

FEBRUARY 1960 50c

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

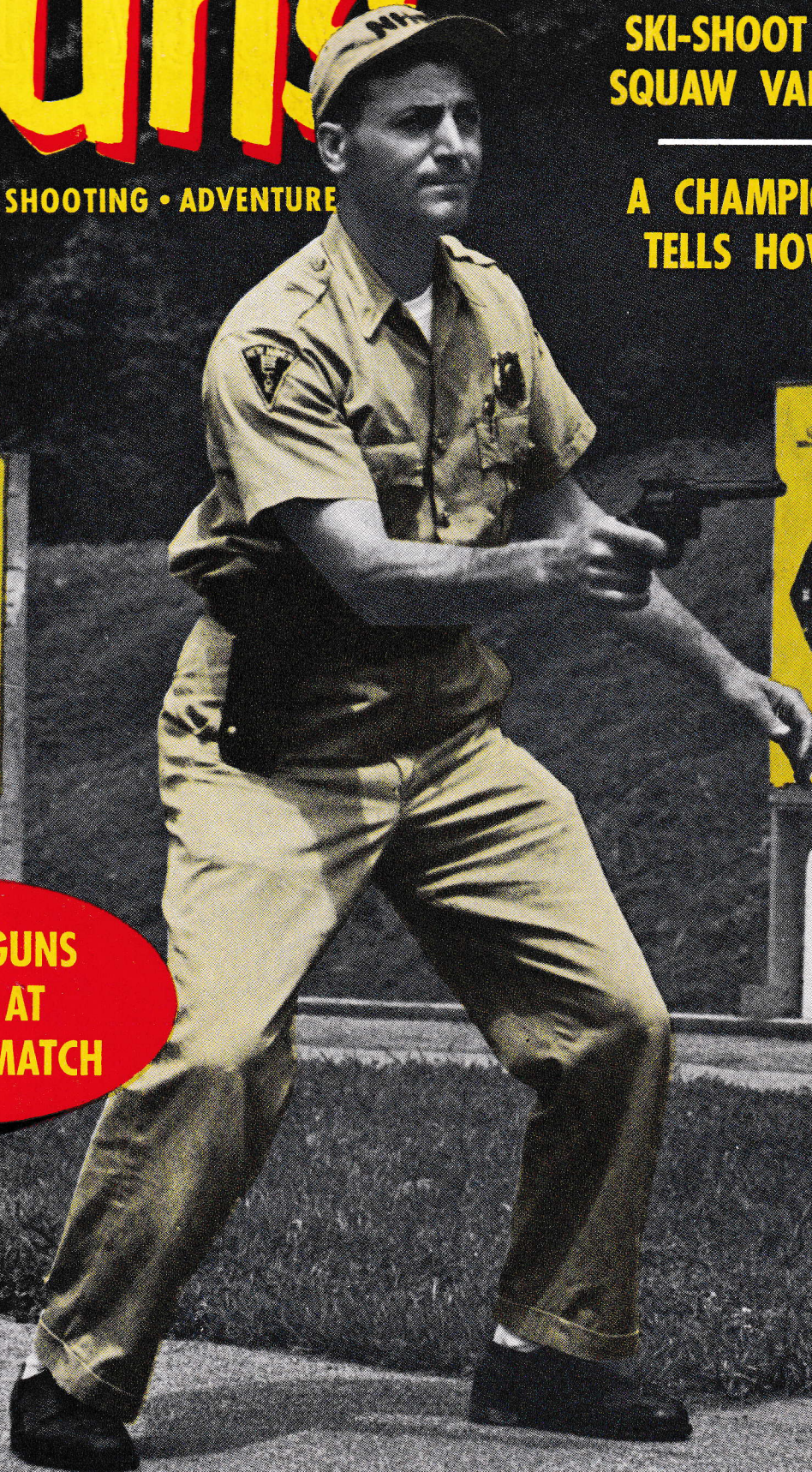
Gun

HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE



**SKI-SHOOT AT
SQUAW VALLEY**

**A CHAMPION
TELLS HOW**



**POLICE GUNS
BLAZE AT
COLLEGE MATCH**

CAN HUNTERS OUTSHOOT SKEET-TRAP EXPERTS?

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

FEBRUARY, 1960

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IN THIS ISSUE

competition . . .

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| CAN A GOOD HUNTER OUTSHOOT A SKEET OR TRAP EXPERT?..... | Jerry Chiappetta 16 |
| A CHAMPION TELLS HOW TO WIN..... | John Carlton 26 |
| POLICE GUNS BLAZE IN COLLEGE MATCH..... | Bill Toney, Jr. 30 |
| SKI SHOOT AT SQUAW VALLEY..... | Harvey Brandt 38 |

hunting . . .

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| THOSE CHAMOIS MYTHS..... | Robert Woolverton 19 |
| "WHAT WAS THAT YOU CALLED ME?"..... | Robert Tinsley 20 |
| BAND-TAILS: THE WEST'S BEST SHOTGUN TARGET..... | William Curtis 32 |

handguns . . .

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| ELMER KEITH ON COMBAT QUICK DRAW..... | Elmer Keith 22 |
| THE LUGER .45..... | Elmer Imthurn 29 |

workshop . . .

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| REBLUE THAT GUN YOURSELF..... | Allen F. Ruffin, Jr. 25 |
| AN ORNAMENTAL GUN RACK..... | Hi Sibley 40 |

guns americana . . .

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| THE RETURN OF THE NAVY COLT..... | William B. Edwards 36 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|

departments . . .

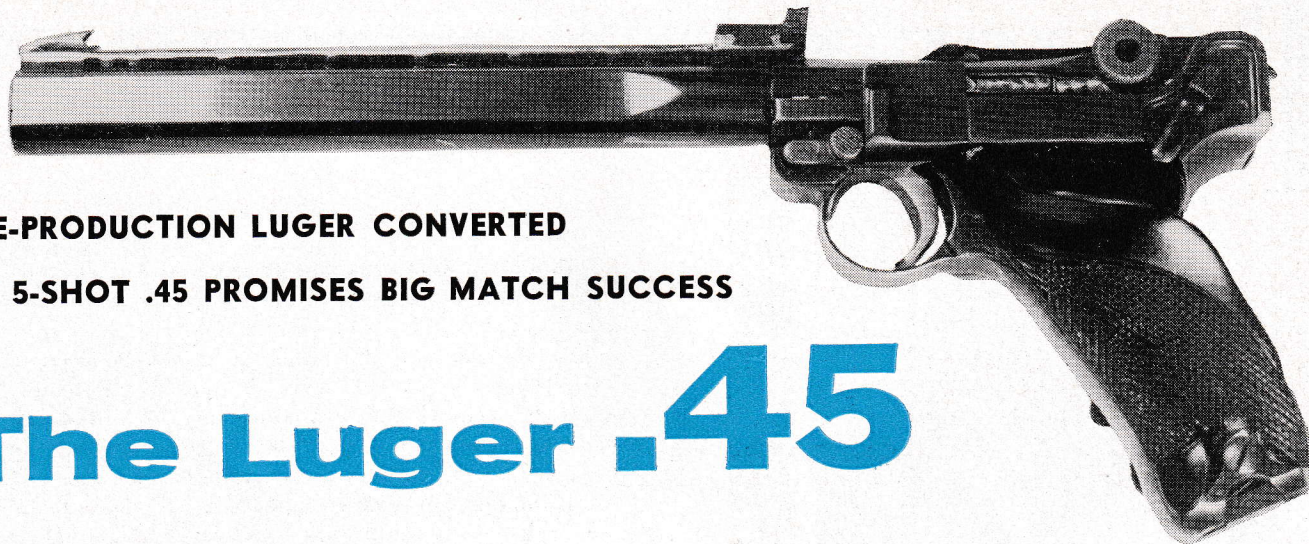
| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| GUNS IN THE NEWS..... | 3 |
| KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS..... | 4 |
| PULL!..... | Dick Miller 6 |
| ELMER KEITH SAYS..... | Elmer Keith 8 |
| CROSSFIRE..... | 10 |
| GUN RACK..... | 12 |
| HANDLOADING BENCH..... | Kent Bellah 14 |
| SHOPPING WITH GUNS..... | Roslyn Wallis 56 |
| THE GUN MARKET..... | 64 |
| ARMS LIBRARY..... | 65 |
| INDEX OF ADVERTISERS..... | 66 |



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**PRE-PRODUCTION LUGER CONVERTED
TO 5-SHOT .45 PROMISES BIG MATCH SUCCESS**

The Luger .45

By **ELMER IMTHURN**
CCI Ballistician

THE WYATT .45 LUGER AUTOMATIC was the natural outgrowth of an existing feeling of dissatisfaction among tournament pistol shooters. Many target shooters feel that the available guns in both center-fire and .45 caliber are not all they could be. The field, at present, is confined strictly to revolvers and accurized service automatics. Up to this time, there has been nothing in the big-bore lines to compare with the fine .22 target automatics produced by Colt, Ruger, High Standard, and Smith and Wesson.

Let's analyze this situation for a moment. The revolver is poorly adapted to the Standard American Pistol Course, which is made up of slow fire, timed fire, and rapid fire. The timed and rapid fire, both of which place a short time



Slab-sided .45 barrel gives added mass, softens shock of big caliber recoil. Thumb-rest grips on new match pistol aid shooting. Left, shots load in fixed magazine.



limit on each five shot string, make up two thirds of the total. The time consumed by manual cocking of the hammer before each shot is time taken away from aiming and trigger squeeze. The thumb in cocking must be removed from its position, loosening the grip, and must then be repositioned before the trigger squeeze can be started. When it is considered that, in rapid fire, this must be accomplished four times in ten seconds, along with aiming and squeezing off five shots, it is no wonder that the general run of rapid-fire revolver scores are low when compared to those shot with .22 automatics. No wonder, either, that serious competitive shooters spend more practice time on this one phase—the development of a smooth, fast, cocking motion—than on any other single manual part of their sport—except trigger control.

Good .22 revolvers are available, too. But they are almost non-existent on the firing line because the automatics are easier to shoot, and produce higher scores as a consequence.

(Continued on page 50)

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with their money a sense of its value, and a very real understanding and appreciation of historical guns and their meaning. These men, when in doubt, are quick to circulate a questionable piece among their friends to get an opinion. They are informed, and well informed. Some are known by name to every gun collector, because of their scholarly researches in uncovering the tattered fabric of historical gun lore. Much of their concern is for the field of gun collecting generally becoming saturated with fakes, not that they personally will get "taken."

But the most important type of gun collector to take into consideration must be the "average man." He knows guns, learns more about them, and has a healthy skepticism. When offered a Walker Colt at \$300 by some Mexican lad in Brownsville, he will buy it "because as a replica it's worth that." But when the truth is revealed, he isn't too depressed. No believer in pie in the sky, he keeps alert to the ever-possible sleeper or bargain, but he doesn't shape his

life on it. This man may be a shooter; likes to buy collector guns in as fine a condition as he can afford. Each gun should be "shootable," though he may fire it only one day to see how it shoots; then put it in the rack and go on to another. For him, a shooting replica, whether it be a fairly expensive but well-built handmade Paterson, or the inexpensive mass-produced Navy Arms Co.'s Yankee Colt and Rebel Army replicas, is a practical fun-gun. It is a revolver he can shoot all day, and burn up powder and caps till he is black as a coal-heaver, without fearing he's taking the "gilt edge" value condition off his pet collector item. And for the Civil War enthusiast, accurate replicas with just enough minor changes to make fraud impossible, satisfy an important need. The North-South Skirmish Association sees no inconsistency in using replica ramrods (often missing from muzzle loading muskets) or replica clothes and leather goods. The boom in replica Civil War guns will be a boon to many shooters.

THE LUGER .45

(Continued from page 29)

The service automatic is the target shooter's only other choice in either center-fire or .45 caliber. After an expensive .45 tune-up or conversion to .38 special for center-fire, these guns will produce quite satisfactory accuracy. But by their very nature, they are difficult to shoot, particularly for the civilian shooter, who has neither the time nor the money to spend many hours a day on the practice range. The sight radius is short. The trigger pull, when set at a safe level, is heavy. The recoil and muzzle-jump, particularly in the .45, is detrimental to good shooting.

Malfunctions occur frequently from the tight-fitting parts necessary to make them accurate, or because of wadcutter ammunition which is apparently necessary to get the desired scores from them. This same gun is available in .22 caliber, but very few shooters have ever seen one on the tournament line, and with good reason.

In contrast, the Wyatt .45 Target Pistol is built along the lines of a good .22 target automatic. The barrel is screwed solidly into the receiver, as a barrel should be. The sights can both be mounted on the barrel, or the rear sight can be mounted on the receiver assembly.

The action of this gun is the Luger. Its operation is very fast, and cannot be felt by the shooter, as it can with other automatics. Slow motion pictures show the ejection and reloading cycle is 3/64 of a second. Regarding accuracy, the Wyatt .45 delivers beautiful groups with round-nose bullets, which most shooters know give better functional reliability than the wadcutter types in any automatic. The pilot model of this gun has, at this writing, fired 1440 consecutive rounds of registered outdoor tournament competition *without a malfunction or alibi run.*

The grip angle is almost identical to that of the Ruger, Colt Match Target, and the various High Standards. Especially when used with an integral muzzle brake, compensator, or recoil suppressor, the Wyatt .45 has very little recoil or muzzle jump, and is very fast to realign for the next shot in

rapid fire. Trigger pull can be worked down to anything desired, and still be perfectly safe clear down to 2½ pounds. As the firing pin assembly was designed to fire small pistol primers, it is desirable to use a sensitive large pistol primer in .45 caliber.

Because it combines minimum recoil and jump, light trigger pull, good accuracy, long sight radius, extremely fast action, and good grip angle, this gun is very easy to shoot. Almost anyone who can shoot well with a .22 target automatic can shoot well with the Wyatt .45. Everyone who picks it up and shoots it for the first time is amazed at how well they do with it, particularly in timed and rapid fire. It is the opinion among shooters who have fired this weapon that they can do better with it than they can do with either their present .45 or center-fire handguns.

The advantages of being able to shoot one gun for both center-fire and .45 caliber, of course, are many, most pistolmen will agree. Perhaps the reason most tournament shooters use a smaller caliber for center-fire, now, is that they are somewhat handicapped by the shooting qualities of their .45. They feel that they can pick up a few points with a .38 caliber gun in the center-fire matches. If they had a .45 caliber automatic with which they could outshoot their present .38 scores, they would certainly use it.

Some of the advantages of using this .45 target automatic for center-fire matches are immediately evident. For one thing, there is only one gun to buy and carry along instead of two. There is only one load necessary, thereby making the ammunition problem much more simple. It is necessary to practice with only one gun other than the .22. This .45 target gun, as well as being as accurate and easier to shoot than the existing .38's, makes larger holes in the target, which inevitably will result in higher scores.

To sum it up, in the opinion of many shooters who have seen the Wyatt .45, it is the first large caliber handgun yet to be produced that is completely adaptable to the Standard American Pistol Course.

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