400 - 33X and Triggs fired 399 - 29X, cutting his lead to but 1X. Then on Sunday with good weather, Cook took over in the scope matches, wound up on top with 3195—248X, just three points and 7X's ahead of Triggs . . . The kids set up a new national record in the two-man match. Juniors Barbara Winton and Bruce Reynolds teamed to shoot a whopping score of 800 - 60X . . . Possibles were thick as fleas on a houn' dawg at the Middlefield range. In the 50 yard iron sight match Schweitzer (39X), Cook (37X) and Triggs (36X) headed 16 shooters who fired highest 400 scores.

Big Bear Valley, California. Without question the most unusual shooting match since Billy the Kid bit the dust was staged by Snow Summit, Inc. at this 7000-foot high resort town. Some 20 hard-bitten gunfighters with their holsters slung low congregated for the first leather slapping contest of the modern era. A prize of 100 silver dollars was an added spur to win . . . Big Bear's "top gun" title was hard-earned by Jeff Cooper, a Marine Lieutenant colonel, who battled it out with Don Nowka of the Los Angeles Police Department in the finals . . . Equipment was restricted to big caliber handguns. Seven contestants showed partiality to the Single Action Colt. The fastest man present fanning a high-spur .38 Special Frontier was eliminated by a soldier who fired his .45 automatic more deliberately and accurately . . . Three shooters used the .357 Combat Magnum, 4 shot a .38 special double action, 2 used .45 Colt autos, 2 toted .45 S & W 1917 DA's, 1 shot a .44 Magnum, and 1 smoked up the range with his .44 Remington cap-and-ball. Holsters ranged from traditional western tie-down holsters (invented in 1910) to modern "clamshell," split-front Berns Martins, and shoulder rigs . . . This shoot, one of the most interesting gun shows seen in a long while, was conducted by signal at seven yards, using silhouette targets.

Denver, Colorado. At the Cherry Creek Gun Club 47 mile-high marksmen showed up to slug it out for the state outdoor pistol championship and two of the three top shooters were from out of state . . . Panel trophy winner with 1396 was Bob Fisher of Los Alamos, New Mexico, who took firsts in half the .22 matches and the aggy, and first in the centerfire match and grand aggregate . . . Hot competition followed Fisher through the matches with Alberto Guerrero of San Juan, Puerto Rico, starting off the bangfest by taking first in the timed 25-yard .22 match with 195. Guerrero (whose name appropriately means "man of war - fighter") put up a valiant scrap for the championship throughout the shooting. Jack Swanson of Arvada took second with 1363 and the trophy for High Resident Shooter and Guerrero came in third with 1362, taking home the George Kaser travelling trophy for combined high aggregate of state gallery and state outdoor tournaments.

# TRIGGER TALK

THE EDITORS of GUNS are happy to welcome a new name on our mast-head with this issue. Our new managing editor is E. B. Mann, a longtime veteran in the gun field as a writer and competitive shooter. Formerly managing editor of the American Rifleman, Mann is well known to gun nuts. In addition to his work in firearms writings, as gun editor of Fly and Shell, and associate editor of the Military Service Publishing Company, Mann has studied the western scene closely. During the lean years of the depression the Kansas-born gun writer kept busy turning out a total of 19 action-packed novels accurately portraying the adventurous years of the Wild West. In a more conservative vein he was, until coming with GUNS Magazine, director of the University of New Mexico Press. Mann's contribution to GUNS will be significant. His long association with guns and authors will add many new names to the roster of top-flight arms writers who appear in GUNS.

Among the top guns to appear this month is the old master, Elmer Keith. To the very few among our readers who do not know the hard-hitting, bullseye-scoring writing of Elmer, it is enough to say that he is one of the finest gun authors in America today. His "Sixguns" recently published has already become a classic on pistol shooting, and a companion "Shotguns" book is essential for the scattergunner. Keith, who preaches the advantages of smashing energy and big bullets for big game, has outdone himself in his story of the "Biggest Hunting Rifle Ever Made."

Balancing Keith is famous African hunter Wally Taber, who argues that most of the shooting in the dark continent can be done properly with deer rifles—and this, for Taber, includes elephants. He supports his thesis in a fascinating, fact-filled story derived from hunting experiences on safari.

Ballistic expert Kent Bellah who preaches more power in handguns returns to these pages with a switcheroo—less power for guns. Bellah's article on the little known topic of gallery loads for indoor practice is accompanied by brand new reduced loads for popular rifle and pistol cartridges.



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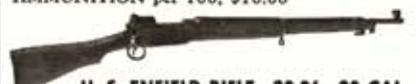
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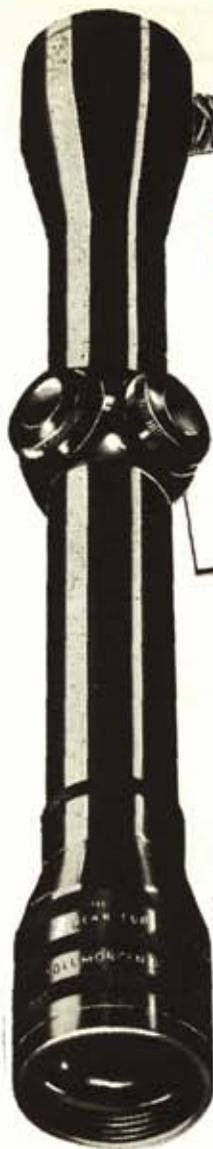


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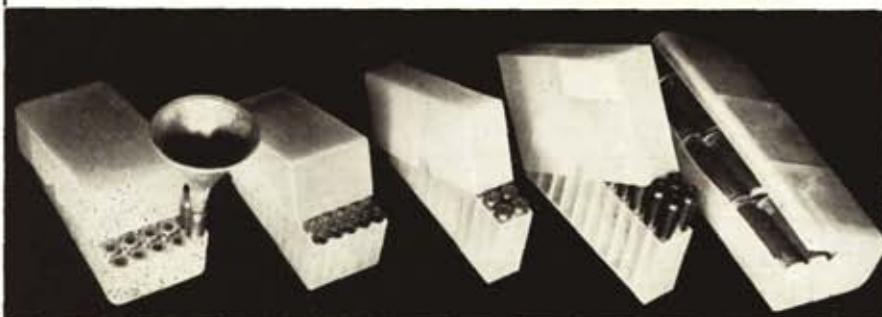
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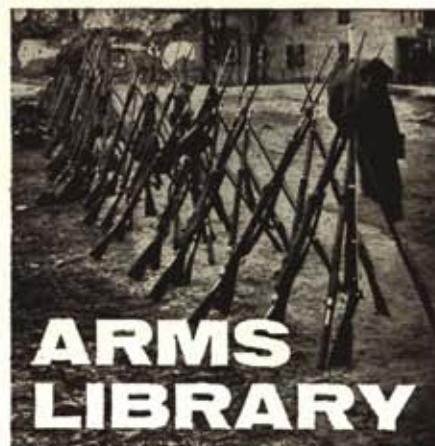
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LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS



## ARMS LIBRARY

By William B. Edwards

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by Alden Hatch  
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An excellent history of the Remington Arms Company has been written by biographer Alden Hatch. It covers the firm from its earliest start as the small forge of old Eliphalet Remington and his son "Lite," down to its present-day status as a key part of the great DuPont empire. A great deal of the personal history of early Remington workmen, and the Remington family, is brought out by Hatch in his well-written chronicle. It is enjoyable reading.

From the firearms technical side, the book is weak. Without adequate documentation, Hatch mentions Remington guns which are unknown to collectors today and which some believe never existed. Yet the general tone of the book is high and well worth the attention of gun fans. In a sense Hatch's interesting biography of the Remington company occupies a place midway between the strictly technical and detailed picture book on Remington Handguns by Cy Kaar (which covered Remington pistols only), and the definitive yet-to-be-written history of Remington Arms for the gun fan.

### THE MACHINE GUN, VOL. IV

by Lt. Col. George M. Chinn  
(Government Printing Office, \$6.25)

The most significant work in gun writing of the decade is this fourth in the series on automatic weapons compiled by a brilliant Marine Corps Reserve officer, George Chinn. A few men stand out in the history of the development of arms—Colt, Mannlicher, Browning, Maxim . . . and Chinn. The first four built (Continued on page 72)

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130-Grain Spitzer, BT or FB ....	5.00
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100-Grain Round Nose .....	4.40
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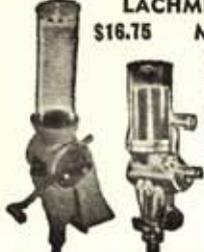


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Don't  
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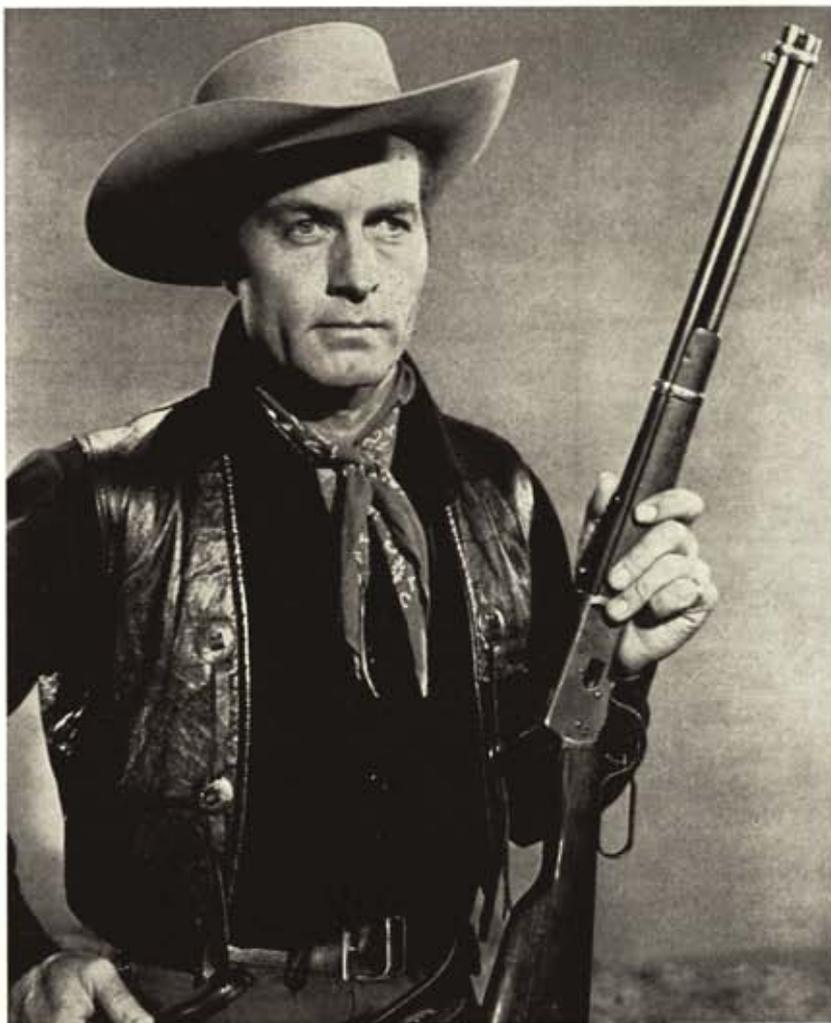
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BULLETS**

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## MY FAVORITE GUN

By **GEORGE MONTGOMERY**

Famed Hollywood movie star



My favorite rifle for big game is in .270 caliber with an Alaskan scope set for grizzly and moose. I am used to big game, mainly deer and elk, and can bag them without too much destruction. However, you must know the kill spot on any of these animals.

For duck and geese I use a 12 gauge. On small birds, a 16 or 20 gauge is best.

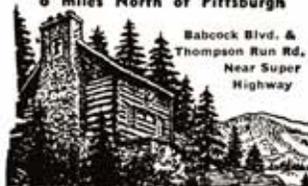
I first went hunting when I was 12 years old. The first bird I ever shot was a teal. I was handling a 12-gauge shotgun. I knew I was big enough to carry one, but I didn't know the wallop they packed on recoil. The teal was flying at me at approximately 50 m.p.h. Not knowing exactly when to pull the trigger, the little feathered fellow was almost at barrel's length when I knew I had gotten the bird. The way I knew I had gotten that bird was because I found myself sitting in about six inches of mud and water, and I could see feathers strewn all over me. And that was the first bird I ever bagged, but couldn't carry home. Also, my lesson was that a 12-gauge shotgun at that range and age was a little too much firepower.

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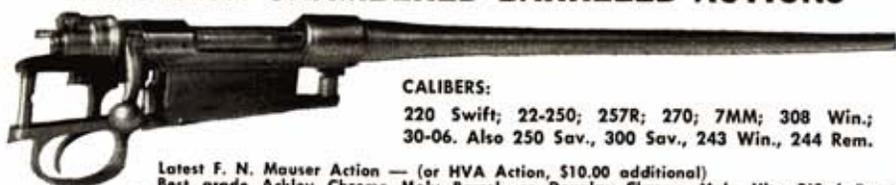
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Barrels have fine-groove finish.

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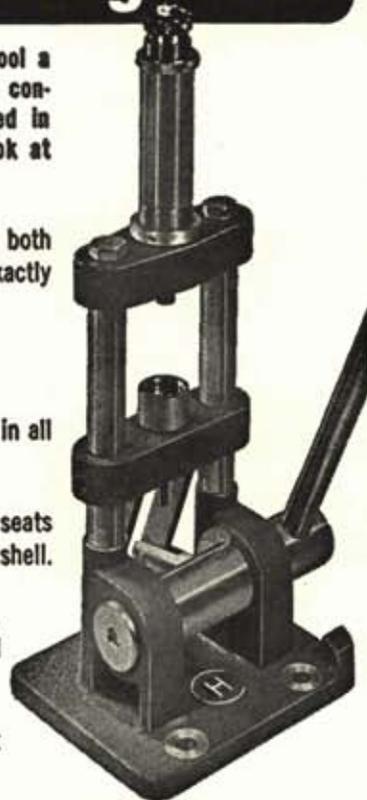
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# GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ Toting up his chances of catching a pre-season hunter in the act of bagging a squirrel illegally, conservation officer R. H. Marshall of Calhoun County, W. Va., came up with a discouraging estimate in his report to the West Virginia Conservation Commission. If a man is going to hunt in a certain woodlot one day in the week, the chances are 7 to 1 the officer can't guess which day, 98 to 1 he won't guess the right hour. With 1000 woodlots in the county, the odds are boosted to 98,000 to 1 that the officer won't hit the day, hour and location of the illegal hunter.

\*\*\*

□ Using a borrowed rifle, Rene (Frenchy) Lamoureux killed his first bear at the age of 11 while hunting in Capilano Canyon near Vancouver, Canada. Today Lamoureux, 32, is established as a hunting guide in Alaska and is one of that territory's best-known sportsmen.

\*\*\*

□ Inflation has overtaken the price of gopher tails in Campbell County, North Dakota. The commissioners have doubled the bounty to hunters. It is now 4 cents per tail.

\*\*\*

□ Attorney-General John Ben Shepperd of Texas had the flu and couldn't take his son, 12-year-old Johnny, hunting on the first day of the season. Mrs. Shepperd filled in for her husband and son. Johnny came back with two wild turkey gobblers and a four-point buck deer.

\*\*\*

□ Donald W. Smith of Paso Robles, Calif., accidentally shot himself in the arm while hunting for a rattlesnake he had spied. He was taken 20 miles to a doctor for treatment and, upon being patched up, he promptly returned to the scene, found the snake and shot it dead.

\*\*\*

□ When the pickerel are spawning in Lake Champlain, Vermont fishermen get hunting licenses. That's because these Vermonters will climb trees and shoot the fish as they come by.



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# Guns

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER, 1956

VOL. II, NO. 11-22

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**COVER**

Mightiest of trophy game, the big-eared African elephant is classically hunted with large caliber, heavy bullet weapons, but experienced safari sportsman Wallace Taber argues that heaviest of game can be successfully brought down with common deer rifle. He uses medium calibre Weatherby on big African game.

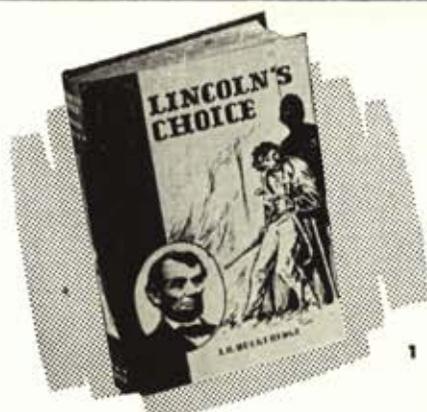


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# ***BIGGEST HUNTING***



Huge receiver of Al Weber's rifle built to handle powerful .50 caliber cartridge is drilled from high strength steel. Big fifty (left) which is twice size of .30-06 (right) may be loaded with Marvel-made 650 grain soft points for hunting.

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SHOOTING .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN CARTRIDGES  
IS A FOR-MEN-ONLY MUSKET THAT WILL HIT  
ANY TARGET THAT SHOOTER CAN SEE AND  
KILL BIG GAME AT UPWARDS OF A MILE**

# RIFLE EVER MADE

By ELMER KEITH

**T**HE WORLD'S most powerful rifle has been cooked up by Al Weber of Lodi, California. I shot this monster gun and it will really give gun fans something to think about.

So powerful is this rifle that to shoot it will soon separate the men from the boys. A walloping 12,000 foot pounds of muzzle energy blasts out of Weber's big rifle at each shot. It is the biggest of all "big fifties," using the .50 caliber machine gun cartridge.

"On jack rabbits and coyotes," says Weber, "I have used a 525 grain soft nose bullet with the same powder charge as for the heavier standard 705 grain bullet. This gives way over 3,000 feet per second. About all that is left is the tail and toenails. This load simply disintegrates the animal." Standard GI ball ammunition has been used in .50-caliber rifles on elk and moose at ranges approaching a mile with instant kills.

Weber showed me the first of four of these rifles he built to handle the .50 caliber machine gun cartridge. He knew I had long advocated heavy bullets for big game, and this was his answer—a monster rifle built in the shape of a four-shot magnum bolt action.

Al Weber and Jim Radford of Lodi dragged the biggest rifle I had ever seen into the house and asked me to test it. They had proof fired and bore sighted the brute but not taken time even to blue it.

We picked up Judge Don Martin and drove out of town for a test. Aiming the rifle at a small rock at 350 yards with just four rounds, we shot from a cramped position with forearm rest over the top of a car. Recoil of the big



Getting ready to test big rifle built by gunsmith Al Weber (right), Elmer Keith used auto top as rest for shooting 25 pound sporter at target 350 yards away.



Aiming through Weaver 4X scope in Buehler top mounts, Keith held his head carefully to avoid getting hit by eye-piece when heavy rifle fired (below.)





Original idea for .50 rifle came from Browning machine gun's accuracy when fired as a single shot weapon using scope sights. Author Keith's interest in big cartridge as sniping round was aroused by wartime experience with such guns.

piece which Weber figures at 113 foot-pounds (a Springfield kicks about 27 ft/lb) was a great push, long and sustained, but not the dirty teeth-rattling jar of the lightweight .505 Gibbs or a 12 pound double .600 nitro express.

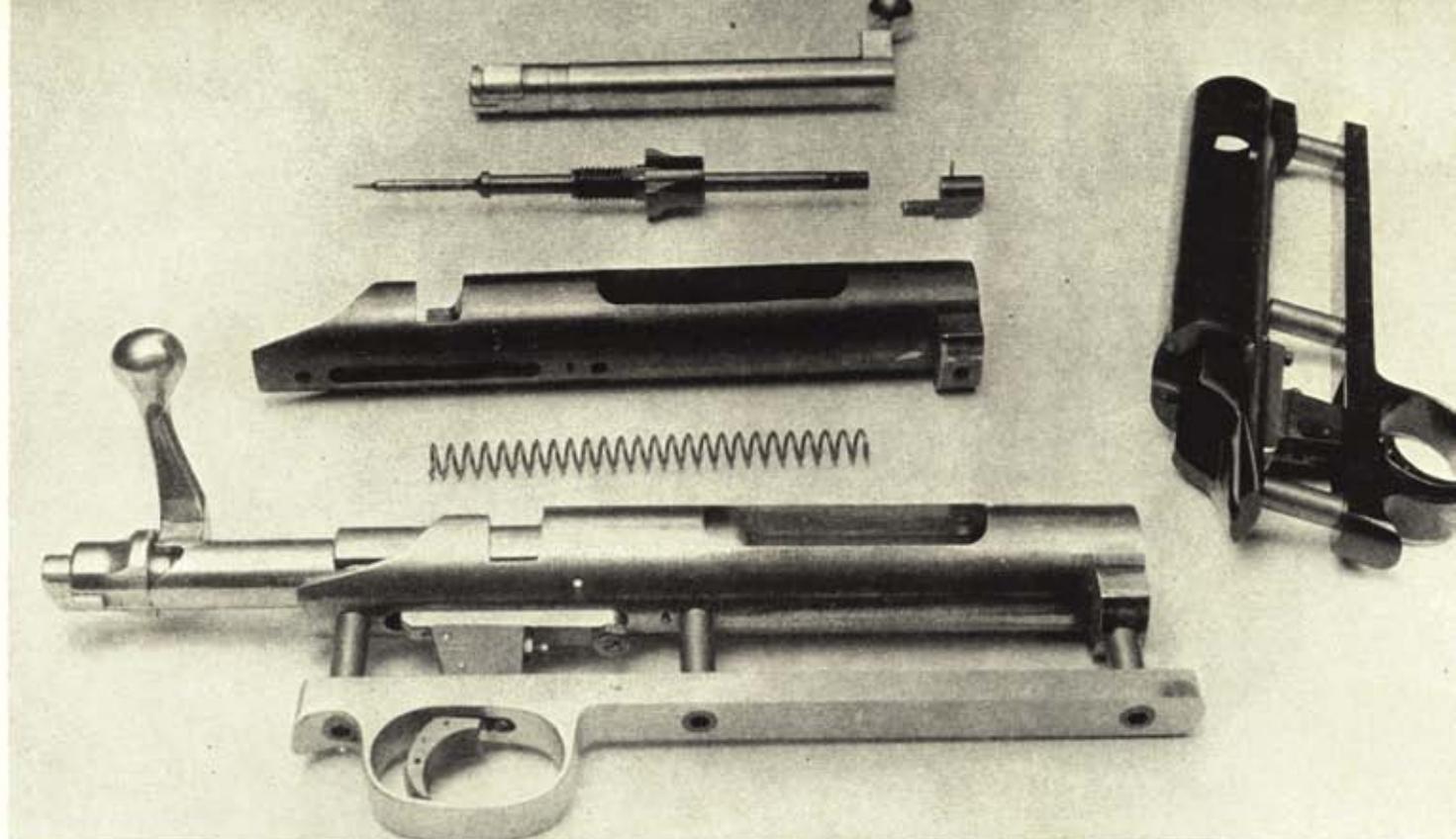
The rifle weighed an even 25 pounds. Though I tried to hang on to that huge forend, at each shot it would get away from me and raise up in the air about 60° and had to be caught again as it came down out of recoil. Safety and bolt handle were made for scope use, but eye relief was none too great for the push of this big rifle. I had to hold my head as far to the rear as possible and still see the target, to avoid that ocular lens in recoil.

The rifle held very steadily from a hip rest off-hand or standing position and its great weight made it swing very slowly. But I did not shoot it in that position as I was afraid of the ocular lens coming back in my eye. In shooting it with a forearm rest (across the car top), I got as far back from the scope as possible and even then the great push of recoil bumped my nose and eyebrow slightly with the scope. I believe if Weber will cut down the size of the

forearm and fit a finger groove, something to hang on to instead of a huge saw log of a forend, one could better control the piece.

Al Weber also shot in off-hand. He is a long, lanky powerful man, with big hands and very long fingers, and could hang on to that huge forend far better than I. The recoil prone should be terrific, possibly dangerous. We would be afraid to fire it prone as it is such a heavy, sustained push, it might damage a shoulder or the scope come back and hit the head of the shooter. But from the standing rest position, after shooting over 20 rounds, my shoulder showed no trace of discoloration then or later, and no soreness. Aside from keeping the head far back enough to avoid the scope in recoil, the big rifle is pleasant to shoot.

A scope of greater eye-relief than ordinary is indicated for such a rifle. However, the Weaver K-V and the Buehler top mount seemed to take the recoil in stride with no change in impact and no trouble whatever. Possibly one of those little German scopes made to fit on the Mauser by the rear sight, with an eye-relief of some 16 inches, might hold



Basic Weber rifle action is special design created by California gunsmith for building up highly-accurate, large-caliber sporters and bench rest guns. Stiff receiver and simple bolt design affords maximum strength with precise accuracy.

together on a big .50 rifle. At least it wouldn't come back and hit the shooter at each shot.

I shot from a strained position across the car body, but never missed a shot after the rifle was sighted in. It seemed that if the cross hairs bore on any part of a small rock out to 500 yards, I hit that rock. This great cartridge was never designed as a round for a shoulder weapon, yet its accuracy is almost beyond belief at long range. At 1000 yards it will lick any .30 caliber rifle badly and has but a fraction of the wind drift. Though a hard wind was blowing that actually moved the rifle at times, it seemed to have no effect on that big bullet at all to 500 yards. As Weber says, "It's very good for 1000 to 2000 yards if you care to shoot that far. Wind doesn't bother it much. Those heavy bullets seem to know where you want them on the target."

The ammunition we fired was Remington stuff loaded with a 702 grain armor-piercing ball of a beautiful boat-tail design, and 242 grains of smokeless powder. Velocity was probably 2700 to 2800 feet *(Continued on page 45)*



Three-shot repeating action built by Weber for .50 load is 12' long, and fitted with Mauser type box magazine.



Availability of .50 caliber anti-tank rifles from war surplus sales has created interest in long range shooting.

# WHAT CALIBER FOR ELK?



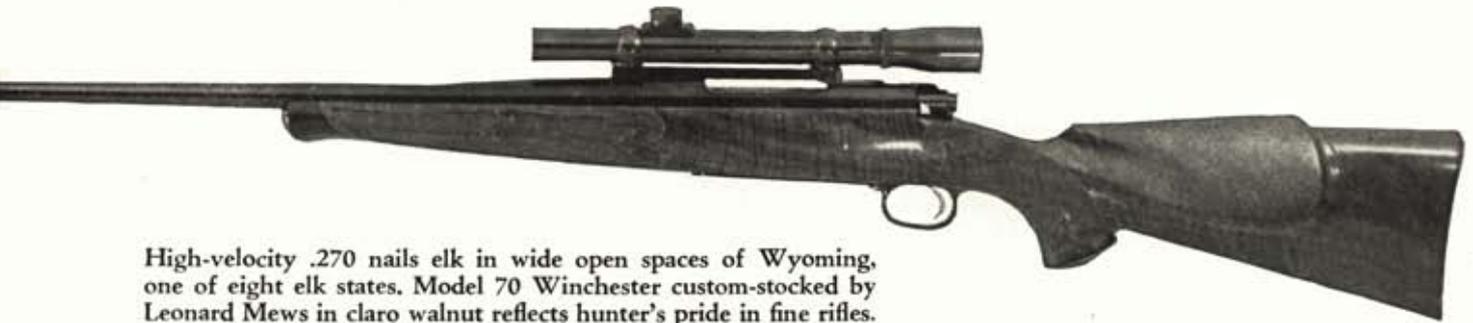
Big cousin of deer is majestic elk, prize game animal hunted with long range rifles in Rocky Mountain country near Jackson, Wyoming.



Mounted on his quarter horse and ready for elk, author Les Bowman, well-known Wyoming rancher and guide, carries Model 88 Winchester.

## FLAT-SHOOTING, HIGH-SPEED, SCOPE-SIGHTED RIFLES ARE CHOICE OF WESTERN HUNTERS OUT AFTER RUGGED KING OF U. S. GAME ANIMALS

By LESLIE H. BOWMAN



High-velocity .270 nails elk in wide open spaces of Wyoming, one of eight elk states. Model 70 Winchester custom-stocked by Leonard Mews in claro walnut reflects hunter's pride in fine rifles.

**T**HE KING of game animals in the whole North American continent is without a doubt the rugged, wary, durable elk. There is no game animal that is better sport to hunt and there are few confirmed hunters of any type game who have never dreamed of going on an elk hunt.

The elk or wapiti, as it is sometimes called, is truly a regal animal. They weigh from 550 to 1100 pounds, with a spread of antlers that sometimes reaches 55 inches and a length of beam that stretches as far as 50 inches. Its huge palmate, projecting antlers, long legs, long fleshy muzzle and short neck give the elk an ungainly appearance that definitely belies the considerable speed at which it can gallop.

Elk have an amazing inherent wariness that is aided by wonderful eyesight, hearing and sense of smell. They are as durable as the Rocky Mountain boulders that now form their natural habitat and can absorb tremendous shock and still keep going. In order to hunt them, one has to be well-informed and well-equipped.

Having been gunned heavily for many years, these once plains animals have gradually been forced back to the highest and most rugged sections of the Rockies. While they once ranged nearly to the Atlantic coast, they are now found in only eight of the Western states and in British Columbia. Wyoming has the largest concentration of elk of any of the states and the yearly kill there is around 10,000. Colorado and Montana have a large population and Idaho, too, has long been considered fine elk country. Other states with an open elk season of some sort are Oregon, Washington, New Mexico and Arizona.

In general, in these Western states, the natural habitat of elk during regular hunting seasons is the high ridge and timber country. This factor makes long range shooting the rule rather than the exception. Necessarily, the experienced hunter will be apt to choose a rifle that can be used for either long or short range shots and in most cases a scope-sighted rifle is indicated.

There are as many opinions on what constitutes the best elk rifle as there are different rifles. Conditions and hunting terrain have a great deal to do with what caliber, bullet weight and type of sight can be used to best advantage. Also the experience and ability of the hunter is a large factor in this respect. But in the final analysis, nothing will take the place of (1) proper placement of the bullet and (2) the proper functioning of the bullet.

At this point I could start listing rifles suitable for elk hunting and it would read like a page from a gun catalog. Many of the old and obsolete rifles are still good guns for elk, such as the .280 Ross and the .30 Newton. However, for purposes of comparison, I will stay with modern factory and custom-made calibers and types.

In general, a good medium to large caliber rifle that will carry fairly flat to 300 or more yards is preferable to the big bore, slow speed, high trajectory guns. And scope sights from 2½x to 6x are the preferred sight equipment.

Thousands of elk have been killed with guns in the .25-35 and the .30-30 class or even with the old muzzle loaders and later the .30-40's. But that was before the elk become as gun-shy and wary as they are today. When Teddy Roosevelt hunted in Wyoming with Buffalo Bill, his beloved elk and bear gun was the old .405 Winchester which was later replaced by the .348.

I have a nearly-new .348 in my gun cabinet and although I take out a great many elk hunters a year, this newer gun is seldom if ever used. In fact, most of the slow, heavy bore guns are used only by those hunters who just want to see if it can kill or who want to be a bit different.

The ability to fire and make lethal, a 300-yard or even at times a 400-yard shot often means the difference between getting a real trophy head or settling for just any kind of meat, or maybe nothing at all. I do not mean by this that all elk are shot at long ranges. Some shots are made as close as 75 feet, but this is very much the exception. One year we kept count of the distances at which our hunters



Looking for elk on foot, hunters carry Mannlicher-Schonauer (left) and Model 99 Savage .300. Both guns are light and easy to tote when scrambling around rugged mountain country that has become elk's natural habitat out in Rockies.

Les Bowman has wide selection of elk rifles at his ranch, often uses an 88 Winchester on pack trips into mountains.



had killed their elk. It averaged out to 185 yards. However, if we use the ten largest elk taken by our hunters, all but one were over 200 yards and five were over 300 yards, with one huge one at about 425 yards.

Getting down to the selection of an elk rifle, I usually advise any modern rifle of suitable caliber that the hunter can shoot well and accurately and one that does not make him flinch. In the lower brackets of velocity and energy, we place the .300 Savage and the 7mm Mauser. The .257 Roberts has probably killed a lot of elk when used by good shots but in my opinion it is definitely not an elk rifle. Some guns I have found sufficient for elk, in the .257 class (and they are marginal) are the .25-06, the .257 Weatherby Magnum, the .250 Ackley Magnum. And these are only good when using extra tough bullets, such as the Remington Core-Lokt or Hornady roundnose in 117 grain weights.

The .308 Winchester is gaining favor each year and I find the man who condemns one is a man who has never used one. The .270 and the .30-06 are of course the most frequently used and rate a high percentage of kills, especially the one shot kills.

The 7mm Magnums such as the .275 H. & H., the Mashburns, Ackleys, Weatherbys and the 7 x 61 Sharpe and Hart are great favorites. The .300 Weatherby Magnum and the .300 H & H Magnum are tops in long range elk guns for the fellow who can shoot them well. The .375 and such guns are in the minority because such size is unnecessary and the recoil is so high very few people can shoot them accurately. For those who like them and have confidence in them they are fine.

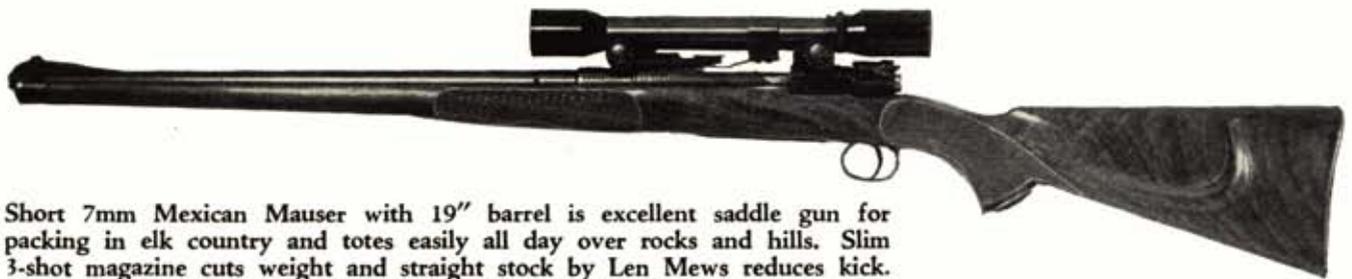
But with all this caliber talk notwithstanding the No. 1 problem in successful kills is to place the bullet in the right



Wyoming's Rocky Mountains provide beautiful backdrop for elk hunters resting in a 10,000-foot basin.



Hunting guide prepares to clean a huge elk. Animals provide excellent eating meat and proud trophies.



Short 7mm Mexican Mauser with 19" barrel is excellent saddle gun for packing in elk country and totes easily all day over rocks and hills. Slim 3-shot magazine cuts weight and straight stock by Len Mews reduces kick.

spot. It has been my experience with the hundreds of hunters I have seen and handled in the past years, that it is far better to hit elk accurately with a smaller caliber gun than to miss them with a big one. I am not against the larger caliber gun if the hunter can shoot it accurately and has confidence in it. But I have seen more "just wounded" animals and completely missed shots by shooters who are "overgunned" than by those who use a lower recoil, easier to shoot gun.

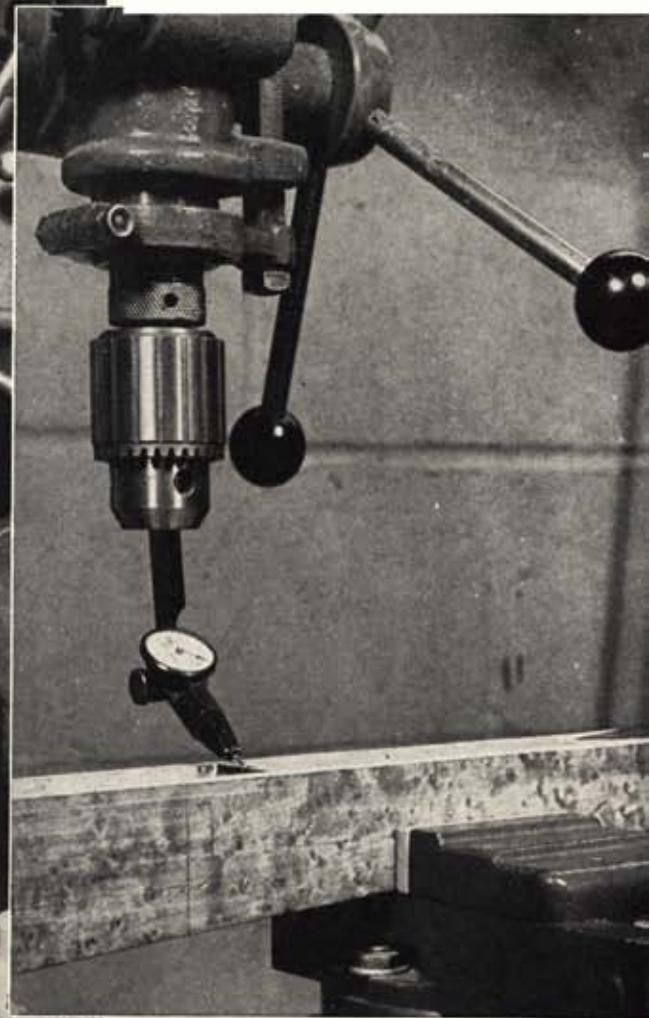
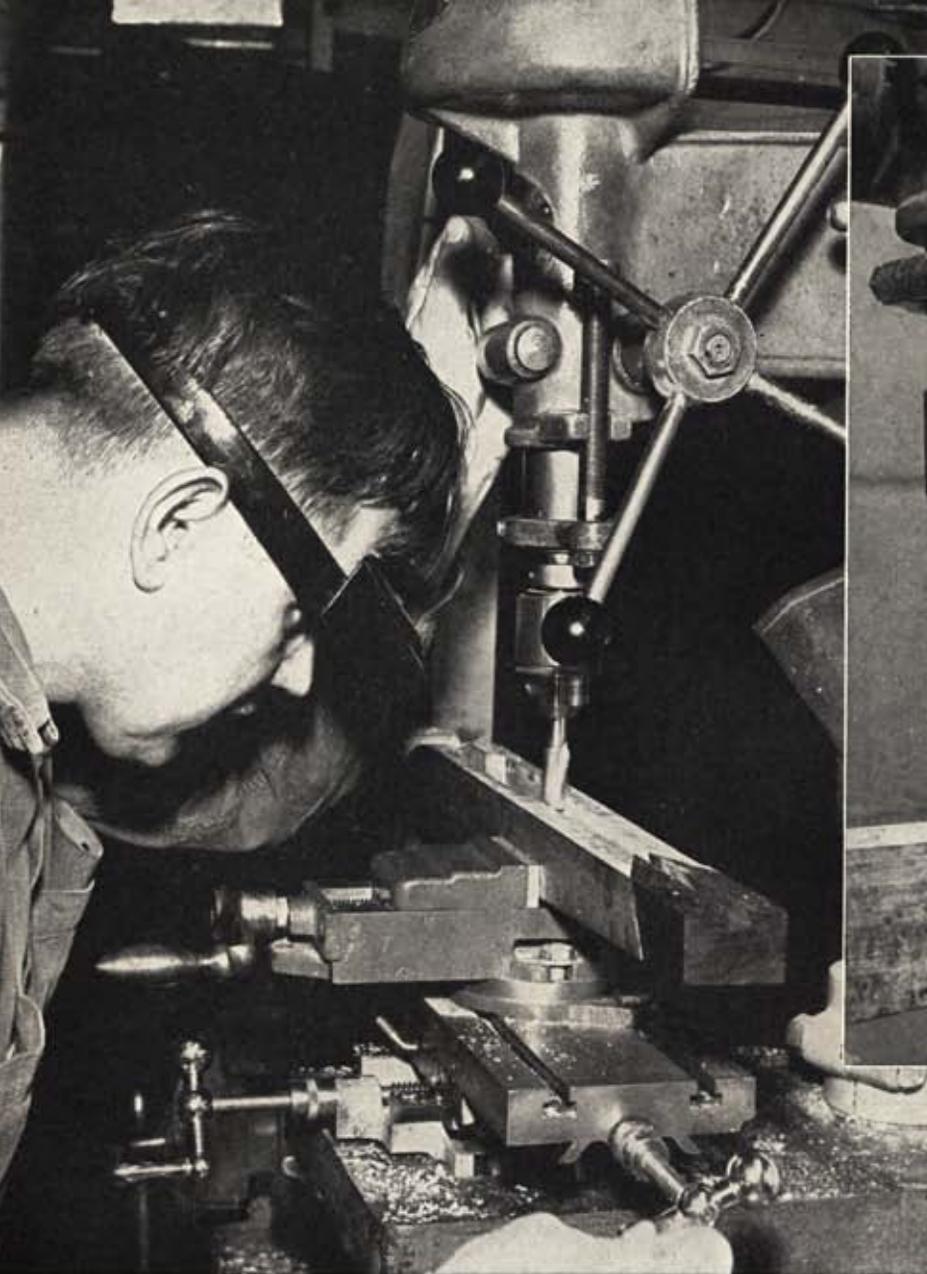
There are very few once-a-year hunters who can handle a high recoil gun without flinching. It takes lots of practice not to flinch and most fellows who shoot high recoil guns and swear by them, shoot fairly often. Recoil or kick can be relieved a lot by a properly fitted stock and many times the extra money spent by having a good stockmaker fit a gun to the user, is money well spent. A well-fitting stock gives more pleasure and better shot placement to a hunter.

As the shooting range for elk varies, the flatter the gun shoots the less the error. The past few years we have had an increasing number of hunters come to Wyoming with lightweight, well-fitted rifles of various makes and calibers. Experience has shown that the average man can use such a gun faster and more accurately than he can a heavy, long-barreled one. Quite often the time element counts a lot in elk hunting. To get off a horse, get the gun out of the scabbard, put a shell in the chamber and squeeze off an aimed, well-placed shot is time consuming. Very seldom does a hunter have more than a few seconds to do all these things and it is here the lighter, quick handling gun really becomes an asset.

I believe I have hunted elk in every state that has an open season, and over a great many (Continued on page 49)

Hunter Jack O'Connor examines elk he bagged from over 325 yards with well-placed shot from Beisen-built .270.





Working to thousandths of an inch, Chet Kishel finds engineer's machine tools best for inletting blanks to exact dimensions. Stockmaker who works to zero tolerances does not touch blank with hand tools after first step of milling flats on stock top and side.

# HOW TO MAKE A PERFECT RIFLE STOCK

OHIO MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROFESSOR EMPLOYS PRECISION METHODS OF  
MACHINE TOOL MAKER SHAPING GUN STOCKS WITH ACCURACY OF STEEL DIE



In his basement shop using metal working tools, engineer Kishel spends leisure hours cutting out fine gun stocks for which he has gained local fame. Dense curly maple that is despair of conventional stockers is machinist's favorite wood.

By CHESTER KISHEL

**I**N AMERICA, it is generally conceded, we make the world's strongest, longest-wearing rifles. But if Americans take metal-working honors, gun nuts tend to reserve top stocking plaudits for the British. English craftsmen fit actions into lumber "to the thickness of smoke," supposedly. English design, checking, and finishing are said to be unsurpassed.

Without disparaging English craftsmanship, these tributes are nonsense. English stocks are no better than American stocks; they're just different. British workmen are no more skilled than Al Beisen, Lenard Brownell, or Tom Shelhamer, to name a few top-notch American stockers. The Englishman's "precision" inletting, together

with his "fine London oil finishes," is mostly conversation. Of course, on neither side of the Atlantic are stock makers as painstaking as they might be. No professional does perfect work. If he did, he could not make a living.

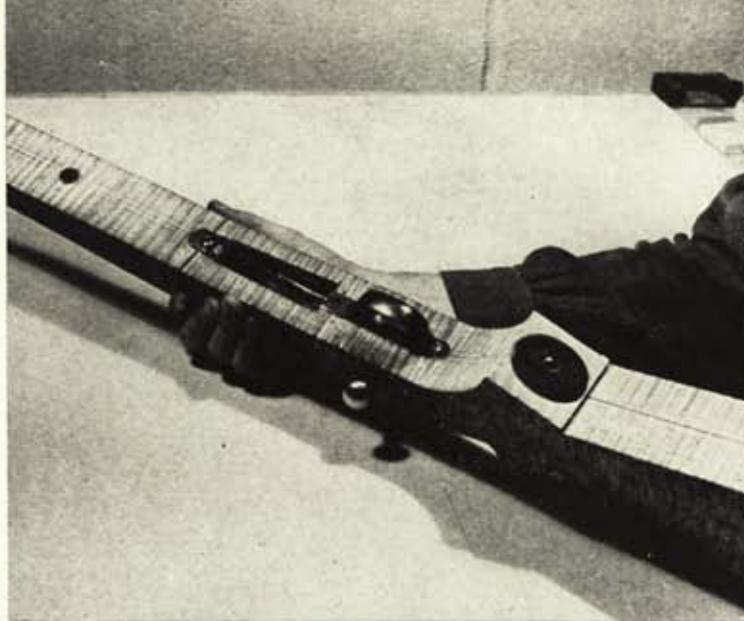
Even so, gun nuts pay up to \$400 for custom stocks. Why? Aside from accuracy, esthetics is the only excuse. But it is in esthetics that fine stocks for hunting and varmint rifles really stand out. There are many guns with ordinary stocks in the hands of hunters, it is true. But one of the first things which distinguishes the casual hunter as he turns into a real enthusiast, is his wish to dress up his rifle with a good stock. You can sell custom work to gun nuts, and to a real marksman such as the



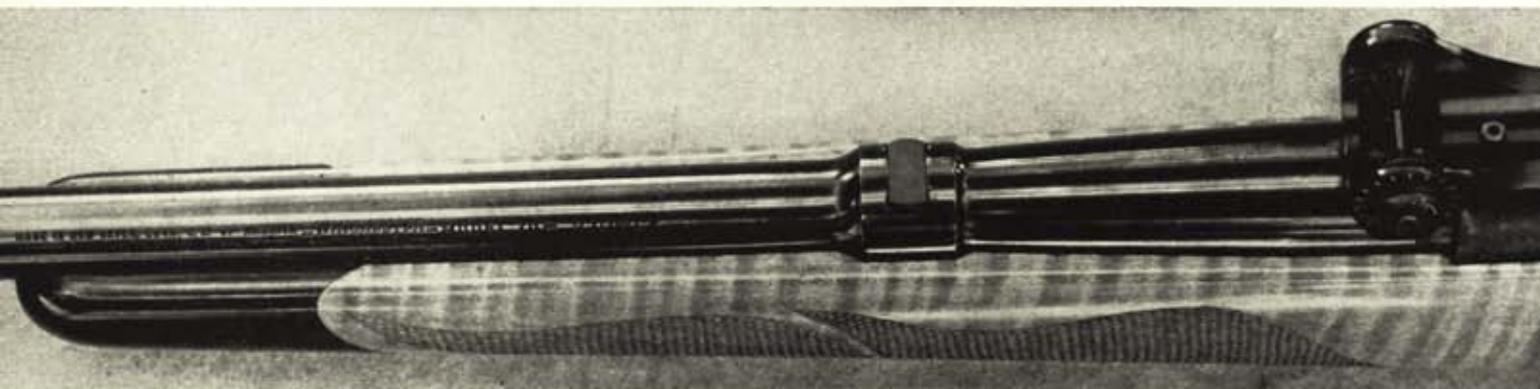
Stock for left-eyed shooter is compared by Kishel with maple type.



Cutting away tiny shoulders and high spots in final inletting, Kishel uses Do-All grinder with high speed burr.



All inletting is completed before final shaping begins. Hardware such as grip cap and swivels guides stock shape.



Impression that Kishel planted maple seed and let tree grow up around Model 70 barreled action is gained on first inspecting complete contact along barrel groove between wood and metal. This keeps stock moisture proof.



Borderless checkering and careful shaping on sporters testify to Kishel's skill in final finishing of stocks.

man who keeps his "big game eye" in tune by varmint shooting in the off season. He is the kind of hunter who enjoys drilling a one-inch group at 100 yards with a sporter, because he knows it will give him an edge in accuracy when hunting.

Factory stocks can be dolled up—rebedded, checkered, and refinished—to look fine. But the plain wood in such stocks, even though it is strong and serviceable, won't satisfy a real rifleman. They won't "fit" his bones, muscles, and techniques. They won't suit his passion for accuracy.

Factory inletting is the villain. Factory stocks must sell for \$35, and factory milling tolerances must fit the budget. They remove wood until the barrel and action literally swim in the stock. I've seen factory barrel inletting fill up with melted snow, freeze overnight, and change the point of impact by feet in the morning. The least they could do is provide a drain!

Inletting doesn't show, but it makes a difference. A rifle is only as good as its least accurate component, sort of the "weak link" in the chain. For precise marksmanship, every part including ammunition, barrel, chamber, trigger, action, and sights must be darned near perfect. No less important is a properly inletted stock. Metal and wood should fit so tightly that the rifle can be shot with the screws out.

There's much humbug in custom stocking, what with "secret" finishing formula and the like. Aside from having



Kishel-stocked .257 shot minute-of-angle from rest by Gregg Langermeier. Al Johnson fires Kishel-Krag offhand.

the gun feel right in the shooter's hands, just two considerations are vital. These are positioning the shooter's eye properly, and holding the barrel and action rigidly in the wood. The rest is strictly gingerbread, except in the esthetic sense.

How do custom stockers work? Ten will give you ten different formulas. My own work is fairly typical, except that it's far more accurate than most. This is for two reasons. First, I'm an engineer and ex-tool maker. Second, I'm a hobbyist who worries little about time and cost. Money's the least of my problems when I'm working on a stock. I do it for relaxation from the strain of teaching and consulting work. I can afford to take exceptional pains.

A stocker's first consideration is wood. It's obvious that you should buy the best blanks available. A good blank costs from \$35 to \$100, compared with \$200 to \$400 for the finished job. There's no point in stressing economy where the wood is concerned.

My choice for rifle stocks is American maple. It's a fine, dense wood, hard and close grained. It's stable and works beautifully. It comes in an endless variety of grains—burly, curled, birdseye. Some shooters wouldn't be caught dead with a maple stock, but maple's popularity is growing.

Walnut is probably the No. 1 gunstock wood. But I buy native walnut, not the fancy (Continued on page 55)



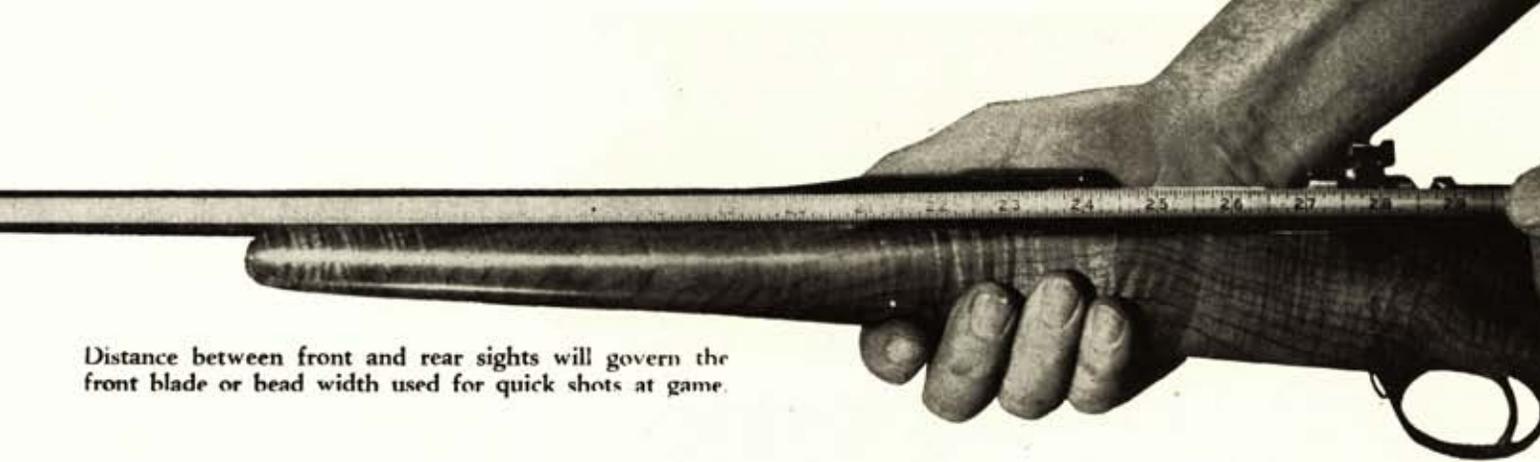
Maple is favorite stock wood used by Kishel on Enfield, pump Remington and Model 70 in his collection.



## WHAT'S

A hit or miss in snap shooting under forest light conditions depends on good sights. Marlin .35 mounting a Williams "Foolproof" sight (below) with large Twilight Aperture improves hunter's sighting in poor light.





Distance between front and rear sights will govern the front blade or bead width used for quick shots at game.

# WRONG WITH HUNTING SIGHTS

CHOOSING RIGHT COMBINATION OF FRONT SIGHT WIDTH AND REAR APERTURE WILL INCREASE HUNTER'S CHANCES OF GETTING FALL DEER

By FRANCIS E. SELL

**I**F YOU want to touch off a blaze under a hunter's tail, wait around an autumn deer camp some evening until a shooter gets to yarning about a big buck he missed, and then innocently ask, "Wouldn't you have connected if you had been using *proper* iron hunting sights?"

He will hit the roof and shout: "That big five pointer was going through the hardwoods like a bat out of hell—just too fast for any hunter to connect, regardless of sights."

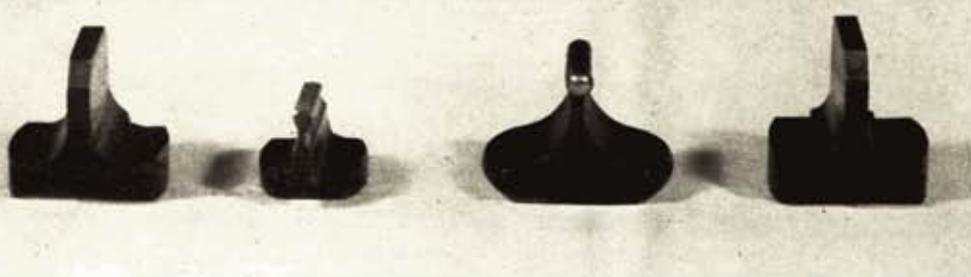
But you have a case, a good case. For most brush busting, kick-them-out-and-shoot big game hunting, *proper* iron sights *will* get you on your target with time to spare. Ten chances to one, though, the hunter who missed the big five pointer was using iron sights which were too much influenced by the belly-whopping target shooters. As a matter of plain big game fact, the average hunter doesn't know what good iron hunting sights are. He takes what looks nice on his rifle, and that's that.

There are plenty of seeming contradictions in iron hunting sights. Two deer rifles may carry identical iron front sights and one may be just the ticket for short range big game shooting in heavy cover, while the other leaves much to be desired. Just keep your hands off the camp axe a moment and I will prove that to your own satisfaction, regardless of your hunting experience.

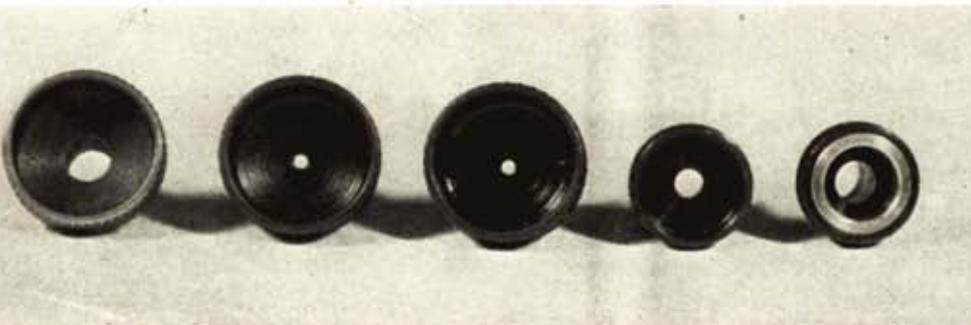
Go through a rack of hunting rifles at any autumn deer camp, and look at the variety of front sights you find. There will be beads ranging in size from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " on down to  $\frac{1}{16}$ "—round beads—square beads—Sheared beads, and they are all colors of the rainbow—red—white—silver—gold—black. They are placed on the different rifles without any great amount of thought as to their suitability. Yet, each rifle should have a front sight carefully fitted to that individual rifle alone.



Rounded knobs on Redfield micro sight fitted to sleek HVA Mauser hunting rifle are fine for woods use.



Good front sights are blades that differ in width for various barrel lengths. Small bead is flatted for skylight, is more visible than the big round bead.



Typical disks from rear sights have several sizes of peeps. Apertures at far right and left are good, wide enough for use in dim hunting light.



Ackley .300 short magnum rifle checked out with big .093" aperture and flatted bead sight is "woods ready" when shots at 100 yards group close on target.

The size of the bead should be governed by the length of the barrel. A rifle with a 20" barrel should not have the same size bead as one with a 24" or 26" barrel. That is why two almost identical rifles having the same type sights are not equally effective in game shooting. The 24" or 26" barrel should have a slightly larger front bead than a rifle with a 20" barrel. Proper sizes for the different length barrels are easily arrived at by always keeping in mind the actual requirements made on a front sight when game shooting.

A front sight must not be so large it obscures any great amount of the target area. That will rule out such beads as the semi-jack, 1/8" bead. At 50 yards range such a large bead covers too much of the aiming point. It militates against ideal aiming where the center of interest and the center of impact coincide.

Any sight which distracts a hunter's attention from the game to the sight itself is a decided handicap. In short, proper iron hunting sights are those which give both accuracy and speed of aim, but are still subordinate to the target.

A proper sized bead is conspicuous enough to be caught quickly by the eye as the rifle is snapped to the shoulder, and that is all. It should not subtend more than six inches at a 100 yards—three inches at 50. When this is considered in reference to rifle barrel length, it becomes obvious that a careful fitting to the individual rifle is in order. For a rifle sporting a 20" barrel, designed for woods shooting, a bead no larger than 1/16" is called for. For a rifle with a 24" barrel, nothing larger than 3/32" diameter bead should be used. Fitted with these sizes before being worked into proper shape, the finished bead is very efficient.

Gold color will show up against any background, and is actually superior to either white, ivory, or red plastic.

After selecting a good gold bead of the proper size for your big game rifle, take a small, fine file and shape the bead to take full advantage of the light. First step in this is to *flatten* the bead on top, giving it a square cut line. This will always give you a more constant elevation in shooting, and will do away with those unaccountable high and low shots. Second, cut a *flat face* on the bead, if it is rounded, sloping this back about 30 degrees toward the top of the bead. These two operations will somewhat reduce (Continued on page 47)



First Springfield sporter was made in 1910 for famed author Stewart Edward White, is earliest modern bolt rifle.

# IS THE BOLT ACTION OBSOLETE?

**DESPITE HOOPLA FOR ITS ACCURACY AND STRENGTH,  
TURN BOLT RIFLE IS OUT-DATED AS HIGH BUTTON SHOES  
BECAUSE OF SLOWNESS AND AWKWARD ACTION**

BY COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

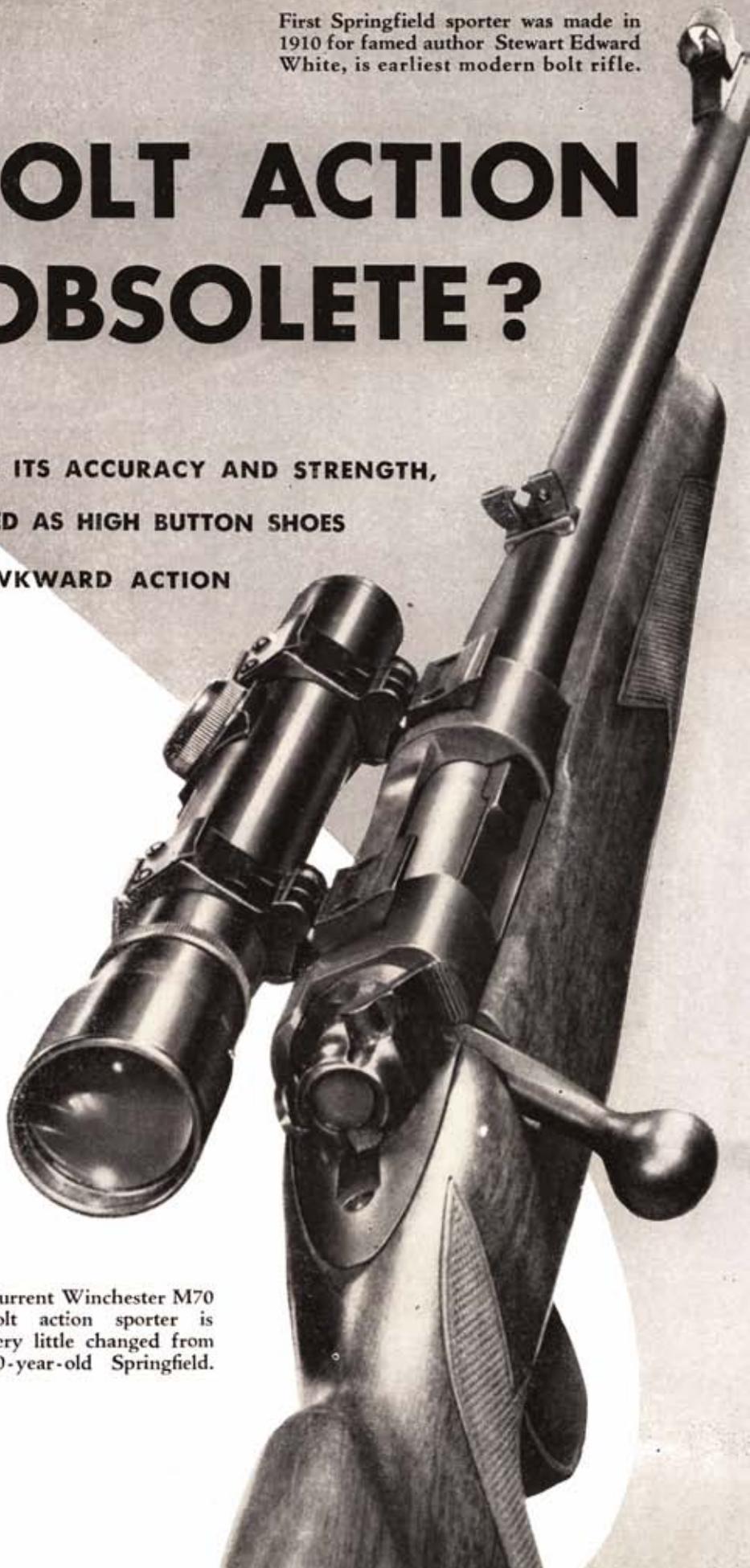
**T**HERE IS an awful lot of talk in this country about the bolt action rifle, a gun that was invented by a German almost a hundred years ago and not materially improved for a half-century. A lot of hunters swear by the Mauser-type bolt action; a lot of others swear at it.

I belong with the latter crowd.

A rifle that hasn't been any more than superficially bettered during a half-hundred years is outmoded. Of course, there will be those admirers who will arise to inform me that the bolt action is not a hoary old thing but quite to the contrary is just as modern now as at the turn of the century. Yep, just like Evelyn Nesbit Thaw.

How can any shooting iron, if indeed any mechanism, be otherwise than badly antiquated when it has been kicking around for 58 years with scarcely any face-lifting at all?

Would you be content to drive an 1898 horseless carriage? Or live with



Current Winchester M70 bolt action sporter is very little changed from 50-year-old Springfield.



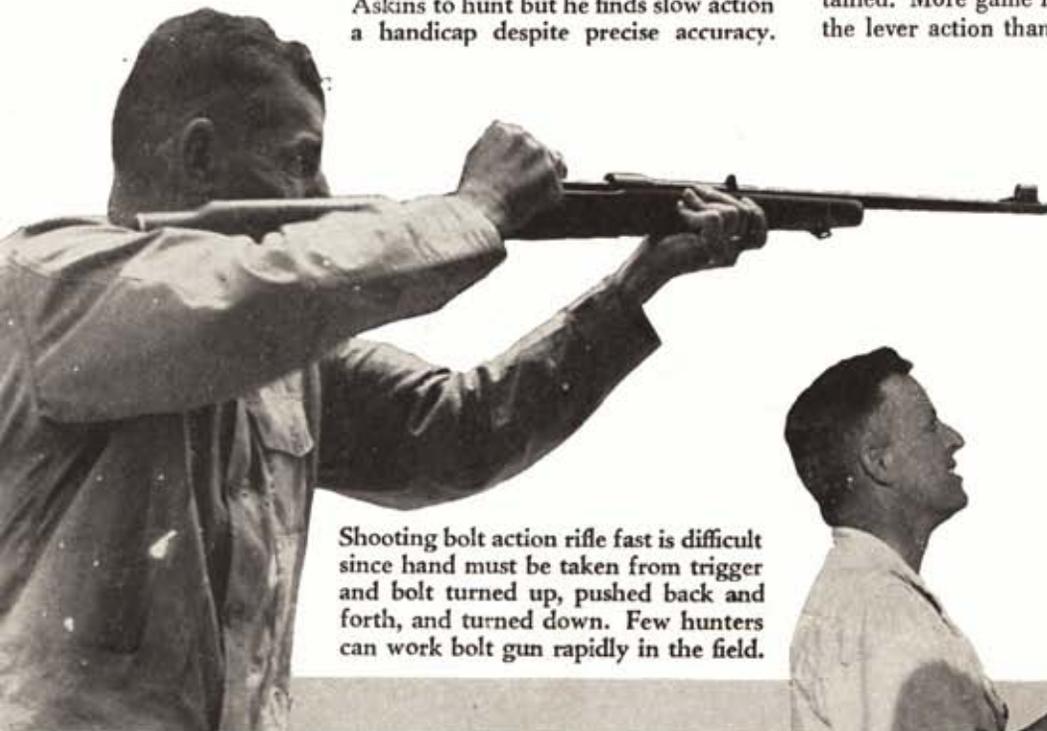
Bolt action has been used by author Askins to hunt but he finds slow action a handicap despite precise accuracy.

the kerosene lamp, high button shoes and mule-drawn street cars? Or buy rifle fodder charged with black powder and leaden ball? Of course, you wouldn't. But the bolt action rifle that you cling to, swear by, tout to the skies and recommend to the unwary is older than the good old days.

Peter Paul Mauser fathered the turning bolt in 1867. His clan added the last major improvements in 1898. Since then the Mauser-pattern bolt action has seen only minor modification. Among these is our Springfield, Model of 1903, which was such a faithful copy we were compelled to cough up a quarter million dollars in royalties. The Winchester Model 54, a gun that saw the light in 1920 and passed out of the picture in 1936, as well as its successor the Model 70 are both Mauser types. The Remington Model 721 bolt action appearing in 1947 is cut from the same cloth. There are other bolt-operated rifles but the lot are about as novel as mukluks in White Horse.

The average rifleman isn't an historian. He doesn't realize the antiquity of the arm. He buys it all shiny and new and presumes the design is just as fresh. And God knows the manufacturer isn't going to call attention to the fact that the "new" bolt action he is proffering was around when Grandma Moses was a subdeb. Of course, the facts are that in 1955, just like 1954, and for many years preceding that, the lowly Winchester .30-30 carbine, the Model of 1894, outsold all the bolt action rifles on the market. But the lever action is considered obsolete, so ancient no thinking sportsman could possibly be interested in it.

Despite the steady propaganda drizzle, the bolt action never faintly touches the Model '94 .30-30 when sales are tallied. More game has been killed in North America with the lever action than all other rifles put together. During



Shooting bolt action rifle fast is difficult since hand must be taken from trigger and bolt turned up, pushed back and forth, and turned down. Few hunters can work bolt gun rapidly in the field.



Pump rifles like M141 Remington used by trick shooter Milt Hicks on aerial targets have edge on bolt guns in speed.



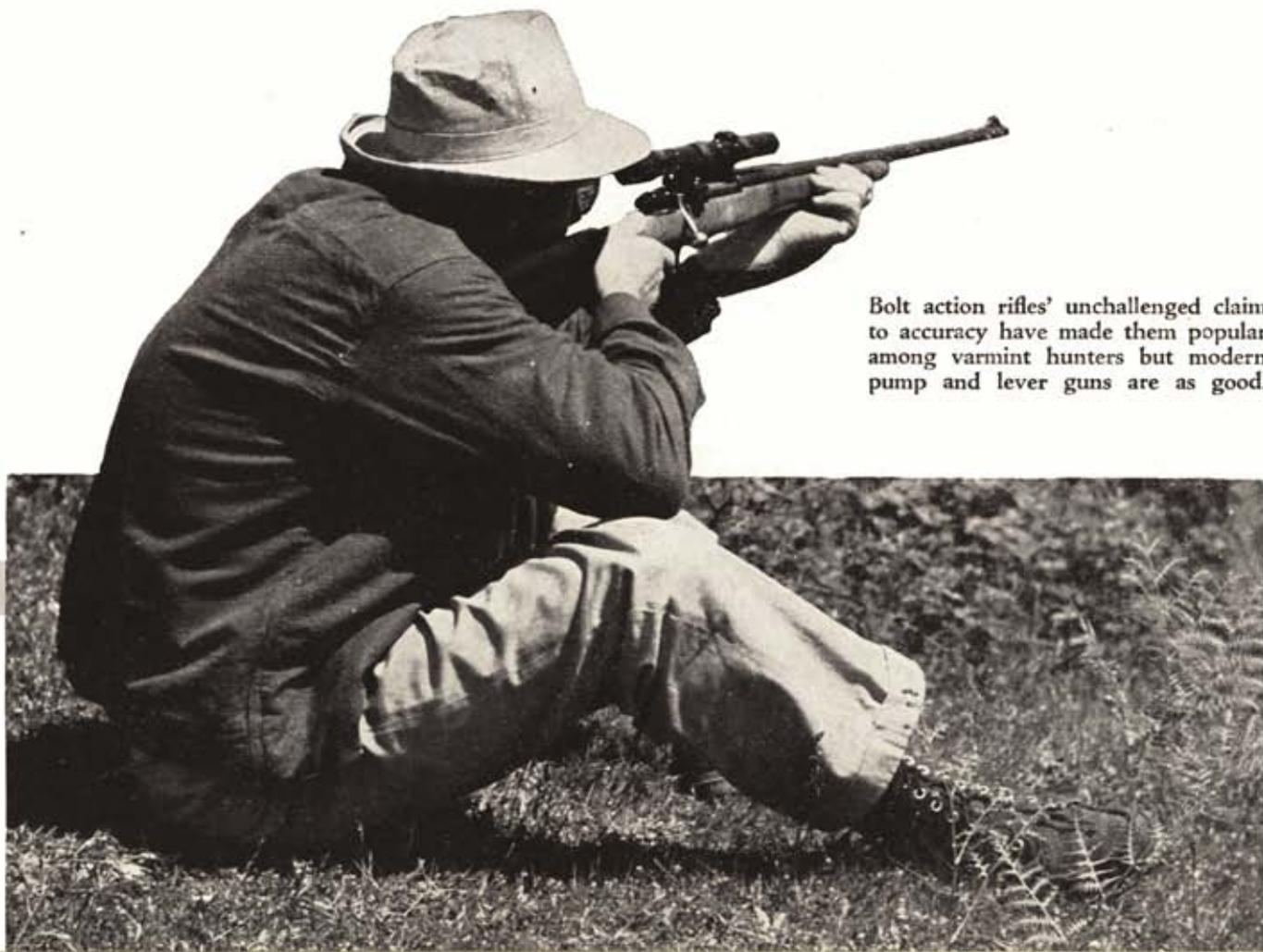
Mauser repeating rifle Model 1871/86 built at Amberg Arsenal during reign of King Ludwig of Bavaria in Victorian era is identical in principle to modern bolt action rifle. Turning-bolt rifles were first mass-produced in 1838.

the epoch of the buffalo when we wantonly slaughtered the stodgy beasts by the millions, the rifle used was a single shot. When then did the bolt action bow in from the wings?

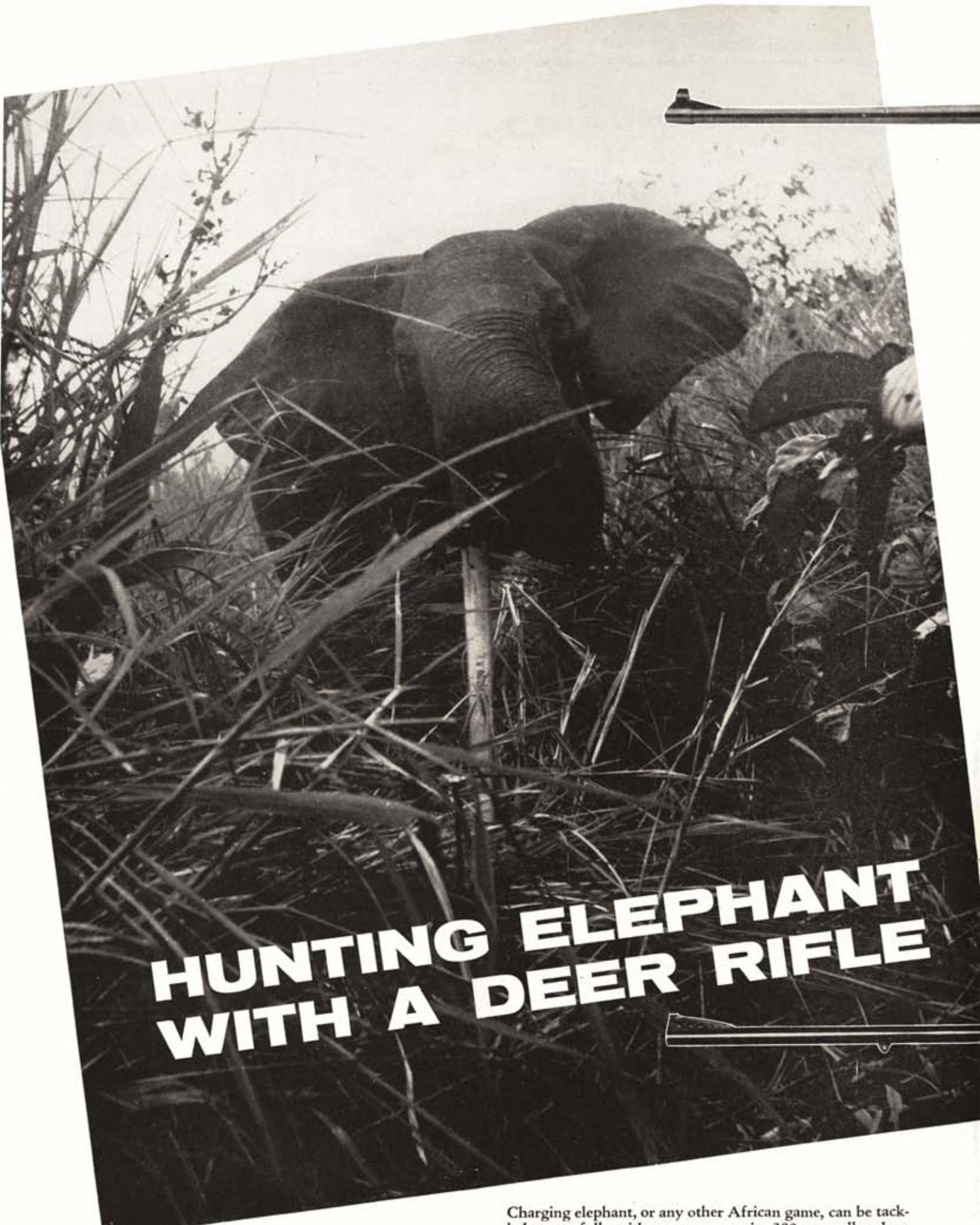
The gun appeared directly after World War I. The chief protagonists were Captains Townsend Whelen and Edward Crossman. Both had been through the shambles in France and had observed the then newly-foaled Mauser-Springfield. These hombres were honest-to-god technicians. They knew shooting irons. As a matter of fact, they lived with the powder burns so closely they got *(Continued on page 60)*

#### HOW AMMO SALES SHOW DECLINE OF BOLT ACTION POPULARITY

Cartridge	Sales Percentage	Cartridge	Sales Percentage
30-30 170 gr SP	15.4	32 Spl 170 gr SP	3.5
30-30 170 gr ST	17.0	35 Rem 200 gr SP	2.7
30-30 150 gr ST	9.2	218 Bee 46 gr OPE	2.7
30'06 180 gr ST	7.5	300 Sav 180 gr SP	2.5
32 Spl 170 gr ST	6.4	22 Hornet 45 gr SP	2.5
270 130 gr ST	6.0	270 150 gr SP	2.1
30'06 150 gr ST	4.8	25-35 117 gr SP	1.9
30'06 180 gr SP	3.9	30-40 180 gr ST	1.8
300 Sav 150 gr ST	3.7	32-20 100 gr SP	1.6
300 Sav 180 gr ST	3.7	25-20 86 gr SP	1.1

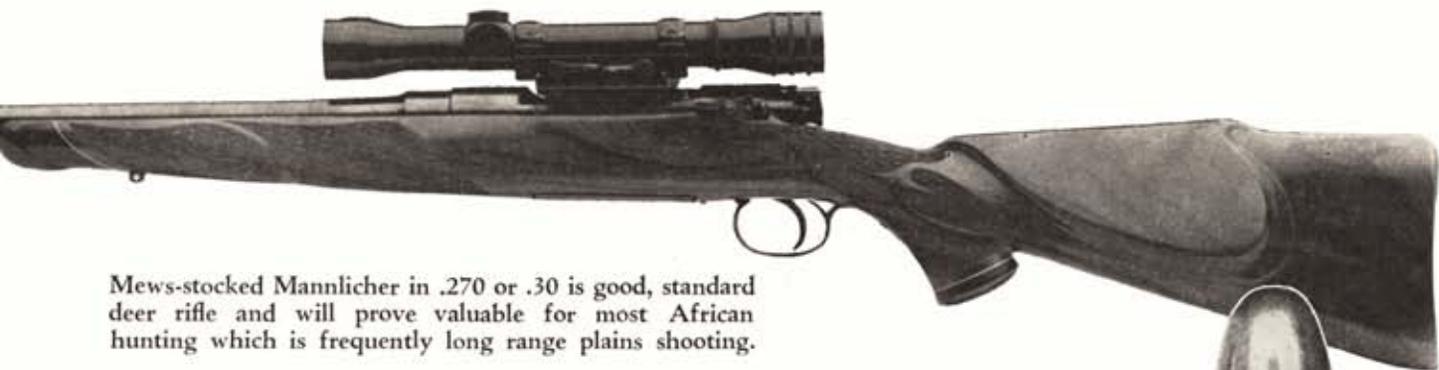


Bolt action rifles' unchallenged claim to accuracy have made them popular among varmint hunters but modern pump and lever guns are as good.



# HUNTING ELEPHANT WITH A DEER RIFLE

Charging elephant, or any other African game, can be tackled successfully with any magnums in .300 or smaller class.



Mews-stocked Mannlicher in .270 or .30 is good, standard deer rifle and will prove valuable for most African hunting which is frequently long range plains shooting.

## GOOD MARKSMAN WITH SMALL CALIBER, HIGH VELOCITY DEER RIFLE CAN SUCCESSFULLY TACKLE ANY AFRICAN GAME INCLUDING BIGGEST OF ALL

By F. WALLACE TABER

**I**N THIS ERA of bigness when everything seems to be judged by size, the big elephant rifle runs right in step with the times. When the sportsman gets enough moola stashed away to take off for three months in the African veldt and starts to think of rifles, the first notion that pops into his mind is, "I gotta get me a big rifle."

Elephant rifles traditionally are big guns—big in caliber, big in weight and size. The British doubles have long reigned as king of African rifles, but the plain fact is that you can successfully and safely hunt elephant with a common deer rifle.

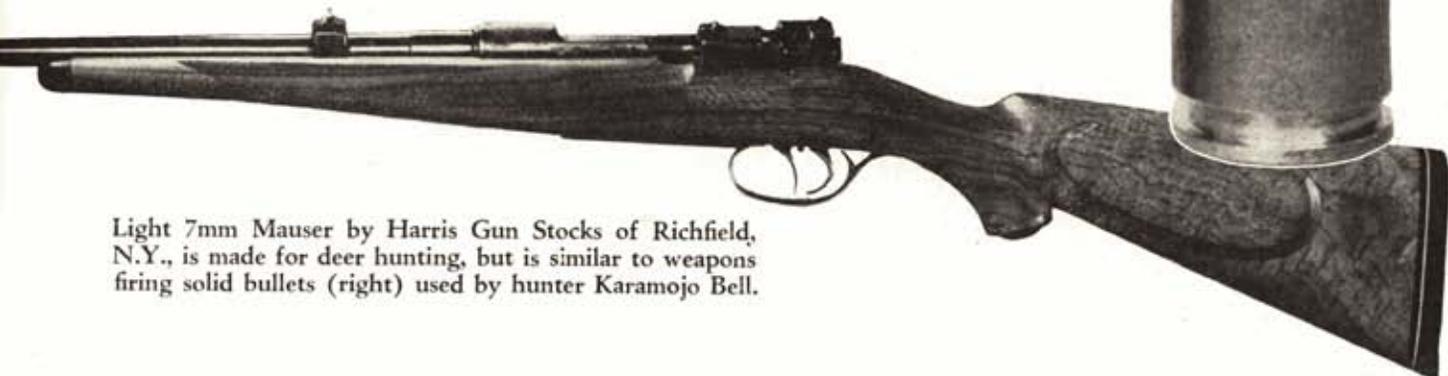
If any eyebrows were raised over that statement, kindly lower them. The fact is, that any ordinary American deer rifle is sufficient for 95 per cent of all the killing that is called for on safari in Africa. Even the remaining five per cent can be easily dispatched with an ordinary American deer rifle *if* the animal is hit correctly. And, only because the average hunter *cannot* hit correctly, is it necessary and advisable to shoot with anything larger.

For African game, I recommend the smaller calibers with higher velocities

because, unquestionably, flinch is the rifleman's worst bugaboo. Anyone who is troubled with it will not help the situation with a .450 double elephant gun. But flinch or not, a shooter can handle any of the so-called magnums in the .300 and smaller class and still have a gun with which he can tackle anything that roams the African continent.

However, this is not the story you get from the safari companies. Invariably the outfitter will write his prospective client: "It should be remembered when making your selection of rifles that African game possesses greater vitality than game found in other parts of the world."

These quotes were taken from the brochure of East Africa's largest outfitting company. Even so, I maintain the writer of that brochure has never gunned North American elk, moose, bear or even Pennsylvania whitetail deer. Pound-for-pound, North American game can carry away as much lead, if not more, than any game found on the African continent. And a single, well-placed shot from a .300 Weatherby magnum, for instance, can kill an eland, world's largest antelope, with the



Light 7mm Mauser by Harris Gun Stocks of Richfield, N.Y., is made for deer hunting, but is similar to weapons firing solid bullets (right) used by hunter Karamojo Bell.

Tough old wart hog was bagged by author Taber with single shot from his favorite Weatherby .257.

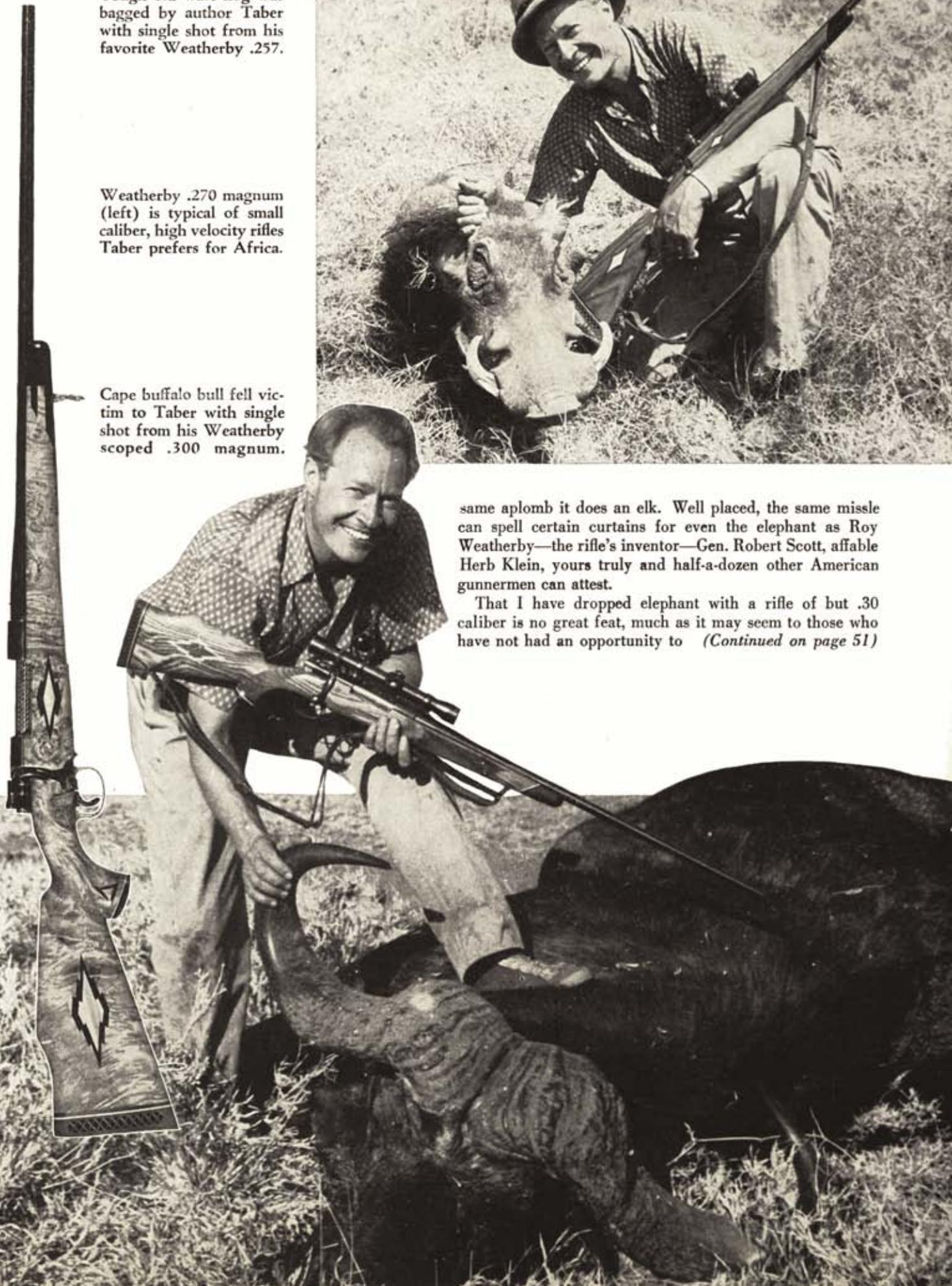
Weatherby .270 magnum (left) is typical of small caliber, high velocity rifles Taber prefers for Africa.

Cape buffalo bull fell victim to Taber with single shot from his Weatherby scoped .300 magnum.



same aplomb it does an elk. Well placed, the same missile can spell certain curtains for even the elephant as Roy Weatherby—the rifle's inventor—Gen. Robert Scott, affable Herb Klein, yours truly and half-a-dozen other American gunmen can attest.

That I have dropped elephant with a rifle of but .30 caliber is no great feat, much as it may seem to those who have not had an opportunity to *(Continued on page 51)*



# LOW LOADS FOR HIGH SCORES

ONCE-A-YEAR HUNTERS  
CAN KEEP SHOOTING EYE  
AND SAVE ON AMMO  
COSTS BY USING LIGHT  
GALLERY AMMUNITION

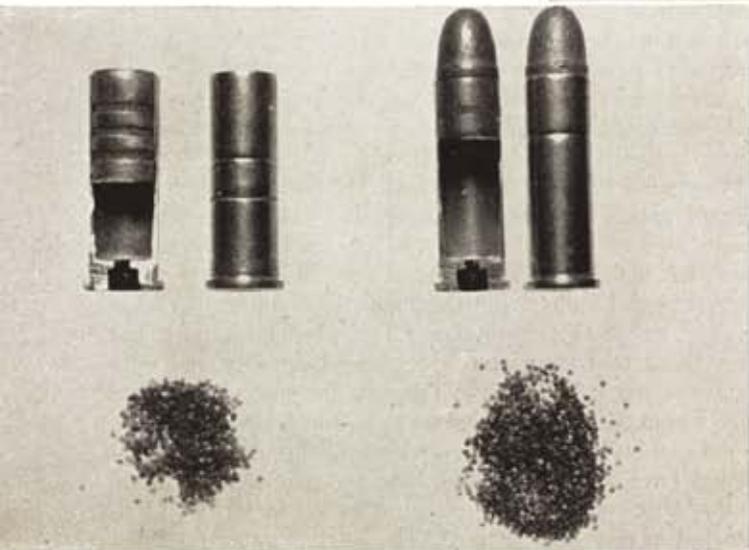


Eight-grain gallery load for .30-06 (left) saves money by using less powder than standard 50 grain service charge.

By KENT BELLAH

**F**OR THE once-a-year hunter, there is no bigger problem than keeping his shooting eye up to snuff for the time when he can go out in the field after game. Gallery loads are the answer. Light bullet, low-power loads will let him use his center fire rifle or handgun for short range plinking and target punching the year around.

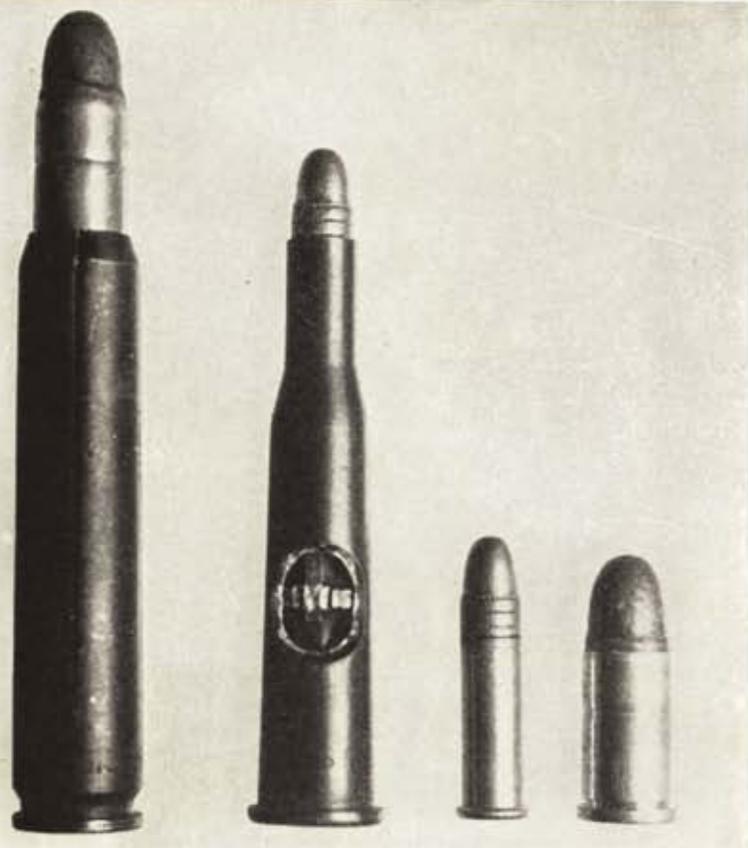
The sub-caliber gadgets were all the rage back in the Wild West days when a man's social standing and life expectancy often depended on his ability to throw lead with speed and accuracy and he practiced throwing lead constantly. They declined as rifle velocities approached 3,000 feet per second. But there is still good sense in saving cents on ammo cost, while using your big-game rifle or .45 thumb buster to practice with. Low cost work on the range with reduced loads will develop your latent ability to do



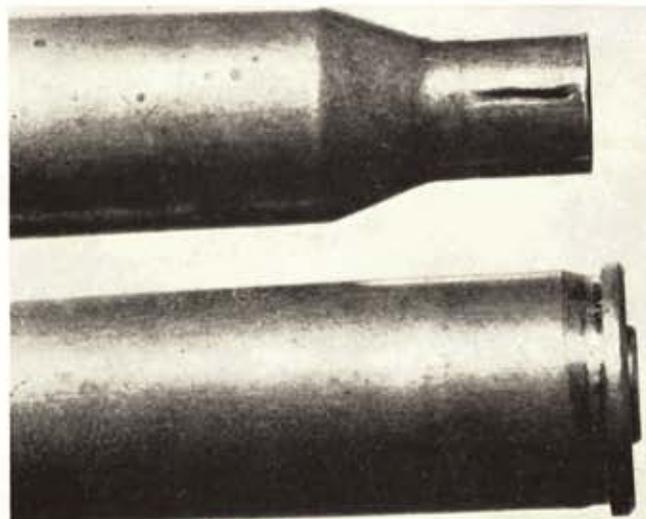
Wadcutter seated low over light 2-grain charge has better loading density and accuracy than full load at right.

Practicing fast bolt operation with live ammo can be done at home using hunter's favorite rifle and gallery loads.

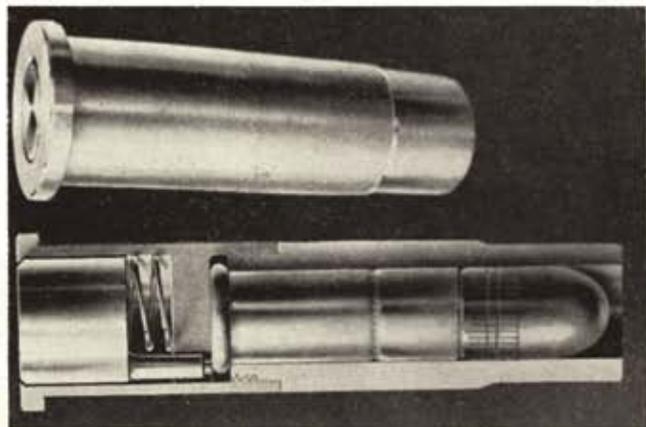




Marble auxiliary cartridges for .30/06 and .22 Savage use cheap .22 LR and .32 S&W pistol ammunition for practice.



Case with neck crease may be used for reduced loads but popped primer means dangerous case, excess headspace.



Chamber for .45 revolver using low-cost .22 ammunition was designed about 1930 by ordnance man Alonzo Gaidos.

Reduced loads are getting a new shot in the arm these days, with no pun intended. They are practical because they are cheap, and safe ranges for full charge practice are not always available. Either handloads or certain factory fodder can be used, that will reduce noise and recoil almost to the vanishing point.

The gun and ammo makers, as well as Uncle Sam realize the importance of practice rounds. Best known "practice kit" is the Colt 45/22 conversion unit.

Light loads can be used for safe indoor basement practice or on a backyard range in rural areas. Big bore bullets at low velocity are far better small game killers than .22 rim fires, and the cost is about the same. Try these shooting and reloading tips and the brand new tested loads, developed especially for GUNS.

If your cartridge is not listed, estimate a starting load from this data. No load is "best" in all guns. Try a little experimenting with your gun and components, especially the powder charge and primer makes. If accuracy isn't all you expect, try a different bullet.

Bullets in the standard weight range are best. Those cast of scrap lead cost almost nothing and the lead can be trapped and used over and over. Gas check bullets can be shot at low speeds without the bases to further reduce the cost without loss of efficiency. A perfect base is necessary, but at low speed an imperfect nose has little effect on accuracy, so some slugs rejected for normal charges can be used for cream-puff loads. Spitzer bullets have a high ballistic coefficient, but the shape has little effect on exterior ballistics at 50 feet to 50 yards.

Uniform bullets mean accuracy. The casting temperature should remain as uniform as possible. The more lead is heated, the more hard and brittle it becomes, so the lowest heat that makes perfect bullets is best. While it's possible to make good bullets with the ancient pot and dipper on a cook stove, a thermostat controlled electric furnace has everything to recommend it for speed, quality and convenience. Set it for about 725 degrees for most casting, and it will maintain the temperature to within 10 degrees or so. Good cast bullets can be driven up to 2,000 feet per second if they have a good gas check base and proper lubrication.

Buckshot can be used, but is not as satisfactorily as bullets cast in your regular mold. The No. 2 Western buckshot (.360") works fairly well in .38 Specials with about 2 grains of Bullseye, and other (Continued on page 64)

### New Minimum Loads for Standard Cartridges

#### Indoor Loads: Unique Powder

Caliber	Bullet Weight Grs.	Powder Grs.	Velocity f/s.
.30/40 Krag	110	6	974
.30/06	110	8	1172
.220 Swift	50	6	1655
.257 Roberts	87	7	1151
.270 Winch.	100	7	1189

#### Outdoor Loads: Unique Powder

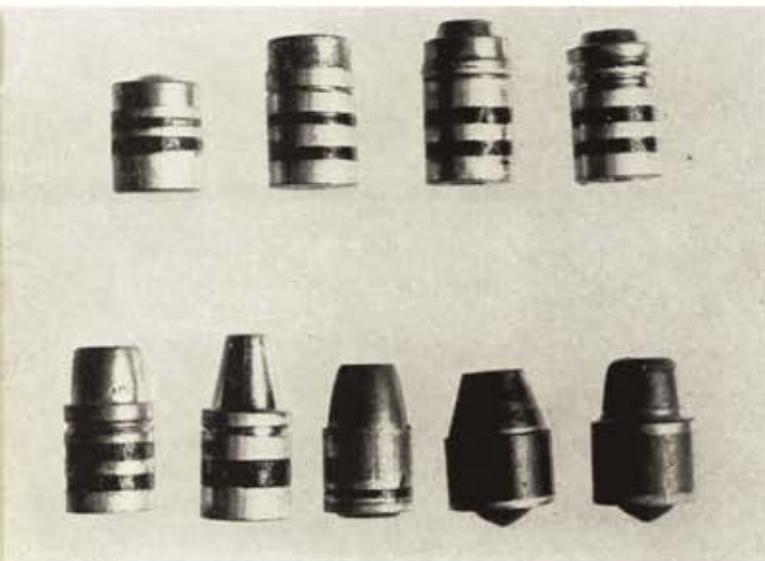
.220 Swift	50 Sisk	10	2235
.222 Rem.	50 Sisk	5	1500
.257 Roberts	100	10	1500
.30/40 Krag	150	12	1450
.30/06	150	14	1600

#### Reduced Handgun Loads: Bullseye Powder

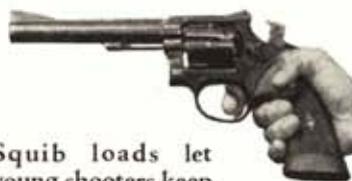
.38 Spl-357 Mag.	150	1.5	540
.38 Spl-357 Mag.	135	2	635
.44 Spl.	210	3	623
.45 ACP	190	3	665
.45 Colt	190	4.5	710



Tiny 4mm shell (left) is gallery load for insert barrels. Sisk Lovell 50 gr. .22 is good small game slug. Bigger lead bullets are Lyman 123 gr. .270 #280473; Harvey 135 gr. 7mm; Lyman 194, 169 gr. .30's; and Hensley-Gibbs 150 gr. .30.

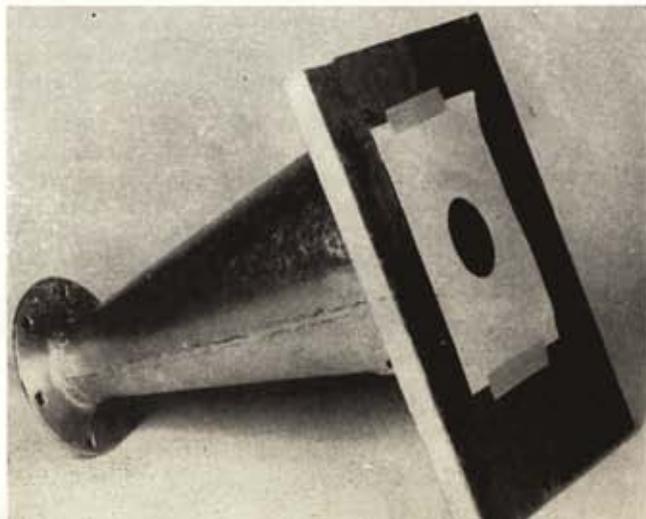


Light-load revolver bullets include (l-to-r) Lyman-Young 110 gr.; H & G 150 gr. #9; 155 gr. #36 and 146 gr. #50 wadcutters. Semi-wadcutters are flat-point Lyman 156 gr. #357466; H & G 145 gr. #73 Rector; and Prot-X-bores in .38-135 gr., .44-170 gr., and .45-190 gr.



Squib loads let young shooters keep in training with big caliber guns.

Cheap portable bullet trap made from axle housing has been used for thousands of low-power practice shots.



Handloader uses SAECO furnace to keep lead at constant temperature for best casting in Hensley-Gibbs gang mold.





Deep in wild country and loaded for big game, E. B. Stranahan guides his lightweight Harley Davidson motorcycle along brushy trail in Clearwater National Forest. Stranahan is a pioneer motorcycle-riding hunter in state of Idaho.



Trail's end for both Stranahan and huge elk came with one shot from hunter's .308 Winchester Featherweight, Model 70. He was able to pack elk out of wilderness on the back of his light motorcycle.

# HUNTERS ON MOTORCYCLES

TRAVELING FURTHER AND FASTER IN SEARCH FOR BIG GAME, MOTORCYCLE NIMRODS ARE USING NARROW BACK COUNTRY PACK TRAILS TO INVADE AMERICA'S MOST LUSH HUNTING GROUNDS

By DAVID BRAZIL

THE STATE OF IDAHO boasts some of the finest and most rugged game country found anywhere. A vast jumble of mighty mountains extends from border to border across the heart of the state, their towering peaks throwing long, dark shadows into America's deepest canyons. At least one pack trail runs for 150 miles without once crossing a road or coming within miles of a single village or hamlet. It is lush big game country, wild, untravelled, and excellent for hunting—on a motorcycle!

Motorcycle-riding hunters have invaded this plentiful game land. Motorcyclists, buzzing nonchalantly along trails high in the mountains far from any road, have made back country packers, trudging along with their pack animals, do a double-take and rub their eyes. Single tire tracks etched into remote game trails have left many a lonely forester scratching his head in wonderment. Yet these mobile hunters, riding into the very heart of Idaho's big game country, find the motorcycle a safe and practical means of transportation over narrow trails built for horse travel.

Back country trail riding is popular around Lewiston, Idaho, a town of 20,000 people set in an area where elk, deer, bear, cougar, moose, mountain sheep and goats are prime big-game targets. Three Lewiston businessmen, F. B. Stranahan, George Reed and N. R. Gibbs, actually pioneered motorcycle hunting. They learned the hard way that hunting on a motorcycle could be a pretty bumpy business. Reed, who owns a hardware store in Lewiston, got quite a kick out of those early exploration trips.

"When we began riding the back country," he recalls, "we tried out the big machines first. You can imagine what a job it was to handle such rigs on any but the best paths. Once we found the right motorcycles, we still had a lot of experimenting to do before we worked out the right gear ratios for our trails and found a way to relocate the mufflers and exhaust pipes higher on the motors.

"You see," Reed explains, "when low hung exhausts or mufflers catch on rocks, they are not only torn off but there is a chance that the motorcycles and riders will be thrown from the trail. (Continued on page 66)



After packing deer on motorcycle, Wayne Nickel is set to leave for home. He bagged deer with .30-40 Winchester.

# THE ROCK

BROCKTON BOMBER HAS  
TRADED GLOVES FOR  
GUNS AND NOW ENJOYS  
HUNTING AND SHOOTING  
FOR RELAXATION.

BY TAP GOODENOUGH

**F**OR THE best years of his life Rocky Marciano's stock in trade was firing the most devastating punches seen in the ring for decades. His blasts with his two fists could down a man almost as effectively as a .45 automatic. Now that he has retired from the squared circle, the former heavyweight champion of the world has not quit his firing; now he's shooting with rifle and pistol instead of gloves. Target practice and hunting have become the favorite sports of the champ who quit undefeated.

"I've always thought shooting was a lot of fun," exclaimed Rocky Marciano to me when I visited him to learn what his plans were for the future. "Now that I'm out of the ring, I'll have much more time to give my family, and to do

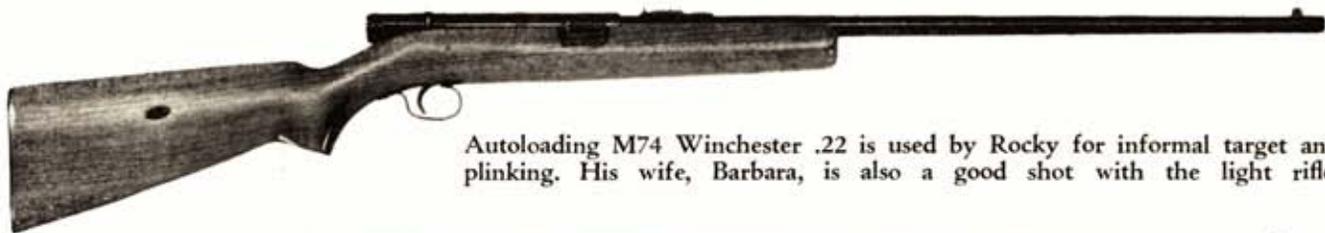


Rocky carried .30-06 Remington on deer hunt at Holland, Michigan, camp where he often trained for a fight.

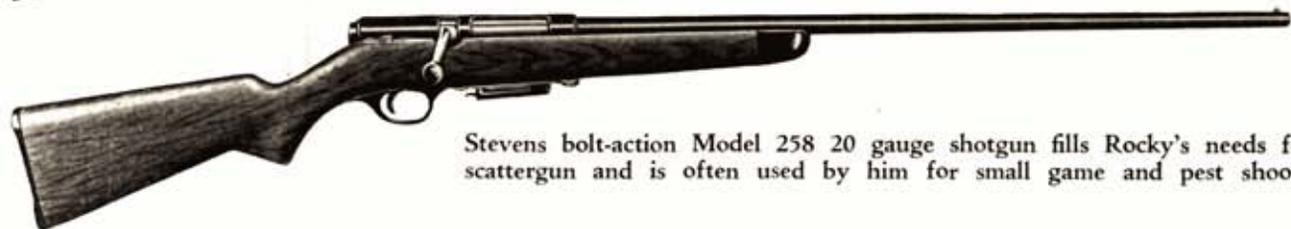


Marciano plans to take it easy and enjoy sports like shooting now that he has retired from fight career.

# RETIRES FROM RING TO RIFLES



Autoloading M74 Winchester .22 is used by Rocky for informal target and plinking. His wife, Barbara, is also a good shot with the light rifle.



Stevens bolt-action Model 258 20 gauge shotgun fills Rocky's needs for a scattergun and is often used by him for small game and pest shooting.

some of the things I've always wanted to do but couldn't because some fight schedule was pushing me on. Shooting is one of those sports I'm really going to enjoy in my retirement."

He laughed at the idea: "Why, I'm only 33. Ought to be a few years ahead of me for something besides boxing now. There's one thing for sure, I'm going to do a lot more shooting."

Rocky and his wife Barbara were the guests of Toronto sportsman Arthur Gottlieb several years ago. "He owns a fabulous gun collection," Rocky declared, "and is quite a shooter, too. Barbara and I decided to have a little contest, using .22 rifles at small bottles. I was really skunked—beaten badly. To make matters worse, we tried pistols, and I'm considered pretty good with a pistol—but I was licked again."

It staggered me a little to realize that Rocky Marciano, who never lost a match in the boxing ring, was defeated in marksmanship by his wife, Barbara. "She can outswim me and outfish me, too," laughed Rocky. The ex-champ plans to devote much time to having fun with guns. "I'm going to relax and go hunting. I like stalking deer."

"He doesn't have the patience to still hunt," said Barbara, who also likes to shoot. "Sitting around quietly just isn't for Rocky—he always has to be doing something."

Rocky gets a kick out of driving deer. Rocky and his gunning pals hunt in small groups, starting from stands, then spreading across the terrain in a line and working downwind.

"Deer hunting was good for me in my boxing." (Continued on page 57)



Favorite gun in Rocky's small arsenal is Hi-Standard Model B .22 automatic which he shoots with skill gained through learning to shoot the .45 in army.



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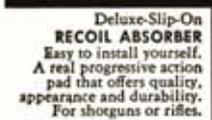
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By **STUART MILLER**

### 22 Rim Fire Shorts

ONE OF the first caliber of rim fire cartridges ever to be made is still rolling off the production line by the ton, and the cartridge itself has not changed much in the hundred-odd years that it has been the pride and joy of many a small shooter.

The 22 short was invented by Daniel Wesson and was introduced with the Smith Wesson revolver around 1857. Some even saw active service in the Civil War when many revolvers were carried as an additional and unofficial personal or hide-out gun.

The shorts were originally sold under the name of "No. 1 Pistol Cartridges"—the No. 2 pistol cartridge being the 32 short rim fire. They were most often packed in oblong boxes of 100, with

tors have been trying to locate original boxes of the early 22's as a colorful sideline to their cartridge collections. Despite the tons of these cartridges that have been made, it is surprising how few original sealed boxes of the earlier types have survived. Generations of small and some not so small boys have had little sentiment when it came to saving these old cartridges, as long as they had anything to shoot them in.

The choicest boxes are those made by the early and nearly forgotten cartridge companies. Because of the wide market for these shorts, most new companies would start in with them so as to have a sure market to expand upon later—if they made the grade. Some



Old .22 boxes are prized by collectors for their colorful labels.

the label including a cut of a Smith & Wesson revolver. I have one such box by the "Union Metallic Cartridge & Cap Co., Bridgeport, Conn." before UMC got around to shortening their name.

The price of shorts did not vary much until within the last few years. An early UMC listing in 1869 gives the list price of shorts at \$5.87 per 1,000. In checking prices in early catalogs, it should be remembered that "a box" may mean a box of 100, rather than the better known boxes of 50. The price later settled at \$5 per 1,000 and stayed there for many years.

The last time I checked the price on shorts they were listed at \$9.20 per 1,000 and there has been a price rise since then. I think that the cheapest I ever bought them from a store was back in the 30's when Montgomery Ward & Co. had a special sale on them at two boxes for 19 cents. As I remember them, they were not the best shells on the market, but at 19 cents per hundred, we couldn't holler too loud! I never did find out who made them, but they bore the usual company headstamp of "M over W."

Lately quite a few cartridge collec-

of these companies were: Ethan Allen & Co.; Creedmoor Cartridge Co.; Crittenden & Tibbals Manufacturing Co.; Hall & Hubbard; C. D. Leet; New York Metallic Ammunition Co.; National Cartridge Co.; Southern Cartridge Co.; Smith & Wesson and dozens of others. Other interesting items are those colorful old brand names that the major companies used to catch the eye of the shooters, such as "Copperhead," "Lesmok," "Boy Scout," "Sta-Klean" and "Whiz Bang."

While we have been mentioning only the 22 shorts, old or odd boxes of any of the other 22 rim fire calibers are of interest. It is rather surprising the number of different sizes there are in the 22 line: B B Caps, C B Caps, Government Special BB Caps, shorts, longs, long rifles, extra longs, WRFs, Winchester auto loading, and Remington auto loading, as well as blanks, shot, and dummies.

Among the boxes I have collected is the "Spotlight," which is the hollow point bullet which is filled with a magnesium compound that flashes on impact. The label on this is in red and white. The Robin Hood box is also in red with a (Continued on page 56)

# BIGGEST HUNTING RIFLE EVER MADE

(Continued from page 19)

per second. From previous shooting of this round I know it will hit a target as far away as you can see.

The .50 caliber is pretty new in rifles now. Very little is known about them so far as loads, bullets and accuracy goes. Jack Whitworth of Marvel, Colorado, has made up some fine soft-point hunting bullets for the .50. He has tried them in weights between 600 grains and 875 grains, but one about 625 or 650 seems to work well in different guns. Al Hayes of Yeagertown, Pa., has been using Whitworth's bullets on chucks on top of the 250 grain standard MG charge. This kind of gun-crank shooting is still in a state of change and nobody for sure seems to know what the best bullets and weights are.

The big .50 is accurate. During the war I tried out an infantry model Browning .50 machine gun at 2000 yards on the Fort Douglas, Utah range. With a 45" barrel, and set on single shot, the gun proved wonderfully precise. Plenty of rocks the size of bushel baskets appeared around the rim of the mountain at 2000 yards, and it was easy to hit them. Even in a hard wind, one had to hold over only a fraction as much as when using the .30 caliber rifle. The 702 grain A.P. slugs needed very little windage correction. In a sporting rifle even better shooting can be expected.

The machine gun I fired set on single-shot had only the iron sights, but was supposed to be equipped with an 8 X scope. If it had been available, I would have had even more fun. As it was, with the sights laid right and the thumb trigger slowly squeezed off, the big rifle busted every rock shot at with ease. A .30-06 would simply have faded out at such extreme range.

Reloading of the big .50 caliber machine gun cartridges is at a standstill outside of the government arsenals. None of the cartridge companies which make .50 caliber primers will sell them to individuals, although Winchester, Remington and Federal have all made primers. Frankford primers probably could be bought if the Director of Civilian Marksmanship would put them on the list. Proper .50 caliber primers must be used. The big primer requires about three times as much igniting materials as does a .30 caliber cap, and no .30 primer is hot enough to properly ignite the coarse grain powder in big charges.

During the war I spent a month at Frankford Arsenal working on Duplex loading for the .50 caliber machine gun round. One load showed an average gain of 202 feet per second velocity for constant normal pressure.

The big .50 caliber case is slightly under bore capacity, as is the .30-06 Springfield case. But with Duplex loads I raised velocities from around 2800 f.p.s. with the 702 grain A.P. ball to just over 3000 f.p.s. with the same bullet and a much heavier powder charge than could be burned in a normal .50 caliber case.

This was done by running a flash tube from the primer extending half the length of the powder chamber. The charge was compressed when the A.P. ball was seated. When fired, the primer flash was carried to the forward half of the charge, igniting that portion and starting the slug up the barrel. Then the

powder gas that started the slug held the remainder of the charge in the case until it was all consumed.

The place to burn a powder charge is in the chamber, not by funneling it up the bore of the rifle in hopes that the barrel will be long enough for complete combustion. These Duplex loads produced less muzzle flash, longer barrel time and a slower recoil, all of which would be advantageous for a big rifle.

Velocities were increased some with normal pressures with just one straight .50 caliber powder. When a faster powder was used in the heel of the case and then a slightly slower powder in the middle and a still slower powder up forward near the bullet, all compressed so tightly that they could not move when handled, the average increase was up to 202 feet. The same charges that ran around 258 grains of powder would simply blow primers and stretch the head of the case and freeze up the pressure guns when fired with standard case and rear ignition. The average factory or arsenal load ran around 242 grains of powder and we were able to use up to 258 grains in Duplex cases for the same average pressure. Standard .50 caliber ammunition can be bought from war surplus dealers, and if ever primers are made available, Duplex loading would be one starting point for the handloader.

This .50 caliber sporter is no doubt the most powerful shoulder rifle ever built. Some gun cranks started the ball rolling for the weapon by writing to me about it. Maynard Buehler had exhibited a superbly built .505 Gibbs at a gun show, mounted with his strong scope sight base. We referred questioners to Buehler who in turn passed them on to Al Weber, maker of the special .505 Gibbs.

As a result, Weber has turned out several of these giant rifles. Length of the receiver on the one we shot was 12" and the diameter of the receiver ring was 2 3/8". The bolt was in equal proportions with locking lugs an inch long. The bolt face enclosed the case head with the best extractor we have yet seen and an ejector of the Remington type. The magazine held three rounds of standard .50 caliber machine gun ammunition which with one in the barrel makes it a four-shot rifle. Cartridges could be loaded out of the magazine into the barrel or just dropped into the chamber as the extractor accepted them perfectly either way. The magazine functioned perfectly.

The whole action was beautifully machined and polished and worked slick as a National Match Springfield. The rear top end of the receiver also formed an additional recoil lug and the stock was cross bolted in two places. A .50 caliber machine gun barrel turned down to more reasonable size and cut to 34" completed the metal picture. Trigger pull was crisp and clean and around four pounds.

For sights, a Weaver K-V scope in special Buehler mounts was anchored to bridge and receiver. The action did not have the Mauser flange inside the receiver ring as it was not necessary with the total strength and bulk of this receiver.

The stock was a massive affair with cheek rest, pistol grip, but a recoil pad of too-small size to balance the rest of the rifle. The fore-end was so huge, I could only hold my left

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hand under it and could get no grip on it whatever.

So far as we know this is the first time such a rifle has been built in this country with a 3-shot magazine on a bolt action. While stationed in Korea, my friend Major Bill Brophy shot a 31-pound sniping rifle he made up in .50 caliber. He used a Russian anti-tank rifle stock and action with a .50 caliber aircraft machine gun barrel, and fitted a BAR bipod and also a rest under the action that is adjustable for elevation. He used a big Unertl scope of around 20 to 23 power, in a target mount so that the scope tube was allowed to slide in recoil. This arrangement might be the answer to the eye relief problem.

With this outfit he successfully sniped enemy soldiers at ranges to 1600 yards, proving the value of such a .50 caliber weapon for use against individual enemy targets. When the army adopted the M1 rifle and M2 .30 ammunition, we reduced our soldier's effective sniping range way below 500 yards. While the M1 rifle is a fine close range combat weapon, it is not accurate enough for sniping individual targets at long range. The gooks in Korea knew this and showed themselves with impunity beyond 600 yards, but when some of our friends managed to kill one one night and appropriate his good lend-lease Springfield M1903, business picked up for our side. The GI's managed to make kills out to 800 and 1000 yards. But 500 yards was about the limit with the M2 ammo and the M1 rifle. A few good .50-caliber sniping teams armed with suitable equipment could do more damage to the enemy in a few days' work than a whole company armed with M1 rifles.

The whole future of the big rifles looks good. Surplus anti-tank rifles with ammunition are being sold. They are no toy for the man in a built-up area, but on a proper range they will give the gun-cranks a terrific kick. The Boys AT rifle carries a load similar to

the .50 Browning. Other AT rifles are being sold in the same category, taking big powder charges and big bullets.

From good seated bench rest, the big rifles would be a lot of fun. If fine match ammunition were loaded for the .50's, it would certainly beat any smaller rifle for long range groups. As a sniping rifle it may still come into general use. Such a big shoulder rifle as Weber's could be handled nicely by a team of two men, trained for sniping—one to man a spotting scope and the other to fire. The rifle might be a little heavier, say 40 pounds with a bipod or other rest arrangement. It would need a better recoil pad, and a muzzle brake. With a 10 power target scope that would slide forward under recoil, such a rifle would be just the ticket for a two man sniping team. That team could raise more sand with an exposed enemy, shooting at individual targets, than a truckload of ammunition fired at random—and they would need only 20 to 40 shots a day to produce such results.

As we view the big rifle, it's a weapon of the future. Right now it does not seem to have any possible sporting use. Big game shot at the ranges of which this kind of rifle is capable, would darn near spoil before you even hiked up to the animal. As a novelty experiment, shooting game at long range is interesting, but killing a moose at upwards of a mile distant does not have much sportsman ship to it. Of course, civilians can use the big .50's for extremely long range bench work, and the military will find it practical from time to time. And yet . . .

I sure would like to lay that big rifle across an African ant hill and take a shot at a good bull elephant. If that boattail did not tumble, it would certainly penetrate him from any angle and if it did tumble it should tear an awful wound, if placed through heart or lungs. Not every man has the temperament to handle such a rifle, but a few shots with it will certainly separate the men from the boys.



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## SHOOTING SIGHTS

(Continued from page 30)

the original specified sizes of the beads. But what is lost in size is gained in clear-cut brilliancy.

A front bead altered in this manner reflects a constant skylight, the best light available from early morning until late evening. And, in addition, you have added about 30 minutes of shooting light to your hunting day, something very important when you are watching an old orchard for deer in late evening.

The Redfield Sourdough front sight has many of the qualifications which you will work into your gold bead by proper filing, and for most rifles it is a good choice. Perhaps its one drawback is size variation: it should be made in several sizes to use with different lengths of rifle barrels. Matching the proper front sight to a hunting rifle is no casual undertaking. It can make or break the best game shot who ever went afield in autumn. It is also apparent that the hunter who missed that buck on the hardwood ridge should be highly critical of his sights.

But front sights are only half the story of good field shooting with iron sights. While an improper front sight can cancel out the best receiver sight ever made, a poor receiver sight can also ruin your chances at a trophy buck or elk. A lot of target style micrometer receiver sights are found in the autumn deer woods each fall. These receiver sights with target adjustable knobs are an open invitation for some other hunter around camp to turn the knobs. Many deer and elk are lost each autumn because some other hunter was curious about his shooting partner's sights. The chance of having someone goof up your sights can be remedied by fitting receiver sights having "hunter adjustable knobs." These cannot be turned without using a coin, knife blade or screwdriver. And they have very positive adjustments for both windage and elevation.

Micrometer receiver sights have quarter-minute click adjustments on both elevation and windage. A quarter-minute adjustment will move the center of impact about a quarter-inch, or four clicks for each minute of angle. With these precise adjustments, a lot of aiming error can be taken out of a rifle before a hunter is under the compelling necessity of making a field shot. Three different makes of receiver sights have hunter adjustable knobs and quarter minute windage and elevation adjustments—the Williams Foolproof, Redfield series 70 and 80, and Lyman model 48. The cheaper receiver sights put out by these firms are not nearly so desirable as the best models, either from the standpoint of positive and accurate adjustment, or of holding zero day after day, in the rough and tumble of big game hunting.

Receiver sights found on hunting rifles have another fault: improper apertures. Just as the chief fault of most hunting front sights is too large a bead, in the receiver sights it is in having too small an aperture—a target range hangover. When a big buck comes smoking out of a laurel thicket, accurate field shooting is measured by the time it takes to get on the target. Then a small peep hole and wide disk, so often found on hunting rifles, is a big disadvantage.

Reducing the size of the aperture is tantamount to increasing the size of the bead, in a

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manner of speaking. Either will obscure the fast-disappearing target, making the shot a gamble with the odds very much in favor of the trophy. But this need not be so. A hunter has a wide choice of excellent apertures specifically designed for the touch and go of game shooting.

Most hunters seem to have a fetish about using small apertures on their rifles which are more-suitable for prone target work. They use them by preference. Once I asked a hunter, "Why?"

"See too much through one of those big holes like you use—see the whole side of the hill. How can anyone shoot accurately with a sight like that?" he replied.

In some way, probably because of his target shooting, he associated a restricted field of view with accuracy. And field of view is the one thing most needed for successful shots at running game. Owen Tytegraft of the Redfield Gunsight Company, an expert big game hunter in his own right, once told me that they were forced by popular hunter demand to provide receiver sight apertures which were too small for practical field shooting.

Yet Redfield has a beautifully designed aperture disk for hunting rifles. An aperture of .093 affords plenty of field of view, and is lightning fast. With that on your old meat getter you are all set. Out there on a deer stand you will beat those target-type apertures three ways for Sunday.

How accurate is such a hunter type disk? Accurate enough to shoot groups within a minute of angle of the much slower target-type small disk, even on the target range.

Aperture alone, however, is not all the answer to a proper hunting disk. The outside diameter of the disk is almost of equal importance to that of the aperture itself. When a hunting rifle is snapped to a hunter's shoulder, and he looks through the sights in never too good light, there must be confidence that he is actually looking through his rear sight. With an overall diameter of a disk of 3/8", a distinct, dark circle appears around your field of view. It is there at midday when you are trying for a shot on a hardwood ridge—reassuring you that you are looking through your aperture, not above it, not to one side. It is there in the last shooting light of evening when you are watching an orchard or

overgrown logging slash. After a little shooting with such an aperture disk, you no longer notice it, except subconsciously.

All three of the major sight companies have this ideal hunter disk, the .093" aperture, and 3/8" diameter.

The Williams Gunsight Company has even gone a step farther. In addition to their "Buckbuster" dish with the above specifications, they also make a "Twilight disk", same specifications, but with a gold colored band framing the aperture for easily catching aim in very dim light.

Receiver sights, properly selected for hunting, and complemented by good front sights are always excellent hunters' choices. But they are not all the story of fast accurate field shooting.

American sportsmen never given open sights the study they deserve, nor appreciated their actual hunting worth. The English sportsmen, who staked their lives on their heavy double barrel rifles while hunting the dangerous game of Africa and India will swear by open sights. But they would not consider most of the open sights which come on our factory-produced rifles.

Proper open sights, such as those English on big game rifles, are excellent for snaphooting. In addition to being fast—perhaps the fastest sights used in hunting—they are much more accurate than is commonly supposed. But they must be right or, like a poor receiver sights, they are very poor indeed. They must also be complemented by a front bead of the same specifications as required for a hunting type receiver sight—if anything, it should be slightly smaller.

The open sight itself should have a shallow half moon, with its center indicated by a vertical silver line on the back of the sight. In use, this vertical silver line appears to be a continuation of the bead, and the target center of impact is at the top of the bead. Deep notches and the so called "full buckhorn" open sights are both inaccurate and slow. Their chief fault is that they do not hold elevation under changing light conditions. You are either pulling that bead down too far in the notch when the light is good, or you are seeing too much bead when the light is poor, causing you to either under or over shoot your game. With the English type open sight, the bead is always seen full above the groove.

Just recently I shot a .280 Ross on a Magnum Mauser action, made in London. This rifle, with a full 26" barrel, was equipped with a small 1/20" silver bead, flat faced. A three leaf open sight, with adjustable leaves for 100, 200 and 300 yards was the rear sight. The rear sight was set slightly more forward than is customary on American rifles, and for that reason appeared very clear cut. I had no trouble shooting 2 1/2" and 3" groups with it at 100 yards on the rifle range—excellent game accuracy. On snaphooting at the target this rifle came up fast and with plenty of field accuracy for woods hunting, despite the overlong barrel that made it something less than desirable for heavy cover deer and elk hunting.

But to get back to the shot on the hardwood ridge where the hunter missed his trophy buck. You think he had proper iron hunting sights on his deer rifle? If he did, he would not have missed. The fact is that proper iron hunting sights is a big and vital subject, too often neglected by hunters—those that don't get their deer. ☺

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## WHAT CALIBER FOR ELK?

(Continued from page 23)

years. For most of this time I have used a Model 54 Winchester .270 with handloads. I don't believe I ever lost a wounded animal and the percentage of one-shot kills has been high. My favorite handload for this gun is 59 grains of 4831 back of a 130 grain Hornady Spire point bullet. I have also used Sierra, Speer and Remington Core-Lokt. My .270 is now 35 years old and has just had its fourth barrel installed by Fred Huntington of R. C. B. S. gun shop. It is Pfeifer, 1 in 10" twist and it groups just a shade over one inch very consistently. I use a Weaver KV scope and a resting elk, at ranges up to 350 yards, had better not hesitate much in clearing out.

For the past two years, I have been using a beautiful Beisen-built Mauser action .275 H & H on elk, moose and bear with wonderful success. I use handloads of 63 grains of 4831 and 154 grain Hornady round nose or 160 grain Speer spitzer bullets. Sighted in for 280 yards, the point of impact with both bullets is the same. It is very similar to the 7x61 Sharp & Hart, the 7 mm. Mashburn short, the 7 mm. Ackley and the 7 mm. Weatherby magnum in that range is no barrier.

General practice with all of the above calibers, including the handloaded .270, is to sight them in on point of aim at 280 yards. Then they are actually point blank guns on all ranges to 320 yards. That is, 3/4" high at midrange of about 165 yards and 3/4" low at 320 yards. This method of sighting is superior for general elk hunting for the average shooter. It takes care of the closer shots as well as the longer ranges with no hesitation to figure trajectories. And it is surprising what such sightings will do toward getting one-shot kills.

For the .300 Savage and the 7 mm. Mauser I sight in for 200 yards and warn hunters against extreme long range shots. On the .30-06 and .308 I use 225 yards as the sighting range.

I do not claim these sightings are the only right ones. But I do know they work fine for the average man and get a high percentage of one-shot kills if the hunter is using good bullets.

With all this talk about calibers and bullet placement, bullet function must also be considered. Too light a jacket or a bullet that blows up on impact makes a bloody flesh wound and spoils much meat. It also results in lost game. Likewise, a bullet of any caliber that goes on through without opening up is like sticking an icpick through the animal and many get away. Experience, recovered bullets and wound checks have shown that a good velocity bullet that expands well on impact to twice or more its caliber size, will penetrate well and impart terrific shock. It often knocks the animal completely off its feet and kills instantly. Of nearly 70 recovered bullets of different makes and calibers sent to a major components manufacturer for inspection and study, 26 were one-shot kills and all of these showed from double to four times their caliber expansion and a high percentage of retained mass weight.

An elk is capable of absorbing a terrific shock load, probably more than any other such animal except a moose. Even with very

large bore guns, such as the .405 Winchester, the .45/70, and the .35 Whelen, I have seen elk run for miles when not hit in a vital spot. Contrary to public opinion, I find the so called "heart shot" to be one of the poorest. It is so placed that if the heart is just missed, a vital wound does not occur.

My favorite elk shot with any rifle is a lung shot just back of the forelegs and about one-third the way up the brisket. The animal generally drops in its tracks or walks or runs no more than 200 yards. Hit in this area with a good bullet that expands on impact and goes through the animal leaving a good exit hole, an elk will bleed to death in a matter of seconds.

I was hunting with Jack O'Connor a couple of years ago, in the area where Buffalo Bill used to take Teddy Roosevelt hunting when we found a herd of about 90 or more elk feeding. Jack had a fine Beisen-built .270 and was using 150 grain Speer handloads. Taking a sit rest and using his gun sling, he picked out a huge bull and placed a bullet directly in the lung cavity. The bull stood perfectly still for some 20 seconds, then fell flat on its chin, without a single kick or struggle. It took just that long for its lungs to fill up. Pacing it off, we found the distance to be well over 325 of my long steps.

The bullet had expanded on contact, pulverized the lungs and gone out the other side, leaving a good exit hole. Not one bit of meat had been spoiled by the shot or from a run and fevered animal. Instead it was wonderful meat, a beautiful trophy and a sportsman-like and humane kill. Here was a combination of good bullet placement from a good gun and excellent bullet function and expansion of the Speer bullet. The reverse of this came later the same year.

I was guiding a hunter who was using a fine .30 caliber gun with thin-jacketed bullets of 180 grains which shed the lead on impact. The first shot, fired at approximately 130 yards, hit too low and in the shoulder and the elk ran diagonally away. Three more shots diagonaled through the hips and paunch and all shed lead. None penetrated well. The elk ran some 600 yards into heavy timber and only pure luck helped us find it. All shots were bloody, meat-spoiling wounds and not any one was vital. This was a prime example of poor bullet placement and especially poor bullet function.

My second favorite aiming spot is high on the shoulder. Usually this breaks the shoulder points. Even though it spoils some meat with any type bullet, it keeps one from losing the animal. Not immediately fatal, it usually takes a finishing shot to keep the animal from unnecessary suffering.

For a hunter who is an excellent shot I like a neck aim, just forward of the shoulder and approximately one third of the way down from the top of the withers. Often this breaks the spine and results in an immediate kill. With good bullets that expand well, the terrific shock in such a heavy muscled area always knocks the animal cleanly off its feet and seldom is a second shot necessary.

While some hunters are proponents of ultra high speed rifles and the use of bullets that blow up on impact, they are usually African hunters to whom meat spoilage

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means little or nothing. Where good sportsmanship, game conservation and the use of meat is practiced, we favor the bullet that expands on impact, yet holds together its mass weight to a degree. It kills quickly and humanely and spoils a minimum of meat. I believe it is the opinion of most elk hunters that properly cared for and properly cooked elk meat is second to none (with the possible exception of the Big Horn sheep) for flavor and goodness.

Speaking again of rifles and loads, I have owned a Winchester Model 70 Featherweight in .308 caliber for over three years. I have shot it quite a bit myself and loaned it to my guides, my neighbors and some of my hunters. So far it has accounted for 46 head of game, most of them elk. I have used handloads of 44½ grains of 3031 and 150 Hornady round nose bullets exclusively in the gun. Expansion was excellent in every case. Retained mass weight was good on all recovered bullets and the percentage of one shot kills exceedingly high.

Everyone who used the gun spoke very highly of it, although some of them had been against the caliber before they tried it. They had no particular reasons and no facts. The gun is light, handles fast and with the 6X scope it is equipped with, makes shooting easy, fast and sure. This seems to me to be pretty good proof that it is not necessary to use a cannon for good clean elk kills.

As most of my elk hunting is done on horseback, a good scabbard gun is preferred. The old lever action rifle as well as the modern Savage .300 and .308 lever action have always been prime favorites for this reason. The other day I had the pleasure of sighting in and shooting one of the new 88 Winchesters in the .308 caliber. I don't believe I have ever used a finer saddle gun. Just had to go to the barn and try it in a scabbard. It handles fast, comes up wonderfully and is as accurate as our bolt actions.

I predict the .308, and probably other calibers yet to be brought out, will become prime favorites for our Western shooting on all game up to and including elk.

I think the thing to remember for a hunter going out after elk is to shoot the rifle he likes best and can handle fast and well. He should be sure that it does not make him flinch. If he uses good bullets and places his shots well, he is sure to come home with the best in eating meat and with a trophy he can brag about for years to come.

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## HUNTING ELEPHANT WITH A DEER RIFLE

(Continued from page 36)

hunt elephant. Had I been able to procure the necessary solids, I would and could have dropped elephant with my favorite Weatherby .257, and possibly even my .228 Ackley magnum. I did manage to drop a mangy, old Cape buffalo with a Weatherby .257 magnum using Norma's 100-grain softpoints. That might have been stretching both rifle and ammo slightly, but necessity mothered that invention. So stone-dead did that belligerent buff drop that I am satisfied the combination would come close to spelling curtains for a bull elephant.

I say close, because killing an elephant calls for more penetration than any softnose bullet, even a Norma, will ever achieve. You have to use solids on elephant. Even Frank Vennum's fabulous "killer bullet" and Ackley's "controlled expansion" and Nosler's "partitioned" bullets won't quite cut the mustard. You *have* to use solids on elephant. *But*, you can use them in almost any ordinary American deer rifle and know that you are shooting a killing combination.

Take, for example, old W. D. M. Bell, that fabulous ivory hunter endearingly known to British East Africa as "Karamojo Bell." He probably killed more elephant in British East than any other hunter that ever lived. Bell gunned East Africa when it was truly a fertile country teeming with game of all kinds. In the Karamojo country, to the south, east and west of expansive Lake Rudolf, in the Northern Frontier Province of Kenya Colony and across the border into Uganda, it is believed he was the first white man ever seen by

the natives. For five long years, he hunted elephant for their ivory. I doubt that even he rightfully recalls how many thousand he dispatched. He is unquestionably without peer as an authority on elephant hunting.

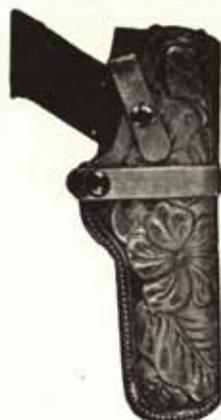
Did he use a double-barrel .450 No. 2? Or a .465, or a .416 or the favorite magazine hand-cannon, the .505 Gibbs? Yes, he did. He used them all and a lot more. The guns he used started with the .256 Mannlicher-Schonauer and progressed by almost every known caliber right up to and including the .600, the biggest bore shoulder rifle made. What were his conclusions? Here it is in his own words: "It is far more a question of where the bullet is applied than of the diameter of that bullet."

Of that great array of armament, what was Karamojo Bell's favorite elephant rifle? Believe it or not, it was a .275 (7mm) Mauser made up by Rigby of London.

Bell was not, as you might suspect, skewered on the tusk of an enraged wounded bull elephant, but recently died a well-rounded octogenarian. In his monumental book, "Karamojo Safari," Bell wrote: "It was still in the days of the round-nosed bullet, and luckily for me the ammo (which came with it) was good, sound, reliable, German stuff—powder, case, cap and bullet. This was the hottest combination one could possibly have. Without fault or hitch, misfire or hang-fire, that little (7mm) rifle did in some 800 bull elephant besides scores of buffalo, a few rhino and an occasional lion."

But, it must be understood that Bell was a

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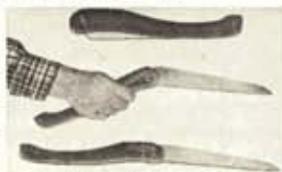
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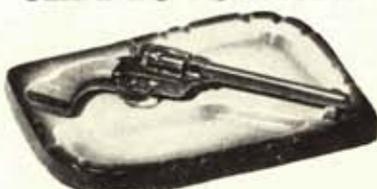
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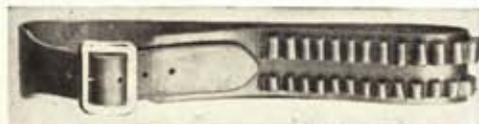
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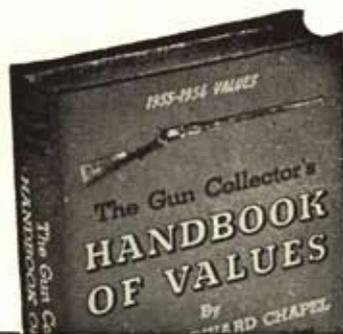
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marksman. He is blamed for the deaths of several African hunters who, spurred by his results, attempted to emulate him but they did not have his marksmanship. Of his own shots, he said there was nothing uncanny about them. But he hit where he aimed.

As Bell warned, if you cannot hit true from where you are shooting, get closer where you can. Frank Bowman, a clever Australian white-hunter friend of mine, advises: "Go as close to an elephant as you possibly can—and then go 10 steps closer before shooting."

Usually, I do not ride around jousting typewriters with fellow scribes, but I sometimes can not resist the temptation to contradict them.

For instance, my friend Elmer Keith does not agree with me, and he has forgotten more about rifles than most men know. Therefore, I think twice about crossing him. He and I are about as far apart on what it takes to kill an animal as are Kenya Colony and Kankakee, Illinois. A prolific writer, Keith has gone on record many times boosting his bullets.

"Elk are tough," he argues, "and will carry on for many miles with broken legs or paunch shots. My preference is for the .35 and .405 Winchester, the .45-70-405, the .375 Magnum, .35 and .400 Whelen, .333 OKH, and .334 OKH, and British rifles like the .333 Jeffery, .400-360, .375 Nitro Express, and even the .400 Jeffery and the .404 Magnum. Such rifles will always deliver the stew if aimed right, but small bore, high-velocity, light-bullet weapons will sooner or later lead to a very disappointing result and lost game. I personally do not care for any bullets under 250 grains in weight—300 grains is much better—nor calibers under .33."

Keith should know. By his own admission, he has personally killed 127 head of big game. But, by the same token, I have an argument, too. I have not kept count of the number of pieces of big game I have shot, but it has been considerable. With the exception of a single ponderous Cape buffalo, I have never killed a single head with anything larger than .30 caliber, nor with a bullet heavier than 220 grains.

That single exception was brought about

in Africa by Frank Bowman, who was getting paid to see that I returned with my skin intact on my first safari. Completely unsold on small-caliber, high-velocity—the same as Keith—Frank insisted I use his .450 No. 2 spouting 500 grains of solid-point with which to dispatch the Cape buffalo. We compromised. I used a Model 70 .375 H&H magnum with a 300-grain slug. Later, when Bowman was off in another part of the country and could not be held responsible for my skin, I satisfied my ego by dropping an equally ponderous Cape buff with my .257 Weatherby magnum handling a 100-grain bullet. The mighty bovine dropped in its tracks with a single shot in the neck.

Of course, there were 60 grains of 4350 pushing the light-weight missile at a speed of 3,710 feet per second, something which I dare say Keith has never experienced with calibers of .33 and over or his bullets of 300 grains and upwards. In fact, Keith said, "I have never been able to get a 220-grain soft nose through the neck, broadside, of a really big bull (elk)." While one example does not prove a thing, it is interesting to note that last Fall I dropped an elk with a single slug from my .228 Ackley magnum, the bullet quartering from lower neck on the near side completely through and out the upper neck on the opposite side. Along the way, the bullet broke a vertebra. What's more the slug weighed only 70 grains, the minimum allowed by Colorado law.

But some people just naturally prefer rifles on which wheels would be most appropriate. They like to lob bullets which, encountering a young jack pine en route, merely splinter it and carry on to overcome the target by little short of sheer weight. Personally, I prefer to pick my shots sans intervening trees, branches and boulders. I can pack the much lighter, small-caliber rifle a long way without tiring and it does not kick a man to death every time he touches it off. I can swing it to my shoulder and get off a fast, yet tolerable shot. Due to its high velocity and concomitant flat trajectory, it gets to the target area along the line of sight, without taking in a tree limb or two that happened to be a half-a-foot or so above the line of sight.

It all boils down to one common denominator: who is behind the sights. Nevertheless and notwithstanding, the law today in British East Africa does not allow a hunter to tackle dangerous game with anything less than the .375.

A few years ago, the game department of Tanganyika followed the lead set by Kenya Colony, and I understand that Uganda and the Sudan are figuring to follow suit. Those astute masters of gunning Africa's dangerous game decided that none of the American "deer" rifles were adequate for the taking of the so-called "big five" on safari. They outlawed all calibers of less than .375 for the taking of elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard.

Whether they were trying to protect the game or the gunners is somewhat debatable. Personally, I think they were trying to protect home industry—British, that is. For, not mentioning any names, where are the choice double-rifles manufactured? Certainly not by Winchester or Remington or Weatherby or by anyone else stateside. Nor are the better outfitting companies in British East Africa contradicting the game officials' edict.

So, unless you get a chance to use a lighter rifle on thick skinned game you may never be

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able to prove me right or wrong. But if you go on safari, corner that fabulous white hunter Russell Bowker-Douglass who chaperones Crown Prince Bernhard in Africa, and ask him what he saw your correspondent do to that big bull elephant with a Weatherby .300 magnum and a 220-grain Norma solid that sultry afternoon on the Terringari Plains. One .30-caliber slug did the job with as much success as any 500-grain slug from any double-shoulder-cannon ever did. Just ask Douglass and he'll not only verify it, he'll verify it with gestures, gesticulations, grimaces and a few choice cuss words for emphasis.

I often smile when I read of the battery of imported double rifles that the wealthier American sportsmen take with them on safari. Take it from me, a million dollars worth of highly engraved, double rifles with which you are *not* familiar isn't going to bag you any more elephant than a single ordinary American deer rifle with which you *are* familiar. In fact, not nearly so many.

As Bell admonished, (and to which I say "amen") "you gotta hit 'em right." If you do not, even that million dollars' worth of engraved doubles will not keep your widow from collecting on your life-insurance policy. Elephant can kill you ever so dead, ever so easily and ever so quickly. They can run faster than you. If you climb a tree, they can pull you out unless you get mighty high and they can shake you out unless you hold on mighty tight. Besides, they can knock over most of the trees in British East Africa. They cannot see too well, but should you hide, they can smell you out just like a bird dog finding a downed quail in the grass. So, do not depend on bullet weight. Shoot straight!

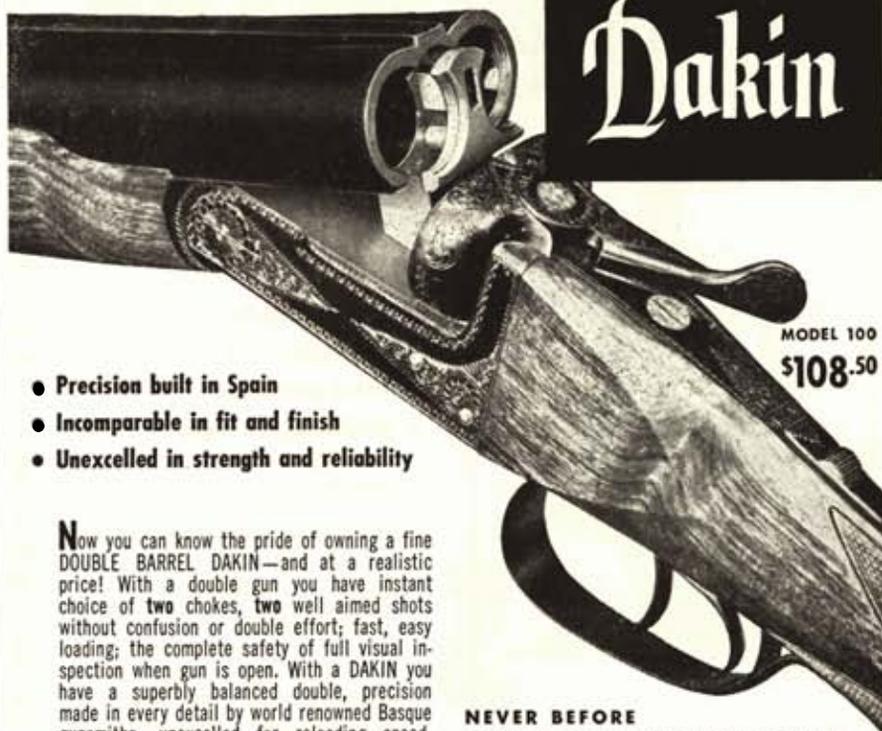
In my years of hunting game both large and small, I have encountered but few real riflemen. Most sportsmen of my acquaintance, I would dub "hunters." There is a difference. Riflemen invariably select a target; hunters just spot an animal and blaze away. Recently, in the state of New York, a careful survey run by the state conservation department disclosed that fully 25 per cent of shot whitetail deer escape. Their wounds were either superficial or, if severe, not immediately vital. Some survived; others died a lingering death. These were animals shot by hunters, not riflemen.

I have even encountered men who actually replied to the usual query, "Naw, I ain't seen hide nor hair of anything, but I got in a couple of good sound shots." Only one step removed from these hunters who actually shot at sounds—shot when their target was not only uncertain but completely invisible—are those hunters who shot *at* the animal and did not select a specific target.

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Of course, the law of averages is going to bag them an occasional buck but for this type of "sportsman," there isn't a rifle made which can be depended upon to kill. Even that .600, the mightiest of shoulder-shot rifles, would not be rifle enough. I have seen wildebeest pack off five of the cannon-ball-sized slugs when paunch shot.

Now, lest I should be condemned as was Karamojo Bell for sending under-armed riflemen to premature African graves, let me backtrack, fill in and sum up.

I started out by saying "most any ordinary American deer rifle is sufficient for 95 per cent of all the killing that is called for on safari in Africa." Let's change that to 99 per cent. For only that one per cent calls for more killing than the average gunner conscientiously and without stretching can expect from an ordinary American deer rifle. And, since averages take into consideration the extremes above and below average, maybe you had better play it safe and at the same time comply with the new laws. Pack a pair of rifles!

Take it from me, your favorite American deer rifle will handle 99 per cent of your big-game safari shooting if you can place your shots. But, since most gunners cannot consistently place shots, maybe it would be wiser to carry your favorite, at-home, deer rifle for 99 per cent of your safari shooting, and rent a double in Nairobi or Arusha from your outfitter for that other one per cent—for the dangerous big five. Not even I am foolish enough to contradict that those big double-barrel shoulder cannons are good insurance policies because placing your shots is not quite so important with them. A near-miss often scores you a knock-down, offering a second opportunity to stave off sudden death. And, like any insurance policy, you only need one once to appreciate its selling features. ☺

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## HOW TO MAKE A PERFECT RIFLE STOCK

(Continued from page 27)

European kind. You hear a lot of bunk about "imported" walnuts. Their best is not too superior to American walnut grown under proper climatic conditions. One Pennsylvania firm exports American walnut for use by English and continental stockers. The word "imported" must sound good over there, too. Actually, most of this wood finds its way back to American shooters as "imported" stocks.

Gunstock wood ought to be bone dry. The moisture content should come down to eight per cent or less. Kiln drying is the ticket, providing the wood has first been air dried properly. Some pros swear at, rather than by, kiln drying. Supposedly, kilns dry the wood "from the outside in," leaving the center moist. Actually, scientifically-controlled kilns produce fine, warp-free stable woods.

The first stage of stock making is not very scientific. You choose a pattern that suits you and trace it down on the wood, making slight alterations according to taste. Then you rough-shape the blank with a hand saw. At this point—for me, anyway—guesswork ceases. For the next six months, throughout inletting, I'll never touch a hand tool except for delicate finishing operations.

When I speak of "accuracy," I mean accuracy in the engineering sense. I work slowly and methodically, using mathematics, measuring tools, and machinery. Every surface is milled, working to tolerances of 2/1000ths of an inch in critical spots. When I'm through, the inletting is perfection itself, all surfaces touching everywhere.

You don't need this kind of accuracy in a gunstock, but I'm a perfectionist. I enjoy cutting to the same slim tolerances on a wooden stock as those I'd encounter in accurately die-sinking a mold. My inletting not only fits "to the thickness of smoke," but smoke couldn't get by the joints.

My basic tool is a 1/2-inch capacity drill press with a milling attachment. I supplement this with a lathe, for making tools, and a Du-All grinder with a hand piece, used for touching up the barrel channel and getting into difficult places. Occasionally I employ a die filer for sections such as the magazine box. Then there are measuring instruments of all sorts, from verniers to a 1/1000-inch indicator for truing surfaces.

True surfaces are essential in machining. I mill the top and sides of the blank to get parallel and square faces. After scribing a center line, I locate reference points for the magazine box, trigger guard, and barrel. These are laid out on the wood, first with a

scriber, then with a chisel-point pencil to aid visibility. Then, using various end mills and adjusting my milling attachment to precise dimensions, I gradually machine all surfaces so that they match barrel and action perfectly.

The same techniques work for dropping in the floor plate, sling swivels, and other inletted hardware. The final step is to black all metal parts with a candle flame and fit them into the wood, thus locating tiny shoulders and high spots left by the milling cutters. These imperfections I carefully cut away with a high-speed steel burr fitted into the Du-All hand piece.

Hand machining, as this procedure might be called, is simple and accurate. It's far less laborious than hand methods, and there's little danger of error. It is fascinating work, and no hacking, pounding, chiseling, swearing, and patching slips with plastic wood, after the fashion of the typical stocker. Chiseling is romantic, I'll admit. But it's hopelessly primitive.

With inletting completed, I switch to ordinary shaping methods. You could machine the exterior of a stock, but there's no point, since delicate accuracy is not required. Shaping is a gradual process, involving skilled applications of hand saw, chisels, rasps, draw shaves, and planes. Shaping is the "arty" part of gun stocking, but it's very demanding. A rifle stock is made up of many straight lines meeting a variety of simple curves. These must be accurately shaped; otherwise the job will have an unsightly "fish belly" look.

Throughout shaping, I'm in close touch with my shooter. I choose the general dimensions to suit his build, shooting habits, and even the clothes he intends to wear in the field. Even so, I cut the stock big initially, trying it out on him from time to time as the work progresses. "The butt stock feels too long," he'll complain. I cut off a quarter of an inch. "I'm getting over all right, but I can't seem to get down on the sights." I trim the cheek piece until he's comfortable with it. It's much like a tailor fitting a suit. The original measurements are guides only. It's the final adjustments that really count.

I don't hold with fancy decorations on guns, or with the flashy "modern look" West Coast designers are affecting these days. Bears chasing nudes, eagles whizzing around—they're fine somewhere, but not on rifle stocks. To me the California stocks, with their high combs and exaggerated pistol grips, look like space ships and cabin cruis-

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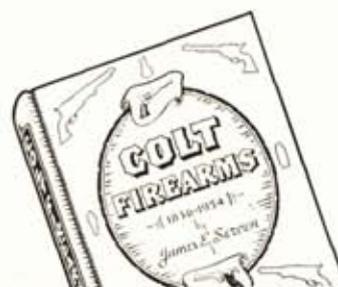
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ers. They're not gun stocks in my opinion.

A rifle stock should have beautiful clean lines, like a comely 18-year-old girl. It should be decorated with sharp and accurate checkering and little else. Taste in stock making is like taste anywhere; it consists mainly of restraint.

Checkering should not be fancy, I feel, but on my stocks it's as clean and accurate as patience and extreme care can make it. I use ordinary methods and tools for checkering—fine chisels, checkering spacers, and files of all sorts. I've never tried the little power checkering tools, but I doubt that they are much more accurate than hand work. They're fast but I'm in no hurry. Likewise, I don't use a checkering cradle. They get in my way. I hold the stock in my hands, turning it constantly to suit the path of the cut, or bracing it on the bench, over padding.

Gun stock finishing is the special province of witch doctors. Few shooters know much about preservatives. People who sell stock finishes exploit this ignorance to the hilt, performing all sorts of mystical rites. They claim it takes months to build up a really fine finish. Baloney! It can be done in a couple of weeks, working a few minutes each day. They debate the sealing powers of weird oil-and-wax compounds. Bunk! Water soaks through linseed oil like mist through a screen door. No sealing capabilities at all.

Varnish isn't much of a sealer either. Actually, the only thing that would "seal" a stock would be a resin with flakes of aluminum in suspension. But no gun nut would tolerate aluminum paint on a custom stock.

My finishing procedure is simple and scientifically sound. The objective is to fill the pores, then to put a "whisper" of pliable resin on top of the wood. I rub in three or four coats of thinned varnish, sanding off the surplus each time. Then, using a nylon cloth and rubbing the finish dry enough to handle immediately afterward, I apply a number of extremely thin coats of "Formula X." This compound is top secret—spar varnish mixed with equal parts of linseed oil and shellac.

The varnish provides the resin. The linseed oil insures a pliable film, and the shellac is simply a drying agent. The resulting finish is tough and as impervious to water as any non-metallic compound. Normally it's satiny, but you can rub it to a high gloss.

The rifle is now ready for the range or

field. The job has taken a year, but the metal beds perfectly into the wood, and the wood fits its owner like an old shoe. Given a good scope and scientifically devised ammunition, the gun will put five shots into a one-inch group at 100 yards. All variables have been eliminated except the one variable that will never be eliminated—the shooter's skill.

This is the engineering approach to gun stocking. It combines the best of modern tool-making procedures with the traditional wood-working skills of the hand craftsman. It tosses out mysticism and substitutes scientific information. I've used these methods to make 12 stocks, mostly for Winchester Model 70's, and a re-stocked Krag that saw duty in the Spanish-American War. They're beautiful guns and exceptionally accurate.

Who needs weapons like these? If you're serious about marksmanship, it never hurts to have the finest tools. But maybe you can't afford a hand-made stock costing twice as much as the factory rifle complete. In that case, buy the factory model and have a professional stocker do a little rebedding. The price tag will be about \$25. If you started with a good barrel, action, and trigger, you'll have a very serviceable rifle, and accurate enough for anything you may encounter except bench rest shooting.

Have a stockmaker checker your factory stock, too, if you want glamor. But you'll get a kick out of refinishing it yourself. This is always necessary, since factory lacquer is applied on top of the wood, leaving a poor finish from the standpoint of beauty, and one that cracks and chips readily. Take off the lacquer with No. 400 sandpaper. Then varnish, and cut down to the original wood to fill the pores. Then rub on a few coats of "Formula X."

Of course, a custom stock is the ultimate, if you can afford it. But heed one tip. Select your stocker carefully. A few professionals, such as those named earlier, do fine, accurate work. Others, far too many in number, perform raw butcheries on pre-inletted blanks. Don't be gypped. Scrutinize the "expert's" work, inside and out. Make sure you like his ideas and style. After all, you'll pay a stiff price for that fancy "handle." And you'll be stuck with it for a long time if it turns out to be a lemon. On the other hand, you can always try inletting your own stocks, like I do, in a machine shop. ⊕

## CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 44)

black figure. These cartridges have the usual "R" headstamp.

The Clinton Cartridge Co. never made any cartridges but was merely a trade name under which Sears Roebuck sold metallic and shotgun ammunition. These 22s were from different sources through the years. I once opened an original box of "22-7-45 Black Powder Cartridges for The Clinton Cartridge Co. Chicago" only to find that they had been made by the German RWS cartridge company and bore their headstamp "R" in a shield. As for the caliber, they were merely the old 22 WRF under a different name. I never heard of any special Clinton headstamp for their rim fires, although their shotgun shells were marked "C.C.Co." gauge and brand name. The cartridge box shown is

yellow and green with a red center. The shells are not marked.

Another box I have is green with a red center and credited to the Union Cap & Chemical Co. of Alton, Ill. It is by one of the first companies to be taken over by the Western Cartridge Company on their climb upward. The cartridges are marked with a Gothic Cross.

The 22 short can't be undersold for either shooting or collecting. It's silly to open sealed boxes of the earlier stuff since if you don't want it, it's worth more to a collector if it is still sealed. After all, most of the earlier companies didn't bother to headstamp their 22s, and when you have seen one plain headed 22 short, you've seen them all. ⊕

## THE ROCK RETIRES

(Continued from page 43)

Rocky pointed out. This kind of active hunting aided him in keeping his legs springy as steel bands, his wind sharp, and reflexes sharper. "It helps me to relax, too. I could forget that I, the hunter, was going to be hunted in the ring before long.

"When training for a fight, hunting helped me a lot. Road work can become very tedious but chasing after deer is something else again—fun. My friend, Eddy Young, has a lodge in a wilderness region of Vermont and another on Martha's Vinyard, the big island beyond the tip of Massachusetts. Deer hunting's good at both locations."

Curiously, Rocky does not always shoot, even when he has successfully come within gunshot of a deer. He is happy to allow another sportsman to do the actual shooting from a stand. He's satisfied to spend a day outdoors. "I guess the exercise is really more valuable to me than the fact of shooting a deer," he told me.

Yet there is plenty of thrill for Rocky in hunting, thrills that often rival the challenge of the ring. "Speed I need in boxing; speed on my feet and with my hands, and speed I need in shooting. In my opinion, a running deer is one of the most difficult of all targets," said the champ, swinging his hands rapidly in line with his eyes, as if he were snap-shooting a rifle. "There is a lot of the same kind of coordination to hunting that I use in boxing, putting my hands right where I want them in a fraction of an instant. Getting a bead on a running deer takes speed and muscle control, as well as a good sighting eye.

"When a deer breaks from the brush," Rocky exclaimed, recalling his last hunt near Holland, Michigan, "he can cover about 20 feet at a leap, his white tail bobbing up and down at high speed, and that's about all you see of this kind of a deer—the rear end going away from you.

"When a deer crosses your line of sight at over 30 miles per hour, you have to lead him, even with a high power rifle. Take a .30-30, for example—it's a real popular deer cartridge and I use a Model 36 Marlin carbine—and the bullet moves at about 2,000 feet per second. At 100 yards, this means the bullet will take about 1/20th of a second to cross from me to the deer, and when the deer is moving forward 2½ or 3 feet in that time, I have to lead him by about a yard to get him."

Not every ring victory has been a first-round kayo, and not every hunt for Rocky has been a one-shot kill affair. "I remember that Michigan hunt near Holland last fall. I trained there a couple of years back for my first fight with Joe Walcott. Had some good sport hunting there, too. Ted Cheff, another hunting friend, was my guide. I found my deer that time, but let another man in the party shoot it. I guess my deep freeze was just too far away for me to want to pack the meat back to Massachusetts.

"There was another hunt that taught me a lesson—you know, in boxing those lessons come hard and if you learn slow, you wind up flat on your back. Hunting is a little easier, but once you do something wrong and have to follow through, it sticks with you. You might call it a lesson in sports-

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manship that I learned on Martha's Vinyard. "I'd taken a shot at a running buck, and gut-shot him. That time I lead too slow. A running deer will often go down, hide out some distance away from where he was shot. Rarely do they stay on the same ground.

"Eddy Young, who was guiding, strapped a couple of snow shoes on me and made me track that deer down by his blood trail on the snow. All hunters should follow up their quarry. There are thousands of deer each year that get hit but not killed right away, and I understand many so-called 'sportsmen' don't bother to track them. They should, and often the deer will be found a short walk away in some unexplored bit of cover. If you keep after them right away, they will rouse up and try to run and you spot them easily. If you let them lie undisturbed until their wounds stiffen, they may die right there and you'll never find them. Eddy made me track him down without delay."

The Brockton block-buster keeps his rifles and shotguns at his training camp in Grossinger's, the well-known Catskills resort in New York state. "Just collecting guns never interested me much," Marciano explained. "I'd rather own a few guns and be able to shoot well with them, than have a huge array, the majority of which always stay on the racks to be seen, but not heard.

"For birds and small game I use a 20 gauge Stevens Model 258 bolt action shotgun. It suits me fine, and my wife likes it, too. For plinking and target work we use a .22 Winchester automatic, the Model 74. These are modern guns, ready for use. However, I do admire those men who restore the old timers, and use the muzzle loading percussion and flintlock rifles. It must take a great deal of skill, a little like rejuvenating an old, old fighter into a winning battler again. It's quite an art."

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Marciano's ring carrier has prevented him from taking time for hunting trips in recent years, but he enjoys plinking and target shooting. His favorite gun is a Hi-Standard Model "B" hammerless .22 auto pistol.

"Ever take that into the ring with you for title defense?" I jokingly asked Rocky.

The husky athlete chuckled, removing the clip from the gun. "No, I've never needed this to get through a match, I could always depend on my fists. But so far as shooting for fun or hunting, I'm strictly a handgun man, although I enjoy using my rifles and shotgun when I can find time. I've always like target shooting with pistols, and my Army training boosted this hobby even more for me."

Marciano was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, during part of the last war. In the 348th Combat Engineers he learned the use of a .45 Colt.

"The .45 is a powerful weapon," declared Rocky, "and I never had any doubt about when it went off. It really packs a punch, on both ends. I was fortunate to have some of the best handgun instructors, and I spent a lot of my spare time on the range. I even helped give a few lessons on my own.

"Looking back at it, it seems to me that footwork was as important to my Army pistol shooting as it was later in boxing. There is a difference, of course, because in shooting you stand still, and in boxing you keep moving. But everyone walks in a different manner, and it's only natural that each shooter has an individual stance. Body build affects this stance in many cases, but it is mighty important. Just as I have to be standing correctly, in the proper stance when I let go a roundhouse right, so I also have to be balanced for good shooting.

"The best position I find is the one where the angle my body makes with the target is easy and comfortable. To be sure my stance is right I start with my feet together, arms at my side . . . and relaxed, always relaxed. Then I move the left foot 12 to 15 inches to the side, left side, that is. I've noticed that some shooters keep their heels close together, at the position of attention. Some of the European shooters stand this way. Most Americans find that a more relaxed, easy stance works best, and the distance that the feet are apart is entirely a matter of comfort and ease.

"Then I raise my pistol arm and aim at the target. If my arm is in a strained position, I move the left foot back or forward a few inches, using the right as a pivot. Finally when the gun sights seem to line naturally on the bullseye, I know I'm 'on target.' When I had to teach a left-handed shooter in the army, and it was okay to let him fire left-handed, I had to reverse the system.

"The correct stance is one that is comfortable and not awkward," added Rocky. "You should be able to fire without twisting your neck to sight, your arm coming up easily and remaining extended toward that bullseye with little strain on the shoulder and neck muscles."

Every boxer has an individual style, just as every marksman shoots in the way that obtains the best results. Rocky has powerful hands, and the little Hi-Standard almost disappears in that huge grip, yet he handles the pistol with the finesse of a concert pianist.

When Marciano grips a pistol, his palm

is flat against the side of the stock, the gun held firmly so that a line could be drawn through the bore, wrist and forearm. His fingers are curled naturally around the stock, his middle finger close against the junction of the trigger guard and the frame, his two lower fingers supporting it.

"A pistol must be gripped properly," he advised. "Thus you will have the steadiness needed for sighting and squeezing the trigger. Some shooters develop their hands through special exercises. Custom-built stocks are found to be an advantage for skillful shooters, but the average person will be able to turn in good scores with standard grips." Handgunner Rocky never holds the stock too tightly, just firmly. A strained grip is to be avoided, because this would cause a bad movement when the trigger is squeezed, Rocky says.

Carefully Rocky held the Hi-Standard with the barrel vertical, showing me the correct placement of his finger on the trigger. "Most folks seem to use their trigger fingers incorrectly," Rocky remarked as he dry-clicked the pistol. "I always try to touch the trigger exactly halfway between the first joint and the tip of the finger. The rest of the trigger finger must be away from the gun, not touching it. This insures that squeezing the trigger will give a pull that's straight backward. I've discovered this to be very important, if you don't want to waste cartridges." In squeezing the trigger, Rocky emphasized that the wrong technique could throw the shooter off his target.

"You must keep your sights aligned perfectly while increasing the pressure on the trigger," said the leather-pusher. "Don't flinch. Strive for complete coordination be-

tween the hold and the squeeze. Practice as much as possible. Even dry firing with an unloaded gun can be especially helpful in developing proper trigger control."

The champ has utilized his handgun skill while hunting pests such as rats and snakes.

"Once I shot a running rabbit with a pistol," recalled Rocky as he slipped the Hi-Standard back into a desk drawer and locked it away. At that moment little Mary Anne Marciano, age three, walked into the room carrying a toy cap pistol.

"Don't ever point that at anyone, honey," said her daddy. It's Rocky's opinion that all youngsters should be taught how to handle firearms safely and adroitly.

"We often try to take a boy hunting in our parties," he remarked. "A kid can learn from going along with experienced gunners, especially if they are conscious of safety measures and point out to the lad what they are doing and why, like unloading a gun before crossing a fence. Too many youngsters are given guns by their parents without any sort of instruction or warnings. As a result, they go into the nearest woods or fields, firing at anything, regardless of backgrounds or the ranges of their weapons.

"Sportsmen's clubs are doing great work in this line for juniors. There are several clubs right in the Boston area who have good junior shooting instruction programs. More clubs should get up junior programs, and in this way there'd be less hunting accidents in the future. A boy with a .22 may not be too dangerous, but when he grows up with careless habits in gun handling and takes a high powered rifle out, he may hurt someone. It is this kind of hunter who gives the gun-law fanatics something to chew on.

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and it's too bad because the cure is so simple: teach them while they're young. I want Mary Anne to grow up into a lady, but if she gets interested in guns, I'm certainly going to see to it that she learns how to treat guns safely. And later on in school she may be on the rifle team. Shooting is a popular sport with girls these days."

Rocky is emphatic on the need for more junior training at the high school level. "It might help boys if they knew more about firearms before entering the armed services. Experts might step right into the jobs of instructors when needed. And another thing, we must train our youth to shoot straighter if we ever hope to beat the Europeans in official shooting competitions. We're also weak in this phase of the Olympics."

Shooting promotion strikes Rocky as a

phase of gun-sport that really needs help. Many professional athletes, men in the public eye, are active outdoorsmen and the Brockton slugger believes that more publicity should be given to their hobby of hunting and shooting.

"For instance, I've always had the greatest admiration for Ted Williams," explained Rocky. "He's a great baseball player, angler, shooter and fight fan. Probably the fact that Ted rarely missed one of my bouts has prejudiced me in his favor. On the day of the Archie Moore fight, Ted played for the Red Sox in Boston, then flew down to New York to watch the battle. He wants to take us hunting with him soon." That "soon" is right now, for with a ring career behind him and a lifetime ahead, Rocky will make fun with guns a part of his future. ⊕

## IS THE BOLT ACTION OBSOLETE?

(Continued from page 33)

a sort of warped point of view. Accuracy became a fetish with them. Nothing else was quite so highly desirable as a rifle that would poke all the bullets through one hole.

To point up the first and greatest virtue of the bolt action is to call attention to its high degree of precision. It is a tack driver.

The Whelen-Crossman duo ding-donged on the anvil of sportsman opinion that no gun was so much worth its salt as the turning bolt. Over the years the chorus has been sung by a corral-full of Whelen & Crossman little brothers, who talked up super-precision.

But the unsugared truth is that the average huntsman is a poor shot. He aims at the buck's neck and feel lucky if he finds he's hit low in the paunch. If he aims for the fore-shoulder and breaks the deer down in the hindquarters, he never gives his mediocre marksmanship a second's consideration. What if he did miss his point of aim by a couple of feet; he brought the venison to bag, didn't he? As far as our garden variety of gunner is concerned, a rifle that groups into four inches at 100 yards will serve him quite as well as one that plops 'em into less than a minute of angle.

Yet the bolt-action super-precision crowd continually encourages a certain boobyhatch fringe to essay longer and still longer shots at game. It is now quite fashionable to shoot at deer up to 800 yards, sheep at 600, coyotes no less, woodchucks at 500, and I haven't checked with any of my Mississippi cracker friends lately but I expect to hear any day that they are potting away at cat squirrels at a full six furlongs. Such far-out-of-range capers account for a hideous amount of crippling. Even if the animal is struck, the bullet has shed such a great deal of velocity and as a consequence energy that it only wounds, the beast escaping to die agonizingly. To shoot at any game animal over 300 yards should be against the law.

The trend goes directly back to after World War I when Whelen and Crossman com-

menced to propagandize in favor of the Springfield bolt action, a type of rifle that existed only in governmental arsenals. American target shooting was tied to this weapon so closely that the marksman had to use this gun if he were to compete at all. The Scheutzen rifle game had fallen into disrepute mostly because this manner of target shooting was German in origin. The deutscher and his way of life were not exactly riding the crest of the popularity wave.

A new rifle target game was born and everyone firing was compelled to use the new bolt action Springfield.

Thus the Mauser-type bolt action rifle was gently eased into the American shooting scene.

There was no commercial manufacture of bolt action weapons. The only gun of the type was the Springfield and it was a strictly GI piece of goods. It was simple indeed to arrange shooting programs that limited the match entry to the Springfield rifle. In 1920, the Winchester Company announced the Model 54 bolt action. It was promptly ruled off the match course. The gun could not compete against the Springfield. It was permitted in some "any rifle" matches at Camp Perry but these competitions were held to a minimum.

So if you hankered to be the rifle champion of the United States, you had to petition the government to buy the Model of 1903. Of course, you could go to the National Matches sans a gun and draw one for the duration of the big cap-busting but as even the rankest tyro will realize, your chances of copping the national title with an on-loan shooting iron weren't exactly shiny.

This situation continued for a couple of decades. Then John Garand came along and upset the applecart.

His semi-automatic .30-06 rifle, referred to through two wars as the "M1," reduced the Springfield to a state of obsolescence about on a par with the Zulu single barrel. Today, target rifle shooting is about as lively as a Thursday afternoon game of shuffleboard at the old soldiers' home because the bolt action has been continually foisted on target men these past many years.

Just how good is the bolt action rifle? We have been told all these many years that it is the only gun, a miracle weapon without which the sportsman might as well go afield with an Auca blowgun.

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The extracting force of the Mauser-pattern bolt is some five or six times that of the conventional lever action. It is extremely powerful and is a desirable feature to the military who can expect to have mud or sand in the action at times.

These virtues extolled, the case for the bolt action is made.

It is so slow to operate it might as well be classed as a semi-singleshot. The difficulty of getting shots off with anything like speed has persuaded the U.S. Army to abandon the rifle as a military arm. In the hands of the average hunter, who fires less than 20 shots annually at game, it is awkward beyond words to describe. He finds it impossible to keep the gun at shoulder and operate the bolt. Four separate and distinct motions are required to eject and reload.

This is precisely twice the number of movements necessary to complete the ejection-reloading cycle of any other repeating firearm.

If this were not enough, the crime is compounded by the fact that the marksman must lift his face off the stock and out of the line of sight when the bolt is retracted. If he does not he finds the cocking piece has got to be gouged out of his aiming eye.

The trigger finger gives up all contact with the trigger during the bolt manipulation routine. But that is not all.

Townsend Whelen persuaded everyone some 30 years ago that the only safe trigger was the kind the military use with a two-stage travel. That is, there are some fractions-of-an-inch free play before the true squeeze is encountered. Can you imagine then what confronts the snap shooter? First he has a rifle that is so slow to operate he might better arm himself with an old Sharps and catch up a couple of spare rounds in his teeth. Once he has wrenched the bolt through (1) the upward movement, (2) backward travel, (3) forward direction, (4) and final downward closing, he then must fight a trigger that moves falsely for three-eighths inch before getting to the true pull. Small wonder a fleeing whitetail can cover twenty rods between shots!

There is much heard about the balance of a bolt action rifle. But there is so much spare iron in the action it could not possibly be said to have any aliveness. In all truth the action is too heavy, too bulky, too long and too broad. It is as ugly as a West Texas horned toad, and has about the equivalent number of warty-like projection, angles, corners and other blemishes. As compared to the Savage Model 99 lever action, the run-of-mill bolt action is about as sleek and streamlined as Elsie the Borden cow.

Then there is the fact that one in every 16 persons is left handed. Currently we have 16,000,000 hunters in the U.S. or so says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That



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means that one million of these sportsmen are southpaws. Can a lefthander use a bolt action? Not only must he remove the weapon from the shoulder but he must get it down at hip level before he can reload. None of our manufacturers have ever taken the slightest heed of the situation. They have

just very blissfully ignored that 1/2 part of their customer potential. When the military claimed the old Springfield as the service rifle, recruits were always forced to change shoulders to the detriment of the beginner marksmen. The M-1 semi-automatic was a boon to the left-handed soldier. He

now handles the rifle just as skillfully as his right-handed brother.

The telescopic sight is a popular accessory these days but the optical sight causes complications on the bolt action. Experience indicates that the best mounts position the telescope directly atop the action and just as low as possible, in the iron-sight line we say. When a telescopic sight is mounted on the bolt action rifle in this manner, it requires long minutes and fingers as strong and supple as those of a professional safe-cracker to work the fresh cartridges around and beneath the scope and while holding the round to manage to depress the magazine follower and with this done feed the case into the magazine well. It is quite a trick, especially since the gymnastics must be done more by feel than by sight. Unless the huntsman can somehow persuade his guide to tie the game before he shoots, he might as well give up any idea of getting off the first magazine and then reloading.

There will be those who complain that maybe I am a trifle prejudiced against the bolt action. Not a bit of it. I only read those straws that are in the wind. The Olin Mathieson colossus, most powerful gun firm in the world and owners of the Winchester line, spent eight full years designing and perfecting a new rifle. And do you suppose it was a new and completely modernized bolt action? You betcha it wasn't!

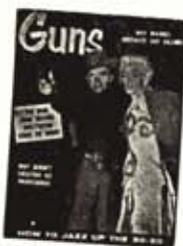
It was a lever action, the Model 88, a rifle that has a compound-operating lever, a gun that employs a rotary bolt with locking lugs at the forward end, a rifle to handle our most modern and hottest loads, stuff in the 50-55,000 sounds per square inch range. The 88 is sleek, streamlined, well balanced and light in weight. It will mount a scope as low as the iron sight. It loads with a detachable magazine that enters from the bottom. It is the answer to the year-after-year, top-of-the-heap sales position of the venerable .30-30 carbine. No longer taken in by the hoopla that the bolt action is the super gun, the Model 88 indicates the manner of thinking going on among the high brass at Olin Mathieson.

Over in the Remington camp two developments have equal significance. The first of these was the announcement of a pump action rifle, the Model 760, to handle our more popular high-intensity hunting cartridges. This handsome, completely modernized trombone rifle utilizes a turning action to lock up and the lugs are located at the forward extremity of the breechbolt. A telescope can be mounted on top of the receiver as the weapon loads with a separate clip.

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After the debut of the Model 760 Remington, engineers strained mightily and brought forth still another rifle. Again it bore not the slightest resemblance to the German Mauser. This latest is the Model 740 auto-loading .30'06. This gas-operated number locks up essentially like the pump gun, a rotary bolt with forward lugs. Unquestionably this very newest Remington will shortly be announced for the .270 and .257 cartridges; as well the .244, latest of the UMC children.

The new automatic is just a little more streamlined and smooth looking than the F-100 Super Sabre. To achieve this Marilyn-like silhouette, the knobs, cut-offs, safeties, bridges, bolt handles, corners, edges and 90-degree surfaces of the bolt action are—praise Allah!—missing.

Had Olin Mathieson engineers and Remington's brilliant team elected to improve the bolt—and God knows they'd have been on practically virgin ground—there isn't any doubt they could have provided us with a better turning-bolt action today. Instead they chose to modernize the lever and the pump and in keeping with the military turn to give us a practical sporting auto-loader. These people are hard-headed, practical businessmen. They have studied the market and have forecast the future. It was their decision that the gun of tomorrow will not be the old Mauser-pattern firearm but rifles of infinitely better appearance and improved handling qualities. They are guns that safely handle our hottest loads, are faster firing, easier and more rapid to reload, and possess a degree of accuracy vastly superior to the skill of the average rifle shot. ☉

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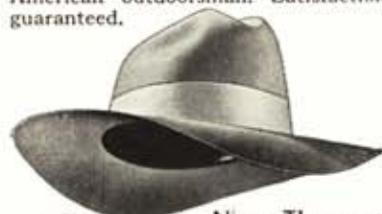
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## LOW LOADS FOR HIGH SCORES

(Continued from page 39)

sizes can be used in rifles. Charges are rather critical for individual guns and components and groups may vary from fair to awful. Your pet rifle barrel will last indefinitely with cast bullets, but it's wise to check for leading occasionally.

While reduced loads may give a feeling of safety, they are lethal at long range and may ricochet badly, so a suitable backstop is a "must." Farmers and ranchers are apt to be narrow minded if their cattle are shot by stray bullets. Loads in the 1,500 f.p.s. class are generally accurate up to 200 yards and dangerous at a mile or more. Steel plate about 1/4" thick set at an angle will deflect bullets down where they can be caught in sand. Dry sand is one of the best "stoppers" inside or outside for either direct or deflected hits. Penetration is not deep and slugs will not ricochet.

Commercial bullet traps permit salvaging lead for re-use, but fooling around a junk yard will turn up something that can be converted into an efficient trap. I use an old axle housing. A heavy steel plate was bolted on the back and a 1" board bolted on the front.

A wad of cotton or cloth is used as filler until the lead bullets fuse into a solid chunk. When sufficient metal is caught, the back is removed and the chunk driven out. When the center of the wood front is shot out, it's still good for a couple of thousand rounds, then easily replaced. The unit weighs about 17 pounds empty, so is portable for use in the basement or outdoor range. A backstop is necessary, of course, to catch stray shots. This trap, one of several I've made, has caught several hundred pounds of lead with no sign of damage.

The handgunner who plans to master rolling a cylinder may as well learn the truth now as later. Double action speed shooting requires mild, but not minimum loads. If charges and bullets are too light, primers may set back and make the cylinder difficult to revolve. Worst, pronounced hangfires may occur. I recommend a bullet of over 100 grains, and heavier is still better. Amazing speed and accuracy can be developed with steady practice and loads that almost equal factory match wadcutters, with perfect ignition. The .38 Short and Long Colt cartridge is inferior to .38 Special wadcutter commercial rounds in .38 Special and .357 revolvers. Automatic pistols do not function with cream-

puff loads, but they are excellent as single loaders. Then the cases are not ejected and can be easily saved for reloading.

The proper powder for gallery-load velocity is important. All powders have a high and low pressure tolerance for efficient ignition and burning. An under charge of slow rifle powder may not ignite until the primer has driven the bullet into the bore. This leaves unburned powder in the barrel or blows it out the muzzle. Over-charges of fast burning pistol powder develop high breech pressure and erratic groups. Correct charges will ignite easily and burn completely in any length barrel under low pressure, which is ideal for extremely light loads. But low loading density can effect accuracy or ignition.

For example, the .45 Colt cartridge was not designed for target use. The original charge of 40 grains of black powder was, and still is, not of the best big-bore loads. But under-loaded, it falls way off in short-range accuracy. With modern powders the runty little .45 ACP case, shorter than the .45 Colt, has better target accuracy due to the higher loading density. It even works well in revolvers with over-length cylinders. Another example is the .38 Special wadcutter load that gives superior target accuracy, in spite of a bullet with a poor ballistic shape, because it is seated deeply, reducing case capacity, and driven at low speed. True wadcutters are erratic at high velocity or beyond 50 yards and are quite wind sensitive. Semi-wadcutters make the same clean holes in paper, and have a range and trajectory that almost equals a round nose, plus far greater killing power.

A word of warning about rimless rifle cases: keep separate brass for squib loads. The primer charge may drive cases into a chamber far enough to set back the shoulder, creating excess headspace. A fired primer that protrudes from the pocket indicates this condition. If a full charge load is fired in such a case, it may rupture near the head, and could rupture your head. While a high power rifle is no safer than the cartridge case, squib loads develop such low pressure that old, or slightly below standard brass can be used with safety, so long as it isn't a failure in the pocket or head. New cases may stand 100 or more loadings, so brass life is not a problem.

Squib loads are worked "down," rather

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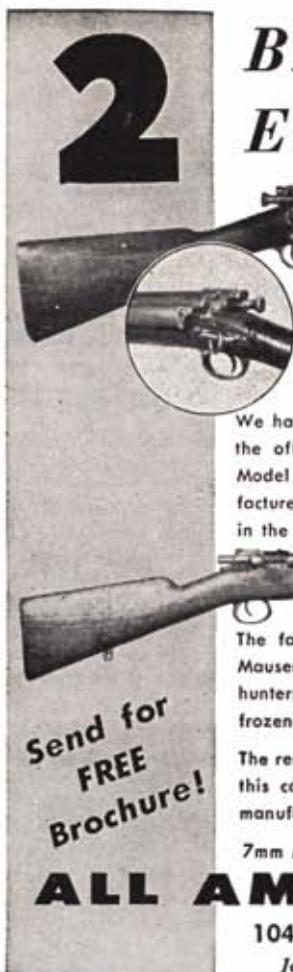
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than "up." That is, you start with a more than minimum charge and work down, until accuracy falls off, just the reverse of full loads. The loads I have listed as "minimum" should be accurate and permit some variation in bullet weight and your components. Let me emphasize the importance of keeping the tiny powder charge at the base of the case, next to the primer, for uniform ignition. The barrel should be elevated before each shot to insure proper ignition before the bullet is driven into the bore by the primer.

It may or may not be possible to reduce these loads in your gun with your components. Only a test will tell. Loaded cartridges should be identified so they will not be accidentally used as full charges. If your cases are all the same make, a dab of nail polish on the headstamp will identify the squib loads.

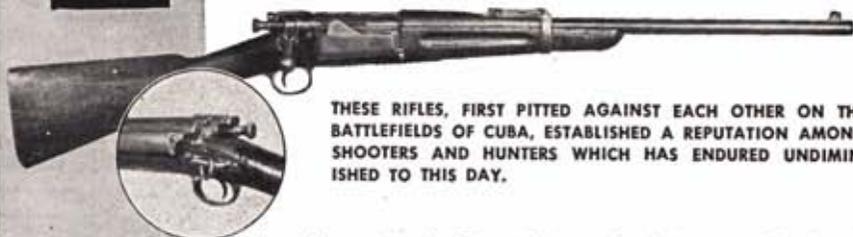
Light charges and bullets may have a different point of impact, generally low, and sights must be adjusted to compensate. By all means use the same sights you expect to use for hunting, because learning to use your sights is more than half the problem of using your gun. Always use your hunting scope for gallery practice. Optical sights are a tremendous advantage for everything except a rare shot at big game right off the gun muzzle. A few die hards dispute that fact, but I've never met a single one who gave the glass a fair trial against iron sights.

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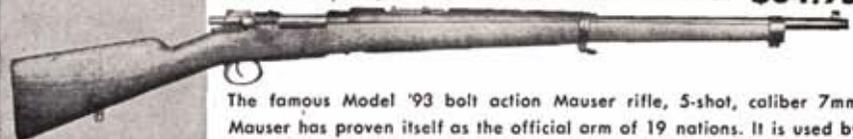
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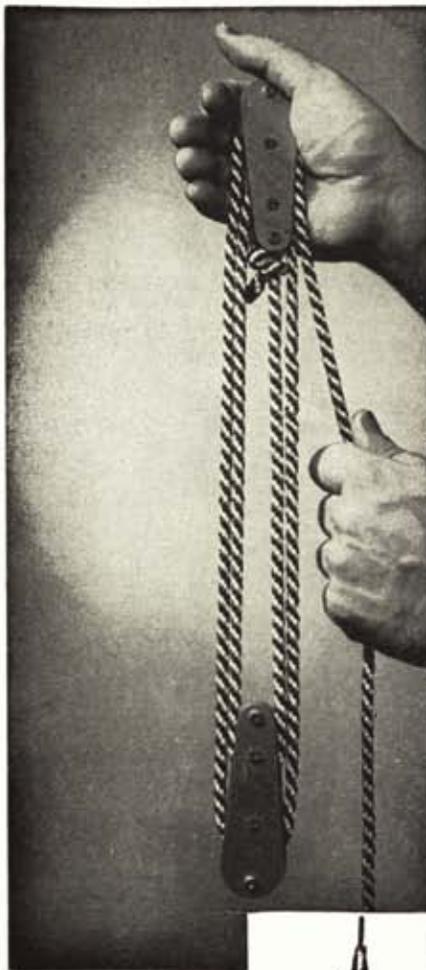
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California's FDL outfit has worked out a sub-caliber chamber for .30-06 and some other popular calibers. The idea is to use bulletless "power" cartridges, the powder-filled .22's

made for some explosive power tools. A regular bullet is seated in the front of the steel insert. The whole thing looks like an iron .30-06 cartridge. With power cartridges adapted to the various bullets, this should be a neat package for indoor and mid-range practice.

So if you have a yen to outshoot the famous shooters of the past, who caused interesting pages to be inserted in history books, you can do it. Better equipment is available and all it takes is practice and more practice, with gallery loads, and a determination to make every shot count to the best of your ability. ☉

**HUNTERS ON MOTORCYCLES**

(Continued from page 41)

"More than once we ran out of fuel and had to push our machines anywhere from a half to three miles. When we were too far back or the trails were too tough, we left our motorcycles behind and walked out for gas. Every now and then, during those earlier days, we would get caught out in the woods when night fell. As a rule we were not prepared for such emergencies, so we just sat under a tree and waited for morning. On one occasion, night caught us out of gas and five miles from our destination. We were headed through the mountains on a trail leading to a remote ranch where we had been invited to spend the weekend. The rancher figured something was wrong when we didn't show up at his place. He climbed on a horse and led a couple more down the trail until he found us. Boy, were we glad to see him.

"During those days, Stranahan and I rode together a lot. At that time he seemed to believe a motorcycle could go any place a horse could, and he came pretty close to proving it.

"Why, we even climbed peaks in mountain goat country. We rode along high cliffs on trails so steep and rough my blood curdles every time I think of them and how inexperienced we were."

The original group of back country trail riders soon grew in size. Today it is not unusual for several groups of hunters to be riding widely separated mountain trails on the same weekend. They easily reach trout streams seldom seen by other sportsmen. They have discovered that with their motorcycles, the cream of the big game hunting is available to them.

Easily accessible areas are hunted far too heavily, while herds further back are not

reached often enough to hold their populations within numbers supportable by the annual food supply. *But the motorcycle mounted hunters can easily reach such herds, even though these mobile sportsmen may not be able to hunt for more than one or two days each season.*

Most of the experienced trail riders prefer Harley Davidson's lightweight 125 model. These little jobs weigh only 150 pounds and are easily handled. With gripster tires and the low gear sprockets that are usually used (60 teeth), the little machines have power enough for the steepest trails. The medium-weight 165s seem to be second choice.

Each rider usually carries an extra spark plug in case someone should have trouble. Additional gas seldom need be carried as the light cycles' mileage is exceptionally good, even in the mountains. When an unusually long trip is planned, an extra can of fuel is lashed on behind the rider.

Two or more cyclists generally travel together. All motors are completely muffled, except the last one in the group. As they string along the trail, the riders in front do not have to look back to see how those following are faring as long as the unmuffled motor can be heard. Whenever the tail motor becomes silent the group stops to check.

During hunting season there are many pack outfits traveling in big game country. Horsemen and cyclists sometimes meet on narrow trails. As the leading motor is muffled, the pack animals do not become frightened. The leader stops and a signal is sent back to the operator of the noisy machine, which is immediately turned off. The riders lift or roll their American lightweights off the path and let the horses pass.

Speeds vary from a mile or two to 20 miles

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an hour, depending on the condition of the trail. This is from two to four times as fast as a man or horse can walk over the same paths.

On the sharp switchbacks of trails zig-zagging up steep mountainsides, the men lift the front wheel and "float" it around, riding all the while. Traveling downward on such trails must be done slowly.

Riders develop a habit of coming to rest on the foot toward the inside of the trail. The outer edge is often soft or loose and will cave away if the rider were to plant his foot there. A nasty spill could result from such carelessness. If logs or other obstructions are encountered, the rider dismounts and "walks" his machine over, using a little power to help carry the load. There have been no serious accidents.

Side cars are never used on the usual woodland paths as there is not enough room for these outfits. However, many narrow mountain roads cut through some excellent hunting areas. Heavier motorcycles with side cars can be used advantageously in these places.

Here in Idaho, thousands of sportsmen drive their cars into the back country wherever there are roads. They set up their camps and hunt to either side on foot. In this country these people are called, "road hunters." It is easy for the motorcyclists to go far enough into the woods to be well beyond the area covered by the road hunters. *The trail riders therefore contribute to the wider and better distribution of hunters, for they do not add themselves to the overcrowded fringe area along the road, but hunt beyond it.*

Sometimes game will move out of a locality just before hunting season opens. Men on foot, or even on horseback, will generally spend several days scouting an area before they discover this has happened. Quite often, so much of the vacation is lost by the time the situation of game scarcity is known, that the sportsmen do not like to move and try



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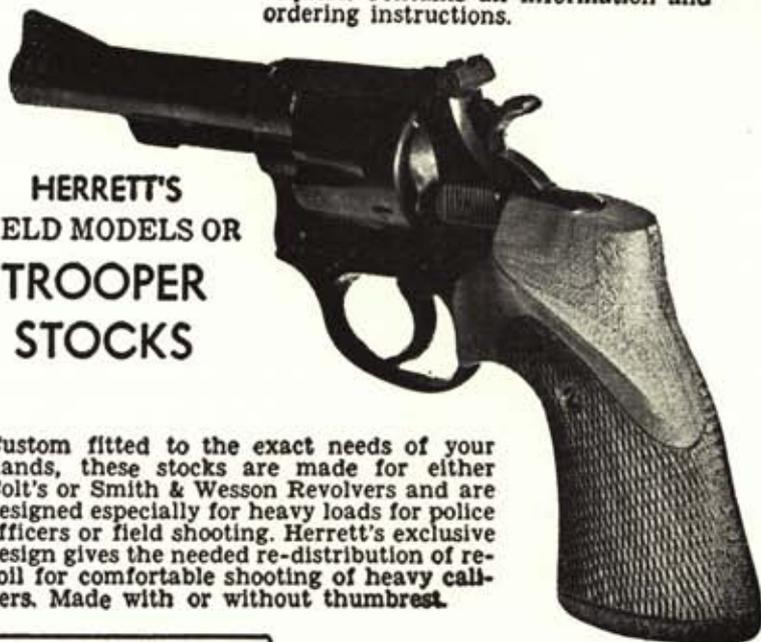
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to find game in another locality. Instead they usually stay and try to catch up with an occasional stray in the game-poor area. The net result is overhunting a few stragglers, and a poor outing is had by all.

But the motorcyclists can spread out over the trails and inspect the area for many miles in each direction. If game has become scarce this fact will be discovered within a day, leaving plenty of time for a move to a new locality, even during a short vacation.

Most trail riders hunt within 10 to 15 miles of camp. On exceptionally good trails it is no trick to ride 20 to 30 miles in 1½ hours, and hunting is carried out at great distances from headquarters when such favorable conditions exist.

The U.S. Forest Service maintains nearly all wilderness trails. The more important ones in fire fighting and fire prevention are very well cared for. To the motorcyclist, such paths are the boulevards of the primitive area. They are comparatively smooth. Brush and low hanging limbs are cut and kept back out of the way. Main trails trav-

eling beside rivers, along the sides of canyons or tops of ridges, are usually fairly level. This does not mean there are no steep places, but as a rule such trails offer the best riding conditions. Side trails are generally rougher and sometimes much steeper than the main ones.

Trail conditions are very important to hunters mounted on motorcycles, for they are the controlling factors in governing how far from the central camp the hunting will be done. Sometimes, when the trail is slow and the desire is to hunt a long distance from headquarters, a sleeping bag and a few groceries are taken along for an overnight stay.

However, there is another important controlling factor, especially when elk are sought. *The meat must be brought out.*

A small or medium deer can be carried to camp in one trip. The nimrod will be forced to cut a large deer in two and return for the second half. The same thing will be true of small elk. Larger bulls and cows cannot be brought out in less than 4 to 6 trips.

Elk are usually dressed and quartered

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★ All Herter bullets are of the flat base design. NOTE: We make no obsolete boat-tail bullets. The German army as well as the American army abandoned the boat-tail bullet years ago. Boat-tail bullets have no greater velocity at an effective killing range than do flat-base bullets. Actually boat-tail bullets tend to collapse rather than expand or upset in the barrel and the gas tends to squeeze past them. They can be so reduced in diameter that it completely destroys their accuracy. Unless made with extreme hard cores and stiffer jackets than flat-base bullets they are absolutely inaccurate. When made with hard cores and stiffer jackets their mushrooming and shocking power is greatly decreased. Furthermore, the tapered base of the boat-tail bullet exposes the thinner walls of the bullet jacket to the hot powder gases which causes separation of the lead core from the jacket greatly upsetting the bullets accuracy!



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.243 Dia.	85	SP	2.74	30	150	SP	3.27		180	SP	3.43
	100	SP	2.87	.312 Dia.	180	SP	3.43		150	SP	3.27
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.257 Dia.	100	SP	2.87	8m/m	150	SP	3.27		180	RN	3.43
	117	SP	2.97	.323 Dia.	236	RN	3.74		236	RN	3.74
6.5m/m	130	SP	3.17		150	SP	3.27		200	SP	3.74
.263 Dia.	150	RN	3.29	35	200	SP	3.74		250	RN	3.97
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right where they fall when shot. The motorcyclists have developed a system of slinging and tying the meat high on their machines in a manner which works as well as methods usually employed when packing with horses or mules. No special racks are used. The meat cannot be hung on each side of the machine for it would catch on logs, trees and rocks at the edge of the pathway.

The little lightweights will not carry as much meat as a pack horse, but they do have an important advantage over livestock; they are faster, and the hunter also rides. Some of the cyclists weigh well over 200 pounds. The motorcyclist can shoot an elk 20 or 30 miles from camp without any danger of meat spoilage before the trophy can be taken to headquarters. On occasions, when several riders were together, an elk has been shot. They dressed and packed it 25 miles over a wilderness trail in less than a day's time! But as a rule the sportsman spends from one to two busy days packing his game out, if the trail is a very good one.

Along average trails these hunters make it a rule never to shoot an elk over ten miles from camp and a deer over fifteen miles away. The tougher trails, and the ones running through burnt-over areas where there is much windfall, are not used for big game hunting unless there is a packer in the area and he agrees to haul out any animals killed by the motorcyclists.

Motorcycle hunters carry their own favorite big game rifle on trips. N. R. Gibbs, Lewiston gunsmith and dealer, likes the model 70 Winchester, chambered for the .300 Weatherby. He uses 150 grain bullets for deer and the 180 grain slugs for elk. When asked if any special gun was best for motorcycle hunters, he said:

"No, just take your favorite gun along. If

it doesn't have a sling, you must have one attached. You've got to have your hands free while riding, so you sling your rifle across your back where it is out of the way. Of course, the shorter, lighter guns are easiest to carry.

"The old army way, carrying a gun in a front-wheel scabbard, is sometimes good but the added weight in front makes the cycle handle sluggishly. When the narrow trails switch back and you have to reverse your direction going up hill, a heavy front end makes steering tough.

"Scabbards used in saddle-carry can be adapted to strapping on the cycle frame. It takes a little study to make sure the chains and sprockets are free and the rifle doesn't get hung up in the machinery. But, except for long distance road travel before entering a hunting area, the cross-back sling carry is the best way. A short-barreled carbine sticks out less and will have less chance to hang up on brush as you cut through the woods, but the choice of a rifle is dictated by the game you plan to find, not by carrying methods.

"For road carry, travelling on a good highway, packing the rifle strapped tightly across the handle-bars eases the strain on the rider of having it hang from his shoulder. But when you roll off the black top and strike for the hills, a cross-back sling carry is best."

"You know," Gibbs went on, "this motorcycle hunting is quite a sport. For many years I hunted the back country by hiring a pack string and saddle horse each season. Seven years ago, I began riding those same trails on a lightweight. I do my hunting much easier and cheaper now.

"You ought to see how surprised some dudes are when I ride past their camps. They

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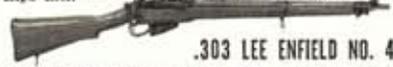
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had some pack outfit carry their gear way back into the woods, and just about the time they settle down for a nice quiet hunt away from everyone else, some guy like me comes riding down the trail on a motorcycle.

"Of course," Gibbs laughed, "we never do any hunting in their territory. That would be a dirty trick. Deer and elk do not seem to fear the machines, so we don't scare them out of the country. In fact, most of the game I have killed was shot within a short distance of a trail; some were even taken within sight of the motorcycle."

E. B. Stranahan was probably the very first Lewiston man to take up back country trail riding. Nowadays he always finds time to go out with beginners and teach them the fundamentals of riding mountain trails safely.

The .308 Winchester Featherweight Model 70 is Stranahan's favorite rifle. As a rule he experiences very little trouble getting his deer and elk.

However, the Fall of 1955 was different. When the big game season came to an end he was still empty-handed. He felt pretty badly about this, but he had one more chance to try his luck. The game department declared a special late open season on elk in a winter range area where the animals were said to be damaging crops on ranches along the edge of the forest.

When this special season opened, Stranahan loaded his lightweight into a pickup and drove to the locality where the hunt was being carried on. He parked near an old road, mounted his motorcycle and followed it until he came to a large meadow. He sat down beside a stump in the middle of the opening and quietly waited.

About half an hour later Stranahan spotted a movement just inside the edge of the brush at the upper end of the clearing. What followed is in his own words:

"I picked up my gun and took a look through the scope. It was a fine big cow. Looked to me like it was an awful long way off so I set the cross hairs at the upper edge of its backbone, directly above the heart.

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"Then I squeezed the trigger of my 308. The elk sort of jumped, but settled down right away and trotted off into the timber. I was not sure I had hit it. Actually, I was afraid I had not. Anyhow, I hiked up there and made a big circle through the trees to see which way it had headed. The snow was just right for tracking, but I did not see a single sign of my elk.

"Well," I said to myself, "that cow has got to be somewhere inside this circle." And sure enough, I found it in a few minutes. It was as dead as it could be.

"The bullet entered between the ribs without spoiling a dime's worth of meat, and exploded in its lungs. The 150 grain slug had gone in 14 inches below the back.

"Now I would have sworn that the elk was at least 600 yards away when I shot. But, when I got to studying the trajectory chart on the .308, and stopped to consider

how my rifle is sighted in, the evidence proved to me that blamed cow was only about 450 yards from where I stood when I fired."

Stranahan packed his elk out on the back of his cycle in three trips. "If I had made the hunt on horseback," he said, "I would have ended up at home with a few hundred pounds of spoiled meat. But the cycle got over the trails fast enough for me to bring the meat to the locker in good condition."

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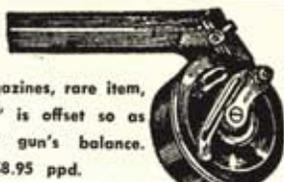
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## ARMS LIBRARY

(Continued from page 8)

guns. Chinn has written a book. And the effect of Chinn's book will be greater than the arms work of all the inventors.

The whole purpose of Volume IV of "The Machine Gun" (Vols. II and III are classified and not for the public) is to stimulate popular interest in the fascinating and necessary field of machine gun study. From being the foremost nation in machine gun development, the U.S. during the 1930's dropped far behind. Our war effort was seriously hampered by the fact that nobody in the U.S. knew anything about automatic weapons design. Chinn's book is his attempt to correct that,

through the sponsorship of the Navy bureau of ordnance.

Starting with a detailed but understandable section on how machine guns work, Chinn progresses to the illustrations which for many readers will be the meat of the book. Pages 213 through 504 consist of clear, simple line drawings which schematically show hundreds of breech locks, feed mechanisms, and such simple designs as variations in springs, nuts and bolts, as applied to machine gun design. These drawings are masterpieces of clear illustration done by Edward Hoffschmidt, who is probably our foremost gun illustrator in the mechanical sense. His understanding of machine gun mechanics is extensive, as is clearly shown by his drawings. Nearly 100 pages of patent abstracts covering machine gun designs from the Civil War to date complete Chinn's monumental reference book.

The value of this volume will be immediately apparent to any manufacturer who wishes to do business with the government in the field of arms making. It is a handbook of gun design for today and tomorrow. But even more important is the place which "Volume IV" will have in creating interest among American gun bugs in machine guns and automatic weapons design, a first line of defense.

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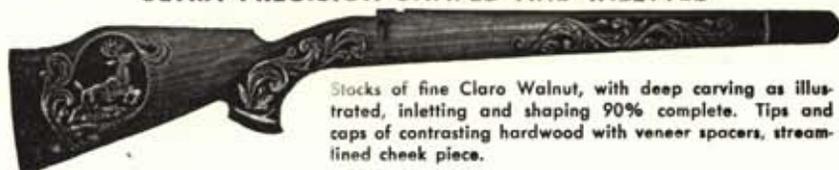
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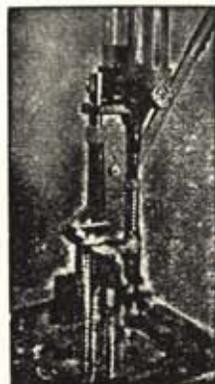
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on Spanish guns is, an anecdote about the author is in order. An American gun collector was talking with a European expert on old arms. "Oh, you don't want to ask me those questions," the expert replied, "Go to see Keith Neal in England. There isn't anyone alive who knows more about flintlock guns than Neal." A small part of that great learning is expressed in his book on Spanish weapons.

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description of the reduction of 50 pounds of wrought iron by forging to a barrel billet of six or eight pounds is curious, and reflects the primitive understanding of metals of the era. Thirdly, reproduction of makers' marks and identification information makes Neal's book of value to the growing number of connoisseurs who are finding in the mechanical variations and artistic quality of Spanish guns a worthwhile field for collecting.

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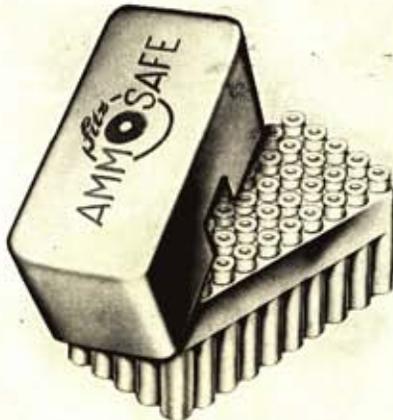
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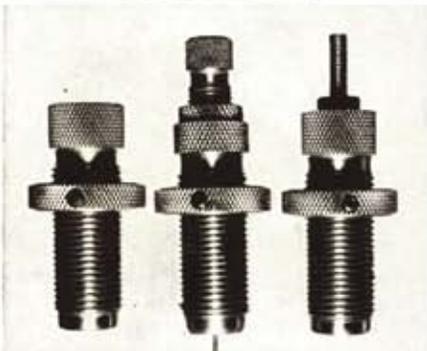
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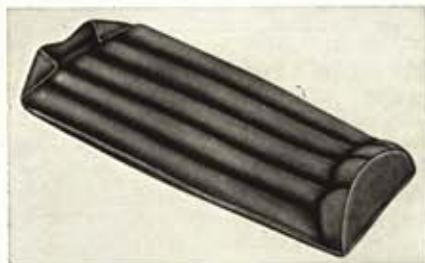
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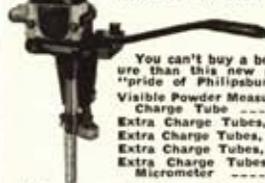


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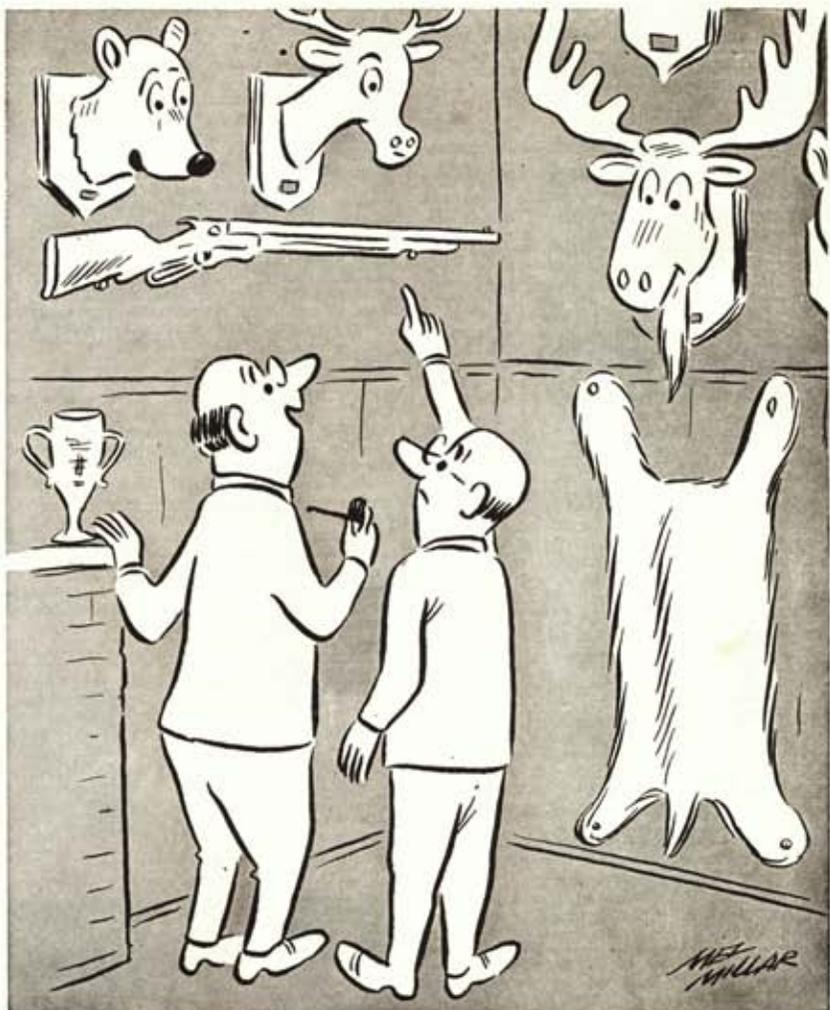
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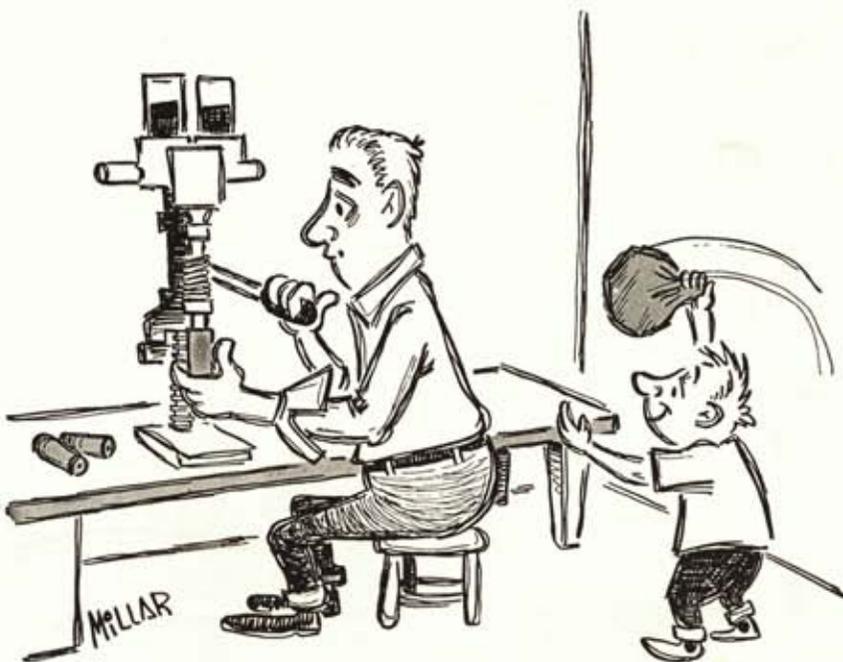
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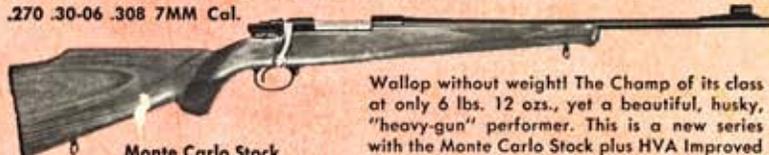
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