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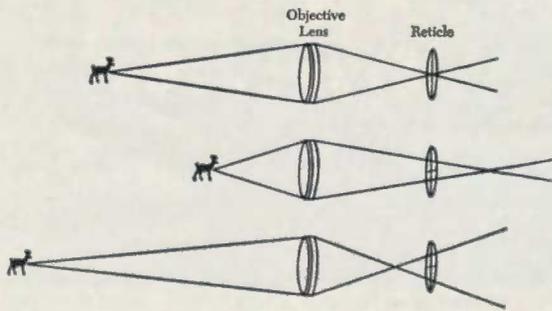
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Healthways Plainsman Rifles and Pistols are covered by the following patents:
3,048,159; 3,077,875; 3,207,143; 3,084,833; 3,127,885



FACTS about TELESCOPIC SIGHTS



The other factor — the distance through which the eye can move to cause parallax — is determined by the diameter of the exit pupil of the scope. There is *no* parallax at any distance as long as the reticle and the eye line up exactly on the optical axis of the scope. If the exit pupil were so small that the eye would be forced to line up exactly on the optical axis of the scope, there would be no parallax at any distance. However, such a small exit pupil is impractical.

In hunting scopes of low quality, there are several additional sources of parallax. If the reticle is not mounted precisely at the correct distance back of the objective lens, the point of "no parallax" may not be at any normal shooting distance, with errors at all ranges exaggerated. Reticles loosely mounted, which can move backward or forward within their mounts, even a few thousandths of an inch, will introduce changing amounts of parallax. In addition, parallax is introduced by optical deficiencies in the objective — either in design or manufacture. If spherical aberration or astigmatism have not been adequately corrected, images may form a considerable distance from the reticle. You will sometimes see a scope in which apparent movement of the reticle as compared with the background is different when you move your eye up and down than when you move it from side to side. This is because of a poor objective. No adjustment of the scope will eliminate these faults of optical deficiencies.

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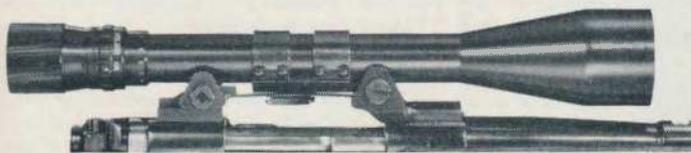


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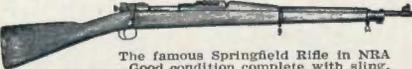
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KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

Senator John G. Tower Texas



First, I must say that I wholeheartedly support the Second Amendment to our Constitution, guaranteeing that "... the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." This Amendment, like others in our Constitution, is clear and to the point.

I do favor, however, local and state statutes, and federal legislation, if necessary, to effectively prevent minors and felons from purchasing firearms, for rather obvious reasons. A rifle is not a toy, and parental consent and handling of firearms could well be beneficial.

Governor Frank G. Clement Tennessee

I believe that any type of firearms legislation considered by Congress should be of a specific nature rather than blanket legislation which would impose restrictions on the honest citizen and the sportsman who derives pleasure through the use of firearms.

There are areas that should perhaps be explored, notably those which involve the unregulated sale of military ordnance, and I feel these can be controlled without legislation of a broad sort.



Congressman George V. Hansen 2nd District, Idaho

Through a strict interpretation of the 2nd Amendment, I would question the constitutionality of Federal control of firearms—although the right of the Federal Government to regulate the shipment of firearms in interstate commerce has been upheld by the courts.

However, I believe the right of the honest American citizen to own and keep arms is fundamental. Subject to such licensing and registration as may be imposed by the states or their subsidiary governmental units under the principle of the 10th amendment.

Governor Henry Bellmon Oklahoma

The right of citizens of the United States to keep and bear arms, has in my opinion, contributed significantly to the development of our nation and the preservation of law and order.

Governor Robert E. McNair South Carolina



In my interpretation of the Second Amendment, all good, law-abiding citizens have a right to keep and bear arms for their own protection and the protection of their state. I am proud to state that South Carolina has an excellent gun law—one aimed at prohibiting criminals, persons under 21 (with some exceptions), drug addicts, habitual drunkards, the mentally incompetent, or members of subversive organizations from keeping or bearing arms. It is aimed at these types of persons, rather than at any particular type of gun. It, in fact, allows law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms for their own pleasure and protection.

Readers Note: All *Congressmen* may be addressed at "House Office Building," and all *Senators* at "Senate Office Building," both at "Washington 25, D.C." Address all *Governors* at: State Capital, name of capital city, name of State.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

MAY, 1966
Vol. XII, No. 5-137

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Arthur S. Arkush
Ass't to the Publisher



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NATIONAL ADV. OFFICES, 8150 N. Central Park Ave., Skokie, Ill., 60076, ORchard 5-6967.

GUNS Magazine is published monthly by Publishers' Development Corp., 8150 N. Central Park Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, 60076. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTIONS: One year (12 issues), \$6.00. Single monthly copies, 50c. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Four weeks' notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS Magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request. Copyright 1966, Publishers' Development Corporation. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address.

THE COVER

One hundred years ago, the first rifle to bear the Winchester name was offered to American sportsmen. Since that time, the name Winchester has held a special meaning for shooters. The Centennial '66 rifle introduced during this anniversary year is a fitting memento of a century of leadership. The story of Winchester's past and future will be found on page 18. Photo courtesy Winchester-Western.

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GUN RACK



By R. A. STEINDLER

Wetzlar Scopes

Bob Sanders, Sanders Custom Gun Service, 2358G Tyler Lane, Louisville, Ky., 40205, is the importer of some really fine German rifle scopes. He, incidentally, is also a fine custom smith. Being a southpaw shooter and hunter, he is now actively working on creating a southpaw Mauser action. This is not a conversion but a true left-hand action and I expect to see one of the first actions as soon as Bob gets them in.

The Wetzlar scopes come with a wide choice of crosshairs, in a magnification range from 2 1/2X to 6X, and two variables, one a 2 1/2X to 7X, the other a 2 1/2X to 8X. Bob shipped me a 4x36 Wetzlar scope for tests and I have been giving it a good going over. Although a bit heavier than some of our domestic scopes, the Wetzlar scope has stood all of my rigorous tests. I did the usual immersion and freezer tests, the drop and recoil tests, and found that apparently nothing affects this scope. Light gathering power is excellent, and I especially liked the fact that the ocular lens, while focusing, cannot be unscrewed from the scope tube. The standard scopes have steel tubes, and special lightweight models, in 4X and in 6X are available from Sanders on special order. Elevation and windage adjustment screw caps fit tightly on the turret and the adjustments are visual as well as by audible click. Besides the standard crosshair and crosshair with dot, various reticles of the German type with several post designs are available. Most of the testing of this scope was done on a custom stocked M 70, and accuracy shooting was done while I was working up loads for a custom .270. For both guns I obtained a Buehler mount since the Wetzlar scopes have 26 mm tubes and the bases that arrived from Buehler fitted both guns. These Wetzlar scopes are of high quality and I was completely satisfied with the performance of the test scope.

apparently fool-proof. By lifting the top latch cover you expose the enclosure for the CO₂ cylinder and the magazine drawer. Loading the CO₂ cylinder is as easy as lifting the cam handle, inserting the cylinder, and lowering the handle. To load the BB's all that you do is open the magazine drawer, pour in up to 150 BB's, and slide the drawer closed.

The rifle is made to accommodate either the large 12.5 gram CO₂ cylinders or, with a spacer block provided, the standard 8 gram size. I found that I averaged about 60 shots with each 8 gram cylinder and 90 shots with the 12.5 gram.



Accuracy of the Plainsman rifle was better than I expected, and better than any of the three other BB guns I have. The Plainsman rifle, like the Plainsman pistols, has a long, double action-type trigger pull, and while I first thought that this might effect accuracy, I soon found that it didn't take long to get to know the trigger, and I was soon able to pull it back to a point just before it released the hammer, correct my aim, and complete the trigger pull with just a slight amount of pressure. This rifle not only has the speed to pop out BB's at a remarkable rate, but also the accuracy to satisfy just about everyone but the Olympic shooter.

The Plainsman rifle is priced at \$29.95, and should be on your dealer's shelf now. Take a look at it, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. For more information and the name of your nearest dealer write: Healthways, P.O. Box 61061G, Los Angeles, California 90061.

The BSA Majestic Rifle

The BSA rifles, imported by J. L. Galef & Son, Inc., 85 Chambers Street, New York 7, N. Y., are now available in this new version which has been given the Majestic name. The Majestic rifles come without the Besa recoil reducer, although guns with this muzzle device are available. Our test gun was chambered for the .30-06 cartridge and using BSA mounts, I used a 4X Bushnell Ban-

(Continued on page 62)

Healthways CO₂ Rifle

The new Healthways Model MX175 Plainsman CO₂ rifle is unique in many ways. First, it is a semi-automatic, shooting standard .175 BB's as fast as you can pull the trigger. Secondly, it has the appearance and the feel of a cartridge rifle. The streamlined housing encloses an action that is easy to operate and load and, from the shooting I did with it,



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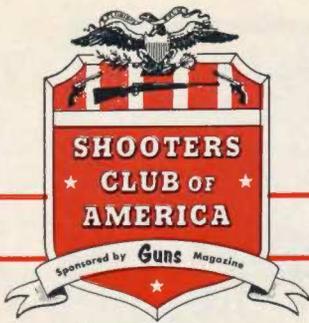
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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

Dedicated to the Constitutional Right of Every Citizen to Keep and Bear Arms

Over the years, we have heard individuals ask the question, "what can I do to fight anti-gun legislation and quell firearms hysteria?" Though it does often seem as if the tide is running too strongly against firearms ownership for one gun sportsman to make an effective contribution, wide-spread individual efforts produce an over-all effect which can not be ignored.

Membership in pro-gun organizations is one method by which shooters can (and do), contribute to the struggle for their constitutional right to firearms. However, other positive opportunities can be created, and when they arise, they should be exploited to the highest possible degree.

We outlined such an opportunity here in the March issue of GUNS. The response from individual shooting sportsmen was excellent, and the positive results gained from this effort will work to the advantage of firearms ownership for years to come.

The S.C.A. created the opportunity by making reprints of I WANT TOUGHER GUN LAWS available for distribution in those places where they will do the most good for our cause. Shooters took advantage of the opportunity we created by obtaining copies for distribution in many areas and on many levels. This started the ball rolling, but now we need to exploit our advantage to the highest degree.

To this end, we have taken the risk of producing additional reprints of the article I WANT TOUGHER GUN LAWS, confident in the belief that many more of you will want to "get in on the act."

For those who missed the original article in the January GUNS, I WANT TOUGHER GUN LAWS is the most important and far-reaching article ever published on the subject of firearms legislation. Based on facts our opponents do not want to become public knowledge, this article is the most telling indictment of anti-gun "do-gooders" ever published.

It is based entirely on the personal criminal experiences of two men who are presently serving prison terms. Their observations provide a realistic barometer to the effectiveness of restrictive firearms legislation, and the factual information they

possess is obviously more to the point than the wishful thinking of misguided "do-gooders."

This article was greeted with acclaim from shooting sportsmen, has caused consternation among anti-gun hysteria mongers, and produces a profound affect on the uncommitted. We are delighted with all these reactions, and wish only to gain the maximum possible distribution, thus obtaining the ultimate in pro-gun benefits.

To accomplish this, we are repeating the special offer originally made in the March issue. The two different plans below have been designed to make it possible for everyone to participate in this effort:

PLAN #1 -- If you enter a new S.C.A. membership, or renew your present membership on the coupon below, you will be eligible to receive up to 25 copies without charge, for distribution as you see fit.

PLAN #2 -- If you are a GUNS reader who does not choose to join the S.C.A., or a member who does not choose to renew under the terms of this special offer, we will supply you with copies of I WANT TOUGHER GUN LAWS at our own minimum production costs: 25 copies for \$1.50; 50 copies for \$2.75; 100 copies for \$5.25. Bulk prices will be quoted.

We have said many times before, but it bears repeating, that it is not enough for shooting sportsmen to be familiar with "the case for guns." Every possible effort must be exerted to educate the general public, local, state and federal lawmakers, police officials at all levels, newspapers, members and officials of local groups. Even "the man next door" could have an influence on the future of firearms by sheer weight of public opinion.

Wide and varied distribution will help avoid the trap of "talking to ourselves." From the initial reception which greeted this reprint, and from the letters and inquiries which we are still receiving, we are confident that more of you will want to participate in one of our distribution plans.

Here is an answer to the question, "what can I do to fight anti-gun legislation and quell firearms hysteria?" Don't delay, take advantage of this opportunity for action without delay!

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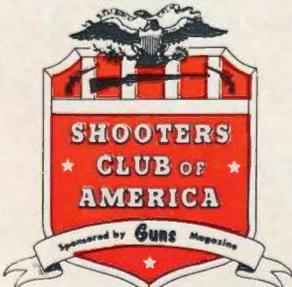
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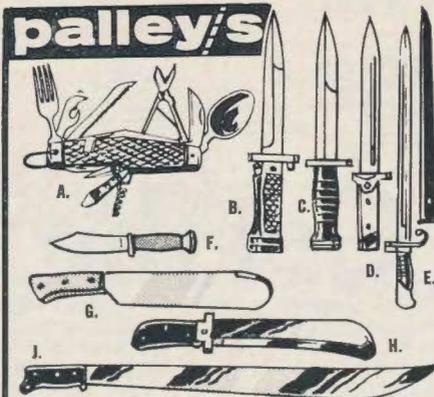
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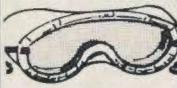
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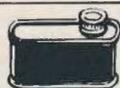
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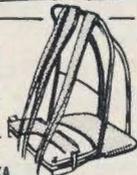
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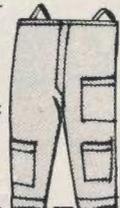


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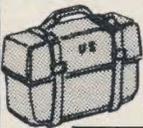
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CROSSFIRE

Fast Draw

I read Mr. Mixon's letter in the Feb., '66, Crossfire column, and I want to say that I agree with him. I have enjoyed very much the previous articles which you have carried covering the sport of fast draw, and I urge you to continue covering the sport in the future.

I also want to thank you for what you and the Shooters Club of America are doing for all American sportsmen. Your magazine is the greatest.

Also, please let me know if any of the back issues of GUNS QUARTERLY are available.

Bob Arganbright
Topeka, Kans.

Copies of each of the five issues of GUNS QUARTERLY are available at \$1 each.—Editor.

Your question on page 11, Feb. issue, "about more articles on fast draw:" Definitely not. I am a retired Sergeant of State Police (not Highway Patrol), and was at one time a better than average revolver shot. It has been my experience and observation that the so-called fast ones, could not hit anything, and if any pressure was on them, they blew up. This is not to say that there are no exceptions, but I am referring to the majority. Good articles on stance sighting and well aimed rapid-fire will do the average pistol shooter a lot more good and makes for more useful and pleasant reading.

More short articles on disassembling different makes of old fire arms would be a help to the working gunsmith.

Aaron P. Reichard
Goodyear, Arizona

Firm Stand

It was bothered me for some time the way gun groups have been so apologetic about protecting the rights of the people to keep and bear arms in the face of powerful opposition. It seems that we have been a little too eager to compromise rather than to take a firm stand on our principles and let come what may. Perhaps much of the reason for this is the front of respectability which anti-gun agitators have been able to put up. But I think it is time we started calling a spade a spade!

James I. Allen
Anderson, S.C.

Firearms License

I applied for an FFL about two years ago. On the application I honestly spelled out: "Am a teacher, hope to build up a small business on side, would like to have FFL so can give it a try." I received the license.

A year later I received renewal notice; it asking for nothing more than the renewal fee. It asked for no report. I sent the fee. They sent renewal.

Recently I moved from Michigan to an Indian Reserve in Ontario to teach. In accordance with instruction on FFL, I notified district office: "Moved from my teaching job in Michigan to teaching job in Ontario. May stay in Ontario, may not. Do you want report on my few sales and purchases? May I retain license in case I return?"

Been two months since I sent that letter to them. They never replied—and it was well before they were swamped with income taxes. I was straightforward in the whole matter.

Roy R. Friday
Wikwemikang, Ontario

Gun Lobby

I have just read Carl Wolff's "Will the Real Gun Lobby Please Stand Up?" in your February issue. This kind of information is vital to full understanding of what all legitimate gun owners are up against. He has a knack for putting several seemingly disconnected pieces of information into a meaningful picture.

We need much more of the penetrating type of analysis that Mr. Wolff provides. I hope that he will keep up the good work and that you will give all the space you can to articles of the type he writes.

Not only do we need to know what the real gun lobby is up to and who is on their team, we need to take a careful analytical look at the evidence they use to support their arguments. This means a lot of work but it must be done. The real gun lobby seems to be trying to sell the idea (and they appear to believe it, also) that gun control equals crime control. I have been looking at the facts in this regard and have some statistics that refute the concept that laws controlling guns affect the rate of serious crime.

H. B. Mathes
China Lake, Calif.

(Continued on page 12)

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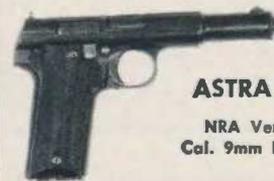
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(Continued from page 10)

Spur Trigger Guide

In GUNS Magazine March, 1966, is second article by C. Eldon Shomber, A Guide to Spur Trigger Values. On page 32 he states that if enough readers show an interest in these of articles, we shall revise them and even expand on the number of models covered. I would be much interested in future articles along the same line. I have quite a good many spur trigger arms in my gun collection and have never turned down a chance to acquire a spur trigger gun. I think they are very interesting.

C. M. Lawrence
Ft. Collins, Colorado

Voting Records

It would be very helpful if someone would publish the voting record of anti-gun bills. To defeat these bills is not enough. The people who voted for them should be removed from office in the next election.

Elwood Caster
Lacona, N.Y.

Automatic Vs. Revolver

In his recent article, "Sixguns vs. Automatics," Col. Askins seems to have erred in his method of determining the barrel-to-stocks angle. He has drawn the line of the stocks more or less midway between the backstrap and the front strap . . . and comes up with an angle of 108°. A little thought will show that it is actually the angle of the backstrap to the barrel that determines the angular relationship of barrel to shooter's hand—and thus determines whether or not the handgun in question will point naturally.

According to my protractor, the angle produced by the redrawn line is approximately 117°, which is just about ideal according to Col. Askins' own reckoning. However, much more important than either my theorizing or that of the Colonel's, is that thousands of first-rate shooters have commented on the truly excellent pointing qualities of both single-action and double-action revolvers.

I've owned three standard .357 Magnum revolvers, and if anyone can show me a production-line automatic that can match them in power, accuracy, pointing, dependability, and handling, I might consider changing. Till then, I'll stick to revolvers.

Robert B. Richman
West Hartford, Conn.

Young Shooters

The members of our club are eager to learn more about guns and shooting. If any of your readers would care to send us their unwanted literature, we would be very grateful.

Dan Beasley, president
Thousands Oaks Junior Gun Club
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HANDLOADING BENCH



KENT BELLAH 1912-1966

It is with deep regret that we report the death of a very good friend and long-time Guns contributor Kent Bellah. Kent died, at the age of 54, on February 9 at the hospital in Saint Jo, Texas. He was a long-standing member of the National Rifle Association, a veteran director of the United States Revolver Association, and a charter member of the Shooters Club of America. Kent began his close association with guns when, while still in grade school, he ran a trap line with a cap and ball revolver. He excelled as hand-gunner and rifleman and was a devoted quail hunter.

A native of Saint Jo, Kent married Hazel Kay Stewart, his high school sweetheart, over 26 years ago. A shooter and hunter by avocation and a professional photographer by choice—he began that

part of his career even before he started high school. Kent was completely wrapped up in young people. He will long be remembered as the man who aided them when they had problems, the man who always had time to listen.

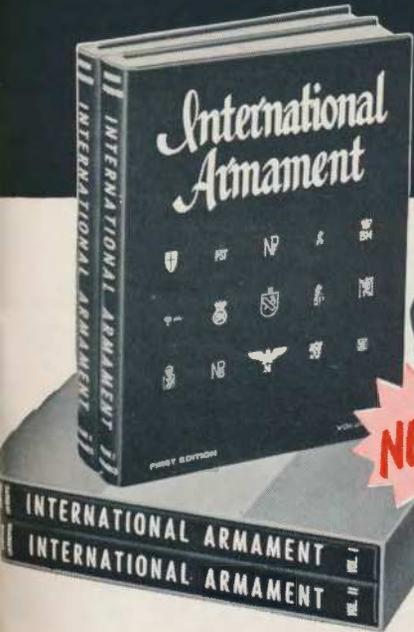
During his gun writing career, Kent contributed to all of the important gun publications at one time or another, and his writings were always based on provable facts, never on conjecture or guess work. Kent always was a strong advocate of gun education; one of the first to praise, he never condemned. Always a gentleman and never willing to step into the limelight, he was good and true friend to all shooters, especially to handloaders. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and to his legion of friends—we shall all miss the Gentleman from Texas.

In memory of Kent Bellah, a fine gentleman and shooter, we are suspending the publication of Handloading Bench for this month.—Editor.

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Webley Cal. .455 Revolver Mk I, Mk I*, Mk II, Mk III, Mk IV, Mk V, Mk VI.
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Luger Automatic Pistol Models 1908, 1904, 1904/14, 1914, 1908/14; Swiss Model 06/29; Vickers; Luger Carbine, Bulgarian Model 1900/06.
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Colt Cal. .45 Automatic Pistol M 1911 Models 1911, 1911A1, Norwegian M 1914, Argentine Ballster Molina, Spanish Star.
Austrian 9 MM Steyr Pistol Model 1912
Japanese 8 MM Nambu Pistol Models 1914, 1925, Baby Model.
Soviet 7.62 MM Tokarev Pistol Models 1930, 1933; Chinese Type 51; Tok-eyev.
9 MM Browning Pistol Model 1935 (High Power) Model 1935, British Models No. 1 Mk I, Mk I*, No. 2 Mk I, Mk I*.
Italian Beretta Automatic Pistol Model 1934
9 MM Lahti Pistol Model 1935-40 Models L-35 M/40.
Polish 9 MM Radom P 35 Polish Model Tokman Model.
French Automatic Pistol Models 1935 and 1950 Models 1935 A, 1935 S, 1950.
German 9 MM Walther Pistol P 38 Models P 38, P-1 (light weight).

SECTION III MANUALLY OPERATED RIFLES

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Lebel Rifle Model 1886 Rifle and Carbine Model 1886, Chateherault Mod. 1885, Models 1886-RM-35, 1886 M27, 1886/93, 1886 M93 R35.
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Mauser Rifle Models 1889, 1890, 1891 Belgian, Argentine, Turkish, Spanish Models; Belgian M 1936.
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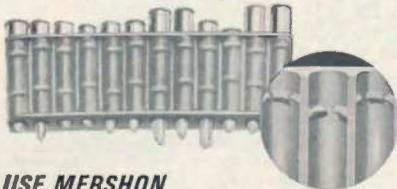
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



CARL WOLFF

ANOTHER ANTI-GUN BILL

Still another anti-gun bill has been introduced in Congress. This one, H.R. 12409, by George Brown (D.-Los Angeles), is identical to the so-called "Dodd Bill."

This reporter asked Rep. Brown to state for the readership of GUNS why he had sponsored the measure. He answered that it would be popular in his district and it would be good for the Nation. He introduced the bill after polling his constituency which includes riot-torn Watts.

Basically, the questionnaire suffers from one big flaw. It does not mention that guns used by criminals are already illegally obtained, in violation of California or Federal law, or both.

Some 80 per cent of the persons replying to the questionnaire, due to the way the poll was taken, believed "people should be willing to suffer some inconvenience if some crime might be prevented." Careful reading of the questionnaire and the answers indicate how this percentage came about.

Since when does denial of a choice in firearms represent "some inconvenience?" Because of the restrictions in the bill, you will have to buy what the local dealer has a franchise to handle.

Another point in the questionnaire stands out. Only 28% of those polled thought more gun laws would have a "great deal" of effect on crime. An estimated 35% felt it would have "some" effect, 17% felt it would have only "very little" and 18% felt that it would have none at all. Two percent were "undecided." How much is a "great deal," a "some" and a "very little?" Only a "none at all" can be positively identified.

Inquiring into the scope of the questionnaire, this reporter found out that it represented the opinions of only 300 people. The Congressman's District contains over 400,000 people. Far more than 300 of them rushed out to buy a gun for self-protection during the Watts riots, and they were glad they were available without some inconvenience such as a waiting period. The rioters, by the way, looted their weapons.



ANTI-GUN PEOPLE SHIFT TACTICS

The first months of this session of Congress saw a shift in the tactics on the anti-gun front here. Previously, as much mass attention as possible had been called to the opposition's viewpoint by their own people. It backfired. The overwhelming reaction came from the gun owners opposing their position.

The total number of letters pouring into Washington probably ran between five and six million. That is a lot of mail, even considering that the lawmakers get some 50 million pieces per year. Now, the anti-gun people are trying to undo what they have done. This to be accomplished by selecting audiences calculated to react in the desired way.

Meanwhile important strides are being taken to insure the gun legislation can move forward when the most desirous time comes. Specifically, the steps are the appointment of Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.) to the Senate Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee, hub of the anti-gun activities, and increasing the subcommittee's yearly funds to \$260,000, up from \$220,000. Inquiries are quietly being sent to the major cities seeking data to support their views.

The assigning of Sen. Kennedy to the subcommittee gives Sen. Dodd another vote to force the gun bill along on its legislative journey. Already Dodd has promised the press to use every trick in the book and some that are not, in order to move the bill forward.

The most desirous time for moving the gun legislation forward will depend upon future events. The President has, as reported to the readership of GUNS back in the winter, probably had second thoughts about the effectiveness of more gun laws. If his support is not forthcoming, the President's Administration, the real authors of the so-called "Dodd Bill," will have to hold off.

In Congress, Sen. Dodd is still not willing to compromise by accepting less than the major thrust of S. 1592, the Administration's bill. He would prefer having the House side of Congress start any such proposal on its way. He then could increase the harshness of any such bill when it reaches the Senate.

Unless Sen. Dodd modifies his position, any compromise will have to come from the House side. It is not likely, however, that the Ways and Means Committee, which is reviewing the gun bills on that side of Congress, will agree to move a compromise forward. This could be gotten around only by writing a bill in such a manner that it would be referred to another committee.

Still, this is an election year and all members of the House are up for re-election. The controversies over any kind of a bill (is it strong enough or too strong?) would tie up Congress, and the legislators are looking forward to an early adjournment so they may campaign. If a bill were to pass the House and not the Senate, it would die as all pending legislation will when Congress adjourns.



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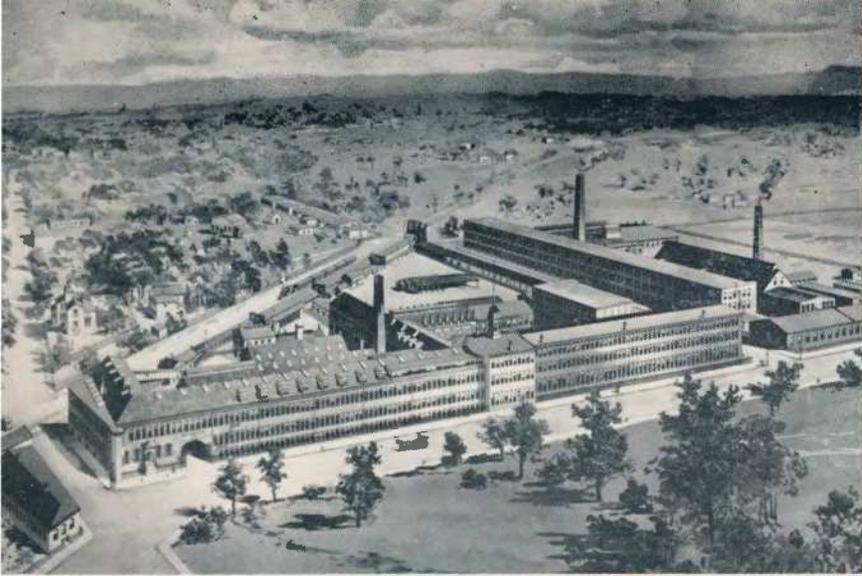
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Old lithograph shows an artist's conception of the original armory of the Winchester Company in New Haven, Connecticut.

The M 70 has been redesigned, improving the rifle's appearance, feel, and balance.

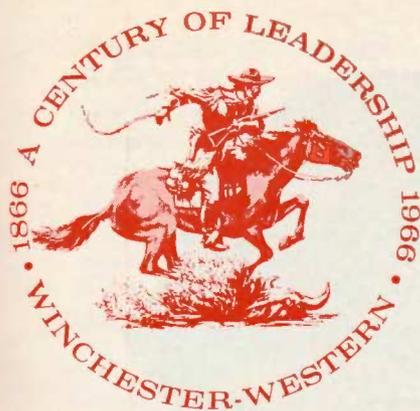


Above: The Centennial '66 Winchester. Right: W. L. Wallace, general manager of W-W, compares Centennial '66 with Winchester 1866 held by Frank Durso, a Winchester employee ever since 1917.



Pictured below are two new Winchester rifles, the Model 190 which handles all three .22 cartridges and the economical bolt action, center fire M 670 rifle.





WINCHESTER

1866 - 1966

By E. B. MANN

NEXT TIME YOU SEE an octagon-barrelled, lever action rifle with a magazine almost as long as the barrel and with yellow metal gleaming on forearm cap and receiver, better look twice before you name it. It's a Winchester, all right; and you can call it "Yellow Boy" without encountering any argument. You can even call it a Model '66 without shattering your reputation as an expert. But if you mention the other two figures that go with that model number, you can be wrong by as much as one hundred years. And that's a considerable discrepancy!

The first rifle to be called the Yellow Boy, and the first rifle to bear the Winchester name, was the Model of 1866, produced in that year by the newly formed Winchester Repeating Arms Company, at 9 Artizan Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

It may or may not be a coincidence worthy of note that in 1866, too, the President of the United States was a man named Johnson. But the 1866 Johnson's first name was Andrew, and he was a North Carolinian, not a Texan. Texas was not even a state then. Although admitted to the Union in 1845, Texas seceded in 1861 to join the Confederacy, and was not readmitted until 1870. In 1866, Texans were infinitely less interested in national politics than in the problems of driving long-horned Texas cattle up the hazardous Chisholm Trail to the almost equally hazardous rail-end, trail-end town of Abilene, in Kansas.

In 1866, the United States was barely 90 years old, and busily licking its grievous wounds after the bloodiest war in history. The West was very much still to be won. A one-way stagecoach passage from the Mississippi River to the West Coast commonly meant weeks of travel and cost \$200—more than twice as much as a jet plane ticket costs today; and those were big hundred-cent dollars, each worth a full day of a man's labor. There were no insurance companies standing by then, either, begging to bet you 300,000 dollars to ten that you'd make it safely. In fact, there were Indians out there who might bet you a warwhoop to your scalplock that you wouldn't! If you were smart, you carried your own insurance, in the form of a gun. The faster that gun would shoot, the better the insurance.

The idea of repeating firearms had been tantalizing inventors for decades. Many such weapons had been offered, tested, and found wanting. Daniel B. Wesson and Horace Smith, later to attain world fame as developers and manufacturers of repeating revolvers, were among the first of the gun-makers to tackle the commercial development of a repeating rifle. In 1854, Smith and Wesson formed a partnership for this purpose; and in 1855, they formed the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company, of Norwich, Connecticut. A successful New Haven textile-maker named Oliver Fisher Winchester was one of the investors in that company. When it failed, Winchester took over the factory, moved it to New Haven, and proceeded to operate it in conjunction with the New Haven Arms Company, in which he had already acquired controlling interest.

The problem at this time was not so much the gun as the cartridge. A considerable number of more or less successful repeating actions had been invented, but ammunition was lacking. The Volcanic weapons depended on bullets with conically hollowed bases filled with the highly dangerous and viciously corrosive explosive, fulminate of mercury. When the fulminate was exploded by the impact of the hammer or firing pin, things certainly happened—either the bullet was kicked out of the barrel, or the gun itself exploded. But the bullet could not be given sufficient (Continued on page 42)



Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill with Cody's Model 1866 Winchester.



How Good Are the WW2 Auto Pistols?

By J. B. WOOD



.45 Colt Model 1911



7.65 Petteer Model 1935

DURING THE YEARS preceding WW II, virtually every nation except the United States was changing its sidearms from revolvers or older automatic designs to more modern automatics. Having no serious difficulty with the Browning designed Colt .45 adopted in 1911, our ordnance people decided against any change. Other considerations were the huge quantities of the model 1911 still on hand, and the adoption of the M-1 carbine as a supplementary weapon. In actual combat the ancient military fact prevailed: the infantryman with small arms is most often the deciding factor. In the close quarters of village buildings or bombed factories, on commando raids, or when a rifle jammed, the pistol is the key to the success of a mission and often to survival. We find, however, two sharply divided schools of thought on the Colt .45. Some say that in order to be sure of hitting a large building with it, one must go inside and close the door. Others point to its success on the range at Camp Perry.

Similar arguments have been applied to all the sidearms of the major

powers, so we decided to conduct a test and compare some of the well known pistols of the major nations. Included are the WW II sidearms of the U. S., Germany, Japan, Italy, Russia, Poland, France, and Belgium. I have omitted Great Britain, as their obsolete Webley revolver would have greatly suffered in a comparison with modern automatics. I will admit to certain favorites among them; my prejudices based more on internal mechanism points than on relative accuracy. To furnish a control factor on the firing tests and an objective view on certain individual weapons, I asked a friend, Rolan Bennett, to assist in the actual range work.

U.S. .45 MODEL 1911: For the time, before 1907, when the firearms genius John M. Browning produced our .45 service pistol for the ordnance trials of that year, it was a remarkable achievement. Like its contemporary, the Luger, its design contained several features that were a breakthrough in the evolution of the automatic pistol. The years have passed, and though its

good points have been copied and surpassed in other weapons, there is a one word reason for the survival of the .45 —reliability.

Time and experience have pointed up many distressing things about the old .45: its ridiculous twisting recoil; complete lack of balance; limited magazine capacity; unstable sliding trigger; complicated barrel bushing and recoil spring plug assembly; archaic grip safety; outdated barrel-link locking system.

One point in particular would bear further comment: above the left grip is a small steel tube which holds the slide stop and the safety tension spring and its followers. This tube is attached to the frame by riveting. When this part comes loose, it is practically impossible to re-rivet without a tool.

The Model 1911's detractors answer the other side's reference to match successes with the observation that the high scores were accomplished in spite of, not because of, the pistol used. Further they say that almost any military pistol would be accurate if subjected to the fine tuning given match .45's.



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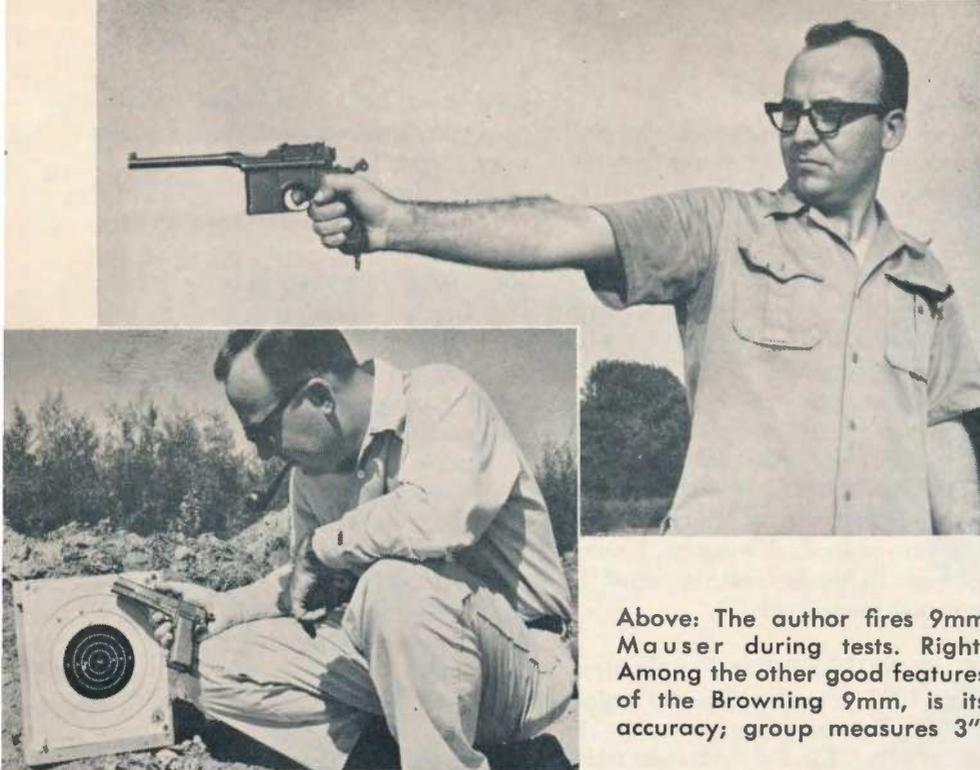


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1. Walther Model P-38.
2. Tokarev Model 30-33.
3. Nambu Model 14.
4. Browning Model 1935.
5. Luger Model 1908.



Above: The author fires 9mm Mauser during tests. Right: Among the other good features of the Browning 9mm, is its accuracy; group measures 3".



Mauser Model 1896 in 9mm.

SPECIFICATIONS & TEST RESULTS

Nation	Pistol	Cartridge	Weight: ounces	Length: inches	Barrel Length: inches	Rounds: fully loaded	Best Group: inches	Combat Target Rating	Suitability for Military use	Reason
USA	Colt—1911	.45 ACP	39	8.5	5	8	5	2	Good	Reliability
Germany	Luger—1908	9 MM Luger	30	8.75	4	9	4	4	Fair	No external hammer
Germany	Walther P-38	9 MM Luger	34	8.5	4.8	9	none	2	Good	External hammer; double action
Germany	Mauser—1896	9 MM Luger	45	12	5.3	10	4	5	Poor	Large, awkward; no detachable magazine
Japan	Nambu—M14	8 MM Nambu	30	9	4.5	9	4	4	Poor	Obsolete ctg.; no external hammer
Italy	Beretta—1934	9 MM Corto	24	6	3.5	8	4	5	Excellent	Sturdy, reliable; external hammer
USSR	Tokarev—M30-33	7.62 MM	33	7.75	4.5	9	3.5	3	Good	High velocity; reliable; external hammer
Poland	Radom—M1935	9 MM Luger	30	7.75	4.8	9	2.5	5	Excellent	Strong action, reliable, accurate; external hammer
France	Petter—1935	7.65 MM Long	26	7.6	4.3	9	4.5	2	Poor	Obsolete ctg.; cramped trigger
Belgium, China & Others	Browning M1935	9 MM Luger	32	7.34	4.7	14-15	3	5	Excellent	Large magazine capacity; strong action; external hammer

One of my main points of dissatisfaction with the service pistol is its cartridge. The lumbering .45 may have that mystical property known as "stopping power," but it also has several disadvantages. Its dimensions cause a reduced magazine capacity; its bulk and weight limit the number a man can carry, and its penetration power is not outstanding on helmets and other light armor. By comparison, about 30 per cent more 9mm Parabellum rounds can be supplied in the same space and weight.

Regarding the superior energy of the .45 cartridge (around 400 fps compared to around 350 for the 9 mm), we can only say that in order to be effective, a bullet must be capable of accurate delivery and passable penetration. Also, the 9 mm can be loaded without excess pressure to equal the energy of the .45. With all our objections, there is one thing worth remembering about the old cannon: it won't jam.

LUGER, MODEL 1908: Though it was adopted by Germany before WW I, the Luger served in more than equal numbers in WW II. Officially supplanted in 1938 by the Walther, it was still preferred by many, especially among the older officers.

The graceful sweep of its grip sets it in the hand like an extension of the shooter's arm, and its lock-time is as quick as many target arms. The toggle-action does seem to transfer the recoil force high above the line of sight, causing some muzzle-whip, but the kick is moderate.

The trigger system, with its separate lever linkage to the sear, has been damned by many serious shooters as "impossible." They are mistaken. If the Luger in question is not a collector's piece, and would suffer no devaluation from being altered slightly, an excellent pull can be achieved by adding steel at one or two points and stoning all contact surfaces. Further refinements can be obtained by installing an anti-slack screw through the upper front of the guard and a stop at the frame end of the trigger spring. Of course, the pistols we are considering here, the ones to be tested and compared, have no such modifications. They are all exactly as issued.

Ninety per cent of Luger malfunctions can be traced to a defective magazine. Most of the faulty magazines are found to be (Continued on page 55)

Shooting the World's Biggest Derringer



Gun
OF THE MONTH



SOME OF THE MOST horrendous examples of handguns known today are the results of England's colonial adventures in the 19th century.

In the heyday of Queen Victoria, and the British Empire, the British Army found itself coping with a variety of large, tough individuals in many corners of the earth. Most U. S. handgunners are familiar with the story of how the Phillipine Moros, by their complete disregard of .38 caliber bullets, forced the adoption by the Marines of the famous .45 A.C.P. Well, the British had the same problem first.

The famous "Fuzzy-Wuzzies" of the African Sudan, and the fanatical Moslem tribesmen of the Northwest Frontier of India, were representative of this class of warrior. They didn't know when they were dead! In the 1880's, the British service revolver, while of .45 caliber, used a poopy little 13 gr. powder charge. This didn't provide enough penetration for immediate effect. Many officers put a cylinder-full of these loads into a charging warrior, only to have a kris, yatagahn, or scimitar deal him a fatal blow. *(Continued on page 51)*

Lancaster .57 pistol has an over-all length of more than a foot.

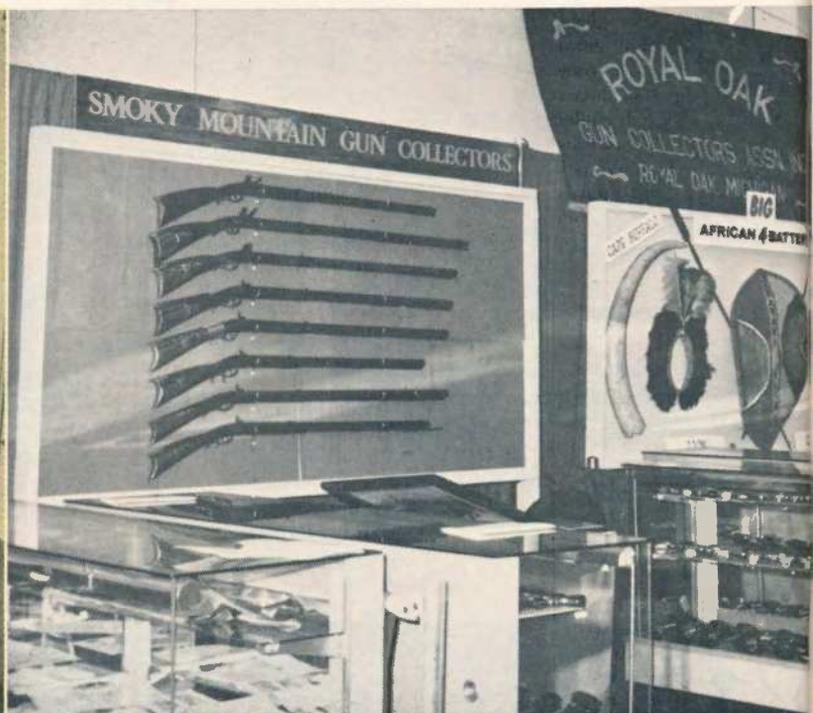
By KINGSLEY KARNOPP



The big grip is comfortable and makes handling the heavy recoil quite easy.

THE 95th ANNUAL

NRA



*Event: 1966 NRA Show
Dates: April 2 through 7
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Place: Edgewater Beach Hotel*

By JEROME RAKUSAN

AT LAST THE MID-WESTERNERS get a break. After having been forsaken for the past several years, the annual NRA Meetings and Exhibits will be held in Chicago. The dates are April 2 through April 7, and the place is the Edgewater Beach Hotel.

For the National Rifle Association, this meeting will emphasize two important programs. The first is the NRA's campaign to bring their membership roles to a total of one million. When the current "Shoot for a Million" campaign began last year, the membership numbered 670,000; today, there are more than 730,000 shooters, hunters, and collectors who wear the badge of the NRA.

The second program, of course, will focus on firearms

legislation. During the meeting of the NRA Executive Committee, a positive legislative "package" was proposed. This package is made up of three separate bills: The "Casey Bill," HR 11427, would punish those who use firearms in a crime of violence; the second measure would prohibit manufacturers or dealers from shipping a firearm into another state if such shipment would be in violation of any statute of that state; The third proposal would provide federal control of such weapons as bazookas, cannon, grenades, bombs, etc.

These three "bills" will undoubtedly be discussed at great length by NRA officials and members at a Firearms Legislation Session on the afternoon of April 3rd.

Other special sessions will cover shooting clubs, collecting, competitive shooting, firearms education, hunting, and game conservation. In past years, each of these sessions has been filled with worthwhile, thought-provoking discussion and ideas.

But there is more to an NRA Meeting than official business or committee meetings. During each of the five days of the show, competitive shooters, hunters, collectors, and gun enthusiasts will be able to visit the exhibit hall, where manufacturers and distributors display everything that's new for shooters. The list of commercial exhibitors runs from Alcan to Winchester, with some 60 or more names between. In addition to the commercial exhibitors, there are usually some two dozen or more gun collectors associations displaying unique guns of every description. The various military services usually have displays at the NRA show which display the latest weapons in use and portray the role of competition shooting in training programs.

At each of the past NRA shows, there have been brand new sporting firearms shown for the first time, and from all indications, this year will be no different. Several manufacturers had new guns which were shown to dealers at the recent trade show, and these will be shown to the public at NRA Meeting.

But the Annual NRA Show offers much more than a chance to see the newest guns, ammunition, accessories and reloading equipment. It presents a unique opportunity for the shooters to talk to factory representatives.

If you can come to Chicago, plan to spend at least a few days at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. And be sure to stop in at the GUNS booth.

We'll be happy to see you.



SHOW...



COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS

Colt Industries
Poly-Choke Co.
C-H Die Co.
Mayville Engineering
D. P. Bushnell
Weatherby
Sturm Ruger
Cadillac Gage Co.
Hercules Powder Co.
Speer, Inc.
Frank A. Hoppe
O. F. Mossberg
Leupold & Stevens
Sierra Bullets
Gould's Myrtlewood
Daisy Mfg. Co.

RCBS, Inc.
Cascade Cartridge, Inc.
Redfield Gun Sight Co.
Royal Arms, Inc.
Smith & Wesson
Charles Daly
Stoeger Arms
Crosman Arms
Norma-Precision
10-X Mfg. Co.
Browning Arms
Pacific Gun Sight Co.
Alcan Co., Inc.
Harrington & Richardson
Birchwood Casey Co.
Arthur Cook Supply Corp.

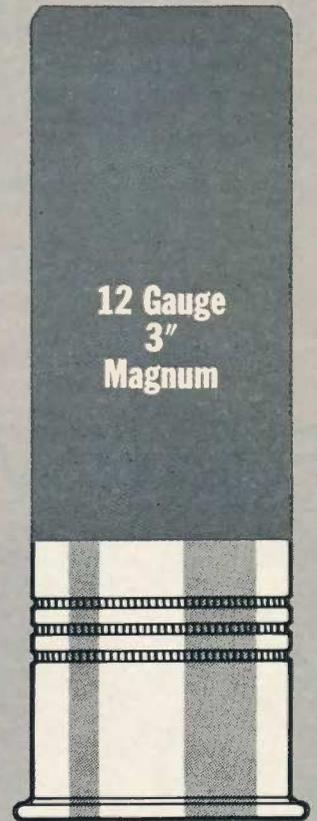
Ithaca Gun Co.
Jet-Aer Corp.
Remington Arms Co.
Bausch & Lomb
Gil Hebard
Hartford Gun Choke Co.
Freeland's Scope Stands
Shooting Equipment, Inc.
Realistic Target Corp.
V. H. Blackington
Herter's, Inc.
Mitchell Shooting Glasses
Jay Scott, Inc.
Hornady Mfg. Co.
Williams Gun Sight Co.
John Unertl Optical Co.

Savage Arms
J. G. Anschutz GmbH
Brownells, Inc.
Al Siegel & Assoc.
J. M. Bucheimer
Reinhart Fajen
Winchester-Western
Lyman Gun Sight
High Standard
Federal Cartridge
Marlin Firearms
Micro-Precision
Firearms International
Dixie Gun Works
Marble Arms Corp.
Stackpole Books

WHY NOT A 16 GAUGE MAGNUM?

WITH A THREE INCH SHELL, THE ALL-BUT-FORGOTTEN
16 GAUGE COULD WELL BECOME THE ALL-AROUND GUN

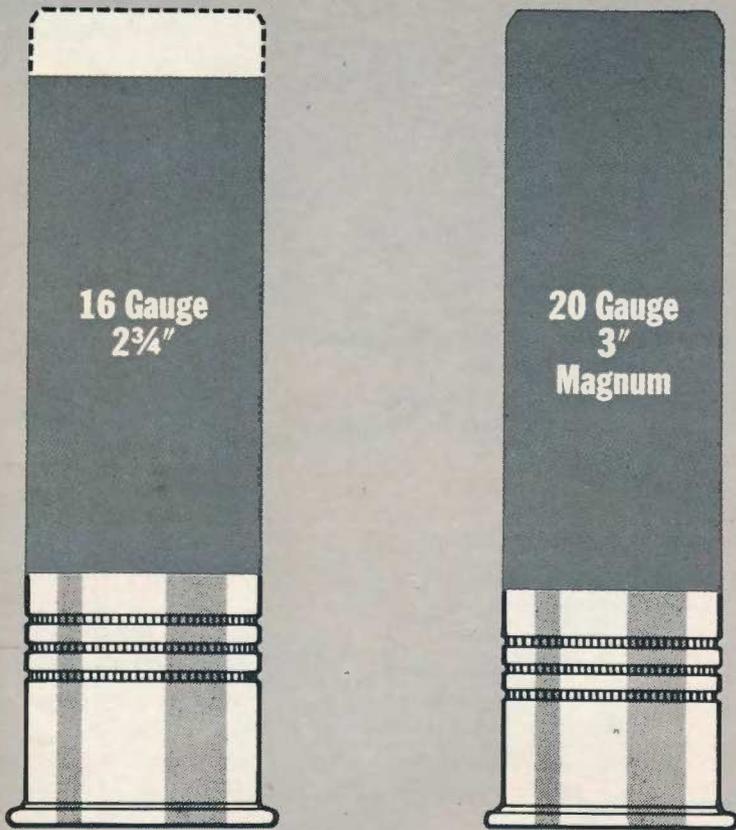
12 Gauge
3"
Magnum



By B. R. HUGHES

Left: Author on an Arkansas duck pass with a Marlin 16 gauge over-under, wishing it were loaded with 3" magnums. Below: With little interest in 16 gauge by target shooters, it's up to the hunters to save it.





AS I TRUDGED BACK to my car, enjoying the memory of a pleasant interlude in the duck blind, I became aware of another hunter approaching the path along which I was walking. After a few pleasantries, he eyed my smoothbore, and asked, "What kind of gun is that?"

Bracing myself against what I knew would follow—the man was carrying a 12 gauge magnum—I explained that my shotgun was a Marlin 16 gauge over-under.

"A 16 gauge? For ducks? Isn't that kind of small for a duck gun?"

I assured him that I did not think so, and my case was strengthened by the two mallards which I carried on my belt. However, he did say that he found his magnum pump gun "just the thing" for ducks. We parted company soon afterwards, wishing each other well on future hunts. But as I walked along, his words reminded me of a point I had often wondered about: Why not a three-inch 16 gauge magnum shotshell?

The 16 has long been a special pet of mine since I feel that it has most of the favorable qualities of both the 20 and the 12 without the faults of either. Certainly the 16 has long been a favorite in Europe, and 90 per cent of the shotguns made on the Continent for sale there are chambered for the 16.

For many years the 12 gauge has been the odds on choice of the American sportsman, but I do not think that it is a secret that the 12 is gradually losing ground to the smaller gauges, particularly the 20. And why not? With the advances made in ammunition since World War II, there no longer remains a particular need for the larger bores. Today's 16 can do the work of yesterday's 12 gauge. Just as the 12 supplanted the 10 gauge back around the turn of the century, so do I expect to see the 12 toppled from its throne. To me it seems that the 16 is the logical successor to the crown, but this can come to pass only if the gun and ammunition manufacturers bring out guns and shells for the 3" 16 mag-

num. Why not? After all, today we have the three-inch .410, the three-inch 20 and 12, plus the three-and-a-half inch 10 magnum; why not a three inch 16 gauge?

Actually, in standard length hulls, the 16 is not far behind the 12 gauge. The 16 normally comes loaded with $1\frac{1}{8}$ ounce of shot, while the 12 usually contains $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces. Even under the most favorable conditions, this figures out to not more than five yards of range advantage for the larger bore. When you consider that most 16's are lighter and faster handling, this cuts down the apparent advantage almost to the vanishing point. It is only when the 3" hull is used in the 12 that it shows any significant advantage over the 16. The maximum load in a 12 is $1\frac{7}{8}$ ounces of shot, while in the 16 it is $1\frac{1}{4}$. The importance of the availability of an extra length magnum hull to a prospective customer cannot be overstressed. Hunters who have no more use for a magnum shotgun than I do for a gondola often select a gun chambered for the extra-length hull instead of a standard model because they will have the power available should it ever be needed.

Let's see just how much the extra half inch of hull increases the shot load. In a 12 gauge the heaviest load available in the standard $2\frac{3}{4}$ " hull contains $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces of shot. However, as much as $1\frac{7}{8}$ ounces of shot is crammed into the 3" case, thus showing a gain of $\frac{3}{8}$ of an ounce of shot. This translates out to 51 additional number 4 pellets to the load, which is a giant-sized gain! The difference in the 20 gauge is less impressive: the maximum load in the 3" 20 holds $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces of shot—a gain of $\frac{1}{8}$ of an ounce of shot. The greater gain of the 12 gauge in terms of additional shot can be explained in part by the fact that the 12 has a bore diameter of .730", while the 20 measures only .615". Obviously, an additional half-inch of hull would hold more shot in the case of the 12 gauge because of its .115" greater diameter.

The 16 is approximately half way between the 12 and the 20 in size, measuring .670" in diameter, and thus it seems evident that a 3" 16 gauge shell should hold not less than $1\frac{3}{8}$ ounces of shot—the old 12 magnum loading—and perhaps as much as $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. This would be an increase of from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an ounce over the present maximum 16 gauge load of $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces. (Continued on page 44)

A CHARGE OF MURDER was not sustained, and the costs will have to come off the county." That brief entry ends the court record of the trial of "Wm. B. Hickok, J. W. Brink, and Horace G. Wellman" before Justice of the Peace T. M. Coulter in Beatrice, Territory of Nebraska, for the killings at Rock Creek Station.

There are those who have said the trial was a farce, that the last words of the recorded verdict are an obvious confession that the court's primary interest was to rid the authorities of the expense of supporting three unwanted prisoners. Others insist that the murder charge itself was a farce, that Hickok and his friends were guilty of nothing more than being the winners in a fight forced on them by McCanles and the others. As usual, the researcher must read the evidence and form his own conclusions.

Perhaps, after all, the issue of right or wrong at Rock Creek is of minor importance. Those were rough times, and rough people. Law enforcement was haphazard or nonexistent. Courts were run by laymen, with few if any rules of evidence or procedure. There was only the thinnest of lines, legally or in the popular concept, between justifiable homicide and murder—and Hickok is by no means the only famous figure of that period whose position with regard to that narrow divider is impossible to prove. The mere fact that a dead man was armed was enough to earn a "self defense" verdict for his killer, often without even the formality of trial or formal hearing. At Rock Creek, there is no

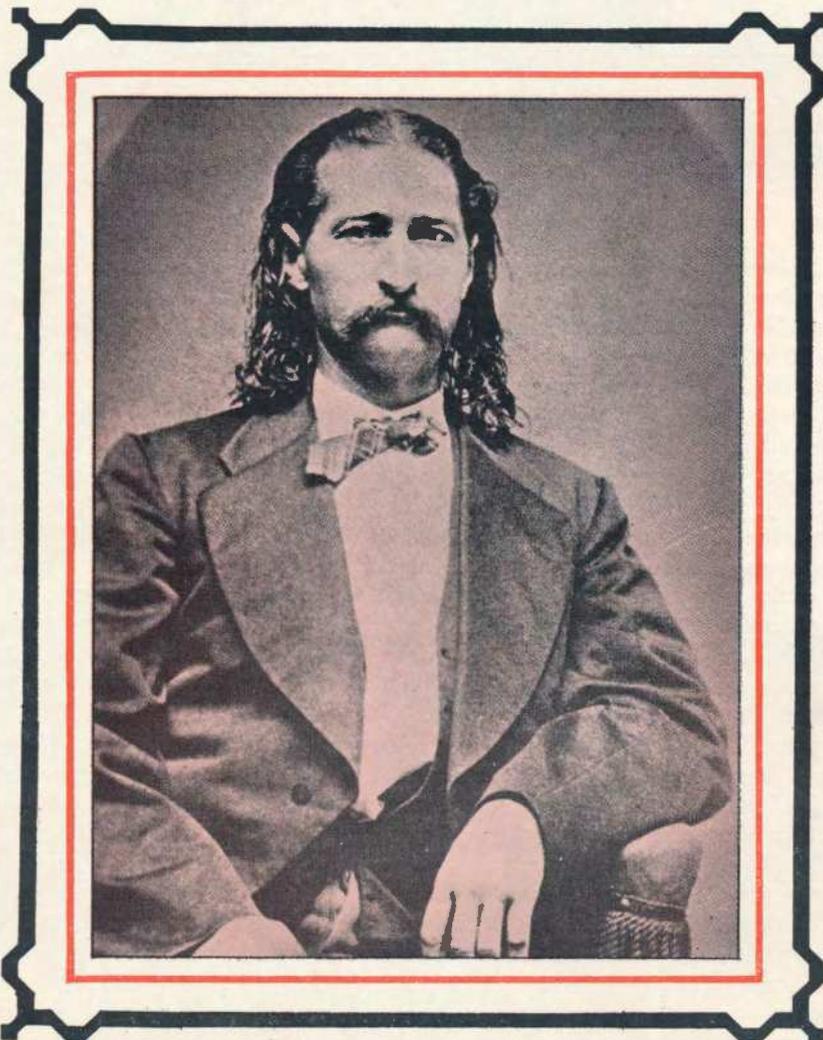


(Part Two)

WILD BILL HICKOK—

MAN OR MYTH?

By E. B. MANN



Colt .41 derringer was believed to have been a Wild Bill Hickok gun.

Left: Wild Bill Hickok in June of 1871, when he was Marshal of Abilene, Kansas.



Top: Pinfire "target revolver," one of a pair said to have belonged to Hickok. Smith & Wesson .32 shown here is another of the so-called "Hickok-type" revolvers.

unanimity of evidence or opinion even as to whether McCandles and his friends were armed! Such are the problems of those who seek truth in areas where frontier conditions provided little or no proof in the way of dependable records.

But one conclusion does emerge from the Rock Creek picture: Hickok was a fighter, a deadly efficient gunman.

How well did he shoot? Well, if you think contemporary reporters were over-free of superlatives in describing Hickok's character, courage, and appearance—wait till you see what they had to say about his shooting! Here, the reader should keep a grim hold on his own knowledge of guns and shooting, sifting the probable from the improbable, the possible from the impossible, from statements which, in some cases, out-do the tallest tales of fiction.

One of the standard "texts" in the literature of Hickokiana is William E. Connelley's "Wild Bill And His Era" (Press of the Pioneers, New York, 1933). Connelley was an historian of real stature, and his research added greatly to the documentation and evidence behind the Hickok story. Each reader must decide for himself how well Connelley interpreted those facts and that testimony, whether he did or did not "fall in love with" his hero. Each reader must decide, too, how much Connelley (and other reporters to be quoted) knew about guns and shooting, and (in some cases) how much regard each had for truth. But let's look briefly, first, at Connelley's Chapter II: "Wild

Bill's Marksmanship:"

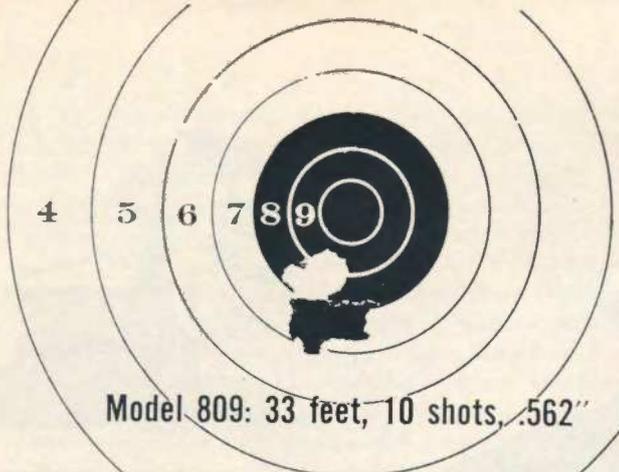
"Wild Bill loved the six-shooter. With one of these in hand he was master of any situation. In rapidity and dexterity of its use he stands above all others.

"It must be stated here that Wild Bill never shot from the hip, various writers to the contrary notwithstanding. And Wild Bill never filed down the catches which held the pistol cocked until he had to hold and release the hammer with his thumb. He honed these catches down with great care until his pistols were easy on the trigger. Wild Bill could twirl his pistol on his trigger-finger, firing every time the handle came up into his grasp.

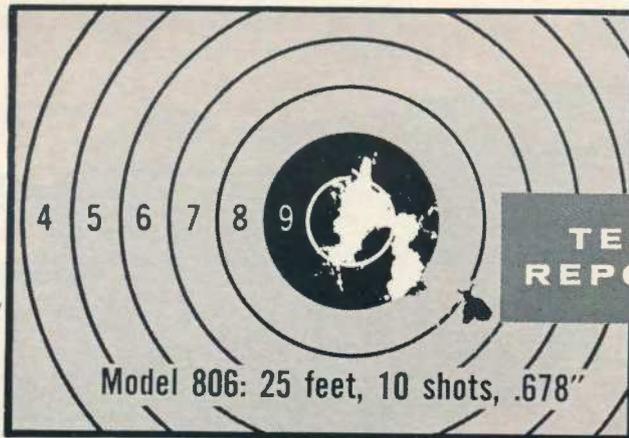
"In Topeka Wild Bill did some fine shooting. Mr. Marshall saw him throw up a coin and shoot it to pieces before it hit the ground. George M. Stone saw him shoot a row of holes close to the edge of the brim of Buffalo Bill's hat when it was spun up into the air.

"While he was Marshal of Abilene two men committed a murder. They fled . . . one running up the street and the other down the street in the opposite direction. Bill fired at both men simultaneously and killed them both. . . . This was in 1871."

Fine shooting indeed; and none of it, so far, impossible. Ed McGivern, and numerous shooters alive today, could do as well. But shooters will wish (Continued on page 52)

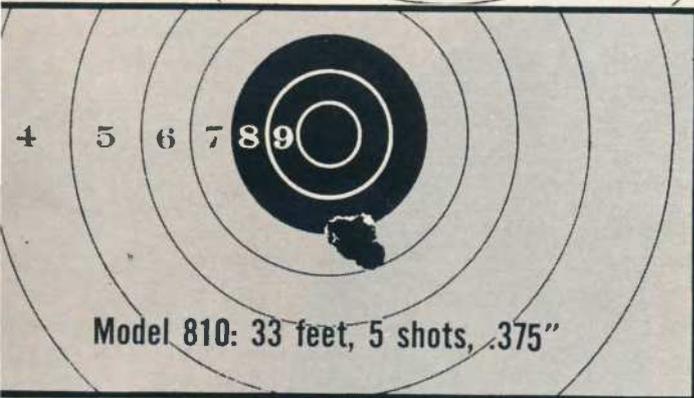


Model 809: 33 feet, 10 shots, .562"



Model 806: 25 feet, 10 shots, .678"

TEST
REPORT:



Model 810: 33 feet, 5 shots, .375"



HY-SCORE AIR GUNS

LUFTGEWEHR Scheibenschiessen—
or air rifle target shooting—has
long been a highly competitive shoot-
ing sport in Germany and, to a lesser
degree, in Austria. Those of us who
were in Germany through the courtesy
of Uncle Sam, saw the complete devo-
tion of grown men to air rifles and to
shooting those guns in serious competi-
tion. It has always been somewhat of
a surprise to many of us that this type
of shooting sport has never caught on
in our country.

Many G.I.'s who did become inter-
ested in target shooting with air rifles
and who wanted to continue with a
shooting sport which is inexpensive
and requires just as much skill as any
other kind of target shooting, found
themselves stymied when they tried to
introduce the sport here upon their re-
turn from Germany. I have heard argu-
ments that run from "Heck, shoot-
ing air guns is kid's stuff," to "It don't
take any skill to shoot an air gun."
Quite frequently, some of the G.I.'s
who became infatuated with the sport
found that no air rifle available here
came anywhere near the accuracy

standards they had learned to expect
from many of the German and Aus-
trian air target rifles.

If you too think that air guns are
for kids and that air guns aren't ac-
curate enough for serious target shoot-
ing, take a gander at some of these
targets. The Hy-Score guns, which are
made in Germany for S. E. Laszlo of
Brooklyn, New York, shoot not only
as accurately as any U.S.-made pellet
gun, but two of the models are strictly
big league when it comes to accuracy.

All of the Hy-Score air rifles and
handguns are single pump air guns. In
order to charge them with air, the bar-
rel is moved downward, which cocks
a spring. Closing the gun then forces
the air into a tightly sealed chamber.
Pull the trigger and the air is sudden-
ly released through a needle valve.
This may not sound like much, but
these guns, even the most inexpensive
of which contains many stamped parts,
are strictly top-notch as far as the
functioning parts are concerned.

"Air guns may be for kids," but
after shooting seven of these Hy-Score
guns during the past couple of months,

I can't go along with this statement.
Sure, some of these guns are strictly
for plinking or bowling over a rabbit
or a pesky squirrel, but don't ever dis-
count the punch or the accuracy of the
Hy-Score guns. Before starting my ex-
tensive tests, I decided that I would
not in any way alter the guns, that I
would test them the way they came out
of their original boxes. All of my
shooting was done on my indoor range
since the temperature hovered around
the coolish -20 degrees most of the
time these guns were put through their
paces.

With the exception of the Model
802, which is a six-shooter handgun,
all of the Hy-Score guns are single-
shots. Air rifles may be smoothbored
or the barrels may be rifled. If only
pellets are to be fired and if maximum
accuracy and velocity are the aim,
then a rifled tube is a must. The Hy-
Score pellets are made from pure lead,
and the design is a somewhat modified
wadcutter with a skirt that fits the
gun's bore tightly, thus preventing air
from escaping around the pellet. With
the entire

(Continued on page 60)



By R. A. STEINDLER



Some of the test firing was done in the comfort of author's den. Backstop was cardboard box stuffed with old magazines.

Top to Bottom: Model 808, lowest in price of Hy-Score rifles; the Model 806 with optional scope; Model 810 air rifle with Olympic sights.

The Model 812 Olympic target sight outfit shown here is standard on the Hy-Score 809 and 810 match rifles.



Fast Draw-

FROM THE GUNFIGHTER TO A SHOOTING SPORT

By GEORGE E. VIRGINES

IN 1866, WITH THE RUMBLINGS of Civil War guns still echoing in men's memories and Civil War wounds still painful, fast draw was combat. It was the child of necessity out of self-preservation. Civil War veterans by the thousands were heading west, seeking free lands and new beginnings—only to find on arrival that the only insurance available, for their property or their lives, was the gun they carried. The gun, in hip holster or saddle scabbard, in the cabin or under the seat of the wagon, was the only law west of the Missouri. And so, where men met for last-ditch settlements, the man who could shoot first and shoot straightest was the survivor.

The shoot-out became the climax of the western saga. Sensationally dramatic, it was headlined by the press, glorified by the writers, told and retold a thousand times (and seldom accurately) for every time it actually happened, used and misused by all of the communications media that came later, including the historians. It was the suspense of "High Noon," the show-down climax of a thousand tales—"good guy" versus "bad guy," with everybody knowing the outcome but nobody escaping the excitement of two men pitting their gun skills one against the other.

Law and Order put a stop to this American version of the more ancient knight errantry; but today, a hundred years later, fast draw still lives—no longer deadly but still dramatic, still demanding high skills equalling the magic of legerdemain—a new gun sport, instantly popular, safe as gin rummy, filled with appeal for young and old of both sexes. Anybody can be a "fast gun," and anybody can prove it—anywhere. Because this is one gun sport not troubled with the problem of where to shoot. You can practice in your home, or in a hotel lobby; because fast draw doesn't require, doesn't even permit, bullets.

Fast draw as a sport, of course, is not a hundred years old, or even twenty. It is, in fact, still a toddler in the family of sports. But it has seen fantastic growth, fantastic change—and it has stirred up more controversy than a raise in taxes.

Fast draw first came to public notice under ominous headlines. "Joe Dropout Shot Himself in the Leg Practicing Fast Draw." Many doctors talked and wrote articles about, "the fast draw syndrome." Even some gun enthusiasts and shooting organizations con-

(Continued on page 48)





Ron Mossholder, editor of Top Gun, is current Valley Gun Hawks fast draw club champ with record of 14 consecutive hits on four-inch balloons with a .28 sec. per shot average.



Author (seated) explains fine points of the Colt Single Action Army revolver to interested fast draw enthusiasts.



Author shows his speed to Stan Lynde, creator of the western cartoon strip, "Rick O'Shay."



Fast draw fans use several different "loads" including .22 blanks with adapter for .45's, wax bullets fired by primers, and .45 blanks.



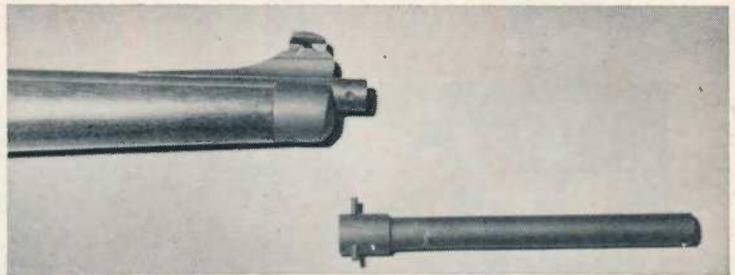
Pocket- Sized **DYNAM**

By NORMAN PHILLIPS

Easy handling, even in strange positions, is one of the rifle's finest qualities. The muzzle extension reduces heavy blast.



The author's "peashooter" is two inches shorter and half a pound lighter than Winchester's 94.



Above: Extension attaches easily with setscrews.
Below: Reworked bolt fits saddle scabbard neatly.





I HAVE VIEWED WITH INTEREST the development of handguns in recent years. Growing in both size and ballistics, the current crop of .41 and .44 Magnums are as big and powerful as many a small rifle. The only trouble is, not one shooter out of a thousand can hit anything with a handgun. We aren't talking about the handgun expert, of course. He can utilize the potential such guns offer. But the other 99.99% of the shooters in the world would be better off with a rifle, any rifle, in any caliber, than they would be with the biggest and best handgun ever produced.

So we got to thinking about how to build up a real pocket rifle—a truly all-round gun which would qualify as a self-defense arm, a camp gun for tincanning and rodent plinking, a shark gun with which to discourage those marauders when ocean fishing, and even a big game rifle if we ever chose to carry it for that purpose. We wanted a gun with the performance of a long-range match rifle, the weight and balance of a Winchester .30-30, the clean lines of a Mannlicher-Schoenauer, and the ruggedness of a military weapon. We settled on a DCM '03-A3 Springfield as our basic arm since it was low in cost, and readily available and has a reliable action.

The first step was to take the as-issue gun to a gunsmith and tell him to start whittling. We asked him to turn down

the outside of the barrel to minimum dimensions, taking off just as much metal as he thought it was safe to remove. Then the barrel was cut off to 18 inches and crowned with chamfered, not convex, crowning.

Next came the bolt handle. This was reworked to conventional "scope clearance" contours but in addition, the bottom of the knob (that portion which comes down against the stock) was ground flat and checkered. The bolt was then bent even closer to the stock, stopping when the amount of clearance was the same as before it was ground off. This operation gives as much room for your fingers during bolt operation as an issue rifle, but brings the outside of the bolt handle a good $\frac{1}{2}$ " closer to the stock. This conversion produces a bolt action which is almost as flat and as easy to carry in a saddle scabbard as a Mannlicher-Schoenauer but which is still as easy to work in rapid fire as a conventional Springfield or Mauser. Neat as the Mannlicher-Schoenauer is, there is so little clearance between bolt and stock that you just about have to get your fingernails under it to pry it up in rapid fire. Final metal conversion consisted of installing a Williams Foolproof receiver rear sight and a ramp front, with low-profile gold bead.

We had some more metalwork we wanted done but since the gunsmith had taken 14

(Continued on page 46)

The Bristol Small Arms Training School...

By ERNEST L. E. HACK



Author requires that each student memorize the ten essential rules of firearms safety.

Assistant Instructor coaches one of the students on the use of the sling and later demonstrates how the bolt action operates.



FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE been deeply disturbed by shooting accidents. It is my belief that at least 98 per cent of them could be prevented with the proper training in firearms safety. Consequently in April, 1956, I formed the Bristol Small Arms Training School in Bristol, Conn., for boys and girls 12 years old and over. Since the school was organized, I am happy to say that interest in gun and rifle safety has increased tremendously in our area.

In the beginning we had an unused 12 x 12 foot chicken house which I had converted into a classroom. This building was small but it served the purpose for six years. In 1959 my brother-in-law and I planned and built a 50 foot range that can be used year round, day and night. We have also now completed a larger building with four times the original floor space and I started conducting classes in it last season. Our range is all electrically controlled and is equipped with heat and lights for night shooting. But before anyone builds a range in the town where they live, they should check with the mayor or chief of police about laws and zoning restrictions. Our property is in a residential zone, and before we could build our range, we had to receive a permit from the mayor allowing us to fire our guns within the city limits.

At the start our classes were conducted for six weeks, with each weekly session lasting two and a half hours. The basic objectives of the course are still the same as they were then: to develop recreational skill, to instruct in all phases of rifle marksmanship, and to develop proper care of the rifle.

Safety is a big factor with us and all through the course

we review the safety precautions necessary when handling guns. At our range no rifle is ever loaded until the shooter is in position at the firing line. He is trained to keep his finger out of the trigger guard until he is sighting down the range. No gun is ever taken off the firing line unless it is unloaded and the action is open. We teach our students to never accept a gun with the action closed and to never hand another person a gun with the action closed. We say that no one should ever take another person's word that a gun is unloaded. It is always the "unloaded" gun that kills or injures. We feel that you don't have to be an expert shooter to be an expert in handling a gun safely.

The subjects we cover in our course are briefly as follows: construction and functioning of guns and ammunition; use and adjustment of the sling; correct sighting picture; correct mechanics of the four basic positions; proper breathing and trigger squeeze; sight adjustment; and range procedure including analyzing the target.

The first full week students receive only class room instruction for the full time period. There is no target practice at this lesson. Students are instructed in rifle nomenclature, ammunition components, and how the rifle functions. They are also instructed in how they should show their responsibility whenever handling firearms. They are required to memorize and live up to the "Ten Commandments of Gun Safety." They must be able to write them from memory before graduating. If a student does not know these safety rules and still receives a passing mark on his final examination, he will not graduate.

The second and succeeding weeks students receive class

THIS NON-PROFIT TRAINING ORGANIZATION HAS REAPED HUGE DIVIDENDS IN SHOOTER SAFETY AND INSTRUCTION.



room instruction and also range instruction in the different positions, as well as actual shooting instruction. They are taught one position each week, starting with the prone. Each student shoots two dummy and five live rounds. While students are receiving range instruction, the assistant instructors help them learn how to get the sling properly adjusted, to squeeze the trigger, to correct the sight picture, breath easily, etc. On the sixth week they receive their final examinations, and on the seventh week they shoot for awards. On their own, they load and unload their rifles and get into position without coaching and are graded on the manner in which they do this as well as how safely they handle their rifles.

On the eighth week, we hold graduation exercises and present them with their certificates and any awards they have qualified for. Parents and friends of the students are invited to the ceremonies. I always try to have a public official or someone connected with the firearms field speak at the graduation exercises. I believe that this helps keep the students interested in firearms safety after they have finished the course.

At the time of graduation, we have a number of reports of firearms accidents which we read to the students. We do this to impress upon them what can happen to those who are foolish or careless with firearms. I try to impress upon them that I personally take more pride in handling a gun safely than I do in shooting a perfect score.

Changes in the course have been made gradually over the years. When the fourth class began in November, 1956, we began giving the students a mid-course test dur-

ing the third week of the course. If they received a low grade, they were cautioned to do some studying, for we had upped the passing mark on the final examination to 92 per cent from the 80 per cent which we had required during the first three courses.

In the fall of 1957, the course was extended to eight weeks of three hour sessions and we kept the passing mark at 92 per cent. With this extension we were able to have one session for shooting only. During this session the students attempt to qualify for the NRA Ranger Award. To win this award, the student must shoot 70 out of 100 on each of three Ranger targets.

In 1961 we began letting students use the school's range after they had finished the course so that they could continue their enjoyment of shooting. We charged a small range fee to cover the cost of targets, and if the student did not own a rifle, he was permitted to use one of the school's rifles. Since that time we have kept a supply of NRA awards displayed so that shooters can see what they are trying to earn and so that they can have them as soon as they qualify. This seems to have kept our students interested in shooting for long periods after graduation.

The next year we started conducting a pistol course which is as complete as the rifle course. This course is limited to boys and girls 18 and over. It requires 10 weeks of three hour sessions and covers both the revolver and semi-automatic pistol.

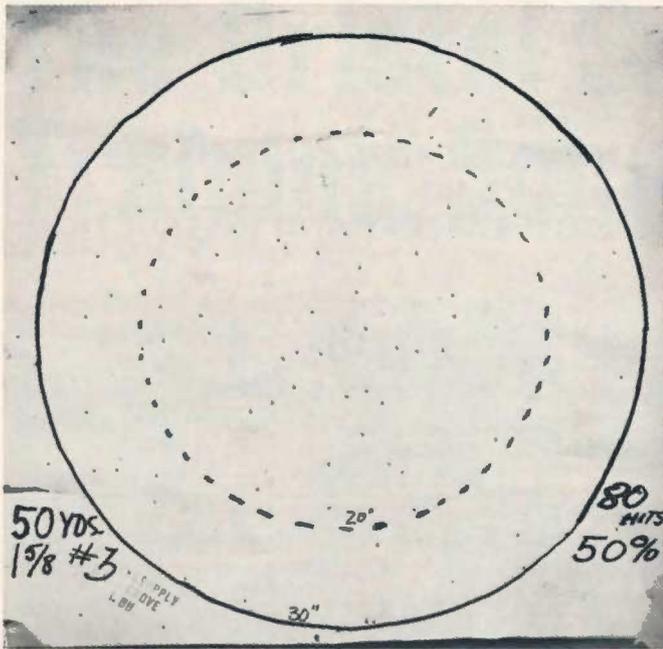
Both of our courses are given from tape recorded lectures. The use of the tape makes the lecture more thorough and accurate, and I believe that the students listen better to the recorder than they do to a live lecturer. Also the tape can be repeated whenever necessary, saving the lecturer a lot of extra talk. We require students to take notes at each session, so that they can study them at their leisure during the week.

A few years ago I had a fellow who had served in the Army register for a course in Hunter Safety. After the course was finished, he told me that because he had been in the service, he had thought that he knew all there was to know about guns and gun safety. "But," he said, "I have learned some things here that the Army didn't teach me." It just goes to show that no matter how much a person knows about a subject, he can always learn more. I know I have learned a great deal in teaching these rifle and pistol courses. When a student asks a question, the instructor should have the answer. The right answer, however, is the only answer that should be given when you are working with guns. And there are times when I just don't have that answer. The students look to the instructor for knowledge, and they will believe any answer you give them. So if you can't give them the right answer, don't give them any. It's far better to let them think that you can fail once in a while than to give them wrong information about guns.

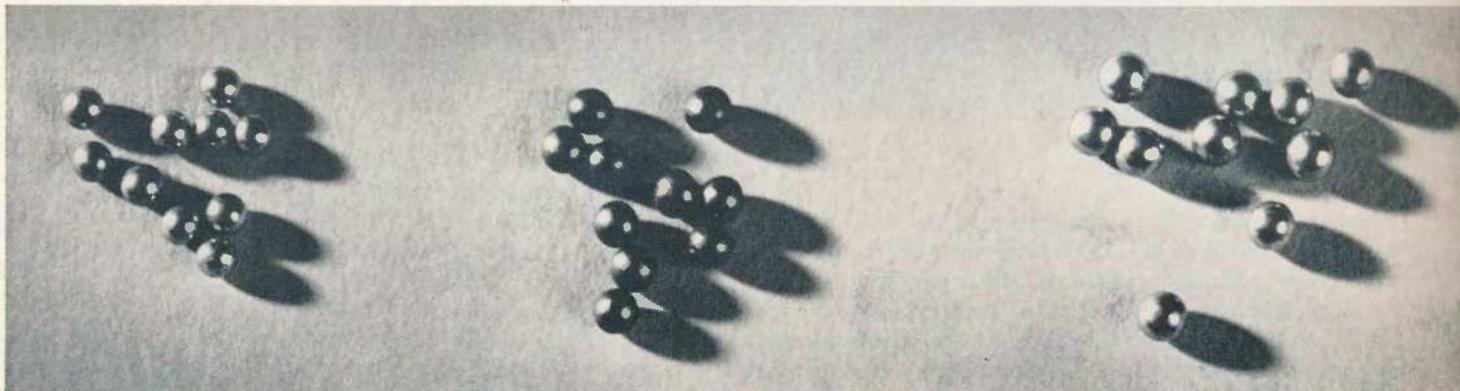


SHOTGUNS AND LOADS FOR GOBBLERS

By KEN WARNER



This is the pattern produced by a handloaded shell. At 50 yards pattern was 50 per cent in a 30" circle, 29 per cent or 47 pellets in 20" circle at 50 yards.



No. 3 shot (center) is larger, more penetrating than 4's (left). No. 2 (right) is yet more so, put patterns thin.



Only tool used to make the assorted gobbler loads was a Lee Loader, carefully manipulated with dry hulls.

IT'S VERY TRUE that most turkey shooting does not require any great skill. If you can hit the patterning board fair and square, you can kill turkeys with ease, since most first shots are from ambush at standing or slowly-moving birds of large size (You won't want to flush the turkey for a more "sporting" shot, though—a spooked turkey has few peers in the quick start and dodge.)

And nearly any 12 to 20 gauge shotgun will do for general turkey hunting, with sufficient loads readily available in anyone's average selection of shells.

But the gobbler turkey is another matter entirely. *Consistent kills, quick kills*, on birds that weigh over 14 pounds and are desperately tenacious of life, requires more than a casual use of chokes and charges.

Examples from the season past demonstrate the gobbler turkey's stern grip on life and freedom:

A large gobbler — 18 to 20 pounds — was drawn to within 100 yards by calling. He was shot with a Moss-



berg .22 WMR with Mossberg C-Lect-Powr scope set at 5X. The rifle grouped well and the gobbler went down flat at the shot. The shooter called the shot a good hold and advanced to pick up the turkey, moving quietly. When he was still 40 yards distant, the bird suddenly rose and took flight, disappearing behind some trees. The sound of a fall was heard, but so thick was the cover that a diligent search did not find the bird. Four months later the field it fell in was mowed and the turkey found. The hit had been a good center hit, though the gobbler had apparently turned slightly just before the shot. The bullet, a Winchester solid, had hit the hip socket, completely shattering it, and continued right on through the body.

On another occasion a hunter with a Poly-Choked Remington Sportsman-58, in 12 gauge, called a large gobbler to about 52 yards. The bird refused to come nearer, but continued to answer the call. A clear shot was offered at the turkey's body and the hunter took it. The load was 1¼ oz. of No. 5 shot, which patterned well in this gun at the full setting. The gobbler fell to the shot and was immediately up and running slowly. The next shot loosened feathers; the third shot had no effect. The bird was lost, though likely killed.

Hunting from a Jeep, a third party obtained a clear 60-yard shot through a fence at a grazing gobbler. The gun was a Parker double 12 with 30" full choked barrels, the load a factory short-magnum load of No. 2 shot. The gobbler flattened at the report in "killed-dead" fashion. Then the driver suggested that since the turkey was so obviously dead and another might be near, the party should continue up the fence-line a short way and return to the gobbler afterward. This procedure took about ten minutes and the gobbler was gone when the party returned.

Full choke guns are best for this type of shooting. One hunter I know of has done considerable research in developing gobbler loads. No. 3 shot won hands down over 2's, 4's and 5's at the patterning board, and subsequent field use confirmed (Continued on page 41)



Left: 15 lb. gobbler was shot within 40 yards. Above: This team uses Savage 20 ga. Magnum and Parker 12 ga.



Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

EDGAR KUHLENSCHMIDT, of Evansville, Indiana, one of the nation's finest trapshooters, started his registered shooting career under very inauspicious circumstances. A three column profile on native son Kuhlenschmidt's shining career in the Evansville Sunday Courier & Press refers to an incident of more than passing interest to me, since I was there.

Although Edgar had fired quite a few shots at clay targets in the 1940's, all of them, until the fateful day at Westhaven Gun Club, had been on the informal meat-shoot circuit, for which Southern Indiana and the adjoining areas of Illinois and Kentucky are justly famous. He won the handicap event in his very first ATA outing but in so doing broke ATA rules by using heavier loads than those designated as legal for registered events.

When this was discovered, shoot management ruled that he could keep the trophy, but forfeited the purse money. I can recall vividly today that he was a chagrined and embarrassed young man. What I can't recall is whether any of the veteran shooters present consoled him by telling him that he would have probably won anyway, because the advantage of heavier loads is a dubious one. As if to prove it was no accident, he shot again the next Sunday in Vincennes, Indiana, and took runner-up trophy in a registered event using, to be sure, regulation loads.

But, partially because of this unhappy beginning, it was ten years before he hit the registered trail again. With the help of three of the finest gentlemen and competitors in the world of shooting, Dr. C. A. Laubscher, Pervis Taylor, and Randall Fortune, he hit the trail again in 1960 and broke his first hundred straight during that year.

In 1965, he broke 100 straight around 25 times and averaged 98.31 on nine thousand 16-yard targets. He broke 99 from 26 yards, which put him on the rarified atmosphere of the 27-yard handicap stripe. According to the great Dan Orlich, he will have to shoot 20,000 targets from that yardage to feel comfortable that far from his work. He also racked up one 99 at doubles in 1965 with his pump gun, and had a years doubles average of 91.15.

His current goal is 100 straight from 27 yards, and 100 straight at doubles. And, if I know Edgar Kuhlenschmidt, the man who has traveled far since that unhappy afternoon in the forties, he'll do it. It would be mighty appropriate if he could turn the twin trick at the 18-trap Southern Indiana Gun Club, in which he is prime mover, and

where the 1966 Hoosier State will be held.

Yank shooters just don't like to get clobbered in any kind of a shooting contest, even if the games are unlike our home-grown varieties. Our somewhat tarnished image in previous international trap and skeet competition except for 1962, got a brand new coat of high polish at the 1965 ISU shooting games in Santiago, Chile, where we won both team championships.

Our skeet team of Bob Rodale, Strother Shumate, Jimmy Prall, and Allen Morrison turned back challenges from Chile, Venezuela, West Germany, and Peru for the title, after a hot shoot-off. Under ISU rules, only the top two scorers compete in the shoot-off, and Rodale and Shumate hung tight to turn the trick. West German Konrad Wirnhier won the individual title. Shumate was fourth, Rodale 10th, and the other U.S. Shooters Prall, Bywater, Kulesh, and Morrison finished 17th, 18th, 20th, and 22nd. Harry Willsie, from Canada, who is no stranger on U.S. skeet fields and under our rules, was 8th high in individual scoring.

The Yank trap team of Kevin Onka, Peter Roussos, Jack Johnson, and William Abbott fired a score of 769x800, edging Italy by five targets, and East Germany by 21 breaks. Canada finished fourth, followed by Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Spain, Japan, Peru, and Brazil. Juan Lira of Chile was high individual, at 292, followed closely by Roussos and Abbott, both of whom scored 290, and were ranked 2nd & 3rd by a shoot-off. Johnson, Simonson, Onka, and Mashburn of the U.S. Team finished 6th, 12th, 19th, and 31st, respectively.

The performance of our shooters in this event is certainly a tribute to the efforts of a great many organizations and individuals toward better scores under ISU rules for the games of trap and skeet, which are much more difficult and quite unlike our domestic games by the same name.

Casual observers of the high scores recorded in the United States and Canada at trap and skeet have wondered why winning world titles in such games as the Olympics and ISU has been so difficult. These same observers would not find it unusual or newsworthy if the New York Yankees were suddenly asked to fill in for the NFL football Giants and were clobbered. Nor if the Boston Celtics personnel didn't do so well while filling in for a NHL hockey team. There is about as much difference between our skeet game and the ISU game as between baseball and football, and in the versions of trap as between basketball and hockey.

Shooters employ guns, use shotshells, and fire at clay targets in both ISU and domestic trap and skeet, but there the resemblance ends. Targets fly farther, faster, from different spots on the field, at different angles, and at different times. And, this does make a difference!

Flash! There is big news from the Women's Interclub Trapshooting League, over in Pennsylvania. The Aronimink Gun Club from Newtown Square won it's first victory since joining the league several years ago. And, just to make the day complete, they won both team and high individual honors, when Mrs. C. G. Alio fired a 49x50. Team score was 232x250. Valley Forge was second at 229, followed by Torresdale's 227, Huntingdon Valley at 222, and Philadelphia CC with 221. In addition to Mrs. Alio's 49, Anne Schibener and Mrs. Jack Hill had 47's, Mrs. L. K. Rudd 45, and Mrs. R. McKenna 44.

Another shooting star might be on the ascendancy in Pennsylvania, where twelve-year-old W. C. Guy III turned back some well-known scattergunners in a Wilmington Target Association event. I don't have all the details, but we'll be watching for more news of this Guy.

In another WTA program, Hugh Melody of Stanton, Delaware, hit all the right notes for a 100 straight and the trophy in the 16-yard event. Frank Ferschke took the handicap race, and the doubles trophy went to tough Bobby Pagliughi.

Edward Dunigan of Conshohocken turned back George Detwell of Cornwell Heights via a shootoff to win the high-all-around event in a Quaker City Gun Club tournament. Karl Weinstetter of Washington's Crossing also had to take to the shoot-off route to best Walter Kolough from Levittown in the 16-yard race. Mrs. Mary Christopher of Cornwell Heights won the ladies trophy without a struggle, just one target shy of perfection.

Dr. A. T. Vickers of Merchantville, N. J., broke them all to win the handicap section. Mrs. Rhoda Wolf of Frankford was high lady in the distance event, and the trophy distribution was completed when Gerald Litteral of Pennsgrove, N. J., topped the field of 70 hopefuls in the doubles program.

Two of the best guns in the East (and the West, too) stood tall at two-day embroglio hosted by Atlantic City Gun Club. Howard Dilts, the pride of Ringoes, N. J., copped the 200-target test, at 197x200, and Ohmer Webb Jr., Washington, D.C. took all-around honors with a score of 380x400.

The husband and wife team of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Webb dominated the 1966 opener of Huntingdon Valley shooting at Abington, Pa. They won the 50-bird singles and 16-yard high gun trophies. But, if you assess the whole program's results, Mrs. Webb got the biggest share of the glory because she teamed with James Carmine to beat hubby Andrew and Mrs. Barney E. Berlinger in the General Nicholas Biddle Protection Race, in a shoot-off, too, to make the suspense greater.

Carmine is in the news with the ladies again, when he had to turn back Mrs. Marc Waldron and Mrs. William Harbison by a lone bird to win the Herbert C. Rover Handicap Trapshoot at Huntingdon Valley.

SHOTGUNS FOR GOBBLERS

(Continued from page 39)

that No. 3 will penetrate and break bones nearly as well as No. 2 shot. At close ranges of under 40 yards, head and neck shots on two gobblers were instant kills. Spinal columns were smashed, not merely penetrated, and neither turkey did anything but fall on its back and quiver. Two other gobblers at similar ranges were body-shot for instant kills.

The single gobbler killed at longer range provided a perfect example of desired performance. The range was 61 paces over flat ground, the bird a 19-pounder, the gun the Browning 3" Magnum with 1½ oz. of No. 3 shot, and a single shot was fired, the bird flopping on its back immediately. Two 3's broke the neck in two places, and the shot might have been dismissed as lucky but that it went through the turkey from side to side ahead of, and below, the wing butts, one pellet breaking the near wing, another pellet the near leg, and there were two more body hits after that.

Extensive testing of both factory and handloads has led our researcher to adopt a shell incorporating Illinois No. 3 lead shot in Herter plastic wrappers. The Herter-PGS-type wad is used with a felt filler, and the load varies according to chambering.

A happy coincidence was that all the shotguns used patterned well with the loads chosen, while they did not do so with either No.'s 4 or 2 copperplated. The guns included the Parker double 12 with 30" full choked barrels, the Poly-Choked Remington Sportsman-58 in 12 gauge, a Browning Auto-5 Magnum 12, a Remington 870 slide-action, a Browning Auto-5 with 20" Herter-Choked barrel, a Winchester Model 12 30" full, a Fox Sterlingworth 28" mod. and full and a Field Grade L. C. Smith, also 28" mod. and full. Bores were either new or in excellent condition in all the guns.

The Smith and the Magnum Browning are notably tight-shooting and with proper loads will pattern over 75 per cent. Their patterns exhibit the bunched center typical of "hard shooters." Even with hulls on their fifth and sixth reloading, these guns will pattern 70 per cent with No. 3 shot in handloads. The rest of the guns in use went over 70 per cent.

A Lee Loader was used. All charges of powder were weighed for the magnum, and thrown with a Herter measure for the 2¾" chambers. All shot loads were scooped with a graduated dipper, and all functioned with automatics and worked well in the pump guns, since great care was taken in assembling and hard deep crimps were made. (Thus far only W-W high brass paper cases have been used.)

The loads are:

For 2¾" shells—Max-Fire primers, 26 gr. Unique, Herter plastic wad, ¼" Feltan Blue-streak wad, Herter plastic sleeve, 1¾ oz. No. 3 shot.

For 3" shells—Max-Fire primer, 34 gr. AL-7, Herter plastic wad, ¾" Feltan Blue-streak wad, Herter plastic sleeve, 1½" oz. No. 3 shot.

These loads held their performance through successive reloadings. It is believed that there are better loads, but none were worked out since these were adequate.

Both loads are effective. Out to considerable range—beyond 60 yards—the No. 3's will go right through a gobbler turkey from side to side, barring leg and wing-bone hits which break the bones. At the same time, they put enough pellets on the bird to give quick kills with any center hold. After using them one hunter remarked, "These things pattern like 4's and hit like 2's."

If forced to use factory loads, buy only short magnum loads of No. 4 or 2 shot, depending on patterning, and accept slightly shorter ranges in either case. Substituting No. 3 in factory short magnums has also been suggested. In factory 3" loads, the 1 oz. shell with No. 2 would be preferred if it patterned well in the shooter's gun.

A tight pattern helps preserve the turkey as table fare. Inside 40 yards there should be enough 3's to make head and neck shots certain, which was not the case with No. 2 shot in the tested barrels. Of course, any heavy load of heavy shot fired directly into a gobbler's body at close range kills well, but it also tears up the bird badly. One 14 pound gobbler, shot with the 1¾ load at 20 yards, was not inedible, but the cleaning job was awesome.

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WINCHESTER—1866-1966

(Continued from page 19)

speed for ballistic efficiency; and after a few shots, the mercuric corrosion would ruin the gun.

Oliver Winchester then made the move that ended his career as a shirtmaker and wrote his name prominently and permanently into the history of firearms manufacture. He hired a mechanical genius named B. Tyler Henry to manage the still struggling Volcanic Arms plant in New Haven; and, almost simultaneously, he reorganized his firearms interest under a new name: the New Haven Arms Company.

Tyler Henry found the key to success in the field of repeating weapons. Whether he invented it, or whether he merely enlarged the .22 short rimfire cartridge idea introduced by Smith and Wesson in 1856, Henry came up with the first successful large-caliber rimfire cartridge, the .44 Henry flat.

Henry next adapted the existing Volcanic repeating mechanism to use the new cartridge, and, soon after the opening shots of the Civil War, produced a new repeating rifle, cartridge fed, which was named the Henry. This was Oliver Winchester's first tribute to Henry's genius. The second was the adoption, and use to this day, of the letter "H" on the head of Winchester rimfire cartridges. Tyler Henry earned and has been given a place second to none in the record of American firearms development.

In 1866, the New Haven Arms Company was reorganized under the name Winchester Repeating Arms Company—a name that was to last. Repeating arms were in demand, and the first rifle to bear the new Winchester label was the Model of 1866, an improvement on the Henry—a .44 caliber, lever action repeater with a brass receiver, octagon barrel, and a tubular magazine into which cartridges were fed through a slot in the receiver. Magazine capacity as stated in applications for patent was 16 cartridges, but rifles later produced accepted 17. The Model of 1866 was also made as a carbine, with 13 cartridge magazines.

The impact of the Winchester Model '66 was tremendous, especially in the tumultuous West. Inevitably, because of its shining brass receiver and trim, it was dubbed "The Yellow Boy"—and because of magazine capacity ("Load 'em on Sunday, shoot 'em all week!") and rapidity of fire, it rewrote the tactics of Indian warfare. Indians who had plowed

under many a plainsman by drawing his fire, then charging before he could reload, were now met by what seemed to them a never-ending stream of lethal bullets. A man armed with a Yellow Boy was a very tough customer indeed, and the demand for the rifles was immediate and immensely gratifying to the new company in New Haven.

In the century which has followed, many great guns have worn the Winchester name and insignia. For decades, the Winchester name was synonymous, even by official dictionary definition, with "repeating rifle;" and several Winchester guns have attained such individual stature that they are identified around the world by their model numbers only. Say "Model 94" wherever shooters gather and you have painted a picture of a trim, slim, lever-action rifle, probably caliber .30-30, in a western setting. Three million of these rifles have been sold, and they probably account for more game every year than any other rifle. Similarly, in more recent years, the words "Model 70" identify what has often been called "the rifleman's rifle." And, in shotguns, the words "Model 12" mean one of two million Winchester pump-action repeaters—just as, in more moneyed circles, the words "Model 21" identify the aristocratic Winchester side-by-side double. These are true tests of fame.

This year, as a centennial "gift" to the shooting public, Winchester offers "The new Centennial '66 rifle and carbine"—a new "Yellow Boy" in appearance, but with all the modern mechanical improvements: a "shooting" rifle (.30-30 Winchester caliber), not just a wall decoration—though it's that, too, with its gold-plated receiver and forearm cap, and its brass butt plate, and its full-octagon barrel and long tubular magazine. It even has the nostalgic blued saddling on the left side of the receiver, and the stock reflects the straight, classic lines of the old rifle. Magazine capacities are six for the carbine, eight for the rifle, and the sights are buckhorn rear, post front, with the buckhorn on a sliding ramp. Rifles and carbines alike carry commemorative inscriptions on their gold-plated tangs (WINCHESTER CENTENNIAL '66) and along their octagon barrels (A CENTURY OF LEADERSHIP 1866-1966). The suggested retail price is \$125 for either rifle or carbine, and the historical-sentimental flavor plus the strikingly decorative beauty of the pieces

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should combine with the utilitarian reliability of the action and caliber to give these models a saleability peculiarly their own.

New in the Winchester line for '66 is the Model 670 bolt-action centerfire rifle, designed to combine accuracy and rugged reliability with economy without "cheapness." Like the more expensive Winchester models, the 670 has a free-floating swaged barrel, a recessed bolt face, and easy-to-see cocking indicator, a wide serrated trigger, and quick-detachable iron sights. The Monte Carlo stock is high-combed, with embossed checkering on both forend and pistol grip. In carbine style, the Model 670 is offered at a suggested retail price of \$114.95 in the following calibers: .243 Winchester, .270 Winchester, and .30-06 Springfield. In the rifle, at a suggested retail price of \$119.95, the calibers offered are: .225 Winchester, .243 Winchester, .270 Winchester, .308 Winchester, and .30-06 Springfield. Magnum calibers (.264 Winchester Magnum and .300 Winchester Magnum) are available in rifle length at the suggested retail price of \$134.95.

Winchester's perennial favorite, the bolt-action Model 70, has undergone a skillful design overhaul, inside and out. Forend and pistol grip have both been slimmed a little, improving the rifle's appearance as well as its feel, balance, and shooting comfort. A higher Monte Carlo cheekpiece gives better eye-alignment with either iron or scope sights, and the cheek piece is slanted to move away from the shooter's face in recoil. A cross-bolt safety (two on magnum models) provides additional strength where recoil stress is greatest. The Model 70 is available in six different styles or grades (Standard, Magnum, Varmint, Target, Deluxe, and African) and in a wide range of popular calibers. Suggested retail prices run from \$149.95 to \$324.95 for the big African .458 Winchester Magnum.

There is a new Winchester .22 rimfire too, for the "plinkers"—the Model 190, handling .22 Shorts, Longs, or Long Rifles, interchangeably or mixed, at a suggested retail price of \$43.95. The popular "200" line of Winchester .22 rifles is continued with certain minor style changes and improvements.

In shotguns, for waterfowlers who yearn for the old "Long Tom" models, Winchester

now offers their Model 1200 slide-action models chambered for 12 or 20 gauge 3-inch magnum shells, with plain or ventilated-rib barrels 28" long in the 20, 30" long in the 12. Weight has been held surprisingly low: 7½ pounds for the 12 gauge field grade. Both gauges carry full-choke barrels as standard equipment, but barrels are exchangeable within either gauge without factory fitting. Suggested retail price, \$119.95.

Finally ready for marketing early this year is Winchester's new tracer shotshell, about which we told you last year. As we said then, this not-new but only recently perfected device will be a really significant aid to shotgun shooting instruction. Being able to see where the shot charge goes with relation to the target will enable shooting instructors, or the shooter himself, to correct errors of swing, lead, and elevation shot by shot, without the long process of trial and error common in the past. These tracer loads are fully effective in daylight, and though not recommended for field use, have been proved to carry only minimal fire hazard under normal shooting conditions. The tracer element is designed to burn out before hitting the ground when fired from ordinary shooting angles. These shells are offered in 12 gauge only, will be available at retail outlets beginning in April.

So Winchester begins its second century. Fine old names are not the gift of chance; they have to be earned—and Winchester's reputation has been earned by 100 years of reliability. That record is not likely to be broken.

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16 GAUGE MAGNUM

(Continued from page 27)

It is difficult to imagine a gun more ideally suited to all around use than a three inch 16—a magnum 12 could never hope to qualify for the all around title, because it is impractical to make a three inch 12 weigh less than eight pounds. A magnum 16 double would not have to weigh an ounce over 6½ pounds, and yet it would be capable of handling loads containing as much as 1½ ounces of shot backed by the equivalent of 3¾ drams of powder. Recoil would not be objectionable, yet it would be a sure duck killer out to a full 60 yards, which is beyond the capabilities of 99 per cent of today's shotgunners. The same gun, loaded with the standard 16 gauge load of 1¾ ounces of shot, would be ideal over decoys, and, of course, the 16 loaded with one ounce of shot has always been a favorite of upland hunters.

Yes, it seems obvious that the 3" 16 would be quite a gun. But, will we ever have one? Frankly, I don't have the answer to that.

The 16 hasn't lost a lot of ground to the other gauges in recent years, numerous predictions to the contrary. However, by the same token, it certainly hasn't gained in popularity as has the 20. Right now the presence of the three inch hull is the greatest advantage held by the 12 and the 20 in comparison to the 16, but if we are ever to see an extra length hull brought out for the 16 gauge, it will require a great deal of shooter demand levied at the gun and ammo manufacturers. If the buckos who head up these firms become convinced that a three inch 16 will sell, they will make it, pronto! Sad to say, in my opinion, unless some American manufacturer places a magnum 16 gun and ammunition on the market, this splendid bore will slowly but surely disappear from the American shooting scene. Not quickly, not perhaps within the next 25 years. If this happens, I will be greatly saddened, and I should not be alone, for the popularity of the famous Browning "Sweet

16" autoloader is almost legend. Francis E. Sell, one of the leading shotgun authorities in the nation, commented recently in a letter to this writer, "Only the appearance of a three inch shell will save the 16." Sadly, I must concur with Mr. Sell.

What is holding back the appearance of such a gun? The lack of faith on the part of manufacturers that American shooters would buy it, that's what! But why wouldn't it sell? Just imagine a first-class double, such as the Browning Superposed, in 16 gauge bored for the three-inch hulls. In the Lightning Model it should weigh almost an even 6½ pounds with 28" tubes. Or think of the Remington or Winchester pump in a magnum 16! By using loads ranging from the proposed three inch to the brush load containing one ounce of 8's such a



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shotgun would be in order for everything from mallards at 60 yards to bobwhite at 15! Man, what a honey of a shotgun! All we need now are the gun and the shells. Then we'd have to bury that old saw about there not being an all-around smoothbore once and for all.

Never under-estimate the power of the consumer market. Demands from the American shooting public literally forced manufacturers to come out with such recent developments as the .300 Winchester Magnum, the .41 Smith & Wesson Magnum, and the availability of the venerable .22-250 in a factory load. Shooter pressure could make the dream of a three inch 16 gauge a reality.

Why not an extra length 16 bore magnum? To be honest, I can't think of a single good reason. And I can think of a lot of reasons why there should be one.

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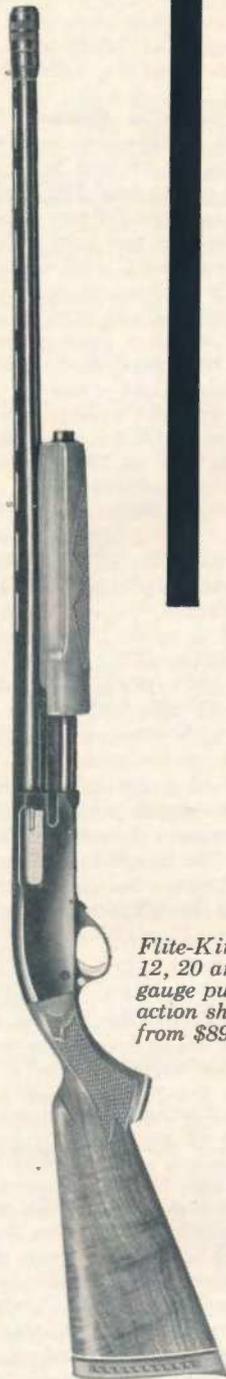
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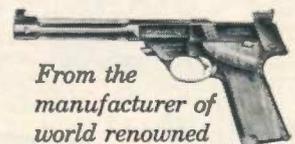

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POCKET-SIZED DYNAMITE

(Continued from page 35)

months to accomplish this much, we paid him off and moved the job over to L. Bauer Rothschild in Los Angeles, who finished the job speedily and well, at a fair price.

Rothschild's stockmaker, P. J. Wright, went to work on the stock. We told him we wanted a full-length Mannlicher stock, held back about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the muzzle. We specified it should be of straight grain, dense walnut; straight throughout. Fancy figures are nice but this was to be a workhorse of a rifle, not a showpiece. We also asked him to leave the exterior dimensions chunky and solid, not slimmed down like a French Provincial chair leg. Our final instructions called for a thick steel butt plate, steel fore-end tip, and Parkerizing on the exterior. That's right, no bluing—just Parkerizing over the bare metal.

While Wright was working on the stock, we got Rothschild busy on the lathe turning us a tool steel extension tube, $\frac{1}{16}$ " in wall thickness and with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " hole through the middle. This was relieved to $\frac{1}{2}$ " I.D. to a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the rear end, so that it would be a slip fit over the rifle muzzle. This was secured to the muzzle with three set screws which bottom into shallow dimples in the rifle barrel.

What was this mad device? Well, it was our conception of a bark-reducer; so far as we know, an original idea. We hoped this gadget would reduce the noise of our little pocket weapon enough to make it acceptable in polite society, on the rifle range. The muzzle blast of full charge ammo in a 24" barreled .30-06 is, to say the least, quite noticeable to the shooter alongside of you. Shorten it to 22" and he will raise his eyebrows when you fire. Cut it off to 20" (the Winchester Model 54 used to be available from the factory in .30-06 caliber in this length) and you may very well be ruled off the firing line until everyone else is finished.

We had never fired an 18 inch .30-06 nor even seen one, but we were pretty sure its voice would be colossal. We hoped this tube would reduce it.

The extension tube Bauer made for us was intended to lengthen the barrel while on the target range, giving the gas more room in which to dissipate its energy before emerging. Boring it over bore size would

not only give the bullet plenty of clearance but also create an expansion chamber, thus letting pressure fall off even below what it would be in a conventional 24" barrel.

In due time we took delivery of our little peashooter. We have now lived with it and used it for a year, and it is all we hoped for and more. It is the handiest, most compact, best shooting little rifle in our rack and has displaced all our other guns in our affection. On the rifle range, we install the extension tube in a second or two and the gun is no louder than any other on the firing line. In the field, with the tube removed, it is the handiest gun we have ever carried. The report is not noticeable to the shooter, even with full-load ammunition.

Just study it for a minute. Here is a chunky little rifle, just six pounds even in weight, but firing a cartridge which has won Wimbledon Matches, bagged elephants in Africa and elk in America. It is capable of 1,000 yard accuracy on the target range, yet when loaded with a 169 gr. half-jacket lead bullet ahead of a light load of bulk powder, it is as nice a little plinking rifle as we have ever owned.

We have discovered only one drawback. When you pull this rifle out at the rifle club, you are convening a debating society. Everyone behind the firing line will come over and ask questions. The same queries are probably going through your head right now.

Q. Doesn't it kick?

A. No more than any lightweight .30-06. Recoil is a function of bullet weight, rifle weight, and powder charge. The shorter the barrel, the less recoil, because the gases are confined behind the projectile a shorter length of time. Our little gun kicks less than would a 24" barrel rifle if the latter weighed the same and if the same ammo loading were used.

Q. Don't you lose a lot of bullet velocity?

A. No. Theoretically, you lose about 20 fps per inch of barrel. This means our rifle should start its projectiles 120 fps more slowly than would one with a 24" tube. However, this is theoretical. In test firing against a 24" barreled Springfield and an Enfield with a 26" tube, both equipped with micrometer receiver sights, using the same ammo in

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all guns, we found the number of minutes of elevation from range to range was about the same for all three rifles. We started at 200 and worked back to 1,000 yards and all guns took just about the same amount of elevation. This would indicate that trajectory, and therefore velocity, is uniform.

Q. Does your bark-reducer really work?

A. You bet it does. On five separate occasions we took a group of shooters, stationed them alongside our firing position, asked them to close their eyes, and then fired a number of shots from all three guns. In all cases they agreed that our little rifle was the quietest of the three. This is no doubt due to the expansion effect in the tube due to the fact that it is larger than bore size.

Q. Doesn't the short length of the barrel affect accuracy?

A. Absolutely not. Neither rifle weight nor barrel length have anything to do with accuracy. It is harder to shoot a light rifle accurately than a heavy one because it is more susceptible to changes in hold. A difference in the pressure of your grip on the piece, or sling tension, or location of support, can alter barrel vibrations and therefore change the point of impact. Muscular tremor too has more effect on a light rifle than a heavy one. However, this gun is inherently as accurate as any other lightweight .30-06, as good scores on the 1,000 yard range have proven.

Q. Doesn't the short sighting radius make it impossible to align the sights accurately?

A. Not at all, because the between-sight distance isn't short. It measures exactly 22 3/4". The as-issued Model 1903 Springfield with leaf rear sight has a rear-to-front-sight distance, when the sight leaf is raised, of 22 1/4", half-an-inch less than our little pet. And we only wish we had a dollar for every 20 shot possible at 1,000 yards which has been fired with the Springfield and folding leaf sight.

Q. Why did you have it Parkerized instead of blued?

A. Because we are sick and tired of fighting rust on blueing jobs. We live on the waterfront at Balboa Bay in Southern California, and rusting is a big problem. A gun kept on a boat is particularly susceptible. This gun, with this finish, is apparently impervious to rusting except for the bore and the polished bolt handle. Next time we would have the bolt Parkerized also and some day we may have the bore chrome lined. That would really be a rustproof beauty! Finally, we think the metal surfaces are really quite handsome. They have a matte finish, which is non-reflective.

Q. Why the fairly thick stock and steel butt plate?

A. Because this was intended as a self-defense arm as well as a sporting arm. If you remember your Manual of Arms training, you will recall that at close quarters a rifle is effective even when unloaded. A thrust with the rifle muzzle at any one of five pressure points, or an uppercut with the toe of that steel butt plate under the chin, is as devastating as a bullet. It does require a husky stock, however, not a broomstick, to stand up to the job. As a matter of fact, if you jab that steel butt plate down hard across the instep of your assailant's foot you've pretty well won the argument.

Q. How often do you use the bark-reducing tube?

A. Only when firing full-charge, long-range loads at targets. With reduced loads such as 172 gr. M1 bullets ahead of 45 gr. of 4895, the report is no worse than an ordinary rifle with military ammunition, while with squib loads it's only a mild "pop." When actually hunting, the blast is not noticeable; no more than any other rifle.

Q. Why didn't you go whole hog and cut it off to 16", since that length is now legal?

A. We were afraid to. We had no idea our bark-reducer would be as effective as it is and we were afraid of spoiling a good four-land barrel. We think next time we will go to 16", just to see what happens.

Q. Why no scope sight?

A. Because we already have a number of scope-sighted hunting rifles and intended this to be merely an accessory weapon, for rough assignments where a handy gun was needed. Now we like it so well we have about decided to scope it and make it our number one rifle.

Q. You are really sold, then, on the extremely short weapon?

A. Frankly, we wonder why we have been carrying those big guns all these years. This little pocket-sized piece of dynamite will do anything that any other .30-06 will do, but you can stick it through your belt while you climb a cliff, fire it with one hand, or sling it on your back while riding a trail bike in the hills.

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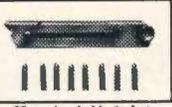
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FAST DRAW

(Continued from page 33)

demned it. Only a few were far-sighted enough to see that fast draw needed only guidance, rules, supervision—as does any toddler. “The fast draw syndrome” of leg wounds was simply the result of untaught enthusiasts practicing for high speed, precise timing, and exact dexterity with tools that had sharp teeth in the form of big, hot, highly lethal bullets. The same fun was there without the danger—but they hadn’t thought of that.

Remove the lead, and fast draw becomes

a sport that catches the fancy of people of both sexes, from nine to ninety—and even beyond those ages. Fast draw has won the fascinated addiction of men and women, boys and girls, from all walks of life—each a preacher of gun safety, each insistent on the strictest observance of the simple rules that have made fast draw the safest of sports.

In the 1950s, fast draw needed (and nearly died for lack of) backing, support, and guidance. It still needs them. Given the support and direction of a national shooting or-

ganization with experience and prestige, fast draw could have provided new strength, new interest in shooting, that would have been of tremendous benefit to the entire shooting community. Instead, fast draw has had to fight its own way, inch by inch, against an already created bad press, against a bad public image, even against the opposition of other shooters. It has had to devise and test, revise and re-test its own rules, invent its own equipment, write and pay for its own promotion, weed out its own villains, even persuade the industry to make the guns it needed.

The first essential step was to find the right ammunition. The first type of ammunition approved by fast draw leaders in search of safety above all else was the .22 blank cartridge. A .22 blank fired at the “mike” would stop an electronic timer and record draw speed. “Five in One” blanks were also used, for bigger “band” and more flash. Later, it was found that even the primer alone, with neither powder nor bullet, in a large caliber shell would stop the timers. Fast draw became a game of blank ammo.

But blanks excluded hits. With blanks, you could prove how fast you could draw and fire the gun—but you couldn’t prove that you would have hit anything had you been using bulletted ammo. We found the answer to this in the form of the wax bullet. At first, we made our own wax bullets, cutting them out of a sheet of wax one by one and plugging them into the ends of primered cases (no powder). It was tedious, but it was relatively cheap—and nobody could get hurt. But now we could prove, by wax marks on the targets, that we could hit what we shot at.

Commercial manufacturers were quick to realize the potential of wax bullets and have come out with new versions of the wax projectiles. The Colt Company brought out a red plastic cartridge case and wax bullet in two calibers, .38 and .45. Another product called “Red Jets” made by CCI (Cascade Cartridge, Inc.) has also become popular. These combined a plastic with a high grade wax into an accurate bullet that can be reloaded over and over again, up to 15 times. Accura Wax by Lyman Gun Sight Company is still another product in the wax bullet line. The Speer Products Company has a plastic bullet called the “Target .38 and .45” that is also reusable.

Today thousands of other non-fast-draw shooters have “discovered” wax bullets for home and urban area practice. You can do almost anything with wax bullets that you can with live ammunition, except kill, and in fast draw, we want a fun sport that will add members, not deplete them.

Holsters were another problem fast draw addicts encountered. There were many holsters designed to permit the fast release of a gun for combat, but as fast draw techniques developed, new needs also developed. Arvo Ojala, former technical advisor to Hollywood TV and movie stars, developed the first fast draw holster as we know it today. This was (and is) a lined holster laminated with a sheet metal stiffener around the cylinder. This type of holster has been explained and copied many times over. But Ojala’s own holster production jumped from about three rigs a day to many dozens a week. And this was only the beginning. Everybody was

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clambering for an Ojala rig, and it wasn't long before others began to create fast draw holsters. In fact, this sport has instigated the forming of many new holster companies and was a shot in the arm for some of the older companies.

It was Ojala too who developed the technique of cocking a gun in the holster and drawing it at the same time. The speed that was demonstrated in this type draw offered a challenge that was taken up by anyone who had a single action revolver and fast draw rig.

Incidentally, neither fast draw addicts nor any other shooter should ever forget a man who devoted a lifetime to fast draw, trick shooting, and better shooting with handguns—that grand old man, Ed McGivern. It is a shame that he couldn't have lived to see fast draw as it is practiced today. He would have loved it.

Dee Woolem is another pioneer of fast draw. He was a "train robber" in the Wild West show staged for tourists at the famous Knott's Berry Farm and Ghost Town of Buena Park, Calif. In his spare time, when he was not busy "hoisting" the gold from the trains, he practiced fast draw. Dee practiced, experimented, and worked on his draw, his gun, and his holsters until all were as smooth as glass. Many of Dee's friends became interested, and it wasn't long before they staged one of the first fast draw contests in the U. S. A. At the same time, Dee Woolem, with the assistance of a technician from Knott's Berry Farm, designed one of the first fast draw electric timers ever to be used. It still is being used today.

From that time to the present, fast draw has grown and progressed in leaps and bounds. Given the guns and the holsters, and now the timers that would measure speed down to hundredths of a second, the sport was on its way.

Another young fellow who has contributed a great deal to the advancement and promotion of fast draw is Ron Mossholder of California. He is an active shooter, winner of over 500 trophies, and holder of many outstanding fast draw records. Mossholder has lectured about fast draw on radio, demonstrated fast draw on television, but his biggest contribution to date is as the founder, publisher, and editor of Top Gun, the only fast draw magazine now in national circulation here and in Canada. This has been a great asset to the sport in bringing members, clubs, and associations closer together, and in the standardization of rules and regulations governing the sport. At the present time, Mossholder is in the process of forming a national fast draw association, to be known as the North American Fast Draw Association, which will include both the U.S. and Canada. This will truly be a great step in the progress of fast draw. Anyone interested in fast draw or Top Gun should certainly get in touch with Mossholder, who can put them in touch with a club or association in their area. His address is Top Gun, 19144 Brookview Drive, Saratoga, California.

Many celebrities from the movies and television—John Russell and Peter Brown of the TV show "Lawman," Eric Fleming and Clint Eastwood of "Rawhide," Sammy Davis,

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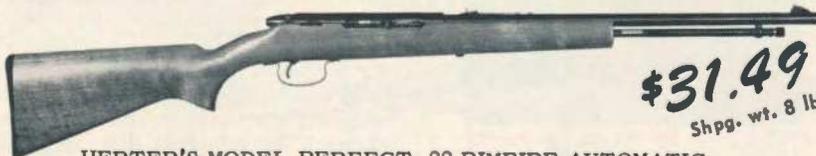
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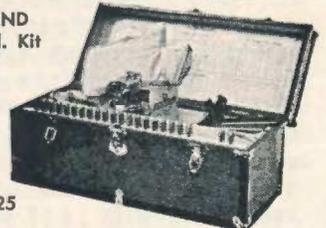
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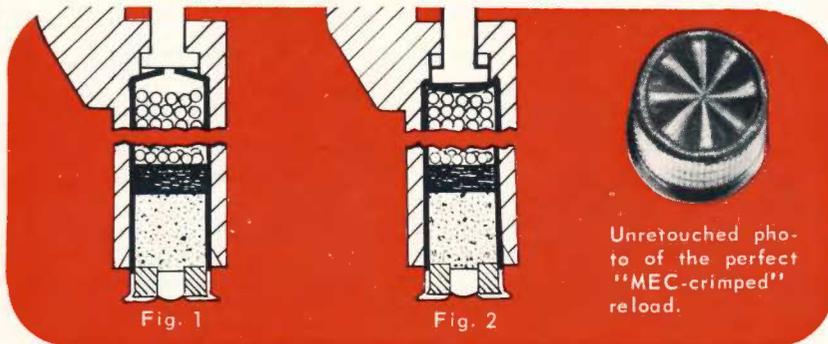
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Jr., Rodd Redwing, Stan Lynde, creator of the popular Western cartoon strip "Rick O'Shay," and many others—have promoted and believed in and contributed to the sport of fast draw. Also, with all due modesty, the Roving Gunslingers (Chuck Monell, Vince Vacarrino, and George Virgines, with their Western Variety show) have created a great deal of interest in safe gun handling and in the sport of fast draw as they travelled across the country.

The growth of fast draw is directly responsible for much of the popularity of the frontier-type single action revolver. Among the several gun manufacturers to meet this demand were Great Western, Ruger, and, of course, the grand-daddy of them all, Colt. After all, Wild Bill Hickok's famous pair of white-handled Colt Navys gave fast draw its first great wave of national publicity. The famed Colt Single Action Army revolver was the best known of the guns with which the fast draw saga was continued in the post Civil War West—and now fast draw has paid its debt by aiding the great and recent Peacemaker revival.

The fast draw boys have sometimes been ridiculed because of the Western garb they have adopted as a uniform. And uniform is exactly what it is—a device to identify the fast draw shooter, just as baseball, football, and other sports have uniforms to identify the players. The sport of fast draw is recreating, minus the bloodshed, a facet of the Old West. Western gear is a "natural" for the sport. How is this more "ridiculous" than the shooting jackets with their blazing mazes of "patches," earned or otherwise, that adorn other sport shooters? Western garb is just a gimmick that sets our sport apart from the others. It isn't compulsory.

Fast draw spends thousands of dollars annually for trophies and thousands of dollars in prize money are offered. Matches draw entries from all over the nation, and from Canada. Many clubs have been formed abroad. All clubs require strict adherence to rigid rules of gun safety and "good gun manners." All accredited clubs shoot wax or blanks only—not "ball ammo." Competitions feature either blank shooting (involving speed only), or wax shooting (involving accuracy as well as speed), or both. Nobody gets shot any more in any organized fast draw competition, or in practice under club regulations. A wax pellet may burn the hide a little, but it won't tear flesh or break bones and the burn is no worse than that of a hot shell ejected from the gun of a neighbor competitor in other shooting sports. The "fast draw syndrome" is dead.

The one thing fast draw people still find difficult to explain to many people is that fast draw—the sport—has no relation whatever to combat shooting! We're not "practicing to kill people!" Most of our fast draw techniques are totally impractical for combat, would be ridiculous if so used. We're simply practicing a sport of manual dexterity, as "impractical" but as much fun as billiards, tennis, bowling, or golf. We're not preparing for a shoot-out at high noon on a dusty street; we're practicing for a medal or a trophy—or for money for a new gun (or a new dress for the missus)—but mostly, for fun. What do you shoot for?

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(Continued from page 23)

Following this fatal blow, the wielder would die, but it was too late to save the Britisher's life.

Soon cries arose from the field, "Give us a handgun that will *kill*, not 10 seconds from now, but NOW!" Private British gun-makers heeded these cries with a noble array of big calibers.

One of the biggest and best, although little known to-day, was designated the .577 C.F. It was made by using a portion of the head end of the .577 Snyder service rifle cartridge. However, because of the taper of the case walls, the case mouth was bigger than .57 caliber—in fact it held a bullet of about .617 diameter.

This case was loaded with a round ball of 330 gr. or a conical bullet of 450 gr. It was also available with buckshot, although we have no data on this load.

While two or three 5-shot revolvers were chambered for this load, the best known weapon for it was and is the Lancaster double barreled pistol. This was a beautiful example of the gunmaker's art, finely machined and fitted. The strikers alternated between barrels, to fire each in turn, although it could be fired only double-action.

There was also a 4-barrel model, and sometimes references are made to a 4-barrel .577. However, I have never heard of one in this caliber, the largest 4-barrel load apparently being .455 or .476.

Much was made, in the literature of the period, of the fact that there was no barrel-cylinder joint to waste power, and that the mechanism was well protected against dust.

The barrels of the .577 were fairly long, 6¼ inches, and appear to be smooth-bored. Actually they are rifled on the Lancaster oval-bore system. Imagine a thin, smooth tube that is slightly flattened and then twisted, and you have a clue to the form of this rifling. The Lancasters were not actually twisted, but cut in this form, and how

this was done so smoothly, without the chattering usual with a broad-nosed cutter, baffles the best tool-makers today. One advantage of this form, of course, was that there were no sharp rifling corners to collect fouling or shave lead. It also gave pretty good performance with shot as a result.

These weapons are often referred to as "howdah" pistols, owing to the practice of carrying them in the howdah on elephant back when on a tiger hunt. Thus equipped, it was easy to cope with an enraged tiger who tried to climb aboard.

I was fortunate in securing a good specimen of this little gem a few years ago and immediately wanted to shoot it. Unfortunately the cartridges are in the upper bracket as collectors' items. The previous owner had a partial solution when he turned down a .45 ACP barrel to slip in as a "sub-caliber" device, to fire the regular .45's. This was not for me though, so I painstakingly turned up ten cases on the lathe, using brass bar stock. When finished they held the 360 gr. ball properly in front of 28 grs. of FFG, just about duplicating the factory loads. Happily, round ball molds of any caliber are easily obtained, so I was in business.

Fear and trembling were rampant the first time I touched one off. In fact, I immediately felt foolish, as the big, comfortable grip rendered the recoil harmless.

Then I got busy to see how the piece would actually perform. I set up a silhouette man target at about 30 feet, held on the midriff and let blast. Despite the double-action-only feature I was delighted to get a vertical dumbbell-shaped group dead center. Each barrel grouped in about 3 inches, the two groups being about 6 inches apart, center to center.

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WILD BILL HICKOK

(Continued from page 29)

they had answers to certain questions: What size coin, thrown how far from the muzzle—and does “shot to pieces” mean “bent,” “perforated,” or literally “blown to bits?” Was the nearness of the holes to the edge of the hat-brim pre-promised or accidental? And how simultaneous is “simultaneous?”

Connelley continues, calling now upon an expert witness:

“... the late Robert A. Kane . . . was an authority on firearms and their use. In ‘Outdoor Life’ for June 1906, he gives the following account of Wild Bill’s shooting:

“Along in the ‘70s Wm. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill), Wm. A. [sic] Hickok (Wild Bill) and Texas Jack, as members of Buffalo Bill’s “Prairie Waif” Company, played a three-nights engagement in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Several of the local marksmen, including myself, called on the celebrities at their hotel, where in a little social session shooting and shooting methods were discussed. Mr. Hickok treated us with great courtesy, showed us his weapons, and offered to do a little shooting for us if it could be arranged . . . Mr. Hickok’s weapons were a pair of beautifully silver plated S.A. .44 Colt revolvers. Both had pearl handles and were tastefully engraved. He also had a pair of Remington revolvers of the same caliber. The more showy pair of Colts

were used in his stage performance. . .

“Standing about 30 feet from the shooter, one of our party tossed a quart can in the air to a height of about 30 feet. It was perforated three times before it reached the ground, twice with the right and once with the left hand.

“Standing midway between the fences of a country road, which is four rods wide, Mr. Hickok’s instinct of location was so accurate that he placed a bullet in each of the fence posts on opposite sides. Both shots were fired simultaneously.

“Located midway between two telegraph poles (176 feet apart) he placed a bullet in one of them then wheeled and with the same weapon planted another in the second. . .

“Two common bricks were placed on the top board of a fence, about two feet apart and about 15 yards from the shooter. These were broken with two shots fired from the pistol in either hand, the shots so nearly together that they seemed but one.

“His last feat was to me the most remarkable of all: A quart can was thrown by Mr. Hickok himself, which dropped about 10 or 12 yards distant. Quickly whipping out his weapons, he fired alternately with right and left. Advancing a step with each shot, his bullets striking just under the can kept it in continuous motion until his pistols were empty.”

This is a clear report, by a shooter, of remarkable (but not impossible or even improbable) shooting. Distances are stated, and nothing is claimed that could not be accomplished by other expert shooters, then and now. But don’t go away: Mr. Kane’s story is not beyond question, as will be shown later.

Among the taller of the tales is the one (from a source it will be kinder not to mention) of the twelve hard-cases who challenged Hickok without knowing his identity and then, upon learning who he was, turned en masse and fled from him—whereupon Hickok “seized his Remingtons” and “with precision regularity, shot a heel from the boot of each of the cowardly dozen.” I refrain from comment here, leaving it for the appraisal of anyone who may have tried shooting heels off the boots of fleeing cowards.

Frank J. Wilstach, in his book, “Wild Bill Hickok: The Prince of Pistolers” (Garden City Publishing Co., New York, 1926) adds these tales of Hickok’s pistol wizardry:

“The old residents of Hays City (Kansas) teem with stories of Bill’s pistolry. One day he was walking along the street when he observed a ripe apple hanging on a tree. Pulling two revolvers from their holsters, he shot with his left hand and nipped the stem. As the apple fell his right-hand revolver pierced it with a bullet. On another occasion he was riding in from the fort with General Custer. Bill pointed out a knot on a telegraph pole, remarking that he wanted to see how many bullets he could put in it as he rode by at a gallop. He fired all six chambers of his revolver, and every bul-

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let hit the knot. This telegraph pole was pointed out for many years by residents of Hays City as an example of Bill's remarkable marksmanship."

Remarkable indeed! Even amazing to any remaining old-timers who may have fired the old U. S. Cavalry Mounted Pistol courses. Wilstach also reports on Hickok's choices of weapons:

"During the last years of his life, according to Ellis T. Peirce, Bill used two Colt's .45 calibre cap-and-ball revolvers without triggers. He was a pulse shot. When he grasped the butt of the revolver his thumb would rest on the hammer, and the instant he had drawn the weapon clear of the holster its own weight would cock it. Bill had only to lift his



thumb—and there was another death to record. The hammers were ground smooth so they would slip easily under the thumb when pressure was removed.

"Both of these famous guns have disappeared. Wild Bill was wearing a new revolver when killed at Deadwood, a large Smith & Wesson. The ivory-handled gun found on his body was taken by Charlie Storm, a Jewish gun-fighter of Deadwood, when the latter went south to fight Luke Short. But Short was too quick on the draw, and Storm is still down there! Charlie Utter, Wild Bill's companion in Deadwood, took the Smith & Wesson for a keepsake, and Wild Bill's Sharps rifle was buried beside him."

Alert readers will have noticed several contradictions and factual discrepancies even in this small sampling of testimony. Connelley states positively that Hickok did not alter his guns for slip shooting. Peirce (and various others) state just as positively that he did just that. Peirce says Hickok used "two Colt's .45 caliber cap-and-ball revolvers;" Colt's did not make a .45 caliber cap-and-ball revolver; did make the .44 Army, which Hickok may have had at the time of which Peirce is speaking. Kane, the shooter, has been criticized for saying that Hickok showed him a pair of "silver plated S.A. .44 Colt revolvers"—criticized on the grounds that the capitalized "S.A." suggests the Colt Single Action Army cartridge revolver, commonly called "the Colt S.A. or Single Action." So far as can be determined by the most careful research, Hickok never used, probably never saw, a Colt Single Action Army. This gun came into production in 1873, three years before Hickok's death; but only 200 of them were sold in this country in the first year of production, and there is no evidence that Hickok ever had access to the gun that "won the West" in the hands of later gunmen. If so, he must not have liked it, for he was still

wearing cap-and-ball percussion guns at the time of his death in Deadwood in August, 1876.

But it is Joseph G. Rosa (whose book, "They Called Him Wild Bill," was published by University of Oklahoma Press, 1964) who pokes the biggest hole of all in Shooter Kane's story. Rosa has delved far, far deeper than any other writer into the firearms side of the Hickok Legend; and, while I do not entirely agree with Rosa's conclusion regarding Hickok the Man, I find no flaw with his appraisal of Hickok the Gunman. With typical attention to detail, Rosa consulted the records about Kane's opening statement about the visit of Buffalo Bill Cody's "Prairie Waif" company to Milwaukee. Rosa's footnoted comment follows:

"Wild Bill was not with Cody when he played in Milwaukee. Cody played there in January, 1873, and May, 1874. (Mrs. Lynn Murphy, Milwaukee Public Library, to the author, June 20, 1960)."

So—what does this make Kane? Did he simply forget, in the years between "along in the '70s" and 1906 when his story was published, what city it was in which he had that "little social session" with Hickok? Or was he just another writer claiming personal contact with a man who had become a Great American Legend? Nobody knows.

These are only a few of the countless stories that stud the legend of Hickok's shooting prowess—stories that range from splitting bullets on the edge of a dime, to driving a cork through the neck of a bottle, to the oft-told one of placing ten shots into the letter "O" in a sign diagonally across the

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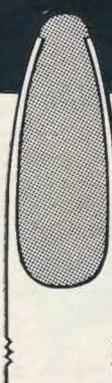
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Market Square in Kansas City—a distance, according to surveyed measurements, of between 325 and 350 feet. The "O," we are told, was "about two feet in diameter." Hickok is said to have been shooting Colt 1851 Navy (cap-and-ball percussion) revolvers.

Well, ten shots in a two-foot group at approximately 115 yards could be within the capabilities of a pair of good Navies; in which case, I would concede that it might also be within Hickok's capability as a shooter. But if Mr. Hickok were around today, I'd be willing to risk a few dollars in a bet that he couldn't do it the way he is said to have done it—firing rapidly, five shots from one gun and then five from the other, shooting from a waist-high position, without use of the sights. Maybe he could; but it would be worth losing the bet to see it done.

James Butler Hickok was assassinated by John McCall in Deadwood, in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory (now South Dakota), August 2, 1876. To quote again from Joe Rosa:

"To this date no one knows for sure what sort of heavy artillery weapons Wild Bill was actually carrying in Deadwood. White-Eye Jack Anderson's remarks about a pair of .38 Colt revolvers converted from a .36 cap-and-ball to cartridge are valid; but Doc Peirce remarked that Hickok carried a pair of .45 cap-and-ball Colts. Since Colt's did not make a .45 caliber cap-and-ball revolver, it may be assumed that the weapons of which Peirce spoke were .44 Army pistols, Model of 1860. So far as is known Wild Bill never had access to a Peacemaker. The .32 Smith and Wesson tip-up Number 2 Army revolver found on his body . . . was a hide-out weapon. Of his two .41 derringers there is no trace."

It was stated by the undertaker in charge of Hickok's burial that "his big Sharps rifle" was buried in the coffin with him. It was also reported that "his fine ivory handled revolvers (made expressly for him and finished in a manner unequalled by any ever before manufactured in this or any other country)" were also buried with him. Later, when the body was exhumed for reburial, it was reported that the only weapon found in the coffin was ". . . not a Sharps rifle, but a carbine, or short cavalry, fitted into an old-fashioned Kentucky rifle breech, with the name J. B. Hickok engraved on the wood." Even after his death, no two witnesses could agree about this man of mystery.

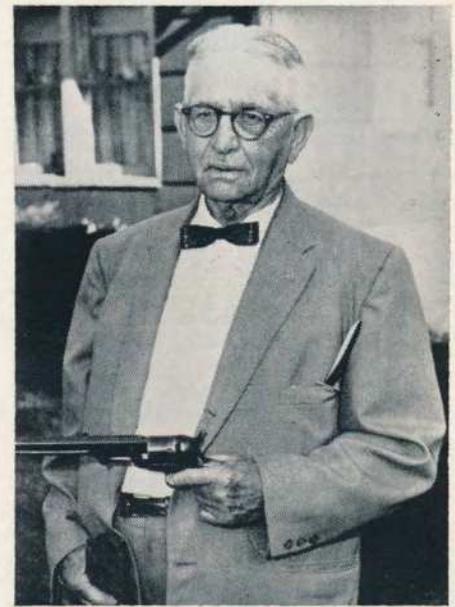
How many men did he kill? He is alleged to have said (in 1867) that the number was "over a hundred." Many have ridiculed this statement—and there is no real proof that Hickok ever made it. But Hickok served for four years as a Union "scout" during the bloody Civil War skirmishes in Arkansas and Missouri, reportedly working frequently behind enemy lines and even (in Confederate uniform) with Confederate troops. How many men he may have killed in those years will never be known.

There is a story, allegedly reported by a Union corporal, of a time when Hickok came riding up to a Union outpost on the Old Wire Road outside Springfield, Missouri, to report that a strong Confederate column was just behind him. He dismounted with the output to rest his horse, and, sure enough, Confederate advance units were soon sighted. The outpost opened fire; but Hickok, dis-

gusted by the quality of the troopers' marksmanship, suggested that they load the guns and let him do the shooting. According to the corporal, "It seemed impossible for him to miss. In the next hour, before the main body of the enemy appeared and we were forced to fall back, he killed upward of thirty." That would be a sizeable contribution toward the alleged "over a hundred" total, but—did it happen?

Later, Hickok is said to have claimed "only thirty-six 'notches.' Rosa says: "At this date the record shows only seven known victims and seven probables, making a total of fourteen (not counting Indians, Mexicans, or Confederates." Who knows?

What manner of man was he? Again, who knows? Unlike many of his chroniclers, I have found nothing in all the literature about him to make me love him; yet I do not despise him. He was a killer, in times and places where killing was common; deadlier



Horace Hickok, nephew of Wild Bill, holds a Colt Model 1851 Navy and holster which once belonged to Bill.

than most, but otherwise a man like other men: part good, part bad, part fearful, part fearless, part hero, part heel.

Long ago, in another article, I described him: "He was an egotist; not necessarily a braggart, but a man sure of his own value, contemptuous of any who opposed him. He was brave. He was careless of the truth, willing to tell tall tales where the truth might hurt him . . . a gambler, yet great men spoke well of him . . . the consort of prostitutes, yet fine ladies admired him. His meter was the saloon, the gambling dive; yet he was respected in high places. He was a cold-blooded killer . . . or a hero. But whatever else we may say of him, he shot straight, asked few favors, and he walked like a man in the presence of his enemies."

Twenty years and countless readings later, I can't improve that appraisal. Legend he is; myth he is not. He was a shooter of real skill, a gun-fighter of real stature—probably the best of his era, possibly as good as any who came later. He never lost a gun-fight, until the last one—and that was murder: a shot from behind, by a man who never would have dared to face him.

WW II AUTO PISTOLS

(Continued from page 22)

the older, formed sheet-metal type, and the difficulty is usually easy to remedy by some careful re-forming of the feed lips. The best magazines are those of extruded steel. With a more rigid construction, they are less susceptible to dents and other damage. Another cause of malfunctions is wear at the point where the magazine catch enters the magazine, or wear of the catch itself. There are two remedies for this: Try another magazine, or add a little steel to the operating surface of the catch.

The greatest drawback of the Luger lies in something it does *not* have—an external hammer. Carrying the pistol loaded in the chamber means the striker is cocked and ready to fire. The safety efficiently blocks the sear but is no insurance against parts breakage. This may not have caused concern for the average *Schutze* in the *Wehrmacht*, but it bothers me considerably.

I have heard that an occasional Luger jam will result from the use of ammo that is loaded too lightly. This is to a large extent true. The efficient locking system used in the Luger requires a cartridge with a minimum velocity of about 1200 fps for flawless operation, and most American commercially loaded 9 mm is marginal in this respect. One word of caution: the Luger is finely made of excellent materials, but the steel is drawn for resistance to wear rather than impact. On the breech block there is an opening at the side where the cocking finger of the toggle draws back the striker. In some Lugers the cut is so closely machined that the toggle finger will strike the breech block if ammunition above 1350 fps is used. I know of at least one case where this caused breakage of the left upper rear portion of the block. There are two solutions to this problem: refrain from using cartridges loaded above the NATO Standard (1350 fps), or having a competent gunsmith relieve the rear edge of the opening.

More than just an interesting step in the evolution of the automatic pistol, the Luger is still a practical and beautiful weapon today. While its lack of an external hammer scores against it for military use, its pointing qualities and infinite variations make it desirable for the shooter and collector.

WALTHER P-38: The P-38 was adopted officially in 1938 to supplant the Luger as the standard German sidearm. Its double action firing system allows the first shot by direct pull of the trigger, a feature much desired by many in combat use. An indicator pin protrudes slightly just above the hammer when a cartridge is in the chamber. The sights are excellent, U-shaped rear and square post front, superior to the Luger's "V" notch and inverted "V." The slide latch and safety are easily reached by the thumb of the shooting hand. The grip is comfortable.

The P-38 has one fairly serious fault: the stamped sheet metal cover on top of the slide is retained by four spring fingers inside the slide. If these are bent, weakened, or broken, or if the slide is subjected to ex-

cessive impact by the use of high velocity handloads or machine pistol ammunition, the cover frequently will fly off, and small parts will fall about the shooter like rain. There are two solutions: if the Walther is not a collector's piece, there are ways to secure it more firmly, or you can simply avoid using any H.V. ammunition.

Another quirk of the Walther that is cause for caution is its safety. With the hammer cocked, moving the safety lever down will immobilize the firing pin and drop the hammer. The part which holds the firing pin is about an eighth of an inch thick, and if repeated impact has crystallized it, and it breaks, the pistol will fire when the safety is applied. This does not happen frequently, but the possibility is enough reason to let the hammer down slowly with the other thumb when turning down the safety. All in all, though, it's a good, dependable pistol, comparatively free from chronic parts breakage, and I've never seen one in good condition that jammed.

MAUSER MODEL 1896: The first successful automatic pistol, Paul von Mauser's design remained virtually unchanged through its production for more than thirty years. Aside from its efficient operation, its ten shot (in some cases, twenty) magazine capacity, and its dual role as pistol or carbine, I believe that a great deal of its popularity with the police and military of Europe and Asia in past years has been because of its appearance. It looks downright mean! With its long barrel, forward mounted magazine, and tall, grotesque hammer, often its very presence made firing unnecessary. Also, its cartridge was, until the development of the present-day magnums, the most powerful regular production pistol cartridge in the world. The 7.63 mm round has a muzzle velocity of 1400 fps and a muzzle energy of 400 fp. The particular Mauser we tested is in 9 mm, this type recognizable by the large red "9" on its grips.

The handling qualities of the Mauser, however, leave much to be desired. The small, round grip which supplies its nickname of "Broom-Handle" is completely inadequate to stabilize its ungainly length and complete lack of balance. The long swing of its heavy hammer is another accuracy-defeating feature.

One of the Mauser's chronic ailments is jamming due to a weak recoil spring. In full recoil the bolt does not have a metallic block to halt its rearward travel, but bot-

toms on the spring, which receives full compression, sometimes causing kinks which further retard its operation. Also, the firing pin passes through its center, and any deformation in the pin will cause a drag.

None of the foregoing, though, disturbs me as much as the small crosspiece which passes through the receiver and bolt, and forms a base for the recoil spring. If this piece should shear, the bolt could override the locking system and hammer and fly out, seriously injuring the shooter.

The Mauser is the only pistol in this group having a fixed non-removable magazine, loaded with clips from the top. This system has some advantages from a military standpoint. The magazine, being a part of the pistol, is not susceptible to damage that might cause malfunctions. Also, having the rounds in strip-clips, to be run directly into the magazine makes it unnecessary to preload spare magazines, or reload them after firing. On the negative side, however, a bent strip-clip could hang you up temporarily.

NAMBU MODEL 14 (1925): A good design, sometimes poorly executed with inferior materials, and chambered for an impossible cartridge. The Nambu Model 14, a reworking of the earlier standard Japanese pistol, was adopted by the military in 1925 to replace the Model 1914 Nambu. It combines the Luger look with an action which derives from the Mauser and the Italian Glisenti, but without the dangerous bolt-retaining construction. Its locking system is similar to the Mauser, with a large block pivoting out of the bolt recess down into a well in the frame. The good leverage of its long sear gives a trigger pull that is smooth as silk, though lacking the crisp let-off preferred by target shooters.

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The sight arrangement is interesting, with an inverted - V front, and the sides of the rear sight notch undercut to form a semi-triangular shape to fit the front image. Whether this gives the shooter any better control of the picture is debatable, especially in a military situation, but we like it. The magazine catch, a push-button type positioned in the forward upper portion of the left grip, is difficult to operate due to lack of a thumb depression in the grip.

Placement of the safety catch is not good: too high and so far forward that operation with the firing hand is nearly impossible. Also, no stop is provided to prevent its swinging below its two horizontal positions, resulting in a scored arc on the grip from the nose on the lever.

There were several minor variations in the Model 14, principally changes in the design of the bolt retracting knob. Early in the production the trigger guard was enlarged to facilitate firing while wearing gloves, perhaps for use when the Nipponese Army would march across the frozen steppes of Russia.

The Nambu cartridge is an 8 mm bottlenecked round patterned after the 7.63 mm Mauser, but with much less spectacular ballistics. With a muzzle velocity of about 950 fps and a striking energy of 200 foot-pounds, it compares with the .380 ACP round.

We've heard many unkind things about the Nambu, most of them unfounded. It does present a rather grotesque silhouette, but it handles and shoots well. Some later production types were somewhat crudely finished, but the basic design remains one of the simplest, most efficient military automatic pistols, handicapped only by the absence of an external hammer and its obsolete, inadequate cartridge.

BERETTA—MODEL 1934: The basic design of the Model 1934 began in 1915, when the Beretta of that year, an enclosed hammer type, began to replace the Glisenti as the official Italian pistol. Later, in 1925, the hammer was moved outside.

The Beretta is a masterpiece of good design, with a parts breakage quotient of practically zero. Its cartridge, the 9 mm Corto,

is a bit marginal by our standards for military or personal defense usage.

Internally, the Beretta's mechanism is an exercise in simplicity. The hammer spring also operates the sear. The safety lever doubles as a slide latch. The recoil spring serves as a safety tension spring. The trigger bar is also the disconnecter. Among its other good features are metal-backed grips, which seem to never break, and an extension on the magazine floorplate which provides a rest for the little finger.

The Model 1934 does have one quirk to which I object: its top-mounted extractor and centrally-positioned ejector produce a disconcerting effect when the pistol is fired from hip level, as the empty cases are frequently tossed right in the shooter's face, or at least will whirl past his ear.

As issued, the Beretta usually has an atrocious trigger pull, averaging about five or six pounds. This, of course, can be readily corrected by leveling and polishing the operating surfaces on sear and hammer. The magazine has large side openings which are a loading help, as after the first round is inserted the following may be pushed down with the thumb as additional rounds are loaded, or may be drawn down with thumb and finger.

The safety lever only blocks the trigger, but there is a deep safety-notch on the hammer which allows a round to be kept in the barrel without hazard. Rugged, compact, and absolutely reliable, the Beretta is without peer in its size and caliber as a personal defense weapon.

TOKAREV—MODEL 30-33: When retired Cossack officer F. V. Tokarev designed his automatic pistol, he borrowed freely from other designs, and added a few good points of his own. Its external appearance and type of action are quite similar to the Browning-designed .32 Colt pocket automatic. The Tokarev is larger, however, being chambered for the 7.62 mm Russian pistol round, a cartridge almost identical with the 7.63 mm Mauser.

The most immediately obvious departure from the borrowed Browning silhouette was the wise addition of an external hammer, which allows a round to be carried in the chamber with the hammer on safety-notch. This, incidentally, is the only safety provided.

One word of caution on the subject of carrying the Tokarev fully loaded: the firing pin is a full-reach type, not an inertia or floating pin, and when the hammer is all the

way down the firing pin nose will rest directly on the primer of a cartridge in the barrel. Even with the hammer on safe, a cartridge may fire if the slide is forced back, bumping the pin against the hammer. I have experimented with an inertia-type short firing pin for the Tokarev, and it works perfectly. In some pistols, however, it might require a stronger hammer spring. If anyone plans to use a Tokarev extensively, I strongly recommend that this alteration be made. It is not a permanent change that would affect the collector's value, and it would solve a serious safety problem.

One of the Tokarev's most notable good features is its use of a package firing mechanism. In this system, the hammer, sear, disconnecter, and their springs are contained in a removable sub-frame which also bears the ejector. The advantages of the package are obvious, as it can be lifted out as a unit for cleaning, repair, or replacement. This excellent system, which also appeared in the French model 1935 automatic pistol, was made even more compact in the Tokarev by placing the hammer spring *inside* the hammer, bearing on a fixed pin in the sub-frame for compression.

Both the magazine release button and the slide latch are a trifle small for easy operation, and neither protrudes quite far enough to provide sufficient travel for the bottom or thumb-grip on the latch. Unlike its clumsy caliber-cousin, the Mauser, the Tokarev is well-balanced, compact, and uncomplicated, and its cartridge is the nearest to magnum velocity you'll find in an automatic.

RADOM MODEL 1935: In the mid-thirties, Browning engineers journeyed to Poland, and assisted the F. B. Radom factory in the development of what I believe is one of the best pistols ever produced for the 9 mm Parabellum round. The result of their efforts was adopted in 1935 as the standard Polish sidearm: the Radom.

For years it has remained one of the most underrated pistols of the war. Perhaps its external similarity to our service pistol caused some to assume it was a poor imitation of the Model 1911. Then again, some may have been misled by the crude finish of some of the late German occupation models. Whatever the reasons, it had until recently been overlooked by both shooters and collectors, and as recently as two years ago a good Radom could be purchased for as little as \$15.

A list of the Radom's good points could well begin with its locking system, which has the same design and capabilities as the one which gives the 1935 Browning the name "Hi-Power." Departing from the outdated swinging barrel link in our service pistol, the barrel tail has an incline which, after a short travel, encounters a like surface on the frame, camming the barrel down to unlock. This is a much stronger, smoother, and more efficient system.

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first draws the firing pin inside its well, then drops the hammer. This is a much safer arrangement than the hammer-drop in the P-38, which only blocks the pin. One word of caution, however: if someone has previously installed an overlong home-made firing pin, and the hammer-drop is used on a live round, the results will be at least loud and unnerving, and possibly disastrous. To check your Radom, first be sure it's unloaded, then, holding the hammer back, pull down the drop lever and watch the firing pin. If it is drawn well past the face of the retaining plate, the mechanism is probably safe. To check further, take the pistol out to a safe place and try the hammer drop on a live round. If it goes then, the worst you'll get is a bruised thumb. Best of all, when using this device just let the hammer down gently with the other thumb. It's a good safety device, but don't push your luck.

Incidentally, if it becomes necessary to dismantle the hammer-drop and firing pin assembly in the slide, better let a competent gunsmith do it, as a wrong move can cause breakage during disassembly, and proper reassembly is tricky, especially regarding the hammer-drop lever spring.

Two points on which I criticize the Radom are its sliding trigger and the efficient but useless grip safety. I feel that the original idea of the grip-type safety was one of John M. Browning's least brilliant inspirations, especially when applied to a large military pistol.

The Radom magazine is particularly well-made of sufficiently heavy materials to prevent deformation, and the follower is a solid part, well-designed for flawless feeding, not simply a piece of bent sheet-metal, as in certain other guns.

After German occupation of Poland, the uncertain conditions prevailing at the Radom factory coupled with frantic war production caused a steady decline in quality: the disassembly latch was omitted, then the hammer-lowering device, and in a few cases the grip safety was eliminated. Grips changed from the checkered plastic bearing the Radom trademark to simple grooved wood. Rolled sheet metal pins were substituted for solid ones. Finish dropped from good blue to a rough military grey-green. Even these late production models, though, are better guns than certain other highly-touted sidearms of the period.

FRENCH MODEL 1935: An engineer named Charles Gabriel Petter was responsible for the design of the French pistol with the "painted" look. For those who may have wondered about this feature, the Model 1935 was originally issued finished with a baked-on enamel of a remarkably durable nature. The pistol contains several excellent points of design, most of which were retained when the Swiss later scaled it up to become their 9 mm Model SP 44/8.

The French were apparently intrigued by the cartridge for our WW I Pedersen device, the system designed to make the Springfield rifle automatic. The 7.65 mm Long cartridge for which the Model 1935 is chambered is practically identical with the .30 Pedersen round. In fact, the .30 Pedersen can be fired in the Petter pistol, and will function reliably through the action. I

do not know if the 7.65 mm Long will work in the Pedersen device, but it might not, as the French bullet is longer, and the load might not be sufficient to operate the heavier slide.

Petter's design utilizes the package firing system mentioned earlier in reference to the Tokarev, with the exception that the hammer spring extends downward into the grip. I'm not sure which designer should get credit for the sub-frame, but perhaps it should be Tokarev, as his was first adopted in 1930 and 1933, a little earlier than Petter's design.

The safety catch is simple and very efficient, being a solid round shaft with one flat side, its lever located on the left side of the slide near the top. Actually, it is not a safety in the full sense, but a strong hammer-block. Turning the lever to vertical po-



Radom (top) fires the 9 mm Luger, while Beretta uses the 9 mm Corto.

sition rolls the flat side of the shaft upward, and brings a rounded surface of hardened steel out to shield the firing pin. The same caution we voiced on the Radom system applies here—make sure someone hasn't installed an overlong firing pin.

The combination of a toy-sized trigger guard and an oddly-angled pivoting trigger results in an ailment called pinched trigger finger, and this produces inaccuracy in what is otherwise a well-balanced pistol with an excellent grip. Unfortunately, there is no

way short of drastic alterations to correct this situation.

An indicator flips up on top of the slide when a cartridge is in the chamber. The magazine is well-designed and strong, the slide stop is easily reached by the thumb of the firing hand, and the square notch and square post sights are excellent.

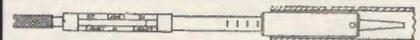
Most Model 1935 pistols feel as if the recoil spring is weak, but actually a light spring is necessary, since this is a fully locked action of modified Browning design, and the cartridge is barely strong enough to make it function properly. A simple blow-back system would have been sufficient. The 7.65 Long has a muzzle velocity of only 1120 feet-per-second, and muzzle energy of 240 foot-pounds. Unless the French someday release huge quantities of that presently unobtainable cartridge, the Petter will be of interest only to the collector of automatic pistols.

BROWNING MODEL 1935 HI-POWER: Before his death in 1926, John Moses Browning designed his last, and best, automatic pistol. The Model 1935 is not only the best of the Browning line, but is, in my opinion, the finest military automatic pistol in the world. There are others that display more beauty and precision workmanship, such as the Swiss Neuhausen Model SP 47/8, but for practical consideration the Browning is superior for all combat situations, military or otherwise.

The most notable advantage of the Browning is its magazine, a staggered design with a capacity of thirteen rounds as originally issued. Those manufactured by the John Inglis factory in Canada will take fourteen rounds, and the European magazine can be easily altered to that capacity by removing a small portion of the spring lug on the bottom of the follower.

The muzzle-end of the slide shows the ultimate refinement of Browning's design, being completely enclosed except for the barrel opening. The locking system is an application of the same strong design already

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described in our comments on the Radom, and enables the Model 1935 to safely fire even 1500 foot-second machine pistol cartridges. The name "Hi-Power" is more than just an advertising title.

Both slide latch and safety are easily reached by the thumb of the firing hand, though the safety arm is a bit short for good leverage. This is a small objection, though, since the external hammer and inertia firing pin make a manual safety seldom necessary. Most early models are also fitted with a magazine safety in the trigger mechanism, which most serious shooters soon remove to improve trigger pull. Because of the wide magazine, Browning used an unusual pivoting bar located in the slide to connect trigger and sear, and this arrangement has caused some to claim that this one, like the Luger, has an inherently bad trigger pull. Again, not so. The same remarks made on the tuning of the Luger trigger system apply here, with the changes to be made in the placement of anti-slack and anti-backlash devices.

The troublesome spring tunnel for slide stop and safety has been wisely phased out in the Browning's design, replaced by an internal spring and ball for the safety, and a like arrangement bearing on the slide stop shaft from within the recoil spring guide.

The Browning has been used by Belgium, Lithuania, Republic of China, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, and other nations, and adopted by several of these as the standard sidearm. A low incidence of parts breakage, compact design, and good balance, coupled with its excellent cartridge and a fully loaded capacity of up to fifteen rounds make the Browning Model 1935 the ultimate choice for military combat or personal defense.

TESTING THE TEN: The chart on page 22 shows the results of our accuracy and functioning tests, along with a description and evaluation of each. Here are some random impressions from the range firing. We conducted two series of tests, firing five shots each at a standard 25 yard target for group, and then moving up to 15 yards for

five quick shots at a standard silhouette target to check the performance of each in a combat situation. In the column titled "Combat Target Rating," the figures used represent the number of shots striking the figure in a vital area, the maximum being five.

All the ammunition we used in the 9 mm pistols was Canadian military, loaded by Dominion Industries, with a velocity of 1350 f/s. The other ammunition, in .45 ACP, 7.65 mm Long, 8 mm Nambu, and 7.62 mm Russian, was all original military issue. The one exception was the Beretta cartridges which were .380 ACP U. S. commercial.

I did poorly with the .45 service pistol on the combat target, putting three shots into the dirt, one in the white, and one into the left leg of the silhouette. Surprisingly, friend Bennett did only a little better, with his own gun too! The Colt had a tendency to emulate the Beretta, pitching the fired cases against the shooter's chest when fired from holster level. Even though several different magazines were used, there were no malfunctions.

We expected the Luger, with its natural pointing qualities, to do better, and it did. All the shots hit the figure. Even so, they were rather widely dispersed, possibly due to firing before muzzle whip had subsided.

With the P-38 we repeated a test made several years ago with the smaller Walthers. We fired the first shot double action, the next four as cocked by the slide. The first shot was in the white, the four succeeding shots even wider. We believe that this results from the difference in hand position between double and single action fire. With no time allowed to change hold, the position for the following shots is awkward. For this reason we have always questioned the advantages of both double and single action in an automatic pistol. With practice, you can learn to hold steady even through the double-action pull, and there is no change after the first shot. The Walther did even worse in aimed fire, with neither of us getting enough shots on the target to make a group.

The Mauser was a surprise. With all its clumsy lack of balance and inadequate grip, it put five shots into the silhouette target that could be covered with the hand, and all in the neck and head area! In aimed fire,

the best group was four inches. We were amazed. Even so, its size and lack of a detachable magazine scored against it in consideration as a practical military or personal defense arm.

While firing the Nambu we tried not to think about that fifty cents to a dollar per round, and the imprecations to be hurled at us by cartridge-collecting friends, and concentrated on our impressions of the pistol. Like the Beretta, the Nambu has a top-mounted extractor and a centrally-located ejector, but ejection was short-range and the cases did not strike us. For an automatic which most shooters consider merely a curiosity, it did quite well on both targets.

The Beretta was a special case, since for several years I carried one of these as my personal sidearm, with frequently practice firing. For this reason I based my evaluation more on Bennett's results than my own. I was so familiar with it that my group in unaimed fire was within an eight-inch circle in the center torso area of the figure, again proving the advisability of practicing with your chosen sidearm.

The only unpleasant thing about firing the Tokarev is its rifle-like report. The ear-ringing crack is somewhat akin to the blast of a .30-30 Winchester Carbine. Recoil, because of the light bullet, is negligible, hardly more than that of a .32 ACP pistol. On the targets, the Tokarev tended to shoot low, probably because of its rather straight grip.

The Radom performed well, and developed no distress habits to contradict our earlier comments. In fact, it scored the best aimed fire group of all: 2.5 inches. The finger-pinching trigger guard of the French Model 1935 adversely affected its accuracy, especially in unaimed fire. The Browning functioned flawlessly, and scored well, confirming our long-held opinion that it is the best military pistol available.

WW II ground to a halt in 1945, and in the 20 years that have followed many of the arms examined here have been supplanted by more modern versions, or entirely new designs. The French adopted a new 9 mm pistol in 1950, the Japanese changed more recently. The USSR has discarded the Tokarev in favor of the new 9 mm Makarov and Stechkin pistols. Italy scaled up the Beretta to 9 mm Parabellum, and Germany kept a re-designed version of the Walther P-38. The U. S. still clings to an archaic cannon, the Colt Model 1911. The excellent Browning Model 1935 Hi-Power has been adopted by most of the NATO nations and several others as the standard pistol.

Even so, the old Mauser, the Luger, and the rest are still around. In the little, brush-fire wars and border encounters of our time, from the Congo to Cyprus, from Da Nang to Dienbienphu, and in the hands of civilians defending their lives and property against the criminal element, *they are still* very much in use, the sidearms of the WW II.

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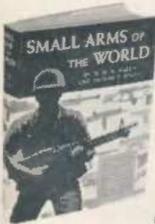


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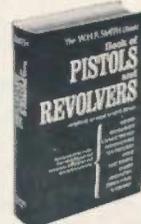
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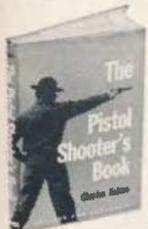


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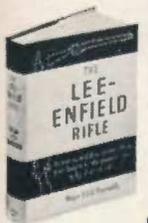
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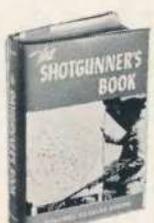
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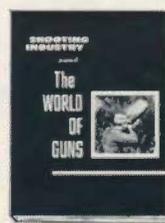
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HY-SCORE AIR GUNS

(Continued from page 30)

pneumatic push of the air being exerted under the skirt of the pellet, these pellets, depending on rifling and gun design, attain fairly respectable velocities. The standard pellets weigh 7.25 gr. in .177 caliber and 15.0 gr. in .22 caliber. The match pellets, available in .177 caliber only, weigh 8.0 gr., come 100 to a box, each pellet seated in its own foam cushion. Being soft lead, care must be taken in handling the pellets, since deformed pellets either won't chamber at all, or if they chamber, will give poor results on the target.

I deformed a dozen of them just enough so that they would still fire. In each case, pellet flight was erratic and accuracy was poor, with many of the pellets keyholing badly. Darts, made from surgical steel and designed to give flight patterns like those of the pellets, are also available in both calibers. A word of warning might be in place here. The energy of the pellets, although they are relatively light when you think in terms of standard rifle bullets, is enough to cause injury. The darts are mean things, especially when you consider that the average velocity is around 500 fps. Just because they are air guns, don't consider them as toys—handle them with the same respect you use when you handle a bigbore rifle or a handgun.

The sights on the Hy-Score air rifles run the entire gamut from simple to sophisticated and more than adequate for formal com-

petitive target shooting, including sights which are listed in the Laszlo catalog as "Olympic." All of the guns have a very distinctive two-stage trigger pull, and trigger let-off varies from about 5 pounds in the plinker-type carbine, to a mere 2 ounces in the Model 810 match rifle. Several of the Hy-Score guns are furnished with receiver rails designed to accept the Olympic sights or the fully adjustable air rifle scope that is especially made for these guns. Models 806 and 808 have simple, post-like front



Hy-Score Model 800

sights. The models which are suitable for target shooting, from the basement variety to the formal match kind, have hooded ramp front sights. The sights of the Model 809 and 810 are slotted and furnished with a lock ring which permits the use of any of the four sight inserts which are furnished

with the Model 812 Olympic International Peep Rear and Front Sight.

The Model 807, which is an excellent choice for the man who wants to use the gun for plinking and also for serious target shooting, has a fully adjustable rear sight. This sight not only has quite audible click stops, but markings are clear and sharp. Returning the sight to a previous setting is merely a matter of remembering how many markings are needed to return to the original sight setting. The adjustments on the peep sights are even better, and in using these sights, two things should be kept in mind. The sight must be moved all the way forward until the front edge of it butts up against the upper, rear edge of the receiver. Fastening of the sight to the bar that is provided for it is accomplished by turning the upper ring of the fastening locking arrangement. In unscrewing this, do not turn the ring too far counter-clockwise, or the little stud that holds the sight, the lock ring, and the sight seating bar comes out of the housing.

Here is a detailed report on the guns I tested, including some typical group measurements. The formal air target matches are fired at 10 meters or 33 feet. I checked the match rifles at that range, but fired most of the other guns for the record from the 25 foot line. Standard pellets were used in all shooting, but the match rifle was tested with the special .177 caliber target pellets.

Model 801: A walnut finished stock with pistol grip and finger-rail on fore-end. The adjustable rear sight is of the sliding kind often seen on military rifles. The gun has no butt plate, but the end grain of the butt is heavily serrated and there was no slippage of the gun from the shoulder. Ramp front sight, and rail for either the Olympic sight or the scope comes already fastened in place. Rifle weighs 5 lbs., has a rifled barrel that is 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, and the over-all length of the Model 801 is 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In caliber .22 only, it is designed for the growing boy and novice shooter. The gun feels comfortable in an adult's hands, and I did not have the feeling of shooting a kid's gun. With the Hy-Score scope, this should make a fine combination for plinking. Average group size with factory sights was between 0.5" and 0.75" for several ten shot strings. The gun was first fired from the 33 foot range. I found that the gun shot slightly above and to the left of the bull, but six of the 10 pellets did hit the one inch bullseye.

Model 806: This is also a walnut finished stock, but the figure of the wood on the test gun was outstanding. This model also has a finger-rail on the fore-end. The rear sight is a simple one and is adjustable for elevation only, although a certain amount of windage adjustment can be made. The front sight is a post-like affair that is extremely simple. On first examination, I had my doubts about the design of the gun's front sight, but in actual shooting tests I found that the post was more than adequate, although it is not entirely suitable for precision shooting. As on the previous model, there is no butt plate, but again the wood is heavily serrated and there was no butt slippage from the shoulder. The barrel of this model is rifled, is 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long; over-all length of the gun is 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and weight is



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Model 808: This is a carbine style air gun with wood butt, but without pistol grip. The fore-end is made of a brown plastic with impressed checkering. This model is the lowest priced gun in the line and retails for about \$14. Although most of the parts are stampings and the gun weighs only 3 pounds, it grouped surprisingly well. Capable of shooting pellets, darts, and BB's, the 12 inch barrel is smoothbored, and the sights are a simple post front and an even simpler rear sight which is adjustable for elevation by means of a screw. Like the other models, this gun was also factory sighted and no sight adjustments were required. Over-all length of the Model 808 is 33 inches, and caliber is .177. Taking into consideration two pulled shots, one group measured only 0.5" from the 25 foot range; other groups were almost identically good.

Model 813: This gun has a rubber butt plate, a ramp front sight, and a rear sight that is adjustable by means of a slide. The Model 813 weighs 4 lbs. and 3 oz., has a .22 caliber rifled barrel that is 14¼" long; over-all length is 36¾". This model does not have a finger rail on the fore-end. A typical 10 shot group had a maximum dispersion vertically of 0.75 inch, and horizontally of 0.5 inch.

Model 809: Although the Laszlo catalog does not show a rear sight on this model, my test gun had a fully adjustable rear sight with excellent markings and quite audible clicks. At 33 feet, the gun placed the .22 caliber pellets at point of aim. The front sight is very good and there are provisions for the insertion of the special target sight blades that come with the peep sight. Without the Olympic peep sight, the gun weighs 6½" lbs, a half pound more with the peep sight. The trigger pull is excellent, and the trigger breaks cleanly and crisply at 3 lbs. The rifled barrel is 19 inches long, over-all gun length is 44". The fore-end of the walnut finished stock has a finger-rail. The gun has the feel of a good quality small bore match rifle and should certainly appeal to the experienced shooter. The heavily serrated butt plate is made from a composition material that appears to be hard rubber. The rear sight can be removed, although this removal is not necessary when the Olympic sight is used. The same rail that holds the peep sight will also hold the Hy-Score scope.

Model 810: This is a match-grade air rifle with a stock design that is typically German and strongly reminiscent of the stock that graces the Anschutz small bore match rifles. My test gun was stocked with a fine piece of walnut and had excellent hand checkering of superior quality. The gun comes ready for the firing line, complete with peep sight and front sight inserts. Laszlo advertises the gun as "Olympic International Recoilless Target Rifle," and I was informed by a Laszlo spokesman that air rifles and handguns will be seen in competition at the next Olympics. The trigger of the 810 is fully adjustable and broke cleanly at 2 ounces. This gun also has the two stage trigger pull. The .177 caliber barrel is micro-rifled and is 19½ inches long. Over-all length is 44 inches, and without the

Olympic sight, the gun weighs 8¾ lbs., and 8 ounces more with that sight. The rubber butt plate is shaped for position shooting, although some shooters might not find it comfortable for prone shooting. Since the Germans believe in off-hand shooting for competition, the shape of the pad is predetermined by that consideration. This is one helluva gun, and don't let anyone tell you differently—airguns shoot, and this one takes the cake. With the .177 match pellets, I averaged groups that measured vertically 0.375" max, and horizontally 0.562" max—and that is darned good in my book.

Model 800: This is a single-shot handgun, comes either blued or chromed. Available in .177 and .22 caliber, the Model 800 tips the scales at 30 ounces. The 10½ inch barrel is rifled for accuracy, and this model can be dry fired without harming the gun. Cocking for dry-firing is accomplished by pushing the locking button on the right side of the gun forward and tipping the rear of the barrel up less than one inch until a cocking click is heard. Now close the gun by locking the barrel in place and the gun is ready to be dry-fired. Since each trigger pull requires these preparatory steps, and since pellets are not expensive, I can't see much sense in dry-firing this gun. I'd just as soon shoot a box of the pellets and see how well I hold, and the practice will add points to future scores. Holding at 6 o'clock and shooting for score from a sandbag rest at the 25 foot line, I found that the gun grouped high and to the left, just high and wide enough to throw most of the pellets into the 6 and 7 rings.

The Model 802 which I saw about a year ago, but which I did not test, is very similar to the Model 800, except that provisions have been made so that six pellets can be fed into a magazine.

Two new air gun target pistols are now being introduced. Both of them have contoured grips, long barrels for improved sight radius. Both are single-shot guns. The Model 815 is a standard target gun which has an excellent trigger pull of about 2-3 lbs, and a quite noticeable recoil. The Model 816, called the Match Olympic Recoilless Target Air Gun, is identical in all respects to the Model 815, except that all of the kick or recoil has been removed. This is the gun that will be used in the forthcoming Olympic events according to Laszlo. Although I did not have a chance to test these prototype guns, I have no doubt that some of our top pistol shooters could turn in some high-scoring Olympic targets with the Model 816.

Here is as fine a group of air guns as you are likely to find under one brand name. From a simple and inexpensive carbine, that is great to use in teaching a youngster proper gun handling and which the old man can use too without having the feeling that he is borrowing junior's toy, to ultra accurate and sophisticated guns that will stand up under grueling match conditions. It had been many years that I have fired one of the German air rifle matches—but if someone wants to start a club, maybe something like postal matches, just drop me a note. I'll buy that Model 809 or the 810 in a flash, and I won't be ashamed to be seen with it. Then too, that silverware will look just great in my den!

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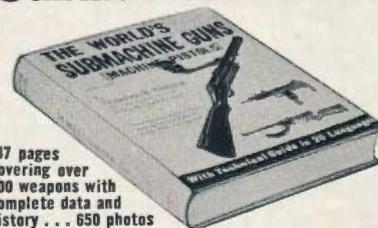
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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 6)

ner scope for the shooting tests.

The test gun had a light colored stock of finely grained walnut which was apparently finished with some kind of lacquer. The finish is non-glossy on the outside of the stock, and it appears to have been rubbed down since the bolt handle notch clearly showed that the original finish was shiny.

The Monte Carlo cheekpiece is pleasingly shaped and the contrasting wooden fore-end tip, the pistol grip cap, and the rubber recoil pad are furnished with white spacers. The checkering of the test gun was a hand job and clearly showed evidences of over-runs with the checkering tool. Aside from these stock criticism, I must admit that I was pleasantly surprised with the gun itself and its performance.

The aluminum floor plate's release catch is in the forward part of the trigger guard, and there is a cocking indicator on the cocking piece housing; the gun, incidentally, cocks on opening. The trigger pull was found to be exactly 6 lbs, and the trigger is fully adjustable in both directions so that the trigger pull can be reduced to a mere 1.75 lb. For the shooter who likes a double pull, the trigger can be adjusted in that direction also. The magazine holds four rounds, and with one cartridge in the chamber, total cartridge capacity is five rounds in the .30-06. The weight of the gun with the 4X scope, the BSA mounts, but without sling or ammo was 7 lb. and 11 oz.

In testing this rifle, I used factory ammunition as well as handloads. With Western's 110 gr. Lualoy loads, the maximum spread at 100 yards from a bench was 2.0 inches and several of my groups measured between 1.5 and 1.75 inches. With W-W 180 gr. expanding bullets in factory loads, the gun grouped five shots consistently between 1.375 and 1.5 inches. With the 165 gr. Speer bullet pushed along by 57 gr. of 4350, the average five shot group measured between 1.25 and 1.375 inches. This type of accuracy from a factory rifle right out of the box is exceptionally good.

Aside from the stock faults, which were mostly a matter of finishing, the BSA Majestic rifle passed its tests with flying colors and I was completely satisfied with the gun's performance.

Color-Coded Shotshells

The Federal Cartridge Corporation now color-codes all shotshells. The 12 gauge shells are red, the 16 gauge shells are purple, and the 20 ga. rounds are yellow. The company has been doing great things in the past couple of years and some new developments are almost ready for release. The .300 Winchester Magnum has caught on with big game hunters and Federal will be offering this cartridge in the not too distant future. The ballistics will be identical with the W-W data, and the loads will be available with the 150 gr. and the 180 gr. bullet. Complete accuracy and chronograph tests will be conducted as soon as the first samples are received by us.

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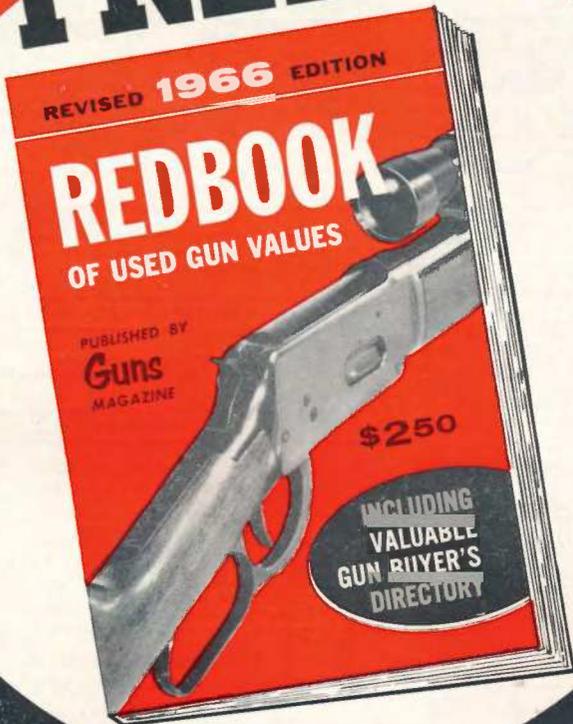
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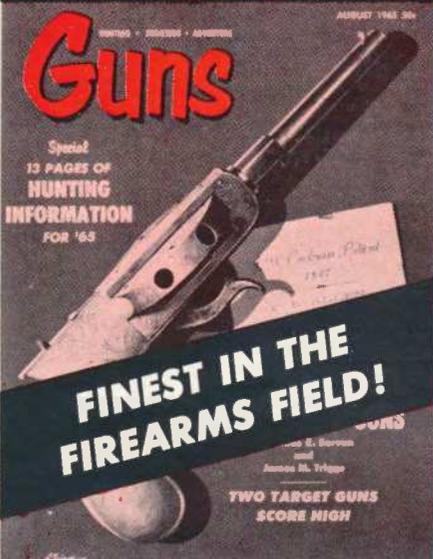


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Panel of Experts

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Baby Russian

I would like some information on a S & W .38 caliber, five shot revolver that I have. On top of the barrel it has Smith & Wesson Springfield, Mass. U. S. Pat. Jan. 17 & 24 '65; July 11, '65; Aug. 24, '69; Jan. 19, 1875. Reissue July 25, 1871. And on the butt, it has the no. 41258. It also has a spur trigger guard. Can you tell me what this gun is worth? It looks good and shoots very well.

Richard C. Flowers
Salisbury, N. C.

Your Smith & Wesson is the Model No. 2, First Model, single action, .38 caliber. It went into production in March of 1876 and over 24,000 were produced up to 1880. This model is sometimes called by collectors "the Baby Russian." Smith & Wesson produced this model to accommodate their newly designed .38 S&W; in accuracy being far superior to the Short Colt. This model in good to fine condition is worth about \$35 to the collector.—R.M.

Colt Bankers Special

I would like a little information on a revolver that recently came into my possession. It is of Colt manufacture and has .38 Bankers Special on the left side of the two inch barrel. The serial number is 349753. The action is tight and there is only normal bluing wear. My question is what caliber ammunition it requires and how much is it worth on the open market or to a collector?

Thomas A. Hall
Wichita, Kansas

The .38 Bankers Special revolver was chambered for the .38 S & W (.38 New Police) cartridge, NOT the .38 Special. Bankers Specials are desirable collectors items, and bring from \$50 to \$125 based on condition.—S.B.

German Target Rifle

I recently became the owner of a match target rifle that I am not familiar with and I would appreciate any information that you might be able to pass on to me. It is a single shot and stamped on the barrel is "F. L. Kleinkaliberbuchse." Its caliber is .22 long rifle, and it has a falling block action and a 28 inch barrel. The trigger pull is adjustable and adjusts with a key on the top of the tang, just at the rear of the falling block. This same key also adjusts both elevation and windage on the large tang target sight and also removes the sight when using a scope.

It is of hammerless action and has some scroll work on it, stamped on the side of

the falling block are the letters "F, L, and Z." The serial number is 1361, and this is stamped on barrel, action and inside all wood parts. Can you give me any idea of what I have and what it is worth?

W. H. Chew
Seibert, Colorado.

Your description fits a type of precision target rifle made by the Franz Langenhan firm of Zella-Mehlis, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Germany, prior to 1939. This was almost a generic type in those days, and usually gave superb performance. While they have a somewhat limited market in the United States, complete guns in excellent condition are worth between \$125 and \$175.—S.B.

.45 Long Colt

I would like some information on loading data for a .45 Long Colt using a 250 gr. jacketed bullet. I plan to use these loads in a new production Colt S. A. Army.

John I. Asbury
Monahans, Texas

The 250 grain jacketed bullet with 8.0 to 9.0 gr. of Unique will give you a MV of about 815 to 875 fps. I have not tried more than 5.0 gr. of Bullseye, and this gave me a MV of 790 fps. It is possible that this load can be increased to about 6.0 gr., but you best try the 5.0 load first, and then go up slowly to about 5.5 gr.—R.S.

Auto for Varmints

For the past couple of years I have been using my S & W Model 53 .22 Jet with a Phantom scope on the harrel, rather than on the top strap. All in all, it's a heck of a gun and I have killed plenty of chuck, squirrels, rabbits, and a few crows with it. My only complaint is NOISE; I think it may be affecting my hearing.

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BUCK KNIVES

lieve that I would like to work with an auto for a change since it would also be a quieter gun. Before I go ahead, I would appreciate it if you would clear up the following points: Does the two inch mid-range wadcutter trajectory at 50 yards affect hunting or plinking at various ranges? Isn't there a lot of guesswork involved in how much or how little to hold over?

Can I handload wad cutter ammo as easily as the Jet? Which do you prefer, the Colt III or the S & W Model 52? Is either easier to handload for than the other? What about the S & W Model 39 9 mm for varmint hunting? Would it be as accurate as the Mark III or the Model 52?

George Starks
Statesville, N. C.

Without ear plugs the sharp Jet report will damage your ears. In varmint range .38 trajectory is no more problem than rifle trajectory in rifle range. You'll soon learn to allow for it with precision. Loads are easy to assemble. I suggest full length sizing for auto. On a trip you can take a large supply of loads or sized cases. Once fired hulls cost about 1¢ each. The Mark III has better accuracy and isn't tempermental with re-loads. The Model 39 is a "service" gun that lacks hunting accuracy.

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revolvers. Accuracy is superb, though not quite equal to the Mark III, but they are more versatile and don't spit out cases, which makes me like them better for all around use.—K.B.

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Besides dealing in arms and ammunition, we also handle repairing jobs, such as re-bluing firearms, etc. For the purpose of re-bluing, we use the following chemical mixtures: 2 oz. ferric chloride, 2 oz. mercuric nitrate, 2 oz. hydrochloric acid, 8 oz. alcohol, and 8 oz. water.

However we find that the effect obtained is dark, dull black and not the glossy blue as on imported firearms. We shall therefore appreciate it if you will please guide us on the complete process and chemical composition of the mixtures used to obtain the desired result.

Tahir Arms Stores
Bombay, India

In reply to your letter regarding the bluing of firearms, we have tried all types of formula over the years, but have found that we get the best results with a prepared salts made by Protective Coatings, Inc., of Detroit, Michigan. We are sending you their instructions and catalogs and they say that there will be no trouble shipping to you. The metal must also have a high polish before bluing.—P.T.H.

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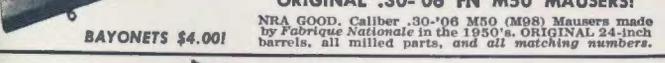
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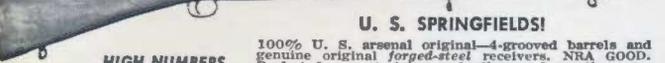
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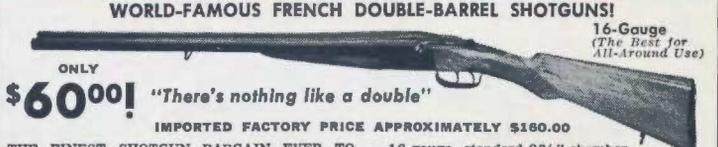
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