

# GUNS



With a spirit of an eye and a steady hand, Lon James of Moline practices his shooting with his Roger .32 caliber High Standard Trophy model. James is a member of the National Rifle Association's .22 Caliber Gallery League.

## Quad-Citians take aim on a Moline range



Jackie Lopez, Moline, uses a bolt-action .22 caliber rifle at the Moline gun range.

No one would liken downtown Moline to the Dodge City of the Old West, but if you stroll down 5th Avenue on given nights, you might spot some pistol-packing club members who are about to practice their marksmanship in an old bowling alley.

Actually, it's not an old bowling alley anymore. They're going to the Mid-America Indoor Gun Range.

In fact, each Monday night there's a meeting, a target shoot and a social hour for the more than 100 members of the National Rifle Association's .22 Caliber Gallery League. It's a private club of

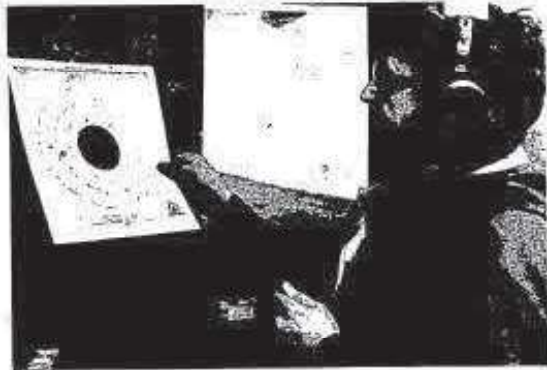
shooters of which you can be a guest three times and, if interested, you are asked to join.

Range owners Linda and Fred Miller, Davenport, do not allow anything larger than a .32 caliber rifle on the range.

The range evolved from a business venture that began in August 1961 when Fred opened a gun store called Mid-America Recreation. With the help of friends, he converted the old bowling alley, formerly 5th Avenue Recreation, into a gun range. They did all the work except for adding the steel plates at the end of the range.

The Millers also sell guns, ammunition and supplies and offer gunsmithing, marksmanship lessons and a machine that reloads shells. The 25-foot range is busiest on Monday and Saturday, both club nights.

In addition, the Mid-America Range has hosted a Cub Scout group accompanied by dads and leaders for an evening of learning marksmanship, the use of a .22 caliber rifle and safety. Also, an Explorer Scout program is underway that will feature qualified NRA instructors.



Alice Herrick, who said she is "between 60 and 75," checks her marksmanship -- not bad work from a distance of 25 feet.



Jim Nichols, Moline, admires the work of Mack Allen, Moline, who is reloading shells.



This custom-matched .45 automatic belongs to Fred Miller, gunsmith and owner of the Mid-America Indoor Gun Range. This gun is a basic 1911 Colt automatic Combat A-1 issued by the U.S. Army, but it's out of and "accursed."



Here, Miller uses the gun shown in the photo at left. Miller and his friends built the gun range by remodeling a Moline bowling alley.

Story and photos by Harry Lamon