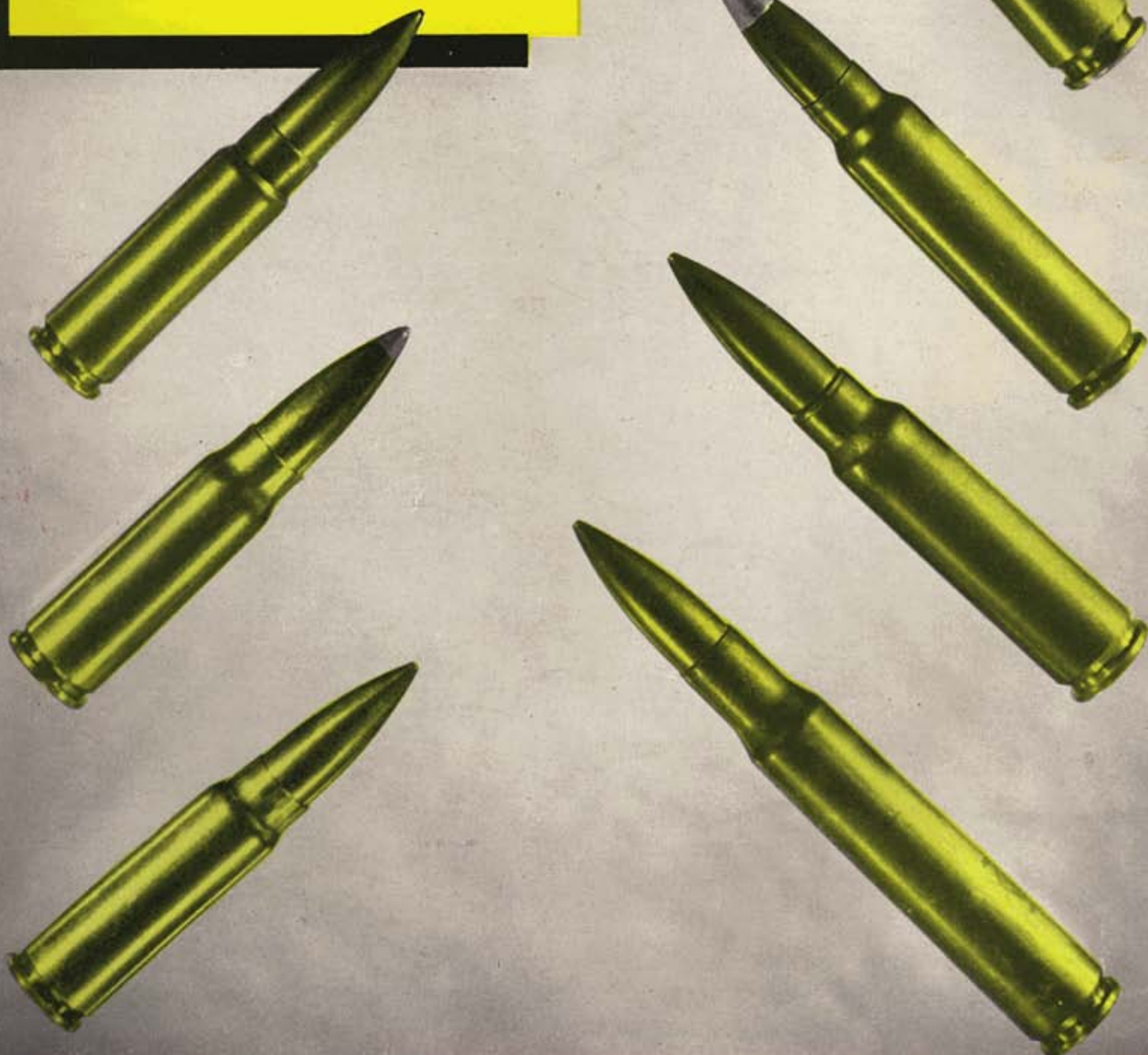


SEPTEMBER 1956 50c

Guns

WAS WYATT EARP
HERO OR HEEL?

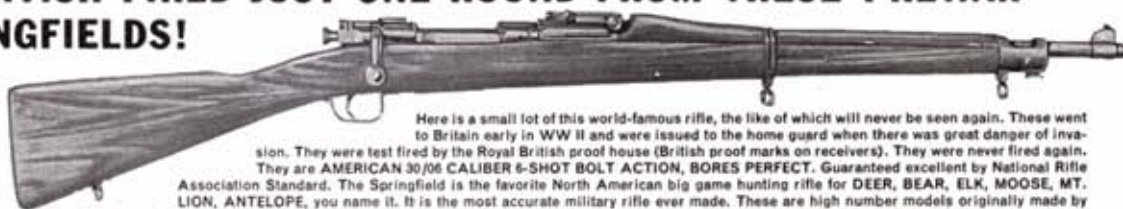
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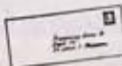
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TRIGGER TALK

HUGH O'BRIAN has pulled a switcheroo on some of our fans who complain that the movie and TV cowboys don't know anything about the "real west." His article on the original Wyatt Earp reflects research he did in getting ready to portray the famous marshal in his popular television series. And part of O'Brian's research has meant learning how to handle a gun, which he does pretty well. He recently challenged filmland shooters to a showdown to see who can draw the fastest and shoot the straightest.

Colonel Charles Askins' article on "How Good Are Shotguns For Big Game" is a timely study of rifled slugs in smoothbores for bear and deer, but the colonel is doing another kind of hunting currently. In the Far East as chief marksmanship instructor for the Viet Name army, he is also doing his share of hunting. His letters make lively reading.

"On this ten-day soiree that I have just completed, I hunted by elephant back and had quite a lovely time," he reports. "Rode spang into the middle of a herd of about 20 gaur, wild Malay bulls. I had been told to boot my mahout in the back of the neck when I spotted game and he would stop the pachyderm. I gave him a healthy kick but neither he nor the elephant were of much of a mind to stand hitched.

"About that time the gaur let out a mutual bellow that would fair make your hair stand on end and they came for us. This distinctly wasn't cricket as I've always read that nothing in the animal world will attack an elephant and secure in this knowledge I was just waiting for my mount to calm down so I could belt one of these babies at the lengthy yardage of 20 long steps. Well, in less than a couple of excited heartbeats those damned critters were right at our hip pockets. Our old bull literally stood on his hind legs, turned and bolted. He stampeded and he must have had his eyes shut. He mowed down trees, knocked over others, plowed through brush, vines and fern for hundreds of yards and between his freight-trainlike commotion and our yelling the gaur were making their share, too."

Askins and the elephant were pretty busy and he didn't get a gaur this time.

SHOOTING NEWS

Paris, France. America won in international flyer shooting when Bob Allen of Des Moines, Iowa, downed 24x24 birds in a shoot-off with the former champion of France, Count A. de Chavagnac. This nerve-wracking event was a miss-and-out deal and all the other contestants had been eliminated on their first misses by the 15th bird. The Count and Bob Allen shot neck and neck until the Count missed his 24th twisting, elusive bird, and Bob remained on the field, the winner .

Rome, Italy. The 20th Championship of the World pigeon shooting contest, which was won last year in Cairo, Egypt, by Kenoshan Bill Isetts, did not see any Americans among the top names this year. American shooters placed but failed to win any events . . . Scattergunner Emmanuel Vafaidis of Egypt recouped the Nile-land's dignity and took the World Champion cup back home with a score of 25x25. Count Teba of Spain, whose distinction as a champion wingshot places him among the lists of the world's best shooters, took second with 24 . . . The only Americans placing were Col. William Everhart and Bill Isetts who killed 23 birds in the hot competition in a tie for 6th to 9th place . . . In the Match of Nations, which is the big team event, the French team was first with the U.S. and Italian teams being tied for second place . . . Birds in Rome were wild mountain pigeons called "Zorritos" and were terrifically fast. The championship shoot was a 25-bird match with shooters being eliminated from further competition on four misses. Over half the entry lists of 300 men and women from 11 countries was out by the 9th bird, and only about 40 shooters finished the entire race . . . The Championships of the World were set for Estoril, Portugal, for 1957.

Nashville, Tennessee. In the hills of the Appalachians where muzzle loading rifles have been used for two centuries, the 1956 "Dixie Matches" for the Southern Muzzle Loading Championship crown will be held August 17, 18, and 19. Site of the famous shoot is the Harpeth Hills Rifle Range, 10 miles west of Nashville on Highway 100 .

Jackson, Miss. At the Rebel Open Skeet shoot Carola Mandel from Yankee Chicago set a new women's world record of 387 x 400. Carola broke 300 straight, topping three women and 14 men in the all-gauge championships.

E. Wallingford, Conn. At Lyman's beautiful Blue Trail Range in the rolling hills of middle Connecticut, 144 riflemen competed in the Stewart Match. The Stewart Individual match high-scorer was W. B. Pape with 96. Bill took home the Alan Brodie memorial trophy from this match. But the trophy was right at home on Bill's mantelpiece - he won it in 1946 and again in 1951 with a high score of 97 . . . L. M. Gardner scored second also with a 96 and this gave the judges a problem. So they broke the tie by scoring Creedmoor system, measuring the distance for each shot hole from the center of the group. The sum of these distances, the shot "string," was used to gauge which rifleman had the closest group - the short string won .

Grand Island, Nebraska. Only 16 small bore fans gathered at the Midstate Smallbore Rifle Tournament in Grand Island. But the shooting was as hot and close-contested as if it has been the firing line at Perry . . . Johnny Beal of Great Bend, Kansas, punched out the bullseye to take first in the Governor's match with 397 x 400 and 26 X's which is good shooting anywhere . . . Terry Foster of Omaha was high junior in the same match drilling the X-ring 28 times, highest number of X's in the match, for a score of 392 .

Stratford, Conn. Straight-shooting Texan Mrs. Betty Raglan blasted 98 x 100 for the woman's 20-gauge title in the 24th annual Great Eastern Skeet tournament. She edged out Mrs. Carola Mandel of Chicago who fired 96 x 100 . . . Dick Shaughnessy of Dedham, Mass., won the men's 20 gauge event with a straight 100, beating Frank Vervaeet, Jr., of Fairlawn, N. J., who dropped one bird in the gruelling contest.

JOBGING: SAKO barreled-actions, rifles (sporter and Mannlicher type), and Sako .222 actions. Lyman; Weaver; Unertl; Leupold; Pacific; BM; Redding; Redfield; Pachmayr; Williams; Marble; Echo; Buehler; Jaeger; Sierra; Hornady; Boyt; Tri-Pak; King; C&H; Wilson; RCBS; G&H; Marston; ACE Products; Husqvarna action, Smith Scopes, Hoppes, Argus, McKinzie, Forster, Lin-Speed, Birchwood and FERLACH GUNS. Norma and Tholson. Sheridan, Hi-Score Smiley, Wilsonite, Kallmorgen, Judd, Douglas, Colt, Alcan, Acme, Polychoke, Schultz & Larsen, Speer components. Federal Primers & Cartridges.

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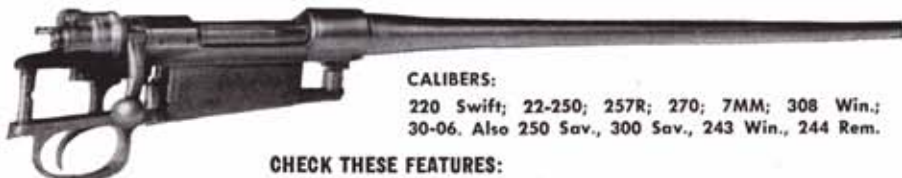
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CALIBERS:
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- Price \$67.50 Sporter weight, 5½ lbs. \$72.50 Medium Heavy Weight (appr. .700 at muzzle) 7 lbs. Heavy weight \$77.50.
(\$7.50 additional for the Douglas Premium Grade Barrel)
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New Boehler Spring Steel Extractors—for Mauser 98 (F.N.) and 1917 EnfieldEach \$2.00

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F. N. ACTIONS, Boehler 24" proof steel barrels, semi-octagon ribbed, matted. Sheard bead in ramp. Caliber .270, .308 Win. or 7 mm. 30-06, 22-250-220 Swift 26", 257R-250 Sav. \$95.00.
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SAKO ACTIONS on 26" 4½" med. heavy ACKLEY OR DOUGLAS chrome moly barrel, white, \$84.00, 222 Cal.
SAKO ACTION on imported medium heavy barrel, blued, no sights. Ready for stocking. 222 Rem. caliber \$90.00.

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BOEHLER BARRELS, proof steel, semi-octagon, ribbed, matted entire length. Made by FRANZ SODIA of Ferlach, Austria in .35, .270, 7mm, .30, 8mm and .375. 26" Highly accurate—in the white, \$45.00. (Fitted to your action, with sheard bead, complete price \$60.00)
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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.

GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

❑ Folks around Paden, Okla., are used to seeing Tom Hopkins, .22 rifle in hand and his three hound dogs by his side, head off into the woods on a squirrel hunting trip. And he practically never comes back empty-handed. What's so unusual about this? Tom Hopkins, who is 52, is completely blind, has been for 35 years. He hunts by sound alone.

❑ Australian sheep farmers are hunting down the dingo, a wild dog and a fierce sheep killer, in a most unusual fashion—with windmills. These windmills are toy ones, intended for children, but the farmers are using them to get at the wily predators. There's something about the whirling, brightly-colored blades that the dingo can't resist and he has to come up to have a close look at the windmill. That's when the farmer shoots him down.

❑ The interior committee of the House of Representatives has approved a bill which would let white hunters shoot walrus, heretofore exclusively an Eskimo right.

❑ With one shot Roger D. Lowell, 14, of Lee, Maine, made himself a small fortune—for a 14-year-old anyway. He shot an Albino otter, which is even rarer than white mink. White mink pelts sell for \$1000 and Albino otter pelts bring even more.

❑ No such nonsense as a store-bought shotgun for 18-year-old Arnold Allen of Ada, Okla. He made his own. He used a three-quarter-inch pipe for the barrel, whittled himself a stock and used a small nail for the firing pin.

❑ In Sacramento, a rifle bullet went through William H. Miller's head—but he complained only of a "slight headache." The rifle discharged accidentally while he was cleaning it and the bullet entered just above his right eye. He walked a half block for help and doctors pronounced him all right.

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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arms for the Better Half

After reading the article "Better Arms For The Better Half" by Henry Stebbins, in my June issue, I want to congratulate Mr. Stebbins and GUNS Magazine for a story which says what I have been preaching for years. I must say though that I do not agree when Stebbins stated "Do not use a 250-3000." I hope that he did not also mean the 257 Roberts, which is a brother more or less to the Savage cartridge.

C. Gus Unfug, a friend whom I consider one of this country's finest gunsmiths, and I took a Remington Model 722, chopped 3 1/2" off the barrel, added a Shacul muzzle brake, recoil pad, a good sling, plus a Weaver KV scope, and came up with a deer and black bear rifle which will consistently shoot one minute of angle groups at any range... with my wife shooting it.

She needed considerable practice and coaching, but the end product of our work is a huntress that any hunter would be proud to take afield any time. This should conclusively prove the moral and point of Stebbins' story.

I hope that other male hunters have been as successful as I, and surely hope that those who haven't tried, employ an element of common sense in their selection of weapons and really encourage their wives to join them at deer season. Continue with such stories and you have an avid fan for life.

Charles A. Cody
Alexandria, Virginia.

Will Colt Come Back?

"Will Colt Come Back?" may be considered by some as more appropriate for a finance organization. However, the corporate structure of the arms companies bears a great influence on the guns available to the shooter. This article is the first of its kind I have seen in a sportsman's magazine. Repeat this type of reporting and you will be doing a great service.

Arthur Klimek
Cleveland, Ohio.

Professional Shooting

I have just finished reading, "Why Doesn't Shooting Go Professional," by Peter Josserand. Articles like these do a lot towards keeping the newcomer from taking up target shooting. Evidently these people have dough and want everyone else to know what fine equipment they have. That's okay but not necessary.

In 999 cases out of a 1,000, you cannot improve on the target accuracy of a Winchester 52 or a Remington 40X rifle no matter how much money you spend to fancy them up. The same applies to the fit. The

dimensions will fit all but a small minority, and the changes, if necessary, are easily made by anyone. Rifle cost about \$140.

You can buy one of the best target scopes on the market for \$75. If the scope is 20X or more, who in hell needs a spotting scope? If money is short, anyone can rig up a stand and use the target scope as a spotter in iron sight matches. A shooting coat is nice to sew your emblems on but not necessary for good shooting.

Match ammo at over a buck a box is a waste of money unless you have a lot to waste. I use standard ammo bought from the DCM and shoot just as well as I am capable of doing with the high-priced stuff. If I had \$500 to spend on ammo, I'd buy a new car. I haven't spent that much dough on ammo in the last 10 years and I do a lot of shooting. Anyone can take three or four boxes of different brands of ammo (1 box of each brand) and tell in half an hour the kind to use.

I will admit I would go for the big money matches and would spend more money practicing but 95 percent of the shooters would rather have a medal or trophy to show their friends than the few bucks they would win in the present money matches. I never have won a match but I sure have a lot of fun and I think that is why most people shoot or why would they keep coming back year after year with little chance of winning.


Howard L. Scott
Hot Springs, Montana.

Congratulations on your article about shooting "going professional." Your article was excellent and to the point.

I feel that more emphasis should have been put on the high cost of shooting equipment and lack of range facilities. These in my opinion are the main factors responsible for the decline in young shooters. Being a young family man myself, these two points hit close to home. I feel this is a problem of national importance and cannot be over emphasized. A valuable American heritage is rapidly heading for extinction. If shooting is going to be limited to the "well-to-do," it will no longer be a heritage but a luxury and exclusive sport limited to a very few. State and local governments have done little, if anything so far as providing public ranges. In many instances they have passed legislation, well meant or not, that is rapidly destroying the right to bear arms in peace.

I hope subsequent articles in your magazines will be devoted to these problems and bring them to light so that the shooters of today and tomorrow might be recognized in their rightful place along with other sportsmen. Thank you for a very entertaining and well-written magazine.

Jack Crifasi
Brooklyn, N. Y.



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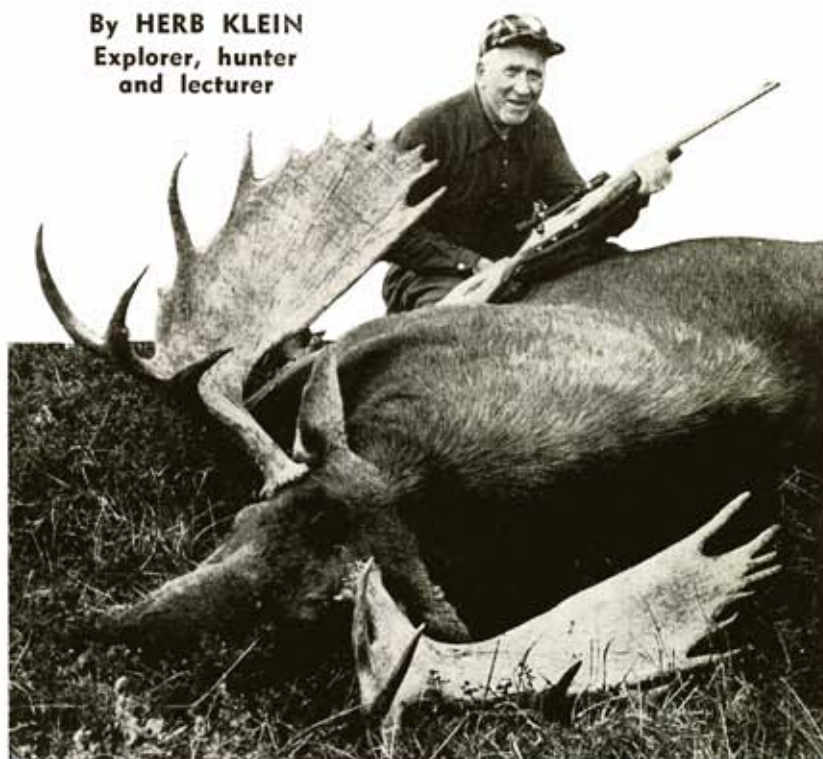
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MY FAVORITE GUN

By **HERB KLEIN**
Explorer, hunter
and lecturer



"Old Death and Destruction," that's what Myles Turner, my African white hunter, dubbed my favorite .300 Weatherby Magnum. Everything I shot at over there just naturally fell down, dead as last night's stale beer, and I came home with 60 wonderful trophies and a fantastic 90 percent one-shot kill record. From dik-dik no larger than jackrabbits to lions and cape buffalo in Africa; from peacocks to tigers and gaur in India; and from snowy owls to Kodiak bears on our continent; that blonde bomber has probably killed a larger variety of game than any other single gun in the world. The tremendous variety of bullets and bullet weights available make it adaptable for any game anywhere.



By **BOB DIXON**
CBS television announcer

Working on the Edward R. Murrow show, Dennis James' "On Your Account" show, the Roy Rogers show and the Perry Mason show, among others which I announce, keeps me pretty busy. Fortunately on weekends I can take off and enjoy hunting and target practice on my farm in Connecticut. My favorite gun is a "shooter," but one made back at the time of the Civil War. It is the Navy Colt and I consider it one of the most beautiful handguns ever made. Its design is pleasing to the eye and by virtue of its weight distribution and construction it fits my hand perfectly, offering me at the same time a smooth and balanced performance. I own pump and target .22 rifles, Marlin and Winchester level guns, but the Navy Colt is my favorite.

BIGGEST BIG-GAME NEWS FOR '56:

20-25% Accuracy Advantage In All Marlin High-Powers!



Model 336—30/30 Regular Carbine. \$72.95** without 'scope. Illustration shows how lowest 'scope mounting can be done only on Marlin.

Micro-Groove Rifling* makes Marlin the choice of in-the-know big game hunters! This season, squeeze off every hard-earned shot with the unique accuracy that holds your hits to those small, vital spots. Any '56 Marlin big-game rifle or carbine will give you a higher percentage of good first-shots—and perhaps save you some long, hard chases!

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Choose the caliber that's right for your brand of hunting—from the full line of Marlin lever-action rifles and carbines, and the new 455 bolt-action, with FN Mauser receiver. See these modern models for '56 at your dealer's!

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This basic improvement in rifling, discovered and developed by Marlin engineers, is superior to conventional rifling in *two* important respects. How they boost accuracy so sharply is no secret!

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The truer, more consistent Micro-Groove projectile is also less affected by muzzle blast. In addition, barrel erosion is reduced, assuring the Marlin owner above-normal barrel life, with continuing superiority in accuracy.

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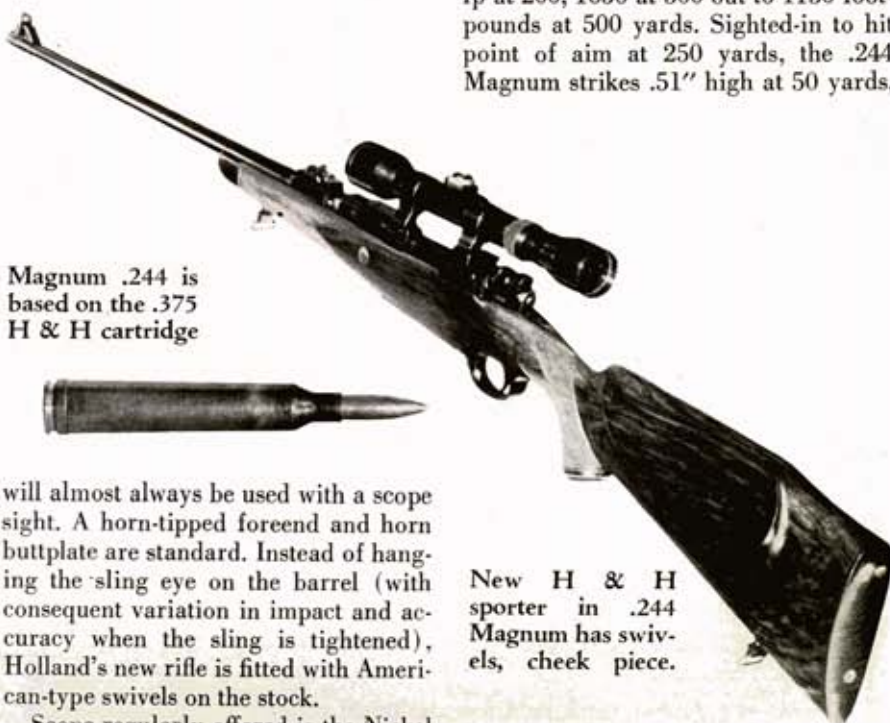
By H. Jay Erfurth

New .244 H & H Magnum

THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL small-caliber rifle is the claim for Holland & Holland's just-announced .244 Magnum sporter. Based on the commercial FN Mauser action fitted with a 24" barrel of Holland's special "Hykro" steel, the .244 Magnum will prove popular for long-range shooting where high velocity and high energy are needed. Essentially the new rifle is similar to earlier Holland small-caliber varmint-medium game rifles, or as the British say, "deer-stalking rifles." The typical British stock lines are modified by a Monte Carlo butt since this caliber

sight to find in dim light and the advantages of it become evident through use.

Most important to U.S. shooters is the new .244 Holland & Holland Magnum load. The designation .244 had been established by H & H long before they learned of Remington's latest load, and there is no connection between the two cases. H & H .244 with 100-grain copper pointed bullet has a muzzle velocity of 3500 feet per second, dropping to 3230 at 100 yards, 2970 at 200, 2725 at 300 to 2275 at 500. Energies at these ranges are: 2725 foot-pounds at muzzle, 2320 fp at 100, 1980 fp at 200, 1650 at 300 out to 1150 foot-pounds at 500 yards. Sighted-in to hit point of aim at 250 yards, the .244 Magnum strikes .51" high at 50 yards,



Magnum .244 is
based on the .375
H & H cartridge

will almost always be used with a scope sight. A horn-tipped foreend and horn buttplate are standard. Instead of hanging the sling eye on the barrel (with consequent variation in impact and accuracy when the sling is tightened), Holland's new rifle is fitted with American-type swivels on the stock.

Scope regularly offered is the Nickel "Supra" 4X in Holland's quick detachable mount. This mount is higher than American mounting and allows the iron sights to be used in an emergency by looking beneath the scope tube. Iron sights are the silver-tipped front with a folding sun shade, and two rear leaf sights. One is a standing "backsight" cut for 250 yards, and the other is a 400-yard folding leaf. Cut with a medium "V" and a silver line underneath, this type of sight is unfamiliar to most American sportsmen accustomed to other types of notch or aperture sights. However, it is a quick

New H & H
sporter in .244
Magnum has swivels,
cheek piece.

1.7" high at 100, 1.6" at 200, crossing point of aim at 250 and dropping 2.6" at 300, 12.1" at 400 and 26.0" at 500.

Holland claims that "practical tests have shown results that come very close to the above figures, thus making it as flat a shooting rifle as has ever been produced commercially." By comparison with this claim it is worth mentioning the performance of the Remington .244 which has a 90-grain bullet in its heaviest standard loading. With a muzzle energy of 2050 foot pounds and a (Continued on Page 79)

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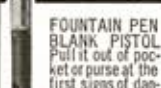
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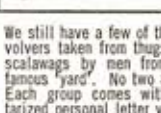
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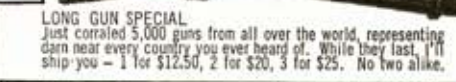
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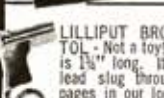
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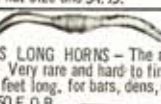
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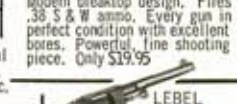
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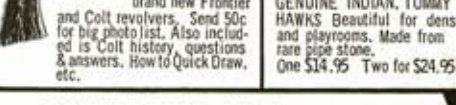
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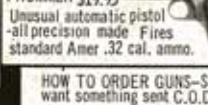
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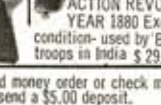
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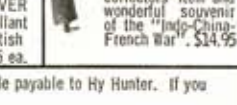
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Enfield Trigger Guards completely straightened (the hump taken out of the front), polished and blued with floor plate and screws—while they last \$3.95.



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MODEL B 10 SHOT
.22 AUTO PISTOL

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1956
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Guns



MAGAZINE

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COVER

Russia's new 7.65 mm. cartridge which its soldiers use for all automatic weapons from rifle to light machine gun attains a goal long sought by military men. Our cover contrasts the new load with our own big Springfield .30 calibre, current .30 Nato, .300 Savage and experimental British .280 as well as German 7.92 and Swiss prototype of Russian round. Photo by Stephen Deutch.

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RUSSIA'S SECRET

The Story Behind This Story

This is a story that GUNS was ready to publish six months ago but we were asked not to print it. The request came from the U.S. Army chief of ordnance and GUNS was happy to cooperate with the Army in the interests of national security. Since that time sources outside the U.S. have partially disclosed the news of Russian arms re-equipment. The Army has as a result stated that it has no objection to GUNS publishing information derived from sources outside its ordnance department.



NEW SOVIET 7.65 LOAD CAN BE USED IN RIFLE,
CARBINE AND MACHINE GUN AND MAKES
POSSIBLE UNIFORM ORDNANCE SUPPLY, LONG
GOAL OF ARMY OFFICERS FOR SIMPLE LOGISTICS

ALL-PURPOSE CARTRIDGE

BY WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

THE RUSSIANS now have a new all-purpose cartridge that fits all their light automatic weapons. It is a secret short 7.65 mm. cartridge which is used by their soldiers in three basic guns—the lightweight automatic rifle, the assault machine carbine as well as the light machine gun.

For years the big powers have sought a common cartridge for infantry weapons and the Russians have evidently achieved this goal in their 7.65 x 38 light automatic round. The new cartridge is about half the weight and bulk of

Russia's old Nagant service load or our .30 Springfield, for that matter. It packs neatly and with a slight body taper is ideal for automatic guns. The case rear is slightly smaller than the .30 Springfield case diameter of .470", measuring .442" diameter, or 11.25mm. A clip using these cartridges will be narrower and lighter than one for the fatter-based cartridges used by most nations today.

Russia's new cartridge is a bold step toward uniform ordnance supply. Mix-ups in ammunition have long been head-

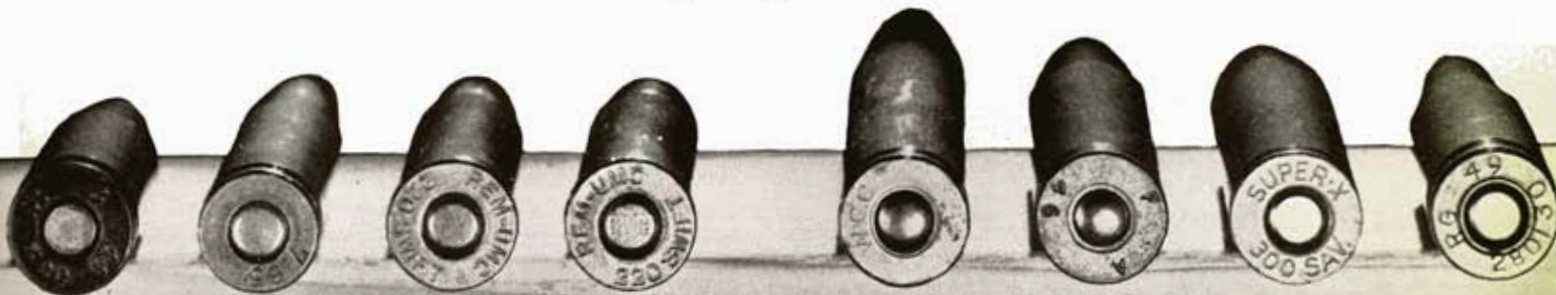


SKS-46 rifle for short Russian 7.65x38 case has been described as "little Tokarev," combines features of M1940 Russ rifle with new gas system and folding bayonet.



Avtomat 54 is latest Russian infantry arm and resembles earlier Walther machine carbine made in Germany but is chambered for short cartridge also used in rifle.

Basic head sizes of most military cartridges are same as U.S. .30-06 and .30 NATO (stamped F A 46) but smaller Russian case identical to 7.65-marked Swiss reduces bulk in automatic gun magazines.



aches to field officers and have sometimes lost battles, because one kind of ammo was issued for another caliber gun. The military aspects of the new Russian cartridge are highly important, but its possible sporting application is equally so. For one of the short-action Sako rifles, it would prove an ideal load. Many wildcatters are bound to pick up the field of intermediate cartridges like the new Russian all-purpose load for their experiments.

Rumors of the new Russian ammo and weapons have circulated for a long while from behind the iron curtain. One Intelligence agent received five different descriptions of "new rifles" from five Russians who had deserted to the west. Then at last the Army obtained several of the arms, an SKS-46 rifle, the Avtomat 1954 machine carbine, and one of the new automatic pistols.

While American tourists were busily snapping photos of the natty guards with SKS-46 rifles standing before the tomb of Lenin and Stalin in Moscow, and the Avtomat 54 guns were issued to Soviet embassy guards in Berlin, top secrecy was clamped down on those arms obtained by the U.S. But both British and French sources confirmed the existence of the new weapons. The British War Office information officer wrote: "I can confirm that we know the Russians have a new series of 7.62 small arms. . ." And France's "answer man" service, SVP, reported: "The Services of the Army evidently possess a study on these Russian arms but this study cannot be made public."

From a Russian manual, GUNS obtained a dimension drawing of their new cartridge. It seemed like a very interesting little pill, and we queried Washington about it. But in Washington the lid was on, and nothing officially could be learned. Even the designations of the weapons—SKS-46 and PPK-1954—were classified "secret."



Ambassador James B. Conant visiting Soviet Embassy in Berlin saw new Avtomat 54's issued to elite guards in 1955.



THE WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

BM 3/1/55 (PR 3)


13 January, 1956

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 16th November about British and Russian small arms has been referred to us by the Ministry of Supply.

I can confirm that we know the Russians have a new series of 7.62 small arms, but I am afraid that there is no information or comment that I can offer in connexion with your other questions.

Yours faithfully,


J.Y. Morley,
Senior Information Officer.

W.B. Edwards, Esq.,
Technical Editor,
Gun Magazine,
8150 North Central Park Boulevard,
SKOKIE,
Illinois,
U.S.A.

British War Office confirmed existence of secret Russian weapons in letter to GUNS Magazine editor.

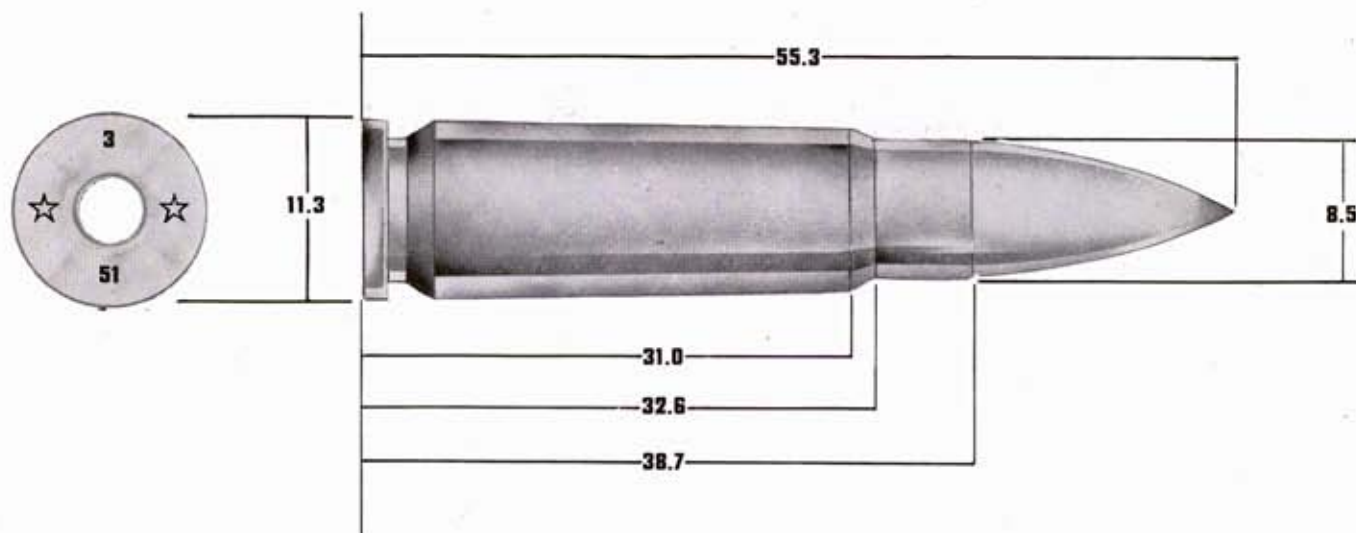
But GUNS did learn that a leak in U.S. security some time ago had informed the Soviets that we possessed one of their new rifles. A formal protest filed by the Russian Ambassador in Washington resulted in the return of the gun to the Russians. But one gun, the Avtomat 1954, and a pistol came through to the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, photos of the "secret" weapons were published in the New York Times and other periodicals in the U.S. and abroad. Photos of troops on maneuvers showed the SKS-46 and the PPK-54 as general issue.

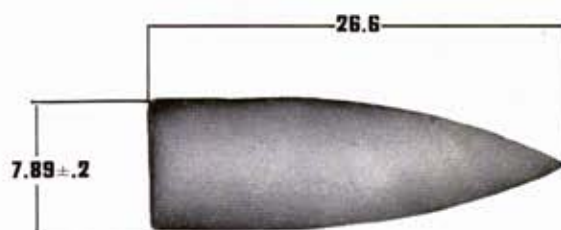
Russian all-purpose ammo is loaded in copper washed steel cases. Primers are bright brassy metal. A black or gray lacquer is run around the extracting groove, possibly as a means of identifying the type of load, whether Ball, AP, or Tracer. Powder in one sample was fine chopped sticks, not tubular. Listed velocity is 2250 feet per second with a 150-grain steel jacketed bullet.

Case length is a shade over 38 millimeters or about 1½" and total length is slightly more than 2". This is shorter than the new 7.65 NATO round which was modified by the U.S. Ordnance department from the .300 Savage and adopted a short while ago by England, Canada, the U.S. and France as the uniform caliber. The .300 Savage, of course, has been used since about 1910 by American shooters, but oddly enough the new 7.65 Russian has some history, too. The dimensions of the Russian all-purpose load correspond within normal manufacturing tolerances with a hitherto-unidentified cartridge known to collectors as the "7.65 x 38 Swiss machine pistol" type.

Jack Brickell of Portland, Oregon, has sold hundreds of these Swiss cartridges to collectors. Enigmatically head-stamped "7.65" with no maker's mark, they were turned out in the German-controlled Swiss Solothurn factory for an unidentified machine pistol, and intended to be used by one side or the other in the Spanish Civil War. The Swiss government officially denies any knowledge of these cartridges, although the new Swiss machine carbine load is



Drawing of new Russian short cartridge copied from information in Soviet rifle manual conforms closely to dimensions of American .220 Swift case necked down to .30. Millimeter measurements indicate similarity between Russian auto rifle load and pre-war Swiss experimental case.



also a 38mm case length. However, their base diameter and bullet are like the regular, longer Swiss 7.5mm rifle round. But these pre-war Solothurn Swiss cases are close enough to the Russian to be a twin. In addition to the Russian rifle and machine carbine, the company gun, the belt-fed modified Degtyarov light machine gun, is also said to use the short case although the old 7.62 Nagant rimmed is the most common Soviet machine gun round.

The existence of new weapons for Russia's army has been known officially for several years. The rifle, designated the SKS-1946, resembled a little Tokarev, according to the British report circulating in the U.S. during 1954. The basic similarity of the weapon to the old Tokarev suggests that actual M1940 rifles of the Tokarev pattern may have been rebuilt with new barrels and stocks to handle the shorter 7.65 x 38 cartridge. Certainly the issue of these arms under a 1946 designation indicates that Russia was quick on the trigger in issuing light rifles to her forces. The British report also mentioned briefly the new "Avtomat" 1954, a machine carbine similar in general styling to the German short-cartridge weapons but somewhat improved.

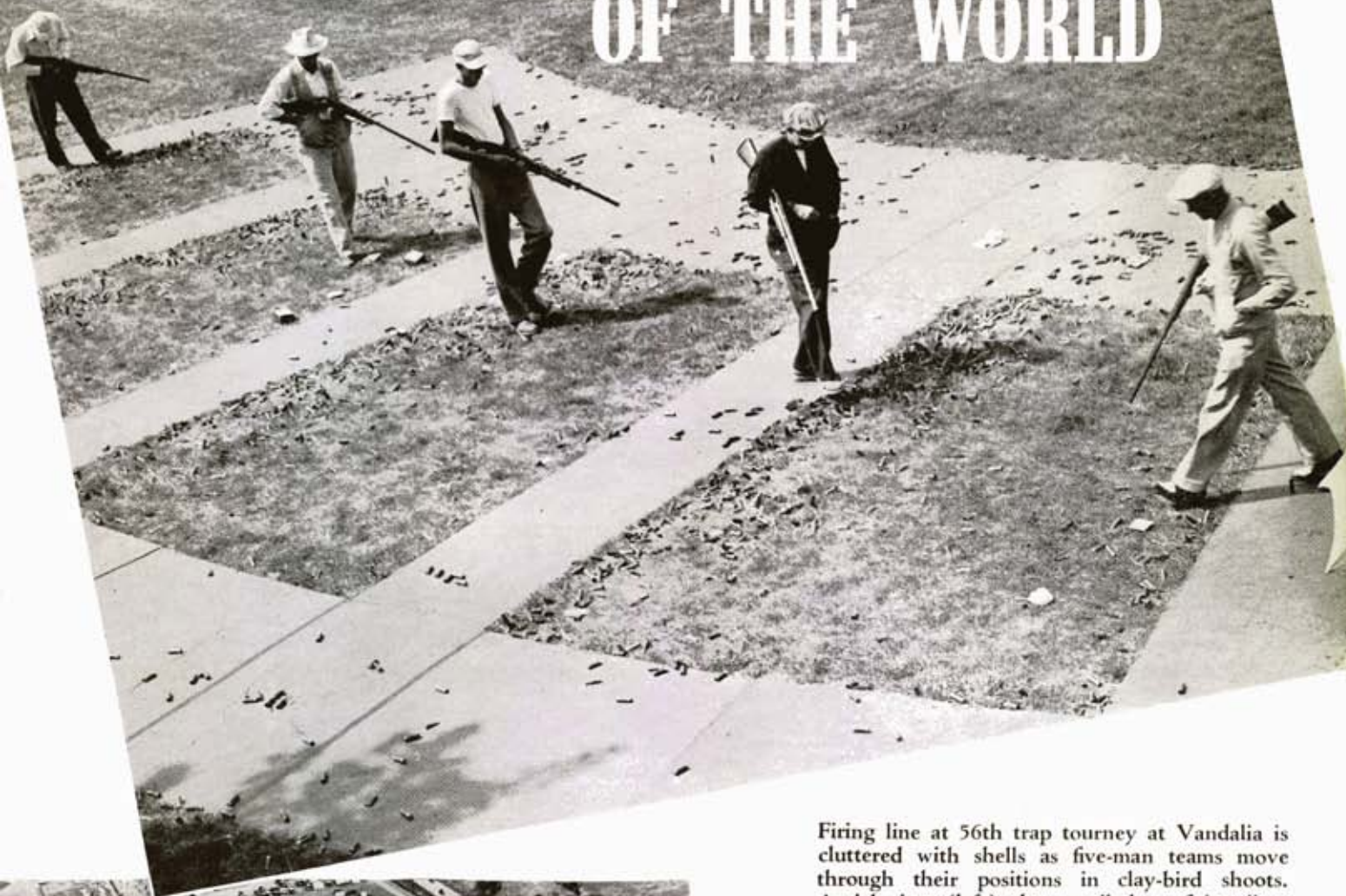
A new pistol which has been rumored to resemble the Browning Hi-Power was also mentioned. Exact information on their new pistol is classified "secret" by Aberdeen Proving Ground. But the Walther factory in Germany reports that the Russian pistol is a big-sized PP Walther in double action, firing a special Russian-developed 9mm cartridge which is somewhere between the 9mm Browning Long and the .380. Apparently it is straight blowback in operation.

The SKS-46 is basically the tipping-bolt Tokarev. But a new bolt handle sticks out and can be easily slammed back by hands numbed with cold or wearing thick gloves. The trigger guard is larger for winter shooting. A short magazine holding 10 rounds takes the place of the Tokarev 15-shot clip. The gas cylinder group is much simplified, and resembles the gas piston fitted to the German MP 43 and "Sturmgewehr 44" carbines. A folding bayonet, battle-tested by the Soviets on their M1944 bolt action Nagant carbine, is an improvement over a separate bayonet and bayonet scabbard. Short and more of a police riot breaker than a tool to fight cavalry, the new Russian bayonet is ample for the job it has to do—which may include suppression of riots in the satellite countries.

The heavy-caliber burp gun is Muscovy's latest infantry arm. Designated the PPK-1954 or "avtomat," Russian for automatic, it resembles the German designs used on the Russian front during the last stages of the war. These weapons appear to be issued mainly to elite guards at this time, and to squad or unit leaders. With their long curved 30-shot box magazines, the avtomats have as much firepower as a machine gun. Using the short 7.65 cartridge, they are virtually as effective as a rifle at longer ranges, despite their short 14" barrels.

Internally the avtomats are based on the turning-bolt Walther MKb 42 burp guns which were developed but never issued in Germany. However, the odd sleeve piston of the Walther has been replaced by the more conventional nozzle and cup design from the older (Continued on page 70)

TRAPSHOOTING'S CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

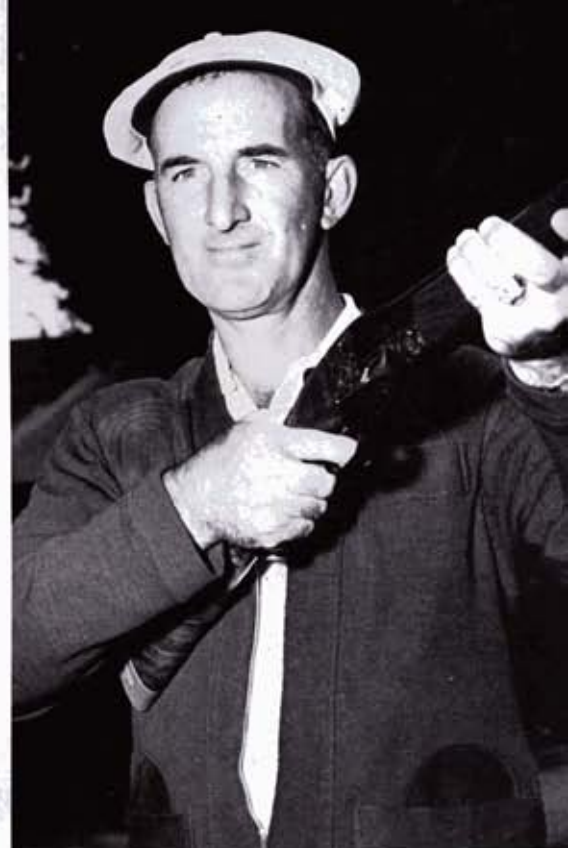


Firing line at 56th trap tourney at Vandalia is cluttered with shells as five-man teams move through their positions in clay-bird shoots. Aerial view (left) shows mile-long firing line.



**MORE THAN 2,000 SHOTGUNNERS
THROW 70 TONS OF LEAD IN WEEK
OF SHOOTING DURING CLASSIC
GRAND AMERICAN TOURNEY**

By JOHNNY MOCK



On the way to setting his unequalled world record of 1404 shots without a miss, Joe Hiestand looks at his score compared with Remington pro shooter Fred Tomlin's high score which the latter shot with a Parker trap gun.

For 1404 times Joe Hiestand shouldered his heavy Ithaca trap gun to break record number of birds before missing.

EVERY YEAR IN AUGUST the tiny western Ohio community of Vandalia becomes the trapshooting capital of the world. The "nation's crossroads" where the east-west National Pike, U. S. Route 40, meets the Dixie Highway, U. S. Route 25, going North and South, is also the permanent home of the Amateur Trapshooting Association, governing body of the sport. And each year the ATA holds the Grand American Handicap trapshooting contest at Vandalia.

On opening day hundreds of trapshooters arrive for this annual classic, coming from practically every state in the Union, Canada, the Canal Zone, Alaska and Cuba. Followers of trapshooting from every walk of life—men, women and mere children, young and old, weak and strong, including the maimed, shoulder a scattergun, call for the elusive clay target, press the trigger and hope Lady Luck will smile upon them and help them win the \$10,000 grand prize.

Day after day the tourney goes on, with a monotonous and seemingly never-ending cry of "Pull!" followed by the announcement of the referee. Invariably, the cry is "Dead!" for assembled at Vandalia will be the cream of the continent's trapshooters, competing for the numerous events scheduled by the organization, and listing more than 40 championships among the teams and individuals taking part.

Almost two million shells are expended during the nine days in which the target-smashing goes on. Each of these shotgun shells has $1\frac{1}{8}$ ounces of shot pellets, so that almost 70 tons of lead will be deposited on the sod beyond the traphouses, quite a contrast to the status of the land prior to its acquisition by the ATA. In the past the present



Dark horse Logan Bennett of Hodgenville, Ky., claimed \$10,000 purse in 1955 to outshoot 2,024 top trapgunners.



Huge silver trophy donated by Frances King (above) and husband Clyde goes to high lady trap shooter at 1000 birds.



Winner of women's division at Grand American Handicap in 1955 scoring over hundreds of lady competitors was Mrs. Dolly Isetts who broke 93x100. Dolly is wife of 1955 world champion pigeon shooter Bill Isetts of Kenosha, Wis.



Seven time winner of women's North American clay target championships is Mrs. Lela Frank of Strasburg, Mo.

location produced an annual crop of corn and oats. Now the former fields account for a harvest of metal—and "dark horses."

For instance at the 1955 shoot, Ned Lilly of Stanton, Mich., equalled a 17-year old "Grand American" record when he posted three successive perfect marks of 200 smashed targets, while shooting with Joe Hiestand, holder of the longest-run mark.

Lilly's win was a surprise to the "wise money."

Even more remarkable was the record established during this annual event in 1951 when five state champions smashed 100 targets in the main event, and then broke another 100 straight targets in the shoot-off for the unbelievable score of 1000 out of a possible 1000. Incidentally, the winner of that particular race was compelled to shatter another 60 consecutive targets before he was finally declared winner, making it 260 straight targets smashed to become the Champion of Champions, truly a fitting title.

Other remarkable scores have been posted at the "Grand American," several of which have been standing for many years. For instance, Joe Hiestand of Hillsboro, Ohio, during the 1938 classic broke 900 out of a possible 900. Then he went on with his target-smashing in succeeding registered ATA

shoots, adding 279 additional successively-broken targets for a grand total of 1179, world's long run record.

Also outstanding is the feat of Walter Beaver of Berwyn, Pa. During the 55 years in which the Grand American Handicap event has been shot, with 25 yards the extreme penalty marker, 47,360 gunners toed their various handicap lines, but Walter is the sole individual ever able to capture trapdom's most coveted title and richest prize while stationed "out in the field, breaking 98 of his 100 targets from the 25-yard line." During the many years in which this race has been in competition, only five gunners succeeded in chalking up a perfect score of 100 out of a possible 100.

The principal race at the annual conclave of the continent's trapshooters is the Grand American Handicap which has a long-standing tradition of a half century that no one ever repeats as a winner. No one has ever been able to overcome that iron-clad rule of Lady Luck and win twice.

Over the passing years the Grand American's popularity has grown. The first, held in 1900, drew 74 entries. By 1915 the figure had grown to 884, then dropped to 710 in 1925. Twenty years later the number of competitors was 828.

Then followed an amazing increase



Big trailer drawn by tiny tractor conveys shooters along the mile-long stretch of trap ranges at Vandalia. Trap shooting in top form demands that shotgunner be relaxed and rested and motorized conveyance is necessary part of tourney because of distances competitors may have to cover in going to their assigned positions from rest area to the line.

in entries probably accountable to World War II during which many GIs were introduced to target shooting with a scattergun. In 1946 the participants numbered 1478, almost double that of the previous year. In 1954 the figure exceeded the 2000 mark for the first time in history. Last year the participants established a new record—2,023.

The competition at the Grand American meet is terrific with many types of shooters taking part. For instance, the North American Clay Target Championship event of 200 targets was placed on a permanent basis in 1919. Since that time the annual champions have missed but 25 targets, giving them the rather impressive record of 6975 out of a possible 7000.

Another significant race is that of Champion of Champions, in which the various state champions compete with each other. During the past 13 of these annual events, those champions failed to post perfect marks in five instances, giving them a record of 1295 out of a possible 1300.

The 12-gauge shotgun is the standard firearm. The ATA rules require the use of No. 7½ or No. 8 shot, loaded no heavier than with three drams of powder and one and one-eighth ounces of pellets. Copperized shot is not permitted and all shooters must obtain standard ammo at "the shell tent."

Most popular type of shotguns are the narrow-alignment model, the single barrel, over and under and pumps or slide actions. Double-barrels, except for the twin-target event, have not been used much lately because of their broader sighting plane which many feel reduces the possibility of accurate gun-pointing.

Recent years have brought about a gradual departure from both single and double-barreled types, to a preference for what is ordinarily a field gun, the repeater. The auto-loading, or so-called automatics, are growing in popularity.

Contributing to this trend has been the legalizing of the auto-loader by such states as Pennsylvania. The Keystone state now permits hunting small game and varmint hunting with this type of scattergun after having outlawed it since 1905.

Almost from the beginning of organized trap shooting, No. 7½ was the accepted size shot pellet, but many shooters have taken to using No. 8's and for a good reason. The first-mentioned has approximately 394 pellets to the charge, whereas with No. 8's there are 461 pellets. The difference can readily account for breaking many an additional target. And at Vandalia one target can spell the difference between success and failure.

Practically all shooters resort to the full-choked barrel which places 70 per cent or more of the shot pellets in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards. On the basis of that percentage, the No. 7½ would number 276 in that area, as against 323 for the No. 8's, giving the shooter an advantage of 47 more potential clay-busting projectiles.

There is some difference in the velocity. No. 7's are about two per cent faster in comparison with No. 8's over ordinary trapshooting distances.

What the shooter's choice actually amounts to is whether the slightly higher velocity and individual pellet energy of the No. 7½ is more preferable than the denser and slightly slower pattern of the No. 8 pellet.

Almost the same thing is coming true with the powder charge, many shooters going from the three-dram load to two and three-quarter drams. The average velocity over 40 yards, with a 30-inch full-choke barrel differs only 30 feet per second, that of the three-dram load being 870 feet per second, while the lighter load—and slightly less kick—gives a velocity of 840 feet per second.

When it comes to being critical and fussy, there is no group which is more so than the clay target smasher. The gun must fit just right, for upon it can depend a hit (Continued on page 63)



**TELEVISION STAR TELLS WHAT HE
LEARNED ABOUT FAMOUS COWTOWN
MARSHAL IN CAREFUL RESEARCH FOR
POPULAR WESTERN TV SHOW**

WAS WYATT EARP HERO OR HEEL?

By HUGH O'BRIAN

I PLAYED "cowboys and Indians" many times as a kid in Winnetka, Illinois. At every Saturday matinee movie show, I always pictured myself in the hero role.

Little did I think then that I would be playing the hero in earnest years later, as "Wyatt Earp" on television. And if some 20 years back, you had asked me whether I would want to play Wyatt Earp with my cap pistols, I would have asked you: "Who is he, good guy or bad guy?" Even today that controversy rages about Wyatt Earp—was he a hero or heel? Whatever he was, one thing is certain: Wyatt Earp brought law and order to the cowtowns.

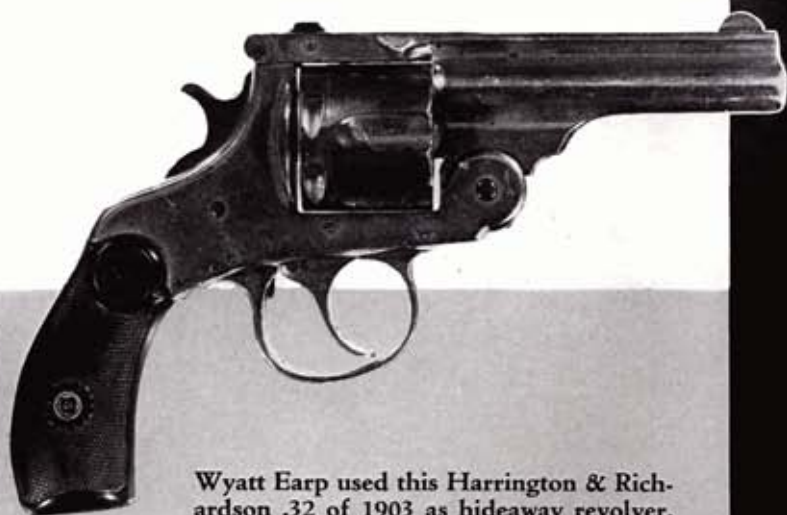
When I began the Wyatt Earp series on television, I was almost transported back to those younger days of "cowboys and Indians," but there was a difference. I had to answer for myself the question of what kind of a man was Wyatt Earp if I was to do the role justice. I read books, talked with western historians, checked facts as well as possible. There were conferences with the writers and other staff men on the show.

From the past emerged a good man with a gun, but tempered with judgment. Earp was a man of courage, but not foolhardy, the sort of character I enjoy portraying because I have to put myself into the spirit of a bygone age and another man and he's the kind of man I'd like to know, as a friend.

Playing Marshal Wyatt Earp of Wichita, Dodge City, or Tombstone is much more than any boyish urge to be, even vicariously, a cowtown peace officer. I like the role because of its over-all meaning. First, I like Wyatt Earp, the man, because of what he stands for in the American tradition of the West—honesty, integrity, bravery with bravado, straight-forward action with direction and a high degree of foresight, sternness and determination without brittleness or meanness, a sense of right and personal independence not only for himself but for all others. There were all too few like Earp, either during his own lifetime or now.

Secondly, I am constantly intrigued by the colorful, if

Television's Wyatt Earp is played by Hugh O'Brian, who researched life of Earp and his gunplay preparing for role.



Wyatt Earp used this Harrington & Richardson .32 of 1903 as hideaway revolver.



Real Wyatt Earp looked calm as a banker but when he strapped on his Colts to pacify cowtown he was deadly.

often ruthless, era in which Wyatt lived and served. It was a time for men of action. It was a time when planned, purposeful action by the individual held promise of great rewards and opportunities. It was a time when there was space—room to roam untrammelled by the fetters of a modern industrial economy. Room to roam and time to enjoy roaming. Not that I want to go back to that period; I don't. But it was a time of which men have dreamed since Adam; a time and place where a combination of circumstances momentarily made it possible for a large number of human beings to achieve a high degree of individual freedom; freedom from political, economic and social conventions which bind men to one hearth, one job, one city, one state, and one exacting set of rules and regulations.

That such a "freedom in time and space" ever really existed even in Wyatt Earp's West is, of course, impossible, but in his day as now people all over the world thought it did. That is why the "Western"—be it book, magazine, movie, radio or TV production—after a hundred years is still the most popular entertainment both here and overseas. Western books, western movies, TV westerns such as Wyatt Earp, Gunsmoke (CBS) and Frontier (NBC), are printed and shown in almost every country in the world including Russia, China and Iceland.

Wyatt Earp had one other important characteristic that made it possible to re-enact his life and legend without apology or reservation. Earp was a respecter of persons, of property, of the law. Unlike his good friends, "Bat" Masterson and "Wild Bill" Hickok, he was not a killer, though he did kill when he had to. Though his work often required him to wade in the slime and filth of such "sinks of sin and iniquity" as Ellsworth, Wichita, Dodge City and, finally, Tombstone, little, if any, of the dirt ever stuck to his boots or blackened his reputation.

Not that Wyatt was a paragon of virtue or even a knight in shining armor. He wasn't. But, as practically every clergyman, woman, and honest man he ever knew later testified, Earp was honest and kind by principle rather



Wichita in 1876 was tamed by Earp but marshal also did chores like repossessing a piano from the local madam.



Wyatt Earp at height of his lawman's career in Tombstone, Arizona, wore handlebar whiskers, was dandy dresser.

than for expediency. He faced realities and took the right road—a constructive force rather than a destructive one—because he believed that it was the only direction in which success and progress lay.

In many ways, Wyatt was in sharp contrast to other frontier and cowtown heroes. His boyhood gave him a background of law and order which he firmly believed in and fought for the whole of his life. Guns were a part of that era, a part of the daily life on the frontier, part of the equipment of men who faced a frontier which, at times, knew or cared little for the laws of men or the commandments of God. Men of greed used the gun to grab and hold. Men of law and order used the gun to repel, defeat, and ultimately abolish the "tyranny of the six-shooter."

Wyatt's guns have been a minor problem to the show's "prop man." The so-called Buntline Special is always associated with Earp, but from what I can learn he used it very little. The gun was lent to a friend who carried it in the Klondike gold rush of 1898, and became lost overboard in a storm when some baggage was thrown to lighten the boat. According to the story, Ned Buntline, the west-



Hugh O'Brian wears flashy vest and shoestring tie in faithful emulation of frontier fashions on his TV show.

ern story writer of Earp's day who was as fantastic in his own way as the colorful Wyatt, gave six special Colt revolvers to six famous frontier marshals. Wyatt received one. The other men are said to have cut the barrels off but the legend goes that Wyatt carried his own with the original length and claimed it didn't slow up his draw.

Wyatt worked out a slanted holster rig which allowed him to draw the gun, although he never considered a 12" barrel revolver as a "quick draw" weapon. Actually, the most popular size was the 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " length, and I use a pair of 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " guns in the show.

Western stories give the impression that nobody knew of any other kind of gun out west except the "Colt" but that wasn't true. Many other types of pistols were carried and used by men now famous as frontier heroes. Wyatt after the turn of the century when things had quieted down a bit went in for mining. A revolver which he carried while prospecting often was a small .32 top-break Harrington & Richardson. This little nickle-plated revolver was made about 1903 and because of its small size could be carried much more easily than the bigger Colt. Wyatt called it



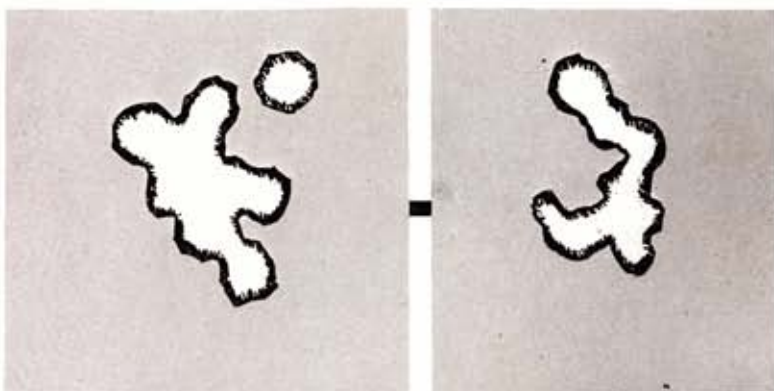
Fast-draw gunplay on the side of law and order is weekly routine of TV "Marshal Earp" who wears Ojala holsters.

"Sarah's Peashooter," after his second wife who often carried it. Whether it was a big double-barrelled shotgun or a toy of a top-break pocket revolver, Earp managed to use guns to keep the peace.

Having learned that lesson early from his deputy sheriff father in frontier Illinois and Iowa, Wyatt's use of the gun was automatic and natural. From this same source, he acquired another trait which also was in sharp contrast to many so-called frontier heroes. Wyatt learned to work. He was a builder, a physically constructive force even when his occupation made it seem momentarily otherwise. Not negatively constructive—such as taming Mannen Clements and 50 murder-bent cowboys in the streets of Wichita—but positively constructive.

He bought and worked farms, ranches and mining claims. He had interests in stockyards, real estate, stage, freighting and railroad lines, and, at times, even in saloons and gambling halls. While the latter may seem out of character, it wasn't. Both liquor and gambling during that era, and in the cowtowns of the West were not only legal but a part of the tradition and *(Continued on page 58)*





One-inch groups were averaged at 55 yards by accurate 9mm Swedish service ammo fired in 9-inch SMG barrel.

WHERE TOMMY GUNS ARE SHOT BY CIVILIAN MARKSMEN

SUB-MACHINE GUN TARGET MATCHES ARE POPULAR SPORT IN SWEDEN WHERE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES OWNERSHIP OF LIGHT AUTOMATICS BY SHOOTERS

By NILS KVALE

SUB-MACHINE GUN target matches in Sweden are one of the most popular sports in a country noted for shooting enthusiasm. While American shooters and gun collectors who like modern firearms are prohibited from possessing or transferring full-automatic weapons without paying a prohibitive tax and going through a lot of red tape, the Swedish shooter's biggest problems with tommy guns lie in "accuracy jobs" and the other headaches of the competitive shooter.

Sweden is the only nation in the world where ownership of sub-machine guns is encouraged by a forward-looking government. The result has been a tremendous increase in shooting enthusiasm among Sweden's 7,000,000 citizens.

Sub-machine gun shooting is relatively new and a very special kind of competitive sport. Yet the painstakingly accurate statistics of the Swedish national shooting organization show 7,484,276 shots were fired in SMG shooting in 1954, and 55,711 active shooters received government issues of 9mm Parabellum ammunition for SMG match competition.

Competitive shooting with sub-machine guns did not just happen in Sweden. It has a history that goes back a full century for that is when organized competitive shooting began in Sweden. Of course, that was long before anyone ever conceived of a sub-machine gun but in the 100 years that Swedes have been keeping up their marksmanship,



Swedish folding-stock gun is made from simple lathe-turned parts and tubing or cheap sheet-metal stampings.



Submachine gun breaks down into small parts for easy carrying by the Swedish civilian shooter in his briefcase.

Formal standing position used in machine gun match shooting employs carrying sling like U.S. "hasty sling" to aid in aiming.



the issue of arms to shooters has kept pace with the years.

Shooting matches in Sweden and the United States are organized very much alike. The shooting clubs of Sweden, as in the United States, form one national association. Like the National Rifle Association which was founded in 1871 to promote shooting with military rifles in the interest of national defense, as well as more specialized forms of target competition, the Swedish national association is also concerned with the grave problems of defense of a small and extremely wealthy nation against some larger aggressor. Just like the U. S. Director of Civilian Marksmanship issues U.S. Garand semi-automatic military rifles to U.S. shooters through the National Rifle Association, the Swedish government also makes military rifles available for competitive shooting.

Distributing military arms to shooting clubs started during the early years of World War II. Members of the Swedish National Rifle Association fired matches with sub-machine guns, automatic rifles and light machine guns on their club ranges. The guns were lent from army arsenals.

Such shooting drew large crowds of young and old who were not drafted into the army, but were still interested in learning how to handle the arms, just in case. The presence of once-friendly Norway under the rule of Nazi Germany for hundreds of miles along the Swedish border lent an urgency to their need to know how to handle modern military arms. Consequently, it was decided that this shooting should continue in peacetime. While it would cost

the government some money to sponsor machine gun target practice by civilians, the top brass knew only too well that it would cost more to have an army of men unfamiliar with modern arms.

In the peace-time shooting program, all the new automatic arms were included but despite approval of authorities, it proved difficult to get shooters to use all of them. Relative accuracy was a drawback to the L-42 Swedish semi-automatic rifle for target practice. Although it was a sturdy and accurate military gun, it could not stand up in competitions with the Mauser used by civilian marksmen.

The situation was even worse for the various available types of light machine guns. These arms are too expensive to buy privately, and a real shooter, wherever he lives, wants to own his equipment and use it all for himself. So far it has not proved too easy to work up interest in shooting army-type automatic weapons for the expensive rifle cartridge.

But the sub-machine gun was something different. It was no heavier than the Mauser. A short gun, it was convenient to take along to shoots. It fired a different and interesting cartridge, the highly-accurate Swedish 9mm

Parabellum cartridge. Designed for shooting at shorter ranges than the rifle, and at different targets, it added motion and new life to relatively static civilian target matches. The ammunition did not cost too much. And best of all the sub-machine gun itself when put into mass production cost so little that any shooter could afford one.

TRAJECTORY TABLE FOR SMG m/45

| Sight setting, yards | Distance to target in yards | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 55 | 110 | 165 | 220 | 275 | 330 |
| 110 | 3.5 | 0 | -12 | | | |
| 220 | 12 | 17 | 13.5 | 0 | -24 | |
| 330 | 22 | 37 | 43.5 | 40 | 26 | 0 |

Table shows approximate height of trajectory in inches, as converted from standard metric table for 100, 200 and 300 meter distance.



With stock unfolded and left hand pushing clip forward to resist kick, Swedish m/45 is easy to fire accurately.



Shooting submachine gun in snow under simulated combat conditions is done by civilians who put aside their rifles for novelty matches.

The shooting fraternity went to work, sparked by the Swedish National Rifle Association. Brand new Swedish M1945 sub-machine guns started coming out to the clubs. They were government owned, but were permitted to be taken home by those club members capable of handling them safely. Other guns were kept in the clubhouse at the range for instruction purposes. Army and Home Guard instructors, comparable to the U.S. National Guard, showed the club members how to handle the guns. Every club member of 17 or over was allowed to shoot the sub-machine gun. While the kids start in firing the Mauser at 14, for safety reasons youngsters must just watch shooting the automatic arms until they are 17.

To buy a sub-machine gun, the shooter needs a license, but he doesn't get it by just asking for it. He must be a good shot, preferably wearing the official golden badge for automatic firearm marksmanship on his shooting coat, and he must be considered a good, reputable citizen. The gun, factory new, will cost him the equivalent of \$25 U.S. money. For a couple of dollars extra, he can get a carrying case with extra magazines, cleaning kit, and shooting sling. Because prices and wages are a little different from country to country, a comparison of values might be useful. The Swedish sub-machine gun costs with all its gadgets the equivalent of two pairs of good shoes.

When the shooter gets the tommy gun, the next thing is, what to do with it? There is the question of ammunition. The standard 9mm Parabellum ammunition is made in government ammo plants and by two private makers. At current prices in Sweden the cartridges cost five shots for one "crown." A Swedish shop worker, a man who operates a lathe or milling machine, will have a wage of about four



Aiming submachine gun carefully during combat shoot, Swedish marksman may have to fire at any one of 18 different targets ranging up to 200 yards or more away. Clip is used as rest to steady gun during fast-firing target session.

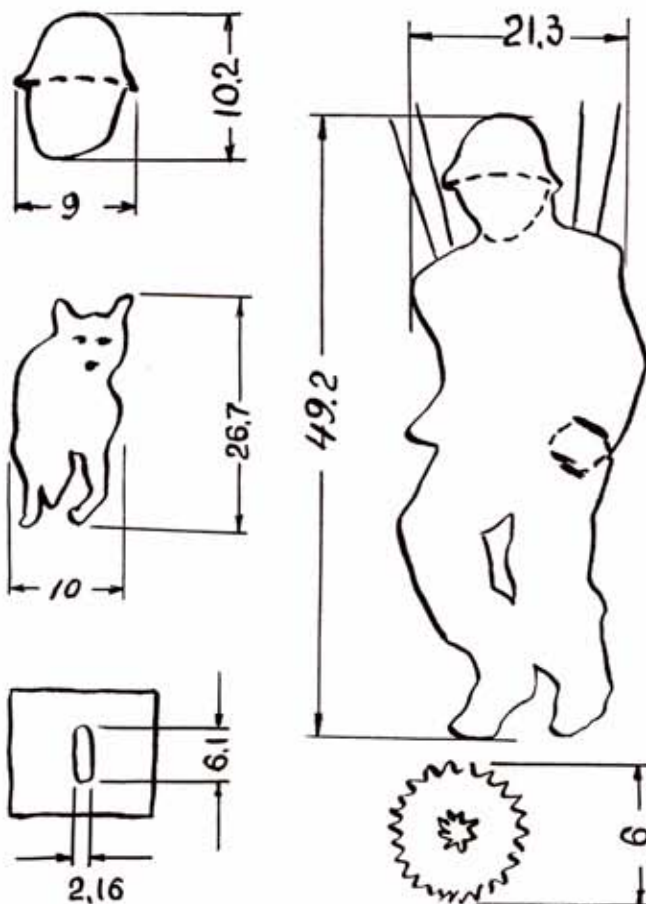
and a half crowns an hour. In other words, about 22-23 shots or roughly half-a box of ammo for one hour's work. In U.S. terms a box of 9mm ammo costs \$5. The Swedish price is nearly one third less, but it gets burned up as fast as American ammo in a fraction of a second—one drawback to tommy gun shooting.

Every marksman who fires at least 50 recorded shots per year in training or match competition gets a financial grant from the government through the shooting club he belongs to. At present the grant is 13 crowns or 65 cartridges per member each year.

A great many men in the armed forces join in the civilian shooting programs. They often form clubs of their own to meet the civilian clubs in matches. They receive only 15 rounds of ammo per year as a government grant, but in addition they shoot several hundred shots annually in ordinary military training.

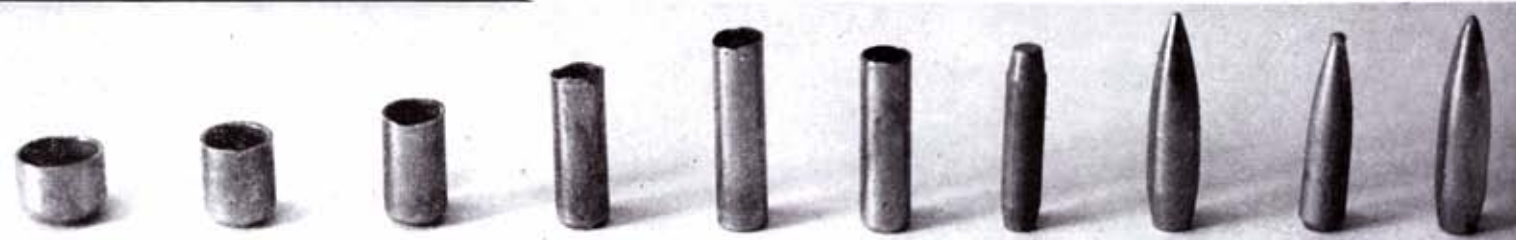
Tommy gun shoots are very realistic combat affairs. There are lots of moving targets at varying distances. Funds for these shoots come from the government which gives each regional association office 1,000 crowns, the equal of 5,000 rounds of ammunition, to conduct the shoots. Each region puts up a squad firing with rifles, light machine guns and sub-machine guns. They are lead by a squad commander, and the score of the squad, not of the individual, counts.

Range is 100 meters, about 110 yards. The target has five rings with the center "five" being 12 inches in diameter and the "V-ring" measuring eight. Two shot strings are fired: one for accuracy which is 10 shots in 30 seconds, prone position, with the magazine resting on the ground. Second is the rapid fire string, (Continued on page 61)



Tommy gun targets for combat matches include 10-inch high head fired on at 80 yards. War dog and paratrooper are shot at according to special range table. Slot in cannon shield and star-like muzzle flash must be hit to score.

Evolution of bullet from cup-blank to jacket is shown in series of tubes, representing jacket at successive stages of manufacture. Match King .30, core and hunting bullet (3rd and right) have boattail base.



HOW PERFECT RIFLE BULLETS ARE MADE

Sierra makes 36 different bullets, including softpoints from spitzer flat-based slug for 8 mm Mauser (top) to .22 (bottom). Match King 180-grain boattail (2nd from top) is used for target shooting. Boattail .270 soft point (8th from top) is accurate for hunting.



SEEKING ULTIMATE IN BULLET ACCURACY, THREE WEST COAST GUN CRANKS FORMED SIERRA FIRM TO TURN OUT PRECISION TARGET AND HUNTING AMMO

By CLAUDE M. KREIDER

ACCURACY BEGINS with the bullet, from the first coin-like blank to the finished, swedged, near-perfect gleaming missile. The word "accuracy" means putting a bullet consistently in the same place shot after shot. And all that the word "bullet" must mean in order to do this is "perfection," "exactness," and unvarying shape and weight from slug to slug. A perfect score means perfect bullets, and within the tolerances of machine manufacturing, three gun cranks of Whittier, California, are turning out bullets which approach the ideal.

The Sierra Manufacturing Co. of Whittier is operated by Frank Snow, Loran Harbour and Jim Spivey, men who combine shooting interest and

enthusiasm with practical mechanical training. Before the war Frank Snow and Loran Harbour, two of the early bench rest crowd in California, sought a better bullet for match shooting.

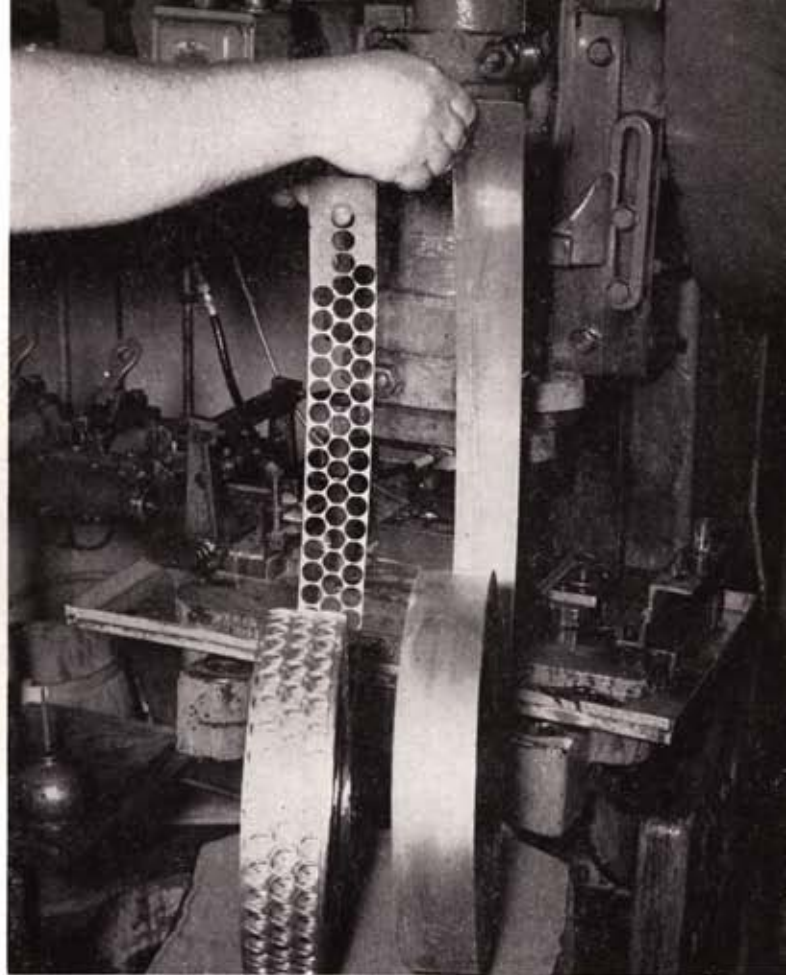
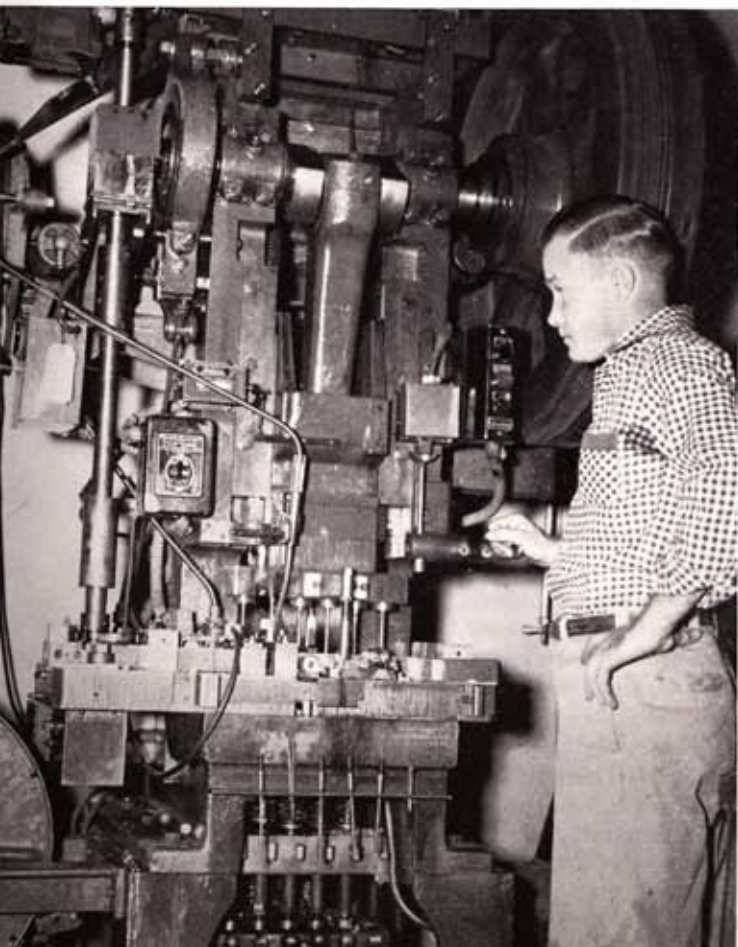
"I can remember sitting up late at night before a match," remarked Harbour toying with a shiny Sierra bullet on his key chain, "and weighing bullets for target loads. Those were the days when we'd run through a couple of hundred service .30 caliber bullets, trying to cull out a few dozen that would weigh within two or three grains of the nominal 150 standard. When we poured these selected bullets down our pet star-gauge Springfield, we figured we had match ammo. Today it's a little better—why this key-chain

souvenir bullet originally had to weigh within $\frac{1}{10}$ th of a grain to be acceptable. And the diameter is held to a tolerance of 2/10,000ths of an inch, about one-twentieth the diameter of a human hair."

The work which brought Sierra bullets to their present high standards was long and difficult. When Snow and Harbour first got together and started to consider making better bullets for target shooting, they found that more accurate die presses to punch out the jackets and form the slugs were needed. Secondly, they wanted to improve bullet design. When another shooter-machinist, Jim Spivey, added his know-how, the three began to work toward their goal in earnest. Instead of treating it as a simple copper-cased pellet hurled through the air, they realized that a bullet was a tremendously complicated center of many different forces, some acting to throw it to the target, and others trying to divert it.

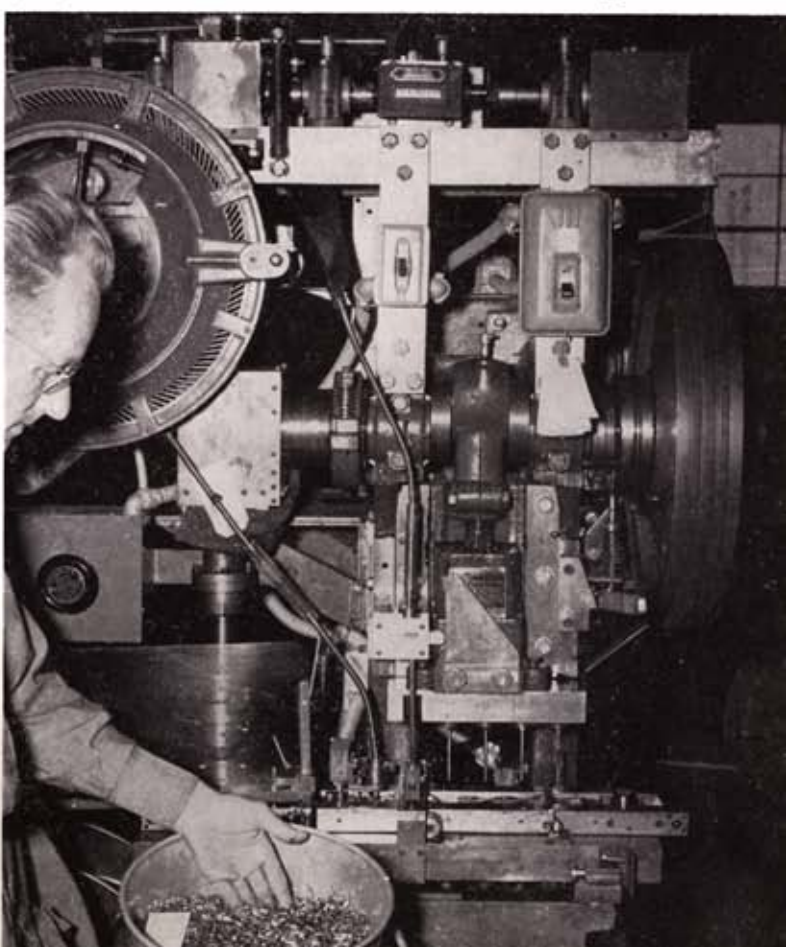
Experiments with the die presses showed that none were exactly right for their rigid requirements of accuracy. The partners then adapted the 30-ton Bliss press with dies, plungers and other improvements of their own design. Those die sets are the heart of each giant machine in the modern Sierra factory. They turn out streams of beautiful jacketed bullets as fast as corn coming from the sheller. Only the best tungsten carbide and other tool steels is used for the dies. One of the partners—and sometimes two—is always at his lathe and grinding machine shaping new sets for replacing those worn out on the machines, or working up a new bullet design. In final shaping of these beautifully-polished, precision mechanisms, ordinary micrometer readings in thousandths are too crude—the scale reads out to ten-thousandths for routine work.

Rotary finishing press shapes lead wire cores into jackets automatically at high speed and then spits out bullets.



Bullet jacket begins as disk stamped from copper alloy strip by big press in Sierra factory in Whittier, Calif.

Automatic press is fed lead wire from big revolving spool (left) to make bullet cases. Finished bullets fall into pail.





Micrometer measures slug diameter in frequent inspection checks during production to insure accuracy of bullet.



Final inspection with magnifying glass is made of each bullet on moving belt just before packaging for shipment.

"We spend a good deal of time discussing the problems in bullet design," says Harbour. "All the intricate ballistics involved in rifling twist, powder charge, bullet shapes and velocities must be considered."

"Certain conditions are fixed by the twist of the rifling and size of the cartridge case. The spin given the bullet by the twist of the rifling in the barrel is known as rotational velocity. This speed causes the bullet to act as a gyro, to keep on its course.

"The rotational velocity that can be imparted to a certain bullet is the factor that actually determines the overall length of the bullet. There is not any perfect formula to determine the maximum length, but through experimenting in different calibers and rifling twists, we have set up a formula with reasonable accuracy. This length determination in turn fixes other factors, the weight of projectile and shape of nose.

"The longer and sharper the nose, or ogive, the more efficient the ballistics of the bullet. The bearing surface or rear portion of the bullet has to be long enough to hold in the neck of the cartridge case and enter the barrel straight. This is another limiting factor in the length of the point which may be used. Some of the famous match bullets of a few years ago, the .280 Ross and the .256 Newton, had very long bullets which retained velocity and accuracy at long ranges.

"Other factors are weight of bullet, its construction, the type of material, thickness of jacket and proportions of amount of jacket material and lead. The greater the amount of lead, the heavier the bullet. Weight in bullets is linked to inertia, that property of a missile in motion to stay in motion unless acted on by an external force. Wind resistance is the 'external force' in the case of bullets, but a long, thin bullet which is heavy—what we call 'high sectional density'—has greater inertia with less area for the wind to buck against. Such a bullet will hold velocity better at longer ranges, than a short, heavy, but large-diameter bullet. And of course high velocity at long ranges means flat shooting and less sight adjustment to make hits and sure kills. For the target shooter higher velocity at the target means greater accuracy, since the time of flight is less from muzzle to target."

All three men were gathered around a drafting table in the Sierra factory office. Unrolled before them was a large blueprint of the newest Sierra bullet, 180-grain "Match King" boattail. It is a full-jacketed projectile, spitzer nose for good windbucking and with a tapered base. Picking up one of the long shiny bullets, Frank Snow laid it down on the outline of the blueprint, many times its size, and pointed to the lines of the boattail.

"Its nine-degree boattail has long been recognized as a superior design in .30-caliber bullets. The old .30 M1 Springfield cartridge used during the 1920's and 30's had such a bullet. But none are now made because military demand for them does not exist. It is a superior design for long-range shooting, whether hunting or target work. The bullet shape changes the characteristics of the air flow, causing it to have less drag at the base. This reduces the time of flight and permits the bullet to move at higher velocities.

"For example, the .30-06 boattail bullet requires five minutes less elevation at 1,000 yards than the conventional flat-based bullet. The flat base slug weighs only 150 grains, and theoretically should go at a faster speed. This it does in some loads at first, but the 180-grain boattail is so su-



Each bucket of Sierra bullets, tagged by caliber and type, weighs about 170 pounds and holds about 8,000 missiles. Lead-point hunting slugs may become damaged through handling in plant, so visual inspection follows to cull out imperfect ones.



One-shot kills with Sierra bullets reveal hunting slug controlled expansion due to jacket thickness design. The 117-grain .257 boattail (left) took a 280-pound mule deer at 175 yards. The 130-grain .270 (center) got 250-pound mountain sheep at 300 yards. The 180-grain .30 boattail (right) folded up perfectly deeply penetrating hind quarter of deer.

perior for wind-bucking and holding its velocity because of greater weight and better streamlined shape."

On the drafting table were 36 bullets, one for each of the types which Sierra makes. For many years the most accurate target bullets were full jacket kinds. While many soft-nose bullets were made for hunting, the exposed soft lead points were not capable of the pin-point accuracy demanded by precision shooters. They would become battered in handling, and in feeding through the magazine. Even factory-loaded softpoints may be battered when removed from the ammo package. But where the Sierra men reached a goal of target shooters and hunters alike was in their development of a nearly one-purpose bullet. The same spitzer lead-point pellet which has been capable of world record groups, has also been used successfully by big game hunters throughout the world.

Gun-maker Roy Weatherby on a recent safari to Africa used the 180-grain Sierra softpoint boattail in his .300 Magnum rifle. He killed an African rhino stone dead with one shot in the head. Only extremely high velocity, plus a bullet designed for proper mushrooming, could make such a kill possible. At the other end of the Sierra line, the .220 Swift bullet used by John Harness of Selma, California, accounted for 19 head of American antelope. Most were one-shot kills.

The versatility of the Sierra bullets, from .22 to 8mm caliber, in many different weights, permits almost unlimited combinations of velocity, energy, (Continued on page 54)



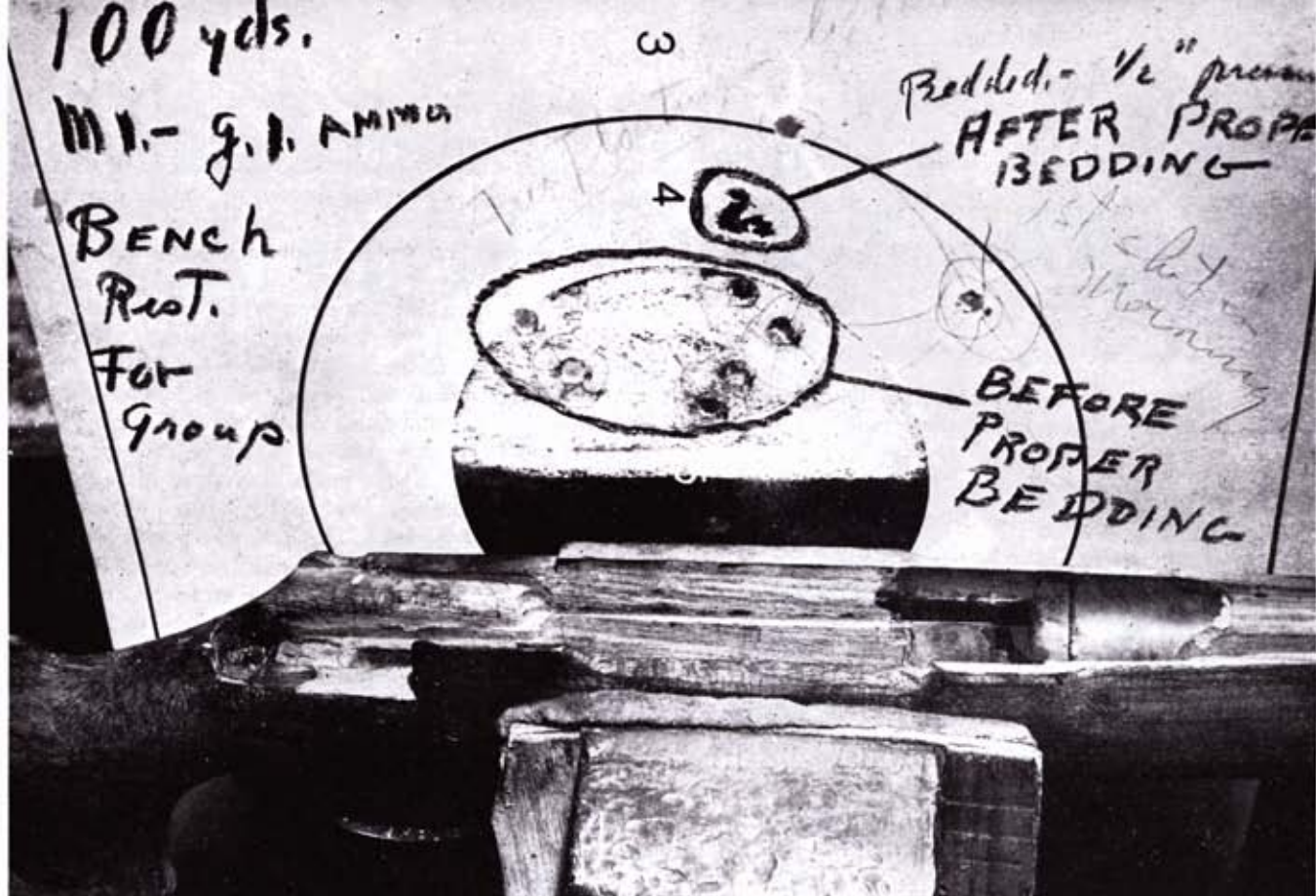
Examining world record target shot with Sierra bullets are partners Loran Harbour, Frank Snow and Jim Spivey.

HOW TO BED A RIFLE STOCK

PROPER STOCK BEDDING CONTRIBUTES AS MUCH TO RIFLE ACCURACY AS ANY OTHER PART OF GUN DESIGN BUT INLETTING MUST BE CAREFULLY PERFORMED

Fine rifles such as Enfield (top) as well as Springfield, Jap and shotguns may be nicely finished outside but stocks must be properly bedded and action and barrel tied down with right pressure in order to shoot or pattern accurately.





How bedding can affect accuracy is shown by groups fired before and after correctly setting barreled action into stock. Glass bedding, leaving smooth area at front of receiver and breech of barrel, achieve accuracy without tedious fitting.

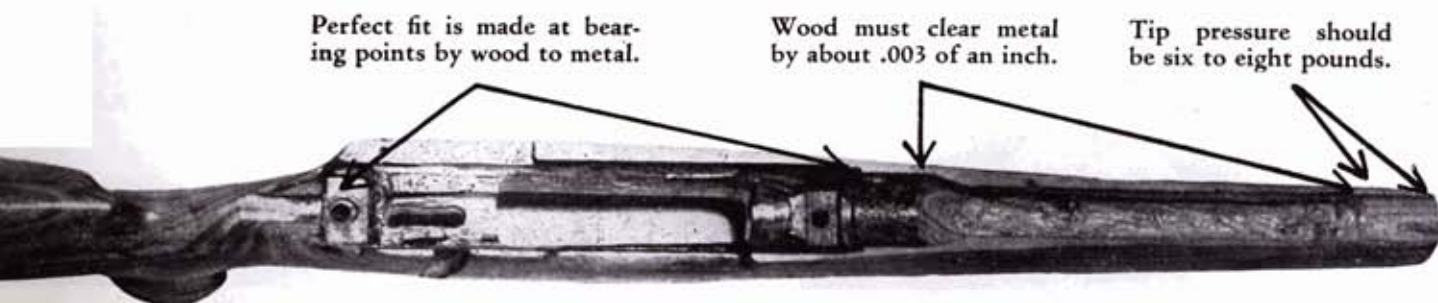
By JOHN M. ASHCRAFT

FITTING A RIFLE STOCK is a precise operation. The outside of the stock may be finished as smooth as a baby's cheek, but if the wood-to-metal bedding at critical points inside isn't just right, the rifle won't shoot into a bushel basket at ten feet.

Anyone with a fair knowledge of wood working can properly bed a gun in a semi-inletted stock. The semi-inletted blank is finished to within about $\frac{1}{8}$ " of final contours, but left with a lot of extra wood inside. Magazine well and receiver inletting are nearly complete on most stocks, but the barrel groove is usually a narrow cut and the guard plate has to be dropped in as well. Such stock makers as W. C. McAlister of Big Bear Lake, California, E. C. Bishop of Warsaw, Missouri, and Herter's of Waseca, Minn., are a few of the specialty firms offering semi-inletted stocks to gun enthusiasts for home finishing.

Material used is very important. The stock wood must be hard and very dense both for strength and stability. A stock is machined to very close tolerances and must not shrink along the mechanism as time passes. Kiln-dried wood with not more than 7 per cent moisture content seems about the best available these days.

Only a few kinds of wood meet all the requirements for gun stocks. There are many woods that are strong, dense and beautiful, but they are too heavy. Iron wood, ash and hickory are good examples of wood too heavy for stocks. Mesquite, Claro walnut, Oregon red maple, black walnut, and English walnut are the best woods for stocks. Claro walnut is a western wood found in the San Joaquin Valley in California, and mesquite for gun stocks comes from the Death Valley area of California. Most gun stock suppliers will turn these woods as well as common black walnut to



Three key points of inletting are where stock and metal make contact.



Enfield action which has been painted with lampblack is guided while inletting by headless tang work screw.



Tapping action tang with maul will mark wood where the lampblack touches, indicating contact spots to cut out.



Rotary sander on flexible power cable can be used for rough-inletting barrel groove by routing between lines.



Bubble level is used to check stock edge and recoil block inside. Edges should be flat and perfectly horizontal.

the standard "semi-inletted" form for Enfield, Mauser, Springfield, Krag, Jap and a few other popular rifles.

Inletting an Enfield is not a difficult process. The screw holes for guard screws are bored by the factory in a special jig. This relieves the stockmaking hobbyist of the job of locating these holes which serve as guides for inletting.

First tool for inletting is a paint brush with a mixture of lamp-black and oil. The Prussian blue which machinists use is also practical. By smearing the color on the bottom of the Enfield action and barrel, the points of contact where wood and metal touch can be spotted. Since there is too much wood, this must be cut away. The aim is to remove the wood until the metal is dropped in just right. Where barrel and stock meet at the edges of the barrel groove, the wood should be close. Stockers with plenty of experience claim the contact should be so snug that a cigarette paper cannot be slipped between barrel and wood. The late Alvin Linden, one of the finest gunstockers who ever lived, colorfully explained that the contact should be as snug "as a bull's rear in fly time." A lot of the appeal and craftsmanlike finish to any inletting job lies with this detail—do not slight it.

There are three critical contact spots in the inletting. On the correct metal-to-wood contact depends the consistent accuracy of the gun. There are no inaccurate cartridges; there are just inaccurate rifles. Sloppy bedding at the rear and front of the receiver, and at the fore-end tip, will cause a rifle to shoot all over the lot. But if the receiver is brought snugly down *(Continued on page 73)*

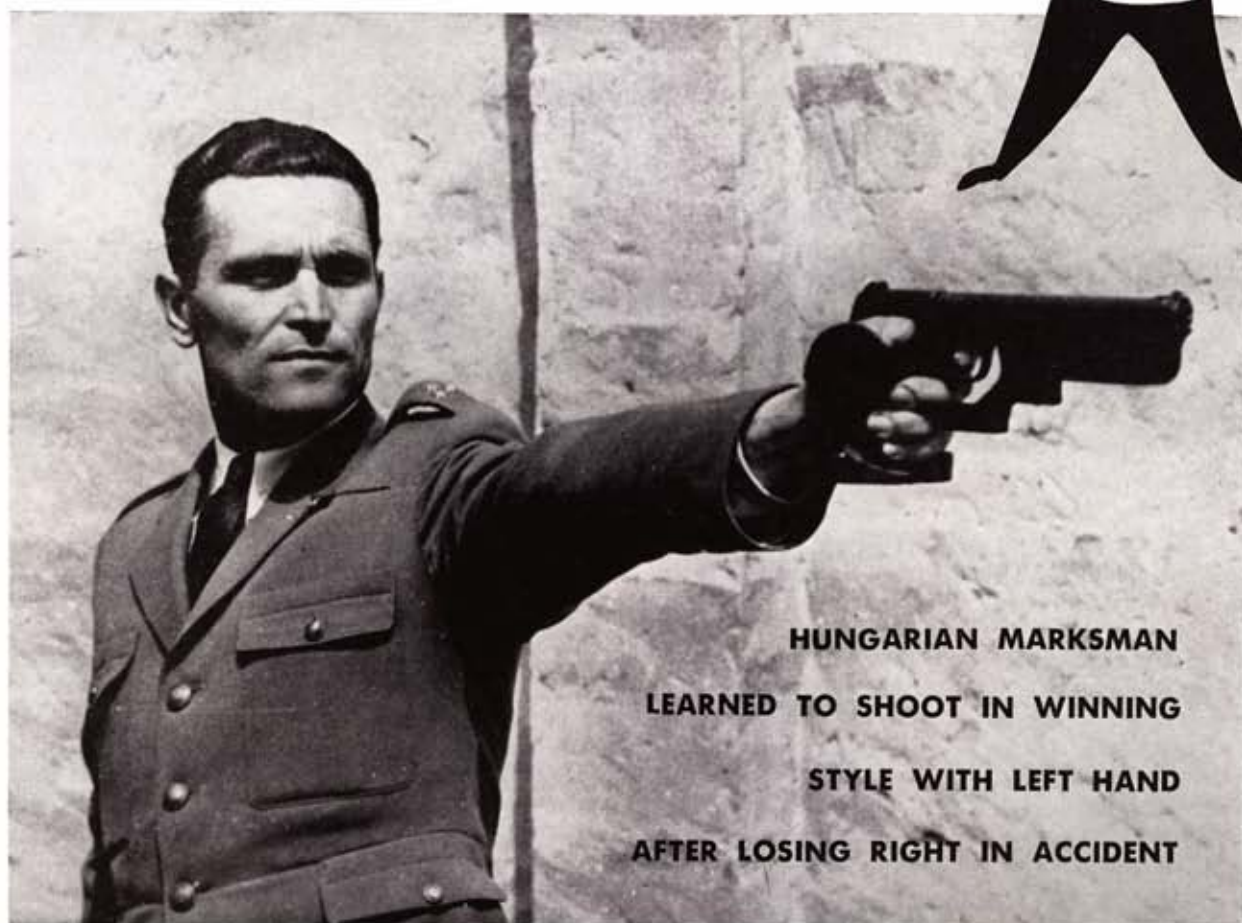


Template cut to diameter of barrel can be used to gauge depth of metal. Stock should almost come halfway.



Allen screws are used in drawing guard plate snugly into stock. Screws are quickly removed and heads will not burr.

OLYMPIC CHAMP WITH EITHER HAND



**HUNGARIAN MARKSMAN
LEARNED TO SHOOT IN WINNING
STYLE WITH LEFT HAND
AFTER LOSING RIGHT IN ACCIDENT**

Karoly Takacs' firm hold on Walther Olympia-Pistole .22 is aided by custom grips made to fit left hand.

By ROBERT LUCAS

THE MAN the entire U.S. Olympic pistol team will be gunning for in Melbourne, Australia, this November is a hawk-eyed Hungarian who is the hero of one of the truly dramatic comeback stories in sports history. His name is Karoly Takacs, winner of the rapid-fire pistol event twice in succession—in London in 1948 and again in Helsinki in 1952. He will be aiming for his third straight gold medal in the 1956 Olympics.

Whether or not he makes it, Takacs long ago gave convincing proof that he was of championship calibre by stubbornly refusing to be defeated by a tragedy that almost ended his brilliant career in international sports before it began.

Takacs lost his right arm, his shooting arm, at the height of his career and he had to learn to shoot all over again with his left arm.



Smiling Karoly Takacs holding his first place medal in artificial hand is flanked by second place shooter, Szilard Kun, his 17-year-old protege. Roumanian marksman George Lichiardopol took third in the five-place rapid-fire pistol course.

A native of Budapest, Takacs showed an unusual interest in guns even at an early age. Young Karoly played for hours with his toy soldiers and guns, and it was only natural when he grew older that he should choose a military career. Takacs set about to master the art of shooting with the same single-minded determination that was eventually to make him a champion. He soon became an expert with the military rifle and rose to the rank of sergeant.

As a non-commissioned officer in the old Hungarian army, however, Takacs was given little encouragement to pursue his major interest. Still, he practiced whenever he got the chance and by 1939 he was regarded as one of the best marksmen in Hungary. Somewhere along the line he developed a special interest in pistols and his ability with small arms soon surpassed his skill with the rifle. His goal then was to shoot in the Olympic Games the following year.

But the outbreak of World War II thwarted the young non-com's ambition. The 1940 Olympiad was cancelled and the great quadrennial sports event was postponed for the duration. Sergeant Takacs was made an instructor and assigned to teach the rudiments of pistol shooting to recruits. His wartime duties enabled him to practice daily and he sharpened his technique by engaging fellow soldiers in contests. Eagerly he looked forward to the war's end and a chance to shoot in international matches. Although

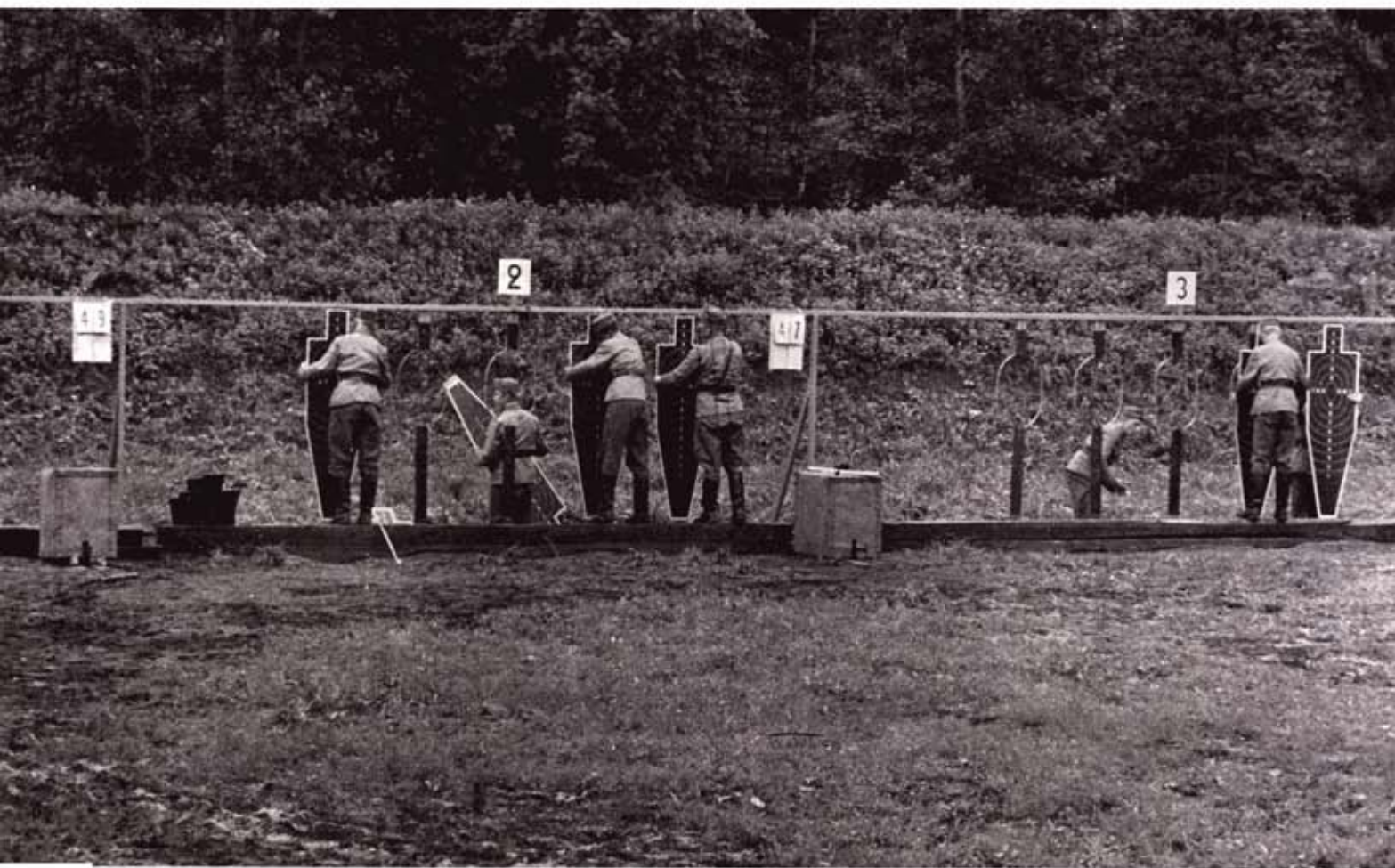
Hungary was a belligerent, she was to be given an opportunity to participate in the games scheduled to be held in London.

Then, a cruel twist of fate crushed the fondest dream of the young marksman. Like many another soldier, Takacs became a war casualty—but not on the battlefield. A grenade blew up in his hand, and when he awoke in the hospital he learned that his mangled right hand had been amputated. To a man who had won fame and an enviable reputation by the skill of his gun hand, this discovery was a fate worse than death.

The mental anguish he suffered during the weeks he lay in the hospital can only be imagined, and after his recovery Takacs dropped completely out of sight. It was almost as if he were trying to hide from prying eyes. He seemed to be engaged in some mysterious project and even his friends could not understand his strange actions.

Months later, the whole world learned the secret at the Olympic Games in London. Takacs stood on the winner's stand to receive his gold medal after scoring a remarkable 580 in the rapid-fire pistol event—shooting with his *left hand*.

Takacs' triumph over his physical handicap is all the more remarkable considering his volatile personality and a supply of nervous energy that seems uncontrollable. The months of painstaking practice with his left hand to regain



Rapid fire targets for Olympic shooting are silhouettes marked in oval scoring rings. Finnish soldiers at 1952 Olympics where Takacs shot change targets on carriers which flip sideways to end firing when time is up for competitor.

his shooting skill was a task that called for almost super-human will power and self control. Karl T. Frederick, captain and manager of the U.S. team, remembers Takacs as "an excitable, nervous fellow who jumps around a lot. As a matter of fact you have to keep an eye on him when he's up there on the firing line."

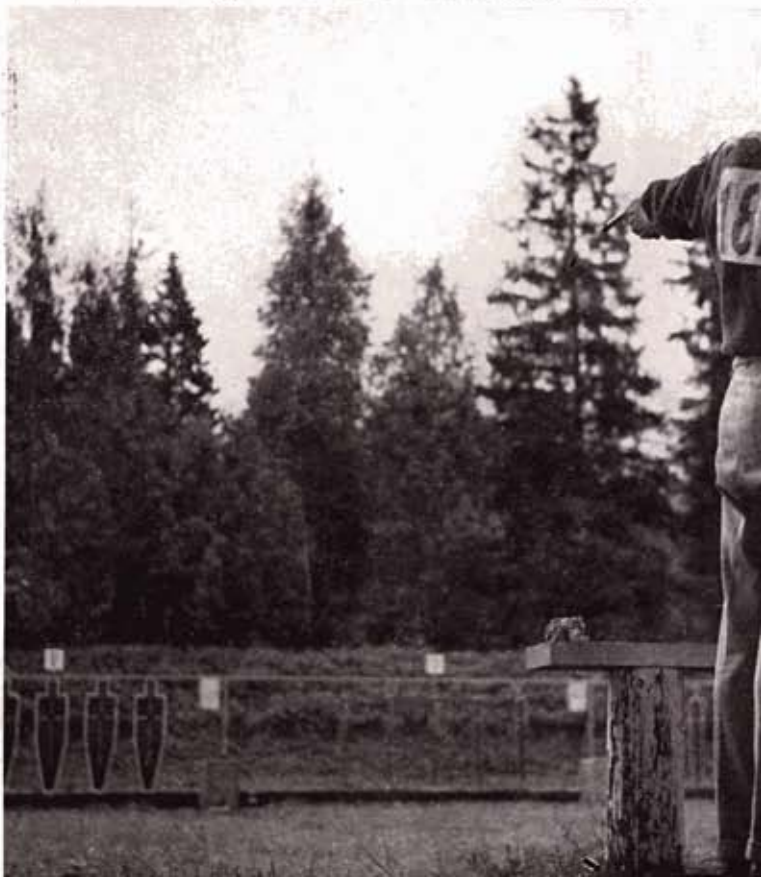
A New York attorney, who won the free-pistol match in the 1920 Olympics, Frederick concedes, "Takacs is a whiz on rapid-fire, and the man is certainly full of confidence."

Confidence is without a doubt one of the square-jawed champion's strong points. After the London match when he was interviewed by a correspondent of the Hungarian Radio, Takacs laid aside his still-smoking pistol and pulled a piece of paper from his pocket. It was a victory statement he had prepared in advance.

Then, four years later in Helsinki, our own W. W. McMillan scored a high of 290 for the first day and Takacs stood fifth. Even some of his teammates expressed the opinion that the Hungarian ace did not dare write a victory statement beforehand this time. But on the second day of the match, Takacs shot well enough to rack up a winning 579 and once again pulled out his prepared statement.

His talents have not gone unrewarded. Not only has he a case full of prizes and medals, (Continued on page 67)

Takacs will shoot left-handed in Melbourne Olympics at rapid fire targets like these on 25-meter range.



HOW GOOD ARE SHOTGUNS FOR BIG GAME

AMERICA'S BIGGEST "BIG GAME RIFLE" WHICH PACKS
PUNCH AND RESPECT ON BOTH ENDS IS FARMER'S
EVERYDAY SHOTGUN LOADED WITH LETHAL SLUGS

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS



Heavy lead slugs fired from shotguns through brush cut mesquite with little or no deflection at target.



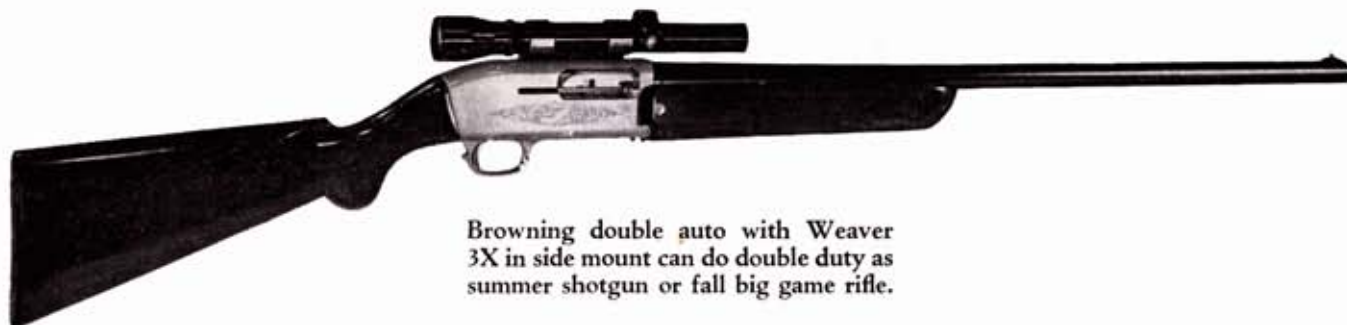
Shot group at 100 yards from Weaver-scoped M37 Ithaca was under 15" and proved shotgun's value for big game.



Slugs are sold in 12, 16, and 20 gauges in most makes like these high-base Federal loads. Rifle grooves are swaged on surface, are claimed to make ball spin in air.



Thin skirts of slugs are dented in factory handling, and often distortion will contribute to smoothbore inaccuracy. Most slugs are undersized, a "rattling fit" in barrels.



Browning double auto with Weaver 3X in side mount can do double duty as summer shotgun or fall big game rifle.

THE 12 GAUGE slug load packs enough oomph to upend the Abominable Snowman of Mr. Everest. At 40 yards it splinters more than a dozen well-seasoned $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pine slabs and whistles on. But at thrice 40 steps you would have to cross a whitetail buck with one of Nehru's holy cows to foal a target big enough to catch the erratic lead.

The load is put together for shotguns from .410 to 12. and an ever-increasing fraternity are compelled by state law to quest for the annual venison with the squaw gun charged with the conical ball. The absence of bitching on the part of the slug-shooting clan indicates the single ball gives small cause for complaint.

But just how efficient is it?

The average shotgunner knows about as much of the performance of the slug as he does about the interior ballistics of the 280 atomic cannon.

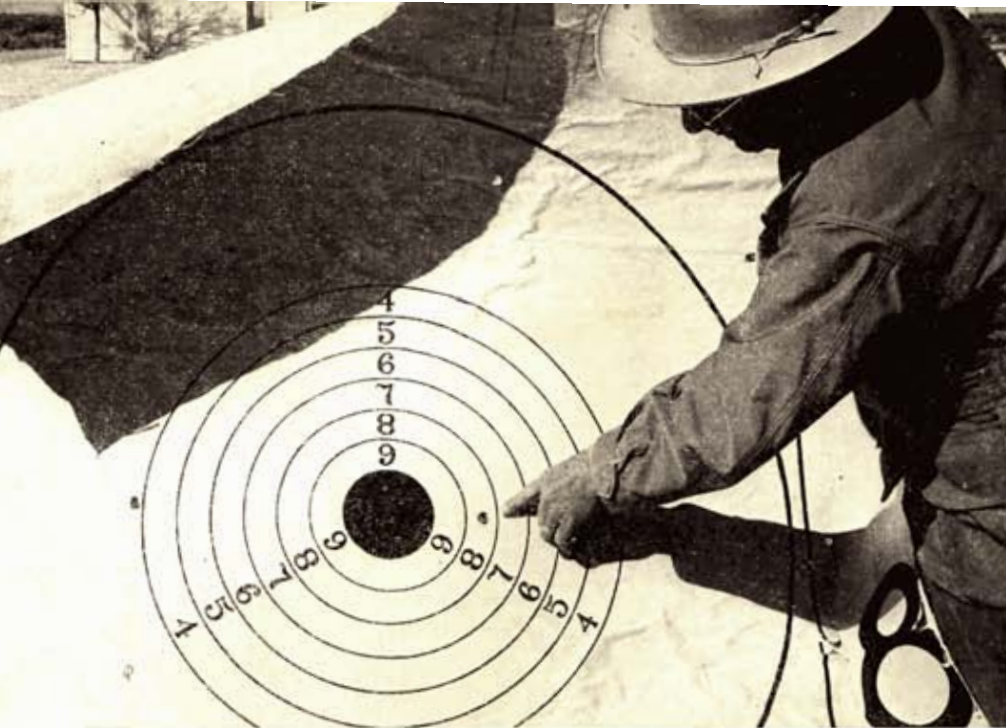
To establish some sound facts on the single ball missiles, I fired the 20, 16 and 12 gauges and tested all chokes to determine which seemed to digest the leaden pills best. I wanted to find out what barrel lengths were best and what were optimum ranges and maximum distances. I sought to find out if modern scatterguns are properly

stocked to effectively handle the slug and to learn all other related facts about rifle slugs in smoothbores.

I commenced by firing the various gauges and shot each in improved cylinder, modified and full chokes. Barrel lengths ranged from 26 to 30 inches. I experimented with side-by-side doubles, over/unders, slide action repeaters and autoloaders. Practically all the firing was from a bench rest. I commenced shooting at 25 yards and eventually worked back to 300. Most of the target punching, however, was limited to 25, 40, 50, 75 and 100 yards.

Before we get up to our hocks in the actual powder-burning, suppose we take a quick look-see at the slug. Since the 12 is the best, we'll examine it first. Trot out the kitchen knife and let us dissect the victim.

To begin with, the bullet is commonest lead. It isn't alloyed with anything. As a matter of fact it is so soft that an hombre with a real big mad on can chew on one of these one ounce slugs like it is so much Wrigley's Juicy Fruit. The ball is made not by casting the molten metal in a mould but by swaging in the cold state under great pressure. I like the system; it produces a finished bullet that is full size, proper diameter and weight.



Slugs with thin skirts and heavy noses continued to fly point-on even up to 300 yards. Author Askins checked targets after firing but could see no evidence of tipping. At ranges beyond 100 yards, slug accuracy was not reliable.



Double Auto group at 75 yards was good but threw typical slug flyers, author Askins found in examining target.

Variations between 25 bullets that I weighed showed an extreme of only 7 grains. This small difference in no wise affects the accuracy. Diameters, likewise, ran surprisingly similar. Of 25 samples which I miked, the smallest ran .676-inch and the fattest, .681-inch, the average was a neat .678. The bore of the 12, another strictly relative thing, has an average dimension of .729-inch; when full-choked at the muzzle this dimension shrinks to .690-inch. It may be readily appreciated from the above that the 12 gauge ball is a rattling good fit.

Scarcely any two of the bullets possess the same overall length. The average head-to-tail reading is .722-inch. Between the shortest and the longest slugs of two

dozen measured there was a difference of .044-inch.

The nose is flat like the business end of an English pit bull and behind this exceedingly blunt point is an ogive as ballistically well contoured as an old fashioned bathtub. Elsa Maxwell, if you could launch the old sister at supersonic velocities, would have about the same flight characteristics as this shotgun slug. Be that as it may, the hunk of lead gets down the range.

Behind the ogive, which constitutes approximately one-third the length of the missile, is the body proper. This main portion is serrated with 14 lands and just as many grooves. These ornamentations have an abrupt right-hand twist, a depth which on a guess I'd say was .006" to .008",

All shooting beyond 40 yards was done from rest to give smoothbore guns every chance to make good groups on targets.





Every type of shotgun was checked out by Askins in exhaustive study of slug's performance in smoothbores. Pumps, automatics, scope sights and adjustable iron sights were tested to determine practical accuracy of shotgun bullets.

and lands and grooves are of similar width. About the base of the slug is a leaden belt which is no wise increases the diameter but does do a most effective job of closing the groove channels at the tail of the missile. No one has said so but it is obvious that the flutes are supposed to impart a spinning motion to the slug through the passage of air along the grooves. The aforementioned lead belting about the hip-pocket extremity denies this.

Actually the shotgun slug develops about the same rotational speed as that of a fat gal caught in a revolving door. The lands and grooves hacked out of the soft flanks are strictly eyewash. The spinning motion is precisely nil—but there are more ways than one to skin the feline as we shall shortly see.

The base of the conical missile is hollow. This cavity is sizeable; it extends for three-quarters the length of the ball. This arrangement of the mass produces a thin side wall at the base but as the cavity ranges (*Continued on page 47*)



Williams iron sight mounted on shotgun will improve weapon's accuracy when shooting slugs at big game.

SLUG LOAD BALLISTICS

| Gauge | Range (yds) | Velocity (fps) | Energy (ft. lbs.) | Mid-range Trajectory |
|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| *410 ga | 0 | 1470 | 460 ft lb | — |
| | 50 | 1180 | 295 | .5-inch |
| | 100 | 1030 | 225 | 3. inches |
| | 200 | 855 | 155 | 16. inches |
| 20 ga | 0 | 1410 | 1245 | — |
| | 50 | 1213 | 923 | .5-inch |
| | 100 | 1071 | 718 | 3. inches |
| | 200 | 910 | 520 | 15. inches |
| 16 ga | 0 | 1436 | 1600 | — |
| | 50 | 1243 | 1205 | .5-inch |
| | 100 | 1100 | 940 | 2.5 inches |
| | 200 | 940 | 690 | 14.5 inches |
| 12 ga | 0 | 1470 | 1995 | — |
| | 50 | 1269 | 1485 | .5-inch |
| | 100 | 1120 | 1165 | 2.5 inches |
| | 200 | 950 | 830 | 14. inches |

* Worthless for deer

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All that's needed is a vise and wrench to re-barrel your Mauser, Springfield or Enfield military rifle into either of the most popular American calibers .270 or 30.06. Fully illustrated step-by-step instructions included with each kit.

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Barrel Alone, \$19.95 ppd.
Stock Alone, \$14.95 ppd.

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Illustrated "how-to-do-it" instructions

LUGER rear sights, adjustable, as used on long barrel and sporting models, issue, excellent, \$3.50.

MAUSER military pistol rear sights, also fits many small Mauser .22 rifles, excellent, as issued, \$2.85.

LYMAN #37 front sight, obsolete style, fits any standard slot, especially handsome on oct. barrels, \$1.25.

LYMAN #4 gold bead, unavailable for almost 20 years, note protected bead, dim. "A" either 3/4" (Std.) or 15/32". \$1.50.

REAR SIGHT for Quackenbush. Little Scout, etc. etc. .22 rifles. Elevator has V and peep ----- \$1.25.

SCHUETZEN TYPE front sight, fine screw windage adjustment, in white, no apertures at present. ----- \$3.50.

SILVER BLADE wide slot front site, suitable for muzzle loaders, old style sporting rifles etc. Beautifully milled, \$1.50.

SILVER BLADE front, original on Win. 73, 76, 80, 92 & 94's, Marlin 92, 93, 94, 95's, Colt rifles and many others, \$1.50.

COLT revolver rear sight, easily dovetailed into any revolver, set screw to lock windage, Dimension A 25/32" or 11/16" ----- \$1.00.

.45 BARRELS heavy tapered, ideal for muzzle loaders, custom made revolvers, miniature cannons etc. etc. New, \$5.35 plus 50¢ post. & handling.

Universal magazine springs, usable for Springfield, Enfield, etc. convertible to Japs, Mausers, Bolt Action shotgun magazines etc. New, packet of 10, SPECIAL ONLY \$1.95.

ADJUSTABLE CHOKE RECOIL REDUCER

Shooters! Gunsmiths! Dealers! A terrific value! Choke attachment worth \$17.95, complete and ready to silver-solder or braze in your own shop. 5 in. long, in white, complete—12, 16 or 20 ga. ----- \$4.95 PPD.

NEW WOOD FOR U. S. GARANDS

New stocks, ready to install, \$4.95, stripped of metal, new handguards, set of both complete with metal, \$2.50—Buy a matched set and save—all three pieces \$6.95 (Write wants for other Garand parts).

U. S. CARBINE STOCKS

brand new, complete with new recoil plate, butt plate, screws, front band spring, \$4.95. Same, less metal parts, \$3.95. (Very light color stocks, finish sanded but not stained—same prices.) Carbine Handguards, new, \$2.50 ppd. Write wants for other carbine parts.

.45 CALIBER PISTOL BARRELS

Brand new, straight lengths, 8 3/4" x 8", for extra long and/or fancy barrels. Supplied chambered for .45 auto or unchambered, state which . . . \$3.95 ea. — or 2 for \$6.50.

(Same barrel, smooth bore for shot etc., \$1.75 ea.)

Oddities or FEW IN STOCK ITEMS

Mdl. 11 Remington 12 ga. barrels, old model w/extension, 20" cyl. bore, new, \$9.95; German K & G—43 mags., 20 shot, our make, \$9.95. Colt .32 Pocket Positive cylinders, w/ejector, new, \$4.50. Fair sized lot of Hanel air rifle and pistol parts & Hubertus air pistol parts just received. Stocks for Win. '73. Winchester make, require extension of inletting for tang and new hole drilled, shotgun type butt as used on sporting models, new \$4.95.

Quackenbush .22 rifle breech blocks, new, \$2.00, firing pins, \$1.25, triggers, 75¢, air rifle mainsprings, \$1.75 (state dia. & length). New Remington Mdl. 51 slides, state if .32 or .380, \$4.90 (less than 1/3 of old price). Young America .22 hammers, \$1.25. S&W tip up (underbreak) .52 bolts & springs, blue or nickel, \$1.95. Reising .45 cal. model 50, 55, 60 mags., 20 shot, \$4.95. .22 cal. Sav. 1903, 00 pump mags, \$2.85. Colt .22 Lightning rifle extractors, \$2.25. Savage .22 Hornet 23D mags, \$1.50. Colt Lightning pistol hand, \$2.00.

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Super Rare—Just Discovered after many, many years of Storage—All Absolutely NEW. Only occasional slight outside bluish from years of shifting and storage. Can be converted for use on many other makes.

FOR MODEL 1893-36

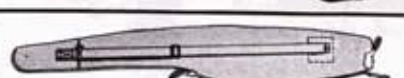
| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| .38-55 Caliber: | |
| 26" full octagonal | \$12.50 |
| 26" full oct. (Takedown) | 16.50 |
| 26" round Takedown | 12.50 |
| 30" round Carbine | 8.95 |
| 32-40 Caliber: | |
| 26" full octagonal | 12.50 |
| 26" half octagonal | 12.50 |
| 26" round Carbine | 8.95 |

FOR MODEL '02:

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| .32 Cal. Rim or C.F.I. | |
| 26" full octagonal | 9.95 |
| 24" round | 7.00 |
| 26" round | 7.50 |

LUGER DRUM

Luger drum magazines, rare item, 32 shot, "snail" is offset so as not to disturb gun's balance. Slightly used, \$8.95 ppd.



U. S. CARBINE HEAVY DUTY CANVAS CARRYING CASE. water repellent, strong rust resistant zipper leather re-inforced — double stitched adjustable. "Brand New" carrying sling. 35 1/2" long ----- \$2.95

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Brand new type using taper pin rather than solder. Sight is .605 I.D. and can therefore be reamed to any size over desired. Less than 1/2 price at \$2.95 ea. (If blade sight is desired, add \$1.25 and specify gold or ivory or model of gun).

U. S. CARBINE MAGAZINES.

NEW, 15 shot, NOT rejects, guaranteed to feed—in original wrappings. \$1.00 ea. 2—\$1.75, our special 5 shot magazines, bottom comes flush with housing giving streamlined appearance, required for hunting in most states, \$2.45. FREE with either magazine issue rubber waterproof cap.

GARAND RIFLE CONVERSION KIT

reduces to 5 shots, only way to make Garand fully legal for hunting in "Five Shot" states, (easily installed & removed). Set, complete with special follower & 2 five shot clips, \$3.95. Extra 5 shot clips, 95¢ ea. Standard 8 shot clips, \$2.00 per dozen.

CARBINE REAR SIGHTS

adjustable for windage & elevation, fits all U. S. Carbine, slides into receiver dovetail—2 minutes to install, as issued, \$1.85 ppd.

WANTED: GUN PARTS

all kinds, new or used, military or commercial, U.S. or foreign, send rough list or do as many do, ship off for offer—check airmailed day received—if not o.k. shipment returned prepaid immediately.

ALSO WANT . . .

JUNK RIFLES
PISTOLS
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SHOTGUNS FOR BIG GAME

(Continued from Page 45)

toward the nose, it pinches inward with an attendant preponderance of weight in the very bows. The center of mass is nudged way up forward and any tendency to tumble is delayed to very considerable distances (somewhere beyond 300 yards by actual test!) since ballistically the light stern end simply cannot forge ahead of the much heavier nose section. The slide rule wizard who whipped up this one was a plenty astute hombre.

As a result of the design, the slug does not need to spin on its axis, and for that matter it has not been subjected to any influences likely to induce rotational spin. The grooves are whittled into the slug solely for decorative purposes. Some brainy ammo manufacturer knew the shooters would be happier if they were led to believe the shotgun load spun like a rifle bullet. So he added 'em. The flutes do no harm to performance but so far as serving any useful purpose are strictly in a class with mammary glands on the human male.

Most 12 gauge slugs are not round at the base. Variation of .05-inch is an average. The mis-shapen butt ends are a result of rough handling during and after the bullet has been swaged into shape. The slugs are dumped, tossed and poured like so much popcorn. Target performance would be improved if additional precautions were taken during the various handling operations.

I attached a Weaver 4X scope, to an Ithaca 12, the Model 37 pump gun, and fired

five groups of five shots each at 40 yards. The gun is bored modified choke and sports a 28-inch tube. The average of these 5 groups ran $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches. The stint was repeated at 50 yards and the group size for the 25 shots (again five groups of five shots each) averaged $5\frac{1}{16}$ inches. At 75 yards the groups had grown to an average of $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Finally at 100 yards the average spread between widest shots was $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches. For acceptable lethality on a target the size of a Virginia whittail the slugs must fall into a pattern that has not more than 12 inches dispersion vertically and not over 14 inches laterally.

Holding to the notion that the slug, because of its non-spinning proclivity would soon tumble, I shot it at 150 yards, then 200 yards. Finding it was still ambling along nose foremost I dropped back to 250 and finally wound up at 300 yards. The bullet went through the paper nose foremost leaving evidence of remaining stable flight characteristics.

How much farther it will travel before it tumbles I do not know but I'd wager it will go to maximum ranges without keyholing. The hollow base simply cannot get ahead of that weighty nose until velocities have dropped to galloping speeds. At 300 yards, from a bench rest and utilizing the Weaver scope, the slugs cannot be kept on a target six feet high by four feet wide. Definitely the 12 gauge with the conical ball is not for woodchucking.

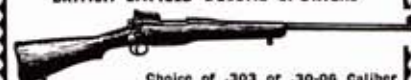
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The next shooting was with the new Browning 2-shot autoloader, known as the "Double Automatic." This weapon is a 12, bored improved cylinder, 28-inch barrel, and not graced by any manner of rear sight. At 40 yards the usual five-shot groups indicated an average of $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches; 50 yards $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches; 75 yards $12\frac{1}{8}$ inches; and at 100 yards $13\frac{1}{16}$ inches. At 100 yards it was significant that the groups printed an average of $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches above the point of aim and $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches to the right. With telescope or receiver sight this deviation could have been corrected.

A Browning Superposed (over/under) followed its stablemate, the Double Auto, into the lists. This barrel-above-barrel model is a duck gun, a 12, with 30-inch tubes, and is bored full choke in both pipes. The only sight is the tiny front bead perched atop the solid raised rib. At 25 yards I noted the under barrel planted 'em 4 inches above the point of aim and the over barrel did the same although it grouped an inch to the right as well as shooting a mite toward the moon. At 40 yards the under barrel ranged $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, the over tube $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches above point of aim. Group spreads tallied an average of $6\frac{1}{16}$ under and $7\frac{1}{16}$ over barrels.

At 75 yards (I did not fire at 50 yards with this number), the lower barrel printed 16 inches high and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches to starboard. Groups ran $15\frac{1}{16}$ inches. The upper tube threw the slugs 11 inches above the point of aim and like its twin required a small horse blanket to catch all of them. Group average was a full $20\frac{1}{16}$ inches. At 40 yards the

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upper barrel shot higher than the lower; at 75 yards this was reversed.

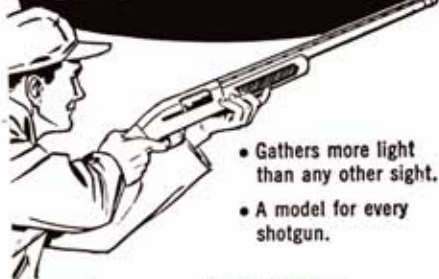
The over/under shotgun has the tubes regulated to place both patterns to a common center at 40 yards. When you work out to twice that distance, the axes of both bores have crossed causing the lower barrel to shoot higher than the upper.

At 100 yards the gun shot 24½ inches high and made a series of groups that measured 21¾ inches average. This from the under barrel; the upper grouped better, 16¼ inches, and 21 inches above the aiming center.

The over/under as indicated by this firing would not remain within our allowable dispersion zone at 75 yards and definitely was way over at 100. I did not shoot the weapon at 50 yards. I am sorry now I did not, but obviously its capabilities as a deer slayer are limited to distances within the 50-75 yard bracket.

Subsequent firing with a 16 gauge over/under and a 20 of the same type indicated that these guns are not as satisfactory for slug use as the single-tube pump repeater and/or autoloader. Both are limited to 60 yards or thereabouts. Accuracy is good at 50 yards but the 16 shot 16 inches high although the group was tight enough. The 20 did not shoot too high but beyond 50

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yards ran over our permissible 12" x 14" dispersion factor.

Likewise I exhaustively tested a 12 Ithaca side-by-side, bored improved cylinder in both 26-inch barrels. This venerable old piece (it is more than 40 years of age) grouped the slugs from the right barrel precisely 19 inches to the right of the group formed by the slugs popped off out of the port tube—and the distance was only 50 yards. A 16, another Ithaca, and of the same era and vintage as its brother, developed the same peculiarities. At 50 yards the elevation was well nigh perfect but the left barrel shot left and the right went over by the smokehouse, distance betwixt was 17 inches. You cannot be sure of killing winter meat with performance like that.

In summation leave the over/unders and side-by-sides at home when you decide to hunt buckskin with the conical round.

And while we are making with the do's and don'ts, the firing I did with a Model 12 pump gun, 20 gauge, equipped with a variable muzzle choke of the type which vents off the gas through an over-fatted center section, was very revealing. At 50 yards, the group—that is those portions that I could catch—printed 15 inches high. With regularity there would be a flier. I have not the least doubt that the slug made the jump from the end of the true barrel, moved through the ventilated portion of the muzzle device and hit the choke tube off center. This caused the fliers. Another gun with a variable choke more properly centered might not give indication of this failure to group.

I placed a target behind a dense clump of mesquite and shot at it. The 12 gauge ball proved it will mow down brush like the

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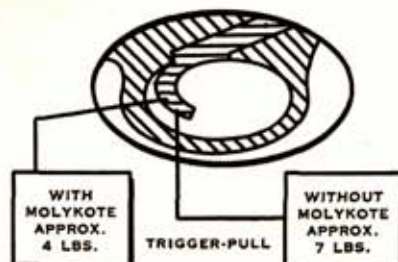
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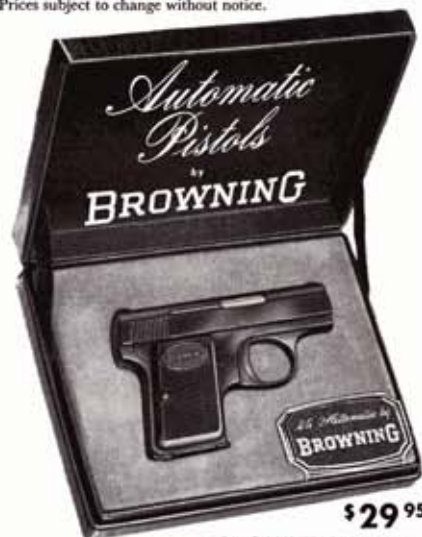
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Buckshot was used long before the slug came into the picture. There is more information floating around about what buckshot will or won't do than there are tales about the sex life of Calamity Jane. Sagas about dumping a fleeing mossy-horn at a full hundred steps are as common throughout the South as grits and hawg jowl. Just how does buckshot stack up when compared to the conical ball?

Buck runs in several useable sizes; me, I prefer double or single 0. The 00 in 12 gauge runs 9 to the load; the single 0 contains an even dozen of the pellets. There are other and smaller sizes but for serious meat-taking I have little confidence in other than the two sizes enumerated.

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Double ought buck indicates a diameter of .34-inch, and has an average weight of 58 grains per pellet. Single 0 is a bit smaller; it has a diameter of .32-inch and weighs 49 grains each.

Many times deer have been killed with a single buckshot but these lucky shots cannot be depended upon. After all the marksman managed to place the one pellet in head, neck or heart quite by good fortune and not by any particular display of skill. What we must depend upon is placing not less than three of the spherical leads into the game. A moment's consideration will indicate why three buckshot are the allowable minimum. The 00 buck has a per pellet weight of 58 grains; three together total but 174 grains. This is none too much metal especially when

we realize that the buckshot starts at a moderate velocity, sheds this speed and as a consequence energy at a rapid rate, and finally possesses about the saddest imaginable shape for deep penetration.

I tried a 12 bored improved cylinder at all ranges from 50 to 100 yards with 0 buck. It was a rather hasty firing and results are not as conclusive as I'd like, nonetheless I give them here as an indication. The target was the outline of a deer, dimensions as close to the real article as the artist could make 'em. At 50 yards, 1st shot 3 pellets, 2nd shot 8 hits. At 60 yards, 1st shot 3 pellets, 2nd shot, 3. At 70 yards, hits 3 and 1. At 80 and 100 yards there were no pellets which nicked the unprotesting deer.

With a modified barrel I tried the same

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thing. At 50 yards I scored 3 hits with the first and 2 with the second shots; 3 and 5 hits at 60 yards; 1 hit and then 2 at 70; a clean sheet at 80 yards with both rounds. At 100 yards out of the 24 pellets hurled down range (each load contains 12 buckshot), a single ball struck the target.

Sticking with the same single ought buckshot load, I then switched to a full choke 12. Results were like this; 6 hits and then 4 at 50 yards; 4 hits and 3 at 60 yards; 1 hit and 0 for the two shots at 70 yards; and at 100 yards I hit the deer target with 3 pellets out of the two blasts unloosed.

This shooting was immediately followed by a stint with the larger buckshot, the 00, which as I have said runs 9 to the cartridge.

I again ran through the improved cylinder, modified and full choke borings and of course whanged away at all ranges from 50 to 100 yards. Results were very similar to my findings with the smaller pellets.

In summation what we find is that to place our required three buckshot in the deer we cannot fire beyond 60 yards, and it does not matter a hoot whether the shotgun is as open-muzzled as a B-flat clarinet or as tight as a Boston banker's heart.

On the other hand the conical slug load in any run-of-the-mill scattergun, in pump repeater or selfloading models, extends this range to a full 75 yards. And if equipped with a receiver sight or a telescope the range can be stretched to a full 100 yards. That I believe is the maximum. Even if the fowling piece was equipped with radar I doubt that the rattling hunk of lead could be corraled in the carcass of a beastie as small as a white-tail at much beyond the 100 paces. ●

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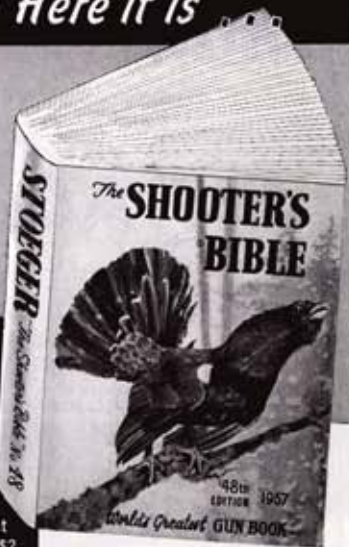
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(Continued from Page 35)

and caliber. The shooter with a .30-06 rifle can, for instance, load a little 125-grain bullet to 1250 feet per second, about the speed of the .22 Long Rifle, for small game. With the 150-grain softpoint he can step up velocity to 3,000 fps for an excellent, flat-trajectory big game load. And with modern powders the deadly 180-grain slug can be pushed along at 3,000 fps, for use in rifles such as the .300 Magnum. This is a bullet which has made one-shot kills on almost every species of big game, with the possible exception of African elephant and buffalo.

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Thus, the Sierra bullet jacket is of uniform thickness from the tail up to where the

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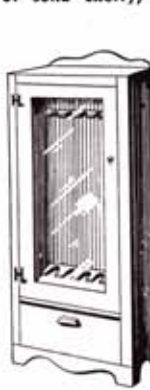
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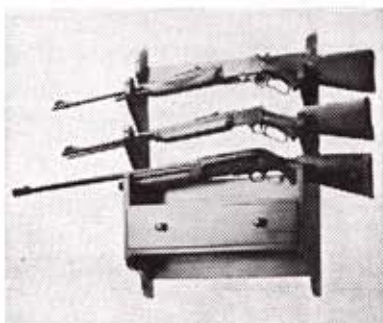
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forward portion starts to taper. Then it thins a few thousandths of an inch from that point almost to the jacket end, where it is slightly thickened at the end where the lead is exposed.

Indeed, the finished bullet with its simple curved shape gives no hint of the complex factors built into its design by the speedy, giant presses in the Sierra factory. These finishing presses completely mystify the observer by their speed, uncanny accuracy, and automatic operation. Each press is set up with dies and plungers for a single caliber. The lead core material, made in the form of round wire, feeds from a large spool mounted to the left of the machine. A cutter snips off each core slug to exact length. These feed down through a tube to the die mount. At the same instant, dropping through another tube and seeming to appear magically

from "nowhere," comes a tube-shaped bullet jacket. The jacket reaches the spot an instant before the core, which drops inside. The first plunger pushes the core into the jacket and, too fast for the eye to follow, the six successive plungers stamp the core and jacket solidly together and swedge the outside contour to final form.

The bullet is drawn to its spitzer, pointed shape. In the case of boat-tails or "taper heel" bullets, the base is compressed. The final operation is in a soft point type extruder and trims the lead point to exact length, with a tolerance of 1/1000th of an inch.

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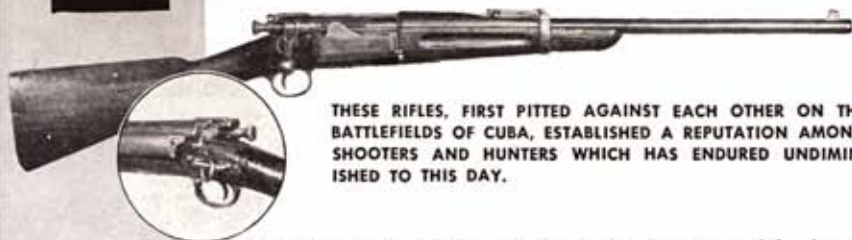
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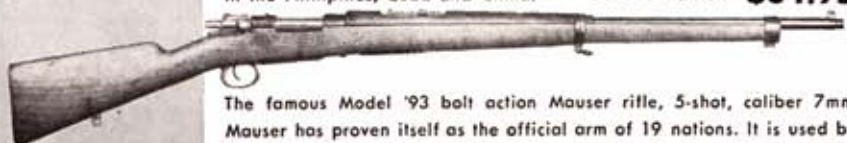
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WAS WYATT EARP HERO OR HEEL?

(Continued from Page 27)

cultural pattern. Conservative, honest and upright men both frequented and partook of the entertainment offered by such institutions. In Dodge, for example, the saloons and gambling rooms north of the tracks were "off limits" to the rough, lawless element, and Wyatt rigorously enforced the "Dead Line" so that the peaceful citizens could frequent and enjoy them. In his own ventures into the entertainment field the effect again was constructive. He demanded a "fair shake" for the customers—an honest dice, faro or monte game, an honest roulette wheel. He demanded and enforced order and peace.

While Wyatt didn't drink or smoke during this period, it was from personal choice, and he felt every man had his own right of choice. He gambled a bit and even dealt a smart game of monte or faro, but, he pointed out later, gambling was only a vice when carried to excess or when illegal. He was no saint, but he had no truck with the devil, either.

From the time he got his first gun at 16—a combination over-under muzzleloading .45 caliber rifle and shotgun—Earp learned and practiced what he, himself, called the code of the frontier. "Always give every man the full benefit of every possible doubt." He did just that even though his good friends "Bat" Masterson, Billy Tilghman, Hickok and even "Doc" Holliday argued that he was asking for trouble and would get it. Despite the warning he practiced the code to the end, and because of it he got into trouble in

Tombstone which a more ruthless man could have avoided or quickly terminated.

If ever a man had provocation to kill, Wyatt had it there when the Clanton gang tied up with the completely corrupt political organization of Johnny Behan. It cost the life of one of Wyatt's brothers and the permanent crippling of another. But Wyatt couldn't violate the code he lived by even then. All 6 feet, 155 pounds of him lived by it to the end of his days in 1929.

I like playing Wyatt for another reason. His life is a reflection of the West in its most interesting period. He made the great overland trek to the California gold fields—after the Civil War—an epic story of American history. He spent two weeks fishing with the old fur trader-mountain man, Jim Bridger, and what an experience that must have been! He was one of the really successful buffalo hunters—using a relatively lightweight, breech-loading shotgun loaded with a single 1½ ounce slug—and proved his business acumen at a trade that was characterized more by waste and inefficiency than by Yankee horse sense. It was here that Wyatt showed his ability to think, plan and execute a profit-making enterprise without falling in the familiar trap of over-extending himself. He was calculating but not cold-blooded. His guns were tools essential to his rugged business and, like any good mechanic, he both respected and protected the tools upon which his livelihood depended.

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Wyatt became a peace officer because of his principles, not because of money, excitement, or the power he could wield. He didn't need or have to take the job of marshal on the day he accepted the star in Wichita. He had \$7500 in cash in his pocket—a veritable fortune in those days. His motive was simple enough; Wyatt Earp believed that the basis of prosperity and progress was law and order. He said as much, and then, because others were unable or unwilling to face the lawless element, he deliberately made himself the target of every cold-blooded killer or drunken cowpoke who wanted to prove his contempt of law and order by hurrahing the town.

Being both the marshal as well as the reputed "fastest draw" on the frontier, some men sought him out only to challenge him so as to prove themselves able to whip the famed Marshal of Wichita and Dodge. The records prove his success. He tamed the professional killers as well as the hell-raising cattlemen from Texas. When he would leave town, hell would break loose, but let him return and the town was more peaceful than any eastern city in the same period!

Wyatt was something new in successful cowtown marshals. He was neither the professional killer, nor the compromising peace officer who tried to buy compliance by turning his back or favoring those he was afraid to buck. He differed from such successful marshals as Masterson, Tighman, Hickok, Basset and other professional peace officers in that he used his gun only as the last resort. And then, in 99 out of 100 instances, he used it to "buffalo" or "put a head" on the culprit instead of shooting him. Even in this extreme, Wyatt was different from his



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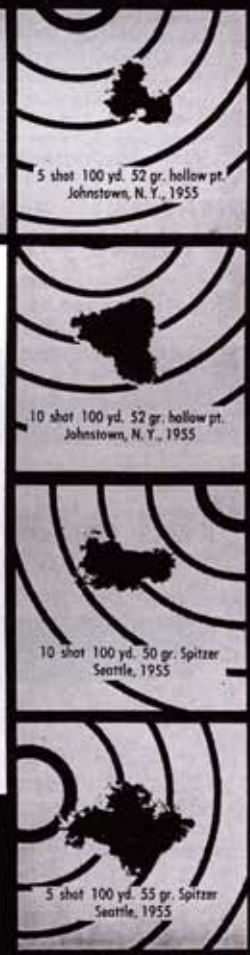
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counterparts. One sharp blow along the ear or temple usually put the offender out of commission; no brutal, savage, face-cutting pistol whipping for Wyatt!

In spite of this rational humaneness—as contrasted with instinctive killer reactions of other professional peace officers—Wyatt could and did use the business end of his six-shooters (including his 12" Buntline Special Colt .45). Even then, however, his record testifies not only to his marksmanship but to his deliberateness and complete control. With notable exceptions (such as that at the O. K. Corral in Tombstone), Wyatt never killed if he could wound his man and put him temporarily out of action.

Playing the role of Wyatt Earp is no simple matter of learning lines from a script and going through indicated action. There are too many "experts" who watch every detail and who will use even the long distance telephone to express an irate "How dare you . . . !" At times I think I know how Wyatt must have felt when the bullets were coming from every direction. As a result I've had to study everything I could about Wyatt and his times. I've tried to become an "expert" in drawing a Colt. I've been timed by several experts and according to the stop watch, I can do it in $\frac{2}{5}$ s of a second. Aside from this purely unimportant achievement, the most rewarding by-product of the Earp series has been learning to know the real man. He was a man any American could admire; more than that, he was a man to whom posterity owes a substantial debt. ©

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TOMMY GUNS

(Continued from Page 31)

six shots in 10 seconds offhand or standing.

Shooters are grouped into classes. There are bronze, silver and gold classes, and a veterans class for men over 55 years old. By qualifying for the regular gold badge three years in a row, the shooter earns a special bronze badge. When he wins for six years, he gets a silver badge, and when he shoots well for nine years, he gets a special gold badge.

Swedish tommy-gun shooters are often asked by friends in other lands: "What does the local police department say?" And the Swedes who own banks—what do they think of sub-machine guns in the hands of civilians, even shooters as carefully selected for skill and safety as the gun club members? These are natural questions, especially from the U.S., where isolated criminal uses of machine guns made them unpopular in the 1930's, and in Britain where the Irish rebellion with its threat of civil war caused such guns to be strictly outlawed.

To these questions the Swedish shooter has an answer. The local police chief is usually the head of the local shooting club, not by government order, but because he is an enthusiastic shooter. As to the gangsters, we do have some. But they are not the advanced type interested in sub-machine guns. Burglars prefer the crowbar or the lock pick, because these handy tools are more suited to their work than a bulky sub-machine gun. Those who hold up banks use toy cap pistols. While this sounds ridiculous, it is just good insurance by the criminals that they do not get too severe a penalty when caught. Swedish laws prescribe very severe penalties for "the lifting of dangerous arms" against another person. By using a toy pistol in a holdup, the criminals avoid that part of the law if they get caught. Bank people cannot tell a toy pistol from a real one anyway, so why bother to carry eight pounds of sub-machine gun?

Behind the wholesale issue of machine guns to civilians is an alert army organization. Because Sweden is a small nation, the military men recognize the need for the citizen to know how to shoot. The first civilian shooting clubs in Sweden date from the 1820's, and were known as "associations of hunters." The use of army-type small arms in competition became rather general about 100 years ago. Government arsenals began turning out special army rifles intended for shooting clubs.

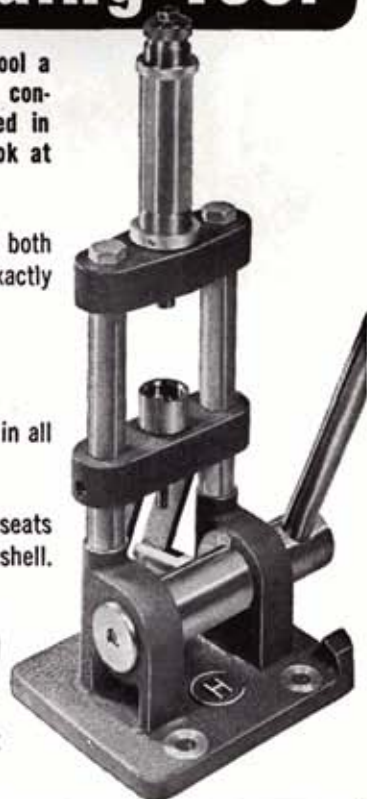
During the 1930's it became evident that a modern army wouldn't be modern without sub-machine guns and the first Swedish sub-machine gun was the Finnish Suomi of 1937. Made in Sweden and adapted for the 9mm Parabellum caliber, it was known as the "37/39." The 37/39 was produced in the first years of World War II at the government's Eskilstuna works and at the civilian Husqvarna factory. The men of Sweden felt that with these new guns they could successfully resist any attempt of Nazi Germany to extend their influence across the borders of captured Norway. Often when escaped Norwegians who had fled Gestapo bullets in their homeland recrossed the border at night to join Norwegian underground forces, brand new 37/39's hung across their chests as they poled their skis silently across the snow.

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Gradually there evolved the design for an all-Swedish gun, which came to be known as the "Kpist" or "Kulsprutepistol"—bullet-spraying pistol. This Swedish Model 1945 tommy gun cannot be traced to the work of any one man as a designer.

It was designed by officers and men of the ordnance department, the infantry shooting school, and various civilian factories which recognized the need for a mass-produced weapon with which to arm the whole country. It had to be cheap, one built on ordinary machines, and if need be, assembled in basements or other hideouts in case of war.

After the end of the war, the government said, "Let production of the M/45 go on, and let not only the soldiers of Sweden, but also the civilian shooters become familiar with it."

Since that day in 1945 the sub-machine shoots have become steadily more popular with Swedish marksmen. For \$25 the Swedish shooter can buy a match-grade sub-machine gun.

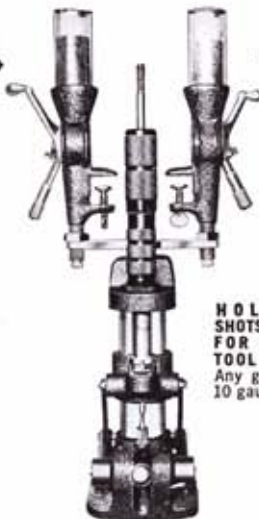
Kpist 45's which do not shoot within a certain standard of accuracy are returned to the factory for an overhaul. Regular service 9mm ammo in the Kpist at 55 yards from machine rest will group about 1" for ten shots. This is good shooting by any target shooter's standards.

For the target shooter, tommy-gun matches offer a challenge which is not one bit less exacting than pistol or rifle marksmanship, and a great deal more interesting. Swedish shooters find fun in this sort of game, and thousands of the club members will be firing the "kawpeest" in matches this year.

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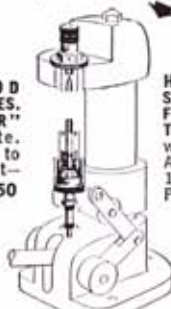
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TRAPSHOOTING

(Continued from Page 23)

or missed target. The stock must be the correct measurement; the barrel must be the right length; the comb must be a certain height; the heel must meet definite specifications. Too short, the stock can result in injury. Improper fit can readily produce a result similar to grasping a mule by the tail.

One shooter may prefer a Monte Carlo stock; another, a short pistol grip, while the third will select the old-fashioned straight stock. Each has his own particular preference which will give him or her a comfortable stance in which the gun, hands, arms, shoulders and head are joined together in a single unit, the perfect combination with which to shatter the elusive clay saucer.

Few people, even shooters, have any idea of the terrific pounding a trapgunner takes throughout the tournament. Assuming he or she participates in the entire program—and hundreds do—a total of 1700 targets will have been fired at. The recoil of each shell is said to be equal to a 26-pound weight being dropped one foot, 26 foot-pounds. Those who shoot all of the events will have absorbed a shock of 44,200 pounds. Ouch!

And speaking of weight, it is amazing the amount of it the shooters lug around. Last year the main events used up 1,750,000 shotgun shells. Another 199,500 were consumed in practice shooting. Those 1,949,500 shells were loaded with 2,193,200 ounces of shot pellets, or 137,075 pounds, just short of 70 tons. Add to the foregoing three drams of powder or almost six million of them, along with the weight of the paper and brass con-

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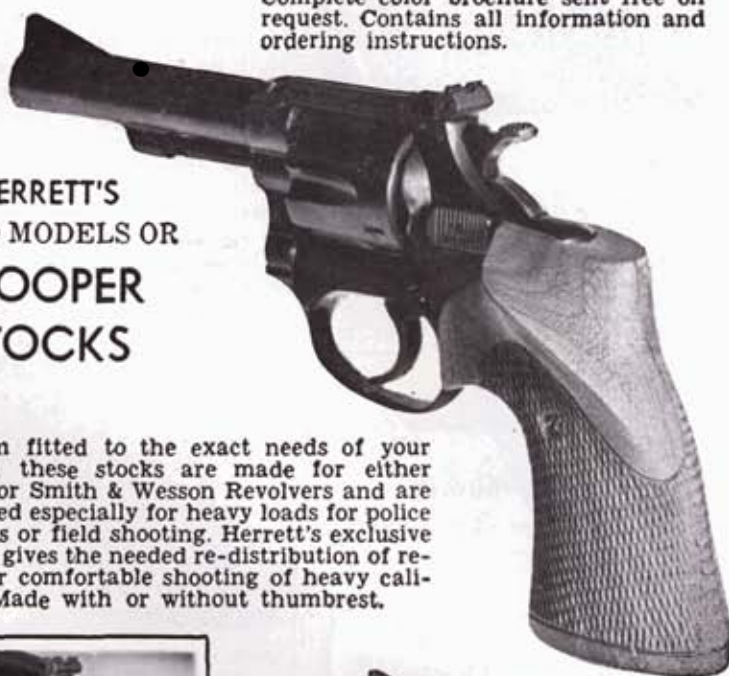
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tainer. Trapshooters—men, women and children—must have quite a lugging capacity along with the ability to absorb the shock of a kicking shotgun.

Three types of events have been adopted for competition. First are the singles, in which the targets are shot at from "scratch" position, or the 16-yard line. Then comes the handicap, in which the shooter is penalized according to his average and known ability, ranging from the 17-yard to the extreme penalty marker at the 27-yard line. Incidentally, for 55 years there was no change in this event, the 25-yard marker being the limit of handicapping. Last year, two additional yards were added. Shooters must be getting better. Last are doubles, fired from the 16-yard line, in which two targets are released simultaneously; one to the right, the other to the left.

All shooting in the three events is done from five positions in a semicircle, firing five shots at each station. The 25 shots are called an "event." At the 16-yard marker the competitors stand three feet apart. In handicap, shooters are moved backward from the

"scratch" location, gradually fanning away from each other as the extreme marker is reached at the 27-yard line.

The target for singles (or two in doubles) flashes from the traphouse at 16 yards from the shooter. A regulation clay bird travels about 50 yards per second when it makes its appearance. By the time the trigger is pulled the target has "flown" from 35 to 40 yards. Skilled trapshooters, however, usually shatter their targets at distances between 32 and 35 yards.

Trapshooting is one of the more ancient sports, compared with present-day recreations. It had its beginning around 1750 in England. The name came from the fact that in its earlier days live birds were imprisoned in traps and then fired upon when released at the call of the gunner.

The first attempt to put it on an organized basis in England occurred in 1810. First mention of shooting trapped birds in America goes back to 1831, at the Sportsmen's Club, Cincinnati, Ohio.

As conducted today, there is little difference in the procedure. The principal changes

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to its current popularity has been made in country is that "clay" targets have replaced the live birds. Keeping up with the change of the times, mechanical devices have been introduced to liberate the "birds," giving them artificial flight.

George Ligowsky of Cincinnati about 1870 invented the target which eventually developed into the clay disk used today, as well as the "trap" which puts the target "on wing."

Others soon added innovations. One, an Englishman named McClasky, came forth with a target made of pitch and sand which became known as a "blue rock." He is also credited with the introduction of a trap known as the "expert." Today, both names remain familiar terms in the glossary of the sport.

Greatest strides in bringing trapshooting to its current popularity have been made in the mechanical operations. When competitive events came into favor it required a "puller" to release the trap. There was another man in the traphouse to load the targets on the trap, a referee, and a scorer. Since 1951 the "Grand Americans" have been conducted with one person as "puller," referee and scorer. This decrease in the number of attendants is made possible by electric devices which set the trap and spring it.

Eventually, it is believed, even the boy in the traphouse, who places the target upon the trap-plate, will be eliminated. This is far from a dream, such a device having been in use for a number of years, but not on a scale such as that encountered at Vandalia.

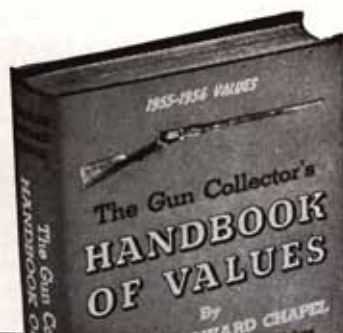
The tented city on the ATA grounds, which it acquired in 1924 as its permanent home,

is part of the colorful scene at Vandalia. In it will be found shooters and their families, comfortably provided for. Others use more elaborate trailers, with all the conveniences of home.

Not so many years ago shooters prepared their own meals in these temporary quarters, particularly breakfast, with the delightful aroma of frying bacon and eggs and boiling coffee being wafted about the grounds. Today, very few perform this task and only those in the trailers which have the facilities. It is much easier to drop into the ATA cafeteria which serves excellent meals at reasonable cost from early morning until late evening.

"Industry Row," another tent city feature, is where the visitor may have a gun repaired by the expert gunsmiths of the arms makers. Company representatives who are outstanding craftsmen in engraving, stock finishing and other gunsmithing are available. At one tent the visitor may be fitted with a pair of shooting glasses, at another, buy a shell case, choose a new gun stock, or have a recoil pad attached to soften the kick. At the headquarters of the various firearms concerns the shooter can get the feel of the newer models. The gun companies supply comfortable chairs in which shooters and their families may relax and watch the colorful crowd passing to and from the mile-long line of traps, await the loud speaker's call to the firing line, or hold a post mortem with fellow shooters on just how that "bird" was missed.

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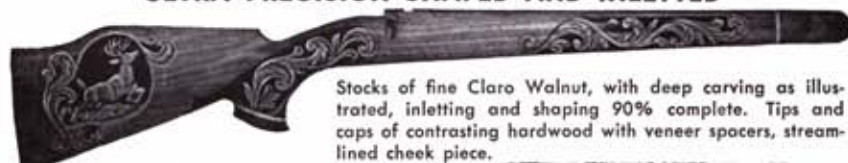
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OLYMPIC CHAMP

(Continued from Page 41)

but he was advanced to the rank of major in the Hungarian army. He practices fanatically, sometimes a thousand times a day and firing endless rounds of ammunition.

It appears that Takacs' mercurial nature is well-suited to the five-shot rapid-fire match as staged in the Olympics. The report of the U.S. Olympic Committee gives the following description of the 25-meter (27½ yds.) event: "Each contestant fired at a group consisting of five silhouettes, each conventionally representing a man. The first two strings of five shots were each fired within the time limit of eight seconds, the third and fourth strings of five shots were fired in six seconds each, and the fifth and sixth strings of five shots were fired in four seconds each. This course of 30 shots was then repeated, making a total of 60 shots for the match.

"A record was then taken of the number of targets hit, without regard to the position of the hit. All of those who made 60 hits were then ranked in order in accordance with the position of their shots on the target."

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Benner scored 553 to become the first American in 32 years to walk away with the free-pistol championship. But he was a split second late in getting off a shot in the rapid-fire match and as a result wound up in 34th place. Frederick, who will again captain the American team, regards Benner as one of the best in the world in both slow and rapid-fire shooting. Frederick places his hopes for a good showing in Melbourne on superior skill and precision rather than on "trick" guns and "gimmicks" added to conventional arms.

"So many fellows on the other side try to fix themselves up with gadgets and mechanical devices," he observes, "but there's a limit to how far you can go with hair-triggers, fancy grips, and sights painted half pink and half yellow."

Takacs shoots a German Walther "Olympia-Pistole" with the grip carved to fit his hand. The pistol is chambered for .22 short cartridges, which give less recoil than the .22 long rifle cartridge which most automatic pistols are chambered for. The gun is fitted with detachable weights under the barrel. This reduces the amount of jump the barrel makes after each shot, making it easier for the shooter to bring the muzzle down and to the right for his next shot at the next target.

Benner used a Colt Match Target Woodsman automatic and .22 long rifle cartridges. While the heavier ammunition is fine for the eight and six-second strings, it proved a handicap when snapping off five shots in four seconds. Nevertheless, Frederick is confident that the U.S. team, using American-made guns and ammunition, will give the Hungarians and Russians something to shoot at in November.

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in track and field. But our chances will undeniably be weakened by the problem cited back in 1948 by Major General Milton A. Reckord, chairman of the rifle shooting committee. He said then:

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"Small cash prizes are offered competitors in a few shooting tournaments in the United States, but these prizes do not in any way reimburse the winner for the expense he has entailed in attending the tournament, and could not by the greatest stretch of the imagination place him in the class of professionals. Our Olympic rules governing amateur eligibility should be open to an interpretation which would allow all our United States shooters except exhibition shots employed by the industry to compete for a place on future Olympic teams."

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To date—rightly or wrongly—the U.S. Olympic Committee stands pat on its definition of an amateur athlete. Meanwhile, Major Takacs is busy not only perfecting his own shooting, but giving expert instruction to Hungarians who will one day compete against us. After his win in 1948, for instance, Takacs took under his wing a 15-year-old youngster named Szilard Kun. Teacher and pupil finished one-two at Helsinki. Kun was then 17, the youngest competitor in the match.

After the double victory, Takacs said with typical bluntness, "Our joy was indescribable at this success. And our joy was enhanced by the knowledge that this victory would win many additional young people for target shooting."

His words were addressed to Hungarian youth, but Americans can certainly echo his call for more interest and wider participation in the sport of shooting. And even though Karoly Takacs may well prove to be our most dangerous opponent in the XVI Olympiad, his personal triumph over physical handicap transcends international rivalries.



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RUSSIA'S SECRET ALL-PURPOSE CARTRIDGE

(Continued from Page 19)

Tokarevs and the World War II German burp guns. A full and semi auto firing switch is mounted at the rear of the right side ejection port. Unlike the Walther MKb 42, the PPK-1954 bolt handle is a long, slightly curved hook on the right side of the bolt operating slide.

Finishing on one Avtomat was extremely good. It was well polished and had nicely-grained wood in the straight stock and the wooden forend. But the forend of wood and the "shoe box" design of the receiver give a clue to manufacturing conditions inside Russia. Despite their wide issue of cheaply stamped PPSH burp guns, they have not mastered the stamping techniques of mass production. The non-interchangeable PPSH guns and the smoothly-finished Avtomats tend to indicate that.

The Russians seem to lack the know-how to duplicate the stamped-metal Walther. Consequently the PPK-1954 is built with square sections and slab sides, instead of thin pressed metal with stiffening ribs like the German designs. But the guns are no less efficient for all that. And a cleaning rod supplied with every gun beneath the barrel is a good idea which other nations would do well to copy. It is easier to wipe out a barrel than it is to replace the barrel because of rust and neglect.

The Avtomat 54 is a remarkable weapon for general issue. The manual says the clip should be used as a monopod. In firing, this has disadvantages to the shooter accustomed to the U.S. prone position. The clip length and high sight line dictated by the straight stock make the rifle higher than a regular military rifle. The location of the clip monopod means that the shooter must rise up and expose himself in rapidly changing his aim at moving targets. Firing at 60 yards, such a weapon as the PPK-54 is interesting to operate but a little difficult at first. The monopod tends to spread the shots horizontally. A five-shot aimed group measured 1 1/2" vertically but nearly four inches sideways because of the pivoting effect of the single point support. Ten shots were fired rapidly as the bolt closed. They were squeezed off and aimed as carefully as possible, and grouped in a regular pattern at 60 yards about four inches across.

Firing full-auto, the gun handled very well. The straight stock and light charge produced little kick. The former Russian accent on muzzle brakes seems to have been corrected by using the new cartridge and while the gun jumped around, counter-recoil of the bolt and gas piston parts partly resisted the cumulative kick of full-auto weapons. The contrast between the Russian full-auto carbine and the FN experimental rifle also tested by the U.S. for possible NATO adoption was marked. A T-48 or FN rifle fired some months ago was distinguished for its abrupt uncontrollable muzzle climb when fired full auto without a muzzle brake. The light-cartridge machine carbines like the Avtomat 54 are more easily controlled.

No more military ammo was available for testing the automatic carbine which Guns used, so we decided to "roll our own" ammo

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and make up a test single shot rifle, with an eye to accuracy. One of Winfield's Remington rolling block rifles was torn down and the 7mm barrel sleeved to handle a cut-off piece of 4-groove Springfield rifle barrel. Overall length of the finished barrel was a shade over 18". The .220 Swift brass is close to the Russian cartridge in base dimensions, except the Swift has a semi-rim that works better in the single shot Remington.

GUNS experimental laboratory machinist, Kingsley Karnopp, turned a mock-up of the case from aluminum and we poured a hard lead-zinc alloy die to swedge back the Swift shoulder, necking the brass to .30. Some Ball M2 150-grain and armor piercing bullets were salvaged from .30-06 ammo for pressure and penetration tests. As this shortie should do well as a hunting load, 100 Sierra spitzer bullets and 100 Hornady roundnosed soft-points were used, both types weighing 150 grains. These were precision hunting bullets. Powders used were #2400, and #4198, adapted to small-capacity cases.

The Swiss round was loaded with a steel-jacketed 154 grain bullet with a bulky ogive and lead core. Charge was 22.5 grains of a flake powder. By contrast, the reformed Swift case, filled to maximum leaving room for the bullet, held over 23 grains of #4198. A low charge was used to fire form the first trimmed case, and then 20 grains of #4198 poured in.

By this time the evening had dragged on until it was past 11 pm. But we had to fire the first shot after all this preparation. The racket echoed over the hills and waked the neighbors' cats and dogs, but pressure as evidenced by the Federal 120 primer was still low. There was not a sign of flattening and the 20-grain charge while a good load was far from maximum. The next day with all the cases formed and a Lyman tang sight mounted to give a sight radius of some 22 inches, we tested the little Russian at 100 yards for accuracy.

Best load of all grouping within 2½" inches in the 18" barrel was the Sierra bullet and 22 grains of #4198. This was close to the maximum charge with this powder which gave a slightly flat primer with no sign of dangerous pressures. Extraction was very easy. The new Remington action kept the cases from stretching and each case was reloaded from three to five times. Load with #2400 powder was 16 grains. Both these loads gave average accuracy under 3½" inches at 100 yards from rest.

The Ball M2 bullets loaded with 22 grains of #4198 gave several 3-shot groups averaging 2½". But the most interesting test was with some 5/32 "bullet proof" steel plate. The exact nature of the steel was not determined, but it stopped two 9mm pistol bullets of 123 grains at 1300 feet per second fired point blank, which deeply dented it but did not penetrate nor crack the steel.

An AP shot from an 18" barreled .30-06 drilled clean through. But apparently we didn't have a thick enough plate, since the Ball M2 bullet also drilled through, leaving a star petal of brass jacket around the hole. The hole measured 3/4" diameter, an indication of energy when compared with another shot. The sideways plastic distortion of the steel created by one bullet would indicate similar energies if the same plastic distortion was created by another bullet. The Ball M2 bullet in the short Russian with 20 grains of #4198 drilled a virtually identical hole



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through the plate. Obviously the little Russian wildcat could do some powerful scratching.

The AP bullets loaded into the Russian gave complete plate perforation. With 17 grains of 4198, the AP slug ripped a small hole. Evidently the core only had passed through although no jacket brass could be found in front of the target. With 20 grains a bigger rip was made in the steel. With 22 grains of powder a tear about an inch across was punched through.

Doron-nylon body armor is somewhat different in ballistic resistance. But the few tests on light plate indicate that the Russian has good penetration for at least "hunting purposes." The 150-grain Sierra and Hornady bullets behaved alike at the 100-yard

range and against the armor punched a good-sized hole when driven at maximum velocities. These velocities are highly problematical, but were estimated at around 2300 feet per second in the 18" barrel.

Although the issue of Automats has been apparently limited to squad leaders and elite guard troops, it is no gun for parade drill. But for business, house fighting, cleaning streets, and as arms for waves of assault troops in field tactics as proved during the Korean war, it should prove highly effective. But its real effectiveness is in its cartridge. To shooters who grew up on .30-06 and bigger magnums, it is a runty thing indeed. But other nations don't feel so and are recognizing the whole field of intermediate loads, short cartridges of rifle type adapted to machine carbines.

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HOW TO BED A RIFLE STOCK

(Continued from Page 38)

into the wood, and the slender barrel is dampened with just the right amount of fore-end pressure, groups will tighten up. A rifle barrel is a steel pipe. When the bullet passes down the bore, tremors and vibrations are set up in the tube. The muzzle actually whips back and forth, affecting the delivery of the bullet from the bore.

By dampening a sporter barrel midway with light pressure from the fore-end tip, the movement of the muzzle is reduced. Also, the stock contact tends to keep the same quality of vibrations in the barrel from shot to shot. Oversimplified, barrel whip is like the movement of a violin string. The fore-end tip pressure is the musician's finger which "stops" the string to control the vibrations. When the barrel is "stopped," just right, it will put all the shots into a close group. When the bedding is poor and the action and barrel shift from shot to shot, even minutely, accuracy is nil.

In dropping the action down to its proper bedding to get a solidly-built gun the lamp-black is smeared on to spot the points where metal touches wood. After considerable scraping and cutting, the metal will stain the wood over the areas of action rear and front, and fore-end tip. When other things check out, the job is done. But to do the job requires some cutting tools.

Along the outside curves of the wood inletting, a rotary cutter on a flexible shaft or in a hand power drill will work well. The Moto-Tool by Dremel is a little too fast for roughing out wood, although it can be used effectively in light finishing work. Best bet of all, although the slowest, is a set of good wood chisels and a wood-worker's vise to hold the stock steady. I've inletted stocks which were held stationary by filling a basket full of wastepaper and jamming the butt into the papers and holding all with my feet, but it is not recommended. And the

stocks looked like it, too. There is no substitute for patience and sharp tools.

Work screws are fitted into the action body. They are blind screws that guide the action by fitting into the pre-drilled holes in the factory stock.

Start from the back and work forward. Blacken the action tang and gently tap it into the stock with a soft hammer. This will leave a mark on the wood. By cutting the wood slightly to remove the mark, and then trying again to fit the tang, the inletting will go gradually and a close fit will result.

With the tang fairly well down, the action-barrel group is held out of the stock by the chamber bulge mid-way hitting the rear of the barrel groove. With a sharp scriber, draw lines along the barrel into the top of the stock wood. These lines are minimum contours of the barrel groove and you can hog out the wood quickly from between them. A rotary sander will take the wood out to limits pretty rapidly. As with all power tools, you will have to be careful the cutters do not grab and twist into the wood. Curved chisels are used for this work if power tools are not handy. By constantly checking the action and barrel fit to the stock, you can prevent removing too much wood. Otherwise the stock along the barrel will be gouged and rough, caused by bad workmanship and causing bad shooting.

Paint lampblack on the steel toward the last part of this cutting. The black will show where the wood should be slightly cut away to snug the metal down into the stock. All along the barrel groove the wood should be relieved slightly to prevent it from touching the steel. About .003" is all that is necessary to cut away. If a light stock is wanted, a lot of wood can be dug out from beneath the barrel along the fore-end. But keep in mind that at the inletting edge, wood and metal

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should be so close they look like they grew together. This is not some fussy crank's fanatical accent on perfection, either. Close wood to metal contact at the edges will prevent rain and moisture from getting under the barrel and into the stock. A warped stock can only be corrected by two things—extensive re-inletting by a master stockmaker, or throwing it away and starting on a new one. But under the barrel, wood clearance is not critical, so long as it does not touch the metal.

As the whole assembly is dropped more into the wood, check the trueness of the action inletting. A level or square should be set across the flats to make sure they are at right angles to the vertical line of the stock. If you get the action canted and somehow manage to pull it and the magazine together with a big screwdriver and bad judgement the stock will be stressed and possibly damaged. There may be a chance of splitting the wood, and the action body may be warped, even to the extent of interfering with proper bolt operation.

Midway between tang and fore-end tip is the recoil block, the solid part of the stock that takes up the recoil in firing. A steel lug hangs down from the action and pushes on the front of this section. The top of the block should be square across. Check the top edge of the barrel groove along the top of the stock. Sand the high spots carefully flat until the bubble level shows you that the surface is true for the whole length of the stock.

With action tang dropped into the wood, recoil lug sitting close against the recoil block of the stock, and the barrel coming down at the fore-end tip, the depth of inletting should be checked. A template made to half the circumference of the barrel can be used at the fore-end. The gauge should show the barrel is set in just a trifle less than its diameter. A depth gauge, measuring from the flat stock edge, can also be used to check this.

With the top metal pretty well settled into the stock the job is just about half over. Next comes the magazine and trigger guard, and the same principles of spotting with lampblack and scraping away wood apply here. Turn the stock over with the action and barrel still in it. A long headless work screw is fitted to the front guard screw hole in the action. This will extend far enough up from the wood to guide the guard plate front tang into place. Place the guard plate over the screw and remove wood until it fits. This is a little like saying "mix the proper ingredients and you will have a cake." Guard fitting is the downfall of many stocking jobs for the stockmaker thinks it is such a snap he doesn't take the care with the job that he should. Enfields particularly are a little tricky here.

The regular Enfield has a deep magazine box and the front guard tang is bent upward for the characteristic fish-belly look of the military Enfield rifle. In making a sporter stock, the regular Enfield plate can be used unaltered. In this case the front guard screw is shortened to give a slim appearance to the sporter stock. This requires that wood be removed to permit the guard plate to close up. A neater and more professional conversion uses a guard plate which has been straightened by cutting out a piece and welding it together in a straight line. Some factory semi-inletted stocks are machined with the maximum wood allowable for a standard conversion that does not use the straight guard, so you will have to work a little here. When the guard plate is inletted to the right depth, the guard screws can be tightened up and the metal will be solidly drawn into the wood. If there is any spring or give to the guard plate, the barrel will not be held steady and inaccurate shooting can result.

In stock fitting, work screws or try screws should be used. Allen-head bolts are good for this purpose as they will not burr. The regular slotted-head guard screws should be

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When the guard is tightened up, you are nearly finished, so far as inletting goes. But in shooting for accuracy, you have just begun. Take the stock in your hand and check the fore-end tension by "feel." Push the stock away from the barrel and test the pressure needed to spring it a little. Barrel should be slightly lifted from the stock by from six to eight pounds pressure.

You can get a big rhubarb going among gun fans over exact poundage at this point—some say 15 pounds—but the weight of pressure is going to depend on shooting, not on some arbitrary figure.

Put the gun together, assemble the trigger and sear, and dust the wood chips out of the inletting. Check your sights. Then flop down on the 100-yard range and drape the musket over a sandbag and see how tight she shoots. If you have done the job right and the metal is solid in the wood, with no built-in kinks in the action, your gun will shoot okay. If it shoots a little loose, you may want to scrape away some of the fore-end wood, to reduce the stock pressure. If reducing stock pressure does not close up the group, try increasing it. This may be done by spotting and taking off wood on top of the recoil block. A tiny shaving scraped off here will alter fore-end pressure. It is a cut and try process. The same bullet weight and type of ammunition should be used in final sighting and finishing.

Plastic stock-bedding materials are used sometimes to ensure a perfect fit at the critical points. This is known as "glass bedding." Gun supply firms such as Herter's of Waseca, Minn., offer a kit of plastic materials which are self-hardening. The action is dropped into the stock in the traditional manner. Then the critical points are relieved more than enough, and the glass bedding plastic spread on the tang recess and the recoil block. Thin fiberglass cloth guards the steel from contact with the plastic, and at the same time makes an absolutely smooth surface over the plastic.

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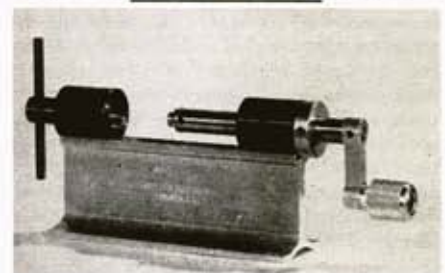
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GUN RACK

(Continued from Page 12)

muzzle velocity of 3200 feet per second, the Remington .244 falls considerably short of the Holland loading. Mid-range trajectory of the Remington 90-grain load over 300 yards is 5.5", more than three times the rise of the .244 H & H Magnum of about 1.7" over 250 yards.

Closest U.S. loading to the .244 Magnum is Weatherby's .257 Magnum. With a blown case and sharp shoulder, Weatherby loads in the 100-grain class range from 3480 feet per second up to 3720 fps labelled "caution" and 3750 fps marked "max." The "okay" Weatherby loads bracket Holland's figures: 3480-3550 fps with energy of 2685 ft to 2794 ft at the muzzle. Over 300 yards the Weatherby 100 grain factory load rises 4.2" and at 300 yards velocity has fallen from 3720 (maximum factory) feet per second to 2410 fps, about 15 percent slower than the Holland bullet at that range. Apparently the long, heavy Holland bullet with slightly less cross-sectional area (.244 as against .257 diameter) offers less wind resistance and holds up better at long ranges.

The .244 H & H Magnum is made on the .375 Magnum belted rimless case necked down to .244. Loaded with "progressive burning powder" of unspecified British type, the .244 Maggy is proofed at 19.5 tons, figuring out at about 43,000 pounds per square inch. This is remarkably low for a proof pressure, indicating service or normal pressure approximately 20 per cent lower. The big .375 necked case with a gradual shoulder slope burns the powder efficiently and drives the 100 grain bullet out at velocities better than any comparable American load. After considerable experimenting a rifling twist of one turn in 10" was established.

According to A. H. Madell, a director of H & H, "We have shot the .244 Magnum at all ranges up to 400 yards with really excellent results and the weapon has also been tried out extensively on Scottish deer and met with considerable success. We think this new rifle will appeal to sportsmen all over the world," concludes Madell, but there will be probably more response than even he expects. Using a large capacity case but with moderate pressures and high performance listed, the new .244 Holland & Holland Magnum will become one of the wildcatters' toys. Rifles other than Hollands will be chambered

for it by U.S. shooters, and the first man to have handloading tools on the market to build the fodder will do much to offset the English export price of \$28 per hundred.

Price on the rifle alone, finished in the usual Holland & Holland quality manner, is \$392, FOB London. The DeLuxe Model with selected wood stock, engraved action, and very best finish throughout, is priced at \$504, FOB London. While Holland's scope and mount combination will appeal to many sportsmen, most U.S. shooters will probably prefer to buy this rifle with iron sights and fit what they want on it. However, the Supra scope rig with Holland mounts runs \$140 extra, FOB. Added to these prices are U.S. duty and shipping charges.



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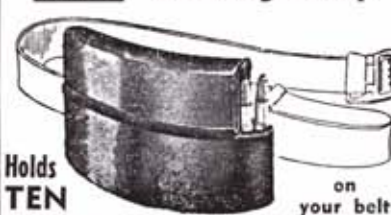
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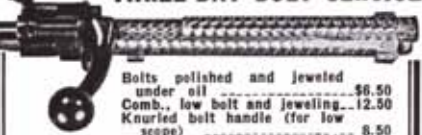
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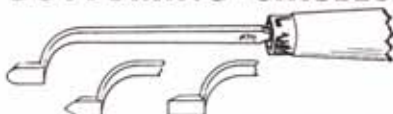
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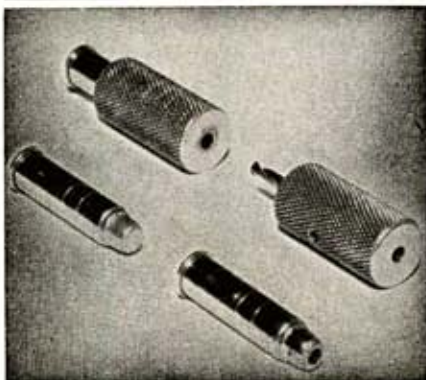


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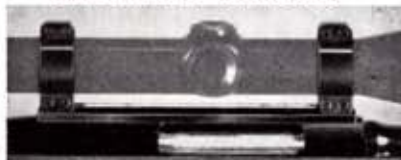
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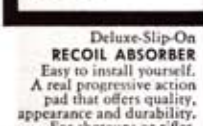
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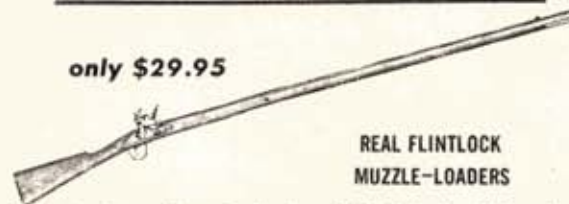
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