

Guns

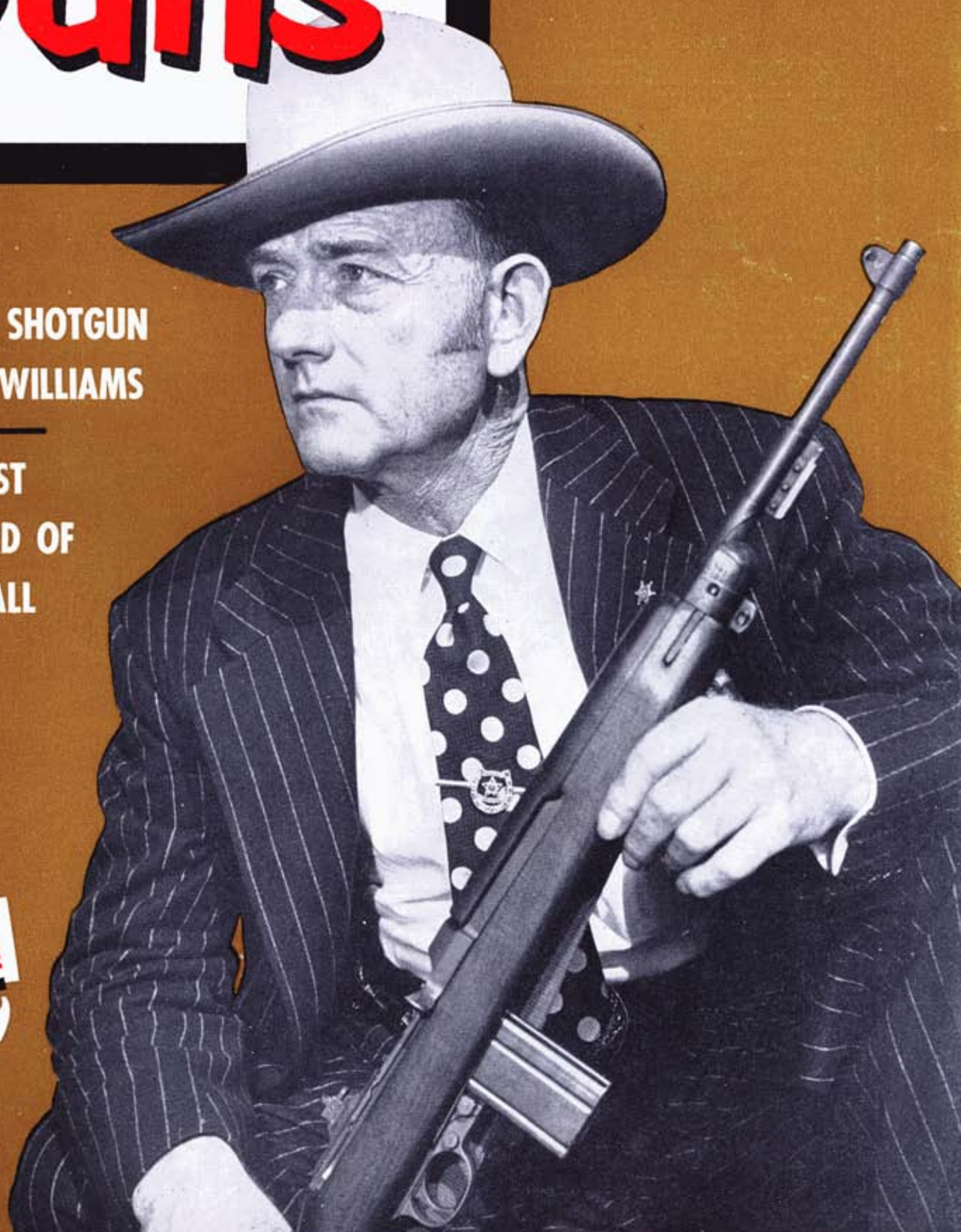
OCTOBER 1956 50c

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THE
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WILDFOWL
HUNTING ISSUE



WILL YOU KILL A MAN THIS FALL?

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NATO CONVERSION ALLOWS RELEASE SMLE NO. 1 Mk. III Britains FINEST RIFLE

Pride of British troops throughout Empire today. Big game hunters from Canadian wilderness to African Congo claim the powerful .303 caliber SMLE is best for all big game. Fastest bolt action in world. All milled parts. Long range sights. 10-shot mag. 25" bbl. .303. **GUARANTEED VERY GOOD CONDITION.** Complete with sling and 20 rds. mil. ammo. **FREE.** Addit. Mil. Ammo. \$7.50 per 100 rds. **SOFTNOSE SPORTING AMMO.** made by Rem. & Win., sold everywhere. Bayonet: \$1.95. \$10 deposit for C.O.D.

GENUINE STANDARD MODEL 98 MAUSER



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GUARANTEED VERY GOOD CONDITION. The world's most famous rifle action. Made in Germany and Europe. Early dates, no stampings. All precision milled parts. Each \$25.00

Barreled Mauser 98 Action—barreled with new Buhmiller barrel to 22-250, 220 Swift, 250-3000, 257R, 257R Imp., .270, 7MM, 300 Sav., 308, 30-06, 30-06 Imp., 35 Rem., 35 Whelen and 35 Whelen Imp., in the white, less sights. Each \$55.00

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Save up to 1/2 on these famous European makes

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7-Shot. Fires .32 Colt Auto or .32 ACP. Czech Army pistol, pre-Iron Curtain. Absolute precision and accuracy. **GOOD... \$17.95**



ASTRA .380 CAL.

Made to German Army specs, during WW II. 7-Shot. Fires .380 Colt ammo. **VERY GOOD... \$29.95**



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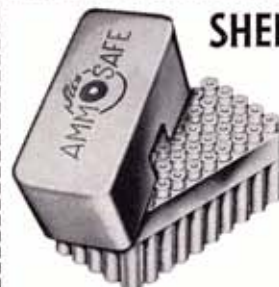
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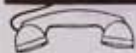
This handsome .22 auto-loader weighs only 4 pounds 12 ounces. Its slender lines, compact features, light weight and comfortable balance will make it a favorite of both amateur and expert. Its action is so sound functionally that durability is unsurpassed. Unique disc leaf rear sight. Extra safety features. Complete disassembly in seconds without the aid of a single tool. Grades I, II and III—all hand engraved. Selected French walnut, finely checkered, on all stocks and semi-beavertail forearms.

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TRIGGER TALK

FOR ITS ANNUAL wildfowl hunting issue, GUNS presents a stellar line-up of experienced men in the field of shotgunning to recount how the smoothbores and birds go together like ham and eggs in these Autumn days when the crisp snap is returning to Northern woods.

Searching for the most elusive of wildfowl, GUNS indexes the choicest of feathered quarry for the true sportsman. Despite the turkey's traditional association with November, we present Johnny Mock's important story on the hunting of our most noble game bird because it isn't the barnyard gobbler of which he writes, but the great winged monarch of the Pennsylvania forests, the wild turkey. Ben Franklin felt the turkey should have been our national emblem, and in the Keystone State hunters pay it the respect due a difficult and exciting game bird. Both shotguns and rifles are used, and Johnny Mock, outdoor editor of the Pittsburgh Press, tells you what and why.

Out in the high passes of Oregon the band-tail pigeon reigns supreme as a fast, tricky, and highly edible game bird. Francis Sell, with a list of books on hunting to his credit—"Advanced Hunting," "The American Deer Hunter," "Small Game Hunting"—gives you his adventures and advice on shooting these fast birds.

One of the most unusual game birds is the rail, found in the Texas rice fields, and Dev Klapp describes how to catch this tricky customer. Finally there's the most common of wildfowl that hunters will go after—the duck—and Carlos Vinson discusses what is the best gun to join in all the shooting.

On the mechanical side of the wildfowl season, H. Welles Steane takes apart shotgun chokes and tells how and why they make for better shooting. Steane is president of Poly-Choke, pioneer makers of adjustable chokes, and knows his product thoroughly.

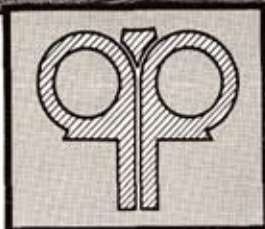
Next month GUNS turns to the subject of four-legged bags in its annual game hunting issue. Francis Sell will return to these pages in a critical and significant essay on the proper use of iron sights. Without sights, a rifle is just a club, and with the wrong iron sights, incorrect peep and blades, a rifle can still be useless.

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Barrels of demi-bloc or "chopper lug" construction—each barrel blank forged from a single billet with the half-lug integral and the two finally and permanently joined.

MODEL 100
\$108.50

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COMPARE THE DOUBLE BARREL DAKIN with **any** other double barrel gun—even with those selling for two and three times the DAKIN price. Compare for fit and finish . . . balance . . . accuracy . . . safety . . . dependability . . . precision hand craftsmanship in every mechanical detail. Note the beauty of design; the good taste of the handsome engraving. **You'll want to buy a DAKIN!**

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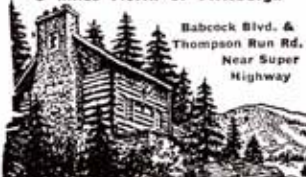
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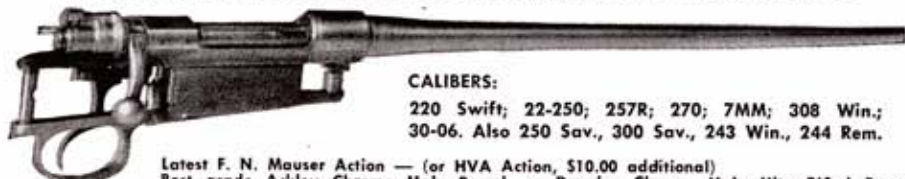
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CALIBERS:

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Latest F. N. Mauser Action — (or HVA Action, \$10.00 additional)

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Barrels have fine-ground finish.

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(With Double Adjustment \$63.00) The perfect hunting scope for all-around hunting conditions. 33" field at 100 yards. Noted for its superior luminosity and light gathering qualities. THE ONLY 4X90 scope.

First choice of those who want extra magnification for both big game and varmint shooting. You get it in this 6-power AJACK with 22 1/2" field at 100 yards.

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.45 Auto Commercial M.C. Ammo. \$6.00 per 100

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8 MM MAUSER (imported, Germany)—175 gr. B.T.M.C. \$6.00 per 100

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Fitted to your Mauser or F.N. Action — \$6.00 more.



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KRIEGERHOFF Drillings 22 Sav. H.P. 2-12 ga. 25" barrels, individual ejectors on rifle, indicators 7 1/2" \$460.00.

FRANZ SODIA Drillings 222 Rem. 2-12 ga. 24" side safety highly engraved 7" \$420.00. (Can have this made-up any modern combination wanted same price).

Millvale, Pa.

SHOOTING NEWS

Bristol, Indiana. At the 1956 Mid-Western regionals, a record-breaking 213 pistol men turned out to watch Harry Reeves get a free trip to Perry and a big silver bowl for winning the regional championship aggregate with 2600 and 104 bullseyes . . . The likeable Knoxville gun-bug, Gil Heberd, kept on the Detroit officer's heels close throughout the match and scored first with 193-5 in the .22 slow-fire match over Harry's 187-4 for third . . . Bobby F. Taylor kept right up there in the money throughout the matches, for second in the .22 slow fire, 3rd in the centerfire aggregate, 2nd in the .45 rapid fire, and first in the centerfire rapid with 198-13. . . . Ohioan George Tulk, Jr. took the rapid fire .45 match with a 194-4 to glean another winning mark for his championship record and a pair of sterling tablespoons. . . . Royal Drew of St. Louis edged out Reeves and Heberd for first place in the .22 NM course with 295-15, taking home a pair of sterling ladles for gravy and mayonnaise. . . . James Hurt, a Detroit policeman, topped his mentor Reeves in the center fire aggregate scoring, winning with 870-30 over Harry's brilliant but erratic grouping of 868-41 . . . Hurt was runner-up in the 20-shot CF rapid fire match with 195-11 behind another Detroit gendarme Bobby Taylor who scored 198 and 13 bulls. . . . St. Louis police took the team match scoring 1128 for four silver medals.

Jacksonville, Florida. While floodlights beamed at the night shoot of the Jacksonville Gun Club on Gun Club Road, and the traps threw glittering white clay pigeons, scattergunners jockeyed for honors in the 19th Southeastern Open Skeet shoot. . . . Spectators sat up and took notice when 12-year old Miner Cliett of Childersburg, Alabama, and local Jacksonville champ Francis Ellis staged a hot bangfest to start the show . . . Cliett, 1955 National Junior 20-gauge champ, dropped one bird as did Ellis and Ken Pendergrass, for a three-way tie of 149 x 150. Pendergrass dropped out after the first round but Ellis and the young champ from Alabama with one eye peeled on the trophy kept at it . . . Then youth gave way to experience and Cliett, one of the youngest shooters on the circuit, dropped low house six on the fourth round to end the duel.

Canton, Ohio. On a sunny day with 101 competitors attending the match, they crowned a husky chem engineer king of Ohio's handgunners. . . . George Tulk, Jr. of Elyria captured the outdoor pistol championship in the annual shoot on McKinley Rifle Club's range above Middlebranch. Tulk became champ on a technicality. Tied with Bill Sparks of Lorain with 2492, Tulk was decreed winner on the basis of his high scores in rapid fire where he outshot Sparks 852 to 827. The Kessler travelling trophy is Tulk's for a year. . . . Walt King of the McKinley club broke into the medal class, winning two as first expert with 193 in the .22 class and first expert hanging on to the back end of a bouncy .45 to shoot a high 183. That .45 kick makes ten points and a world of difference.

San Diego, Calif. A pretty distinguished turnout at the San Diego pistol joust was highlighted by Captain Hank Jacobs' performance. Hank, of the Highway Patrol, won the National Trophy Match in the San Diego regionals. . . . Just to keep it in the family, Gloria Jacobs earned her share of glory by breaking her long standing world's record over the .22 timed-fire course, a possible 200 and 10 X's.

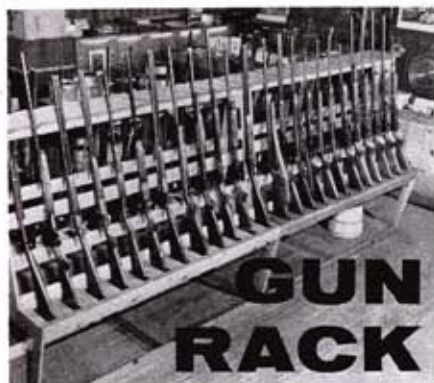
SHOOTING NEWS

Fort Benning, Georgia. Joe Benner—who else?—ranked the pistol shooters during the important 1956 All-Army rifle and pistol championships fired in the rain at this famous Georgia post. A record-breaking 611 shooters fired, and old records were smashed in 11 rifle and three pistol events. . . . Benner fired 2603 in the .22, .38 and .45 aggy. Lt. Dave Miller, whose name is coming to the front more and more in Army shooting, scored pretty far behind with 2573. Colonel Bill Hancock finished third with 2570. . . . Teams did well considering the weather. The 6th Army Gold squad, 2/3rds of which were new shooters, nabbed the All-Army Rifle Team Championships with 1404 and 99 V's. First Army A team was runner-up with two more bulls but only 1402 points. The Pacific "Reds" took third scoring 1399-98V. . . . Individual marksmen did themselves proud, and Captain John Asbury and C.W.O. Coats Brown both bettered the old record in the National Match course toward Distinguished Rifleman. Both shot 243, Brown in first place with 23 "V-fives" and Asbury just edged out for second with 19 V's. . . . Top shooters from this competition are named to the All-Army Rifle & Pistol Team for Perry.

New Philadelphia, Ohio. Sixty smallbore fans turned out to plop them in the bullseye during the 18th annual tournament of the Tusco Rifle Club. . . . Distinguished visitors present included Neil Cocking who handled the Mid-Winter matches in Florida. Neil placed in the money in several matches. . . . Three engineers from Fort Belvoir showed up to represent the Army and Phil Gersci, D. Evertson and J. Celmer were all listed in the winners column. . . . Charley Whipple of Somerset, Pa., ran into hard luck. A three-time runner-up in the Nationals, Charley was going strong in Tusco match until he developed gun trouble and lost too many points in the last event. . . . Bob Moore of Washington, Pa., won the Grand Aggy with 3191 and 249's. . . . Moore's teammate Ken Johnson from Washington, Pa., rubbed off some of the luck and shot 3191 and 232's for second in the grand. . . . Munhall's topnotch shooter Ted Charlton took home the Rutledge trophy in the 50-yard any sight match with a near perfect 400-39 X's, and scored again in the 50 meter any sight with a "possible" and 38 X's.

Middlefield, Conn. The big bore individual state championships brought out some changes in Director of Civilian Marksmanship rules. Firer's choice of position in known distance rifle marksmanship is no longer okay, and the squatting position, that torment of the rookie without limber leg muscles, is eliminated as a prescribed position in training. Hasty sling is okay for standing, loop in other positions, but no cuffs. . . . All competitors on the Middlefield range will be asked to pull targets and score before they fire, to help the other shooters.

Miami, Florida. The Coral Gables Police Pistol Club schuetzenfest saw a turnout of nearly 50 pistoleers with their sights set on the Black Memorial Trophy which the winner can keep for his very own for 30 days until the next monthly match when some other sharp-eyed sharpshooter will win it away from him. . . . Black trophy winner placing first in the centerfire grand aggregate with 1432 was marksman Bill Medina. . . . Grand aggy with 1686 in the open class was Ken Cowan who jockeyed through the 14 matches with Marvin Irvine a close second, scoring 1679. . . . Expert winners taking home the gold and silver trophies for first and second were Elmo Prescott, 1636, and Ed M. Murray, 1621. . . . Don Olive and John Olon teamed up to win the two-man team match with 548 x 600.



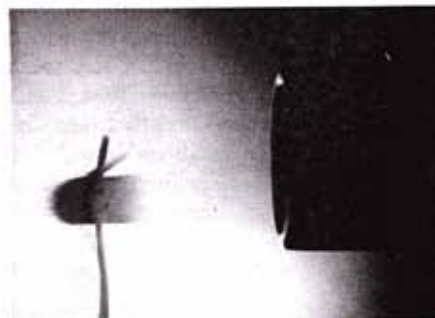
GUN RACK

By H. Jay Erfurth

Armax .22 Shotgun Chamber

ONE OF the most successful inserts for the shotgun, converting it to a rifle, is the Armax chamber. Devised by Henry Mohaupt, inventor of the shape-charge bazooka warhead, it is made by Armax at Fort Worth, Texas.

Looking like a blued steel shotgun shell with two rubber holding rings, the Armax chamber handles the .22 rimfire. No extractor is fitted, but the highly-polished .22 chamber allows fired cases to be picked out by hand, while the steel insert remains in the shotgun. Dry firing is definitely taboo. The shotgun's pin will dent the .22 chamber edge, even with a fired shell



.22 fired from shotgun

inserted, and make extraction difficult.

The Armax chamber is not capable of rifle accuracy, but it fires close to the center of the shot pattern and can be regulated by a little testing to hit with considerable precision at shotgun ranges. As a .22 short practice chamber, it is excellent. Even though the bullet passes along close to the wall of the bore, the velocity makes it impossible to shift the gun and deflect the bullet inside the tube.

Making almost no noise at all, the Armax chamber with .22 shorts can be used indoors for practice. Outdoors it can be employed with all the fast-motion demanded in regular shotgun shooting, bringing the gun to your shoulder and snapping it off. This way errors in holding can be revealed to the shooter and (continued on page 42)

you'll be
proud to
shoot a...



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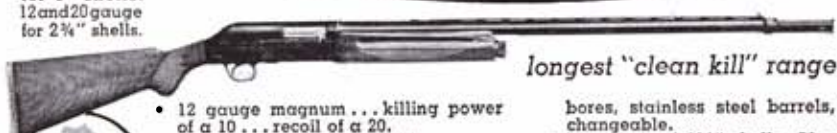


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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ Hip Sysko of Bridgewater, Mass., brought home a big black bear and two does from a hunting trip. Quite a bag for a man who only has one arm.

□ Few hunters can claim to have bagged a pheasant with as much aplomb as Douglas Strickland of Albion, N. Y. As Strickland raised his shotgun to fire at the bird, it flew against a telephone wire and landed at the hunter's feet.

□ Magician George Grimmond has been demonstrating a most unusual trick in London—catching a bullet in his teeth. The stunt involves placing a marked bullet in a revolver which is then fired point-blank at Grimmond. Immediately he is seen with a bullet with the same markings between his teeth. The trick has been branded a hoax by many but six magicians have been killed while attempting it.

□ Grocer Joe A. Cusimano of Baltimore routed two would-be bandits who invaded his store wielding pistols. Cusimano ducked, grabbed up his own revolver, and fired so quickly his clerk hardly had time to realize that a holdup was in progress. The groceryman scored a bullseye on the neck of one bandit, put a couple of shots into the other as he fled from the store. His skill came naturally: Cusimano had operated a shooting gallery in the 300 block of East Baltimore street for 10 years before opening his grocery store in 1944.

□ In Uganda, East Africa, three elephants were felled with one shot. A ranger shot the first elephant on a hillside and as it slid down the slope it struck a second animal that had stepped into its path. The two falling bodies struck a third elephant.

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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hollywood Shooters

In reading your magazine of the August issue, I find it the same as all previous issues . . . very good. No other magazine compares with it and has so much information on guns and shooting.

The article on Joe Benner is very good and the other feature stories are also. But in reading Crossfire, I find that a West Frazier of Lafayette, Indiana, has the wrong opinion of movie stars and stars on TV and radio.

I have been with several of these professional gunmen and am considered one myself. For instance, I love guns and I am considered an above average shot. I can twirl guns and do most anything else with them, but to do this you must know your guns and love your work.

On a recent tour with Hugh O'Brien of the "Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp," I tested him myself, both in speed and accuracy, over WXYZ-TV in Detroit. O'Brien and I drew guns at the drop of a coin and although I do this for a living and am considered the fastest in the world, I found Mr. O'Brien to be the fastest I've been up against since I first started.

As for accuracy, I had O'Brien do some target shooting at the Lincoln Park Police Pistol Range in Michigan. I can shoot a 90 double action anytime with my 4" Marshal Colt. So passing the guns and ammo to Hugh, I asked him to fire 10 shots slow fire at 25 yards *double action*. He did this and his score was a terrifying 92 x 100 with a 4" Colt .38 revolver . . . and with a *broken right ring finger in a splint*. Ask Mr. Frazier to try to shoot like that . . . Just once!

Joe Bodrie
New Haven, Conn.

My "Crossfire" is in defense of Hollywood stars, baseball players and anyone else who "doesn't know a damn thing about guns" because they are stars.

In my opinion anyone can become an *authority* on guns by going to the public library, and reading books, going to gun stores and checking the old guns and the new, and going to the range or into the field and shooting them. Also, by taking such fine periodicals as GUNS, which is No. 1 in my book.

Who am I, or anyone else, to think that just because a person is not a gunsmith or gun dealer that he knows nothing about guns. According to these "blabbermouths" that have spouted off in Crossfire, I know nothing because I am in the electronics business. Although I spend much of my spare time shooting guns, studying guns and fixing them in my meager way, I don't claim to know more than the average person.

A note to West Frazier: if he is going to make stupid statements like he made in the

August issue, please don't say "most gun owners," say "perhaps some gun owners," or better yet say "I." I don't want to be included in his opinions.

I enjoy your "My Favorite Gun" column and enjoy the movie stars' opinions on guns. I love guns well enough to listen to anyone's opinions on them. I don't have to agree, but I'll listen. I enjoyed the article in February about Roy Rogers' gun, who quite evidently knows a lot about guns.

You people put out a topnotch gun magazine so don't let any amateur change it.

R. A. Inabinette
Glendora, California

I enjoy GUNS magazine because it is dedicated to firearms. I can't understand why a lot of the readers are against the movie stars having their say in this fine magazine. Movie stars are human, they have their likes and dislikes the same as you or I.

If they enjoy firearms and shooting like you or I, what's wrong with letting them have their say in this magazine. That's what it's published for. Gary Cooper, Robert Ryan or Audie Murphy most likely can cut a might mean tune on a Frontier Colt. Audie practically cut his teeth on a gun, not because he wanted to, but because he had to. So don't blackball anybody before you know the facts about them.

David Sage
Boston, Mass.

Jazzing Up 30-30

I've just finished reading your July issue, which, as usual, I enjoyed very much. I have a bone to pick, however. I am not a handloader, and my knowledge on the subject is probably quite sketchy, but G. E. Valentine's method of decapping shells with a nail, "How To Jazz Up The 30-30," seems to be a rather dangerous one. Unless the nail were smaller than the flash hole, which, in your picture, it obviously wasn't, the decapping would necessitate forcing the nail through the hole, thereby enlarging it. Such an enlarged flash hole would, naturally, subject the primer to higher than normal pressures during firing. This extra pressure, with hot hand loads, especially in an old lever gun which is likely to have excess head space, could easily rupture the primer and put the shooter in a rather uncomfortable position.

I may be all wet, but it seems to me that Valentine has carried the quest for ease and economy beyond the limits of safety and practicability.

Please don't get me wrong, I mean all this as constructive criticism. You've got a terrific magazine. I hope you can keep up the good work and even improve as time goes on.

Ronald Kley,
New Britain, Conn.

**What does
Keith Stegall
of Gunnison, Colorado,
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Keith Stegall is one of many professional guides who know that Marlin rifles pack the features—the exclusive advantages—that count. They've seen too many missed shots, or near-misses that resulted in wounded game and long chases. That's why they appreciate Marlin's Micro-Groove Rifling*, with its 20-25% accuracy bonus, and extra-low 'scope mounting. And they know they can depend on Marlin's super-strong round breech bolt.

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Guns



MAGAZINE

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COVER

David Marshall Williams, familiarly known as "Carbine Williams," is one of the world's leading arms designers. His slip-chamber locked breech design used in the Winchester Model 50 shotgun has made this smoothbore popular among trap shooters and in 20-gauge a favorite of the upland gunner, because of its light recoil.

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GUNS magazine is published monthly at 8150 N. Central Park Avenue, Skokie, Illinois. Second class mail privileges authorized at Skokie, Illinois. **SUBSCRIPTION:** One year, \$5.00; single copy 50c. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Four weeks' notice required on all changes send old address as well as new. **CONTRIBUTORS** submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings go so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. **PAYMENT** will be made at rates current at time of acceptance and will cover reproduction in any, or all of GUNS magazine's domestic or foreign editions. **ADVERTISING RATES** will be furnished upon request.

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The Noblest Game Bird Of Them All



Glossy bronze and black wild turkey is king of America's game birds and is slimmer and smarter than barnyard kind.

By JOHNNY MOCK

LARGEST and most noble of all American game birds is the wild turkey. No feathered game is more sought for and none is more highly prized as a trophy among the nation's army of gunners fortunate enough to hunt it.

At one time just about the turn of the century, the wild turkey was close to extinction in the U. S. but it has made a phenomenal comeback in recent years. Now once again wild turkey hunting has become a prime sport with the flock growing despite the increasing number of birds taken each year.

Consider the figures on the wild turkey in Pennsylvania, for instance. The bag in 1945 was only 1716. Official tally of turkeys taken last year: 17,994, or ten times as much in

ten short years in spite of its being a game bird.

And yet bagging this kingsize pheasant is no easy task. Primarily it takes smart hunting and the right firearm, which may be either a shotgun or rifle. Among Pennsylvania's growing army of wild turkey hunters there are two schools of thought. One believes stubbornly the scattergun is the only weapon to use. The others insist that the rifle is just the arm to pick a gobbler out of an old oak tree. However, both groups get along quite amiably and as the record indicates, both succeed in putting meat on the table.

There is a basic reason for this armed peace. Keystone State gunners are made up principally of two separate species of hunters. The first group includes the big game

**WILD TURKEY, MAKING COMEBACK
AFTER NEAR EXTINCTION, IS NOW
HIGHLY-PRIZED TROPHY HUNTED
WITH EITHER SHOTGUN OR RIFLE IN
PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS**



Flaig's turkey gun combines features of shotgun and rifle into one fast-handling weapon.



Cedar box call emits sound like wild turkey which lures elusive birds within reach of hunters' shotguns in woods.



V-shaped scratchings and feathers are always found along turkey trails indicating birds may be feeding nearby.

hunter who is the rifleman. The others are the so-called rabbit hunters, the common term applied to the small game hunter, who stays with his favorite, the shotgun. Under the right conditions, either gun will serve its purpose and bag the wild turkey. The rifleman does the "hunting," the shotgunner is a "stalker."

The hunter gets a kick out of dropping a wild turkey at 150 or more yards with a scope-sighted rifle. The stalker gets his greatest thrill out of being able to draw this wise old bird within range of his scattergun and then let him have it. Roger Latham, one of the country's most outstanding authorities on wild turkey and their hunting, has summed up the shotgun-rifle differences thusly:



Armed with bolt-action scattergun, warmly-clad hunter crouches behind tree ready to pour load of No. 4's at turkeys coming in to feed in early morning.

"One of the greatest problems in using a rifle successfully on wild turkeys is getting a good shot. The darned things so often won't hold still and when they do stop, it is likely to be behind a tree or some other cover. At close range, a turkey can so easily be spooked when the hunter is trying to line up his sights. A shotgun can be thrown to the shoulder and fired almost instantly. This hardly gives the bird a chance to duck behind a tree or bush.

"Therefore, it is usually necessary for the hunter to have his rifle shouldered and be prepared to squeeze off the trigger as soon as an open shot is presented. But oftentimes it is almost impossible to get even a half decent shot at a waving, dodging target in thick cover."

One of the chief objections to the rifle has been that in the hands of the ordinary hunter it can go from one extreme to another. By that I mean it can either blow the turkey into a worthless mass of flesh, feathers and blood, or it can nick the bird, merely crippling. Most hunters using rifles have them mounted with scopes. Needless to say, when light conditions are poor and thick brush is in the way, it is almost impossible to get the bird in the sight.

When it comes to shotguns, practically all of the things said against the rifle are in favor of the scattergun. There is no need to aim: just point it in the right direction and fire. Dense cover, poor light, or birds on the wing are not so troublesome as when using the rifle. The one drawback with the scattergun is its limited range.

But for the beginner who, unless he is an extremely good woodsman, will not get within smoothbore range of a wily wild turkey, a rifle is the right weapon. Then as he acquires experience in hunting the turkey and can successfully lure the bird to a closer approach, he can use the shotgun. The choice is pretty much left that way, unless the hunter is fortunate enough to be the owner of any of the shotgun-

rifle combination guns which make the ideal firearm for turkey. Most of these today are European guns.

Some years back Savage built an over-under .410 shotgun which was often used by more expert scattergun hunters for turkeys. But the .410 is unquestionably too light a load and the Savage combo was dropped from the line. Today Savage still makes a similar .22/.410 combination, but the .22 rimfire is too light for turkeys, too. However, the European combination gun exactly fills the bill.

There are three-barrel guns, "drillings," and four barrel guns, the "vierlings," but the most practical is the over/under. They come in all combinations of gauges and calibers by Austrian and German makers. Heinrich Krieghoff in Suhl, and the gunmakers of Ferlach, Austria, build "turkey guns."

While there are no turkeys in Germany, there is a form of hunting, stalking the auerhahn, which is much like American turkey hunting. Thus the combination guns have evolved abroad which prove so well suited to hunting

the wild turkey in Pennsylvania.

Recognizing the growing popularity of wild turkey hunting on this side of the Atlantic, the Ferlach gunmakers have turned out a lightweight, racy, finely-engraved over/under. Weighing only 6½ pounds, the Ferlach "turkey gun" has 24" barrels, with the upper either 12 or 16 gauge, and the lower bored for a series of calibers: .22 Hornet, .22 Remington, .257 Roberts, 7mm and .30/06.

In turkey-hunting gauges and calibers, the standard is the 12 for the shotgun, with preference for full-choke in the barrel. Under certain conditions the 16 or 20 gauge will prove adequate. Even the 28 and the little .410 have made their kills, but when it comes to giving an account of itself, the 12-gauge will come out in the lead.

For the shot size, No. 4, 5 and 6 are recommended. Heavier or lighter pellets lack the killing possibilities. The heavy are not good because of the thin pattern, the light shot lack the shocking power. A wild turkey is a large bird, able to absorb punishment and usually is some distance from the shooter.

The rimfires are taboo in the rifle calibers, unless put into the head, neck or backbone or through some of the vital organs. Few gunners are able to reliably place their shot, particularly under most of the conditions encountered in turkey hunting.

The big bores are out. This is not big game hunting; therefore none of the so-called big game cartridges are necessary or desirable. Choose the high-power small-bores like the .218 Bee, the .219 Zipper, the .22 Savage, the .220 Swift and the .222 Remington, with full-jacketed bullets. Others in this class such as the .250 Savage, .257 Roberts and .270 Winchester are among the favorites used by the wild turkey hunters.

Most of the hunters seeking the (Continued on Page 63)

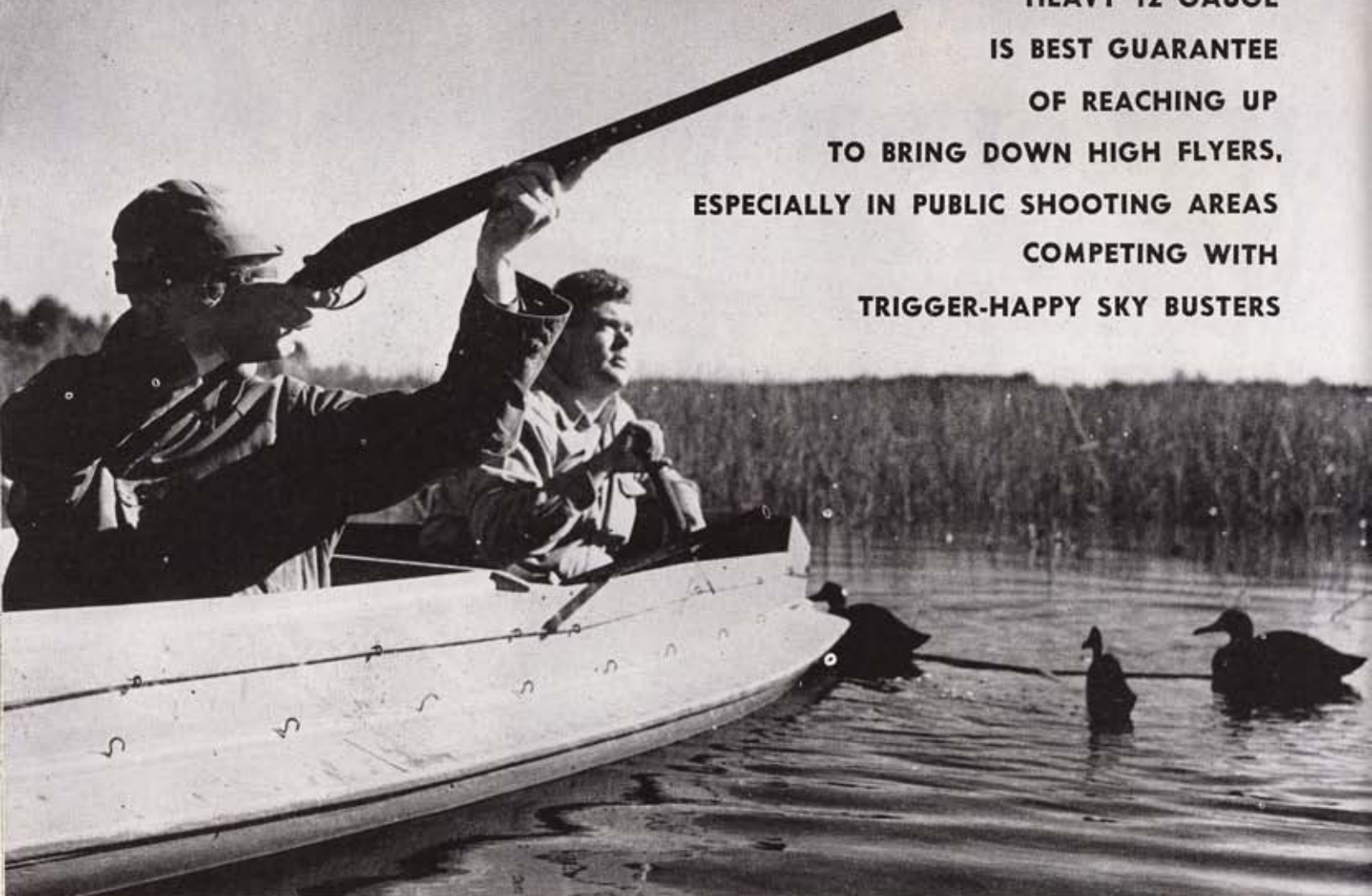
Flaig's Austrian-made rifle-shot combination guns have become popular among eastern wild turkey hunters. Scope sight's light-gathering power has value in dark woods.



Wild gobbler may weigh less than tame birds but hunting is more rewarding way to get Thanksgiving dinner. This bird weighed 10 pounds.

WHAT'S THE BEST DUCK GUN?

HEAVY 12 GAUGE
IS BEST GUARANTEE
OF REACHING UP
TO BRING DOWN HIGH FLYERS,
ESPECIALLY IN PUBLIC SHOOTING AREAS
COMPETING WITH
TRIGGER-HAPPY SKY BUSTERS



Heavy Ithaca 12-gauge double loaded with short magnumshells will bring down more dead ducks, leave fewer cripples.

By CARLOS VINSON

TOO MUCH "DUCK DUSTING" is done every season. This year thousands and thousands of wild ducks will be dusted with shot, hit but not hit hard enough to stop them. A good share of these will die later, totally wasted. Not all of these ducks will have been shot at by obviously-undegunned hunters, but not enough gun is a good part of the trouble. Getting the puddle quackers takes a 12, and often a magnum 12 at that, either in a magnum gun or with magnum loads.

On opening day of one duck season I was hunting on Tennessee's Kentucky Lake. My duck gun was a light 16 gauge double. Perhaps if I could have taken my time at the birds, things would have gone okay. But it was the first hunt of the season and it seemed like every sky buster in six states turned out for the blitz.

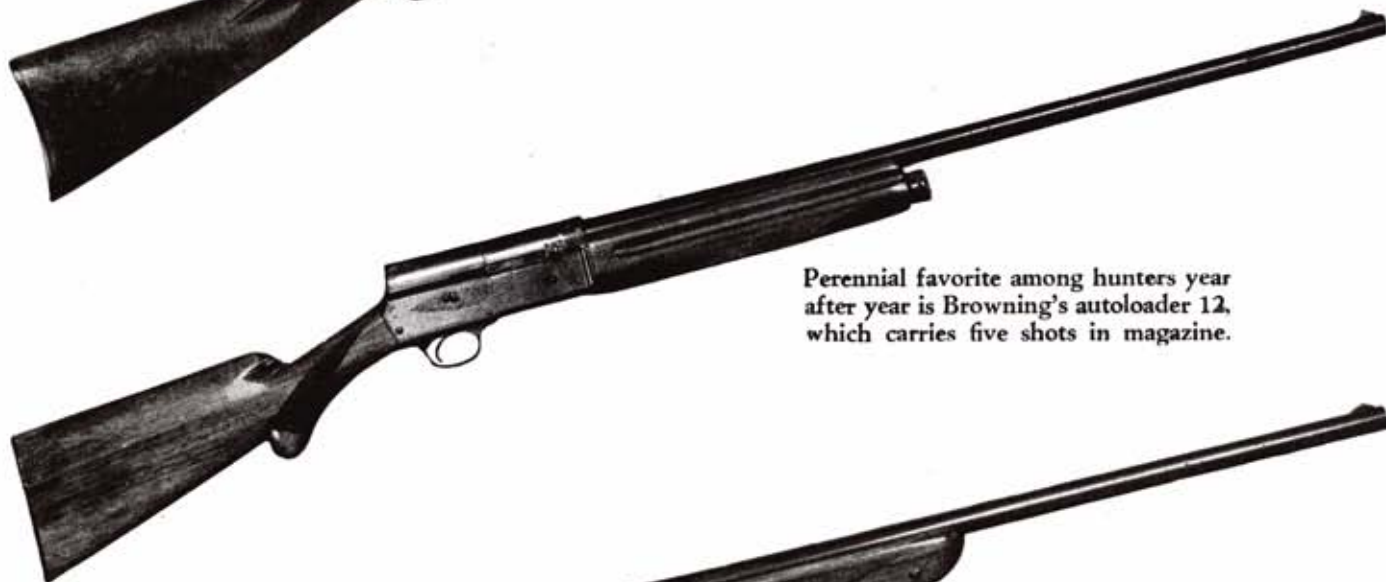
That day I downed two ducks out of a whole box of shells. I could have done better if I had swung at them with the butt of my gun. The second day the tally was three ducks out of 18 shots, and both days I wound up with a splitting headache.

The little 16 had 26" improved cylinder and modified barrels, and by using the heaviest duck loads I could find for it I figured to bag my usual number of quackers. But the little gun kicked viciously and I learned the lesson the hard way . . . don't go out after ducks with too little gun on you.

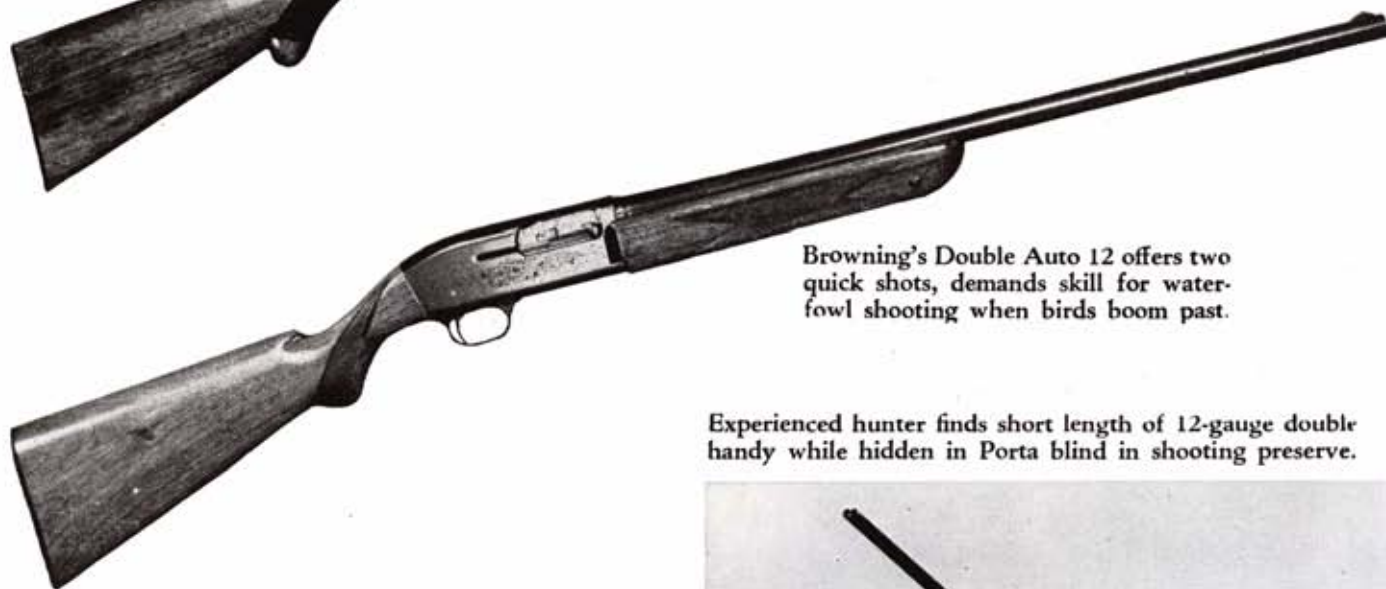
With my 16, I was forced to shoot at ducks out of its effective killing range, or get practically no shots at all, thanks to the trigger-happy sky busters. And the short-barreled 16 failed me in the clutches the few times I did



Thousands of Model 1897 12-gauge Winchester guns have been used by successful duck hunters over the years.



Perennial favorite among hunters year after year is Browning's autoloader 12, which carries five shots in magazine.



Browning's Double Auto 12 offers two quick shots, demands skill for waterfowl shooting when birds boom past.

Experienced hunter finds short length of 12-gauge double handy while hidden in Porta blind in shooting preserve.

get shots at ducks within decent range. I lost at least six cripples, and that I never did like. Shooting light quail loads, I had never noticed the recoil of the little 16, but with the heavy duck loads the jar and kick raised a big blue knot on my shooting shoulder.

From that time on for ducks I have carried a duck gun instead of a quail gun. Going after ducks is not a job for any "all around" gun. In my estimation, the average duck hunter who uses anything less than a 12 gauge with a 28 inch modified barrel is about as bad as the deer hunter who tries to bag his buck with a .22 Hornet or a .218 Bee. In other words, he is undergunned. And the kind of ammunition used can spell the difference between success and failure, too.

A lot depends, of course, on where and under what con-





Along central flyways skillful callers bring ducks within reach of their guns in swamp blinds.

ditions one hunts ducks. But regardless of conditions I am still a 12 gauge fan all the way for all kinds of duck shooting.

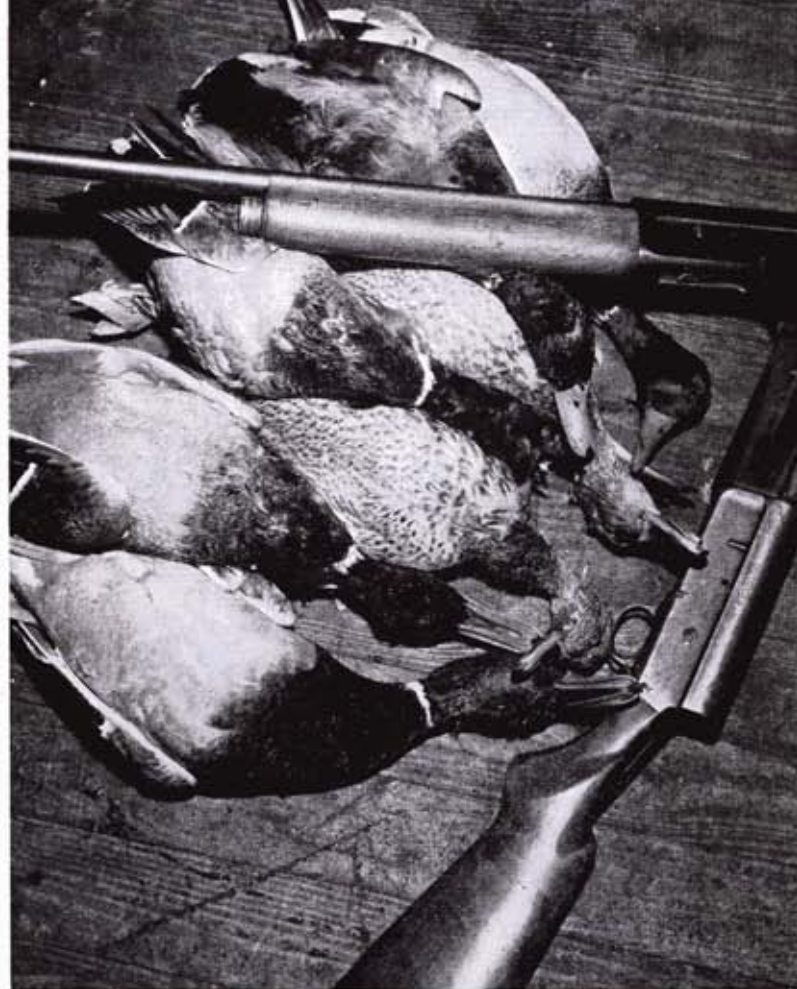
I have shot a lot of ducks along creeks and rivers during my time, and in most cases this was what is known as "jump shooting." Occasionally mallards are the targets in this type of shooting, but far more often ducks jumped along the streams are teal. Now and then a flock of wood ducks, occasionally a flock of ringnecks, may appear, but primarily it is a blue-winged teal shooting proposition along creeks.

Hunting smaller rivers I walk slowly along the banks just outside the heavy stream bank brush, and by doing this quite often get within 20 or 25 yards of a flock of teal before they flush. Considerable walking is a part of this type of duck shooting, and this is where gun weight counts most for the hunters.

For "walking" duck shooting I use a 12 gauge Marlin over-under with 28" modified and full choke barrels. This gun weighs just about 7½ pounds, single trigger, and in it I use the regular Super X or High Velocity loads



Bag of pintails crowns days' shooting as hunters using 12-gauge guns scull across the marsh retrieving ducks.



Fast firing autoloaders have definite advantage in duck shooting, brought down bag of mallards in a few minutes.

that I use for cottontail and squirrel shooting. These are No. 6 chilled shot loads, and at close to medium range I find them entirely sufficient for small ducks like teal in the 12 gauge charge.

The longest shot I ever tried with a similar combination was at a flock of wood ducks along a creek near my home in central Tennessee. With a friend I was hunting both sides of the creek. It was understood, of course, that we take shots only at ducks that swung out on our respective sides of the creek. One wood duck could be legally included in the bag that season, and a flock of five flushed quite a way ahead of us and swung out wide on my side. At the time I was shooting a 12 gauge pump with 28" modified barrel, using Peters High Velocity (not magnum) loads with No. 6 chilled shot. I swung on the lead woodie, fired away, and down he came.

It was 53 long steps from where the shot was fired to where I picked up the duck, and I later discovered that three shot in the neck of the duck were what turned the trick. Three additional shot which hit the body had not penetrated deep enough to make a kill without the shot in the neck.

With the same gun I later tried the new short magnum loads on teal, which are about the same size and body structure as a wood duck. The teal that I downed at 58 long steps was struck by only two No. 6 shot in the body. Yet, the teal was killed. The two shot penetrated deep into his vitals.

The difference in kick between magnum and high velocity loads was very noticeable. The 12 gauge pump weighed a little less than 8 pounds, and had no recoil pad on it. Although the killing power was very pleasingly increased, with the magnum loads there was too much recoil and jar to suit me.

Later I tried some magnum loads, No. 4 shot, in a heavier 12 gauge magnum pump with 30" full choke barrel. This pump had a soft rubber recoil pad on the butt, and the recoil and jar was not objectionable. Weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, this heavy pump handled the magnum loads beautifully. I knocked a pintail drake cold at 62 yards with this combination. He was examined very critically after we plucked him. Six No. 4 shot had struck the pintail, and each of the six had penetrated deep enough to have a killing effect. And penetration and power

are what you need when you have to compete with the ack-ack type of "hunter" along a gun-crowded flyway.

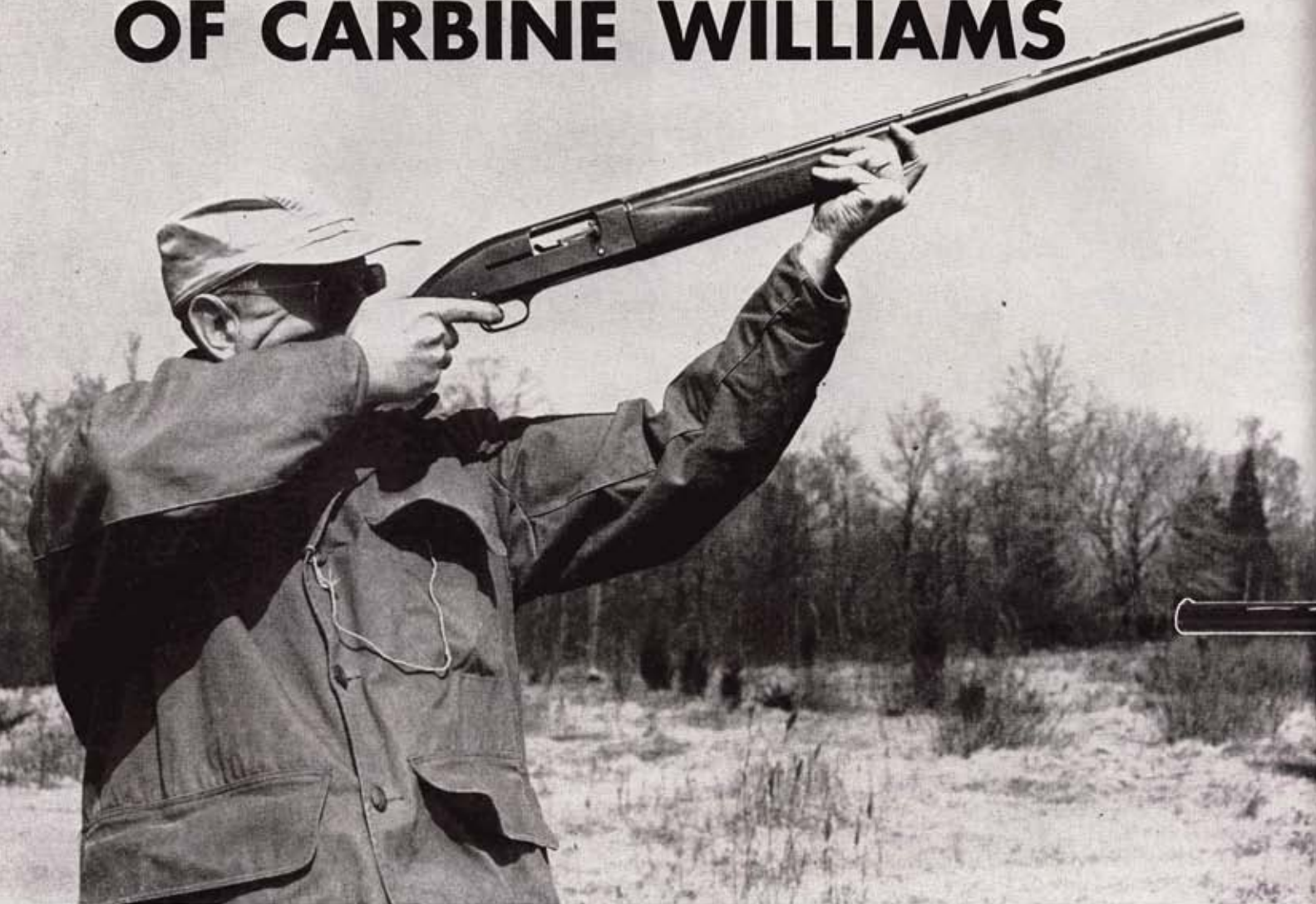
The big share of duck shooting is done in the public shooting areas. Such areas are usually crowded, and the thoughtless sky busters will see to it that a big percentage of the shooting is very much of the long range variety, by starting up a barrage and scaring ducks off from the decoys.

A lot of hunters will say: "I am just not going to bang away at the high flyers this season regardless of what the sky busters do." Maybe not, let's hope not, but don't depend on it: not even as far as you, personally, are concerned.

Put practically any one of us in a blind in a public shooting area where there are plenty of ducks to shoot at, and if the sky busters continue to prevent us from getting more than an occasional decent shot in range we will start getting jittery and blaze away at the high flyers along with the rest.

In the public duck shooting areas, one normally has to compete with the sky busters unless they are able to do their shooting in restricted territory. And for this *(Continued on page 57)*

THE IMPOSSIBLE SHOTGUN OF CARBINE WILLIAMS



Model 50 shotgun for hunting has advantage over older types because of light recoil due to Marsh Williams' design of slip chamber. Easy kick allows quick recovery in fast upland shooting, makes gun comfortable for novice sportsmen to use.

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to make an automatic shotgun with a fixed barrel. For more than 50 years gunmakers stubbornly insisted that it could not be done, that it was contrary to the whole principle of recoil-operation. And ten million autoloading shotguns were made by Browning, Remington, Savage, Stevens, Winchester and a dozen foreign factories based on moving-barrel designs. All have one defect in common: the moving barrel increases the kick. Gun designers said it was impossible to reduce the kick, since barrel movement was a functional part of the recoil-operation system, the most successful automatic principle for shotguns for half a century. But Carbine Williams tied down the barrel in a recoil-operated design, and the soft-kicking, hard-shooting Winchester Model 50 is its name.

Movie-goers saw the beginnings of the Model 50, the impossible shotgun, in the film, "Carbine Williams," which

made David Marshall Williams famous as a character as well as gun maker. Played by Jimmy Stewart, Williams was shown firing the actual model gun built by Marsh when he was in North Carolina's Caledonia prison camp in the 1920's.

When Williams first tackled the job of stopping barrel movement in a recoiling barrel gun, he took the toughest model he could find to convert. It was the Remington Model 8 sporting rifle, a design in which the barrel kicks all the way to the rear during firing. But that long-recoil Remington, which was the same as the long-recoil shotguns, was altered successfully by Williams to a fixed-barrel design. It is identical in principle to the Model 50.

The Model 50 design is a study in delicate balance, forces counteracting themselves to produce light recoil. Unlike most recoil operated shotguns, only the chamber



Three rifles made by Williams while serving time for manslaughter are the basis of his current arms designing. Top gun has slip chamber like Model 50, was made on Remington Model 8 rifle breech. Middle gun is chambered for .30-06, has forward moving barrel with collet at muzzle to center it. Blow-forward idea is currently being studied by Williams. Bottom gun is .22 with extremely heavy breech block which is actuated by floating chamber in barrel.

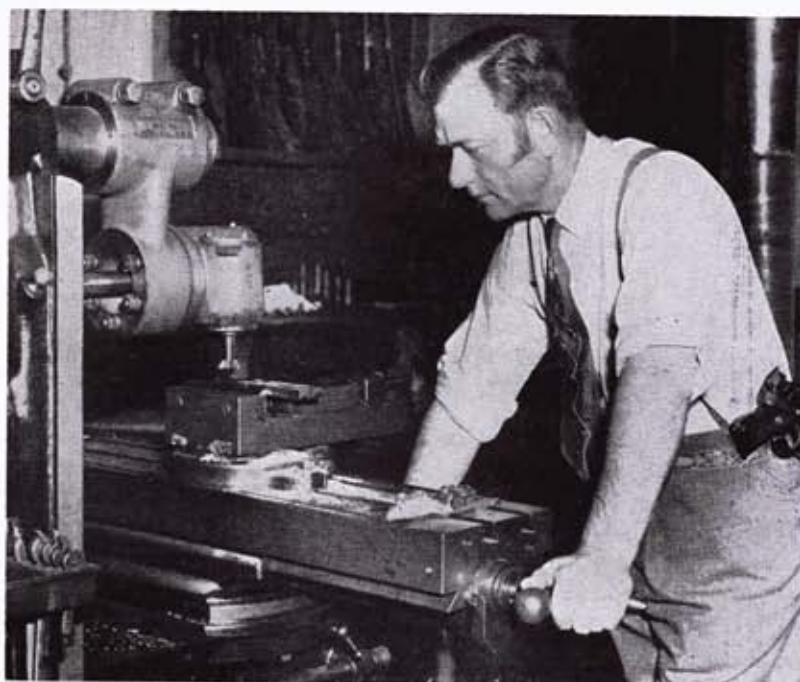


**IN MODEL 50, FAMED GUN DESIGNER
MADE AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN WITH
FIXED BARREL DESPITE 50 YEARS OF
CLAIMS THAT IT COULD NOT BE DONE**

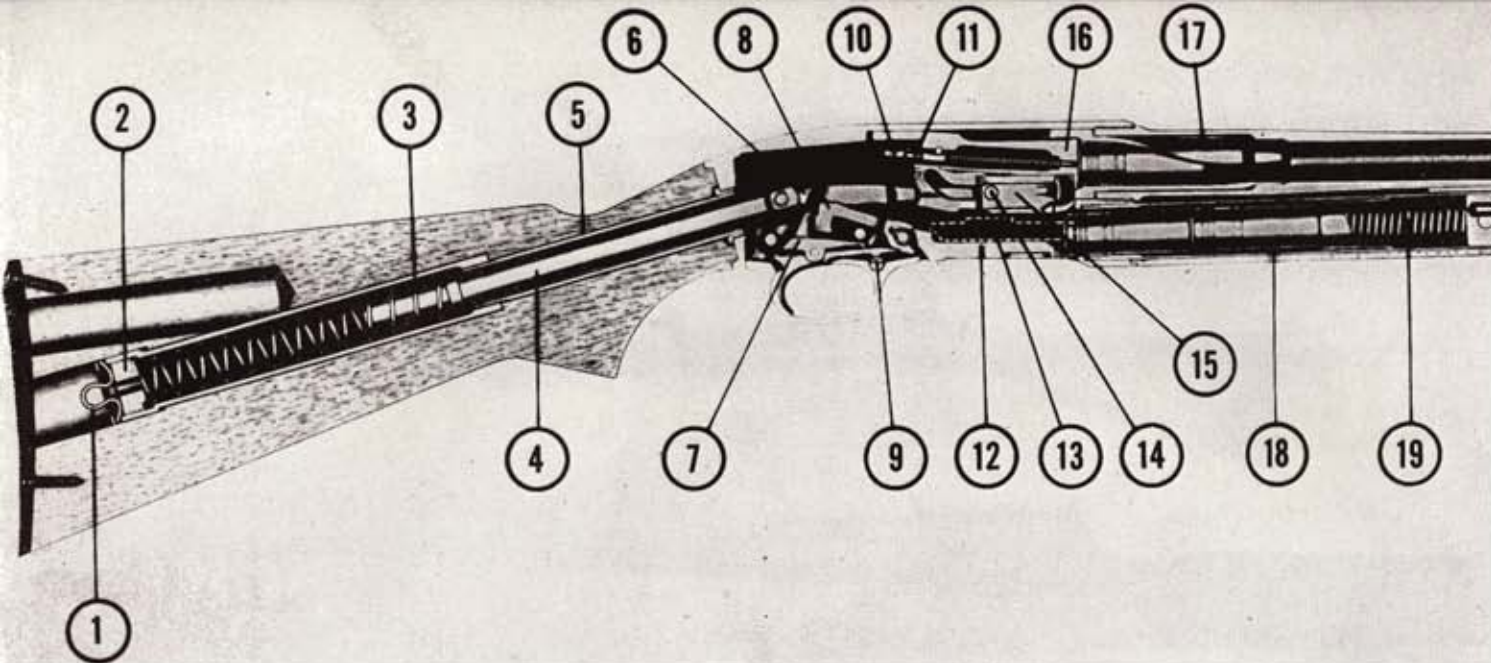
Model 50 skeet gun designed by Williams and stocked by Len Mews of Appleton, Wis., is favorite of scattergunner who likes reliability but light kick.

recoils in the Model 50. In substance, the chamber is the basic barrel, but it ends a short distance ahead of the forcing cone of the bore and a fixed barrel projects beyond that. Behind, it ends in a normal barrel extension which the bolt tips and locks into. So far, all is ordinary. But a light slip chamber alone would accelerate at a tremendously great speed, and parts would break in automatic firing. Williams figured it out a little differently.

The slip chamber inside the fixed outer barrel slams back a fraction of an inch. The bolt remains locked to it. But the movement acting through a stock strut accelerates an inertia weight in the stock. As that weight moves back, it pulls the bolt out of engagement with the chamber extension. Then the bolt works automatically, extracting the spent case and loading the fresh round from a conventional shotgun tube magazine. The result is significantly less kick,



Williams, who regularly wears two .45 Colts day and night, uses big milling machine given to him by Remington.



Model 50 smoothbore design by Williams has sliding chamber (17) with bolt (16) locked inside chamber extension (11). Barrel is rigid in frame. Inertia of slide (15) and rod (4) in recoil carries these parts to rear, unlocking bolt.

due to the time over which the functioning is distributed, and the light mass of the moving parts.

How did Carbine Williams achieve the impossible? I drove to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where Williams lives, to see for myself how this modern-day genius thinks and operates. He first came into the public eye when Reader's Digest published a "Most Unforgettable Character" story about him. In his shop he is indeed that. As I looked over Williams' guns in the little machine shop he built on his farm, I asked him what was the most difficult job he ever tackled.

He picked up a partly-assembled Model 50 and said, "This shotgun, boy. Ain't nothing seem to come right on this gun." I later learned what he meant.

It seems that when Williams first started applying his modified Remington idea to a shotgun with a fixed barrel, his first design was successful. He chopped out the parts, assembled it, and slipped in several shells. The gun worked fine. According to one engineer who worked with him at Winchester, this was the first actual incident he had ever heard of where an inventor's automatic model fired without trouble the first time it was assembled.

But then the shotgun had to be engineered for production. Shapes that Marsh had made by filing a piece of stock to size had to be redesigned for machine manufacture. And then the production men temporarily killed it with their fiddling around. When they got stuck and it would not work, back it came to Williams. He had to fuss with the inertia weights in the butt for a long time to make it work

unfailingly. But finally his hand-made model was changed into the factory-built gun, and it still had all the reliability that Williams put into it.

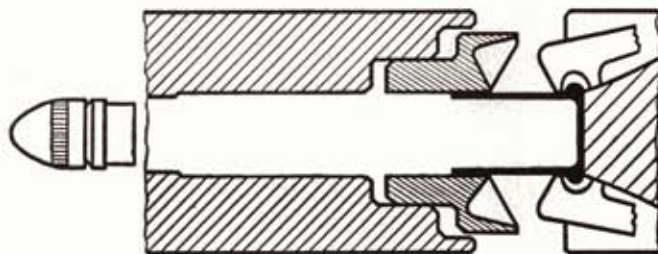
As we left his shop for the day and drove back to town, we talked about guns, and I tried to understand this surprising, mercurial man who may be the nation's No. 1 gun designer. He said softly with a gleeful grin on his freckled face: "Hey, did yuh heah? They're going to build a monument to me downtown, me, Carbine Williams." His eyes took on a far-away look for an instant. "I left this town in irons, and now they're goin' to build me a monument," he mused softly, as if to himself.

This man is a living legend in his own lifetime. But Marsh Williams doesn't look like a hero. He's all red hair and fire. He thinks he is tough as nails, but I never met a man with a more generous nature, nor one more beloved by his thousands of real friends. Yet this wild-eyed Irish-Scotch-Welsh mixture of emotion and temperament was once standing before the dock of justice on trial for his life. The charge: murder. "I swapped a burn job for thirty years, boy, and it ain't easy to do that," said Williams, holding me with a serious gaze.

At 18 Williams was just a North Carolina farmer's son, but he was a little wild and ran a still. This is a respectable business in the southern hills, and Marsh made good whiskey. Then in a raid on his still one deputy picked up a bullet. The court could not prove Williams killed the man, but they knew whose still it was. Williams pleaded guilty to second degree murder and got 30 years at hard labor. It taught him a lesson at least, and he hasn't done a drop of still work since then. He has been pretty busy working on guns.

Williams' gun-designing career started in prison. There the camp superintendent, Captain H. T. Peoples, recognized Marsh was an unusual person. He allowed Williams to draw up gun designs and later to build models from scrap iron in the camp blacksmith shop.

Finally Marsh converted one of the old Remington rifles used by the guards at the camp. Peoples arranged for the representative of the Winchester company to see Marsh test his gun. *(Continued on page 46)*



Floating chamber using weak .22's to work automatic gun is mechanical principle which made Williams famous.

WILL YOU KILL A MAN THIS FALL?

NEW CROP OF HUNTERS WITH HIGH-POWERED RIFLES HAVE TURNED HAPPY HUNTING SEASON INTO TRAGIC TIME OF DESTRUCTION AND DEATH

By HARRY BOTSFORD

IT WAS the opening day of buck season in Pennsylvania and along the highway near a place called Poverty Hill a graphic drama was being enacted.

In the snow were three dead does. The verdict: "Shot by mistake, left to die."

The next exhibit was a frightened boy of 17 I found

wandering in the woods, blood streaming from a bullet wound in his arm. He was lost. He said that he had started across a deer crossing when he was shot. He had yelled, and the man who had mistaken him for a deer stood up, saw what he had done and ran away. The wound was not nearly as severe as the boy believed

Experience in hunting out in open field is key factor in avoiding accidents. Casualties are 43 per cent among hunters under 20 years old, statistics show.





Teaching hunting safety rules to youngsters can avoid fatalities such as is likely with young hunter pointing his 16-gauge pump Remington at his father. Stumble in brush can involuntarily squeeze trigger. Walking abreast in field is advisable.



Getting into habit of protecting trigger from being hit by twigs and accidentally firing is good safety measure.

it to be. I led him to the highway. A game warden guarding the dead does, helped me to bind up the wound just as a state police car slithered through the snow, skidded to a stop, took the youngster aboard and headed for the nearest hospital.

The game warden swore long and lustily, and I joined him. Another hunter appeared, hysterical with anger, carrying a rifle with a busted firing mechanism. We didn't have a chance to ask him what was the trouble. He told us. "I killed me a buck!" he said, his voice shrill and shaking. "A nice buck, gents. I gutted the critter and just as I finished the job three guys came up and claimed the buck was theirs. I reached for my gun, but one of them grabbed it, smashed the firing mechanism. Then they roughed me up considerable. They walked off with my buck, laughing fit to kill. Ain't a man got any rights at all any more these days?"

There was another exhibit, too—it was a farmer who complained that a hunter had killed one of his cows that morning. It had been his idea the state game commission



Basic safety act of opening and unloading gun while going through fence is often neglected by thoughtless hunters.



Carrying guns disassembled in car prevents any chance of accidental discharge and is mandatory law in some areas.



Cleaning rifle at end of day is wise gun care and also avoids putting arm away in dangerous loaded condition.

would pay for it, an entirely specious theory.

A rolling volley of shots started about a mile away, traveled in our direction. One bullet whistled over our heads. "Duck!" yelled the game warden and we hit the snow as the shooting started in a new direction. The game warden brushed the snow from his clothes, grinned wryly. "I gotta wife and kids," he said. "These crazy hunters start shooting at a deer, the high-powered rifles carry and you never know when you will stop one. Too many hunters in the woods, too damned many!"

That night in camp, four of us soberly discussed what we had seen and heard that day. One of the group had bagged a nice plump buck with a good rack of horns. The buck had been cleaned and proudly hung to a limb of a tree close to the small cabin. Two of us had been through some narrow escapes. We planned to return home the next morning to escape the hazards of the "If-it-moves, shoot-at-it" philosophy of the horde of new hunters who infest the woods in increasing numbers each year.

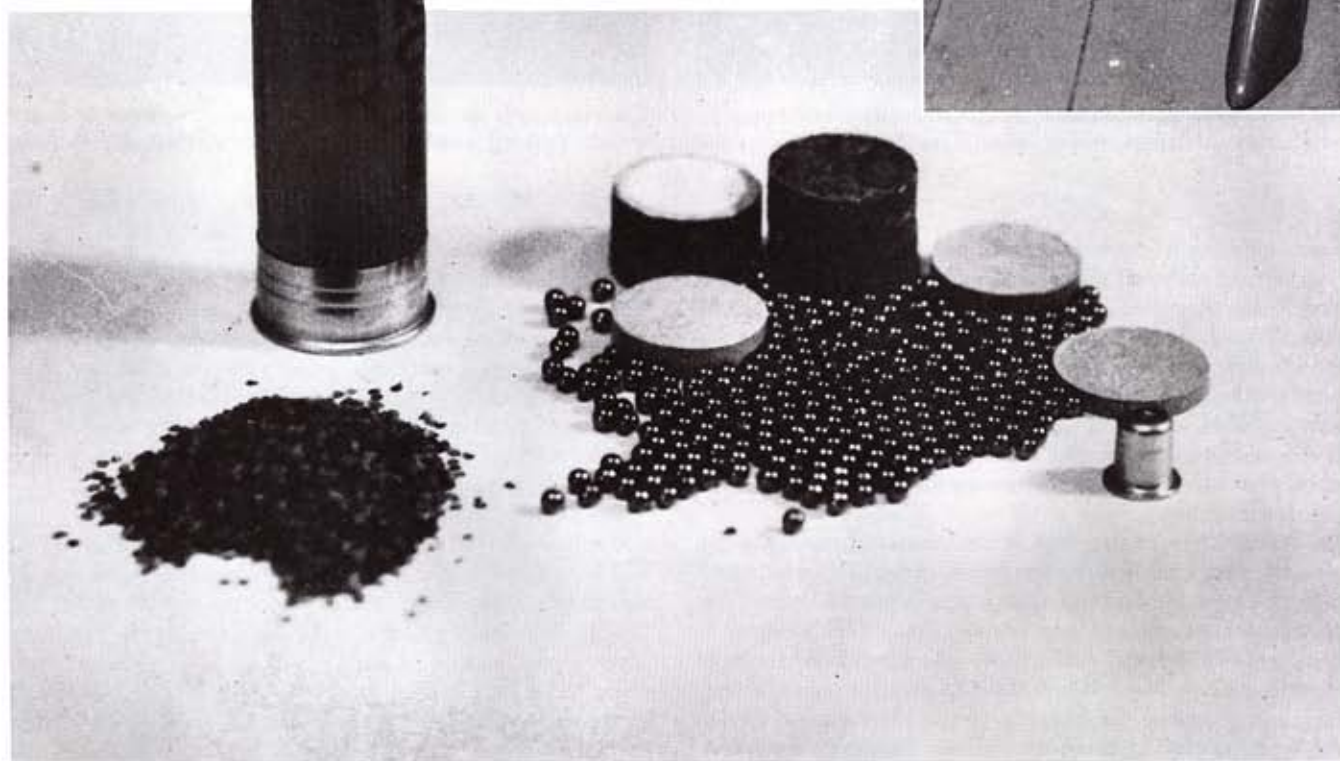
"What's the matter with today's hunters?" one of my

companions asked bitterly. "People don't know how to handle guns, they have no respect for the safety of others, no regard for property rights. I saw a group of Pittsburgh hunters huddling around a big fire on a farm today. They had torn down a perfectly good rail fence for fuel, and they were passing a bottle around. I'll bet within an hour, they were blazing away at anything that moved in the woods, without regard as to whether it was a buck, doe, man, or a strayed cow."

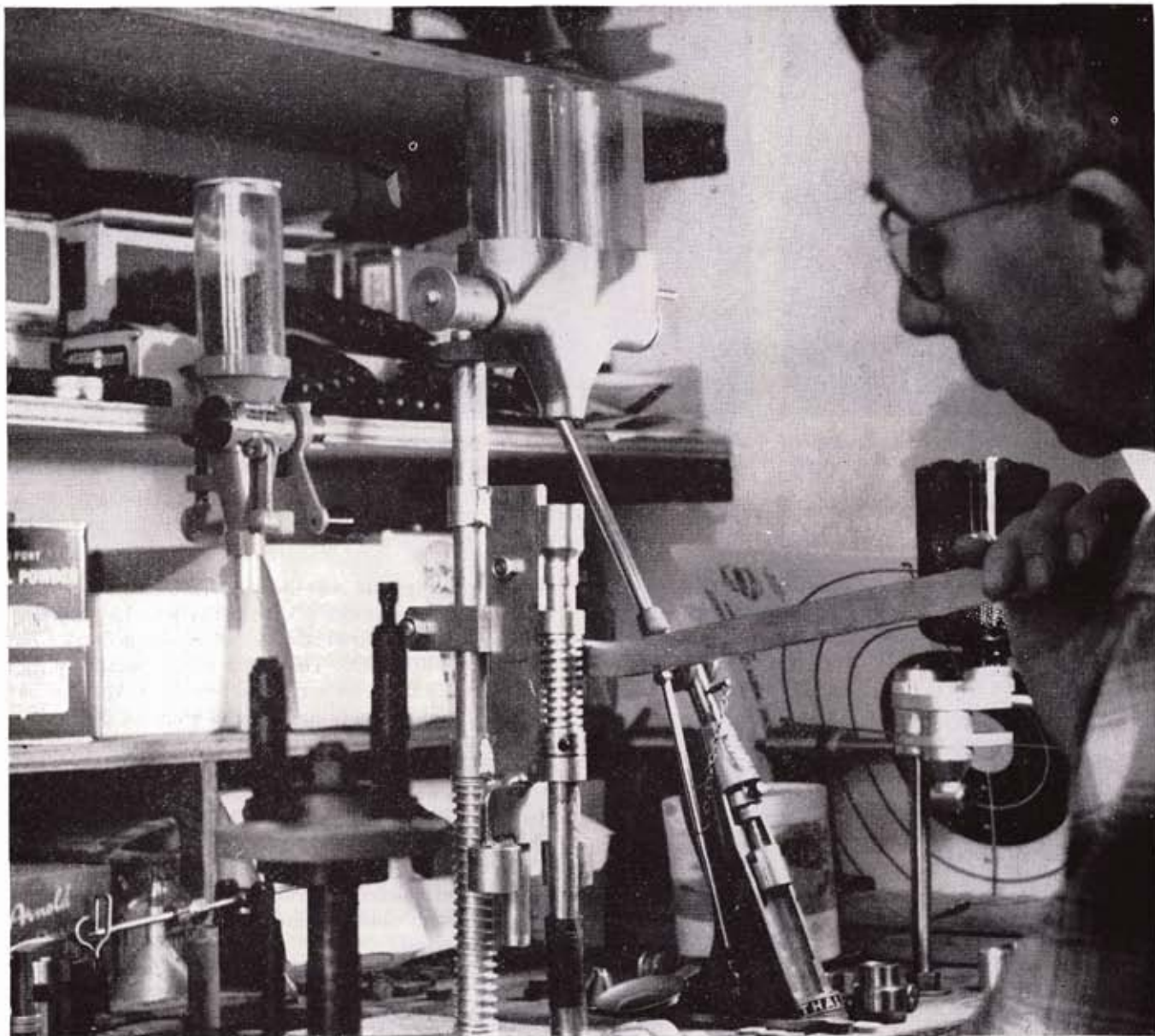
We talked, tried to diagnose the maniacal frenzy that seemed so evident. All of us were past middle age and we had been hunting since our youth. We had learned to hunt and handle a gun from fathers who were also hunters. Our fathers were pretty stern about it, too. I was taught to carry a gun with the barrel pointing down. I was taught never to carry a cocked gun, but to carry it with a thumb on the safety. My father showed me and trained me to push the safety off as I raised my gun to fire, something that soon became automatic. By example, he showed me that when I came to a barbed wire (Continued on page 50)

HANDLOADING SHOTSHELLS TO SAVE MONEY

SHOTGUN CARTRIDGES
MADE TO PRODUCE BEST
PATTERN AND RANGE IN
SHOOTER'S GUN ARE
SIMPLE TO ASSEMBLE



Ingredients for full game bag start with fired shell, charge of Red Dot shotgun powder, the right load in shot, over-powder and filler wads and new primer all balanced to give maximum performance at minimum cost.



Acme tool with plastic powder and shot tubes has coil springs controlling wad pressure in reloading and is very fast in operation. Thalson tool (in rear) employs different leverage to press wads in and does not have any tension indicator.

By HARVEY BRANDT

BLUEBILLS CAME IN with a soft whicker of wings, twisting and turning in the half gale, to drop to my decoys in the shelter of the river willows. It was short, 35-yard shooting, a place where a gunner could use a nice uniform spread of 7 or 7½ size shot in his more open barrel and a good tight pattern of 70 per cent of 6's in his full choked tube when the birds flared. And I had both in the handloads I was shooting, economical and precise. Over the years I have found that loading my own shells for many different types of bird hunting is the only way to assure good patterns in my various guns and at the same time keep within my shooting budget.

Handloading shotgun shells brings out the full pattern potential of a gun. That means carefully testing handloads, fitting the exact load combination to the peculiarities of the gun since no two shotgun barrels are alike. A 12 bore gun may run from .717" to .740" diameter, even though

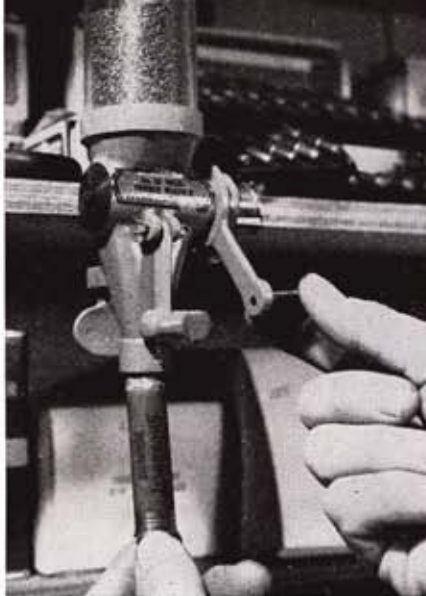
most manufacturers consider .729" as the usual standard.

Obviously, when a shooter buys over-the-counter ammunition, he cannot hope to get the most out of his gun, except accidentally on very rare occasions. Handloading and careful fitting of the best shot size and weight, matched with the best powder charge, will usually give you as much as 15 per cent better patterns.

Those bluebills, for instance, coming in to my decoys took a fairly open pattern. For this shooting I needed an entirely different loading than one I would use pass shooting on the coastal dunes, where the ducks come over a full 50 yards high. And, while there is the same requirement for the maximum killing potential, this is met by an entirely different load. Over the decoys, I was using 1 ounce of 7½ size shot, and getting very uniform patterns. In pass shooting I used this same 20-gauge with 1⅛ ounce of number 5's in the full choke barrel, and 1⅛ ounce of 6's in the modified



Primers are seated in de-capped shell by plug which pushes case on new cap.



Ideal measure set to right load puts powder in shell by cranking handle.



Over-powder and filler wads are next, pushed down while shell is in bushing.

barrel. With this combination I got 75 per cent patterns with my full choked tube and 5's, while the modified threw a good, even 65 per cent—still good patterns but with extra range.

Those two loads, like the 1 ounce, 7½ shot, represented several hours of experimenting, getting the *best* combination for this specific gunning situation.

It is the same story for my upland game shooting after bandtail pigeons. I place versatility far ahead of the other important aspects of handloading. But there are other factors. Handloading shotgun shells is a fascinating hobby and the savings are tremendous.

The Alcan Company of Alton, Illinois, lists comparative cost figures on handloaded shot shells which are revealing. Components sufficient to reload a 12 gauge, 3 dram, 1½ ounce trap load cost \$1.10 a box. Components for a 12 gauge, 3¾ dram, 1¼ ounce hunting load cost \$1.46 a box. A magnum 12 gauge load, using 4¼ drams of powder, 15½ ounces of shot, costs \$1.76 a box. By contrast, a box of magnum 12's straight from the factory runs about \$4.00.

If a gunner does much off-season shooting, these savings pyramid over the summer months. Empty shells can be picked up around your skeet club. Ready primed shells can be bought for as little as \$2.85 a hundred. Empties may be loaded for practice shooting three or four times. But for field shooting, and especially in magazine arms, they should not be used more than two times. The crimped end of the paper becomes soft, and when the shell is slammed into the chamber of a pump or automatic, there is danger that the top wad and shot may be thrown up into the barrel. This would act as an obstruction. While I have never known this to happen, it is possible. Empties are so inexpensive that they should be carefully examined and the defectives culled out at each reloading.

Your shotshell reloading outfit can be just about as elaborate as you care to have it. There are several shotgun reloading presses priced in the neighborhood of \$200—and excellent values they are in every respect. These turret presses have several advantages. Most of them measure the exact force used in seating wads. They have shot and powder measure attachments, and are very speedy in operation. Some, like the Hollywood Press, can also be used

with interchangeable case dies to reload rifle ammunition.

Excellent ammunition can be made with less expensive equipment, too. Just recently I tested the Acme Press, which sells from \$70 to \$90. This press is comparatively inexpensive, yet it turns out very good reloads. It, too, has both a powder and shot measure integral with the press. They are designed to throw fixed charges and to that extent are less flexible than the more expensive turret tools. The Acme Press which I have been using throws 20½ grains of Hercules Red Dot powder, and 23 grains of Du Pont PB. The shot measure throws 1⅛ ounce of 7½ shot.

The versatility of adjustable charge cylinders for both the shot and powder is certainly missed in this reloading press, although charge cylinders for various loads can be bought as extras.

The Thalsen is an excellent, inexpensive reloading tool priced at \$20. I have used this tool for the past two years, and if the time spent reloading is of no consequence, it is to be highly recommended. The same thing can also be said of the Lyman Ideal Straightline Tools at \$30. Both these tools require separate means of weighing shot and powder charges. But in many ways this is an advantage in reloading.

A good adjustable powder measure, such as the Lyman Ideal 55, is a must in any event. So is a good shot measure which is capable of fine adjustment. The fact that they must be set up separate at the reloading bench is no handicap.

One of the best separate measures I have used is the Brian Shot Measure. It overcomes the objection to the dipper type shot measure which throws different weight charges from one adjustment, depending on the size of the shot measured. With the charge cylinders used in the Brian Shot Measure, more exact charges are possible, giving more uniform patterns. These charge cylinders come in various weights of shots from 1 ounce to a full 1½ magnum loading of 3 and 4 shot size. Best method is to test various load combinations until you arrive at one best loading for a specific type of shooting. Then get a cylinder for this shot charge.

Another advantage of this versatile, inexpensive shot measure is that the charge chamber can be almost any bottle screwed into the top casting for a shot hopper. Thus,



Support bushing prevents shell bulge as wads are seated in Thelson tool.



Separate shot measure like Brian is accessory needed with some shell tools.



Crimping head folds end of shell tube into creased, flat end without a wad.

one can have several different size shot in as many different bottles, and can shift from one to another during reloading. Another method is to cut the bottom out of a bottle to be used for a charge chamber, and then pour your various size shot into this as you use the different shot sizes.

A charge cylinder for powder may also be used with this measure. But as different ones must be used for each specific powder and load, an adjustable powder measure is superior. All in all, however, this Brian Shot Measure is an essential, basic piece of shotshell reloading equipment.

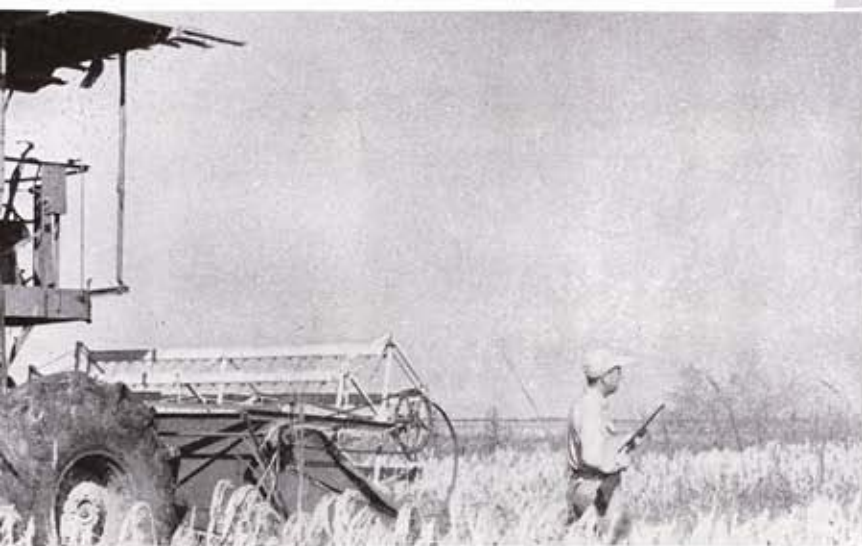
Shotshell reloading technique is much like rifle reloading. You must familiarize yourself with the characteristics of several different type powders. The Lyman Handbook, Belding and Mull, and Alcan Company catalogues are all required reading. These two handbooks, and the catalogue, carefully outline the best loading techniques, as well as list a variety of tested loads with modern, available powders.

A rifleman, reloading for his pet deer rifle, would not think of using a fast burning powder designed for mid-range velocities and light cast bullets, if he wanted maximum velocities with a heavy *(Continued on page 55)*



Mistakes in reloading may produce a bulged case which was not loaded in support bushing (left) or too much crimp because shell is short on wads. Third shell at right is loaded and crimped just right for best pattern in author Brandt's Marlin O/U (right).





REAPING RAIL BEHIND THE REAPERS



Hunters walk behind reapers in rice stubble and shoot rail which fly up but running birds are difficult to flush.



HARD TO FLUSH OUT OF RICE FIELDS, KING RAIL ARE JOCKEYED INTO NARROW STRIP OF GRAIN BY REAPERS AND THEN SHOOTING BEGINS

By DEV KLAPP

IF TOO MUCH HUNTING PRESSURE has posted your favorite farmland, or you've lost your shooting lease to some fellow better heeled than you, don't wrap your shotgun around a tree and give up hunting in disgust. Just hold onto yourself until October, then grab your gun and head for the Texas rice fields. Follow the reapers as they go around and around and you'll find that shooting rail will heat your gun barrel egg-frying hot. The trip won't cost you much—and there's nothing to lease. All you need is a Texas hunting license and a spark in your eye.

I learned about rail shooting—which I'd been overlooking all these years—entirely by accident. Mostly I'm a deer and quail man. But a close friend, F. W. "Kodak" Schmidt, his pretty frau, and Dr. Ed Futch introduced me to the sport at Alta Loma, where farmer Ivey Bouillion was cutting rice.

Bouillion took us out to the field and showed us his reapers lined up ready for work. As we approached, the big machines roared to life, then began their lumbering progress. Evenly spaced, they slowly worked from the field's outer edge toward the center. This took some time and the sun was well up when Bouillion motioned to us to take our stands in the cut-over stubble. Now only a narrow strip of rice was left standing and we were ready for action.

The three of us had hardly settled ourselves when the reapers started on this uncut strip. They headed toward the south end of the field where Mrs. Schmidt and I faced each other, shotguns at the ready. Ed was farther north, while "Kodak" angled around to find the best light for his pictures.

"Get set," Bouillion called.

I pulled my foot out of deep black mud with a plop like a busted gum bubble and felt around for good footing. Gripping my Winchester pump I waited, keyed to a high pitch.

Hard to flush, the king rail sneak through the standing rice stalks to avoid the reapers, rather than expose themselves by flight. In this way they unwittingly allow themselves to be jockeyed into one narrow strip of grain as the reapers close in, until the entire rail population of a field is concentrated in one small area.

And then, swaying and snorting, their reels gathering in the rice stalks, our reapers lumbered nearer. Finally, deprived of cover, the rail took to the air like quail—except that their flight was on soundless wings.

There were dozens of them. Some flew low, some flew high. They scattered in every direction at once. Now and then one skimmed past us at waist level. A few played smart and refused to flush. These, as a rule, got away. One ran by me on long, twinkling legs. I nudged it into flight with a boot toe, then brought it down about 20 feet from my gun barrel.



Black rail shot in Texas rice fields is unusual bird the size of a small chicken. Bird flies much like the quail.

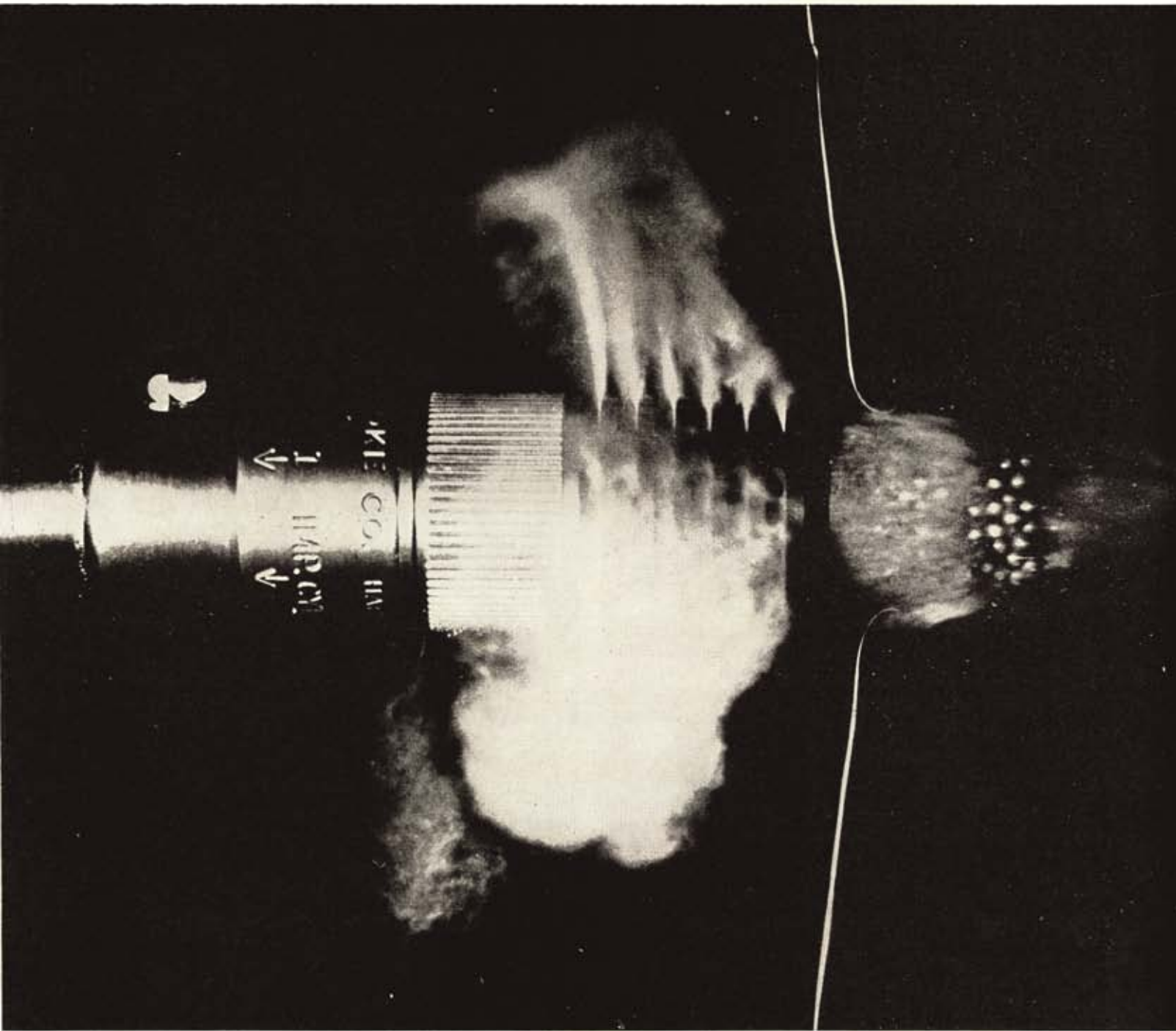
I stood in a constant rain of spent shot. Placed as we were, facing each other, this was to be expected. Some of these shot stung like sand flies as they peppered my face and hands. I wasn't uneasy, though, for we had carefully prepared for such a situation when we took our stations. There was plenty of space between opposing shooters.

The action happened in about 90 seconds. One minute and a half of fast and furious shooting heated our gun barrels and made our hearts pound and thump.

The nearer the reapers came, the more confused became the shooting. We couldn't take time to retrieve our kills, but shot till the air was filled with flying birds and shot and noise and excitement.

Finally, by common consent, we concentrated on the trickier shots. We passed up (Continued on page 61)

WHY A

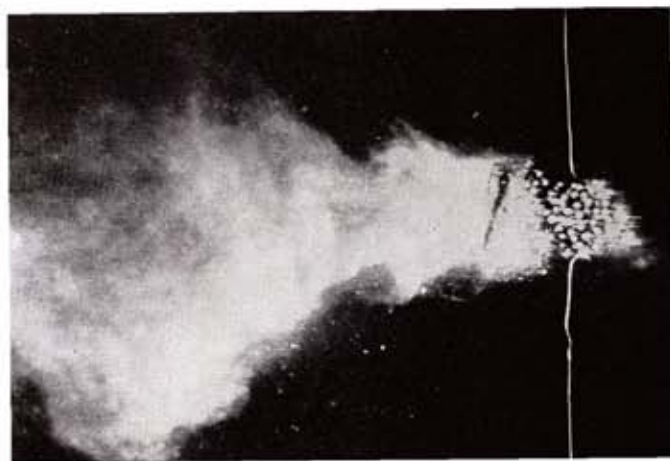


How muzzle choke attachments such as ventilated Poly-Choke relieve high velocity gas, diverting it from behind slower wad and shot is seen in high speed shot. Choke avoids hazard of blown patterns while reducing gun kick in shooting.

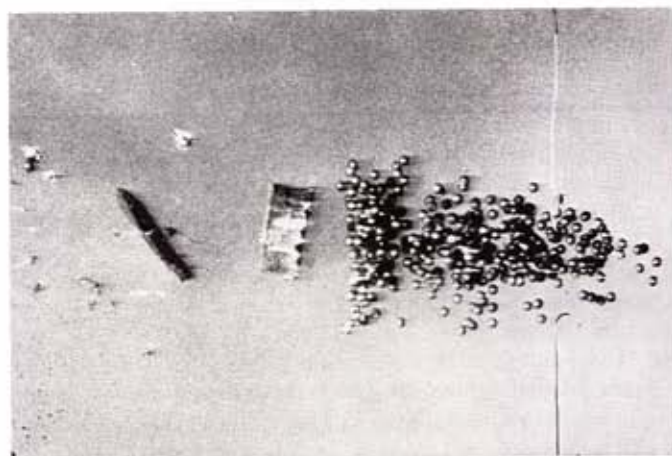
KNOWING BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SHOTGUN CHOKE AND WHY IT PRODUCES TIGHTER PATTERN ENABLES HUNTER TO BAG MORE GAME IN THE FIELD

By H. WELLES STEANE

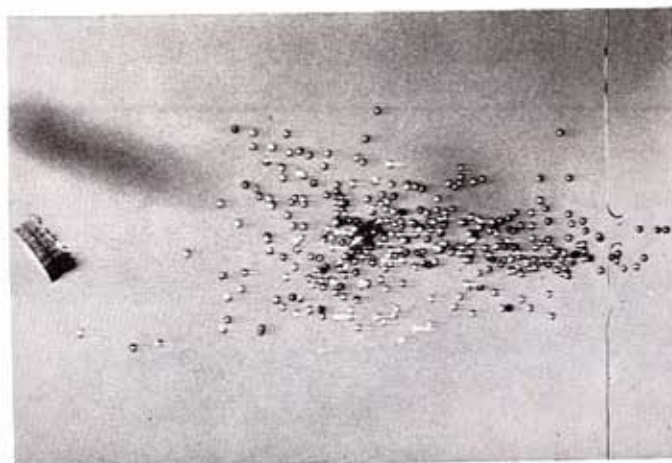
CHOKE CHOKES



At 10 inches from muzzle, the shot charge is tightly constricted by choke and leaves cloud of powder gas.



A killing pattern with shot column no longer touched by the wads begins to form about four feet from gun muzzle.



What will be a perfect pattern is shown ten feet from muzzle as wads and flattened pellets drop away from shot string.

AN EDITOR of an outdoor magazine recently asked several shotgun owners on his staff the makes and gauges they used. Each readily answered. But when he inquired, "What choke," invariably the reply was: "I told you 12 gauge (or 16 gauge)."

The ignorance about chokes in his own staff amazed the editor. This lack of knowledge is even more staggering on a national scale. Although somewhere between 16 and 20 million hunting licenses are issued throughout the country now, there is still a high percentage of shotgun owners who cannot tell you what degree of choke their gun carries! This deficiency extends to trap and skeet shooters too.

While many scattergunners take the phenomenon of the choke for granted, it is surprising how few really understand the basic principles of the choke and its effect on shooting, let alone its history. The story goes, for instance, that a man named Fred Kimble produced the first workable "choked" shotgun barrel, at least in this country, during the 1860's. Actually, there is evidence that in 1730 a Prague gunsmith named Stanislaus Paczelt made a barrel with a very thin internal liner of steel brazed into the muzzle. In 1827, Jeremiah Smith of Smithfield, Rhode Island, worked on the idea of shotgun "choke," and in 1872 R. M. Faburn patented the recess or jug choke.

No one really knows what prompted the idea of choking a shotgun barrel, but it has been compared, and reasonably so, to the principle of constricting the stream of water from a hose by means of the nozzle. For that is what shotgun choke is—a constriction of the bore diameter of the barrel at the muzzle end. Whether the constriction is provided by a permanent, solid choke built into the barrel when it is manufactured, or by a choking device which is attached to the muzzle and can be adjusted for various degrees of constriction, is a matter of the shotgun owner's choice.

The tighter the constriction, or



Attachable chokes like Poly-Choke have collet-type sleeve inside which is regulated by turning knurled ring.



Ventilated models of choke attachments use slotted front tubes to relieve gas pressure and tend to reduce recoil.



Variable "Deluxe" with target-type ramp bead sights offers many advantages for skeet and field shooting.

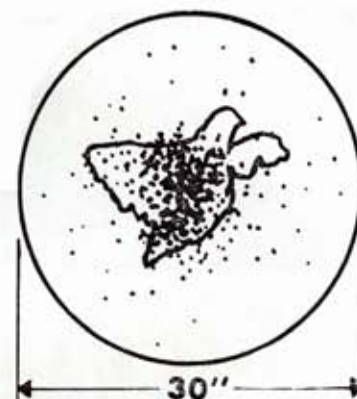


Standard "Deluxe" Poly-Choke is fitted with target sight but uses adjusting ring without vented compensator tube.

choke, the tighter the group of shot will be as it leaves the gun, and the farther it will travel. So, just as the nozzle of a hose is tightened to direct a narrow, far-reaching stream of water across the garden, and opened to get a wide, short spray of water for the flower bed—in the same way, a full choke is used for long distance shooting and a more open choke for close range.

This may seem basic to most wingshooters, but it is shocking how many scattergunners fail to fully understand these principles.

While the principle of shotgun choke is very simple, the various effects of different types of choke, with different guns and different shot loads, shot at varying ranges and types of game, is another story. But it is a story that any shotgun owner worth his salt must understand, at least with respect to his own gun, because the only way to know a gun thoroughly and use it effectively is to pattern it. This is not a difficult job, and it can be fun as well as enlightening. It is a form of target shooting which checks the accuracy of a gun and choke, rather than the accuracy of a shooter's aim.



Importance of choke selection for hunting is graphically shown in open (top) and full choke-pattern diagrams.

Simply set up a sheet of paper at least 40" square, pace off 20, 30, or 40 yards, depending on the range you want to check, aim your gun at the paper and let go. Then tie a piece of string 15 inches long to a pencil and draw a 30-inch circle around the largest concentration of shot holes. The number of holes in the circle, figured as a percentage of the total number of shot in the load used, is the pattern.

The point is to find out what a gun does with the shot loads normally used. A generally accepted guide to ideal pattern percentages for a 12-gauge gun at 40 yards, using a No. 7½-1⅛ oz. load, is as follows:

Choke	Pattern
Full	67-75%
Modified	55-65%
Improved Cylinder	45-55%
Cylinder Bore	35-45%

The Poly-Choke Company uses this standard in its Wing-shooter's Handbook, "How to Make Every Shot Count." It is a basic instruction manual which provides a great deal of factual information of use (Continued on page 69)

Fitting attachment such as Master Choke may restore shotgun with blown-off muzzle to years more of useful service despite short barrel. Choke also makes possible use of short barrel for special purpose such as on boat or in police car.





Erratic, speedy bandtail pigeon which moves slowly or in dazzling bursts of speed will tax expert wing shot's ability with very difficult overhead shots.

THE UNPREDICTABLE BANDTAIL PIGEON

WEST COAST COUSIN OF EXTINCT PASSENGER PIGEON
IS ONE OF MOST SPORTING SHOTGUN TARGETS IN U.S.

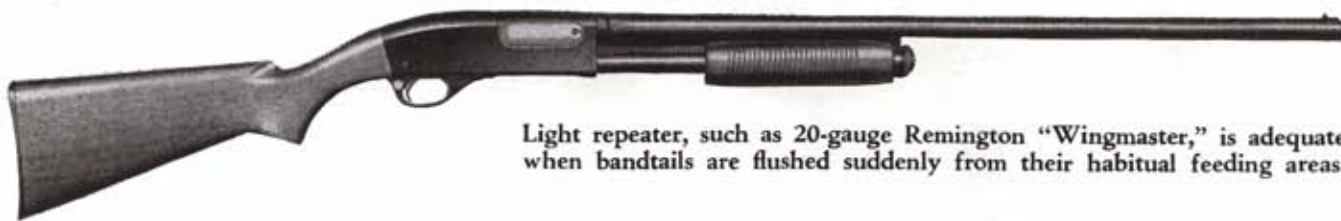
By FRANCIS SELL

HE FLIES like a snipe but has the speed of a frightened canvas back. Quite often he acts for all the world like a ruffed grouse. And he is about the size of a greenwing teal. Add all those characteristics up and you have a West Coast bandtail pigeon, probably one of the most sporting shotgun targets on the North American continent. The bandtail, like the passenger pigeon, migrates—coming north in the spring and turning south with the first frosts in autumn. From September on through late October, depending on whether you hunt him in Washington, Oregon or California, he is the upland game bird you dream about—the most unpredictable in the field today.

If the problem of selecting just the right shotgun for ducks is complicated, then selecting just the right scattergun for bandtail pigeon is almost impossible. Take a high-flying gamebird as big as a greenwing teal that behaves erratically like a snipe, and there are not too many shotguns suitable for such shooting, nor too many gunners who will turn in a good field performance on such game. A light shotgun is indicated—one with which you can get on that twisting, turning target with dispatch.

But the only sticker is, you have also a game bird which





Light repeater, such as 20-gauge Remington "Wingmaster," is adequate when bandtails are flushed suddenly from their habitual feeding areas.



Plenty of bandtails can be found in the huckleberry brush in Oregon. Author Sell likes two-shot speed of a double gun for bandtail pigeon shooting.

comes over the upland hill passes like a duck, flying out there where you must roll him at 40 to 50 yards quite often. And always there is that West Coast trade wind whipping across those autumn hills, playing hob with your lead, as well as speeding your twisting target on its way. What might look like a nice setup for a 12 gauge magnum, throwing $1\frac{5}{8}$ ounce of shot, just isn't.

Pass shooting is only part of bandtail pigeon gunning. Sometimes they act like ruffed grouse, coming out of the heavy cover at 25 to 35 yards, turning and twisting, as they skim through the intervening trees and brush. Bandtail pigeon often imitate those ruffed grouse tactics, down to the last provoking turn. They will come up out of the West Coast huckleberry brush and elder berry thickets, and catch you with that heavy 12 gauge not even at your shoulder.

East of my cabin there are acres of black huckleberry and in autumn, when these ridges are loaded with fruit, they are the delight of many blue grouse, ruffed grouse and bandtail pigeon. I developed a technique of taking bandtail here which I thought was foolproof. I also had the right shotgun for the task—not too light—not too heavy, and with reasonable ability to reach out there for the occasional long shot.

I worked along those huckleberry ridges, very (Continued on page 58)



Recommended for bandtails by author Sell is a light 20-gauge double such as Marlin Model 90 over/under gun.



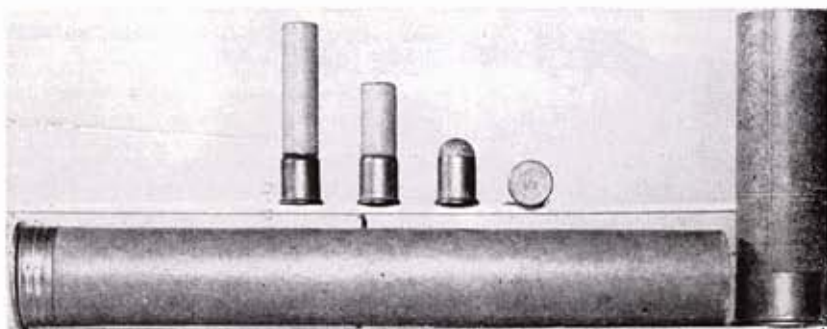
By STUART MILLER

The Littlest And The Longest

THE LITTLE 9mm Winchester rim fire shotgun shells were similar to the 9mm Flobert shot cartridges that had long been popular in Europe. A few years ago many Europeans, through necessity and taste, hunted song birds, sparrows, thrushes, finches for food. For such "big game" as these, the smaller the shot load, and the cheaper the cartridge, the better they sold. At this time, too, there was a big demand for bright birds and plumage to decorate milady's hats. A heavy shot charge would tear up the feathers and be very bad for business.

Why they used the "W" headstamp for this set of cartridges, instead of the usual "H" is still a mystery. Paul Foster, the Winchester factory expert who has been most helpful with information on these shells, says that no one around the plant has a positive answer. The theory that sounds best to me is that these were made primarily for export and it was decided that "W" would be easier to associate with "Winchester" than the usual "H" headstamp they had always used on rim fires.

Until recently, I thought that this



Long 10-gauge shell on its side was special load by Winchester for spotting charge in aerial practice bombs. Tiny shells are 9mm for smoothbores. Standard 10-gauge shell case (right) for shotguns shows difference in size.

So Winchester decided that they would get in on this market, and made the Model 36 shotgun.

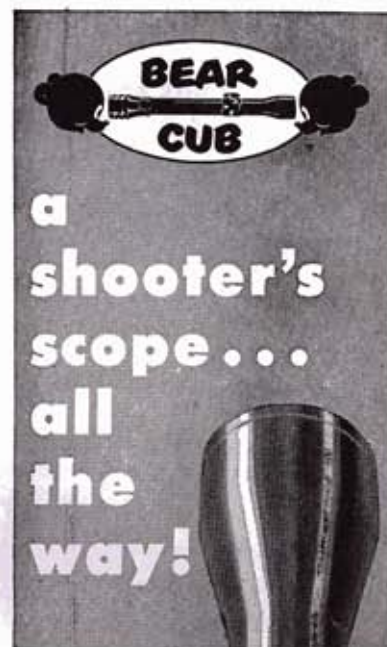
Introduced early in 1920, the M36 was a tiny bolt action gun with an 18" barrel. Though a well-made gun, it lacked one thing in particular for most shooters: killing power. As one disgruntled customer remarked, "This thing is only good for *small* birds, or big flies!" Despite this fault, large quantities were exported to Central and South America where they were effective on the brilliant colored tropical birds. The gun was known around the factory as the "Milliner's Special." The gun did not prove popular for sale in this country and was finally discontinued.

Because of the many foreign guns using 9mm shot ammunition, the shells enjoyed a much longer period of production than did the guns. I have a box of the 9mm ball ammunition that was packaged for export. The label is printed in four different languages to cover as many markets as possible.

was the only time that Winchester used "W" on rim fires, but now I am not so sure. I now have a specimen of an early made .41 short rim fire with a raised W mark. Although it was not in the original box, it was presumably of Winchester manufacture, and if they marked .41's, they may have marked other calibers the same way.

The 9mm Ball cartridge made to use in the smooth bored M36 had three different types of loading. The first of these used no gun powder at all, the second was loaded with 3 to 3½ grains of FG black powder, while the third type used smokeless powder. All were loaded with a single #00 buckshot, which weighs around 55 grains.

The type with no powder has an interesting background. For a propelling charge it used a double dose of the priming compound, as did some of the earlier Flobert ball cartridges, and .22 BB Caps. The 9 mm ball caps exported to France were of this type. The French government had a monopoly on manufacturing (Continued on page 45)



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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 9)

he can correct his trouble without coaching. There are some lengthy instructions for proper use of the Armax chamber, but they are simple and often obvious. The chamber comes in a leather pocket case, price \$7.50.

In some brief tin-can plinking with the Armax in a 16-gauge J. C. Higgins Model 10. I was surprised at the close impact of the bullet to my point of aim. The non-existent recoil made me tend to keep my gun properly cheeked, too, correcting a slight tendency I had to strain my head away while aiming. It seems to be a practical and effective device.

New H & R Pump Shotgun

For many years Harrington & Richardson offered a good line of guns but they have been weak on repeating shotguns. Now the handsome but inexpensive Model 400 in 12 or 16 gauge fills that niche. Our sample gun with a stock of standard dimensions swung easily and handled like a high-grade weapon. The space between barrel and magazine tube

the choke was opened up. All in all, the gun is good value and a handsome addition to the H & R line.

Simmons Single Trap

Ernie Simmons, the shotgun man in Kansas City with a lot of good ideas, has solved a minor shotgun shortage by importing a single trap 12-gauge. It is one of the best-looking single traps we have handled, and that includes all makes and models. This smoke pole specially built for Simmons by his Belgian gunmaker, Cordy of Liege, is a first-rate piece of finishing and workmanship throughout. A hammerless model in classic single trap styling, the fitting of wood to metal in this relatively inexpensive gun is actually superb. The inletting is exceedingly tight and close all along the action body and tang straps. The action was sparsely but competently engraved by a skilled artisan. The wood on the sample examined, while not gaudy, was a simple piece of



Harrington & Richardson's new Model 401 pump shotgun.

straight-grained French walnut, close and fine, with a good checkering pattern over grip and forend.

Basically, the Simmons trap lists for \$292.50, less than any other single trap in the U.S. It is a heavy gun, about 8 1/2 pounds with a 32" barrel and ventilated rib. But the distribution of weight is such that the gun handles like a 6-pounder, and still has heft enough to take up the slap of long stints of firing at the traps. While 100 shots run through it quickly showed up my out-of-condition side muscles, there was no soreness or bruises from kick. The soft Simmons recoil pad may have had something to do with it, but the accidentally-perfectly-dimensioned stock on the gun I handled combined easy pointing and easy shooting. Simmons will make stock dimensions to order on this gun, and offers a choice of butt pads.

Browning's Lightning Superposed

"Lighter than lightweight" is the Browning Arms Co.'s description of their newest superposed double shotguns, the Lightning models. They have shaved almost a pound off the famous "Rocky rugged" over-unders in both 20 and 12 gauges. The new models are just like the basic Browning double but reducing the weight has been made possible by using special steels which permit saving metal with no loss in safety. Every Browning gun is proof-tested in the Liege government-supervised testing laboratory for strength and safety. Shooters who prefer ultra lightweight guns will find the new over-under a pleasure in the field. The weight has been reduced to about six pounds in the 20-gauge and seven pounds in the 12, but the same balance and handling qualities which have made the over-under a favorite among many gunners is carefully retained, and the Lightning will have a special appeal to the upland hunter.

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engraved Grade I through the deeply carved game-scene Grade V with gold trigger and specially selected stock wood, will be offered in the Lightning models. Barrels will be 26 1/2" or 28", all with ventilated ribs. Any combination of chokes desired can be ordered: full, improved modified, modified, improved cylinder, skeet and cylinder boring.

The base prices of Browning's new Lightning models are: Grade I, \$275; Grade II, \$360; Grade III, \$410; Grade IV, \$535; Grade V, \$630. But Val Browning has cooked up a special offer which will appeal to the clay bird shooters, especially. The Lightning superposed may be ordered with extra sets of barrels, say one Standard barrel set and one Lightning set for the same receiver. And if you now own a Standard superposed Browning, the Browning Arms Co., 1706 Washington Avenue, St. Louis 3, Mo., will fit a set of the lightweight barrels to it—two guns in one. Meanwhile production will continue on the Standard superposed guns, the 3" Magnum, and special trap, field and skeet models.

10-Gauge Magnum Double

One of the biggest pieces of gunmaking to ever come into my hands rolled from the box the other day. A mammoth among big-bores, the 10 gauge magnum double gun built by Ugarteburu in Eibar, Spain, is a big value in more ways than one. The Spanish guns suffered a bad reputation in the 1920's when loose proof laws allowed pot-metal handguns to be shipped over here. But Spanish shotguns from the cheapest single barrel of break open hammer style to the most exquisite fowling piece for a grandee of old Spain now have to pass strict government proof tests which ensure safety and solid workmanship.

The Clark 10-gauge Magnum is certainly solid. It doesn't "tip the scales," it turned them upside down, with more than 11 pounds of metal slowing down the prodigious kick of the huge 10-gauge Magnum shotshell. And



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7x31.5	11 1/4"	4.6 mm	9 oz.	19'			
9x30	12 1/4"	4.6 mm	11 oz.	15 1/2'			

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it takes all that weight to slow down the kick of the far-reaching bombshell and make it possible to fire the Magnum 10 more than once without slipping a disc.

With a Greener-type cross bolt, the Ugarte-buru Magnum 10 is rigidly locked when closed. The firing pins are not bushed, but there are gas rings and vents to the edges of the standing breech for safety in case of a primer puncture. This is hardly likely in view of the quality of American-made ammo but doubtless is a sometime hazard with foreign fodder of varying qualities.

The Ugarte-buru's finish is good. Selling at \$189.50, the twin-tube Gargantua baby is planned as an economy Magnum 10 to hit the shooters who will not feel inclined to sink too much money into such a long range cannon. The use of a Magnum 10 is limited, not like a gun also used for skeet or upland shooting but a big gun has a certain fascination to it from sheer size alone.

Next best thing to testing it on live game is trying a gun at the traps. In so doing, I "tried" my friendship with skeet champ

Norman Fergie a little, too. Norm weighs 155 pounds and stands 5' 7" and he looked a little pale when I handed him the gun. But he has gathered a few tons of silver from proficiency at skeet and so fell in love with the ponderous brute the minute he lifted it. Later on at Lincoln Park in Chicago he and a shooting pal played a little game. If one missed, the other hit the bird. At each throw they stepped back.

Norm ended up at the 25 yard line and was still cracking them, although he missed a few. He told me "I think I squinted a little when I threw that first shell into the gun. But you know, it handles darn well, much better than I expected for such a big gun. Only one thing worth mentioning—my shoulder sported a black-and-blue mark when we were done—and I fired only six shots. But comparing the ranges with, say, goose-killing ranges, I would have bagged a couple or three and that's okay by me any time in the blinds." Certainly Frank Clark's big 10 will have a place in the line-up of long range shotguns for high flying geese this season. ⊕

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CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 41)

manufacturing gun powder, and would not allow any cartridges loaded with powder to be imported. Since these had no powder they could get through without trouble.

The 9mm short shot cartridge is the rarest. In Winchester's Catalogue #82 this is listed as the "9mm Short Shot," and under the European designation of "9mm Single Charge Shot Cartridge." The 9mm long shot cartridge was also called the "Double Charge Shot Cartridge." This short shot cartridge used a load of 8 grains of #3 American black powder and 40 grains of #9 shot. Later it was also loaded with smokeless powder. The cartridge was not popular and became obsolete before 1928.

The 9mm long shot cartridges were the most powerful and the most popular of the set. The last huge lot of these were loaded for export shortly after the second World War. This size used 101½ grains #4 American black powder. Later they loaded with smokeless too—and 80 grains of #9 shot.

There was one other type cartridge in the set, but which was never available on the open market. This was the high pressure test cartridge, used for testing the guns during manufacture. This was identified by having the copper portion of the cartridge tinned.

The 9mm long shot cartridges by Winchester were made with blue, green, red, and sort of orange-colored paper cases, the short shot in blue. Of these the blue case seems to be the earliest and the scarcest. There has long been argument as to whether these colors have any relation to the loads. I sectioned a specimen of red, the green, and the orange cases (there were no extras of the blue ones) and found that the shot size and weight was all the same but that each had a different type of smokeless powder.

Remington-UMC put out quantities of the 9mm ball ammunition for export, bearing their traditional "U" headstamp, but I have never heard of them, or any other American company, making the shot cartridges.

From the littlest Winchester, it is quite a jump to Winchester's longest when compared with one of the traditional length 10 gauge empty primed cases which were so popular in the late 1800's.

One of the most colorful cartridges to come out of this last war was this six-inch cased 10 gauge empty primed shotgun shell. After the war many of these were sold as army surplus, and were cut down to traditional length and used in shotguns. As they appear in collections, they are often thought to be for small punt guns, experimental shotgun shells, or flare cartridges. It is not often that their true purpose is realized.

These cartridges were intended for use in aircraft practice bombs. These were small bombs, with cast iron fins, weighing about three pounds. The blank was inserted in the cavity that extended through the entire bomb, with the base of the shell toward the nose. A moveable firing pin assembly was then inserted and the bomb was ready for action. When the bomb struck the ground, the firing pin was forced back setting off the cartridge with its huge charge of black powder. The resulting cloud of smoke al-

lowed the bombardier to check his accuracy. The navy used a similar shell with a pyrotechnic charge that would function on the water.

The bombs themselves were of sturdy construction and could be re-used by merely inserting another blank and firing pin mechanism. They were especially useful in practicing low altitude bombardment and dive bombing.

The shells were of two types. The first was of the usual shotgun shell construction with a brass base and a red paper case. It was headstamped "Winchester No. 10 Nublack. Made in USA." The other had an aluminum case of similar dimensions, but without any headstamp.

These shells are usually found in an unfired empty primed condition, but sometimes a loaded round turns up. While these may look like some sort of a flare cartridge, they contain a huge load of black powder and under no circumstances should they be fired from a shotgun, much less in a flare pistol. I heard of a character who tried it. He was lucky, for while they were not able to find much of the flare pistol, they were able to save the thumb and one finger on his right hand.

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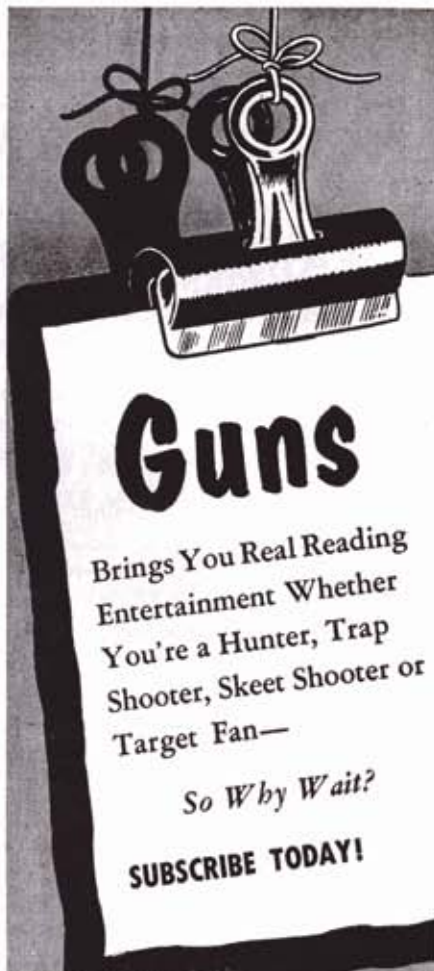
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IMPOSSIBLE SHOTGUN

(Continued from page 26)

The demonstration was a feature in the movie M-G-M made about Marsh. Moviegoers saw Marsh's original gun model fired in the film. Then "Williams" (Jimmy Stewart) handed the weapon to the Winchester man, who thoughtfully turned it over in his hands, studying it. Then he looked up from the sawed-off Remington and pointedly asked, "Very interesting—and you could do this on other guns, too?" Marsh's answer eventually was the Model 50 Winchester.

Because of his arms work, and a legal doubt that he had actually fired the shot which killed the revenue officer, Marsh received a pardon and was released from prison.

Williams' first move toward the position he now holds in the industry took place when he was released in 1930. In Washington, D. C., he offered the fixed-barrel rifle to the Army ordnance department. As a military rifle, under the adverse conditions of dirt and neglect, it did not seem reliable at the time to warrant more study. On that score ordnance turned him down. But they took a long look at another application of a similar principle which Williams had cooked up. This was a .22 automatic pistol on the .45 Colt auto frame, with a simulated kick equal to the big .45. Instead of reducing kick, Marsh had multiplied it through a floating chamber that worked the .22 with the energy of a .45. Ordnance thought this was a good idea, and the first of Marsh's "impossible" guns was born, the training .22 caliber machine gun.

Springfield and Rock Island Armory had studied the problem of an inexpensive .22 machine gun for training GIs. Their decision was that design would take at least two years and cost more than \$50,000. Since the whole idea was to save money on ammo, the project was shelved. Then in walked Williams.

A complete "unknown," fresh out of prison, Williams went to the ordnance department cold. But he came out hot, with a contract in his pocket to make one gun, and a Browning .30 machine gun was shipped to his home workshop.

Ordnance expected Williams to take a few months to complete his first alteration to .22. In a fortnight the Carolina boy was back with a water-cooled Browning on his shoulder and several yards of miniature web machine gun belting holding .22 cartridges draped around his neck. The officers were astonished. Sarcastically one of them asked "What took you so long?" They were dumbfounded when Williams patiently apologized for taking two weeks to do the job. He had completed the mechanical work in a whirlwind of machining and filing in a few days.

"I took most of the two weeks sitting up sewing these damn bitty little belts," he complained. He left the ordnance office that day with a contract to build five more guns. Later Williams and the Army came to terms and many more standard .30 Brownings were changed to .22 at Springfield Armory, with Williams collecting a royalty.

Three more major gun developments intervened before Williams designed the Model 50. First was the Colt .22 automatic with the kick of a .45. Williams has the distinction

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of having this design pirated abroad. The French "Unique" automatic pistol is made in one model with a floating chamber, although the version imported into the U.S. and sold by Sears Roebuck cannot be built with the chamber because of Williams' patents.

A variation of the floating chamber principle is also used in the Model 550 Remington .22 autoloading rifle, the only autoloader which will fire shorts, longs and long rifles interchangeably. It accomplishes this because the chamber is short. The long rifle cartridge (which possesses enough power to blow the bolt back automatically) extends ahead of the floating chamber and does not use it to multiply force. But the stubby shorts just come to the edge of the chamber. The gases, expanding onto the front of the chamber, throw it sharply back with tremendous acceleration. This energy is transferred to the heavier bolt, and the bolt inertia is what re-

tracts the bolt and works the gun.

This business of inertia is what makes Marsh tick. He never heard of Isaac Newton, but he can be rated just as smart. "Inertia is the property of a body in motion to remain in motion, and a body at rest to remain at rest, unless acted on by an external force," was Newton's description. Williams does not know the big words, but he has an intuitive concept of this phenomenon, basis of all automatic gun systems which use a moving bolt. Because the inertia of any gun part is proportional to its mass, the relationship between mass, force, spring tensions and automatic timing are highly critical in a firearm. Williams comprehends this with a sixth sense that defies explanation. From this sixth sense came the Winchester carbine adopted by the U.S. Army and built to a total of 8,000,000 during World War II. It used the "short-stroke piston" to open the bolt. Williams first

drew up the short stroke piston on a dirty piece of shirt cardboard in the Caledonia prison farm, and the U.S. Army paid a lump sum for the patent rights. The exact figure is a secret, but Marsh is the man his friends say once had a million dollars in cold cash.

Marsh hit it rich in 1941 when he went to work for Winchester on the carbine, but he was shy and his shyness turned into a

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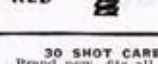
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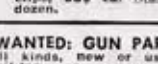
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sullen, surly demeanor. He had a plaster-board office in the Winchester research building, and for a time they let him alone. Edwin Pugsley, then chief of research and design, wanted to understand Williams. He had no schooling except what he had learned with his hands. He had absolutely no knowledge of firearms design either historically or in other countries. Yet he was embarked on some subconscious study of inertia that could prove a gold mine to Winchester if they could direct him. But they had to find his "steering wheel" first.

Assigned to work with Marsh was another young man, Harry Sefried, now chief of pistol research and development for High Standard. They didn't quite know what to do with Harry either, so they put him in with Williams. Harry's official job was to "write down what Marsh Williams is thinking."

Each morning Sefried came in with paper and pencil. If Marsh was working on anything, he would slip it into his top drawer, lock it, and fold his hands. Maybe he would go "Hunh" when Harry walked in, but mostly he was silent. At quitting time, still silent, he would get up and go home.

This got to wear on Harry's nerves, but most of all what bothered him was Williams' habit of bending nails. Aside from gun sketches, Marsh's desk drawer was full of ten penny nails four inches long. He had a trick of bending those nails "U" shaped in his chunky, tremendously-powerful hands. One day when Williams had methodically curled up one nail in complete silence, Harry reached over and without a word grabbed the nail in a handful of cotton waste and

slowly bent it straight again. He put it down on Williams' desk and walked out of the room.

Marsh picked up another bent nail. He looked at it. Then he took out his handkerchief and tried to straighten the nail. He tore his hands to bloody shreds but he didn't bend the nail straight. Then he set it down and thought it over.

After a minute he reached out as far as he could without getting up from his desk, and just patted the little pile of cotton waste Sefried had set down. Inside he felt the shapes of two short sections of gun barrel Harry had secretly used to bend the spike straight.

When Harry came back into the room, Williams didn't say a word, but there was a twinkle in his eye. That night as they were leaving, he slapped Sefried on the shoulder and said, "What are you doing tonight, Harry?"

"Oh, nothing much, Marsh," Sefried replied.

"Then why don't you come over to my place for a little drink?" said Marsh, and a long friendship was begun.

With his carbine money Marsh bought a big house in New Haven, just over the hill from Winchester, and often he and Harry would drink there. Sometimes they would get a little high, like the time they shot up the tavern in Waterbury.

Marsh was packing two .45 Colt Commander automatics, which is sort of legal as he is an honorary deputy sheriff of several counties, and an M-G-M studio police captain. These guns, one with fancy gold and silver Mexican grips in a belt holster, and the

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other with checkered ivory grips in his pocket, are always loaded and on him constantly. He had them that night in the Waterbury tavern. Both Marsh and Sefried were feeling pretty good.

"I asked the bartender feller if anybody lived upstairs," Marsh confided to me, "and he said, 'Nobody at all.' So I just pulled my .45 when somebody dared me to, and pumped five or six shots at the ceiling right quick. I slid the other .45 down the bar to Harry. He caught it, just as slick as a snake lashing out, and he put a few shots up there, too. Why, do you know, that bartender made me get up there and autograph them bullet holes. Later on he painted his ceiling and he put a little frame around those shots . . ."

Marsh played while he was in New Haven, but he worked, too. Finally he sold his big city house and moved back to his 4,000-acre farm outside of Fayetteville. There in the old frame workshop which he built as a boy, on a milling machine Remington shipped to him in a crate nearly as big as the shop, he is now working on new designs.

With the drowsy hum of insects in the hot July afternoon breaking the stillness, Williams showed me around his workshop. He handed me the M1 Carbine marked with the ball-pen autographs of General Mark Clark and War Secretary Henry L. Stimson, his prized "collector's item." From an old trunk he unwrapped Serial-number 2 Colt Service Acc automatic, the second gun made commercially with his designs in it. Racked about the 20-foot square cabin were rifles and shotguns, machine guns and pistols. All were loaded.

From the window Marsh let me shoot his latest modification of the .22 machine gun. The tiny belt zipped through the receiver as the little gun sputtered. He put it on "slow fire" and it ran at 1,000 rounds a minute. Then he changed the buffer and stepped up the rate of fire to 2,000. As the bolt jammed on a soft lead bullet, Marsh apologized while he cleared the gun.

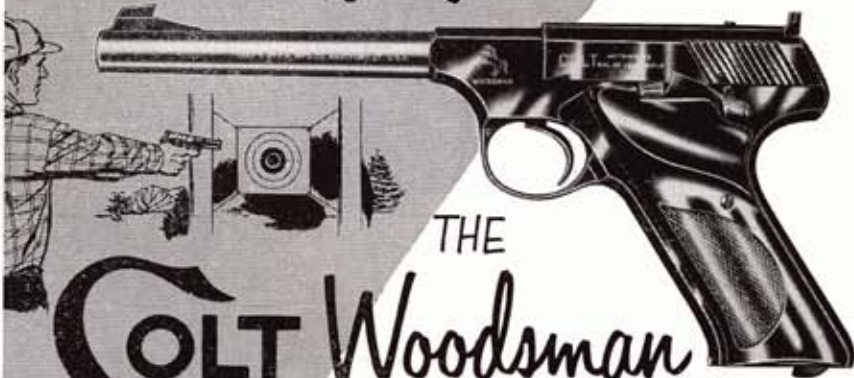
"We fired this little gun for 5,000 shots at Aberdeen a couple of years ago. They said it was the first gun they ever tested which ran through without a jam or a misfire of any kind. We used the copper-jacketed .22 military bullets. These soft lead bullets just bent when the feed jerks them across the bolt, they have to move so fast to fire 2,000 times. That way they don't go into the chamber right and it hangs up. But with the metal bullets it works fine," he explained.

Today Williams says he is doing work for both Winchester and Remington. And both Winchester and Remington disclaim knowledge of any such work. A lone-wolf sort of mechanic, Marsh probably has something up his sleeve that will be as astonishing when he springs it as his other designs have been.

Meanwhile, he has several Model 50's and is making little changes, checking new ideas, making a good gun even better. And today the Model 50 automatic in 12 and 20 gauge, in skeet and field models, is rivalling the old reliable Model 12 pump as a "wheel horse" of the Winchester line. It has the curious distinction of being the only recoil-operated autoloader with a fixed barrel. It was impossible, they said, to make such a gun. ☉



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WILL YOU KILL A MAN

(Continued from page 29)

fence, I should push the gun under the wire, then climb over the fence, pick up the gun—still a safe procedure.

My father never permitted a loaded gun in the house. It was standard routine for us to stop and remove shells from our guns the minute we entered our backyard. In later years, when we used a car to find our hunting grounds, guns were unloaded before we got in the car to return home, or to find new hunting grounds.

I was taught the habits of game, slowly and patiently, and by experience. I got so I could spot an old rail fence that angled across a field of wild grass, briars and dwarf pines, and I knew it would be good cover for grouse. One of us would work each side of the fence, walking slowly, guns at the alert, watching the old Irish setter deliberately ranging first one side of the fence and then the other. Each of us shot only at the grouse flushed on our side of the fence.

I was taught that after their nocturnal feeding, woodcock would leave the swampy land where they had fed, find a brier-covered hill nearby, snuggle down in the dry cover, rest, possibly sleep, during the warmth of the day.

All of us agreed that we had been taught a decent respect for the property of others, never to leave a gate open that had been closed, never to fire at game routed near farm buildings, to share our kill with the farmer on whose land it had been shot.

"If a man knows all of these things," one of my friends said, "he is confident in the woods, sure of himself, and his nerves are not jumpy, his trigger finger not itchy. These guys today were not raised right! Are they self-taught, or are they orphans?"

Mostly, we decided that they lacked what we had enjoyed: fathers who were good sportsmen, good parents. Many of the boys and men in the field, we were agreed, were from some metropolitan area. Their fathers were undoubtedly non-hunters. But, we also agreed, that some of the most cautious hunters we had known were born and raised in the city and obeyed every safety measure.

Maybe this passion to shoot at something glimpsed through a screen of bushes is sheer recklessness; possibly it is engendered by a competitive spirit that has generated a consuming hunger for game. I don't know. But I do know it should be stopped, a license revoked for five years, severe penalties invoked, the gun confiscated by law enforcement officers. Ask any sane, careful sportsman and he will agree that only severe penalties and education will curb a tragic practice that has destroyed human lives, wounded and crippled thousands of innocent people, resulted in the slaughter of out-of-season game and a substantial quota of domestic animals. Car owners know that penalties await them in violations of the motor code. Why not hunters?

"My father cured me of shooting before I was sure," a man said. "We were out one day and I kicked out a bird, sort of queer looking. It fluttered up toward the limb of a tree 50 feet away. I pulled up and knocked the bird silly. It proved to be a stray bantam rooster. My father didn't say much, but his face was white, and there was a sort of a lethal gleam in his eyes."

"He led me to the nearest farm, found the owner, a friend of long standing.

"You own a bantam rooster?" he asked. He had lost one a week or so ago, guessed a fox must have got him, or he strayed, the man admitted.

"My boy just shot your rooster," dad said. "Thought it was a grouse. How much you figure that bird was worth?"

"The man named a price, and it was reasonable. My father paid without question. That night when we got home, cleaned our guns and hung them up, father said quietly that I was not to use the gun for two weeks. He also told me that the price of the rooster would come out of my allowance. He was firm; his word was law, and it taught me a lesson I have never forgotten. I suffered acutely during those two weeks when I was not permitted to hunt."

Are today's hunters observing game laws to the letter? They are not! The number of violators increase each year. Only a small percentage of them are arrested and convicted. Hunters increase in numbers and game departments of most states are admittedly grossly under-staffed.

A few years ago I started an ambitious project. I wanted to prove that we have become a nation of poor sports, that violations had increased amazingly. I wrote to the appropriate departments in over 20 states and enclosed a form for the head of the department to fill out, asking for a frank expression of his opinion on how this trend could be curbed. I thought it would be a good story, if adequately documented but I wanted unimpeachable evidence to support my theory.

The story was never written. Months elapsed before I received replies to some of the letters I had written. Probably a half-dozen complete replies did come in, certainly not enough to enable me to form a solid premise for my case. Yet, those from whom I did hear, were unanimous that violations had increased alarmingly. Some were of the opinion that the hunter who fires at any moving object was usually a war veteran, a man to whom the value of life meant but little. I do not agree with this theory, brand it as spurious.



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Many stated, with what I believe is some truth, that the introduction of big game in certain eastern states, had brought a new type of hunter into the field, a type of hunter new to the woods, laws of safety, and proper conduct. Others felt that many of the big game hunters were some species of juvenile delinquents.

Few of them offered a remedy for the ailments, aside from a plea for more warden, sharper penalties. There must be better answers. Today, I suspect violations are still on the upswing.

Will you kill a man next Fall? It's not a pleasant thing to contemplate. You won't, if you observe the rules that should govern a man with a gun.

If your eyes are not good, don't try to get a license, or else unwittingly, you will be a menace in the woods. Last year, a friend bagged his deer about a mile from camp, gutted it, swung it over his shoulder and started back to camp. Fifty yards away, a rifle roared. My friend dropped to the ground. A man tore out of the bushes, ran toward him shouting, brandishing a rifle, a wild look on his face. My friend rose to his feet, his own gun at the alert.

"You trying to shoot me?" he inquired.

The man dropped his rifle, stood wringing his hands.

"All I saw was the deer," he admitted.

"Let me see your license," my friend demanded. He copied down the essential information. "Say here your vision is normal," he charged.

The flustered man admitted that he had lied, that his vision was poor. "You gonna turn me in?" he nervously inquired.

"You're damned right I am!" my friend answered. He did, too.

At camp, when the deer was dressed and hung, it was discovered that it had been shot twice, once when it was killed, again when it was being transported to camp. A little difference in the aim, and my friend would have been the victim!

I suspect one of the best cures for this mass murder in the woods would be more stringent regulations in the procurement of hunting licenses. About all that is required today is the money to pay the fee. It's a fast deal. Too fast! Every applicant should be examined as to his background, his physical reactions, and mental capacity, his knowledge of the game laws. Before a car driver is licensed, he is given driving tests, his eyesight must be corrected if faulty, he must have a firm grasp of motor vehicle laws—yet a car is no less a deadly weapon than a gun. Tests might weed out the poor risks.

Such an examination, many claim, would slow up the orderly issuance of hunting tags. It would, beyond doubt, but if it can save lives, isn't it worthwhile? Offhand, I do not know if any state has set up such a system. If they have, I'd like to match their experience with violations in states where it's simply a matter of laying down the money and getting the tag which contains a minimum of information, usually identification angles only.

I once asked a dozen hunters, met at random, what sport magazines they read. I found only four who read any sport magazines. This is not a plea for the perusal of sport magazines, but where else can embryo hunters learn the things a good sportsman should know to protect his own life and the lives of others?

I cannot think that a really sane and normal man would be indifferent if he caused

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Talking far into the night, these are the conclusions we reached. We thought they were valid. I still cling to that belief. Our opinions were further cemented the following morning when we discovered that the buck we had left hanging to a tree limb had been stolen in the night.

Will you kill a man this fall? Another question: *Will you be the man who is killed?*

Is this epidemic of avoidable killings due to some secret psychological quirk in the individual; or can it be charged to "buck

fever?" I doubt if the latter is even faintly responsible. The symptoms are different, are evidenced in a momentary and idiotic insanity that seldom results in danger to others. It is invariably followed by temporary periods of contrition, and a fast cure. "Buck fever," in my experience, occurs only in the unmistakable presence of game.

Perhaps it is due to some psychological miscalculation. Many of our motivating emotions are responsible to psychological impulse and drive, and only a few of them are bad.

You simply cannot isolate or identify the offenders, desirable as it might be. Maybe the answer lies in more stringent examinations and rigid mental tests before a license is granted. Education might be curative or remedial. Possibly a steady indoctrination in the precepts of good sportsmanship would be helpful. Perhaps a combination of all of the factors would be desirable. That precious ounce of prevention seems lacking all along the line.

Beyond doubt, the introduction of big game in a given state plays a major role in this tragic record of loss of lives, the destruction of property. Before we had a deer and bear season in Pennsylvania, for example, hunting fatalities were very low. The hunting was done with shotguns and small caliber rifles. In those days a hunter never mistook a cow for a rabbit. The new crop of hunters, armed with high-powered rifles, changed the picture. Sport became dangerous. The joy of hunting, for many of us, was gone.

We are all haunted with one question: Will we kill a man this Fall—or will we be the one who is the victim?

It's high time we found the answers! ⊕

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HANDLOADING SHOTSHELLS

(Continued from page 33)

jacketed slug. The same consideration must be used in reloading shotgun shells.

Light trap and skeet loads are brought into *balance* by a fast burning powder which means less wad pressure. The heavy maximum duck loads with their progressive burning powder, would squib if they were loaded in this manner. The basic thing to remember is that each load, the shot charge and powder, must be in *balance*.

The wad column is the heart of the shotgun shell. It serves four distinct purposes which the reloader must keep constantly in mind for best results. First: the wad column puts the proper pressure on the powder for best combustion. This varies with the many different powder types, ranging all the way from a scant 10 pounds pressure for some fast burning powders used in trap loads, to as much as 90 pounds pressure applied to some of the progressive powders used in magnum duck loads. Data sheets on this phase of shot-shell handloading may be obtained from most suppliers, and are also available in the new Alcan Company catalogue.

In making up a long range, maximum load for duck shooting using, for example, AL-7 powder, the wad column must be given a pressure of 88 to 90 pounds. If only 40 pounds pressure were applied, combustion would not be as uniform. Muzzle flash would occur, indicating unburned powder. Patterns would suffer, and so would killing power at long range.

In reloading a shell for upland game shooting, a 12 gauge using 1 ounce of 7½ shot and Super-M Ballistite powder, only 10 pounds of wad pressure would be required. Even less pressure would scarcely affect the uniform burning of this fast powder.

How critical are those wad pressure figures, is one big question in shotshell reloading. Suppose they are exceeded and, where a powder calls for 90 pounds pressure, 100 pounds is applied—what will happen? Nothing, much. While the burning rate is controlled to a great extent by the wad column pressure, it is also inherent in the powder itself. Reduced wad pressure will be apparent on progressive burning powders by producing poor combustion, while more pressure than required would scarcely be noticeable. With powders designed for light trap loads, extra wad pressure is not harmful. While it may increase chamber pressure somewhat, it is not dangerous. What is dangerous is to use a fast burning powder and a maximum shot charge designed for a progressive burning powder.

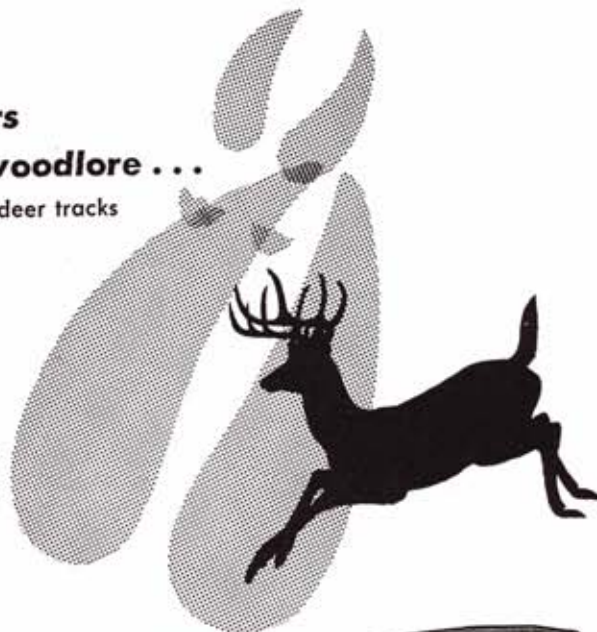
Wad pressure should be applied *slowly*. The pressure should be held for a while with the reloading tool, then released slowly. This gives the powder time to settle firmly in place, resulting in uniform combustion and better patterns.

Some reloaders apply pressure to the completed wad column. But it is much better to seat such felt filler wads with the pressure called for by the powder used. To get the feel of the proper powder pressure, where the reloading tool does not have a pressure indicator, the reloading tool can be set on a bath room scale. After a few reloadings in this manner, pressures are easily estimated and applied without a check.

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Besides putting proper pressure on the powder charge, the wad column seals in the powder gas, and cushions the shot charge, keeping it from being battered and deformed at the time of firing. It also fills space, and brings the shot charge to the exact height needed for proper crimping so the shell will work in repeating guns. This is especially necessary with the folded head crimp. In building the proper wad column height, special filler wads must be used. These spacer wads come in various thicknesses for the purpose—1/4 inch, 3/8 hair felt wads, .070" nitro spacer wad, .135" nitro over-powder wad.

A wad column in a reloaded shell stacks up something like this: thin .135" over-powder wad, a felt 1/4 inch filler wad, one of 3/8", then one or two spacers, .070" wads, depending on the size of the shot charge.

Safety must be constantly kept in mind. Avoid extremes in all your reloading. Take nothing for granted. Keep careful notes of your best loads—the ones which give good field results without any indications of high pressure. Frequently check your powder measure setting with good accurate scales, such as the Redding or a Pacific.

Where the dipper type shot charge measure is used, it should be adjusted to each size of shot by careful weighing or by counting the number of individual shot pellets to an ounce. The adjustment will vary with shot sizes, and is not the same for a shot size of 8 as it is for number 5. These adjustments should be part of your reloading notes, so you have exact data to guide you. As you continue to reload and test, you will eventually have valuable information on the best hunting and trap loads for all your different shotguns, something which has a beautiful payoff in field hunting and at the traps.

In selecting equipment for shotshell reloading buy basic, quality tools. Then, as you become more experienced and have preferences, you can add to your reloading equipment for a more well-rounded outfit.

Reloading shotgun shells is no more complicated than reloading for a rifle, and in many ways is much more practical. It is a means of doing something about your field shooting problem here and now, by improving your shotgun performance—a nice approach to all your shooting when the seasons are closed.

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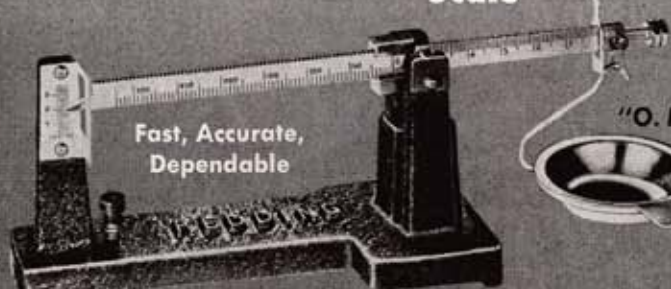
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WHAT'S THE BEST DUCK GUN?

(Continued from page 23)

highly competitive type of shooting, the gun and ammunition makers have developed special guns and loads. Magnum is the word for both. Magnum pumps in 12 gauge with 30" barrels weigh from 8½ to 9 pounds as a rule, and magnum doubles weigh about the same as a rule. Where there is not much walking involved in the hunting, such gun weight is not objectionable to the average hunter. These guns are chambered for the 3-inch magnum loads.

The 3-inch magnum duck loads shot out of magnum guns designed to handle them (12 gauge guns with 30" full choke barrels) have an amazing effective duck killing range. The effective duck killing range is increased over regular 12 gauge-26" barrel high velocity guns by at least twenty yards. This I have put to rigid tests, and I have found it to be true.

In areas where one has to compete with the sky busters (or contend with them, should we say,) think of just how many more ducks this will put in the bag for the number of shots fired, and how many less cripples left to die miserable deaths later.

The 2¾ inch magnum shells in standard auto-loading 12 gauge guns increase the effective duck killing range over the lighter combinations, safely, from 12 to 15 yards. Most 12 gauge auto-loaders have sufficient weight (with recoil pads) to handle the 2¾ inch magnum loads without too much recoil and jam. In some models there are no adjustments to make when changing from

regular field loads to magnum loads.

For shooting over decoys in areas where the sky busters are not keeping the ducks flying too high, a 12 gauge auto-loader weighing 7½ to 8 pounds with 28" full choke barrel and shooting the 2¾ inch magnum loads with No. 6 shot makes a dandy combination.

I have tried out such a combination for just such shooting as this, and it worked beautifully. Where sky busters kept the ducks flying high, however, a 12 gauge magnum pump (30" full choke barrel) and 3 inch magnum loads with No. 4 shot combination proved considerably better and more effective. This latter combination would reach out and bring down ducks that the auto-loader and 2¾ inch magnum load combination would only dust or wound.

There is no doubt about it, a wider use of magnum guns and loads for duck shooting would cut down greatly on crippled birds. Like many other hunters, I can sit in a blind and wait until I can see the whites of the duck's eyes before I start shooting, but how often does one get a chance to do this in the public duck shooting areas today? The average duck hunter knows the answer to that one.

Most of the public hunting area shooting will be at long range if the hunter is to get very much shooting. It definitely pays to use a gun and load combination that will reach up and bring down the high flyers, without leaving cripples in the marshes. ⊕

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THE UNPREDICTABLE BANDTAIL PIGEON

(Continued from page 40)

much as I hunted deer in this same territory, listen for evidence of bandtail pigeon feeding. When I eased into a section where they were feeding, I got into a gunning position comparatively free from brush and tossed a stick into the feeding area. The bandtails would tower to clear the high alder and second growth fir, giving me a chance for three quick shots. On some red letter occasions, I managed to down three birds out of the flock. Mostly though, I considered myself lucky if I got one or two as they spiraled up through the brush.

The gun I used was a tightly-choked Remington 20 gauge pump. As a matter of fact, it was the closest shooting shotgun I have ever owned, throwing 85 per cent patterns with 7 1/2 shot at 35 yards, and 80 per cent patterns at 40 yards with number 6 shot. But when the bandtails were actually holding close as they often did, like ruffed grouse on a cold blustery day, I either missed them entirely with that tightly-choked gun, or hitting them I blew them to bits with the closely-choked charge.

I tried a 12 gauge, 7-pound gun, throwing a 50 per cent pattern. Here I ran into just enough additional weight to slow me down, and make me hurry my shot in heavy cover. On pass shooting it was just too open bored. The problem, obviously, was one of compromise: get a shotgun in a gauge which reached out there on a pass to 40 and 50 yards. It must also have sufficient spread for heavy cover.

Of course, one could come up with these two indicated chokes by using one of the many excellent adjustable choking devices. And some bandtail gunners have done just that. But you still have the problem of gun weight and recoil.

The search for Bridey Murphy was simple in comparison with my quest for a perfect bandtail pigeon gun.

Even the pass shooting wasn't always a matter of taking high birds. Given the right weather conditions, bandtail pigeons would come over the ridges from their roosting toward the feeding areas, just clearing the low growing brush. And always their flying outlined the broken contour of the hills they passed over. They would come in a low sizzling, dipping, ducking glide—very much as a snipe leaves a bog, scarcely clearing the intervening tussocks and swamp grass.

If you have never felt frustration, try taking bandtail pigeon with a heavy shotgun when they are coming at you across those West Coast hills at express train speed, closing the range each time you miss. Many gunners will say there is no such thing as an ideal bandtail pigeon gun. Press them a bit further and they will also say there is no such thing as a good pigeon shot, either. And in many ways they are right on both counts. Yet—

Some of the best wing shooting I have ever seen has been done in those West Coast hills by hunters gunning for bandtails. Those exceptionally good shots believed that there was such a thing as an ideal bandtail pigeon gun. They started with an upland game gun, one about right for ruffed grouse—for weight, balance, and barrel length. Then they modified these specifications.

With so many different gunners working on the problem, their answers are bound to be almost as numerous as the gunners themselves. In the main it all added up to a fast-handling gun with a weight between 5 1/2 and 7 pounds and a barrel length of 28 to not over 30 inches, with the shorter length being preferred in the pump and automatic and the longer barrel length in the double.

My own personal selection of gauge and choke, which has worked out excellently for me on bandtail pigeon shooting, has like most pigeon guns many elements of one used for ruffed grouse or blue grouse. It is a Marlin over-under 20 gauge with 28 inch barrels bored full and modified. The modified barrel throws a nice even spread of either 7 1/2 or size 6 shot and the full choked barrel a tight pattern of size 6—sometimes the pattern boards say as much as 80 per cent, with an average of about 75.

In the heavy cover this is all to the good. On the flush out of the huckleberry brush, the elderberry or the acorn oaks, that modified barrel is just the ticket. Then, as the game turns and sideslips through the trees, that close pattern of the second barrel is an excellent follow-up. The cover being dense, there is not much use of a second modified barrel because so much of the fringing shot is intercepted by limbs, leaves and trunks of trees.

In pass shooting with this gauge one must be a bit more selective in his gunning position. But with just a little thought to getting



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into the right position, most of the ranges can be shortened from three to five yards. Once, while shooting in the Blue Ridge country of southwestern Oregon, I had a stand on a pass where the bandtails came up a valley below me. I had crossing shots at about 40 yards, a place where both my modified and full choke barrel were very effective. Yet the normal posting of this pass was about 400 yards farther along the hogback, where the pigeons flared up and over, towering across the hill at a good 50 yards.

A friend of mine, Al Lyman, posted here and using his 12 gauge magnum double, was right in his element. But it was no place for a 20 gauge. Yet, the light weight, quick handling qualities of my Marlin over-under, as well as my careful selection of a stand, compensated for its shortcomings as a pass gun. Fact is, I took my limit with less shells than Al Lyman did that day.

Next day, back on my own home grounds in the huckleberry brush, it was no contest between my 20 and Al's 12 gauge magnum. We eased along through the huckleberry and elderberry brush, flushing single, doubles and small flocks of bandtails. Three times I got doubles, while Al cursed and sweated out just four pigeons during the forenoon hunt. It was ruffed grouse shooting, with a few added touches particular to bandtail pigeon alone. In some of the more open glades, they came out of the huckleberry bushes like snipe out of the Canary Grass along Oregon's fabulous Coquille River.

If you think the proper selection of a shotgun for pigeon shooting is controversial, try asking a gathering of rabid West Coast bandtail gunners about proper shot sizes. There are those who use and swear by number 4 shot for pigeon shooting. At the other end of the scale, there are bandtail pigeon gunners who use nothing but size 8. The best compromise, of course, is found between these two extremes. Those gunners who use size 4 shot and 12 gauge magnums confine themselves strictly to pass shooting. Gunners using size 8 shot hunt the heavier cover, using a fairly open bored ruffed grouse gun for close range shooting. But where a gunner plans on covering the entire field, from heavy brush-covered huckleberry ridges and acorn flats to occasional pass shooting, the selection of shot sizes must be well rounded. As I see it, size 4 shot is out for a target the size of a bandtail pigeon, unless you are throwing at least 1½ ounces to give a sufficiently dense pattern. And I would question any shot size smaller than 7½, too.

Bandtails are hard to kill, much more so than ruffed grouse or dove. And, unless they are killed very dead, they are very likely to escape in the heavy cover to suffer and die. Pigeon dogs, well trained retrievers, are few and far between. So it is up to the gunner to grass his birds thoroughly, or lose many of them.

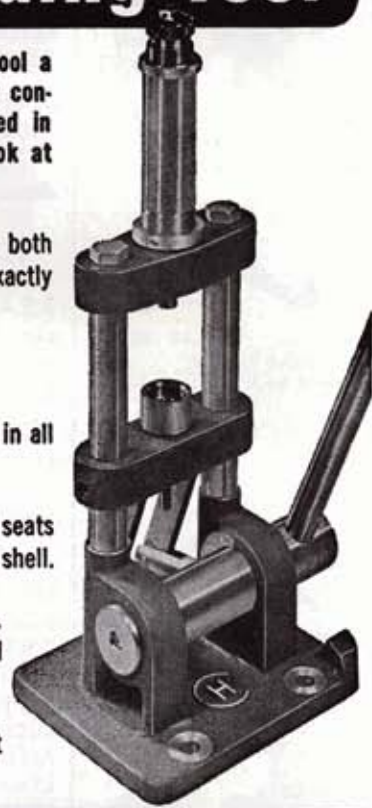
I think I have used every shot size which might be considered even remotely suitable for bandtail pigeon shooting. And over the years my shot sizes, like my selection of a proper gauge, have narrowed down. I cannot, in the nature of this shooting, expect to cover all possible gunning situations with my 20 gauge. By the same token, I cannot expect to cover all gunning situations to best advantage with the shot size I use. But day in and day out, all through the autumn pigeon gunning, I find that 7½ and 6 size shot are my most versatile loadings.

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The 20 gauge is one factor in sticking to these two shot sizes, of course. With a 12 gauge, one could up the size to 5's for pass shooting, but not above that. The killing qualities of both 7½ and size 6 are excellent. For the shorter, heavy cover shooting, when those bandtails are acting like ruffed grouse, there is no shot size I have ever used which was as consistent as 7½ in any gauge. My 20 gauge modified barrel handles this size to perfection, too, another factor to be considered. A shot size of 7 would also be a good selection for this heavy cover gunning, if the pattern board showed that your gun was partial to this size.

No. 6 shot is my choice for the more open shooting. And, on occasion, I use it in my second barrel, with its full choked pattern, even in the heavy brush. For, quite often, you have gunning situations in heavy cover, with the range extended well out toward the 40 yard mark. A close pattern is easier to get through the brush under the circumstances. For such shooting is usually out and out snaphooting, with the gunner trying to intercept his game through a narrow avenue of the forest, a hole in the otherwise dense canopy of trees through which his bird is escaping.

Recently I have experimented with special handloads, bandtail pigeon shooting in mind. Of those tested two have shown distinct promise on the pattern board. They are both 20 gauge loads, using 7½ and 6 shot, but loaded to a full 1½ ounce, instead of my former 1 ounce loading. These loads sweeten the pattern considerably in the 20 gauge, while still staying within the light weight of this handy, versatile gun. The recoil developed by these handloads is very mild—no more noticeable than when using the 1 ounce loadings. I haven't yet had a chance to use them on bandtails, but in trap shooting they have given some exciting results.

This load is as follows: shot charge, either 7½ or size 6, 1½ ounce, 27 grains of Al-7 powder, Remington primers and shells. Data for this load was taken from the Alcan Company handbook, 1955 edition. The 1956 lists these same loadings with 32 grains of Al-8, a slower burning powder than Al-7.

Both these loadings should be ideal, but as Al Lyman says, "No matter what gun or load you are using, there will come a time when you wish you had something else." All I know is that it is the greatest shooting I have ever had, and it trains you to a fine point for duck, snipe and coot shooting later in the season. Last winter, after spending considerable of the autumn season shooting bandtails, I took five snipe without a miss on a blustery, rainswept swamp. They seemed easy shooting, too, after that autumn pigeon shooting. But that is the kind of thing you expect after spending any time with a gamebird, who is first cousin to the now extinct passenger pigeon. ☺

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REAPING RAIL BEHIND THE REAPER

(Continued from page 35)

cinches, each trying to outdo the others.

Then, suddenly, the shooting was finished, the rice was cut and the rail all gone. We gathered our dead birds and argued over claims and counter-claims. But actually there was plenty for all. We averaged six rail each—funny-looking birds with long legs and long bills, and feathers speckled like mallard hens.

The bag limit is 25 rail, and as our kill fell far short of this amount we decided to shoot another field.

The next field was disappointing. Only one rail flushed. But we had fun of a different sort that time. When a lone rail rose it flew at a tangent from Mrs. Schmidt. The lady accounted for it with her second shot.

And the fun started then, before we had retrieved the fallen bird.

"Watch out! He's a-gittin' it!" one of the reaping men shouted as he leaped from his machine and took out after a dark, bulky shape.

"It's a coon!" Mrs. Schmidt shrieked.

We stood and watched the man lunging through the black and mucky goo, splashing the stuff all over himself as he wallowed in pursuit of the ringtail. We laid bets on what would happen if the man did catch the fast-running varmint. He caught it, but when he did the old coon proved himself a handful. Finally subdued, the coon was held up for our inspection, then turned loose. We all watched it head for cover like a turpentine cat.

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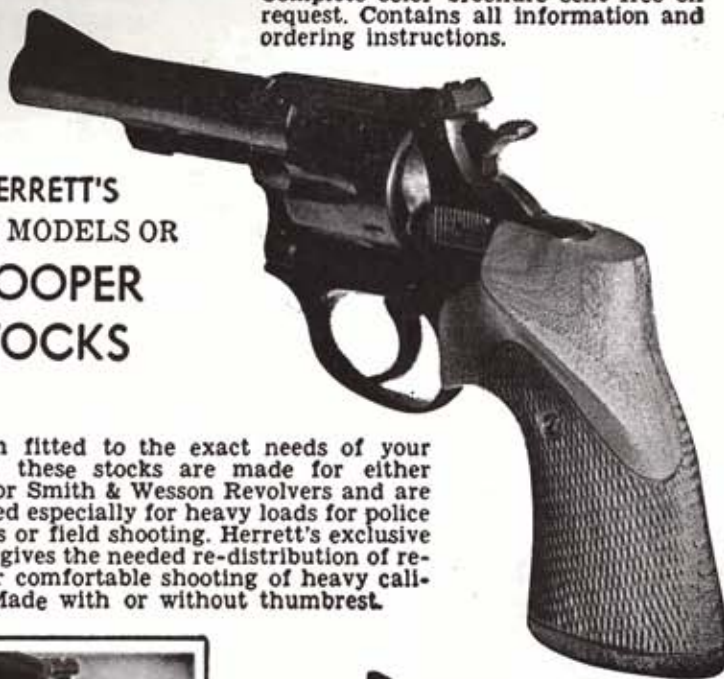
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BOX 741-G, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

Except for one bird, our bag was as short of the limit as before. We could have gone on to other fields, for reapers were working about us on all sides, but we were satisfied. The hunt had been different from any we had ever experienced, and there was plenty of meat.

"Mighty good eating, these rail," Bouillion remarked as we sorted the birds beside the car. "They taste like tender teal." We spread out the black marsh birds, about the size of small chickens, and counted them.

Rail are a spirited bird when they are flushed, but there is nothing special about the guns for shooting them. Any good shotgun loaded with No. 7's or 7 1/2's will do well, but since short ranges and fast-flying are the rule, an open-bored gun is best. I used a pump Model 12 and Doc Futch carried an old Savage autoloader which he had whacked off and fitted with an adjustable choke. He twisted that choke out to improved cylinder and did some fast double-shooting when the birds flushed from the cut field.

There are hundreds of rice fields in Southeast Texas and dozens of them around Alta Loma and Eagle Lake. So, if you're unhappy and dissatisfied with the way you're being pushed around by the hunting pressure of overcrowded fields and diminishing birds, or if you're just hankering for a dab of sure enough gun fun, spend a few days in Texas among the king rail at harvest time. ⊕

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NOBLEST BIRD OF THEM ALL

(Continued from page 19)

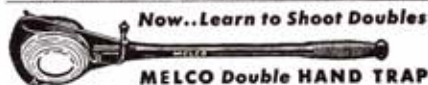
gobblers prefer a scope ranging from 4 to 6 power on their rifle. An occasional shooter who delights in long range shots will be equipped with an 8 power glass.

As in any other sport, some knowledge of the habits and characteristics of the game being hunted is a necessity, a little matter of being smarter than the bird. But it must be admitted there are exceptions to every rule. As the old saying goes, "a blind hog will occasionally find an acorn" and so it is with the chap out to bag himself a Thanksgiving dinner. The best plan is to spend some time in the area to be hunted and learn what the turkeys are eating, when they are feeding, and where they are roosting. Acorns and beechnuts are high on their diet list as favorites. Wild grapes are another. The presence or absence of such foods can be the difference between success or failure.

Calling the big bronze birds is an art in itself, and offers as great a challenge to the talents of the hunter as the actual shooting. Some sportsmen are able to call the birds with their voices. For hunters who can't "talk turkey" there are many kinds of callers which make noise either by friction or the breath of the hunter.

Friction calls are limited in their sounds and are used almost entirely to imitate the yelp of the turkey. Breath-operated callers may be anything from a blade of grass, the wingbone of a hen turkey, to professional calls made of metal and rubber, horn or bamboo.

One thing to remember is this: if you



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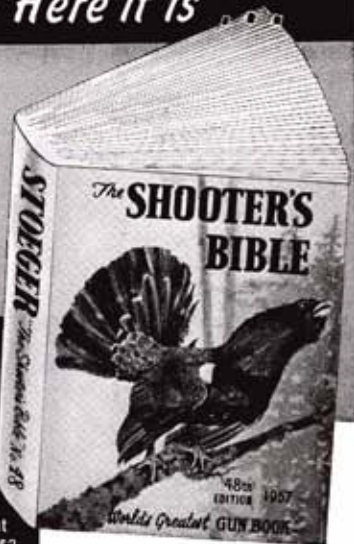
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don't know how to use a caller, forget it, for a neophyte can easily drive away as many turkeys as the oldtimer with his wingbone can draw toward him. Until the caller can be mastered, still hunting should be the system. But this method also requires some knowledge of getting through the woods without disturbing everything in it. Besides having the eye of an eagle, a wild turkey also has an acute hearing which can readily distinguish a foreign sound from those which it is accustomed to.

For the chap who has an ambition to bag one of these grand game birds, but does not care to put forth any amount of exertion, there is "stump huntin'," where he just sits and sits until a turkey comes in sight. The only thing required in this instance is a lot of patience and the time that goes with it.

Men who hunt the turkey have had a long while in which to learn that patience. When the 20th century made its appearance, the wild turkey was little more than a memory to the oldtimers. The great birds were almost wiped out.

What followed was a miracle in restoration, proof that where there is a will, game nearing extermination can not only be spared, but it can be brought back to a position where it will again provide sport and recreation.

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NRA REPORT

The following excerpts on the Mark II WALTHER PISTOLS are from the NRA Tech. Staff Report in July, 1956 Issue of The American Rifleman Magazine:

Ex-servicemen of World War II will agree that the pocket pistols produced by the Walther firm in Zella Mehlis, Thuringia, Germany, ranked high as prize souvenirs of World War II.

★ ★

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★ ★

Quality of machine work on our sample pistols is excellent and all are beautifully polished and blued. We can make no significant criticism of these fine arms.

Full information concerning standard as well as specially engraved or plated Mark II Manurhin Walther pistols is available upon request to Interarmco.—NRA TECH. STAFF



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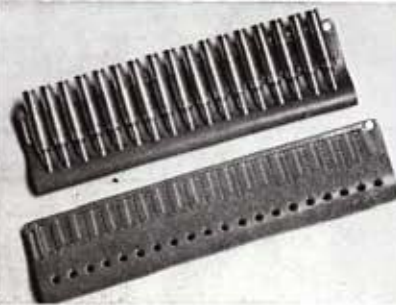
As in most of the New England and Middle Atlantic states, Pennsylvania's wild turkeys were once practically extinct. But fortunately, a few birds were found here and there in the remote and isolated sections of the south-central mountains.

In days gone by the wild turkey habitat appeared to be confined to the southern part of the state, probably due to the more ideal food and shelter to be found in that section. But Mother Nature has a way of making changes, particularly when a new and favorable environment comes into the picture. That's exactly what happened.

Some 50 years ago the lumber interests cleared the northern mountain sides of timber. During the intervening years a second growth took over, which has since developed into food-bearing trees—oaks, beech, wild cherry, all perfect forage for the wild turkey. Each passing year made this new forest growth more ideal habitat for the king of the game birds. Around 1940 the wild turkeys began appearing in scattered flocks. It seemed that the wild turkey had found a new home for itself.

With game refuges scattered throughout its adopted environment, it discovered shelter and safety. Local sportsmen became in-

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terested, putting on winter feeding campaigns to carry them through their most trying period. The wild turkey was on its way back.

Meanwhile, the Pennsylvania game commission had taken an interest in restoring the wild turkey as a game bird. In the early days of its attempt to bring back this highly-prized quarry, it was compelled to purchase stock from private game farms. Probably more of a domestic turkey than a truly wild bird, those introduced almost immediately headed for the nearest barnyard where their kind led an easy-going and well-protected existence.

Discouraged with its initial attempt, but determined to continue its efforts, the commission acquired a 1000-acre tract in the south-central part of the state where it began its wild turkey operation in 1930.

At the time Orrie Smith, who practically nursed the turkey back into existence, was one of the commission's game protectors. While on duty he often came across the birds during their spring mating season. He would watch how the wild gobblers would attract their mates and also learned that when a hen refused to heed the calling, curiosity finally drove him to seek his lady-love.

That gave Orrie the idea of establishing propagating areas in the state game refuges, placing wing-clipped hens in open wire enclosed pens into which the gobblers could fly and leave at will.

The idea paid off and, by selective breeding, the domestic blood was gradually replaced with that of a wild strain. The first settings were gathered and hatched in incubators. The next clutch was left for the hen to brood. Eventually a bird developed

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with the characteristics of a wild turkey.

In 1945 the original plant was discontinued. It was replaced by another in a north-central county which has an annual capacity of 5,000 birds, as compared with the 1,500 produced at the original site.

During the years of 1937 and 1938, Roger Latham, chief of the division of research of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, conducted a survey of the wild turkey range, then almost restricted to the south-central portion of the state. Latham estimated the territory to be about two million acres, in 28 of the 67 counties. Today, the wild turkey is found in all but a few of the counties, with a range that has increased to 13 million acres. Within that area there are well over 100 forest game refuges.

The wild turkey in its new-found environment is largely inaccessible on much of the range in the north-central region. That, combined with the inexperience of most of those

who would bag a bronze beauty, has made it possible for the birds to sustain themselves in what has been an ever-increasing number. At times, as many as 75 or more birds will appear at the winter feeders maintained during periods of deep snows.

The wild turkey population today is such that the Pennsylvania game commission has added another week of hunting for the coming season, making it five weeks, the most liberal in the history of the sport, a far cry from 20 years ago when the shooting period was 20 days, and with 27 of the "turkey counties" closed to any hunting of the birds.

Whether this extended season will continue into the future is a question only the days to come can answer. One thing is certain, more and more hunters will take to the woods in quest of this prize and the more often they do so, the more experience they will gain in learning what makes a wild turkey wild. ⊕

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WHY A CHOKE CHOKES

(Continued from page 38)

to scattergunners, and yet, despite the many publications of this kind which are distributed free by arms manufacturers, there is still a lack of understanding of the basic principles of shotgun chokes.

There are, of course, two fundamental classifications of choke—the solid or inbuilt choke which is a permanent part of the inside bore of the shotgun barrel, and the variable or adjustable choke which is affixed to the muzzle of the shotgun. Solid choke has changed very little since the days when Fred Kimble developed it for practical use. All shotguns, of whatever gauge, are manufactured with a choice of barrels containing different degrees of choke. There are generally four chokes from which to choose:

- Barrel Marking** *Degree of Choke*
- Cylinder Bore—a completely open bore, containing no choke
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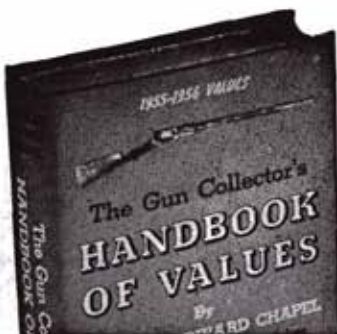
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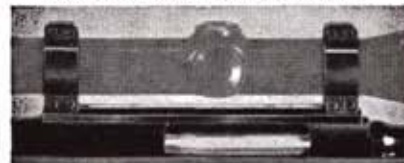
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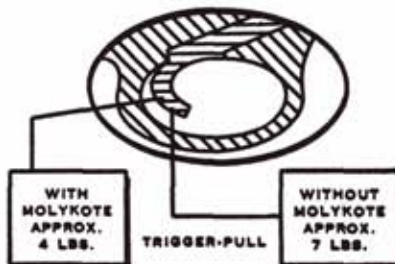
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might buy a full choke gun, while the skeet shooter would buy an open or improved cylinder. The man who wanted a variety of shooting would require more than one gun, or at least a gun with several barrels, each with a different choke bore.

Even for the hunter who uses only one or two shotguns, it is a must to pattern his gun with various shot loads if he wants to achieve the most effective results. The way choke is built into the bore of the barrel varies with the manufacturers—some use a long, gradual constriction while others use a sharp angle of constriction in a proportionately shorter space. Such factors as this have a direct bearing on the manner in which the gun performs. Only the hunter himself can determine, by patterning, at what ranges and with what loads his gun

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is most effective. I have seen 12-gauge guns marked modified and even improved cylinder which shot a pattern of over 65% or 70% with No. 7½ or comparable loads, and 80% with a No. 6 load!

While solid choke has been built into shotgun barrels for almost a century, the adjustable choke was developed only about 25 years ago. Here there is much more variety than in the field of solid choke. Some choke attachments consist of an adapter which is fastened to the muzzle end of the barrel. Onto the adapter is screwed a variety of tubes. The advantages of this type of choke attachment are that you can use one gun and still have a variety of degrees of choke for different kinds of shooting.

In 1920 E. Field White, who was already known for many inventions in the automotive and other fields, patented the first completely self-contained, adjustable shotgun choke, which worked on the principle of a chuck, and could be adjusted for any of nine degrees of choke by simply turning a knurled sleeve to the proper setting. White called his product the Poly-Choke (from the Greek word "poly," meaning "many"), and set up a company to manufacture it in the Connecticut River Valley where some of the world's biggest arms makers have been established since colonial days. The Poly-Choke was immediately successful, and has grown over the years and paved the way for a variety of other adjustable chokes.

The manufacture and installation of most adjustable chokes is not as simple as it appears to the user. Since it must be made

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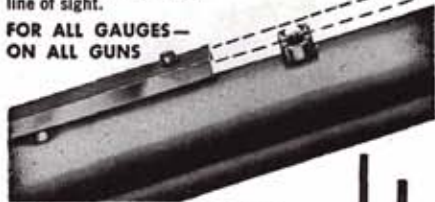
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for installation on all makes and gauges of shotguns, with many varying features, it must be adaptable—yet it must be so precise that it produces the accuracy demanded of it on each individual gun. For instance, the Poly-Choke is manufactured in a variety of diameter sizes for each shotgun gauge size, and can be installed only by a franchised installer who has special tools and training.

To understand the reason for this, it is necessary to understand what determines the "gauge" of a shotgun. The early arms makers used a somewhat arbitrary standard for their various bore diameters. They set their standard by the number of lead balls equalling a pound, each of which measured the same in diameter as the bore of the shotgun barrel. Thus, if there were twelve balls to a pound, each of which just fit the barrel's bore diameter, it was a 12-gauge gun.

This standard has been followed since the early days, the only difficulty being that it is not an exact measurement. Bore diameters within each gauge size may vary by several thousandths of an inch (enough to make a difference in the performance of a shot load or a choking device), because different gun manufacturers use different standard bore diameters for their various gauge sizes. In general, bore diameters range within each gauge sizes as follows:

12-gauge	.719" to .740"
16-gauge	.660" to .684"
20-gauge	.610" to .632"

It is because of these variations that Poly-Chokes are produced in so many sizes, and must be fitted *exactly* to the bore of the gun on which it is to perform.

Inexperienced hunters often ask why adjustable chokes provide more than the four standard degrees of choke (the Poly-Choke has nine different choke settings). The answer is that in normal use, the wing-shooter would need no more than four degrees of choke to cover the whole range of shooting, from ducks and geese at 40

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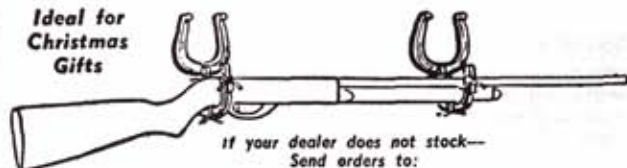


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yards and over to woodcock at 20 yards and under. However, the additional in-between settings are provided to take care of variations in the shot load being used.

For example, suppose a full choke setting gave a good 76-78% pattern at 40 yards with a No. 7½ load. Switched to a No. 4 Magnum load at the same choke setting, the pattern would probably be too concentrated to hit anything. There would be an overchoked condition, producing a "blown" pattern, with the shot hopelessly scattered. In order to get the same 76-78% pattern with the Magnum load as with 7½'s, the choke would have to be opened up a setting or two to obtain less constriction.

There's a parallel with the hose again here. If the water faucet is turned on half way and the nozzle adjusted as tightly as possible (comparable to a heavier shot load) the stream of water would be too tight or would spray out on all sides (overchoked). The nozzle would have to be loosened a bit to get back to the desired water stream (or pattern).

One more question frequently asked concerns the method of installing an adjustable choke on a shotgun which already has some inbuilt choke in the barrel. It is extremely important for shotgun owners to realize that their gun barrels need not be cut off in order to install an adjustable choke on the muzzle, except in very rare, special cases. Unless the owner desires his gun barrel shortened, the inbuilt choke is not removed by cutting it off but by removing

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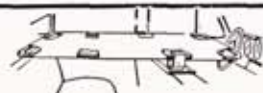
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There is one supplementary advantage in the installation of an adjustable choke. When, as frequently happens, the muzzle of a gun has become plugged with mud or snow and then fired, the muzzle is very apt to be blown off. In the case of single-barrel guns (adjustable chokes cannot be installed on double-barrels, of course), the barrel is not ruined, because an adjustable choke can be installed on the muzzle, rendering the gun as good as or better than ever.

Choke has an important bearing on shooting in other regards such as deformed shot, which effect shotgun patterns and their killing power. Any pellets which become deformed (flattened and misshapen, or "balled" together with other shot) as they leave the gun barrel can distort the pattern, or even more important, the shotstring. These pellets perform in many strange ways, lagging behind the rest of the shot group or flying out to the side. They almost invariably lose their effective penetrating strength before reaching the target, if they ever get that far, because of the wind resistance developed by their flat surfaces.

The reasons for deformed shot may sometimes lie in the type of choke (either in-built or adjustable) or the way it is in-

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stalled. Experts like the late Major Charles Askins, and E. M. Sweeley of Idaho, who did a great deal of experimenting with shotgun boring, found that far more shot are deformed in the forcing cone of the gun than are ever deformed in a choke.

By grinding out the forcing cones until they were almost non-existent, these men were able to achieve greatly improved patterns.

Sweeley even went so far as to make up special shot containers, for long range pass shooting at ducks, that would carry the charge to considerable range before breaking up. In general, by the time a shot column has reached the choked portion of a gun, and if the choke is smooth (or in the case of an adjustable choke, is properly installed), pressures have fallen off sufficiently so that very few, if any, pellets are deformed in the choke. Loads properly fitted to the choke of the gun are those in which a layer of shot fills the choke perfectly and evenly, and such a load will give the most uniform patterns. This is one of the reasons why loads of some sizes do not pattern well in certain inbuilt chokes or at certain settings on adjustable chokes. Some reloaders meticulously fill the shot shell with even layers of shot to achieve the most uniform distribution possible with a shot size properly fitted to the choke.

The experienced hunter never goes into the hills until his rifle is perfectly sighted and he has shot it enough to know its trajectory curve. The experienced shotgunner should give himself the benefit of the same thorough checking. If he shoots his gun enough to know its elevation at various ranges, and what his inbuilt or adjustable choke will do at various ranges and with various shot loads, it will pay off in less wasted ammunition, and in more game cleanly killed or more busted targets. ⊕



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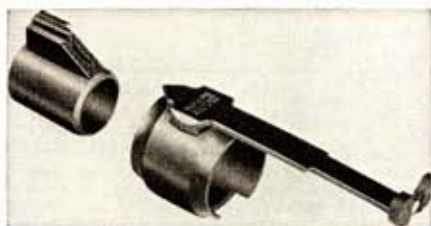


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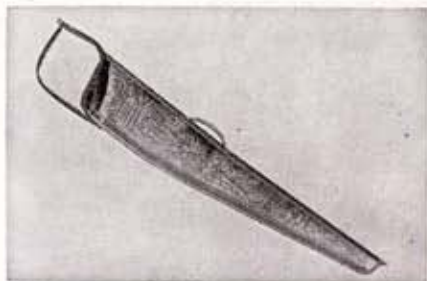
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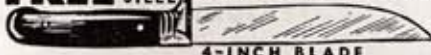
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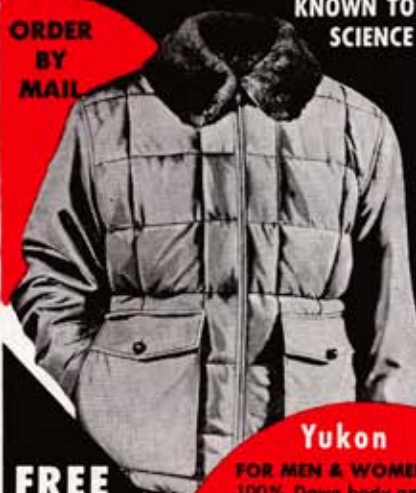
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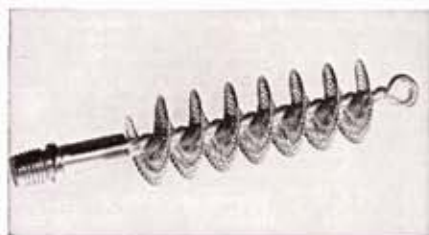
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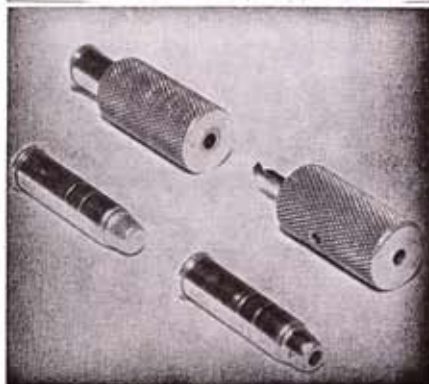
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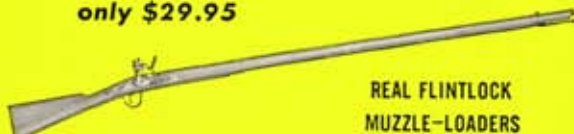


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