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(Details on Page 37)





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MAY, 1971

Vol. XVII, No. 01-5

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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SEVERAL features are coming up next month that we think are important. The first is an in-depth look at the impending threat of handgun confiscation coming from Congress. Abner Mikva has re-introduced his anti-handgun bill, and he is evidently going to put some pressure on legislators to get it passed. How much of a chance does it have? Who in Congress might support it? Who are the lawmakers we can count on for support? What can you do to stop it? These, and many other questions will be answered in the June issue of GUNS Magazine.

Also in the June issue, GUNS Magazine will announce its selection for our first annual "Man of the Year Award." And, this issue will carry a ballot so that you can vote for GUNS Magazine's "Man of the Year" for 1971.

• • •

An oil platform in the Gulf was a mass of flames, with one well feeding the flames of another. The tube, leading from one to the other, was the major drawback to fighting the fire—no one could get close enough to see if it was still flowing. Who came to the rescue? A rifleman. Shooting from a barge 200 feet away, Ken Ring leveled his scoped rifle at the tubing, and scored six hits out of seven shots! For the technical minded, Ken used a Douglas-barreled Winchester M-70 with a 14x Unertl scope, and LC 54 armor-piercing ammo.

THE COVER

The Volcanic cartridge pistol, made from 1855 to 1858, and marketed after Smith & Wesson sold its patent and machinery to New Haven Arms Co. Photo by Dr. R.L. Moore, Jr.



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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

I recently received a letter from Mr. Don Harper of San Antonio, Texas. He is a well-known hunter in the Texas area and likes the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA. But in his letter he said "quite frankly, Col. Becker, don't you think you're becoming a little too excited over the anti-firearms laws? They don't appear to be affecting anything."

The only reason the anti-firearms people have not gotten the upper hand is because organizations like S.C.A. have been conducting a courageous inch-by-inch battle. Few sportsmen realize how strong the small group of anti-firearms legislators could become. If you do not watch them all the time, they will get the initiative, and then it will mean the end for any hunter, gun collector or sportsman.

We will take just one example of how this small group of anti-firearms legislators works. Bill H. R. 16250 introduced by Mr. Mikva in the House is a bill to "prohibit the importation, manufacture, sales, purchase, transfer, receipt, or transportation of handguns, in any manner affecting interstate or foreign commerce, except for, or by members of the Armed Forces, law enforcement officials, and, as authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury". The main arguments that Mr. Mikva uses are "handguns play a major role, and a role disproportionate to their number in comparison with long guns, in the commission of homicide, aggravated assault, armed robbery, and that the percentage of violent crimes in which handguns are used is increasing. With few exceptions, handguns are not used for sporting or recreational purposes, and handguns in the home are of less value than is commonly thought in defending against intruders; that violent crimes perpetrated with handguns constitute a burden upon and interfere with interstate and foreign commerce and threaten the internal security and domestic tranquillity of the Nation."

Mr. Harper, who is a handgun collector, doesn't think he can be effected by any firearms legislation. Like so many men, he is a good citizen and sportsman, but just does not realize how close to danger is his position. This same Bill H. R. 16250 states "The Secretary shall arrange with each agency designated to receive handguns for the transfer, destruction, or other disposition of all

handguns. Upon proof of lawful acquisition and ownership by a person delivering a handgun to the Federal Bureau of Investigation under this section, the owner of the handgun shall be entitled to receive from the United States of America a payment equal to the fair market value as set by the Secretary or \$25, whichever is more. Whoever violates any part or provision of this chapter or knowingly makes any false statement or representation with respect to the information required by the provision of this chapter shall be fined not more than \$5000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, and shall become eligible for parole as the Board of Parole shall determine. Any handgun involved or used in, or intended to be used in, any violation of the provisions of this chapter or of this title or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder, or any violation of other criminal law of the United States, shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture and all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of firearms, so far as applicable, extend to seizure and forfeitures under the provisions of this chapter."

What would you do if suddenly ordered to bring all your firearms down to some office so they could be destroyed? And then told that the Government might pay you what they thought the guns were worth? Once you received the order you would have only two choices; (1) give your firearms to the Government and crawl away like a dog, or (2) put up a fight and probably end up in jail.

This is one case where an ounce of prevention is worth 500 pounds of cure. There are thousands of complacent firearms owners in this country who have no idea that bills of this kind are coming up in Congress all the time. They have no idea of the aggravation and expense that groups like SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA are bearing. We are working every day so the day never comes when an IRS or FBI agent comes to your door to collect all your guns. You can do your part by joining the fight to defeat the men who would confiscate all of your firearms. Join the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA and lend your voice to the growing numbers who are telling these legislators to keep their hands off our private property. Fill in the card today and mail it and your check now.

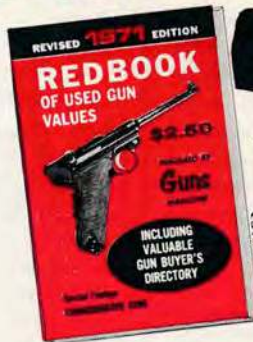
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Airborne 105mm?

"Guns" is a very good magazine; as a matter of fact it is the best one of all those available here. Please keep up with your good work.

About Mr. Nathan N. Shiovitz's letter ("Omission") in "Crossfire", (December 1970) issue, I would like to say here that the 75mm gun carried by B-25G's and H's was not, as many readers might think, the biggest piece of ordnance carried by a plane. Although not generally known, during World War Two, the Italians made an experimental installation comprising a 105mm gun in one of their planes. It's hardly necessary to say that it proved unsuccessful.

Although the story of the 75mm gun-carrying planes is certainly a very interesting one, I do not think that Major Nonte made an omission. It is quite clear to anyone who reads Major Nonte's article in the October issue (Winged Artillery) that said article deals primarily with contemporary weapons, and not with WWII ones. It is not an historical article, so there's just no place for 75mm gun-carrying-planes. It also deals primarily with aerial weapons that have proved successful, and the 75mm gun installation was not a very successful one. Mr. William Green, in his well known book "Famous Bombers of the Second World War", Volume 1, has this to say: "The 75mm cannon installation was not entirely successful. Lieut. Gen. George Kenney, commanding the U.S. Far East Air Forces, had agreed to accept sixty-three B-25G's, and when they first arrived, in July 1943, it was tested against Japanese targets by Lieut. Col. Paul I. Gunn. He found the cannon to be accurate, but it proved impossible to fire off more than about four shells in each attack, during which time the Mitchell was extremely vulnerable to ground fire, as no evasive action could be taken."

J. A. Nin
Montevideo, Uruguay



Endangered Species

I enjoyed the January issue of Guns. It's a terrific issue. However, I would like to call to your attention, and to your readers' attention, your article regarding the endangered species listed on page 18. In the first place, tigers and leopards, as pertaining to most trophy hunters, are not banned from import by the endangered species act. When I say those not normally concerned by hunters, I mean African leopards, Indian leopards, and Indian tigers. They are coming into the States right along providing they are legally taken on safaris. Also, I would like to call to your attention that Seattle, Washington is also a port authorized to receive fish and wildlife products.

Bert Klineburger
Jonas Bros of Seattle Inc.

Letters

I must confess that probably very few of us sportsmen, including myself, can claim the most commendable score of W. R. Maxwell for letter-writing to Congress that appeared in this column in your January 1971 issue. Mr. Maxwell is 100% correct in his comments. Let's all stop "blowing" and start acting to save our weapons from ultimate confiscation.

I cannot think of a better quotation to addend to Mr. Maxwell's fine article than a quotation spoken by Edmund Burke (1729-1797) who was a famed British statesman at that time. If each of the 45 million legitimate gun owners in this country wrote only 5 letters, based on this quotation, to Washington, I think those 225 million letters would bury for all times any attempt at gun registration.

The quote of Edmund Burke that I refer to is simply this, "For the forces of evil to prevail, it is only necessary for good men to do nothing."

I would hate to see it all end that way for my children.

W. R. Laeng
Upper Montclair, N.J.

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

SOME PEOPLE have the idea that a straight rimmed case like the .38 Special or .45-70 possesses some great virtue whereby excessive headspace does no harm. Perhaps to a degree this is because traditionally it has been said "Rimmed cases headspace better." Whatever that means, it doesn't apply when the allowable headspace limit is exceeded in the breeching of the gun.

For all practical purposes, a rimmed case behaves exactly as does one of rimless or belted design when fired under conditions of excess headspace: 1) The entire cartridge is driven forward; first by the firing pin blow, then more so by primer gas pressure; 2) Expanding propellant gases expand the case walls (in that forward position) to grip the chamber tightly; 3) And the case head is driven rearward by gas pressure until stopped by the bolt face. Consequently, the case body is stretched as the head moves rearward while the front portion is held fast. Brass must come from somewhere to permit that stretching, so the case walls are drawn thinner just ahead of the solid web (head). This weakens the case at that point—and if repeated, or if of a large degree on the first shot, will cause the head to separate from the body. Exactly as in all other types of cases. Where the shoulder of bottleneck cases can be relocated to avoid this, not so with the rimmed variety. What to do? One fix consists of peening the outer edge of the rim, causing it to flow forward slightly—turning over a substantial burr on the front edge, so to speak. This works fairly well on thick rims such as the .45-70 and .405 Winchester. A better solution for thin rims—like the 8x57JR—is to simply bend the outer edge of the rim forward with light hammer taps.

With either method, move the front outer edge of the rim forward until resistance is felt when closing the breech on said case. When fairly stiff resistance is encountered you can be reasonably certain the case head will

be held rearward solidly enough to resist firing pin and primer forces. However, check such altered cases before every reloading. They may need further peening or bending after each firing to keep them tight against the bolt.

It's best to have the gun repaired, but if that isn't practical, the foregoing will save your cases and temper, not to mention some skin should a case dump hot gas and molten brass back into your face some fine day.

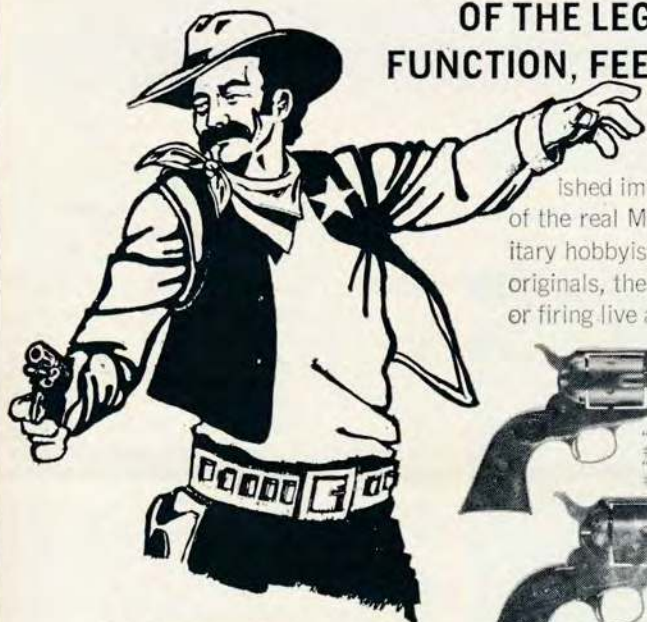
Quite a while back I recommended in this column use of the SAS Bullet Canneluring Tool to help hold short, light, jacketed bullets in cases during the impacts encountered in feeding through auto pistols. The basic idea is simple, and is used on factory ammunition for the same purpose. When the cartridge is driven out of the magazine, the bullet strikes hard against a feed ramp which deflects it into the chamber. The only trouble is that unless the bullet is held *very* tightly in the case, it often gets shoved rearward into the case—and that not only screws up feeding, it causes increased and erratic chamber pressures. Handloads just don't hold the bullets as tightly as factory fodder does.

Anyway, the problem is solved with handloads by using the SAS tool to roll a deep cannelure into the case right where the base of the bullet will be supported by it. The original SAS tool did a good job, but the cannelure produced was considerably wider than needed, and the sharp serrations on the edge of the wheel that impressed the groove weakened the brass. Cases might separate at the cannelure after two or three loadings.

Ted Smith of SAS has corrected all this. He got so many calls for the tool for the above use that he is now making a special wheel with a much narrower edge and shallower serrations. If you want the tool for such use on cases, say so, and he'll supply the correct wheel—and if you want it for
(Continued on page 64)

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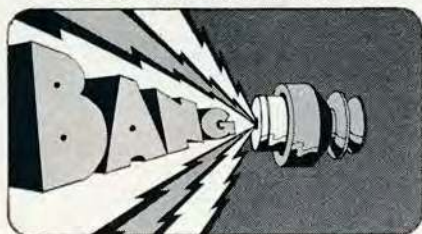
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POINT BLANK



By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

IN ALL I have owned four M1917 Enfields and three Remington Model 30 rifles. This latter was a direct ancestor of the 1917. During World War I, the Remington plant made the Enfield and when the shooting was pinched out they had not only a multitude of barreled actions but also all the tools to manufacture the rifle. The Model 30 (and later the 30S) was the result.

There simply isn't a better military bolt action than the Enfield. I like it because it makes up so ideally into the magnum calibers. The strength of the action, despite the fact that it is sixty years old so far as the design is concerned and the last of the receivers were made in 1918, does not affect the goodness in the least. The receivers were made of 3 1/2% nickel steel and I have yet to see one of them give way. The action has other good features. The bolt is ideally located for rapid fire and it does not rise into the scope sight line. The safety is happily located for either the right-hander or the southpaw and it, like the bolt, does not interfere with the location of the glass sight.

There are faults about the rifle but none are grievous. The greatest objection is the fact that the rifle cocks on the closing stroke of the bolt. Numrich Arms of West Hurley, N. Y. has a cure for that one. I always had my gunsmith do a minor bit of cutting and welding to lick this objectionable feature on my several Enfields. I well recollect the first Remington M30 I possessed cocked on the last motion of the bolt. I bore with it but did not like it. The British, who designed the Enfield in 1910, insisted that it had to operate just like the SMLE; that is forcing the striker into the full cock position on the forward motion of the bolt. This, they contended, was better for rapid fire. It may be, but Americans won't have it. We've been nurtured on the bolt that not only extracts on the upward movement but cocks as well. In theory, the "Limeys" have a point since in sustained rapid fire the action heats up, empties get sticky and extraction grows harder and harder. For the rifle to have only

the one chore, that of jerking the empty casing out of the chamber on the first motion of the bolt is better. But I'll still alter all my Enfields to accomplish the twin chore of extraction and cocking on that first lift of the bolt handle!

When the Enfield was designed in 1910, it was intended for a 7 mm cartridge, the .276 caliber, an advance of its day sort of load, that was going to churn up 3,000 fps MV and would thoroughly modernize the British military arm. By 1913, the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock, Middlesex, was ready to go into production. The rifle was dubbed the Enfield, Pattern of 1913. The next year the English were involved in World War I and time was of the essence. They did not have enough of the old SMLE's to arm their troops so it was decided to go ahead with the Enfield but chamber it for the old standard .303 cartridge. There were no plans to go ahead with the .276 cartridge in view of the exigencies of the war. The British placed contracts with Remington and Winchester for the manufacture of the Pattern 13 and when the change was made to .303 caliber, the designation was made to Pattern 14. Enfields which were imported to this country from England are still so named.

When we got into the war in 1917, we found we were none too well supplied with our standard rifle, the Springfield M1903. We had only 600,000, and a capacity between Springfield Armory and Rock Island Arsenal of 1400 daily. This was hardly enough and so our ordnance people turned to Remington and Winchester and asked them to rechamber the Pattern 14 rifle to accept our .30-06 cartridge. By this time the British were about to pinch off their contracts with both the companies because they had resolved their bottlenecks on the production of SMLE rifles at home and no longer had a critical need for the Pattern 14. This worked out handsomely for our own forces. The American manufacturers went right ahead with the output of the Enfield. Only when it was converted to the '06

caliber it was also redesignated. It was then called the Enfield Rifle M1917. Changes had to be made in the face of the bolt, the extractor, ejector, and magazine to accept the rimless '06 round. Actually the gun fed better with the .30-06 than it did with the old .303, the latter, a rimmed case, does not work through a box magazine any too well.

The story is bandied about that when our manufacturers swapped over to the production of the M1917 rifle that they kept all the barrel making tools exactly as they had used when making the Pattern 14 rifle. This meant that the barrels measured .303 across the lands and as much as .311 across the grooves. Our .30 caliber rifles measure .300 across the lands and .308 across the grooves. This is considerably tighter and if the Enfield had been rifled as the story goes, accuracy would have been poor indeed. The British specs indicated 5 lands and grooves, each to be of the same width, that is .0936, with a left-hand twist, 1-in-10, with each groove having a depth of .0058.

When we took over we retained the same rate of twist and the same number of lands and grooves, keeping both the same width, but changed the bore diameter to .300 and the grooves were made .005 in depth. The old fable that simply will not die that Enfield tubes are over-bored is all hog-wash. Of the four rifles I have possessed, two were in the .30 caliber. The first was an '06, the barrel the same as made by Winchester in 1918. The second rifle was a Remington and I rechambered it to the .308 Norma Magnum. Both rifles shot superbly. I had no faults to ever find with the accuracy of either. Both digested factory loads and handloads through a variety of both bullet weights and powder charges. Actually the Enfield barrel, because of the similar widths of lands and grooves, which is unlike most other rifling which will have a land only one-fourth the width of the groove, makes for a tighter fit. It also tends to raise pressures somewhat.

The Enfield, as-issued is pretty hopeless. Whoever designed the stock had rocks in his head. The idea must have been to hold the face off the comb and shoot. Without support for the comb, it is too low for anyone except a horse. The stock is only 13½ inches in length and this is alright, especially for rapid fire as it permits easy access to the bolt handle. But one of the first things that must be done when the rifle is looked on as a serious sporting proposition is to get rid of that abominable stock. One time, in an effort to salvage the thing,

(Continued on page 61)

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STEVENSON on Hand Guns

IN THE American mind the term "automatic" registers instantly: "Colt Government Model—1911A1 .45". Much as we might like, for forensic purposes, to wrestle the old warhorse backstage and substitute another, the S&W Model 39 for instance, the 1911 won't budge. We've got a national hangup over the gun. Best accept it and live with the fact, for the outlook of generations has been colored by their experience with the service automatic and by exaggerated tales of the experiences of others. It's this oft-malicious myth mongering that's molded our opinions.

"The .45 kicks like a cracked bat, rattles teeth, induces violent muscle tremors from shoulder to fingertips, and would make the Statue of Liberty flinch."



"The .45 recoils so hard that follow-up shots are fatally tardy."

"The .45 never jams."

"The .45 never jams because it has finger-width tolerances between all parts, and that's why it's so inaccurate."

"A .45 that's tight enough to be accurate jams if a bird flies over."

"The .45 is fickle—it will group for you one day but not the next."

"The .45 is the hardest gun in the world to shoot well."

"A 1911 is always better thrown than shot."

"Alvin York got the only accurate

1911 the Army ever issued."

"The .45 kills a man 3 times and plants flowers, when one time would have been ample."

"The .45 is heavier than the PRC-10 radio, and not half as pretty."

"The 1911 is so slow and awkward that by the time you get it up and cocked the war's shifted to another theater."

"The .45 points so low it's never shot a man above the kneecap."

We've all heard all these and others. Curious don't you think that our particular army's service pistol would be the hardest in the world to shoot? I imagine Germans have groused along substantially these same lines about the P-38, the "Limeys" about the .455 Webley, and the Muskovites about the Tokarev. I've heard some blistering opinions from Swedish shooters of the Lahti, and imagine, if you can, what the Italians must have said about the Glisenti. As for the .45's reputed fickleness, I imagine it was the shooter having an off day, not the gun.

Still, the myth persists of the unmasterable .45, the hard-kicking handgun that misses men at one end and eats them alive at the other. It's easy to see how this fable grew.

The military, over the half-century-plus since the .45's adoption, have taught—or tried to teach—literally tens of thousands of men to shoot it. Few succeeded. Most found it far more comforting to blame their failure on the gun than on themselves. And with that many disappointed hard-mouths castigating the weapon, how could its reputation have been otherwise?

In fact, the Army's training program was more at fault than either the guns or the trainees. Pistol shooting is a difficult art, and not one the military has time, in most cases, to dwell on in training. Given insufficient time, they compounded the error

by teaching offhand target shooting technique, thus accentuating the impression of recoil and guaranteeing the all-but-utter safety of the too small, too distant targets. What little skill the trainee may have gained in such sessions was more than counterbalanced by his loss of self confidence. He came through, in most cases, convinced that the service automatic could be shot effectively only by a rare breed of superhumans comprising his instructor, General MacArthur, Sergeant York, and perhaps a half-handful of others.

Even those who were good shots before entering service were oft times demoralized by the .45. Its barrel, afloat in the slide, doesn't make for much theoretical accuracy, but the trigger was the real stumbling block. A .45 needs about a 4-lb. trigger to withstand the jolt of slide closure, but it doesn't need an ounce more. Cu-

at Colt decided to trot a few of these rusted-over equalizers down to the range and see how they'd shoot as-was. I saw the guns—they were average sloppy for fit, wore various brand names, and the bores were rusted over about half their interior surface. I also saw the targets—5-shot groups at 15 yards fired from a hand rest with never less than three hits in one ragged hole. I don't think I could have fired these groups, but the guns did. The point is that the men doing the shooting were Colt range personnel—guys who fire whatever comes their way, 8 hours a day, and who know how to utterly ignore vargaries of trigger pull from gun to gun.

It follows then that given a decent trigger—and most commercial Colt Government Models have one—there's no reason why the .45 won't perform in your hands and mine.

The old notion that the .45 is a fero-



Trigger mechanism of the .45 needs work to bring it down to 4 pounds.

rious then that so many of them seem to favor 8 pounds. If military acceptance specs exist for weight of pull, I suspect they were ignored in favor of increased war production, and few men indeed can handle an 8-lb. trigger successfully.

As an example of what the .45 is capable of when trigger weight and quality are ignored, consider the following:

About midway on during the Vietnam fracas, the Navy hauled 5,000 rusty 2nd-War .45's out of storage and sent them to Colt for complete renovation. The guns were in such scuddy condition that Colt tore them down into parts for refinishing and refitted them from scratch with no effort made to put the same components back in the same gun. The barrels were rusted beyond hope of salvage and had to be replaced without exception.

Out of laudable curiosity someone

cious kicker is something I've never quite understood. A kick, by my definition, is something you wouldn't choose to inflict on yourself. It interferes with accurate shooting; in short, it hurts. Some guns do. Smith & Wesson used to stock their large frame service revolvers so that the sharp corners of the frame at the top of the backstrap were exposed. These teeth would take a wicked gouge out of the web of your hand during recoil. Most factory-stocked .38 snubbies kick, and the thumbblatch on these wretches is a frequent blood-letter. The 1934 Beretta .380 is a dog to shoot, again because of the stockup. The damned thing outright hurts. The .45 doesn't. It recoils to be sure, but it does not kick. The sensation is a pleasant one, spread out in a long push. I even find the lightweight .45 Commander very enjoyable to shoot, and so do several women I know.

(Continued on page 60)

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Panel of Experts

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3. You will receive the answer to your question directly from the expert. Our panel will select the most interesting questions for publication in this column, but you don't have to wait for the magazine to get your answer.
4. Letters with questions which do not have \$1.00 will be disregarded; those without a self-addressed envelope will be answered in the magazine, and **not directly**.

We have enlarged the staff of our Panel of Experts to give you the best possible service on your questions. Remember, write directly to the expert at the address below—do not send questions to GUNS Magazine—and be sure to include the \$1.00 and the self addressed envelope.

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Remington in their 40-X model, are the leading contenders. While there is probably nothing wrong with a .375, there are factors such as recoil and good match grade bullets that must be considered. While it is not always easy to say an action is or is not strong enough for a certain caliber, I would certainly not use the Martini-Henry for your .375 or the 1000-yard target action.—W.S.

European Colt

I have a .36 caliber percussion revolver that very closely resembles the 1849 Colt. It is a 5 shot, has a 4-inch barrel, the cylinder is 2-inches in length and is engraved with a bridge scene on it. The barrel inscription reads, "CAP SYSTEM MANUFACTURED BY W. SCHNORRENBURG." It has various proof marks, including Birmingham and Liege and appears to have been nickel plated. It is in NRA "Very Good" condition. Can you give me some background and value for this gun?

Franz Schmucker
Jacksonville, Fla.

Your .36 caliber Navy percussion revolver is called the Brooklyn Bridge Model. During the time when Sam Colt was having such great success, many of the European firms tried to capture a part of the pistol market overseas by manufacturing a percussion revolver similar, in many respects, to the one Sam was producing, with very little success. The gun does have a place in a collector's group of percussion arms as it shows an example of the European endeavors. Collector's value for the Navy Model would be approximately \$75.00 to \$125.00.—R.N.M.

Stock Tools

For a number of years I have been greatly interested in making gun-stocks, primarily for shotguns. I have made quite a few for myself and for a number of friends, but my problem is the lack of proper tools. Can you give me any suggestions as to where I might obtain chisels, checkering tools, rasps, and anything else I might need?

Michael A. Duffek
Vineland, N.J.

Write Brownell's, Inc., Rte. 2, Box 1, Montezuma, Iowa 50171 and ask for a copy of their latest gunsmiths' supply catalog. Frank Mittermeier, 3577 E. Tremont, New York, N. Y. 10465 also has a good line of gunsmithing tools. I use his small German-made stocking chisels. Dem-Bart checkering tools are my favorite. They are available from most gunsmith supply houses, or their home address is; Dem-Bart Co.,

Soft Frizzen

A few months ago I bought a smoothbore musket of recent Belgian manufacture. The musket itself works well on 3F powder, but the problem is that I cannot get enough (or any) spark from the flints I now have. I have had the frizzen case-hardened and it worked well for a time, but has returned to it's former non-spark producing state.

Would you suggest a new frizzen, new flints, or another case hardening process? Should I convert it to a percussion system?

D. J. McComb
Arnprior, Ontario

Your problem is one often encountered. The quickest and simplest solution is to install a new frizzen—one which a dealer guarantees to be proper hardness. Try it with a new, sharp flint. If still no spark, the striking angle may be at fault. Flint should be held very tightly with a bit of leather, and should give a long, scraping blow—not just a sharp peck. Be sure mainspring is strong enough and use FFFFg for priming.

I would only convert to percussion

as a last resort. Send a dollar to Dixie Gun Works, Union City, Tenn. 38261 for their huge catalog. This will include various frizzens and flints.—R.O.A.

1000 Yard Rifle

I am interested in building a 1000-yard target rifle. I have a Martini-Henry action (of which I'm particularly fond) and would like to use it with a new barrel in .375 H&H or .375 Weatherby Magnum. What is your opinion of the feasibility of the marriage of this action to the calibers? I am particularly concerned about the strength of the action. If the action is strong enough, I'll overcome the problem of extraction, etc.

Steve Nelson
Jacksonville, Fla.

First you should decide whether you want to "build a 1000-yard target rifle," or use an action you are fond of! If you are interested in the best and "winning type" equipment, watch the high-scoring people and their equipment at the matches.

It seems now that the 7mm magnum, .30x.338, etc., such as made by

3333 North Gove St., Tacoma, Wash 98407. Also try the B-Square Co., Box 12281, Fort Worth, Texas 76109. A copy of the latest Gun Digest lists numerous suppliers. The particular chisels and other tools you may end up liking usually result from your actual experience with them.—W.S.

.50-70 Sharps

I have an 1856 Military Sharps Carbine that has been converted to accept the .50-70 centerfire cartridge. The action is in very good condition, but the barrel is poor. I want to re-barrel the gun and would like to shoot .45-70's in it via re-chambering. Would this be recommended?

Bobby D. Fleming
Olathe, Kansas

It's tough when everyone in the "gun-nut" category wants to convert. And, the pity of it all is that in so many cases it is for no gain!!

If the rim on the .50-70 is larger than the rim of the .45-70 case, then the extractor won't work. It will require some build-up, and remilling. On the surface, I see no problems, other than the re-barreling.

One thing that we should keep in mind is that many of the old guns are worth far more in their original caliber and condition than they can ever be in any converted form. When you get that "conversion bug", it is well to remember this.—W.S.

Gun Diagrams

I am interested in early breech-loading rifles. I would like to know what books or information I could get that would give diagrams that show how the action works. I am especially interested in the Trap Door Springfield and the Remington Rolling-Block.

Charles Rush
FPO San Francisco

Page 140 of the NRA illustrated Firearms Assembly Handbook shows the "Trap Door" Springfield in good detail, along with script of explanation, etc. Ask the National Rifle Assn., 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C., for their book lists. Volume I is the book you want for the Trap Door Springfield. Their Volume II simply covers additional firearms. Bob Brownell's Encyclopedia of Modern Firearms, parts and assembly, is also an excellent book. Write Brownells, Montezuma, Iowa.—W.S.

All Gummed Up

I recently purchased a Navy Arms replica of the .44 Remington percussion revolver. It is well made and the cylinder is fitted to very close tolerances. After firing about 10 shots, the carbon and residue from the powder

completely gum up the cylinder to a point where it will not turn. I have tried different greases and commercial lubricants on top of each round, but this only seems to hasten the process. After thorough cleaning things are fine, until I fire about 10 shots, or so. Could I use a few grains of smokeless powder safely for cleaner burning?

Larry Hairr
APO Seattle

You have one of the best replicas on the market, but your problem is a very common one, shared by every shooter of percussion revolvers until he works out his preferred solution. I had it also, at one time. In my own revolvers, I use a "BEARE GREASE" applicator to put grease over the loaded balls. The most important thing is to keep a couple of drops of a black powder solvent CONCENTRATE on the cylinder pin (upon which the cylinder revolves), which is where most of the binding occurs. Use the concentrate without any diluting in this case. "Black-Solve" will do it, or Hoppe's 9 Plus is fine if you can get the undiluted concentrate. Dixie Gun Works, Union City, Tennessee 38261 is one of several dealers handling these products. Do not ever use smokeless powder in a replica—no matter how good. They are designed

for black powder only, in spite of modern steels.—R.O.A.

Remington 58 Barrel

I need a shotgun barrel for the 12 gauge Remington Model 58 Sportsman. I have talked to dealers and was informed that if I ordered one, it would take at least a year or more to get it. I tried Stoegers and they could do nothing for me. Do you have any suggestions?

Stephen R. Randolph
Storm Lake, Iowa

If you haven't written the Remington Arms Co., Ilion, New York, and asked them about a new barrel, try this. Sometimes we "dealers" are not sure if or not a part can be furnished. Then if Stoeger Arms Co., or Reed & Co., Star Route, Box 54, Shokan, New York; Numrich Arms Co., West Hurley, New York; or Flaigs, Millvale, Pa., can't supply or advise you, chances are mighty slim, and it is merely a case of write, search and hope.—W.S.

Shotgun Sleeves

Can you tell me if it is possible to have tubes made (or sleeves) to convert a Damascus barreled shotgun so that modern ammunition can be fired (Continued on page 17)

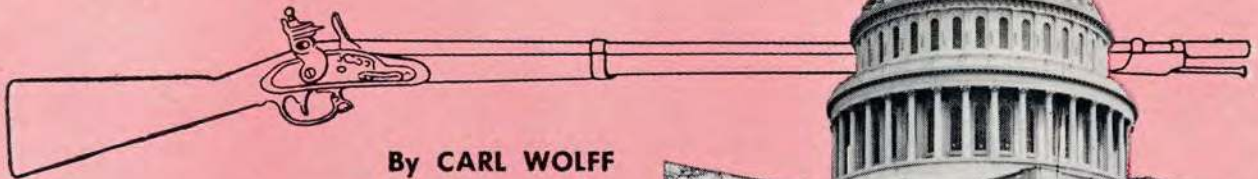


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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF



Again this congress, the 92nd, Senator Gale McGee (D., Wyo.) and Congressman Al Ullman (D., Oreg.) have introduced legislation to do away with burdensome, time consuming, and costly record keeping requirements adopted by the Internal Revenue Service as they apply to the sale of .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

In the Senate, the measure is S. 144, and has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee. In the House, the Bill is H.R. 1716, and has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee. These are the same committees that reported out the previous .22 ammo bills of last congress.

Regular readers will recall that in the 91st Congress a law was passed eliminating shotgun and rifle ammunition from the requirements of the 1968 Gun Control Act with regards to record keeping regulations. The original measure, which came out of the Senate Finance Committee as an amendment to a foreign investment tax bill, would have excluded .22 ammo. Senator Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.) as Assistant Majority Leader blocked the bill until supporters agreed to remove .22 rimfire.

Senator McGee and Congressman Ullman then introduced the original .22 exclusion bills. The house version was reported out of the House Ways and Means Committee, passed the House and was recommended for enactment by the Senate Finance Committee. Again Senator Kennedy blocked Senate action. The measure died when the 91st Congress adjourned.

This then is the third major effort to remove the .22 caliber rimfire record keeping requirements. It stands a good chance of enactment if dealers will write and have others write their Senators and Congressmen.

The difference is that Senator Kennedy is no longer Majority Whip. He has also been kicked off the Democratic Policy Committee which regulates bills as they come before the Senate for con-

sideration.

Some observers here believe the blocking of the bill was one of many little things that fellow Democrats held against Senator Kennedy. Added up, they turned the tide, killing Kennedy's presidential ambitions for the present.

Not to be overlooked, also, is the co-sponsor of the New McGee bill, Senator Mike Mansfield, Majority Leader. Mike gave lip service to the old McGee bill but was in the hospital when Kennedy forced exclusion of the .22 rimfire from the tax bill. And, when the old McGee bill came up for Senate consideration, Congress was within a few days of going home. It is easy to stop a bill during the last days of a congress.

The following Senators are members of the Finance Committee to which the Senate bill has been referred: Russell Long, La. (Chairman); Clinton Anderson, N. Mex.; Herman Talmadge, Ga.; Vance Hartke, Ind.; J. W. Fulbright, Ark.; Abraham Ribicoff, Conn.; Fred Harris, Okla.; Harry Byrd, Va.; Gaylord Nelson, Wis.; Wallace Bennett, Utah; Carl Curtis, Nebr.; Jack Miller, Iowa; Len Jordan, Idaho; Paul Fannin, Ariz.; Clifford Hansen, Wyo.; Robert Griffin, Mich.

The Ways and Means Committee, at this writing, does not have all of its members assigned. Those that are assigned follow: Wilbur Mills, Ark. (chairman); Hale Boggs, La.; John Watts, Ky.; Al Ullman, Ore.; James Burke, Mass.; Martha Griffiths, Mich.; Dan Rostenkowski, Ill.; Phil Landrum, Ga.; Charles Vanik, Ohio; Richard Fultor, Tenn.; Omar Burleson, Texas; James Corman, Calif.; William Green, Penn.; Sam Gibbons, Fla.; Hugh Carey, N. Y.; John Byrnes, Wis.; James Utt, Calif.; Jackson Betts, Ohio; Herman Schneebeli, Penn.; Harold Collier, Ill.; Joel Broyhill, Va.; Barber Conable, Jr., N. Y.; Charles Chomberlain, Michigan.

(Continued from page 15)
in it? Also, is there a simple test a person can perform to tell if it is a Damascus or not?

R. L. Giamberdini
Carnegie, Pa.

You could buy a pretty nice new double barrel shotgun for the price of having one sleeved and then you would still have your old mechanism for which no parts are available. To top this off, "sleeving" calls for enough material in the original barrel, to permit boring out and inserting a sleeve. This is true of course if you are interested in keeping the same gauge or caliber. Sleeving to a smaller caliber is less critical.

However a permanent sleeving job is not that simple. It must be soldered into place, and be reasonably close to fitting the original barrel or bore-out. Many Damascus barrels are so marked. Usually your nearest gunsmith can tell you if or not it is Damascus. Often the wrapped steel "twist" pattern is quite visible to the eyes, and you can even feel the slight ridges. I know of no actual simple test that will give you the answer,—and if the gun is of that vintage and quality, I would certainly not think about spending much on it.—W.S.

Hawken Replicas

I would like to get in touch with a gunsmith who can build a first-class Hawken replica. I have seen names mentioned in magazine articles, but no addresses. Can you give me a lead?

Michael Wasil
Seattle, Wash.

There are several custom builders specializing in fine Hawken replicas. However, I am sure the man who made my own Hawken is as good a craftsman as you will find anywhere. I class his inletting, contouring and finishing with the type of workmanship you see in the "Old World." He is Lee Paul, 400 West Miner St., Yreka, California 96097. He also sells semi-finished kits for the do-it-yourself enthusiasts. A postcard to him will bring a brochure with prices for various calibers and styles.—R.O.A.

ML Tips

I would like information on black powder shooting, like how many grains of 2F or 3F powder for a .45 caliber, 28 inch barreled percussion hunting rifle.

James A. Kipp
Leominster, Mass.

Barrel length in a muzzle loader can influence the exact powder charge, it is true. However, the aver-

age shooter does not bother to be quite that scientific. The only real difference is that the maximum charge for a long barreled rifle, if used in a short barrel of same caliber, might waste a tiny amount of powder unburned. The best charge for each individual rifle should still be worked out by trial and error, keeping records until you decide upon the ideal combination.

Depending upon what you are hunting, anywhere from 60 to 90 grains of FFFg black powder should be suitable for your .45 percussion rifle, with that short a barrel. Lyman moulds give a choice of several projectiles in that caliber, also. Pick the bullet you prefer, and work up a good light load and a good heavy load for use with it.—R.O.A.

Plastic Complaint

Recently I purchased a Model 600 Remington in .243. After examining it I found that the trigger guard is made of plastic. Is there any place I can buy a metal unit to replace this one?

Gene Shaffer
Stone Mountain, Ga.

We have had this question quite a number of times. To my knowledge there is still no one who makes a metal floor and trigger guard unit for the M-600 and M-660. Usually no one has the facility and production cost advantages that the factory manufacturing the gun does.

Again, I will say, that if enough demand for such a product is expressed to the manufacturer, he may consider manufacturing it.—W.S.

.30-06 vs. .350

On my visit to Newfoundland in September, I plan a moose and bear hunt. I have a Model 760 Remington in .30-06 and now that the .350 Rem. Mag. is here, can you tell me how much better the .350 would be over the '06.

M. H. Brekke
Rochester, Minn.

Comparing the 30.06 and the .350 Rem. Mag. is a bit hard to do as both excell in certain uses. You have simplified it by saying that you want the rifle to use on bear and moose in Canada. The .30-06 is the better cartridge to use for the reasonably longer distances on most game. But for bear and especially the Alaska Browns, Grizzly and also moose, I would recommend the .350 Rem. Mag., and this with the 250 grain bullet.

This cartridge and bullet is my favorite for Alaska Brown bear. However I have always used the 600 or 660 rifle with its shorter barrel. I took the very first Brown bear ever killed

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with the cartridge using an 18½" barrel Rem. 600. At 140 yards the bullet hit the left shoulder, went on through and broke the right shoulder, exited and left a 2½-3" hole. Bear fell forward without a struggle. It's also fine on moose. I limit my use of this one to 200 yards.—L.B.

Sight Job

I would like to install a S&W rear sight from the Model 34 Kit Gun on my S&W Model 36 Chiefs Special. It seems to be a matter of milling the top strap and tapping the proper holes. I would also like to install a Micro front sight by milling off the existing sight down to a small rib and installing the Micro. I want the gun white chromed and the sights in natural blue. Is this possible and if so, who could do it? Also, which should be done first, the finish or the metal work?

Ronald C. Rose
E. Aurora, N. Y.

I see no reason why the sight installation you mention can not be made. The Marker Machine Co. has a black chrome finish which is outstanding. If you ordered this, there would be no problem as to what to do first. You simply get the metal work all done and then send it to them for the black chroming. I can see no advantage to the white chroming of a handgun. Either way, you decide, it is usually in order to do all the metal and machine work first.

You might contact some of the professional pistolsmiths, such as: R. L. Shockey, 1614 S. Choctaw, E. Reno, Okla. 73036; Behlert & Freed, Inc., 33 Herning Ave., Cranford, N. J. 07016; J. E. Clark, 7424 Broadacres Rd., Shreveport, La. 71109; Larry S. Krause, 5628 Winchester, Chicago, Ill. 60636. The Gun Digest lists additional names and addresses.—W.S.

Fast Draw Colt

I am going to buy a Colt SAA in .45 caliber for fast draw. What must a good gunsmith do to a new Colt to make it fit for this application?

Michael Kaszynski
Wilmington, Mass.

I would suggest that you have a good gunsmith tune your Colt SAA for fast draw by filing down the thickness of the main spring to lighten the hammer pull. Check the timing of the cylinder, making sure that it lines up even and doesn't skip and cause misfires. These are the two main items in tuning a Colt SAA.—G.E.V.

.40-60 Winchester

Can you give me any information on a Model '73 Winchester in .40-60

caliber? It is in very good condition and the serial number is 57637. The barrel is stamped "Kings Improvement Pat." under the Winchester name. Can you give me some history, and value ranges for this gun?

Don Arnold
Salem, Mo.

The Winchester stated in your letter as being a Model 1873 and in .40-60 caliber is slightly impossible as the action of the '73 could not accept the .40-60 shell . . . so in reality, your rifle must be the 1876 Model which handled the .40-60 cartridge that was introduced in 1884. Among the other calibers made for the 1876 Model Winchester were .45-90, .45-75, .45-60 and .50-95 Express. Collector's value for your Winchester 1876, if in exceptionally fine condition, would be approximately \$175.00.—R.N.M.

Colt Identity

This evening while going over a few of my Colts, I suddenly became aware that I don't know for sure the caliber of my oldest Colt. It carries serial number 171257, has a 5½" barrel (Frontier Model P) and .44 S&W Specials, .45 Long Colt and .44-40 cartridges all fit nicely. Can you give me the caliber of this gun?

Chet Born
San Francisco, Calif.

I would suggest that you write to the Colt Co., sending \$6.00 and a description of your gun and serial number and they can tell you the original caliber. In the early models, the caliber is sometimes noted in very small numbers on the underside of the barrel close to the frame or on the left side of the trigger guard, if it is not worn off.

The Colt Co. address is Mr. R. H. Wagner, Parts & Records Manager, Colt Industries, Small Arms Div., 150 Huyshope Ave., Hartford, Ct. 06102.—G.E.V.

Colt .44 RF

I have a Single Action Frontier Colt, caliber .44 Rim Fire with a 7½-inch barrel, serial number 1430. Can you tell me about how many of these guns were made and what the value would be?

Frank Carter
Bessemer, Ala.

About 1,900, .44 caliber rimfire were manufactured and numbered in a series by themselves. These were made between 1875 and 1880. Collector's value for your rimfire S.A. would depend upon its condition and this price would vary from \$150 in poor condition to at least \$350 in fine condition.—R.N.M.

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So You Want to Be a



By ROBERT K. BROWN

MOST Americans have been intrigued at one time or another with the idea of becoming a soldier-of-fortune. In fact, this avocation is one of the few—if not the only one—available to those individuals who crave adventure and combat, yet are not enthused about signing up for a long hitch with the military or the Central Intelligence Agency.

Granted, due to the complexity of the present international situation, there are fewer opportunities for, and more obstacles in, becoming a soldier-of-fortune than in the past. The Federal government in general and the CIA in particular are thoroughly opposed to American adventurers free-lancing in foreign military operations or revolutionary movements. Though you'll never get it in writing, the CIA does not want Americans who are not on their payroll meddling in alien revolutionary movements they covertly support, as they are fearful the opposition, who ever it may be, will then label the particular CIA sponsored group as "tools of the American imperialists," etc.

As a result, the CIA hired Cuban pilots, all ex-Bay of Pigs veterans, to support the mercenaries in the Congo

lead by Major "Mad" Michael Hoare. Cuban exile seamen were recruited to man CIA-owned Swift boats that drove the pro-Communist rebels from the waters of Lake Tanganyika. As the CIA financed the anti-Communist military operations against the Communist-directed and supplied guerrilla movement, no Americans were allowed to join the hard-bitten mercenaries in the Congo for any length of time.

The same is true of the CIA sponsored efforts to overthrow "Papa Doc" Duvalier, brutal dictator of Haiti, over the past few years. The CIA provided the Haitian exiles with funds and guns as well as American instructors—but no gringos were allowed to go ashore. Also, the CIA and other Federal agencies have done every thing possible to neutralize the effectiveness of the numerous American adventurers who have teamed up with non-CIA sponsored Cuban exile groups in their frustrating, decade-long fight against Castro. The government took a much more lackadaisical attitude toward American soldiers-of-fortune prior to Castro assuming power. For instance, during the Cuban revolution, over 100 Americans served in varying capacities with the bearded dictator's guerrilla forces.

Yet, even in the face of official no-no's, those that want

MERCENARY GUNSMITH

Mercenary fighting may look glorious in the pictures, but all is not "wine and roses" when knives and hot lead begin to fly!



Far left: Jerry Patrick Hemming, an American free-lance advisor to exiled Cubans shown in normal mercenary attire with an M1 Thompson.

Left, center: Mercenary soldiers don't abide by international boundaries. This soldier is one of Israel's "Hippy mercenaries" on guard.

Left: Author, left, holding the Belgian FN-FAL in the hip assault position. This is an excellent arm for assault fire. Note the P-38.

Below: This 20mm Lahti anti-tank gun is most likely destined for use on the bow of a small boat. Soldier is inspecting cleaning/tool kit.

to try the soldier-of-fortune bit can make the scene if they are persistent and have the necessary skills. The most recent soldier-of-fortune escapade to hit the papers was in June, 1969, when ten adventurers including seven Americans were arrested for napalming "Papa Doc's" palace in Port-au-Prince from a Super Constellation. In 1967, almost two dozen Americans were involved in an abortive attempt to invade Haiti from the Florida Keys.

When one considers the market for American soldiers-of-fortune, it is not difficult to see why competent, knowledgeable gunsmiths are highly valued by revolutionary recruiters. Competent gunsmiths are at a premium in any regular military unit and their skills are invaluable to revolutionary groups whose members are long on idealism and zeal but short on technical know how, especially when it comes to the field of ordnance maintenance and repair.

For instance to understand why south-of-the-border revolutionaries would desire to employ gringos, one had to take a quick look at the socio-economic conditions in the Carribean, Central and South America. Most of these countries are impoverished, largely illiterate, and industrialization is unknown in areas that cover tens of thousands of square miles. Thus, (Continued on page 22)



the majority of the revolutionary recruits, which often come from these rural areas, have a hard enough time tying shoelaces, buttoning their pants or working a jacket zipper, much less breaking down, cleaning or repairing and then reassembling a BAR, Thompson sub or an M-1.

Consequently, armorers or gunsmiths are warmly welcomed by revolutionary leaders. An attack can be held up, a well planned ambush aborted or the budding revolution even destroyed because of rusty, non-functioning weapons. Furthermore, one has to literally beat it into the *campesino's* head that oil and cleanliness are as instrumental in making their Springfields, Carcano carbines and Mausers go bang-bang as is their trigger finger. (It's also difficult to convince green recruits they should fire their automatic weapons in short bursts—preferably at the enemy, even though their compatriots may make better targets.)

To be of value, the mercenary gunsmith should be thoroughly familiar with a wide variety of weapons. This prerequisite is especially true in the case of various revolutionary groups which are actively operating out of the United States in their quest to topple Castro and "Papa Doc." As contrasted to Castro's fight against Batista in the late 50's when U.S. officials more or less closed their eyes to the flow of illegal arms out of the U.S. and into the hands of Castro's rebels, Federal agencies have left no stone unturned in their efforts to suppress anti-Castro and Haitian exile groups. Naturally, this repression includes preventing said groups from securing weapons to use in their fight for freedom. Consequently, the exile groups are forced to utilize whatever type of semi- and full-automatic weapons they can scrounge, steal, buy, invent or modify.

Commandante William Morgan, probably the most famous American soldier-of-fortune to fight with Castro. He was executed by Castro in 1960. Morgan holds a "Cuban Winchester" that is actually an extensively modified and effective Winchester Model 1907 that originally fired the .351 SL shell. So modified, it can fire either the .45 ACP, 9mm or .30 Carbine round.

As an example of the diverse type of weapons that revolutionaries are forced to operate with, consider those confiscated several years ago by Federal authorities during a series of raids from "Commando L", one of the best known and gutsy anti-Castro groups, over a 12 month period. Weapons impounded included three 20mm Lahti anti-tank rifles, two Boyes anti-tank rifles, three French Chalet-rault machine guns, one .50 cal. Browning MG, three .45 cal. M-3 "Grease Guns" with silencers, four M-1 Garands, three M-1 carbines, three BAR's, five .45 cal. automatic pistols as well as thousands of rounds of ammo, hand and rifle grenades, anti-personnel bombs, magnetic mines, 1-3-5-7 train demolition systems, detonating cord and napalm. Ten boats, including everything from a 22-foot speed boat with two 280 HP engines to a Catamaran and a 43-foot diesel powered yacht, were also confiscated.

The combined Haitian-Cuban-American-Canadian expedition that attempted to embark from the Florida Keys to invade Haiti was apprehended with

cases of Belgian FN's, a couple of dozen .30 and .50 cal. Browning MG's, plus Schmeissiers, Thompsons, "Grease Guns", FAL's, AR-15's, M-1's, .30 cal. carbines, and numerous assorted pistols as well as 3.5 rockets, 60mm mortars, 81mm mortars, 77,000 rounds of assorted ammunition and three tons of explosives!

Due to this diversity of ordnance, these revolutionaries and their American advisors often end up with a miscellany of arms in varying calibers which can complicate already complex logistic problems. One method of solving these problems is to convert various foreign weapons to accept either .30-06 or .308 ammo.

According to one American who has served as both a supplier and armorer for various Cuban exile groups, the Japanese Type 99 Light Machine Gun is the easiest to convert to .30-06. This gunsmith soldier-of-fortune took a 20 shot BAR magazine and filed an extra magazine notch to correspond with the front of the magazine well. He then drove the cross pin out and filed a small square which hooks the front of





Age is no barrier to the mercenary soldier as is evidenced in this photo of Cuban exiles and American advisors somewhere in the Caribbean. Weapons, from left to right, are Enfield No. 1, Mk. 3, FN-FAL, M1 Garand, Mauser '98, and AR-15. Logistics is a never ending problem in this type of fighting where the types of weapons used and the munitions needed are varied. Gunsmithing skills need to be the best, also, because of the varieties. To combat these problems, many of the weapons have been re-chambered to accept a fairly "standard" cartridge.

the magazine down. He altered the magazine well slightly to accommodate the additional length of the BAR mag. The other modification consisted of reaming the barrel out to .30 caliber. He then adjusted the weapon to fire between 500 and 700 rounds per minute to prevent tearing rims off the cases which sometimes happens when the rate of fire is above that figure.

Another example cited by an American free lance advisor was the modification of a French Chatellerault 1924 M29. He reamed the chamber for .30-06 and milled out the magazine well to take a BAR magazine. Once the mag was fitted to the well, it was then inserted into the well and a small bar was brazed on it to hold down the rear of the magazine. The face of the bolt is recessed on the original bolt with the feed rib extending over the cartridge recess. Therefore, he ground the feed rib off flush with the face of the bolt. Cuban exiles that have used these conversions were quite satisfied with

their performance.

The Cuban exiles in particular have, on many occasions, come up with some interesting innovations of their own. One group, which decided to solve the Castro problem by ending Fidel's birthday sequence, settled on a .22 for the assassination weapon. Modification of the bullets used would do the job no matter where the bearded one was nicked. A small amount of wax was used to seal cyanide inside the cavity of a .22 hollow point. The "reloaders" performed this unique alteration while wearing SCUBA gear to preclude their being overcome by the poisonous fumes. Obviously, their plot didn't succeed.

Another abortive assassination attempt against Castro pointed out the lack of knowledge of a CIA-financed and sponsored group of exiles. The assassination weapon selected was a Belgian FAL, which, while a reasonably good military arm, is no hot-shot when it comes to plinking someone in

the headbone at four hundred yards or better. This basic error was further compounded by mating a cheap imported 4 power scope with the FAL. To top it off, the exiles apparently took great delight in the fact that a home made silencer was going to eliminate all noise and thus eliminate the possibility of the hit man being compromised by the sound of the round. The silencer provided was a relatively crude, amateurish home made device constructed from a plastic cylinder and steel wool. Silencers (a more apt term would be "noise suppressors") reduce the nose of the gases escaping from the muzzle but do not eliminate the noise caused by the "ballistic crack" of the bullet as it breaks the sound barrier. The standard .308 round which was programmed for use in the FAL travels approximately 2800 feet per second, which is far above the speed of sound. Silencers used by the CIA in most clandestine operations, however, are quite effective (*Continued on page 70*)



**TEST
REPORT**

COLT'S NEW .25 AUTO

By MASON WILLIAMS

"MADE IN AMERICA." For too many years and too many people this slogan has been a farce. I am glad to say that the tide has turned and that American shooters can now say that American workmen and American industrial know-how can match whatever the Europeans send our way.

Colt nails this down with their superb, little American-made .25 ACP pistol. As most readers can recall, Colt turned out quite a number prior to the war. After the war this Colt Automatic Pistol, caliber .25, Pocket Model, Hammerless was dropped from the line although a few were sold after the war, possibly assembled from parts on hand. Total production ran around 500,000. This model had the safety located at the rear of the slide making it difficult to snap on and off. It also carried a grip safety. Both these details have been changed for the better in the new Colt .25 ACP pistol.

For several years, Colt had a contract with a Spanish firm to turn out these pistols, but the passage of the 1968 Federal Firearms Law prohibited their importation and Colt was, once again, out of the .25 ACP business.

This type of pistol has always been in great demand in this country. Because of the pent up pressure, Colt finally went ahead and is now turning out this little .25 with the following specifications—according to my ruler: barrel length $1\frac{5}{8}$ ", $4\frac{1}{4}$ " long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " high, $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick with manual safety, magazine safety that prevents firing when the magazine is out and a visible, outside hammer and checkered walnut grips. It appears to be an all-steel pistol with a comfortable weight and feel that is quite reassuring.

Pointing characteristics are excellent with the little pistol putting the bullets right where it is pointed! Sights leave a lot to be desired but, from a practical point of view, they are not needed on this type of pistol. This pistol has a wide appeal to home owners, merchants, police officers and outdoorsmen. Sportsmen? Yes, definitely. The size of this .25 Auto makes it possible to carry it and a box of ammunition on fishing and camping trips for use on snakes and turtles and camp pests like porcupines. One of the main objections to this size of pistol has been that people cannot "hit anything with it."

Perhaps. I show a picture of a target that I fired at fifteen yards placing eight shots into $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". Cut the distance to five yards and even the novice can place his shots. Recoil is light, and the noise level is low.

How about reliability? The .25 caliber cartridge has always been designed and assembled for use in tiny automatic pistols and has therefore been brought to a state of great reliability. Colt has done a good job of finishing and fitting leaving enough play in the parts so that everything works smoothly. I put three hundred rounds of .25 ACP ammunition through this pistol commencing with Remington. No problems. Next I tried Federal .25's and again no problems. Then Winchester. The next step was to mix up the ammunition in the clip. Still no problems. This was getting dull. I continued firing mixed ammunition but held the pistol upside down, sideways, loosely, securely. It appears that Colt has this design and its production down cold because I had no functioning problems of any kind.

During this firing session I learned a lot about the handling characteris-

tics of the pistol and one of the most important details is the ability to work the safety. It is positioned in front of the top of the left grip directly behind the trigger allowing the thumb to push it up or down without difficulty. The movement was clean without sticking or drag of any kind. I tried drawing from a pocket and from the belt and could not get the safety to move from the ON to the OFF position accidentally.

Being a long-time advocate of the Colt Model 1911 .45 ACP with its exposed hammer, I took an immediate liking to the exposed hammer on the .25. This hammer has a safety notch but I cannot recommend using it. Its purpose is to catch the hammer in the event it falls accidentally. It is not designed to act as a separate safety. This pistol may be carried loaded, at full cock with the safety "ON" with perfect safety and still be ready to fire the moment the safety is snapped to the "OFF" position.

Another detail that impressed me was the fact that the wood grips, heavily and nicely checkered, do not cover the sides of the magazine butt when it is seated all the way in. The magazine



Easy stripping and few parts make the new .25 auto a cinch to clean. Barrel length is only 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ "', overall length is 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ "', total height is 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "' and it is $\frac{3}{4}$ "' thick at the widest point. The gun also has a magazine safety that prevents firing when the magazine is out as well as a visible hammer. It should be popular as an undercover gun.



Top right is the new .25 auto compared to the original model made by Colt before the war. About 500,000 were made. Note the location of the new safety which is far superior to the old one. Also, the magazine extends below butt to facilitate faster, easier loading.

butt is quite thick to allow it to extend down beyond the bottom of the butt. This enables the shooter to ram home the magazine with the heel of the hand eliminating any chance of the magazine not quite locking within the pistol grip. When this happens, the first shot dumps the magazine on the ground. Even more important to an old .45 man like myself, is the fact that this tiny pistol carries seven cartridges in the clip plus one in the chamber duplicating the capacity of the Model 1911 and giving it the same amount of fire power.

Usually, when one speaks of fire power one wonders about stopping power. Fired from this Colt pistol, the Winchester 50 grain bullet penetrated five, five-ply plywood boards held in my rack. Because the pistol is a close range weapon, I fired into the penetration rack from a distance of five feet. I used this same distance when firing into the Duxseal block. The Duxseal block not only shows bullet expansion, in this instance none, but also the bullet channel so that it is possible to see and compare what various bullets do upon impact. (Continued on page 70)



Guns
DO-IT-YOURSELF
PROJECT

BEGINNING CHECKERING

By JIM CARMICHEL

The construction of a gunstock can be divided into three major phases; (1) inletting and shaping, (2) applying the finish and (3) checkering. A great number of amateur craftsmen have demonstrated considerable skill at the first two phases, even on their first attempt, but generally do not fair so well at checkering or, as is usually the case, do not even have a go at checkering their stocks. There is a good bit of hesitation on the part of most beginners to tackle a checkering job and, quite frankly, there is good reason for such trepidation.

It would be unwise and unfair to state that checkering is a simple task which can be mastered in a few moments. However, it would be equally unwise and unfair to state that checkering is a difficult skill which can be mastered by only a few. Actually, checkering is a skill which can be mastered by almost anyone who is willing to take the time and effort required to learn the fundamentals. For some, this "learning" period may be no longer than a single evening of practicing on a block of wood. For others it may require a week of evenings before enough confidence is gained to start checkering on a valuable stock.

Regardless of how long it takes to develop that certain "feel" for the checkering tool, there is little doubt

that it is one of the most useful—and profitable—"basement skills" one can learn. Few amateur (or professional) gunsmithing skills will attract as much admiration as good hand checkering. Yet in this rush-rush age we're living in it seems that fewer and fewer people are willing to take up checkering. But this makes it all the better for those of us who do take the time to learn the checkering art. The amateur can thus be even more proud of the stocks he has checkered himself and if he does a bit of checkering on a professional basis he can always pick up plenty of profitable work. What's more, it costs very little to get started!

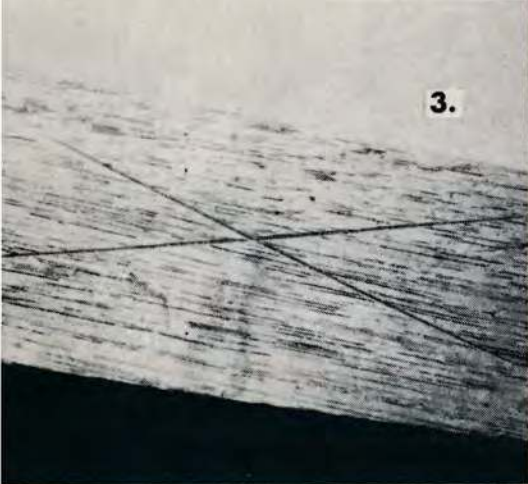
To get started checkering, all one needs is a single line "V" cutter, a double line spacing cutter, a border cutter and a thin, flexible straight edge such as a plastic ruler. Later, as one becomes more proficient, other tools may be added but for now let's just stick with the basic tools listed above.

Checkering is really just rows of V-shaped grooves cut closely enough together so that the tops of the ridges come to a point. The trick is to get the grooves evenly spaced and of a uniform depth. With this in mind let's take a step by step look at the checkering process.

Using the single line V-cutter, a single straight line is cut across the area

to be checkered. Usually the area is somewhat curved such as on the forearm or grip of the stock but following the curve and still keeping the line straight is no trouble with the flexible straight edge. The groove should be about $\frac{1}{32}$ " deep. Another groove is then cut which angles across the first groove. (The correct angle will be discussed later.) These two grooves form the *master lines* which establish the directions of the grooves for the entire panel. The master lines are now used as a guide for cutting more grooves. This is done by tracing the master groove with the spacing cutter. One edge of the cutter follows the groove while the other cuts a new groove. The spacing tool is then stepped over a notch and another, then another, groove is cut.

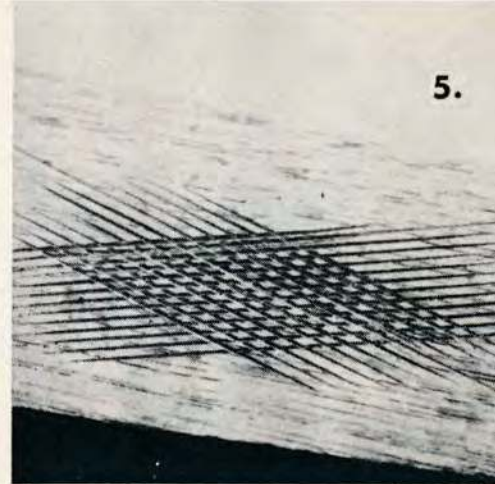
These grooves are not to be cut full depth but only deep enough to positively guide the spacing cutter for the next cut. After all the grooves have been cut in one direction you switch over to the other master line and cut all the crossing grooves. This forms the outline of the diamonds but does not, of course, bring them to a sharp point. The "skill" to be acquired with the groove spacing cutter is the "feel" which allows the tool to stay in the proper groove and thus keep the lines equally spaced. Beginners have a tend-



3.



4.



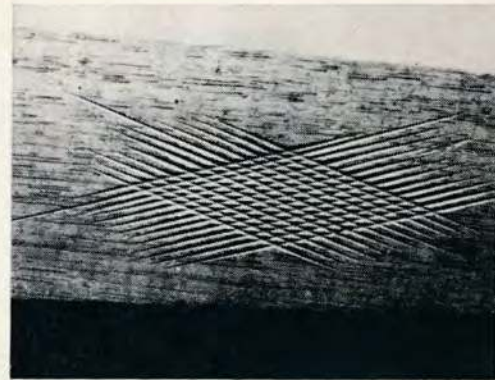
5.

ency to try to guide the spacing cutter rather than let it guide itself. As a result lines become unequally spaced or begin to curve noticeably. With a bit of practice, however, one learns to let the tool do all the guiding.

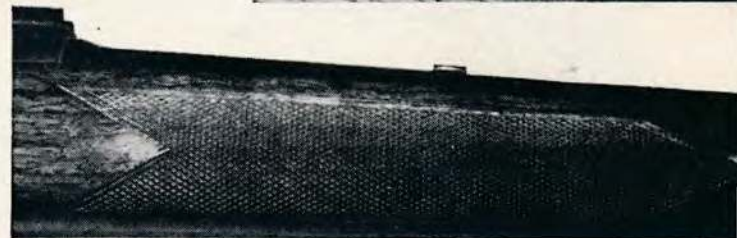
The actual cutting action is a gentle back and forth sawing motion. Don't bear down too hard and don't try to cut too fast. Some tools cut only on the forward stroke and some cut coming and going. After you have become more proficient in the basic checkering skills you'll want to try two or three different tools and select the one which seems to best suit your personal tech-

nique and style of work.

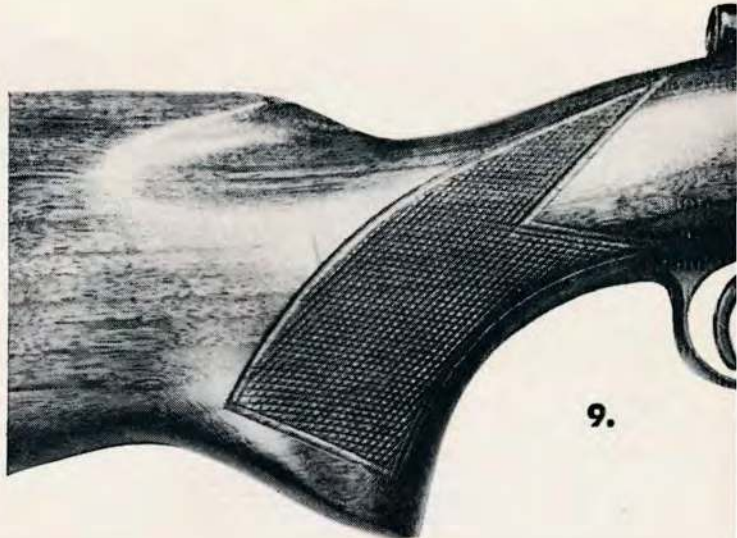
With all the spacing lines cut it is time to pick up the single line V-tool and cut the grooves to full depth. The cutting motion is the same as with the spacing tool only one line is cut at a time. Here again one should strive for an even depth of cut but the grooves are *not* to be cut to full depth. About a third of the final depth is about right. After going over the entire panel start over and take the grooves down another third. On the final pass the diamonds will be brought to sharp, even points. For an extra nice looking job another *(Continued on page 54)*



7.



8.



9.

1. Basic checkering tools, from left: Single line cutter; spacing cutter; border cutter.
2. The three tools, a flexible straight edge, and a riffler for checkering tight corners.
3. Two master lines cut. Finished diamonds will be 3 times as long as they are wide.
4. Line (groove) spacing is now in progress. The groove depth is not yet deep enough.
5. Groove spacing complete in both directions. Diamond outline is complete, not yet sharp.
6. Three passes with single line cutter make the groove depth adequate, diamonds sharp.
7. Border cutter in action. This tool covers up run-overs at the edge of the pattern.
8. Simple point patterns can be handled by the beginner. Practice on the simple patterns.
9. The master lines also form the forward edge of the pattern. Also note use of the border.



THE WESTERNERS

By DON RUSSELL

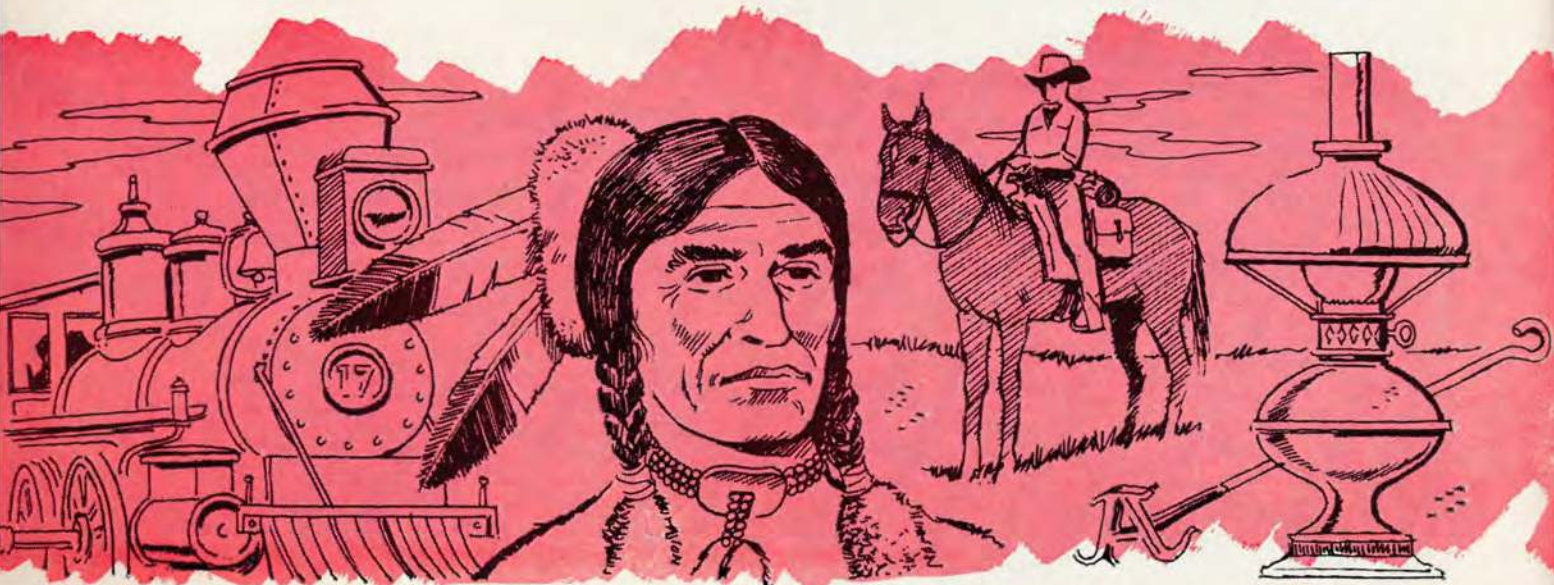
A QUARTER CENTURY AGO on a stormy February night, reminiscent of the blizzards described by Captain Charles King in his novels of army life on the Indian wars frontier, some fourteen men from various parts of Chicago and its suburbs fought their separate ways to the Winnetka home of Elmo Scott Watson, a professor of journalism at Northwestern University. Travel in a metropolitan area is in no way comparable with that of Captain King's cavalrymen on the plains, yet it has its difficulties, especially after dark, and it would require strong motivation to turn these persons, largely strangers to each other, aside from their habitual routines to foregather in a remote suburb. That motive was an interest in the West — its history, literature, folklore, and traditions.

While no one there had personally met all of the others, they were not unknown to each other by reputation; they had heard of each other, and as is not uncommon in big cities, their paths had crossed in various ways without ever before joining. They found they had much in common and much to talk about—so much that Clarence Paine, a librarian from Beloit College, found difficulty in squeezing in some discussion of an alleged diary of Calamity Jane that he had brought along. (He afterward decided it was spurious.) The getting-together seemed so rewarding that it was decided to continue it regularly. Someone—no one

afterward could remember exactly who—proposed a simple and expressive name for the organization, and thus was born that night of February 25, 1944, The Westerners, which has since spread far and wide throughout the United States, and even to England, France, West Germany, and Sweden.

Who were these enthusiasts for matters Western? Watson, an authority on frontier photographers, on newspaper correspondents who covered the Indian wars, on John Wesley Powell of Grand Canyon fame, writer of books, magazine and syndicated newspaper articles. Leland D. Case who had telephoned this gathering together, born organizer, writer on the Black Hills, then editor of *The Rotarian*; later to start on its way *Together*, the lay magazine of the Methodist Church. Franklin J. Meine, encyclopedia editor, folklorist, anthologist of *Tall Tales of the Southwest* and of books about Mike Fink, "Half Horse, Half Alligator." These three constituted themselves The Posse to guide The Westerners along trails of their blazing.

John G. Neihardt of *The Song of Hugh Glass* and *Black Elk Speaks* was there from the Indian Bureau, headquartered in Chicago during the war years. Among others were Mannel Hahn, who boasted he was founder of the Burlington Liars' Club and knew much of Mormonism and philately; Herman Gastrell Seeley, who had extracted *Sagebrush*



The American West has always been a major factor in our history. The Westerners is a world-wide organization of people of many talents that trace and document the details of life as it was on the American frontier.

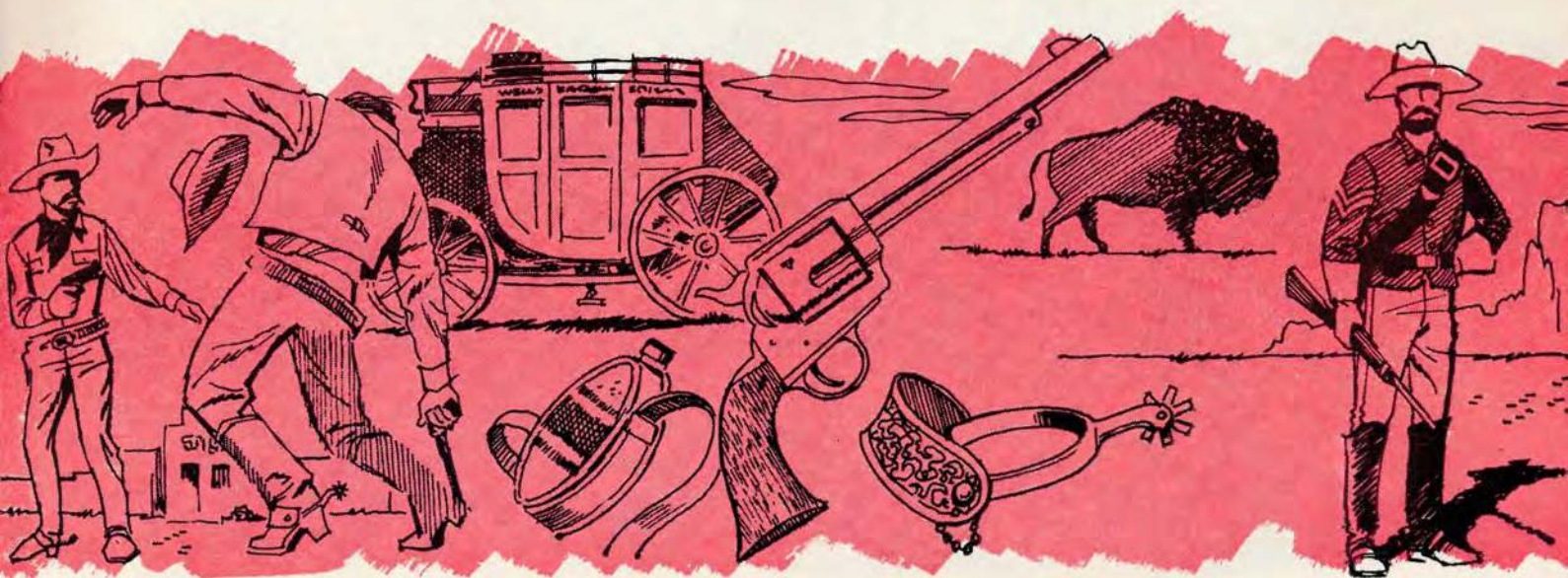
Dentist from his brother-in-law Dr. Will Frackelton; Everett Graff, industrialist and collector who gave his Overlands to Newberry Library; Burleigh Withers, artist and illustrator who had lived in Wyoming in the days of Owen Wister and said in criticism that Wyoming people did not talk like characters in *The Virginian*: "Maybe we didn't before the book was written, but we all did after we read it;" Fred G. Hackett, an elevator inspector who had traveled with Buffalo Bill's Wild West and spent his summers among Sioux friends he made then—and still does; Paul W. Kieser, whose hobby was producing miniature books.

This varied lot of nonconformists was well content to let The Posse, with Watson designated Sheriff, run the show, and Chicago Corral got under way with an informality from which it has never departed. Sheriff Watson started a mimeographed bulletin that grew into *The Westerners Brand Book*, issued monthly. Within four months outsiders demanded copies, thus becoming corresponding members. Papers of the first two years were re-edited into formal bound volumes; thereafter *The Brand Book* was printed, with annual binding offered with an index. All this business made it seem essential to incorporate as an eleemosynary institution not-for-profit. An ingenious attorney, Seymour J. Frank, drew up the papers, including a constitution and by-laws that allowed anybody to do



anything, any time. They are still in effect and have never been amended, perhaps because of a tradition that everything necessary is there, although no one has bothered to look.

This informality had curious side-effects as Westerners began to branch out. Within a year Missionaries Case and Watson had carried the word to Denver, which organized a Posse and began producing an annual Brand Book, as well they might with such writers to draw on as LeRoy R. Hafen—it took a book to list the books and articles he and his wife Ann have written—at the Colorado State Historical Society, and later there Maurice Frink; Tom Farrell, Colorado's poet laureate; Dr. Nolie Mumey, who takes time off from medical practice to write books and mayhap publish them himself, of (Continued on page 72)



NEW GUNS

Remington



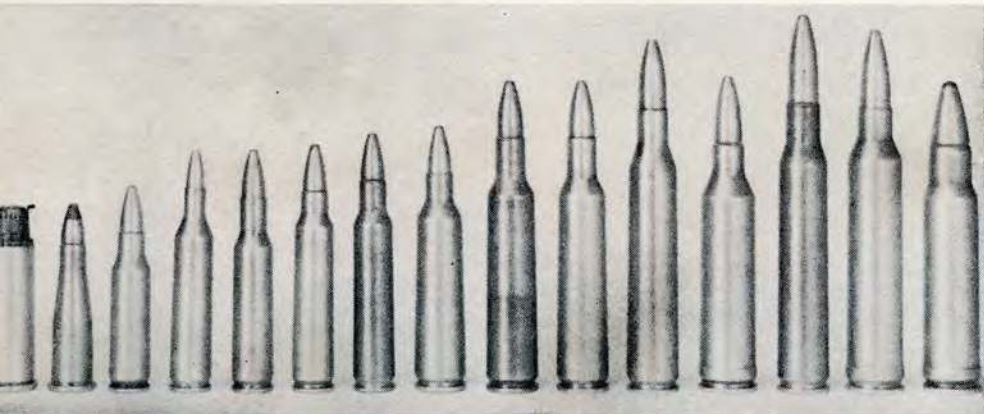
Remington's splendid Model 700 BDL "Varmint Special" is now offered in .222 Rem., .22-250 Rem., 6mm Rem., .243 Win., and the new .25-06 Rem. A very fine rifle.

BY COL. CHARLES ASKINS

DURING the fall goose season late last year the Remington Arms Company sent out the call and all the leading firearms editors gathered at Remington Farms on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Between sessions in the goose pits, the design engineers from the Bridgeport firm gave a run-down on all that will be new in sporting ordnance for 1971. This is considerable and we'll get around to a de-

lar receiver and thus be adaptable to a sameness of manufacturing methods. Over the past quarter-century Leek's success has been exemplary. He developed a common receiver and into it, with small differences, crammed both an autoloading highpowered rifle and a pump repeater also of the high-powered persuasion. He designed our most popular automatic shotgun, the Model 1100, and along with it and again on essentially the same receiver, a splendid pump-action repeater, the 870.

More lately the versatile designer has whumped up a new line of sporting models, the 780 series. These rifles (there is a duplicate in twenty-two caliber called the M580) lock up with multi-lugs in the bridge of the receiver. Notable for low cost in production, the line provides the budget-hampered sportsman with a first class hunting arm at relatively modest cost. Along with the 780 firearms has also been a carbine; first the Model 600 and then the 660. Remington has a long tradition for the manufacture of carbines. The 600 series are shorties. New cart-



Remington calibers introduced since 1950, from left: 5mm Rem. Rim Fire Mag.; .44 Rem. Mag.; .22 Rem. "Jet" Mag.; .221 Rem. "Fire Ball"; .17 Rem.; .222 Rem.; .223 Rem.; .222 Rem. Mag.; .22-250 Rem.; .244 Rem.; 6mm Rem.; .25-06 Rem.; 6.5mm Rem. Mag. .280 Rem.; 7mm Rem. Mag.; .350 Rem. Mag. Quite impressive!

scription here pretty shortly.

The Remington Co., our oldest continuous firearms manufacturer, directly after WW-II, enlisted a design team, headed up by an engineer named Wayne Leek. This man, highly talented, threw out all the old guns in the line and commenced all over. His goal was the design of a family of new firearms to spring from a generally simi-

Commencing with a holdover from the last days of the war, the old Model 720 bolt action rifle, he refined and improved, changed and bettered the action and in turn had the Models 721, 722 and 725. Finally hitting a peak of design finesse with the present Model 700. This is unquestionably one of the top quality bolt action rifles on the market today.

ridges were developed by the company—the 6.5 and the .350, both magnums—and these contributed to the popularity of the sawed-off models.

Remington came up with our most popular magnum cartridge; the 7 mm Remington Magnum. And before it the .44 Magnum revolver load was a Remington development. Keenly aware of
(Continued on page 32)

WINCHESTER

THE Winchester-Western Seminar for the guns editors followed the Remington affair by a couple of weeks. W-W, in keeping with its practice of recent years to introduce a commemorative rifle, really rang the bell this time! The National Rifle Association celebrates its 100th birthday this year. The NRA was established Nov. 17, 1871, and what could be more appropriate than to have a commemorative rifle to do proper honors? Winchester came up with not one centennial model but two!

Both rifles are made up on the Model 94 action, both are .30-30 caliber, each has an NRA medallion embedded in the buttstock and the two are properly engraved with the dates and the NRA initials. On the barrel is the wording "NRA Centennial Musket" or "NRA Centennial Rifle," as the case may be. For the two firearms differ considerably. The musket is a spittin' image replica of the old Model 95 NRA Musket which was made in 1898 and dropped from the line in 1924. It

was considered hot stuff as a target rifle around the turn of the century. The commemorative, of course is not the old '95 model. But it is a reasonable facsimile thereof what with its 26-inch barrel and the forestock running out almost to the muzzle. The forend is of high grade walnut as is the main stock. The stock has the old fashioned square comb and a steel buttplate. There is no pistol grip. The rear sight is a calibrated folding leaf with a blade front sight. There are sling swivels. This is an exceedingly appealing shooting iron and it was a ten-strike on the part of Winchester to present it as an NRA commemorative!

The other celebration model is an exact reproduction of the Model 64 rifle. The 64 was first presented as the Model 55, later it was modified slightly and given the new designation. The 55 appeared in 1924 and the M64 in 1933. Both had half-magazines and the latter model had a splendidly fitting stock with shotgun butt and pistol grip. The NRA commemorative has

all these things and it is a real honey! Beyond any doubt the finest lever gun ever made by Winchester. It has a 24-
(Continued on page 33)



Winchester's newest addition to the ammunition line is the "T22" brand to be used for all-around shooting.

Near right: The NRA Centennial Model 94 Rifle follows the configuration of the early Model 64 hunting rifle.

Far right: The NRA Centennial Model 94 Musket is based on the Model 95 Winchester discontinued 50 years ago.



REMINGTON . . .



The new Remington .17 Caliber cartridge will fire a 25 grain bullet.

the sportsman's thinking, last year the company made the decision to standardize that grand old wildcat the .25-06. The year before that it was another old perennial, the .22-250 (.22 Varminter). This year, at the gathering of the guns editors on Maryland's Eastern Shore, the Bridgeport firm announced the .17 caliber as a standard issue—with the splendid Model 700 rifle to be chambered for it.

Seldom indeed has there been a firearms manufacturer as sensitive and alert to the wants of the shooting public as this great firm. An attentive ear, a most remarkable talent for sound design, and an overriding policy of providing high quality with reasonable price, has placed Remington in a pre-eminent position in the arms making field today.

Back to the 1971 offerings.

In 1967, the Model 700 BDL heavy barrel "Varmint Special" was announced. This was the standard 700 action with a 24-inch slightly tapered bull-gun barrel of target type. It was demanded by benchrest shooters, woodchuck hunters, and that small class of elite who want the most accurate tube obtainable. With the introduction last year of the .25-06, a highly accurate load, it was obvious that the 700 rifle would have to be offered with its heavy barrel in this caliber. This was made official at the Remington Farms get-together. The big barrel is mounted with scope blocks for the installation

of a target scope. There is also provision for a hunting scope through a drilled and tapped receiver. This barrel is identical to the 40-XB tube on Remington's finest target rifle.

Last year the extremely popular Model 1100 autoloader in 20 gauge was announced in a special lightweight version. With the design of a new and slightly smaller receiver and the use of a mahogany stock, the weight was trimmed to a skimpy 6½ pounds. This made the little automatic ideal for uplands game; for fast-flying, close-rising targets like bobwhites, ruffed grouse, snipe and woodcock. Now the new lightweight is chambered for a 3-inch 20 gauge load. To offset somewhat the considerable recoil, it will have a recoil pad and white line spacer. Just why the shooter would want to fire the Roman candle cartridges in this ultra feathery number I cannot fathom, but some folks, I reckon, want to have their cake and eat it too.

A year or two ago, Remington's designers took heed of the fact that there are some left handers among the shooting crowd. Their Model 788 high-powered rifle and the M581, a twenty-two bolt action, were offered with the bolt on the (Continued on page 57)

The highly popular Model 870 "Wingmaster" shotgun is now offered for left-handers.



WINCHESTER . . .

inch fully contoured barrel, a thoroughly modern ramp front sight, an adjustable open semi-buckhorn rear, holds 5 rounds in the magazine and a 6th in the chamber. The wood in both mainstock and forend is of selected walnut, dark stained and satin-finished. Unlike other Winchester commemorative models neither rifle has a gold plated receiver. Both are finished with a standard bluing. This, if anything, makes them all the more appealing. The company will sell the pair consecutively numbered to the collector, if he wants them that way.

At the 40th World Matches, fired during October last year at Phoenix, Arizona, Winchester turned up with a brand new Model 70 target rifle. This new number was dubbed the International Army Rifle and was especially made for one match in the international program. This event, quite appropriately, is called the Army Rifle Match. At any rate the company turned up at Phoenix with 50 of the new rifles. These were turned over to the NRA with no strings attached; to be loaned to any teams that wanted to use them. The match is a 3-position

affair fired at 300 meters. It was won by Maj. Bob Foster, U.S. Army, with the new Model 70. Of the top 12 shooters 7 fired the Winchester.

The rifle set a new tournament record. It is an 11-lb. bull gun, .308 caliber, 24-inch barrel and with a stock designed for the particular match. This stock has a shad-belly, made that way to assist the marksman in the offhand stage of the match. The stock is completely glass-bedded, and has an oil finish. The barrel and receiver are finished in a dull non-glare coating which makes it look like a parkerized job. The trigger is fully adjustable and this may be done without taking the action out of the stock. Tests ran on the trial lot of rifles sent to the World Matches indicates 1.5 inch groups at 300 meters. The rifle is a specialty item and will not be listed, chances are, in the Winchester catalog. It retails for \$399.95.

Several years ago when the .22 rifle line was *(Continued on page 65)*

The Model 70 "International Match" rifle was used at Phoenix with good results. An 11 pound gun, it will sell for \$399.95.



Latest entry into the shotgun shell field for Winchester are Western "Upland" compression-formed plastic shells.





Jim Bowie was an American soldier and was the inventor of the knife named after him. 1799 to 1836.

By B. R. HUGHES

JIM BOWIE! What a man! Born in four states, died in four rooms! Even today, more than 130 years after his death, the mere mention of his name can stir the minds of the more imaginative.

Seldom indeed has a man been the object of so many conflicting stories, but his fame seems assured . . . not by his deeds, but by the instrument he wielded—the Bowie knife. This blade design is still one of the most popular, even today, and few indeed are the modern knifemen who do not offer at least one Bowie model.

Before dealing with the knife, a few words concerning the man would be apropos. It is generally conceded that he was born in 1795, but Georgia,



This massive, ivory-handled Bowie made by Lloyd Hale is dramatically displayed in front of the replica of James Black's shop in Washington, Arkansas, where legend has it the first Bowie knife was manufactured.

BOWIES...

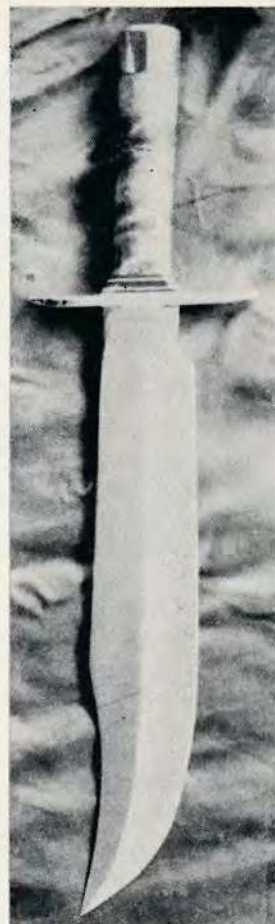
Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee all claim to be Bowie's home state, and it is known that his family moved to Louisiana around 1802, where Jim was raised. During his adult life Bowie was many things, including a land speculator, a slaver, and probably quite a few other things. There are reports that indicate Bowie was a sharp operator, that he had an eye for the ladies, that he fought hard, and he drank hard. All were probably true. Still, he became a folk-hero when in 1827, while serving as a second in a duel between Dr. Thomas H. Maddox and Samuel L. Wells on the Vidalia Sandbar near Natchez. He killed Major Norris Wright, a member of the Maddox party, after he himself was severely wounded after the duel turned into a free-for-all. There had been bad

blood between Bowie and Wright for some while, but a knife-thrust by Bowie brought their feud to a dramatic close that day near Natchez. Legend to the contrary, the knife Bowie used on the sandbar that day was not the one later to become famous as *the* Bowie knife.

There are many stories concerning the manufacture of this knife, including one, which has some support, which has Jim's brother, Rezin, presenting his famous younger brother with a knife Rezin's plantation blacksmith had made. This knife was reportedly a type of butcher knife with a cross guard. It is very likely that such a knife did in fact exist, and it is probable that this knife was the one Jim was carrying on the day of the Maddox-Wells duel. This left some



From the movie "The Iron Mistress" comes this shot of Jim Bowie, on the top, fighting for his life in one of the many battles involving the knife that won him fame. Note the relative size of the big blade.



Left: This Heath Bowie is a good example of the type of knife popular along the Mexican border during the middle 1800's. This one has a maple handle. Right: In the 1830's Jim Bowie ordered several knives like this one from the George Wostenholm firm in England. Note the trademark "I*XL" which is on all Wostenholm cutlery. This one has stag handle.

PAST and PRESENT

with the impression that this was the knife later to be known as a "Bowie."

The story which I prefer is the legend of James Black, a well-known blacksmith and silversmith who originally lived in Philadelphia, but who moved to Washington, Arkansas, before 1830. Washington, now little more than a village of some 300 population, was then one of the American frontier's most thriving cities. Located near the edge of the United States as it existed at that time in the southwest corner of Arkansas, it was literally on the crossroads to the west. Several of the old homes exist to this day, and replicas of Black's smithy and the tavern have been constructed in Washington on the exact sites of the original structures.

According to most accounts, Bowie,

who had heard of Black's mastery with metals, stopped by his shop on one of his trips through Arkansas and asked him to produce a superior type of fighting knife. Black agreed, and when Bowie next visited this area, he picked up his knife. One legend has it that Bowie presented Black with a wooden model of the knife, but that Black made not only Bowie's design, but one of his own. According to this story, Bowie, already a seasoned knife-fighter, immediately recognized the superiority of Black's knife, and selected that specimen. No theory has been advanced as to the fate of Bowie's personally designed knife. Of Black's Bowie knife it was said that a person could whittle for a solid hour on a piece of seasoned hickory, and the blade would still shave the hair from

one's arm. Granted that no story loses anything in the retelling, Black's fighting knife must have been something! In Paul I. Wellman's tremendous historical novel, *The Iron Mistress*, it is related that Black added a piece of meteorite to the steel from which Bowie's knife was to be made, but so far as is known, there is no historical basis for this account.

Of the maker, Black, all too little is known. Trained as a silversmith, he was a real craftsman, and some have said that he had discovered the Damascus secret—the process by which the swordsmiths of Damascus had turned out exceptional blades hundreds of years before. However, no one ever learned Black's secret, if indeed he had one. It is said that on his deathbed Black tried desperately to relate his



Although he is primarily famous for his own original designs, Don Zaccagnino, as shown here, also turns out some very fine traditional Bowie knives. This maker is becoming well known.

long, complicated procedure, but his mind was too far gone for him to remember the process.

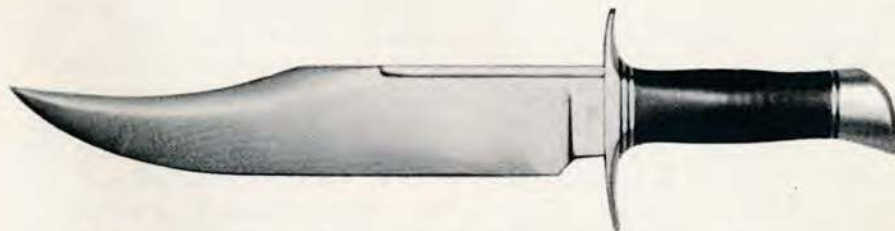
One theory that has been advanced is that the "secret" of Black's steel was the high quality sand, the high grade of limestone, and the pure water found around Washington. These three essentials for high grade steel would have made it possible for Black to have produced a superior knife steel, particularly in view of his training and background. Robert E. Ward, assistant professor of physics at Texarkana College, located near Washington, is one who subscribes to this explanation. If true, then it might very well be that Black's superior blades—if indeed they were superior—could be attributed to nothing more than a matter of geography.

At any rate, shortly after purchasing his knife from Black, Bowie was set upon by three assailants, all of whom he promptly dispatched with his new hardware. It didn't take long for news of Bowie's latest feat to travel, and almost overnight Black was besieged with orders for "a knife just like Bowie's." It was but a short semantic step to the term "Bowie knife," and from this point on the name became synonymous for almost any large knife with a double guard, although it is generally recognized that the distinguishing feature of a true Bowie is the sharpened clipped point on the back of the blade. It was this clipped point that made the Bowie deadly on the upstroke, and this virtually revolution-

ized knife fighting.

In 1836, some five to six years after obtaining the knife from Black, fate found Bowie, deathly ill, lying in some room within the walls of the Alamo, waiting for the Mexicans under Santa Anna to storm the mission-fortress. No one seems sure just where he was at the time of his death—one authority has him in the Baptistry with the chapel; a second has placed him in the Sacristy in the same structure; a third locates Bowie's death room in the Alamo hospital; while a fourth names a small room near the main gate of the walls surrounding the mission. Wherever he was when the Mexican troops found him, it is taken for granted that he died fighting, although due to his grave illness he was probably only a specter of his once mighty self.

What became of his blade is a question that has never been answered. The most logical explanation is that it was picked up as a battlefield souvenir by some Mexican soldier, who probably did not associate any particular significance to the knife, other than its obvious quality. It is a distinct possibility that when Sam Houston's army defeated Santa Anna at San Jacinto a few weeks later some Texan liberated the knife from some veteran of the Alamo. Again, there is little likelihood that the new owner realized the significance of the big knife. Even if the Mexican who obtained the knife at the Alamo realized it was Bowie's, it is highly un- (Continued on page 66)



This brass-back Bowie is a custom model by Harvey Draper, who offers a variety of Bowies, all featuring magnificent workmanship at most reasonable and attractive price ranges.

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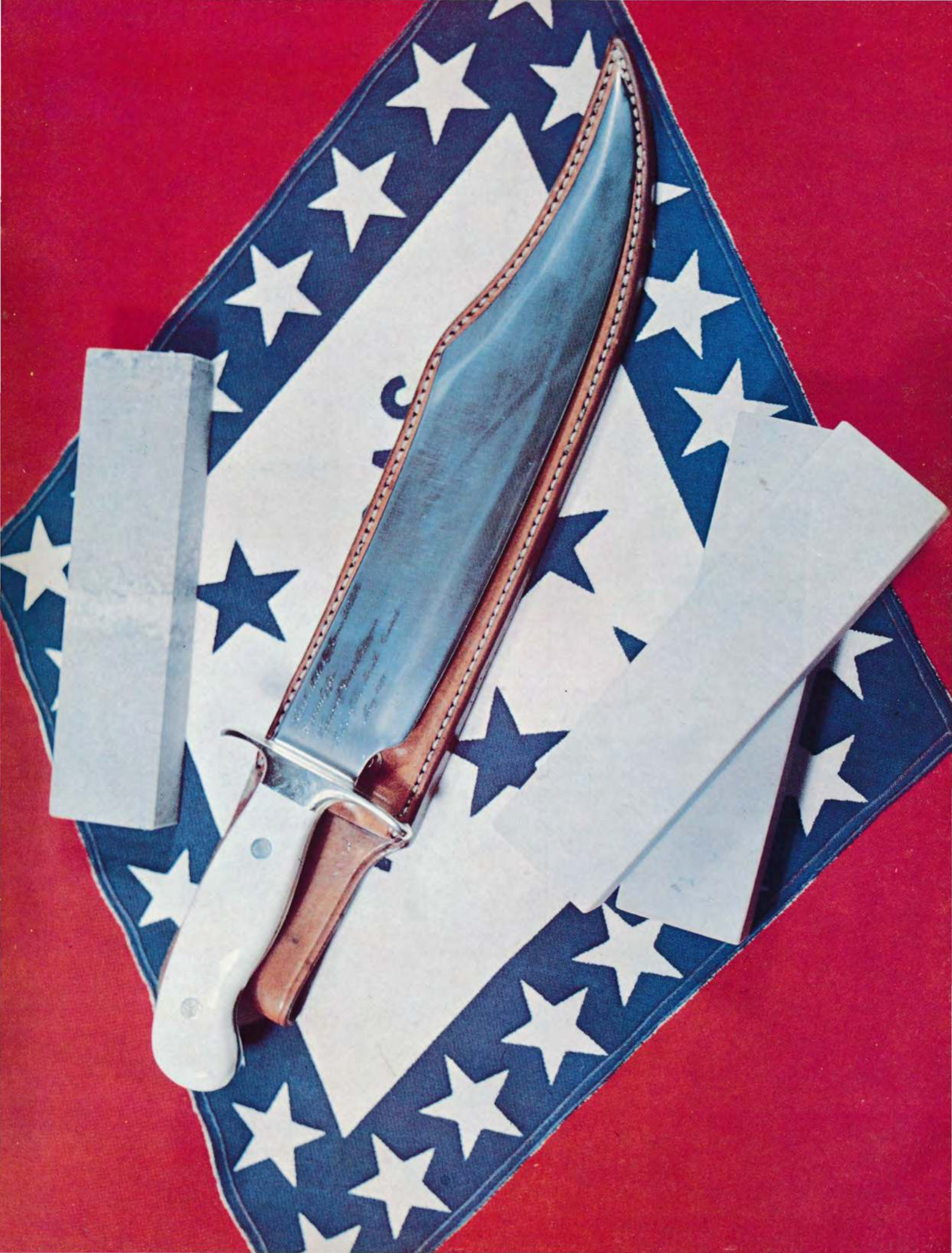
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SAMPLE FOR INFORMATION ONLY



UPDATED TRIO FROM HIGH STANDARD

High Standard's new line
of .22 revolvers give
the customer more
gun for the
money.

By WALTER L. RICKELL

THE LEISURE GROUP, a young, aggressive organization and proprietors of High-Standard Firearms Company of Hamden, Connecticut, have succeeded in face-lifting their line of .22 caliber revolvers. Not that they weren't alright, but the Sentinel has remained the same since 1948. The complete line has been revamped to give the customer more gun for the money by making standard such things as adjustable rear sights and wood grips. The High-Standard double-action has been overlooked for years by even the experts, not realizing its qualities of long, faithful service and excellent accuracy from the same know-how and people who made guns for the Olympic champions. The new trio from the big "L" all sport new names: the Kit-Gun, Durango and the Hombre.

The Kit-Gun actually replaces the Sentinel Line, this new, updated model is more versatile, good looking and functional. The first thing you notice is the new adjustable rear sight, that is completely flexible in elevation and

windage. The front is the same as on the famous Supermatic but more of a semi-ramp configuration for sporting use, and is removable in the same manner as the target autos with an allen wrench. Second is the improved checkered walnut grips. This really adds to the prestige of the weapon for real wood has a pleasing fascination about it.

The overall configuration has the feel and looks of the Combat Masterpiece, a 4", .38 Special revolver which is probably the standard, universal police sidearm, but at half the price. This little piece makes a good trainer plus its excellent double action would aid any one, be he neophyte or old pro at double-action shooting. This type of shooting is gaining popularity now and the Kit-Gun should be right in there pitching with the higher priced counterparts.

The Kit-Gun tested was used just for knocking about the Sierra Nevadas for a few weeks, using all kinds of ammo available old and new, shorts, longs,

long rifles, CB caps, you name it. The only problem was finding more ammo each time we ran out. It is light and easy to carry and you don't even know it's on your belt or in your hip pocket. Also, even for its lightness, due to the aluminum alloy frame, the sight picture can be held steady and affords the same feel as my four-inch, .357 service revolver.

The little gun functioned well and smooth on tin cans and other various items laying around the camp dump and the real surprise came when taking pot shots at a gong about 30" in diameter hanging 100 yards across the canyon. I had loaded nine Remington, high velocity .22 long rifles in the cylinder, and standing took a two-handed hold and proceeded to fire double action. The first 3 hit the gong with an echoing ring across the canyon. The next 4 missed but were within inches of it. The 8th hit solid and the 9th just skimmed over the top. That's quite an impressive showing for a \$64.95 plinker. I knew the gun had potential,



The new updated trio from High Standard: top is the "Durango" selling for \$58.95; middle is the "Kit Gun" going for \$64.95 with adjustable rear sight; and bottom is the "Hombre" selling for only \$49.95.




The "Durango" and "Hombre" feature the swing out cylinder accommodating nine .22 cartridges and they have the rebounding hammer that is an excellent safety feature for both the new gunner and the expert. Note lack of fluting.

for while sighting-in at 25 yards, all shots stayed well in the 10 ring. One evening in the garage, at 20 feet, a group of nine was fired double action which could be covered with a quarter. That was with CCI .22 short Darts.

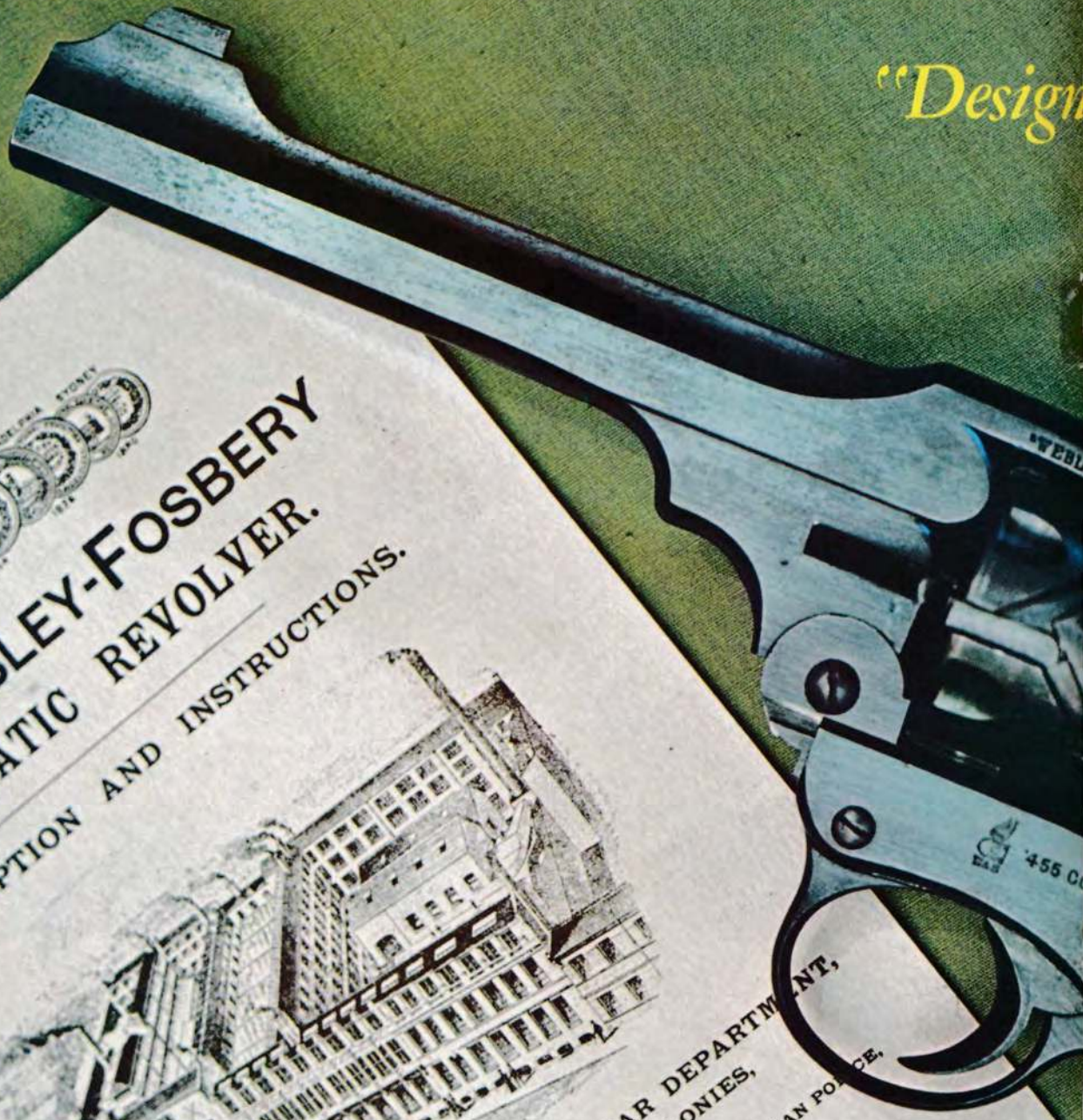
The other two revolvers shot equally well both single or double action holding up their western heritage names of Durango and Hombre. The Durango is what High-Standard refers to as their western revolver. It has the look and feel of the popular high priced models but features such modern advancements as single or double action, nine shots instead of the customary 6, which in reality is only 5. In a standard single action a loaded cartridge cannot be safely carried under the firing pin, and this leaves you an empty chamber. Not so with the Durango and Hombre. You have 9 chambers and 9 loaded cartridges because of the rebounding hammer which lets the firing pin touch the primer only when the trigger is pulled.

The Durango features the popular unfluted cylinder of the cap & ball era, that swings out with simultaneous ejection, and a fake ejector rod housing on the right side of the barrel which serves as release catch for the swing out cylinder by merely pushing the button under the barrel forward. Also new is the brass anodized grip frame with hand filling solid walnut grips. All of this for only \$58.95.

The cousin to the Durango is the Hombre which sells for \$49.95. This is basically the same gun but lacks the unfluted cylinder, has a black anodized grip frame, and walnut grips. The biggest difference is in the barrel assembly which is 4" long while the Durango is 4 1/2" and the Hombre doesn't have the ejector rod assembly. It functions the same as the Kit-Gun by pulling the cylinder pin forward and gently pushing the cylinder to the left. To close, just push to the right and the groove in the recoil shield depresses the latch, securing the cylinder. The Hombre is also available in nickel finish for \$54.95.

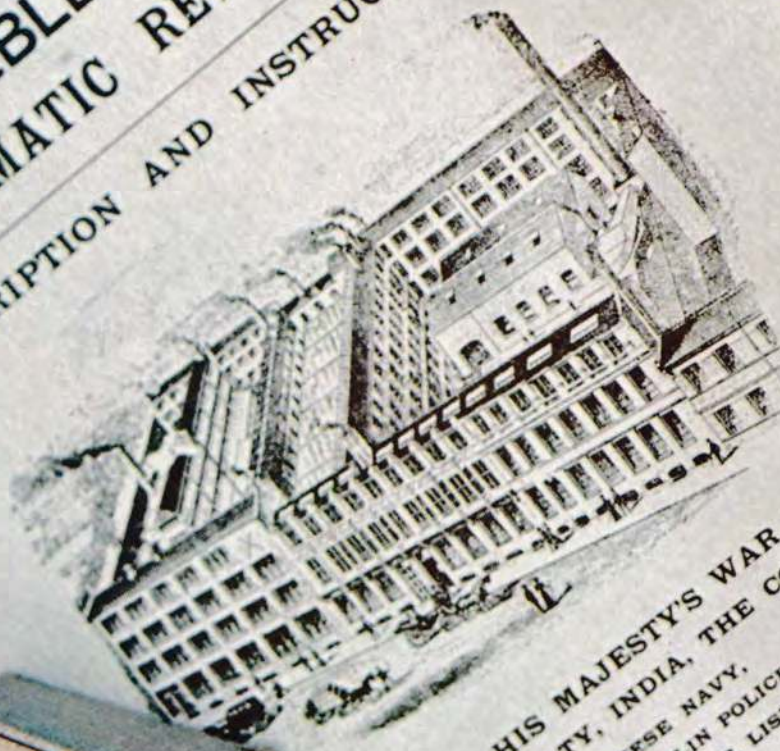
This is a compact little plinker with target capabilities and is basically the western version of the Kit-Gun. I think this little gun would be more versatile if it sported the adjustable sights of the Kit-Gun. This might come to pass for there are plans in the works for a steel frame version that will come with an extra .22 RFM cylinder. This will make for an even more versatile, all around handgun and extend it into the hunting handgun class. 

"Design"



THE WEBLEY-FOSBERY AUTOMATIC REVOLVER.

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of this sort have at best only theoretical advantages over the standard double action system."

— *W.H.B. Smith*

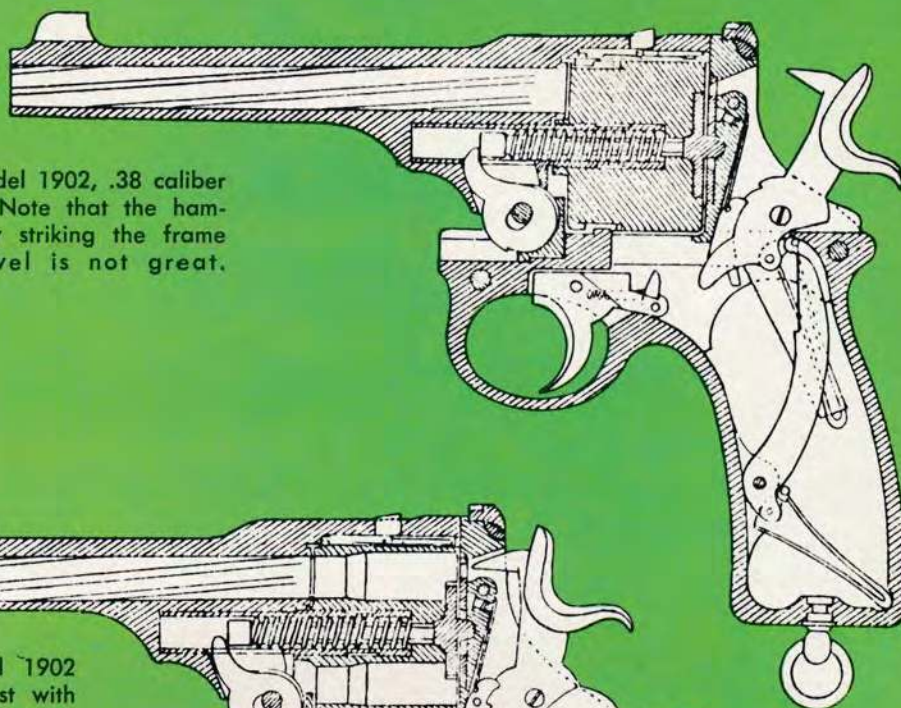


Color photo shows Model 1902 revolver and original instruction booklet which accompanied it. Drawing above shows the Model 1901, 8-shot in .38 APC caliber.

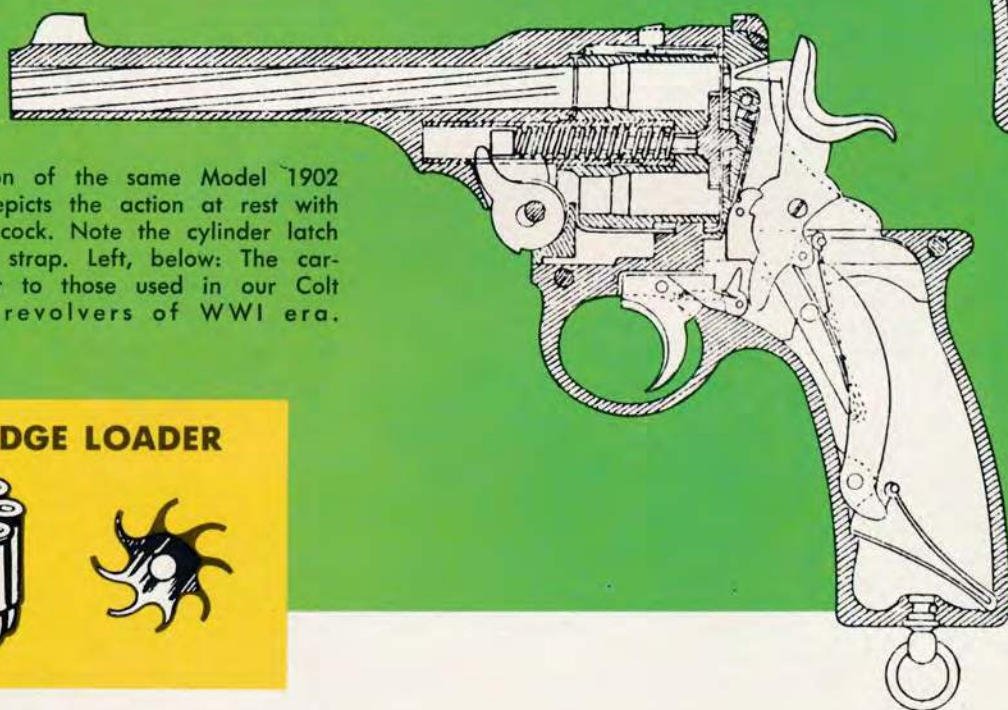
FROM THE time of the gun's earliest development, attempts have been made to create multiple-firing arms. These endeavors ran the gamut from sequential charges in one barrel, through revolving chambers, to multiple-ganged barrels. With the exception of the simple revolver, whose open construction allowed easy access, all of these, no matter how ingenious, were rendered of limited usefulness due to the excessive time required to muzzle load the multiple charges and doomed to failure by the fouling effect of black powder. The advent of the metallic cartridge in the 1840's and of smokeless powder in the late 1800's removed these two stumbling blocks and precipitated a vast amount of experimentation in multi-firing arms. Some of these such as Maxim's recoil-operated machine gun, Browning's gas-operated machine gun, and the semi-automatic pistols of Borchardt, Bergmann, Browning, and Mauser successfully solved the problems and their descendents went on to become the standard military and sporting arms of the world today.

It is not surprising, however, that some of the lines of experimentation, though successful in their time, eventually reached a dead end. One such system was that of the automatic, or self-cocking, revolver. Few areas of experimentation in arms design have produced less return from so much effort and ingenuity. As early as 1865 Orbea of Eibar, Spain, produced a prototype

This schematic section of a Model 1902, .38 caliber shows the gun in full recoil. Note that the hammer has just been cocked by striking the frame abutment. The recoil travel is not great.



This schematic section of the same Model 1902 .38 caliber pistol depicts the action at rest with the hammer at half-cock. Note the cylinder latch in the cylinder top strap. Left, below: The cartridge loader similar to those used in our Colt and S&W 1917 revolvers of WWI era.



CARTRIDGE LOADER



revolver which tapped gas from the barrel upon discharge and used it to cock the hammer, revolve the cylinder, and eject the fired cartridge case. The black powder in use at the time prevented this design's success. In 1886 Richard Paulson of Nottingham, England, produced a gas-operated revolver which performed the same functions as Orbea's design but used smokeless powder cartridges and added a disconnector in the lock to prevent firing of more than one shot with each pull of the trigger. Apparently this complicated design also met with little success. It is not even certain that other than a working prototype was produced.

The only automatic revolver to be successfully marketed was developed by the then Lieutenant Colonel G. Vincent Fosbery, V.C., of the British Army. On August 16, 1895 he took out a basic patent which proposed to cock the hammer and rotate the cylinder of a revolver by utilizing the recoil of its discharge. The initial model was built from a Colt Model 1873 pistol, which was modified to have its barrel, cylinder, and lock slide on the frame. Fosbery did not propose to make the revolver self-ejecting as in previously attempted designs. His reason for this decision was that, by the time of his experimentation, the hinged-frame self-ejecting revolver was beginning to come to

the fore. This system, which ejected the spent cases as the pistol was opened for reloading, eliminated the previous time-consuming operation of ejecting the empty shells one by one. Col. Fosbery successively improved his design and was issued additional patents in June and October of 1896.

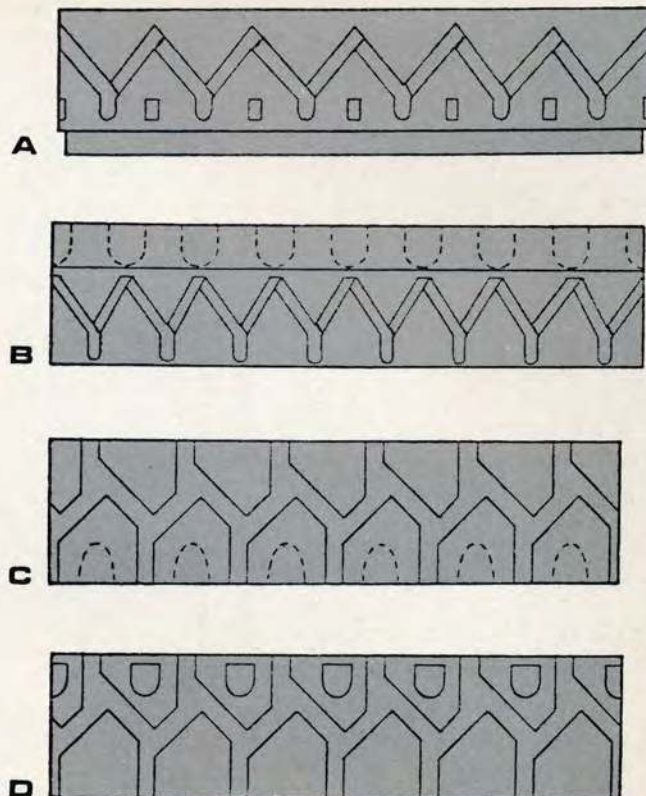
As the realization of his design required the manufacture or adaptation of a hinged-frame revolver, Col. Fosbery approached the P. Webley and Son company of Birmingham, England. Webley's had been producing .455 caliber top-break revolvers for the British Army since 1887 and was one of the foremost gun-making firms in England. Webley's agreed to undertake the project and considerable experimentation was performed during the next few years. In 1897, P. Webley and Son merged with W. C. Scott and Sons and Richard Ellis and Son to form a limited company, The Webley and Scott Revolver and Arms Company. Work continued on the automatic revolver under the new management, but with more emphasis on reducing it to a commercial product, hopefully one which could also be submitted to the government for military use.

With the introduction of any entirely new arm it is difficult to draw a line between experimental and actual production. While the automatic revolver was first shown

at the Bisley meeting in July, 1900, it is generally accepted that commercial production did not start until summer of the following year. Serial number one pistol was marked "FOSBERY AUTO REVOLVER" and "MADE BY THE WEBLEY AND SCOTT REVOLVER AND ARMS COMPANY LTD." However, successive designs were at first marked "WEBLEY FOSBERY AUTOMATIC" and later just "WEBLEY FOSBERY" and it is by this name that the arm has become universally known.

The Webley-Fosbery can be mechanically divided into three groups, the barrel and cylinder group which is mounted on the body group containing the hammer and which both slide on the frame group, which contains the trigger, recoil spring, and grips. This construction allows functioning to proceed in the following manner. First, the barrel latch stirrup, located on the body group, is released allowing the barrel and cylinder group to be tipped down for loading. The chambers are loaded either singly or simultaneously by means of the Webley patented "quick-loader." The barrel is tipped up and relocked. The pistol is then cocked, as with any single-action revolver, and is ready to fire. There is a safety catch on the left side of the frame, which can be engaged only with the hammer in the cocked position, and which effectively disconnects the hammer from the sear. When the trigger is pulled the hammer falls discharging the round under it. The recoil force imparted to the cartridge case head is transmitted to the body group which recoils against the pressure of the recoil spring located in the grip area of the frame group. Connection between the two groups is maintained by a tail

(Continued on page 58)



Surface development of the cylinder rotating grooves used on various Webley-Fosbery models. Grooves on caliber .455 prototype, serial #1. Early Model 1901 in .38 ACP cylinder grooves. Production Model 1901 grooves on a .455 gun. Notches for improved cylinder latch on 1902.



Model 1902 Webley-Fosbery revolver broken open to extract empty shells. The hammer is now at half-cock. Note quality of machining and the finish.



Model 1902, .455 with a Webley-made .22 Long caliber adaptor installed. Hammer is cocked and safety is on. Adaptor is numbered same as the gun.



By **MERRILL LINDSAY**

SEVERAL summers ago, a friend of Willy Schlag, who has a passion for hiking and climbing, was exploring the mountains around Obervillach in southern Austria. Not far from Obervillach is the ancient castle of Groppenstein. Schloss Groppenstein has escaped the wars because it is in an out of the way part of western Carinthia which is the southern most state of Austria, near the Italian border. Obervillach itself is so high in the mountains that the official Austrian guide book says that it is the only town in which chamois are hunted on the main street.

Willy's friend was taking a breather after a hard uphill climb to the shelf on which Groppenstein is perched, when he stumbled on a rusty iron pipe. After getting his wind, he pulled away at the heavy pipe-like object which was partly buried in the turf. It was a struggle to unearth it from the roots and dirt as it was very heavy and a hook-like projection welded to the pipe was wedged between buried boulders. With the aid of an improvised lever made of a handy tree branch he finally got the object free. It was obviously not an ordinary piece of plumbing. Rubbing the dirt off with his boot, he saw that the "pipe" was round at one end, then became sixteen sided and, at the other end, which was capped, it was eight sided. It was in fact a barrel from a very big gun. The barrel tapered from the muzzle, which still has a residual front sight, to the breech ring in front of which on the top flat was a touch hole. Under the barrel, a third of the way back from the muzzle, was the hook or *Hacken* from which these pieces derive their name.

After the Powder was Poured...

A 500 Year Old
Weapon Comes to Life as
We Shoot the

DOPPELHACKEN

and the Matchcord was Lit...



...there was a Splendid Roar!



the hook, welded to the underside of the barrel, had a hole in it which once carried a pin attaching the stock to the barrel. Back toward the breech there was a smaller lug welded to the barrel with a hole in it for the same purpose.

Any friend of Willy's has to know something about guns. Willy is Dr. Wilhelm Schlag, the head of the Austrian government cultural information services, an avid hunter, gun and hunting weapons collector, and a mine of information about ancient weapons. The hiker figured that he had better bring his rusty find back to Willy as it might prove to be a valuable antique weapon. With great exertion he dragged the barrel, which weighs just under thirty pounds and is over four feet long, down the mountain and over to the road which led to the castle. He laid the gun barrel in a ditch beside the road, hiked down to the village where he had left his Volkswagen and drove the car back up to the castle. Then the fun began. Did you ever try to get a four-foot anything inside of a Bug? The inevitable compromise found the gun sticking muzzle-out of the front window and the driver sitting sideways on the bucket seat.

After several uncomfortable hours of driving and a hard climb up the stairs to Willy's apartment, the hiker learned the good news that he really had discovered a treasure. The rusty iron proved to be the barrel from a hand cannon of enormous size. Although it had originally had a wooden stock, it was much too big to have been shot from the shoulder. The front of the gun used to be rested on a rock or a wall with the hook pulled tight against the opposite side of the wall to absorb recoil. The breech was held under the arm, not against the shoulder, which left a free hand to operate the match or hot wire needed to touch off the beast.

This rampart gun, or *Doppelhacken*, is a very early one as it has no firing mechanism or pivot hole for a match lock serpentine and the touch hole is located on the top of the barrel instead of on the side. This would seem to date the piece to some time before 1500; perhaps as much as a century. There are no marks on the gun—marks are very rare on these pieces—and it was probably made by one of the local blacksmiths who used water wheels to drive their heavy hammers. The mountain streams of the neighborhood provided the power.

The tapered (15½" to 21½") barrel of the *Doppelhacken* was naturally full of dirt, but as Willy carefully cleaned out the bore he discovered that the gun was still loaded! First he reamed out black earth, then came sand, which made him suspicious, and finally, crude black powder—a mixture of dust and larger charcoal chunks. Being a student of Austrian arms history as well as the arms themselves, Willy knew what had happened. The old gun, which had originally been used in the defense of Groppenstein Castle, had over the centuries become obsolete and no longer considered of value as a weapon. The stock was probably gone even then and the rusty old barrel was in a state of disrepute, but the Austrians never throw anything away. They had a new use for the gun. It was used as a noise maker, or *Böller*, on weddings, at Easter and on whatever is the Austrian equivalent of the Fourth of July. As the old barrel no longer had a stock, it was laid on the ground with the breech embedded in the earth at a slight angle to absorb the recoil. It was then loaded with an immense amount of black powder and wadded with damp



Landsknecht, a German foot soldier of the time of Maximilian (1493-1519) ramming down a charge in his hand cannon, sometimes called the "hackbut."

sand which was a lot cheaper than tow wadding, but wouldn't clog the barrel and blow it up as earth might do. After a particularly happy wedding, this heavy old gun barrel had probably been forgotten by the celebrating shooters and had gradually sunk itself into the earth. If the projecting muzzle of the gun hadn't caught the hiker's shoe, the *Doppelhacken* might still be half buried on a mountain top in Carinthia.

The last *Doppelhacken* outside of a museum turned up more than seven years ago. Willy, who was then chief of the Austrian Institute in New York, found it in Vienna and lent it to the Fine Arts Museum in Flint, Michigan for an exhibition of early iron work. I saw his gun barrel then and asked him to keep me in mind if another one was ever found. Willy remembered this, and I got the barrel found by his friend.

By itself, the barrel is an ugly looking thing, and besides that, it is impossible to display. I had it leaning in one corner of my gun room giving the whole collection a bad name. I would watch knowledgeable gun collectors look-

Merrill Lindsay with the barrel and stock blank. The first cut has already been made with a draw plane on the butt of the stock.

ing at it. They would stare at it for a while, then start to ask me what it was, then decide, the hell with it. This bugged me; so I would start in and explain what it was, and the fact that it once had a stock. This got me nowhere.

I then started to look around for a picture of what the gun had originally looked like. It wasn't easy, but eventually I came up with three drawings. One was a picture of the arsenal of Maximilian in about 1600 done by Georg Kolderer for his book, *Zeügbucher des Kaisers Maximilian I*, 1504. It showed a rack of these *Doppelhacken* with one in the foreground resting on a trestle or *Bock* being test fired by two of the emperor's armourers. Another picture from a DaVinci sketch book, *The Codex Atlanticus*, 1485, showed a gun with a barrel similar to mine and in Josef Alm's *Armens Eldhandvapen förr ach nu* I found more drawings.

First I traced these drawings onto sheets of paper. Using the known dimension of my gun barrel, I proceeded to reconstruct the measurements of the stocks. It was then that I discovered the amazing coincidence of the drawings. The measurements were remarkably alike. The height of the stocks varied from one another by only one inch. The maximum variation of the length of the stocks was seven inches. The stock thickness, being shown in perspective was harder to measure, but in every case it was plus or minus three and a half inches. The biggest difference was in the overall length of the complete guns. They ran 79", 84" and 88".

I chose a happy medium, or average, of these dimensions and set about to find me a piece of wood for a stock which I could whittle down to a mere 6' 10" x 7" x 3 1/2". Luckily I have a very obliging lumber yard, the Munger Lumber Company, in Killingworth, Conn. which has a habit of keeping some fine seasoned woods around for gunstocks.

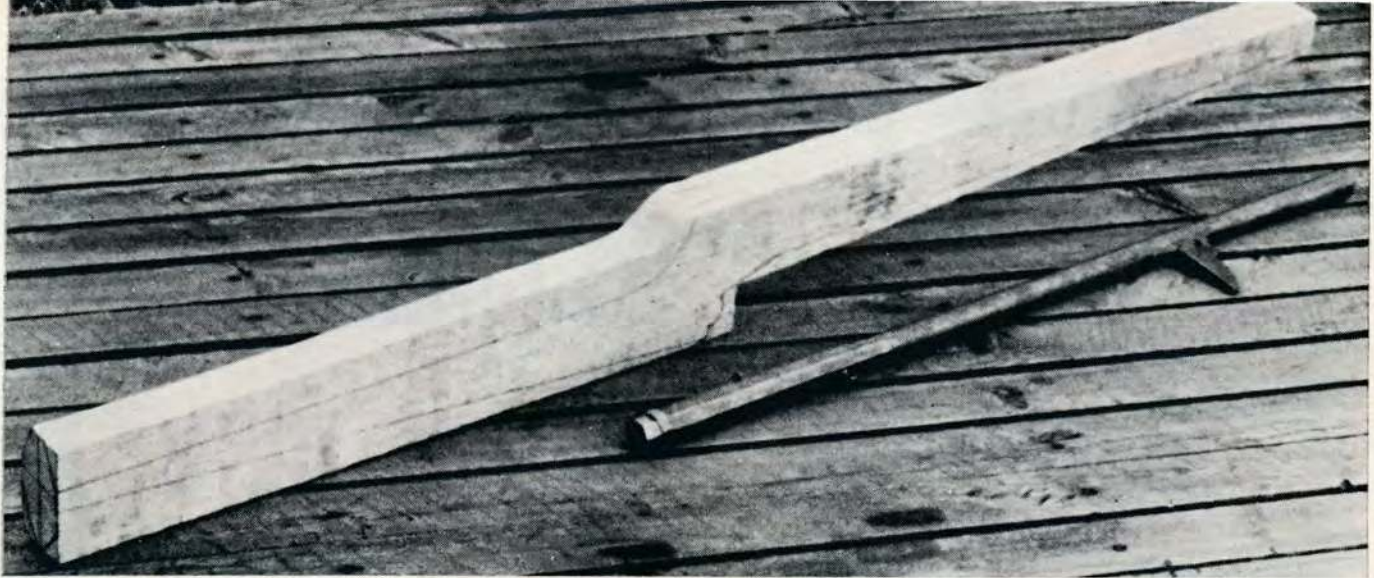
When I spoke to the boss, Quint Chittenden, about needing a piece of wood for a gun stock, he told me he had a good piece of seasoned walnut with a fine grain pattern. When I gave him the size of block I was looking for, he advised me that there was no such thing. Fortunately I didn't need walnut, as all of the very early guns were stocked either with beech or pine. I climbed around the lumber shed, and, way up on top, I found a beautiful clear even grained piece of California white pine without a knot showing along its twelve foot length. Quint is a nice guy, but it did hurt his feelings to have to saw the heart out of this magnificent piece of timber, but I got my stock blank. From there on it was merely a matter of months until I had hogged out the rough shape, inlet the stock to a depth of two inches with shaped chisels and pieces of pipe wrapped around with emery cloth.

When the stock was finally shaped and sanded, I followed the time honored routine of oil and rotten stone, more oil and rotten stone, until the wood was as smooth as you know what. Then came the heart breaking job of destroying the finish that I had worked so hard to get. I had to oxidize the wood to approximate the effect that heat and air would have had, over a period of 500 years. The first time that I had built a reconstruction stock for a

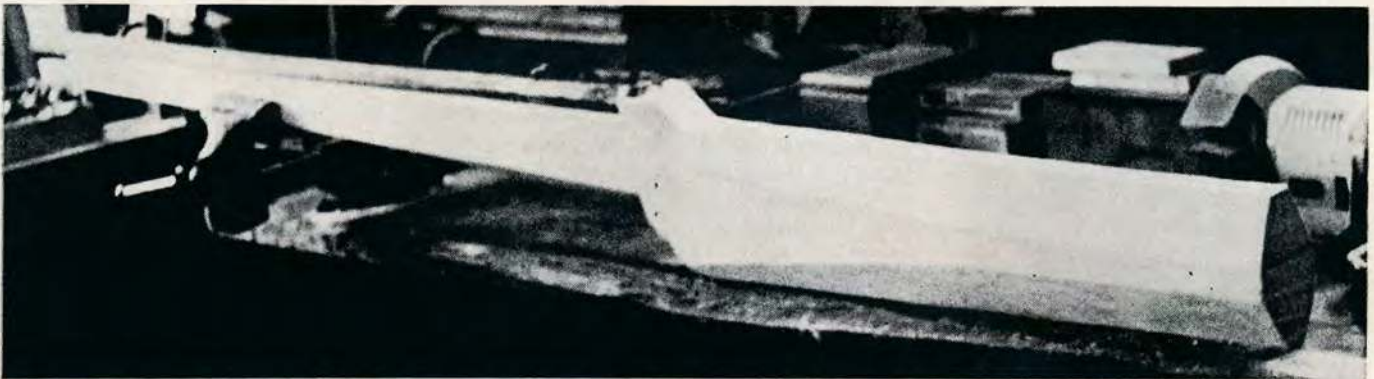


hand cannon, I had charred it with an open flame. This time I discovered chromic acid which does the same job but with better control. When the stock was an all-over even black and the grain was once more standing up on the exposed surfaces, the aging job was done. All that was left was to rust the two pins, that I had made of soft iron, which held the stock to the barrel. This was an easy job. I boiled the iron pins in a sauce pan with a strong solution of chlorox. They rust instantly, and are "cooked" when pitting starts to appear.

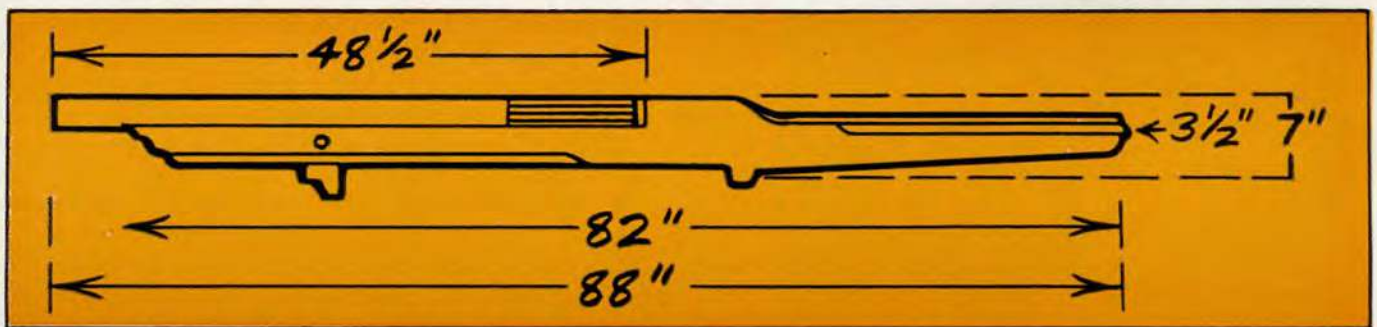
When the gun was completed, I called a neighbor of mine, John Echlin, who hunts on his own land for deer with a flintlock Kentucky. I told him that I wanted to



The Harquebus barrel and stock blank showing the scribe lines for the final configuration.



Shaped and inletted stock is shown with the barrel in position. It still lacks a butt plate.



The "portable" Harquebus (hackbut) designed by Leonardo daVinci from the Codex Atlanticus, folio 40, circa 1485. With an overall length of 88" and a barrel of 48½", it took a real man to haul it into combat. The barrel alone weighs nearly thirty pounds! A very lucky find.

proof shoot a gun which I had just finished. I needed coarse black powder, DuPont FG, some finer powder to tamp around the wick and some tow for wadding, and some $1\frac{5}{16}$ -inch lead balls. Well, he didn't have the ball in quite the right size, and I had to send away for some king-sized wick from the Ensign Bickford Company in Simsbury, Connecticut. But one fine day, when we had assembled all the necessary ingredients, these included a 15th century powder flask which held about a pound of black powder, we pledged ourselves to St. Barbara, the patron saint of gunners, cannoneers, and damn fools. She took pity on us and the ancient barrel held. Otherwise I wouldn't be here to tell the tale. After a little practice,

we got the hang of the thing, but we couldn't be sure just when the monster would go off. I cut equal two inch lengths of fuse and timed the first one from sputter to explosion. It took just ten seconds. This proved absolutely nothing. Subsequent burning times varied from eight to fourteen seconds. Assuming that the fuse burned evenly, the variation could only be accounted for by the time it took for the burning powder in the cavernous barrel to build up enough back pressure against the escaping gasses from the enlarged touch hole. When the gun did go off, there was a splendid roar with flames shooting out of the barrel and straight up in the air from the touch hole followed by such rolling clouds (Continued on page 54)



20 GAUGE...

THE SHOTGUN OF THE FUTURE

By FRANCIS E. SELL

THE MOST AMAZINGLY versatile shotgun to get the increasing attention of present day shotgunners is the modern 20 gauge, chambered for 3 inch shells. I say *amazingly versatile* without ballistic qualification. Here's why! The modern 20 gauge will handle all shot charges associated with the 28 gauge, the standard 20 gauge chambered for 2¾ inch shells, the 16 gauge, and most of the standard 12 gauge shot charge weights. Check them out—¾ ounce shot charges, 7/8 ounce, 1 ounce, 1 1/8 ounce, 1 3/16 ounce, and 1 1/4 ounces; six different shot charge weights, covering all shooting from short range upland in the flame colored maples, ruffed grouse the quarry, to long range wildfowling, pass and bay gunning.

Actually, when the gunning chips are down, with performance evaluated carefully on the steel pattern plates, the emphasis of the 20 gauge's versatility is the more amazing. With special long range handloads of my own development,

using 1 1/8 ounce shot charges, I have no trouble putting an average of 50 size 2 pellets in the 30 inch circle at 65 yards. This, as you know, is ample coverage on geese to this distance. Gunning the Western passes, I have taken at least a dozen Snow Geese and Canada Honkers with this particular loading. It does well above 90 per cent at 40 yards, and 50 per cent patterns at 65 yards.

With 1 1/4 ounces of copper plated 2's, in the same type special handload, the story is even more dramatic. At a full 70 measured yards, the average on the steel pattern plate is 52 pellets in the 30 inch circle. To get this in perspective, consider the actual probable hits on a 7 pound goose at 70 yards. Using Sir Gerald Burrard's formula (83 per cent of the bird's weight in ounces as being the square inches of target exposed to the gunner) a 7 pound goose would take a 7 pellet hit with a well centered pattern.

This last, a well centered pattern at 70 yards, looses

Something to ponder: Going from a 1 ounce shot charge delivering a 5 pellet hit with any size shot, to a 1 1/2 ounce charge would only put about 3 more pellets on target. To do this, a gunner must swing a much heavier gun if the recoil is to be at all bearable. This assumes the same patterning ability for all the loadings. Left to right: 1 ounce charge, 5 probable hits; 1 1/8 oz. charge, 6 probable hits; 1 1/4 oz. charge, 7 probable hits; 1 1/2 oz. charge, 8 probable hits. Actually, one must be a bit charitable to even concede an extra 3 pellet hit here.



some of its complications when the 20 gauge Magnum is used. My pass shooting gun, a Richland Model 707, with 30 inch barrels, tips the scales at exactly 6¾ pounds. The slender tubes of the 20 gauge double, along with the flat tapered rib, have all the virtues of the single sighting plane and none of its drawbacks. There is just enough weight for a smooth swinging gun—with none of the over weight so closely associated with the average long range 12 or 10 gauge. Coaching shotgunners here at my hideout in the wilderness of southwestern Oregon, I have yet to see any gunner whose wing shooting didn't improve going from an 8 or 9 pound gun to one weighing between 7 and 6¾ pounds.

Toeing the mark on the "firing line" of the California-Oregon public shooting grounds south of Klamath Falls, Oregon, a flight of Canada Honkers came over my section. I managed a right and left, with two of these huge birds coming down stone dead. Range? Between 65 and 70 yards. This particular shooting, the only to be had during the morning hours—though some of the 10 gauge Magnum boys banged away hopefully at flights a full 150 yards high, caused plenty of discussion during the noon break when the gunners gathered in the parking area for their collective midday snack.

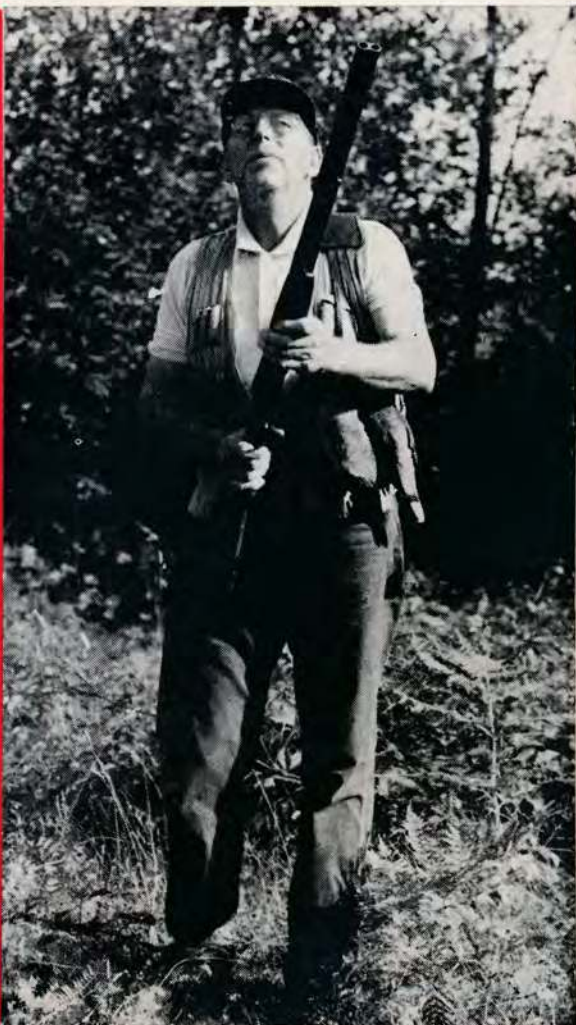
Many of the guns cased at noon were 12 gauge Magnums. There was, in addition, a sprinkling of 10 gauges—these last mostly in the hands of the least experienced gunners—

judging from the sky scraping shots taken during the morning flighting. The contrast between these heavy guns and my trim 20 gauge Magnum double *was* outstanding.

Old gunning concepts die hard. One of the most current persistent myths is that it takes a 9 pound 12 gauge Magnum to get consistent killing patterns with large shot at 60-65 yards. Complementing this, or even part of the same myth, is the belief that a 20 gauge will not handle any shot size large than 6 with any great deal of ballistic efficiency. Yet, this noon hour brought both of these gunning myths to bag rather dramatically. My 20 gauge passed from hand to hand. Gunners snapped it to their shoulders, swung it across the storm threatening sky, shook their heads unconvinced. This trim little double *did* handle like a dream—a persistent dream of all dedicated long range wildfowlers—a gun with just enough weight to swing smoothly, delivering patterns at 65-70 yards with sufficient density to down a Canada Honker. Despite the two Canada Honkers I downed as confirming evidence that such guns were available, skepticism, nudged by gunning tradition, held most of these gunners from accepting the inevitable.

One gunner, who used a 12 gauge Model 12 Winchester Magnum pump, 30 inch barrel, full choke, got a claybird target box out of his pickup. He paced off 65 long steps and placed the box on its side in the stubble. Returning, he bet me that *his* gun would place a third more pellets on the bottom of the box, size (Continued on page 51)

Below: The author holding part of the day's take. Gun is the Richland Model 707 customized by the author to weigh 6¾ pounds. It is choked full and modified and is used year 'round. Right: Author on a pass shooting Bandtail Pigeon. Gun is used for pass, duck and geese.





By DICK MILLER

IF SMASHING flying clay targets with your trusty shotgun sounds like fun, but you don't feel ready for the formal games of trap and skeet, or the tournament circuits of trap and skeet, you have a lot of company. Tournament clay target shooting under the rules of the Amateur Trapshooting Association and the National Skeet Shooting Association has enjoyed phenomenal growth during the past decade, but the ranks of tournament shooters are still small when compared to the hundreds of thousands of shotgunners who just shoot for fun or small prizes as compared with big purses and trophies in the organized clay target games.

There are literally thousands of gun clubs all across the United States and Canada who have never hosted a tournament registered with either the ATA or the NSSA, but who provide all kinds of informal shooting games for shotgunners. Most popular of the informal clay pigeon games are the so-called "meat shoots." These games are called "meat shoots" because the prize is usually some kind of meat, such as a ham or side of bacon. If meat or some other small prize is not offered, the winners normally share the small cash "pot." Meat shoots owe a lot of their popularity to the fact that the entry fees are nominal and shell costs are small due to the fewer rounds expended yet the shooter does have the prospect of a reward for his skill (or luck).

My own introduction to a long and rewarding career in clay target shooting came via meat shoots in Southern Indiana, Southern Illinois, and Western Kentucky. I shot the informal circuit for several years before getting my feet wet via registered ATA and NSSA tournaments. There are several popular versions of the informal or meat shoot games.

One of the most popular is the game in which each shooter pays an entry fee of one dollar, then shoots five shots from the sixteen yard line. Those shooters who break all five six-

teen yard targets move back to the 25-yard line and shoot until only one man has not missed. This shooter takes first prize, whatever the prize might be. Shooters who break four on the 16-yard stripe go through the same process for second prize, and those who break three of the five original birds do the same for third place.

Some clubs require the shooter to fire at ten sixteen yard birds, then begin the handicap elimination process, on the theory that the ten targets make for fewer ties to be shot off.

Another version, which seems to have some popularity in the West, has every shooter begin shooting from one of the handicap posts, then moving back one yard after each shot until only one shooter is left without a miss. This game has the effect of setting up some very long range shooting and would provide excellent practice for waterfowl shooting.

Another informal game, which I have shot a few times, combines some of the elements of the two games I have just described. In this version, the first shooter to fire after the sixteen yard eliminations may elect to begin shooting from any point on the field rather than from a prescribed yardage line. He may, for example, decide to fire his first elimination shot from a point thirty or thirty-five yards behind the trap, and not necessarily on one of the yardage paths. This game can get pretty wild, and I have seen squads of shooters firing from the tops of tables, at extreme right angles from the trap, and even from the distant porch of the clubhouse.

Many large trap clubs, who also host registered shoots as part of their shooting programs, offer non-registered shoots for which ATA membership is not required, and for which ATA handicap yardages are not used. In these events, every entrant fires some sixteen yard targets, usually one round of twenty-five, then fires a handicap yardage (greater distance

behind the trap) determined by his sixteen-yard score rather than a yardage assigned by the national governing body (ATA) on the basis of past performance, as would be the case in a registered shoot. The formula for these shoots is pre-determined by club management, and could run like this example: If a shooter breaks 25 straight from the sixteen yard line, he would then fire 25 shots from the 25-yard line. A shooter who breaks 24 of the 16-yard birds would fire his handicap targets from the 24-yard line, and so on in descending progression. The winner is the shooter with highest total score. In theory, this formula tends to equalize the beginning shooter, because he can shoot his more difficult handicap targets from a closer point to the trap than the hot-shot who ground up the 16-yard birds. If a shooter broke 25 straight 16-yard targets, then could break only twenty of the 25-yard targets, his total score would be forty-five. On the other hand, a shooter who managed only 22 breaks at 16-yards could tie by breaking 23 from 22 yards, or even win by breaking 24 shooting from his 22-yard stripe.

This same game can be refined even more by setting a wider spread on handicap targets, such as requiring all shooters who break from 23 through 25 targets to fire from 25 yards in the second round, and giving the 24-yard handicap to shooters who broke 20 to 22 at 16 yards, and so on in descending increments.

There are a few more sophisticated formulae, all with the idea of giving all shooters an even break, but the methods I have described are those most commonly used. If all of these games strike you as being just a little beyond your shotgunning scope or skill, there is still another wing-shooting exercise which can give you hours of real fun and sharpen your shooting eye immeasurably. You can get the family or a group of friends together, and have a ball with an in-

expensive hand-trap and a case or two of clay pigeons, both of which can be bought in just about any sporting goods outlet. All you need for hand-trap shooting is a strong arm and an open space with a 300-yard safety margin.

I have spent many a fun Saturday or Sunday afternoon just banging away at targets thrown with a five dollar hand trap. This can get very challenging when for example you throw targets for one of your family or a buddy, and they in turn throw for you. It usually works out that if you get or throw an easy target, it's an accident. After a few hours of this kind of hand-trap practice, the regulation targets at a gun club look as big as wash-tubs and as easy to hit!


If the competition angle of informal gun club games, or even hand-trap practice leaves you cold, there is still something else that a few hulls expended in any of these methods can do for you, and that is to make next hunting season a lot more productive. I have never ceased to be amazed at the number of hunters who tell me that the season is practically over before they start hitting their game with any degree of regularity, but who confess in the next breath that they hadn't picked up a shotgun since the close of last season.

Hitting a moving target with a charge of shot is easy, but it isn't all that easy that the shooter can't profit from knowing himself and his gun a little better. And, he can't know the gun or his own ability while the gun is gathering dust in a closet.

CORRECTION: At the close of my

February 1971 PULL column, I pointed with pride and pleasure to the fact that the very able and personable Tom Gilmore, coach of the American skeet team in the 1970 World ISU Championships at Phoenix, had been honored by election to the ISU Permanent Technical Committee, which not only is an honor for Tom but for the United States. Trouble is, in my February column, Tom Gilmore came out as Tom Gilbert. My apologies to Tom Gilmore, and to the knowledgeable readers who caught my boo-boo.

And, speaking of Phoenix, the same facilities which hosted the 1970 ISU World Championships will host the final try-out for selection of a 24-person shooting team to represent the United States in the Pan-American Games at Cali, Columbia July 30 through August 13. The Phoenix final try-outs will be held May 19 through May 30. The twenty four shooters to represent the United States will be the third largest group to carry our colors as part of the total 522 person delegation, exceeded only in numbers by Men's Track and Field with a group of 48, and by Rowing with thirty-two competitors.

The American shooting team won eleven of possible twelve gold medals plus three silver and two bronze for a total of sixteen medals, at Winnipeg in 1967. Canada and Mexico were next with six medals each in shooting events. Some of the scores recorded by Latin American shooters and Canadians at Phoenix last October indicate that our team will have to be at top strength to repeat the Winnipeg performance in 1971. 



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WESTMARK

20 GAUGE MAGNUM: SHOTGUN OF THE FUTURE

(Continued from page 49)

2, 17/8 ounce factory loading, than any loading I could stuff into my pip-squeak 20 gauge Magnum, using the same size shot. Beautiful setup! I reached for my pocketbook hoping that the bet would be sizable.

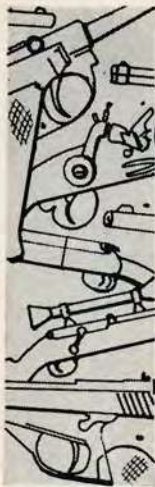
Then, with a timing more closely associated with fiction, the stranger arrived—that is, stranger to me, but known to the 12 gauge Magnum gunner. He said, "Don't bet," to the 12 gauge gunner.

"Why?"

"I've gone through this routine before."

Then I remembered him, though he

now troubled himself to jog my memory. He was a former 10 gauge Magnum gunner of the first water. We gunned from a club near Tulalake California when he broke the firing pin in his Big Bertha. I loaned him a spare 20 gauge Magnum double I had so he wouldn't have to stay off the pass with the morning flighting on the make. He took the shells and gun skeptically, just knowing he would have a definite gunning handicap. But he came in from the morning shooting with 3 Snows and 3 Canada Honkers, and he had a smile on his face as broad as that of a winning politician!



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At the club, over the inevitable warming drinks, he bubbled over with his 20 gauge message. "Never shot so well on a pass before. Real fun this morning. No kick, no range problem, and that 20 gauge swung like a dream. Anybody want to buy a 10 gauge Magnum?"

He didn't say anything about the subsequent pattern testing, but his was a definite conversion. At the time, however, there were several questions. I was offered similar bets during the noon break.

This time, though, the test was run without any money on the line. While the 12 gauge Magnum gunner was still convinced that he could put a third more pellets in the bottom of the clay target case, he didn't care to back his gunning conviction with a bet.

constrictions, barrel interior diameter —along with the complementing project of developing long range handloads for the 20 gauge, my control gun was a 12 gauge Magnum, using factory 1 7/8 ounce loads.

This larger bore put more pellets in a 30 inch circle at 40 yards than is contained in the 1 1/4 ounce loading of 2's in a 20 gauge Magnum. If the testing stopped at this point and results at maximum range calculated from 40 yard performance, the larger bore would win hands down. Remember, the smaller bore has only to equal the larger at maximum range to be the better gun, due to its dynamic handling qualities.

Here is a ballistic test run at maximum pass shooting distance with a heavy 12 gauge Magnum loading.



He did manage to deliver 10 #2 pellets to the 14 by 14 inch target at 65 long steps—a very acceptable pattern for the yardage, sufficient for good coverage on geese-size targets. When we counted the pellet holes and turned the target around for my shot, there was a certain unconcealed smugness in his attitude. I fired and we counted 14 pellet marks delivered by my loading of 1 1/4 ounces of 2's.

I wasn't surprised. During the time I did development work on a line of 20 gauge Magnum doubles, testing for the proper length forcing cones, choke

12 gauge Magnum, Full choke.
65 yards test range. (1 7/8 oz. #2
Factory)

	PATTERN	PERCENTAGE
1	56	32%
2	38	22%
3	53	30%
4	44	25%
5	54	31%
Average:	49	28%

This is good coverage for goose size targets at this yardage, but not a step farther. To keep the record straight, here is the same test run with 1 1/4

ounces of 2's, 20 gauge Magnum, special long range handloads.

20 gauge Magnum, chambered for 3 inch shells. Full choke.

65 yards test range. (1¼ oz. #2 Handload)

	PATTERN	PERCENTAGE
1	56	50%
2	65	59%
3	57	51%
4	50	45%
5	52	47%
Average:	56	50%

I'll not beguile you with the idea that the 20 gauge Magnum can range with the 12 gauge Magnum, where the same type long range handloads are employed. Here is what the steel pattern plates have to say about 12 gauge Magnum ranging ability, using my special long range handloads.

12 gauge Magnum, full choke

75 yards test range. (1¼ oz. #2 Handloads)

	PATTERN	PERCENTAGE
1	55	35%
2	50	32%
3	54	34%
4	58	37%
5	62	40%
Average:	55	35%

While the 20 gauge Magnum, using 1¼ ounces of 2's in a special long range handload, equals factory performance of the 12 gauge magnum 17/8 ounce loading, let us concede about 10 yards of range for equal patterning ability when the larger bore employs a special long range handload. Say the 20 reaches 65 yards.

Consider the implications. The 20 gauge, weighing in at about 6¾ pounds, can find employment all during the season, from upland to pass shooting. The versatility is not even closely matched by the 12 gauge Magnum, with its usual weight of around 8½ to 9 pounds. In short, conceding 10 yards of range for the 12 gauge, you automatically cut off this same amount of range from the yardage closer to the barrel, when the larger bore is used.

You'll need the full 10 yards of extra range as compensation for the slowness of the gun in getting on target, to say nothing of pattern density. With this particular 12 gauge Magnum loading, the most effective range from the standpoint of pattern coverage is between 60 and 75 yards.

With the 20 gauge Magnum, using this special long range handload of 1¼ ounces of copper plated 2's, the most effective range bracket lies between 50 and 65 yards. More to the point, the dynamic handling qualities of the lighter gun makes this more practical range area a wildfowler's

dream. A Canada Honker is in plenty of trouble if he comes within this distance of the 20 gauge Magnum. Ducks are too, when the same long range handload is used with 1¼ ounces of 4's, the maximum range reduced to 60 yards, starting at about 45 yards.

Time after time, with the same 20 gauge Magnum used for pass shooting, I have turned to quail or chukar and filled out a limit *after* knocking off a limit of geese or duck in the areas I hunt. Once, gunning a western lake to take a limit of canvasback, I turned away from the water and shot a limit of 8 quail in the foothills bordering the lake—same 6¾ pound 20 gauge Magnum.

I wasn't handicapped by the choke requirements for high density, long range pattern either. The chokes of a 20 gauge Magnum are very responsive to shot size changes. A double 20 gauge Magnum delivering 94 per cent patterns at 40 yards, 55-58 per cent at 60 yards using 1¼ ounces of copper plated 4's, turns in an entirely different performance with smaller shot. At 40 yards, using 8's or 7½ size shot for quail or snipe, you'll get about 58 per cent from the more open barrel, 64 per cent from the full choke.

A decade or so ago you could number the different 20 gauge guns chambered for 3 inch shells on the fingers of one hand—and still have enough fingers unemployed to hold your duck call. At present all the major manufacturers and importers have 20 gauge Magnums in their lines. Indeed, one importer tells me that his 20 gauge Magnum double is outselling his 12 gauge of the same model 2 to 1!

At present you can obtain the 20 gauge chambered for 3 inch shells as an auto-loader, pump, over-under or side by side double. These, sponsored by Winchester, Remington, Mossberg, Browning, Ithaca, Richland, and Garcia, give the American gunner almost unlimited choice.

It has been my good gunning fortune to have put most of these guns to the steel pattern plates, so their collective outstanding performance is nothing new to me. Yet, with all the time devoted to the modern 20 gauge, afield and at the pattern plates, I am still amazed at the performance. This is a very common reaction, too. Gunners coming here to my wilderness hideout to have me work out the stocking dimensions for a custom fitted gun, always end up with testing a 20 gauge or two at the steel pattern plates. Their experience invariably makes 20 gauge partisans out of them—just as it will with you, once you give the modern 20 gauge an opportunity to work its magic for you, upland and swampland.

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TEST REPORT:
16th CENTURY DOPPELHACKEN

(Continued from page 47)

of black smoke as must have covered the battlefield of Marengo. In the course of an hour or so of shooting at an extremely low cyclic rate we had burned a couple of pounds of black powder and had learned where the *Doppelhacken* was shooting. We double checked this by loading an empty 12 gauge case backward ahead of the bullet. We could follow the bright brass and the red case as it made its parabola, if we jumped aside quickly.

While we did not check the gun for penetration, we could hear a resounding crack as the dishfull of soft lead whumped into a tree at some distance across the pond. I for one would not

have cared to have been a knight on horseback facing the business end of the rampart gun. Even in a first rate suit of proof armor the road up to Schloss Groppenstein must have proven a one way street for the unlucky knight who caught the full impact of a slug from the *Doppelhacken*. The force of the blow alone would have torn him off his horse, and even if the breast plate held, the dent would have broken a couple of ribs or more probably have crushed the entire rib basket. Thank goodness war is safer today with humane little .25 caliber bullets. Why, you can dust them off with a poldermitten. 

DO-IT-YOURSELF:
GUNSTOCK CHECKERING

(Continued from page 27)

once-over-lightly will trim up what few diamonds aren't perfect. A good checkering job is one that has straight rows of grooves, each diamond sharply peaked and no run-overs at the edge of the pattern.


These run-overs at the edge of the pattern are caused by the cutting tools "jumping" the edge line and can be cured only by slowing down your stroke as you near the end of the groove and also by developing good tool control. This will come with practice. Small nicks around the edge will be hidden by the border cutter. In fact the principle use of the border is just to cover up run-overs. This is why skilled stockmakers delight in showing off borderless checkering.

This brings us to the matter of laying out the checkering pattern at grip and forend. Beginners should stick to simple "point" patterns until enough skill and confidence is gained to try the more complex designs. The best way for beginners to lay out a pattern is by using cardboard patterns traced from already checkered stocks. The outline is lightly scribed or cut with the single line cutter. The single line cutter will follow gently curving outlines such as at the grip but for sharply curving lines on the more complex patterns a small V-chisel or

veining tool will be needed.

Bob Brownell's, Montezuma, Iowa, offers a variety of full size decals of checkering patterns which are applied directly to the stock. These decals eliminate the layout problems and considerably speed up the overall operation.

Before beginning on a valuable gunstock do a bit of practicing on a discarded stock or on a plain piece of walnut or maple. Mistakes made and lessons learned here will insure a better job on your first "for real" effort. Also this is a good place to practice laying out the master lines. The angle of the two crossing lines should be such that the finished diamonds will be about three to three-and-a-half times as long as they are wide. A simple guide for laying out the master lines can be made by cutting a cardboard (or thin plastic) template to these dimensions. Make the template about three inches long.

When the checkering is complete give the pattern a good scrubbing with a toothbrush. This clears out the bits of chips and wood fuzz and pretty well polishes up the work. Now brush in a bit of stock finish and the job is all finished except for running out to the clubhouse to show off your newly found skill. . . . 



Gun Digest
 Edited by John T. Amber
 (Digest Books, Inc. \$6.95)

Now in its 25th year, the Gun Digest is one of the most highly acclaimed tomes of its kind. This Anniversary Edition comes with a silver cover marking the silver year of its publishing.

Jam-packed with articles for everyone, this year's Digest is a delight. James E. Serven's article, "Guns of the Western History Makers" is an excellent and well illustrated story that traces the guns of famous Westerners, as the title implies. Since this issue is a special one, it takes a nostalgic look at the past in several highly interesting areas, such as "George Schoyen-Riflemaker Extraordinary" and "The National Rifle Club."

Thirty-two pages are devoted to full color photographs of fine guns and accessories and these are ideally suited for framing. The price has gone up, true, but when you consider what you are getting in this one, big issue, I'm sure that you will agree that this is the finest edition of The Gun Digest to ever appear. H.A.M.

Arms Archives
 By Hans B. Lockhoven

(International Small Arms Publishers)

Designed primarily for the identification of firearms of all types, Lockhoven has compiled an extensive collection of photographs of representative firearms ranging from purse and pocket pistols to heavy machine guns, submachine guns and things like the Henry rifle. Actual text is almost non-existent, except for the identification of the gun pictured, this to include the make, model, caliber, magazine capacity and number of rifling grooves and direction. The book is offered in a series of "installments" that can be arranged in any manner suitable to the owner/reader. Included with at least two views of each gun is a photo of the cartridge that is used in the gun, and a scale calibrated in both centimeters and inches.

This is not "reading" material, in

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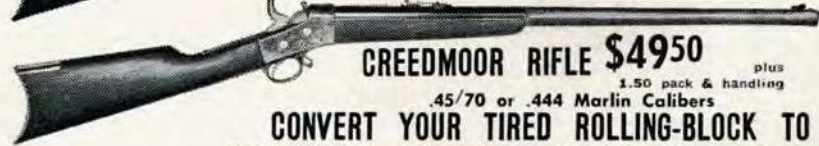
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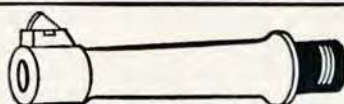
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This long-needed treatment of gun language goes beyond mere definition to explain, picture, and relate the common, the hard-to-understand, the often misused terminology of firearms, ammunition, accessories, and gun-firing techniques. For the historically curious it reflects how many of the terms came to be known as they are today.

Terms and phrases are listed according to the major category word and cross references appear continuously. Secondary references are commonplace, and refer you to other entries that will expand your understanding of a particular subject. The clear-cut definitions are presented fully under the term most closely understood to be the correct technical term. For instance, most of you have probably heard of a *blue pill*. The correct technical term is, of course, *proofload* and if you looked up *blue pill* you would find an entry which refers you to the more accurate technical term.

What about trade names? When a particular product—because of its long and respected usage—has come to be referred to universally whenever that item, regardless of manufacturer, is discussed, that trade name has become a part of gun language and as such is included. An example is *Luger*, often used when describing pistols of similar design.

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the true sense of the word. Instead the pages are intended to be viewed for the identification of arms of all types and configurations. To that end, Arms Archives is an excellent reference work that contains extremely clear photographs of the guns pictured, some of the best we have seen in quite a long time. H.A.M.

The Machine Gun
Volume II, Part VII
George M. Chinn

(Paladin Press \$15.00)

Probably the most famous and comprehensive books on machine guns in the world, is the series compiled by Lieutenant Colonel George M. Chinn, USMCR. These books were first printed in 1952 and were so complete and accurate that they have just recently been considered "unclassified" by the United States government. They were all prepared for the Bureau of Ordnance, Department of the Navy.

Part VII deals exclusively with weapon development in the Soviet Union and her satellites covering not only light ground models, but also the more sophisticated and powerful aircraft types developed during and after World War II. Chapter One, "Background Of Soviet Arms Development," deals specifically with the history of the machine gun in Russia from the 1860's, when Russia was using weapons manufactured in other countries such as the S & W revolvers and the Mossin Rifle produced in France.

Advancing quickly in succeeding chapters, the text gets quite technical in describing the guns covered and their complete method of operation from beginning to end. Construction techniques, loading procedures, field stripping and stoppages are all covered in extreme detail to make this probably the most complete work on Soviet machine guns of it's time.

While the original books are extremely valuable, this re-print is as close to original as one can get. The many photographs make the text quite clear and simplified. This book is primarily aimed at the advanced student of machine gun design and although it is clearly written, it could prove a bit too technical for the beginning novice. Chinn's books are monumental works on the subject. Paladin Press is to be commended for presenting such a fine re-print of an extremely interesting subject. We highly recommend this book. H.A.M.

Kuhlhoff On Guns
By Pete Kuhlhoff

(Winchester Press, \$5.95)

Anyone that is interested in guns, even remotely, is sure to be familiar with the name of Kuhlhoff. He has been writing about guns for more than 30 years and is the Gun Editor for *Argosy Magazine*. He has been called the Dean of American gun writers, and rightfully so. In this 192 page, well illustrated book, Kuhlhoff covers the whole range of shooting activities—rifles, shotguns, handguns, target shooting, hunting, ballistics, handloading, etc. Up until now, there has never been any one volume of his work assembled. In all there are more than forty articles, grouped together according to the subject covered. The book is written in a language that everyone will find not only interesting, but easy to read and pleasurable. Photographs are top-notch and greatly emphasize his topics.

All these articles together make a one volume encyclopedia on guns and shooting packed with instructions and tips. For the beginner or accomplished shooter, this book will be a definite aid and welcome addition to the library. What could be better than advice from one of America's very best gunners and writers? H.A.M.

Crow Shooting Secrets
By Dick Mermon

(Winchester Press, \$5.95)

Many hunters are growing a bit tired of the usual annual hunt where only one shot is fired and the whole thing is over with. Bird hunters have a bit more going for them but are restricted somewhat by seasons and bag limits. Crow shooting offers probably the best way of holding shooting form during the off season and the noisy crow has no bag or season limitations.

Dick Mermon has learned the secrets the hard way, by actually outsmarting the licorice pests and has been gathering notes for this book for many years. Probably the best way to begin a book of this sort is to describe the targets as best as possible, including their habits and what apparently makes them tick. After this he goes into all the details of how to find the birds, how to build blinds, correct use of decoys, calls, comoflage; everything there is to know about hunting this pest. The book is delightfully written in easy to understand text that moves rapidly. This is a good, inexpensive sport and this is probably the best way to learn it. H.A.M.

SEMINAR: REMINGTON, 1971

(Continued from page 32)

port side. Now the popular Model 870 pump repeating shotgun has been converted to a lefty. The ejection port has been cut on the southpaw side of the fence. Of course, the original 870 will continue with the port on the right. But the latest modification to this fine shotgun will appeal to the left-handers. Now those empties will not go whizzing past the gunner's nose. The two highpowered rifles, the Model 742 and 760, now have reverse safeties and cheekpieces on the proper side for the port-sider. One fine day, no doubt, the Model 700 rifle will be offered with the bolt handle on the left side. That will be the day, says this lefty!


The this year's decision of Remington to standardize the .17 caliber cartridge is in keeping with a policy which extends back some 21 years. In 1950, the company produced the .222, by 1955 it was the .244, also in the same year the sixgun world was enlivened by the introduction of the highly lethal .44 Magnum; in 1957 it was the .280. By 1958 the .222 Rem Magnum was in being, and in '61 it was the pistol round known as the .22 Rem. Jet. In 1962 the company really rang the bell with that most popular of all magnum loadings the 7 mm Rem. Magnum; in '63 it was the .221 Fireball, a handgun cartridge, and in the same year the .244 was reintroduced as the 6mm Remington. In 1964 it was the .223; in '65, the .22-250 and the same year the .350 Remington Magnum. The year following the 6.5 mm Rem. Magnum made its appearance. Then in 1970 came the .25-06 which we've previously mentioned. The same year the pipsqueak 5 mm (20 cal) was bowed in; and now the .17 cal. Remington.

The .17 is made up on the .223 cas-

ing with a 25-grain "Power-Lokt" bullet. Velocity from a 24-inch Remington barrel is 4020 fps MV. Ballistics out to 300 yards are very similar to the 6 mm Remington. The .17 is essentially a varmint cartridge, extremely accurate from the Model 700 BDL rifle, and bound to appeal to those looking for a flat-shooting chuck and hawk killer.

There is a new .410 gauge 3-inch cartridge. It has the "Power Piston" wadding heretofore only available in the .410 skeet loading. Besides the new combo wad which is a shot pouch and wadding all in one, the cartridge has the new No. 97-4 primer, also first introduced in the 2½-inch .410 skeet cartridge. Along with the new .410 field load there are three new pistol cartridges.

The first of these is a 9 mm Luger round which fires a 115-gr. jacketed hollow point bullet. This steps out at 1160 fps MV from a 4-inch barrel. The second new loading is a .357 Magnum with 158-gr. semi-jacketed hollow point. It has a velocity of 1550 fps MV from an 8¾" barrel. Lastly there is a new .44 Magnum. Firing a 240-gr. semi-jacketed hollow point it does 1470 fps MV from the 6½" test barrel.

This about winds up the Remington offering for 1971. All except the little Model 580 single shot bolt action rifle. This model ordinarily has a stock for a man which measures 13⅝" length of pull. As a concession to the kids who need a rifle while they are growing up, the M580 will be offered in a special version with a stock of only 12⅝"—a full one inch shorter than standard. When the lad grows and the stock finally becomes too skimpy for him he can simply order the mansize-number from the company and go right ahead with his shooting. 

BOWIE COLLECTION

On June 1, 1971, the Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation, Washington, Arkansas, will formally open its exhibit of contemporary Bowie knives.

It is believed that the Washington collection will be one of the finest public collections of Bowie knives in America today. The work of many of the United States' most distinguished knifemakers will be displayed in Washington, including many one-of-a-kind Bowies.

Washington, once the state capital of Arkansas, is located in the southwestern corner of Arkansas, only a few miles northwest of Hope. Additional information concerning the Bowie collection may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Charles Haynes, executive director, Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation, Washington, Arkansas.



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**WEBLEY-FOSBERY:
A FORGOTTEN WARRIOR**

(Continued from page 43)

extending down below the hammer, so that in the full recoil position the hammer is again cocked. The energy contained in the compressed recoil spring is sufficient to drive the body assembly forward again into position to be ready to fire the succeeding shot.

The revolution of the cylinder is effected by the following train of events. A diamond-shaped actuating stud is fixed in a central position on the top surface of the frame, in engagement with the zigzag-shaped grooves in the cylinder. In the 1901 models this stud is spring loaded upward into the grooves. The grooves are shaped as "v's" with the bottoms facing the muzzle of the pistol and the legs of each "v" varying in depth so as to form a series of ramps. As the body recoils in one leg of the groove to rotate the cylinder one-twelfth of a revolution, until it reaches the apex of the "v," at which point the stud drops down off the ramp tip. When the body group starts forward, since the stud is now restrained so that it cannot retrace its path down the original leg, it is forced to travel down the second leg of the "v" imparting another twelfth of a rotation to the cylinder. When the body group has returned to the battery position the cylinder has been rotated one-sixth of a revolution, bringing a fresh round into position to be struck by the hammer. In the 1902 and later models the stud is fixed rather than spring loaded and the cylinder groove bottoms are not sloped. Positive rotation is obtained by means of overshoot grooves positioned at the apexes of the

"v's" in such a way as to prevent the stud's returning back down the approach leg.

The Webley-Fosbery was essentially a limited production arm, a total of something slightly in excess of 4,500 apparently having been made over the life of the model, which extended from 1901 to approximately the end of the First World War. Sales were never brisk as evidenced by the pistol's still being listed for sale in some catalogs as late as 1939. As with any relatively low production weapon a great many variations exist, especially since the pistol was often made up on special order for individuals or dealers.

This situation notwithstanding, production can be broken down into five rather well-defined "models." The first two of these are essentially alike except for caliber and are generally designated the 1901 models. They are most easily identified by the external cylinder latch located at the point where the barrel and cylinder group pivots on the body group. Another noticeable point is the absence of locking notches on the front portion of the cylinder outer surface. The .455 caliber weapon is six shot and has seven-groove right-hand twist rifling. The side of the frame bridge over the cylinder is marked "WEBLEY FOSBERY AUTOMATIC" and the left side of the frame below the cylinder carries the Webley and Scott trademark of a winged bullet over the mark "W&S." It also carries the words "455 CORDITE ONLY" at this same location. The .38 caliber model carries the same markings on the side of the cylinder bridge as well as the Webley and Scott trademark on the left side of the frame, but in place of "455 CORDITE ONLY" it has the words "38 AUTOMATIC." This eight-shot weapon is chambered for the Colt .38 automatic cartridge. Despite the company name change early examples of both models carry the inscription "P. WEBLEY & SON, LONDON & BIRMINGHAM" on the top of the barrel rib. The rifling specifications are the same as for the .455 Model 1901. The cylinder, however, is 1 3/8 inches long as against 1 1/2 inches for the .455 caliber. It is interesting to note that all models of the Webley-Fosbery used the maximum number of parts possible from the then standard British military issue Webley Mark IV revolver. This was

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not only more economical in the manufacturing process but was an added inducement for adoption by the government since they already had on hand large stocks of parts for the issue revolver.

The second two models, also essentially identical except for caliber, are generally referred to as the 1902 models. These, too, were .455 and .38 ACP calibers. The most obvious difference between the 1901 models and the 1902 models is the removal of the cylinder retaining latch from the side of the body at the pivot point. This latch, which was adapted from the Mark IV revolver, was replaced by a spring-loaded stud in the top of the cylinder strap. This modification in turn necessitated a change in the cylinder. The 1902 models have a thumbnail-shaped groove on the surface of the cylinder near its front end to accommodate the new catch. Early Model 1902 pistols have the same markings as the 1901 models but some time before serial number 320 the marking on the cylinder bridge was simplified to "WEBLEY FOSBERY," the word "AUTOMATIC" being dropped. The serial number on all models of the Webley-Fosbery is carried on the right side of the frame group. Many will be found with dealers' names engraved on the top of the barrel rib, and some will be found marked "ARMY & NAVY C.S.L. LONDON," the British equivalent of our PX or Navy Exchange.

The fifth model, unofficially referred to as the "Model 1914," was available in .455 caliber only. It is identical to the .455 Model 1902 to all outward appearances. However, a careful check will reveal that the cylinder is only 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ inches long, instead of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and that the barrel has six-groove rather than seven-groove rifling. The bulk of the serial number range consists of this model. Barrel lengths and types, as well as grip shapes and grip materials, will be found to vary at random among the five models. Barrel lengths of 4, 6, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches are encountered as well as a special high-rib "Pryse" target barrel similar to the one fitted to the pistol used in the U. S. Army trials of 1907. Grips may be either of checkered walnut in which case the word "SAFE" is stamped on a brass inlay in the grip edge or of hard rubber with the word "SAFE" moulded in. Some examples have even turned up with "birds-head" grips. The holster provided with the Webley-Fosbery is of the typical European flapped style and is similar to those for the other Webley pistols, except of course larger to accommodate this somewhat more bulky arm.

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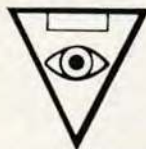
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for a limited number of the Webley-Fosbery pistols, a single-shot, 22 caliber adaptor. These were assembled in place of the cylinder and utilized the same cylinder catch and ejector mechanism. They were chambered for the .22 Long cartridge and were apparently serial numbered to the gun with which they were originally issued. They were available for both the .455 1902 and 1914 models. Due to the difference in cylinder lengths between these two variations, the adaptor for the 1902 model will not fit in the 1914 model; the 1914 adaptor will fit in the Model 1902 frame but will not lock in place or extract. The adaptors can be identified, and differentiated from those for the other Webley revolvers, by the initials "WF" stamped on the left side along with the trademark and caliber. The serial number is stamped on the right side.

The date of introduction of the Webley-Fosbery coincided with the height of the Boer War and occurred at a time when there was considerable interest in armaments in England, as

well as throughout the world. The pistol was tested by Britain and several other governments including the United States, which tested it in the famous 1907 trials that resulted in the adoption of the Colt .45. However, no military contracts were forthcoming and apparently continued production could not be justified on the basis of private sales, even though many were sold for use in the trenches of France. European experts of the early 1900's proclaimed that it was the most accurate revolver that they had ever shot and that the method in which it functioned rendered the recoil considerably less than that usually encountered with a heavy caliber pistol. These opinions have been echoed down to the present time by people who have had an opportunity to fire a Webley-Fosbery. That it did not fare better, in light of this favorable comment regarding its accuracy and shooting qualities, is somewhat of a mystery. And, in retrospect, it seems unfortunate that this should have been one of weaponry's blind alleys. 

HANDGUNNING: THE .45 MYTH

(Continued from page 13)

The hangup, perhaps, is that many people fail to distinguish between noise and recoil. Muzzle blast does hurt (the ears, not the hand), and the shooter stalks off muttering simple mindedly, "Ruddy gun kicks; I can't handle it." This did a lot of folks in during military training before the correlation between muzzle blast and permanent ear damage was understood. The answer of course is simply to protect your ears, and you'll find the .45's dreaded recoil miraculously diminished.

To diminish it still further, use the Weaver grip, wherein the left hand wraps around the right, with the palms of both hands vertical. The right arm pushes forward while the left pulls back and down, creating a tripod effect which permits the gun to rise only slightly. Fired this way the .45 is, to use Cooper's expression, a "docile" gun indeed.

Let's rattle down the rest of the "bitch" list:

Hip shot, or fired from the Weaver stance, the .45 recovers quickly and delivers fast follow-up shots. The cadence slows from the one-arm police

"point shoulder" position, which you have to use when your left is out of action, but so it does with any gun.

Even the .45's most rabid detractors rarely disparage its reliability. As we've seen, given a good trigger it will deliver quite useful accuracy even when loose and rusty, and it often permits quite a bit of tightening before reliability is impaired.

The .45 is rated about 95% effective as a manstopper, and is easily controllable. I don't call this excessive power, and as long as it's available I see no tenable excuse for going to something less.

Whether 39 ounces is heavy for a duty weapon is subjective. I don't consider it so since it falls well between the 41 ounce 4" Colt Python and the 35 ounce Official Police. The 39 ounce 6" Colt Trooper matches it exactly. For those who consider the entire lot excessive, the 26 1/2 ounce Commander is available.

As for speed, no gun is faster for the first shot than a cocked and locked .45. For those whom the thought makes nervous, the gun may be carried with an empty chamber

and can be drawn and fired in well under a second and a half, which is not exactly sluggish. Carried with the hammer down on a loaded chamber, the gun is easily thumb cocked when drawn from a headboard, dash closet, or military flap holster, although this is a fumblesome operation when speed from an open topped holster is an issue.

The Government Model does inevitably point low in a novice's hands, and this is convincing evidence that it's not a "natural" pointer. However, a bit of practice soon sets one's wrist to compensate, and if you're not going to practice this much you should refrain from going armed.

So there's the myth, how it grew, and what it's worth. The fruits of this fable have been spectacular. The enmity which the .45, through little fault of its own, has earned, abetted by a deep rooted bias in favor of the revolver on the part of U.S. police and ci-

vilians alike, has created a national distrust of any and all semi-automatic pistols.

Those who favor the self loader have, in many instances, over-reacted in defense of their underdog preference, and have dismissed the wheel-gun as an antiquated relic of a bygone era, best left buried with Custer.

The issue is not one of modernity, but of efficiency and practicality. The principles of automatic weapons were understood in Shakespeare's day, some centuries before Sam Colt signed aboard the good ship "Corlo." A handgun is modern merely inasmuch as it lends itself to cheapie manufacture. The automatic must eventually win the tilt on this level, but as long as well made examples of each action type are available, and they will be in our lifetime, let's consider them on their comparative merits. This we'll try to do next month.



POINT BLANK: THE ENFIELD M1917

(Continued from page 11)

I cut away the comb such as it is and then doveled a new comb into place. The rifle was to be scope-equipped and so I made the comb plenty high enough to put my eye in the scope sight line. This worked okay but the resulting appearance was an awful shock to the sense of the esthetic!

It is far better to get one of the 90% finished stocks from Fajen or Bishop when undertaking to shape up the M1917.

The 26-inch barrel is too long for a hunting rifle. I cut my tubes to 23 inches and left them slick. Two rifles of the four I owned were left as thirties; the other pair were rebarreled to magnums. One to the .338 maggie and the other to the 8X68 mm. This latter may not have the sobriquet "magnum" after the caliber designation but it is a hyper loading for all that! Actually the Pattern 14, chambered for the .303, is a better Enfield to convert to the magnum cartridge than the M1917; it requires less alteration of the action to accept the bigger cartridge.

The Enfield is not for the hombre who is looking for a featherweight. The receiver is all iron, it is big and heavy. Regardless of the lightness of

the barrel or the flimsiness of the stock you will still come out with a pretty heavy musket. The reason is in that massive receiver. It weighs 3 pounds, 12 ounces and that is enough to make a finished rifle that will go, with scope and mount in place, to nine pounds. For most of the bigger magnum loadings this is not too much.

The as-issue sights, designed 60 years ago, are some of the best ever placed on a military weapon. The rear is a peep, without windage, and capable of changes in elevation of 50-yard increments. Also it is protected by two upstanding ears. The front sight is a post and it likewise is enclosed by equally high standing ears. When the barrel is lopped off, the front sight goes with the decapitation. The rear must also be removed and this may be done with a hacksaw and file and finished on a grinding wheel. It should be radiused and contoured to the same height as the receiver ring. It needs to be tapped and drilled for a scope mount. My gunsmith always finished the job on a surface grinder and was careful not to remove too much stock so that the bridge was not lower than the receiver ring. This is the critical detail about cutting away the

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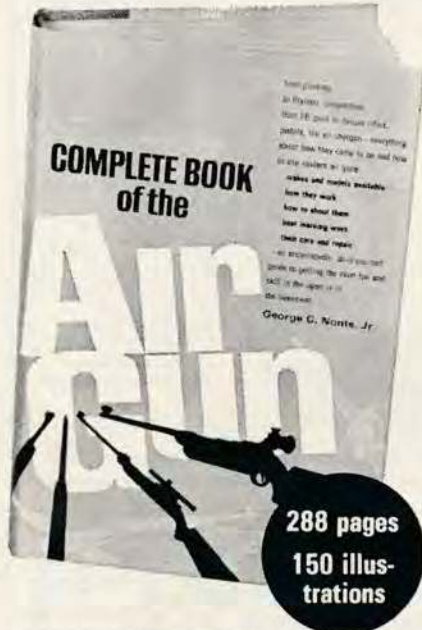
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rear sight. The two must be kept precisely the same so far as elevation is concerned.

The rifle has a pregnant appearance. There is a swag in the middle which is a characteristic of British design, they wanted more shell capacity and did this at the expense of the under-belly line of the Pattern 14. The magazine holds 5 cartridges, and when it is shortened this is reduced to four. The trigger guard is cut off at the front end, shortened and welded back together again. A longer front guard screw is needed. The magazine box must be cut off during the same operation. These modifications make the trigger too long and it has to be cut in two, shortened, and welded together again. I recommend, instead, to add an accessory trigger like the Canjar. That was what I always did. The two-stage issue trigger is pretty hopeless and cannot be used until your gunsmith takes out that 2-stage nonsense. It is much better judgment to simply go to a good precision accessory trigger in the first place. The Canjar trigger requires gunsmith fitting ordinarily. The Canjar I always installed came with a special trigger shoe which gave the pull a nice, velvety smoothness.

The magazine holds 5 cartridges, as I have said. These are staggered and while there are no feed problems, I like an accessory which Dayron-Traister sells, which converts the feed to a straight line proposition. Not only does this gizmo, which you can install yourself, hold the cartridges in a straight line but it also keeps the bullets from slamming into the front end of the magazine box and riveting the soft points.

Like most rifles, the Enfield has a bug or two in it. Probably the most serious is a weak ejector. While the English did a bangup good job on the design of this sturdy firearm they hired some Rube Goldberg to whump-up the ejector. A sliver of the ejector was sliced off and this thin part acts as the spring to activate the removal of the empty. It sometimes breaks. Every Enfield I possessed had a compartment recessed in the butt below the recoil pad and in this I always stowed away a spare ejector assembly. The very last Enfield I shot was in India last year. It was an M1917, in .30-06 caliber, and you guessed it. The ejector was busted.

As a southpaw the Enfield presented problems. I needed the bolt on the south side of the fence. I approached gunsmiths like Bob West, Wilbur Houck, and Barber Southpaw Conversions, but none of them wanted to tackle the old M1917. It presented insurmountable problems

and I was forced finally to give up the idea of swapping the bolt from right to left. One of the major difficulties is the location of the bolt stop and the ejector. To swing the bolt over on the port side would have meant a complete re-engineer job on the bolt stop and the ejector.

The Enfield was made by Remington and this firm owned the huge Eddystone Arsenal at Eddystone, Pa., where a capacity of 6,000 rifles per day could be produced. The Remington home plant at Ilion, N. Y. could make 3,000 and Winchester at New Haven had a top capacity of 2,000. Before the war ended these three outfits had produced two million weapons. When the several plants were under contract to the British government, there was an agreement that the going price would be \$42 per unit. After being in operation for some time it was found through American standardization practices and ingenuity that the rifle could be produced for \$26. This became the standard price, probably the only time during modern war when the cost of any product actually went down!

Parker Ackley, barrel maker and experimenter, a number of years ago tested to destruction a number of military rifles including two Enfields. The Pattern 14 that had been made by Eddystone was quite brittle and blew into dozens of pieces; the Remington-made Enfield, from Ilion, was a lot tougher and would not blow up at all. It simply stretched until headspace became excessive.

The Eddystone Enfield has had a poor reputation for a long time on this very score. It has carried the stigma of brittleness for a long time. Of the four Enfields I owned, all were from Winchester and the Remington-Ilion makers. I was careful to steer clear of the Eddystone product.

When the war ground to a halt, Remington found it had a glut of Enfield actions on hand, also the tools to make a lot more. By 1921 a sporter had been put together using all the war-time surplus and what a turkey it was! The barrel was replaced and offered in a 22-inch for such calibers as the .25, .30, .32 and .35 Rem. rimless, the 8 mm Mauser, 7.65 mm, 7 mm, .257 Roberts and the .30-06. Outfits like Griffin & Howe, Sedgley, and others got hold of the rifle and discarded all but the receiver and barreled it to accept magnum cartridges like the .275, the .300 and the .375. It was a splendid action for this purpose and infinitely less expensive than the Mauser magnum action.

But the first sporter built by Remington—it was dubbed the Model 30—had a most atrocious stock on it.

This furniture was a real airgun style, a veritable splinter of wood. It has been a fetish with Remington to build lightweight rifles for lo these many years and the new Model 30 was typical. The stock was too small, too light, badly designed and ill-fitting. The mainstock was too low in the comb, too narrow at this critical juncture and had a steel buttplate. The forestock was too thin, too short for a man with average length of arms, and it had two grooves cut in either side of it for some silly reason no one could ever define. On the end as a sort of final touch was a schnabel tip.

The rifle still cocked on the closing stroke of the bolt and the trigger pull was still the abominable 2-stage military. The Model 30 was with us for 19

enough for the average shooter, sans grooves in its sides, and without the schnabel tip. The stock was checkered and did a great deal to improve not only the appearance of the Model 30, but also to popularize it. About this time the rifle was re-designated the Model 30S. It continued with that title until it was replaced by the Model 720 in 1941. We like to say that the innovation of the factory-attached scope sight is a recent thing, but this isn't exactly the facts in the case. During the late 30's, if you liked, you could order a Model 30S direct from the factory and stipulate that it be tapped and drilled for a scope sight, and have the scope attached at the factory. The sight was the Weaver 330.

The new family of Remington rifles

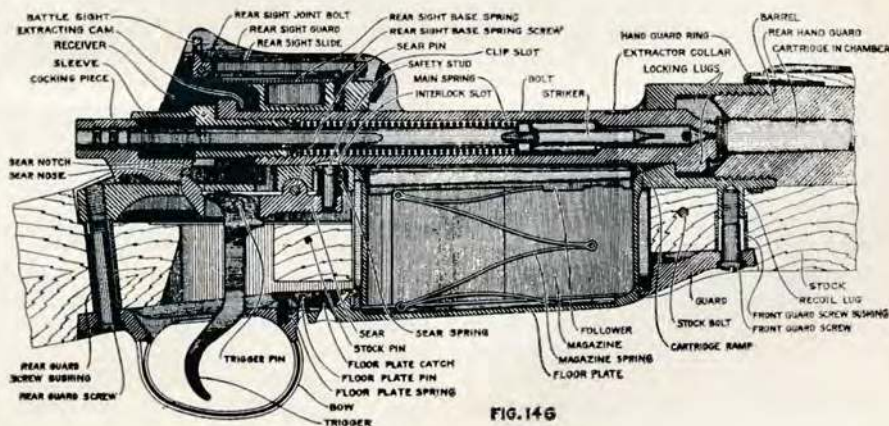
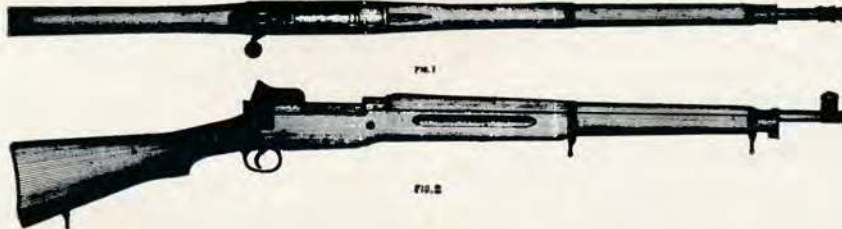


FIG. 14G



years and it did not pass out of the picture until 1940. During that time it continued to suffer the two-interval pull. However, to the credit of Remington designers it should be noted that in a comparatively short time the bolt was modified to cock on the upstroke.

Col. Townsend Whelen, who had a vast influence on guns and loads for many years after WW-I, persuaded the company to abandon the caricature of stock and put on a decent one. This was done and the second walnut was a great improvement. It had a comb which was high enough for scope use, a comfortable pistol grip, a buttplate which was wide enough to distribute the recoil over the shoulder and a forestock which was long

got their start with the Model 720. It was a slightly revamped Enfield, incorporating such improvements as a decent one-stage trigger pull, good fitting stock, high degree of accuracy, and chambered for such popular calibers as the .257 Roberts, .270 Win, .30-06 and the .300 H&H Magnum. It was commenced of manufacture in 1941 and discontinued in 1942 because of the war. The Model 721 followed, but it did not appear until 1948. It was an entirely different bolt action, the brain child of the new engineering talent recruited by Remington after the fisticuffs of 1939-45. With it as a beginning, the company dropped all its affinity for the old Enfield—a rifle that had stuck around since 1914.

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HANDLOADING BENCH: BY MAJ. GEORGE C. NONTE

(Continued from page 8)

rolling cannellures into jacketed bullets, tell him so and you'll get the right wheel for that. Better yet, get two tools, one set up for each job as I did, and you'll always be ready for whatever is at hand. Incidentally, the new price of this tool, set up for either purpose, is \$12.50, postpaid from SAS Dies, Box 250, North Bend, Oregon, 97459.

If you are encountering problems with cases expanding eccentrically in oversize chambers; or, if the same problem crops up when fire-forming undersize cases, cheer up—a simple solution is no further away than your nearest stationery store. As an example, let's say you are making 7.7x58mm Japanese cases from .30-06 brass, or 8X57R cases from .30-40 or .303 British brass. In both instances, the basic case is about .010-.015" undersize. Unaided, the cases will simply lay on the bottom of the chamber—and when fired, all the expansion to fill the loose chamber will occur on the upper side of the case. While the case may hold still for all that without rupturing, it will be weakened a good bit. What the case needs is to be centered in the chamber at the instant of firing so that it may expand evenly and concentrically.

To accomplish that, pick up a roll of 1/16" chart tape, then wrap it carefully and evenly around the case head until sufficient thickness is built up to center the case well in the chamber. With rimmed cases, it goes just as far forward of the extraction groove as is necessary to insure that it will enter the chamber at least 1/32". The distance will vary according to whether the gun has Mauser or Springfield type breeching. One caution—don't put on so much tape that it catches on the chamber mouth and is peeled back to pile up on the barrel breech face. The tape may be left on after fire-forming so long as it doesn't start unfurling, but I prefer to strip it off for a neater looking job.

For many years, the favored powders for magnum handgun cartridges were relatively slow-burning and bulky. Several reasons for this: the big boomers were loaded with fairly heavy bullets and were generally shot in barrels measuring at least four

inches in length, often more. Hercules 2400 was (is) a classic powder for top loads in such calibers. It still performs beautifully under those conditions.

But, conditions change. Today, more and more pistoleros prefer shorter barrels and lighter bullets producing more explosive expansion. Witness the popularity today of the 2 1/2"-barrel Colt and Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolvers and of Super Vel cartridges. Light bullets in those short barrels require entirely different powders if maximum performance is to be achieved. Loading a case full of 2400 behind a 110 grain bullet in the .357 will produce a Hell of a boom and lots of flash from a short-barrel gun, but not a great deal else. Those light bullets simply don't offer enough resistance to make 2400 burn well in such short tubes, so much of the powder is spewed out the muzzle unburned or at least only partly consumed.

Faster powders are in order. Powders previously not considered suitable for such cartridges work quite well. For example, the much-faster Hercules Unique will out-perform 2400 in the .357; Unique also seems best in the .38 Super; Bullseye or W-W 230-P beats any slower powder in 9mm Luger; H-110 beats out 2400 by a wide margin in the .41 and .44 magnums.

One other added advantage: because of smaller charges, faster powders reduce loading costs—8 grains of Unique will do as well as twice that much 2400 in the .357 with 110 grain bullets.

Ever since Lyman Gun Sight Company changed owners quite a while back, a new catalog and new products have been in preparation. The catalog is now available—and if your favorite dealer doesn't already have it, he will soon. The oldest handloading gear producer in the country (and that means in the world), Lyman is still offering many types of products you can't get anywhere else. Unless you are one of those guys who has absolutely everything in the loading line he'll ever want—and who does—you'll be doing yourself a disservice if you don't take the time to look over this new catalog. It's got lots of goodies you'll like.



SEMINAR: WINCHESTER, 1971

(Continued from page 33)

modernized, the company came along with a series of lever and slide action rifles, also a bit later an autoloader, all in the 200 series. Even later there were others, carbines, in the 100 Series. The line was a fine one but it lacked a sturdy bolt action. For 1971 Winchester has taken care of this. There are now three bolt guns. These will be identified as the Model 310 which is a bolt-functioned .22 single shot; the Model 320, a 5-round clip-loaded bolt repeater; and finally the Model 325, another 5-shooter, clip loaded, but this one for the .22 Win. Magnum cartridge.

The new rimfires have all been given the look of the popular Model 70 rifle. Barrels are 22 inches, stocks are of walnut, with Monte Carlo and fluted combs, pistol grips and forearms are checkered. The receivers are grooved for tip-on scope mounts. There are conventional open iron sights. Each rifle is equipped with sling swivels, but no sling, a wide trigger and positive safety. These are plinking arms, the average weight is 5½ pounds. Stocks are man-size, running to 13½ length of pull. The Models 310 and 320 are ready for delivery; the Model 325 for the .22 Magnum will come along this fall.

There is a new shotshell. This will be called the "Upland" and is notable for a plastic shell casing. This casing, compression-formed, will appeal to the handloader who can get many firings from the tough Winchester cartridge. The new Upland load will be offered in all the gauges except the .410. Both shot and powder charges are relatively light as befits a shell for uplands game. The cartridge contains the dependable Mark 5 plastic shot collar, has a special gas-seal wadding, utilizes Olin ball powder and is fired by a noncorrosive primer. This load will be popular with dove, quail, grouse and pheasant shooters, you may be sure of that.

The Model 770 rifle, the reliable old M70 with a few variations, now has

still another. This is a sandblasted number to be referred to as the "Police Gun." It has been given a sort of parkerized finish to make it appeal to the shur'ffs and other cops. It is well nigh invulnerable to rusting.

Along with the Police Gun is another innovation among the Model 1200 and 1400 trap guns. These Monte Carlo trap jobs come with a Winchoke installed which will deliver improved modified patterns. Now two more tubes will be included with each shotgun. A tube for modified and another for full choke. This provides the trap gunner with every choke he can conceivably need for his particular game.

The fine old Model 94 carbine has had some design modifications added, all intended to make it a better rifle. The carbine is made in .30-30, in .32 Spl. and .44 Magnum. It has a 20-inch barrel, a full length magazine, open sights, and a popularity which sees it out-sell any lever action on the market. The 1971 version will now have a walnut stock and forearm, a fully machined cartridge carrier, an improved loading port cover, and a smoother lever throw through redesign of the lever camming slot.

This about completes the W-W offering for 1971. With the exception of a new .22 rimfire which will be designated the "T-22" cartridge. The "T" part of the sobriquet stands for "target." The .22 Short and Long Rifle will be loaded. The cartridges will be offered by both Winchester and Western. While the T-22 is designated as a target round actually it is an all-purpose cartridge and will sell for popular prices rather than fetch a premium figure.

Winchester has standardized the .25-06 cartridge. Two bullet weights will be available, the first a 90-grain with 3450 fps muzzle velocity, and the second a 120-gr. at 3120 fps muzzle velocity. Both bullets are of a new design, to be called the "PeP" bullet (pointed expanding). There are, as well, new loads in the .357 Mag. 38 Spl. and 9 mm Luger.

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BOWIE KNIVES: ALL AMERICAN BLADE

(Continued from page 36)

likely that many Mexicans were given time to explain how they came by certain articles.

So Bowie and his knife left the American scene in much the same manner in which they entered—cloaked in mystery, legend, and supposition.

What did the knife itself look like? Some have said that the blade was as long as 14 inches, while others maintain it only was about nine inches in length. Since no one can say positively, it seems safest to say that the truth is probably somewhere between these two extremes. In the early 1830's Bowie himself ordered a number of knives from the George Wostenholm cutlery firm of Sheffield,

this knife has a blade 10 inches in length, two inches wide, hollowground with a clipped point approximately three-and-one-half inches in length. The handle is of the full-tang variety featuring stag slabs, and the double guard is made of German silver. Seth Birdwell, 2985 St. Helena St., Beaumont, Texas, imports this model today should you care to add one to your collection.

Virtually all of today's makers offer at least one Bowie pattern, and most of them offer a variety—a few specialize in this type, making little else, except on special order. Those who do not make Bowies are definitely in the minority. Virtually all of today's Bowies have these things in common:



This statue of Jim Bowie is located in Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas.

England. This firm, along with several others, had seized upon the ready market for Bowie knives in America to produce such knives for sale on the American frontier. Because of their attractive prices and good appearance, such knives sold very well. It is presumed that Bowie wanted these knives to give to influential friends, and it seems inconceivable that he would have selected a model that did not possess at least a strong resemblance to his personal knife. These knives, bearing the famous trademark I*XL, are still made by Wostenholm in their original form, and they give us a good idea of the appearance of Bowie's immortal blade. In essence,

A large, long blade made of at least one-quarter inch stock, a double guard of brass or German silver, a clipped point . . . and they are all good.

However, there are a few that I think should be included in any *serious* collection of Bowies, and certainly no comprehensive knife collection should be without at least one top quality Bowie.

In the Alamo Museum, San Antonio, Texas, is an example of the classic Bowie made by Dan Dennehy, Box 4479, Yuma, Arizona. This particular specimen, featuring an ivory handle, is strictly a special-order number, with the exact price depending upon

the blade length, width, thickness, handle materials, etc. However, Dan also offers his Sheffield Bowie, somewhat smaller and less elaborate than his special-order number, with the Sheffield listed at \$85.

Although he has been a knifemaker only since April, 1970, you'd never know it to look at the very professional knives turned out by Frank Centofante, Box 17587, Tampa, Florida. The kingpin of the Centofante line is his 10" Bowie, which, complete with sheath, will set you back \$106. This could be one of tomorrow's big names.

Then there is the Dean of American Knifemakers—R. H. Ruana, Bonner, Montana. He lists a number of Bowies, all priced moderately, although my pet is the Davy Crockett Bowie, which lists at \$49.95. Certainly no collection is complete without a Ruana.

Jimmy Lile, Route 1, Box 56, Russellville, Arkansas, has an unusual feature to boast about: He was requested by the Restoration Committee of Washington, Arkansas to work in the reconstructed smithy of James Black during a crafts show at Washington. Accordingly, he is the only current maker of Bowies who can say that he has forged knives on the same spot that Bowie's personal knife was made over 130 years ago. A Lile Bowie with walnut handle and 12 inch blade lists at \$125.

Not to be overlooked is the most famous name in knifedom today—Bo Randall, Box 1988, Orlando, Florida. Randall has so many excellent Bowies listed in his current catalog that naming any one as outstanding would be purely a personal decision. However, suffice to say that Randall's work is still the best-known, and to obtain a Randall Bowie you should be prepared to spend approximately \$100 and wait approximately 30 months for delivery.

W. F. Moran, Route 5, Frederick, Maryland, is considered by many experts to be the finest smith in the country, and his reputation to a great extent has been created by fine Bowie knives. His M-2, a classic pattern with an 8" blade, retails at \$98, and the man determined to have the finest should take a long, hard look at Moran's M-24, complete with 10" blade, forged of $\frac{3}{8}$ " stock, and a sheath which comes with a brass throat and tip—price, \$275.

Superlative workmanship is the keynote of the fine Bowies turned out by Harvey Draper, Box 94, Ephraim, Utah. Someone, somewhere, may turn out more exquisitely finished knives, but I haven't seen them. Most of Draper's Bowie models list at under \$100, and in my book they represent a

top bargain for the collector. My favorite is his Fighting Bowie with a 9" blade and double brass guard, which is yours for approximately \$75.

Although not a newcomer by any means, the work of C. M. "Pete" Heath, 119 Grant, Winneconne, Wisconsin, is still unknown to many knife buffs. This is a shame, as Pete's work is slick and neat, and he's been in the business for 20 years. His Bowie, which comes with an 11" blade, is patterned after the type popular along the Mexican border during the second half of the 19th century, and it is reasonably priced at \$85, which does not include a sheath.

Bold and rugged are two good adjectives to describe the Bowies turned out by Chubby Hueske, 4808 Tamarisk, Bellaire, Texas. This should not be twisted to mean crude, because Hueske's work is not crude by any standard, but Chubby has somehow succeeded in capturing the spirit of the 19th century Bowie in his work, and my pick of his line are the Arkansas Bowie, priced at \$135, and the Opelousas Bowie, listed at \$90. The latter is, to me, representative of the knife carried by many frontiersmen.

My exclamation when I first saw one of Loyd Hale's giant Bowies was "Wow!" Loyd, whose address is 14522 Saco Street, Poway, California, turns out a massive Bowie which, complete with 13½" blade a full 2½" wide, double brass guard, and ivory handle, lists at \$150. It is a show-stopper, to put it mildly.

Some makers specialize in hunting knives, but Blackie Sewell, 894 Kings Court NE, Atlanta, Georgia, prefers to turn out fine Bowies. Since his work is strictly custom, quoting a price is chancy, but it's safe to say that you'd best be prepared to part with at least \$200 for a Sewell Bowie.

The "WK" knives of Walt Kneubuhler, Box 327, Pioneer, Ohio, are genuinely distinctive, and one of his big Bowie types, such as the Jed Smith, is yours for less than \$50 complete with sheath. I frankly can't imagine a serious knife collector without at least one of Walt's knives.

There you have a dozen makers of quality Bowies, and there are many others whose work is outstanding. But any collection boasting specimens of each maker I have named has an assemblage of which to be justly proud.

Jim Bowie and the Bowie knife . . . for the more romantic spirited, the mere act of holding one of today's Bowies somehow establishes a link with the heroes of American folklore, and, strange as it seems, with a Bowie knife in hand, the Alamo, the Vidalia Sandbar, and Natchez-Under-the-Hill do not seem so very far away.

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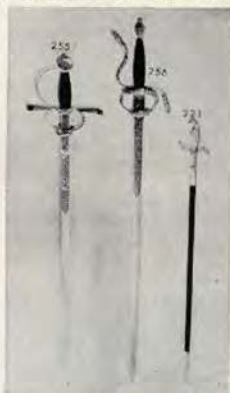
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(Continued from page 25)

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**MERCENARY GUNSMITH:
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(Continued from page 23)

on all cartridges that have a bullet speed less than 1400 fps. One silencer used by the CIA incorporates a series of rubber baffles contained in a sound chamber attached to the muzzle of the weapon. When used with an M-3 "Grease Gun," the only sound one can detect is the "clack" of the bolt hitting the receiver as it chambers the round.

Besides modifying a wide variety of weapons, "Commando L" manufactured their own magnetic mines and booby traps. They also developed a unique gun mount which allowed them to effectively fire a .50 caliber MG or a 20 mm anti-tank cannon from the deck of a small speed boat using a regular rubber automobile tire to absorb recoil. The gun was at-

tached to the tire by cables and was used by one of "Commando L's" attack parties in sinking the Russian freighter *Baku*, loaded with \$700,000 worth of sugar in a Cuban port. Armor piercing rounds from the 20mm Lahti penetrated the freighter's hull and destroyed the ship's turbines. A mine consisting of 52 pounds of Pentolite and magnets was detonated on the *Baku's* hull which opened an 8 x 10 hole, sending it to the bottom of the bay.

Though Latin America and the Caribbean offer the closest opportunities for an adventure bent gunsmith, there are similar opportunities in the Mid-East, Africa and Southeast Asia. In Israel, an odd-ball band of mercenaries working for an organization named "Schmira," commanded by an ex-French paratrooper, has been assigned the task of guarding isolated settlements, pipelines and roads. For enlisted men the pay is \$200 a month and a lot of hot sun. They are armed with a variety of weapons and a knowledgeable gunsmith might well command a higher rank if not more pay and less sun. One of the advantages of shooting for "Schmira" is that you can quit when the glamor wears thin—as long as you're not in a fire fight with El Fatah!

Since the beginning of the Cambodian hassle, rumors have abounded that Cambodia offered opportunities for soldiers-of-fortune. A Belgian firm reportedly provided a small number of mercenaries to the anti-

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Communist forces for a few weeks. Also, Major Hoare has been reported recruiting in South Africa for operations in Cambodia. And then the venerable French Foreign Legion has a small "police action" going in Chad—but who wants to sign up for five years?

Before one leaves kith and kin, it would be wise to consider some of the hazards of playing the soldier-of-fortune game. All is not wine, roses and excitement. If you're operating with any revolution group using the U.S. as its base of operations you run the risk of becoming involved in situations where you will be breaking U.S. law, and subject to large fines and a long prison term if apprehended and convicted.

It is wise to be judicious in your choice of who you join. Some of your revolutionary compatriots maybe informants for the bad guy you want to fight against or the U.S. authorities. For instance, U.S. Customs in Miami obtains most of the information used in apprehending exile groups and their war material by paying 25 per cent of the net worth of the material confiscated to the informant.

Often as not ambitious revolutionaries are more impressed by the number of weapons in their possession rather than their serviceability. Before you board the invasion ship, you had best determine if the mortars have sights, the recoilless rifles have breech blocks and the machine guns have their firing pins. And there are many "revolutionaries" whose enthusiasm is directly proportional to the amount of profit they can squeeze out of any venture. They are well aware that it's much safer to talk big and bug out when the boat leaves. Inspect all the ordnance before you go carving your name in the annals of history. There may not be any rounds for the mortars; the M-26 frag grenades or 3.5 rocket rounds may be practice rounds that have been repainted by some unscrupulous arms dealer. These items may look good in their packing cases but they won't make much of an impression on the "ins" that you want to get "out."

How does a gunsmith link up with some outfit that can use his services? First, he checks newspapers and magazines to find where the action originates from. Once he's arrived in an action area, a check with the local newspapers or a query to members of the wire services will generally tell you which groups are sincere, able and reputable.

In most cases, the next step is the most difficult. And that is to get accepted. Initially, the newcomer will be treated with reserve and suspicion by

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his new revolutionary friends, especially if they are sincere in their determination to go places and do things. The new recruit should volunteer to perform even the most mundane tasks, including passing out propaganda, attending rallies and meetings. In time he will get an opportunity to demonstrate that he can disassemble and assemble an M-1 blindfolded, that he can adjust the headspace on a machine gun or can

fire a 3.5 rocket with some degree of accuracy—without a launcher! And that he can hit what he's shooting at! He always runs the risk that they may decide he's a spy or an informant. If they decide this, he may find himself being used as shark bait before he ever sees his objective. In fact, he may be the guest of honor at a fishing party where he gets to play the bait.

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GUNS AMERICANA: THE WESTERNERS

poetry like *Lure of the West*, or about Sacajawea, or Silver Heels. John J. Lipsey, bookman at Colorado Springs, used to get out a pamphlet on Coloradoana in lieu of a Christmas card. Fred M. Mazzulla has almost every photograph taken west of the Missouri River and turns out books on *Brass Checks and Red Lights* and *Al Packer, A Colorado Cannibal*. Denver could hardly miss, and it is the only group except Chicago to publish a monthly, now called *The Roundup*.

Los Angeles Corral came along a year later and took a somewhat similar course with the annual *Brand Book* and a quarterly publication now called *The Branding Iron*. First sheriff was the late Homer Britzman who had bought in Charley Russell's last home with all that was in it and parlayed it into a publishing venture. He gave *Los Angeles Brand Book* a first with his study of Russell bronzes. Among top hands in the corral were and still are Clarence Ellsworth, artist; Frederick Hodge who died in 1956 at 91, remembered for his *Handbook of the North American Indian*; E. I. Edwards, bibliographer; Earle R. Forrest, who photographed the Hopi-snake dance before the Hopis banned photographers; Clifford M. Drury, who edited the diaries of all six of the first white women across the Rockies, including Narcissa Whitman; Paul Bailey, author of *Grandpa Was a Polygamist* and publisher of *Westernlore Press*; and Paul Galleher and Arthur H. Clark, Jr., of Arthur H. Clark Company, publishers of a long list of *Western Americana*.

St. Louis took another tack and published only a half-dozen mimeographed bulletins in 20 years, although two of them contained a two-part article by the eminent Frederic E. Voelker. The New York Posse

broke tradition by taking in women members, and when taken to task by an anti-feminist, the New York sheriff had the unanswerable reply, "But we have Mari Sandoz." Actually the main objection to the husband-and-wife team is that it may result in one-half the membership boring the other half to death. Many of the all-male groups admit interested women as corresponding members, and Chicago Corral has often used a formula to this effect: "You are welcome at all Ladies' Night meetings, and anytime you are coming this way, we will declare it a Ladies' Night."

Besides the late Mari Sandoz, New York has had its share of notable contributors—James D. Horan, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., Harry Sinclair Drago, Joseph P. Peters, Melvin J. Nichols, the late Homer Croy,—and is headquartered at the bookshop of Peter Decker, who also writes a book or two on occasion.

At a very early date Chicago enrolled corresponding members in Austria and Australia, Switzerland and Sweden, and other far-off places, but the first group to be formed overseas was in England. Corral, posse, sheriff, tallyman and such like nomenclature required too much explanation in the British Isles, so the name eventually adopted was the English Westerners' Society. For several years the only point of contact was through publications, but eventually an annual meeting was scheduled in London, with sometimes small, but always enthusiastic, branch meetings in Birmingham, Leeds, Bristol, and other points. The present schedule, under the editorship of Barry C. Johnson, includes the printed quarterly *Brand Book*, usually containing a single well-researched article, and every two months the mimeographed *Tally Sheet* containing organizational news

and some of the toughest book reviews produced by any Westerners anywhere. Report on a recent meeting:

The extremely low attendance—eight members—dampened thought of holding the intended discussion on "The Western—in Films and Books." The occasion did afford an opportunity, however, to heap execration upon the Cinerama production of *Custer of the West*, having done which, the members felt morally uplifted.

A Paris Corral, devoted to horseback riding, roping, and cowboy sports; a Swedish corral that put out a Brand Book until its editor got too busy for the tedium of translation; and a West German Corral were soon followed by an ambitious Munich Corral with a quarterly with some items in English.

Meanwhile new groups sprang up in far quarters of the United States, some with publication schedules and some just to meet and talk, with one at least, the Redwood Coast Outpost centering at Ukiah, California, with a membership so scattered that its sessions were made public meetings so that its speakers would have audiences. Yet this group, under the leadership of George Chalfant as inklinger, turned out the Consul General of Canada and three eminent historians to dedicate a marker it sponsored for the Hudson's Bay Company site in San Francisco.

The proliferation of Brand Books was becoming confusing, and considerable ingenuity was exercised in finding other titles. Tucson published *The Smoke Signal* "occasionally," and gathered the first dozen issues into a bound volume. Others, usually quarterly, were Spokane's *The Pacific Northwesterner*, Stockton's *Far-Westerner*, Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma's *War Chief*, and San Diego's *Wrangler*. A number of issues of Kansas City's *Trail Guide* were remade with extra-illustrations into limited edition books. Potomac Corral, sparked by Jeff C. Dykes, B. W. Allred, D. Harper Simms, Frank Goodwyn, Fred G. Renner, and Colonel William Gardner Bell, supplemented *Corral Dust* with a bound book *Great Western Indian Fights*, later reissued in paperback, and eventually gave up their periodical in

favor of more books. Chicago had reversed the process by contracting with a paperback publisher for *This is the West*, later redone as an illustrated bound book.

It is not to be understood, however, that all Westerners are writers, editors, publishers, and book-makers; although most of them are bookish in the sense of being book readers, and many are hobbyists—who sometimes can be the sharpest critics when more erudite contributors slip up on technical details. Chicago Corral is proud of having had on its rolls Ray Allen Billington, outstanding professional historian in the Western field and first president of the Western History Association, an organization that in many ways was an outgrowth of The Westerners, and which, like The Westerners, seeks to encourage the nonprofessional enthusiast. But there are many of varied callings who find relief from daily routines in gathering occasionally to debate Custer, Buffalo Bill, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp, Jesse James, and other legendary characters or seek to find what is behind the impossible representations of them in movies and television. Anyone who desires to argue these matters and anyone who desires to sit and listen while others argue, is welcome at a meeting of The Westerners.

Perhaps no organization has endured a quarter century with less formality or organizational procedure than Chicago Corral of The Westerners. This group has great interest in the Indian wars and can cite writings on that subject by all ranks from brevet second lieutenants to four-star generals, yet one army officer's book is completely ignored, namely Colonel Roberts' *Rules of Order*. Provision has been made for resident members, corresponding members, student members, institutional members, and honorary members, all of which have equal rights—and no vote. No votes are taken because no business is transacted. The Posse, originally three members, has grown into a self-perpetuating body of an indefinite number, equivalent to a board of directors. The number is indefinite because it was discovered that the constitution had no provision for terms of office and no way of getting rid of any member who had been elected. As President Thomas Jefferson noted of a

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similar dilemma, few die, and none resign. Accordingly, the secretary, when there was a secretary, was instructed to forget to notify of meeting dates those who forgot to attend.

This curious governing body elects officers and transacts the necessary organizational business. At one time its meetings were frequent and prolonged, but in time it was discovered that somehow the business got done by the same old wheelhorses regardless. The last called meeting lasted for an elapsed time of two minutes, thirty-nine seconds, including a recess of sixteen seconds. In the first session all officers were re-elected. The meeting was reconvened after the recess to elect a new member of The Posse. True, there have been objectors to this undemocratic process. Anyone so objecting finds he has been elected to The Posse.

It would seem possible that the free-wheeling alliance of professors, amateurs, and just plain hobbyists has been at least in part responsible for the vast increase in interest in the Western scene. That there has been such increases there can be no doubt. In the early days of The Westerners almost all important books about the West could be noted and evaluated in the pages of *The Westerners Brand Book*, even including some of the fiction. That has become virtually impossible. The literary editor of a Denver newspaper used to round up all Western books for listing in an annual holiday issue. He gave it up several years ago when the number ran into the hundreds. When the Westerners started there were no magazines devoted to Western factual material, aside from the journals of historical societies in some Western states. Now there are not only the publications of various groups of Westerners and *The American West* of the Western History Association, but also a vast array of pulp magazines each loudly shouting its devotion to the true, factual story of the West, and even a *Newsletter of the Little Big Horn Associates* devoted monthly to aspects of that lamentable encounter.

Television's discovery of the "adult Western" had its effect, certainly, although its greatest period of exploitation seems to be over, at least temporarily. Perhaps its popularity, and that of all things Western is largely nostalgia for the simpler values of the frontier by those increasingly perturbed by the complications of an increasingly urbanized, atomic, and computerized "Great Society." At all events there is an ever-enlarging interest in the Old West, and if The Westerners are responsible they are not going to apologize for it. 

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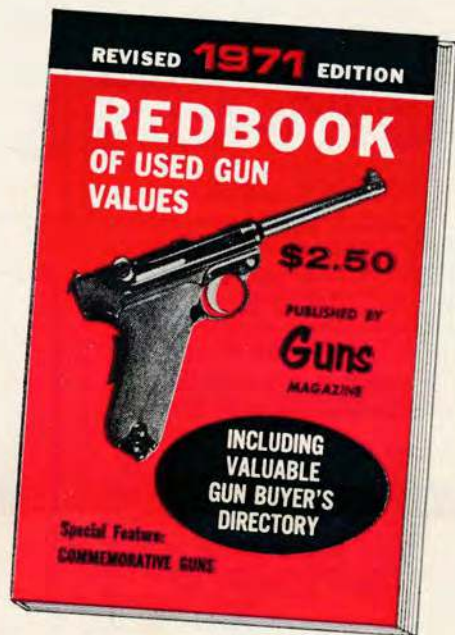
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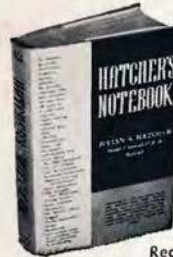
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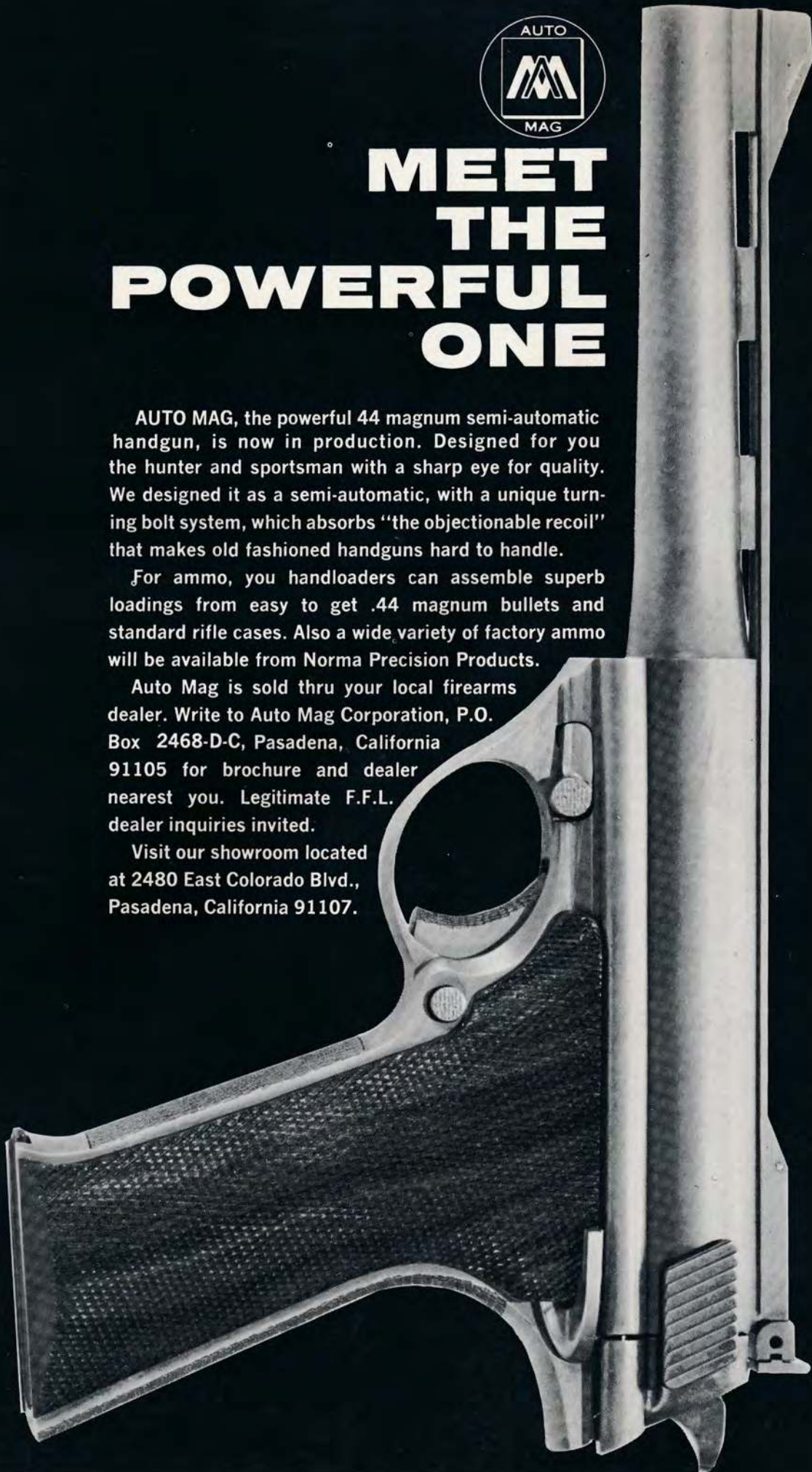
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