

HANDGUNNER

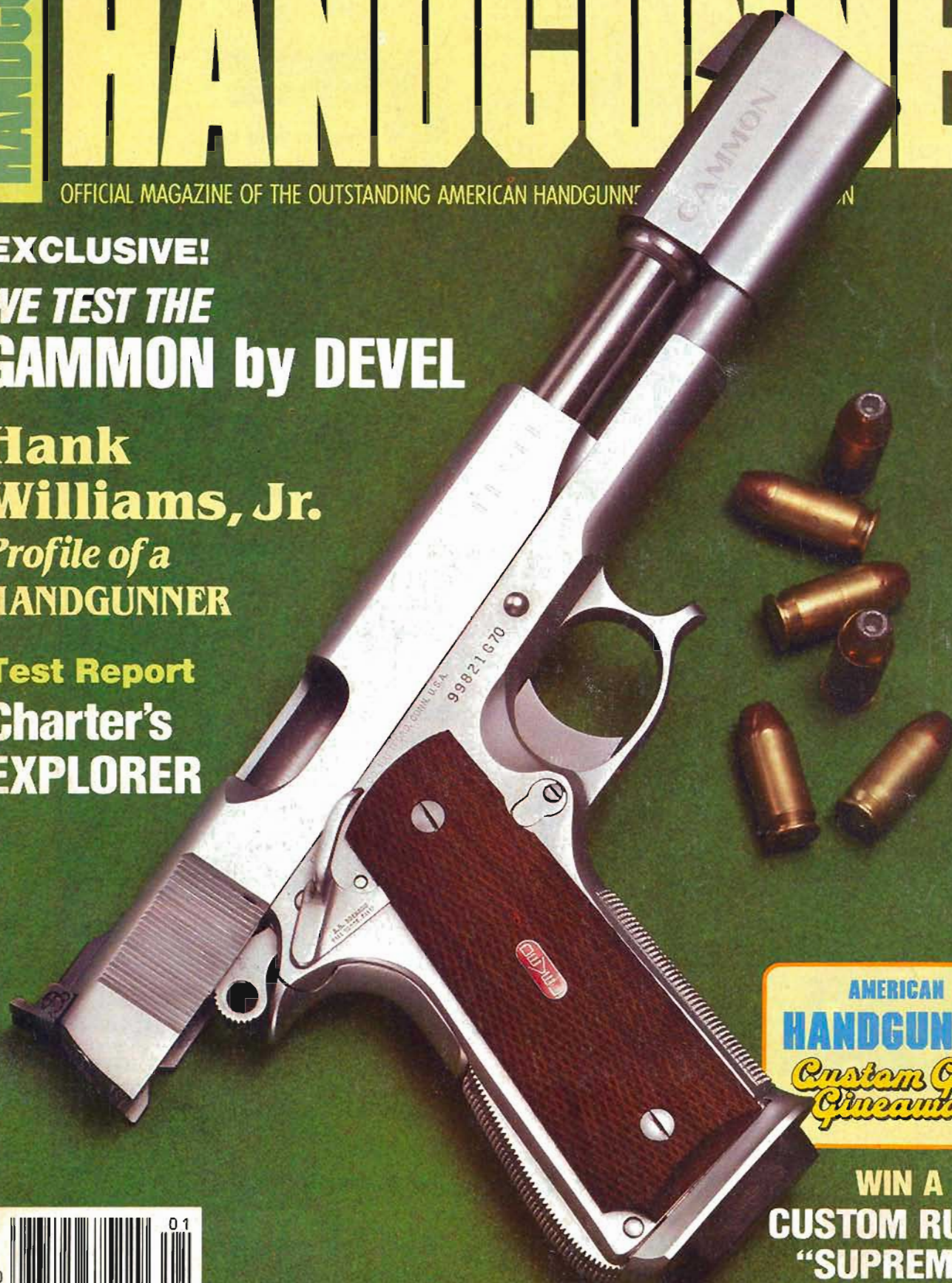
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

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Hank
Williams, Jr.
Profile of a
HANDGUNNER

Test Report
Charter's
EXPLORER



AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER
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Giveaway

WIN A
CUSTOM RUGER
"SUPREME"
(See Page 40)



A Father's Advice

If a sportsman true you'd be
Listen carefully to me . . .

Never, never let your gun
Pointed be at anyone.
That it may unloaded be
Matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross
Thought of time it cause a loss
From your gun the cartridge take
For the greater safety's sake.

If twixt you and neighboring gun-
Bird shall fly or beast may run
Let this maxim ere be thine
"Follow not across the line."

Stops and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be
"Never shoot where you can't see."

You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think of this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead."

Written by Mark Beaufoy of Coombe House, Shaftsbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on presenting his eldest son, Henry Mark, with his first gun. Reproduced here by permission of the author's granddaughter, Mrs. P. M. Guild.



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1982, Vol. 7, No. 32

FEATURES

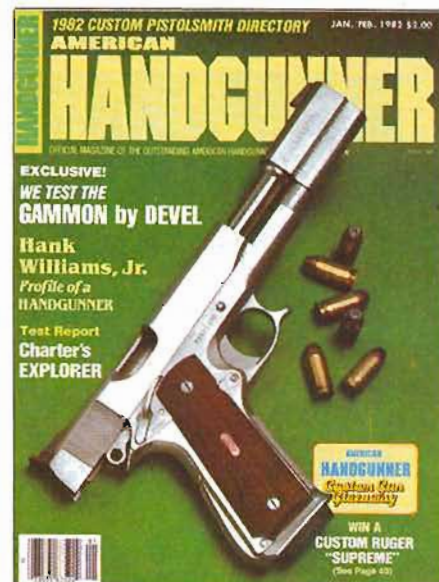
- FLYING WITH HANDGUNS**, Walter Leonetti 18
Each Airline Handles Guns Differently
- REMINGTON 7MM BR**, Philip Briggs 30
Just How Good is this Cartridge?
- THE GAMMON PISTOL**, Rick Miller 33
A .45 Designed to Win Matches
- COLT NEW ARMY**, Walter Rickell 36
D. A. Revolvers are Nothing New
- HANK WILLIAMS, JR.**, Michael Bane 38
This CW Star is a Gun Nut
- CUSTOM GUN OF THE MONTH** 40
- CHARTER ARMS EXPLORER**, Larry Sterret 42
Test Report on New Semi-auto
- MAG-NA-PORT'S NEW SPECIAL EDITIONS**, J. D. Jones 44
Africa's Big Game Animals
- TRIAL BY FIRE**, John P. Crowley 46
Author's First PPC Match
- M-S SAFARI ENFORCER**, Mike Barach 48
Test Report on a Production .45
- CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY** 50
Revised List for 1982

SHORT SHOTS

- CUSTOM 'SMITH PROFILE**, Roy Fishpaw 24
- RELOADING TESTS**, Dan Cotterman 26
- IPSC NATIONALS** 56

DEPARTMENTS

- INDUSTRY INSIDER**, J. Rokusan 6
- HANDLOADING**, Hercules, Inc. 9
- SILUETAS**, Philip Briggs 10
- SIGHT SETTINGS**, Lucy Chombliss 12
- PISTOLSMITHING**, Claud Hamilton 14
- COP TALK**, Mossad Ayoob 16
- HANDGUN LEATHER**, Bob Argenbright 22
- WHAT'S NEW** 62
- SPEAK OUT** 65
- HANDGUN MARKET** 77



COVER: An experiment in winning. The Gammon pistol from Devel. Photo by Neil Nissing.

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PISTOLSMITHING

JERRY RAKUSAN

THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO POP IN THE AMERICAN HANDGUN INDUSTRY

High Standard engineers are making production tooling changes to begin manufacture of its long-awaited Crusader revolver, chambered for .357 mag, .44 mag and .45 Long Colt. The changeover began when production of Crusader commemoratives ended in early Fall. "We are fully committed to this program," an HS executive told *The Handgunner*. "We're looking at model introduction timing right now."

Some minor changes in the original Crusader design are expected now that HS has examined closely the .44 offerings from other manufacturers—especially Ruger's Red Hawk.

Some minor changes in the original Crusader design are expected now that HS has examined closely the .44 offerings from other manufacturers—especially Ruger's Redhawk.

Smith "FBI" M-13

Smith & Wesson has decided to add its specially designed "FBI" Model 13 to the 1982 catalog. The gun was designed to an FBI spec which called for a K-frame .357 with a heavy barrel, fixed sights, and a round butt. The decision to put the three-inch Model 13 in the catalog was reached after announcement of the FBI sale stirred up considerable public interest in the gun. Suggested list price is \$190.50

X-Caliber

Sterling Arms has begun construction of a 12,000-square-foot expansion to its manufacturing facility in Lockport, NY. The new space will accommodate the company's new X-Caliber line of interchangeable barrel, single-shot handguns designed to offer shooters an alternative to the Thompson/Center Arms hunting and target pistols.

The X-Caliber will be available with 8- or 10-inch octagonal barrels chambered for .22 S, L or LR; .22 magnum; .357 magnum, and .44 magnum. The gun comes with standard finger-grooved Goncalo Alves grips and forearm, adjustable metal sights and dovetail grooving for scope mounting.

Weight of an X-Caliber fitted with an 8-inch barrel is 52 ounces. List price in any caliber is \$199.95. Price of optional barrels had not been set at this writing.

Short Notes

Colt Industries expects no significant

changes in operations with Penn Central merger... S & W is surprised by the activity in the 9mm revolver market. "We knew there'd be interest in a 9mm revolver, but the level of interest is an order of magnitude greater than what we had expected," says a Smith executive... H & R still has a few engraved Model 999s available... Ridgefield CT PD has joined the list of police agencies switching from .357 revolvers to 9mm autos (S & W Model 59). Reason was to give patrolmen more fire-power between reloads and reduce the chances of injury to bystanders due to through-target penetration. It's also believed that the Model 59's somewhat unusual mechanical safety arrangement can minimize danger if an officer is disarmed in a scuffle.

All I Know is What I Read...

How about a drop-in conversation for the 1911 in .41 caliber that will retail for under \$200? The manufacturer tells me that delivery should begin in early 1982. The conversion kit will consist of barrel, bushing and other parts; slide and magazine require no alterations. Dies will be included to make the cartridges from existing brass.

Bits and pieces from reliable sources... What's this about a new company in the South making a copy of the Beretta Minx in stainless?

Weaver Stainless

Just as the November/December issue of AH was coming off the presses, we received word that the Weaver handgun scope, featured in a test report in that issue, would be available only with a brushed stainless steel finish. The blue finished scope we had for tests is already obsolete. So look for the scope in stainless only.

Invicta Update

The .44/357 Invicta cartridge reported on in our September/October issue, has found a home, or several homes. Rumor has it that Dan Wesson Arms has bought the rights to manufacture guns utilizing the cartridge, and that Lou Ciamillo of Maryland Gun Works has a deal where he can do conversions on existing guns. The inventor is still looking for someone to manufacture the cartridges. Lou is making up a test gun for us, and we hope to have a report in an early issue.



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HANDLOADING

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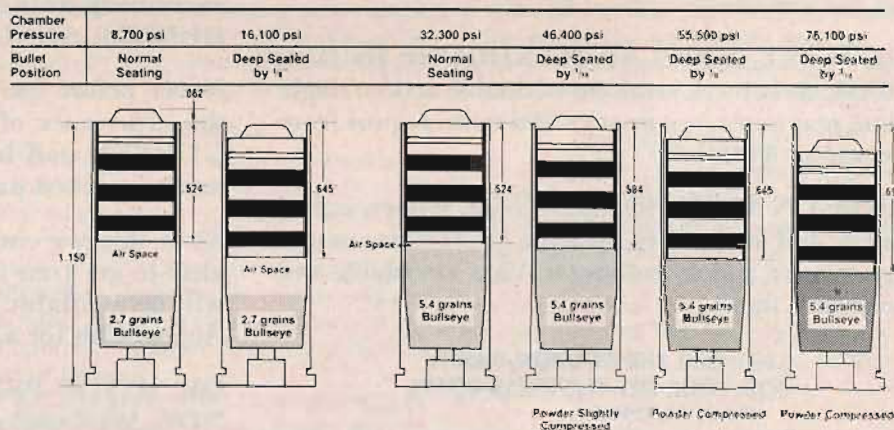
We at Hercules were dismayed to read the Handloading Section of your September/October, 1981, issue. Under the title, "How to Make Reloading Dangerous, or, The 2.7 Bullseye Surprise," Dan Cotterman implied that light charges of Bullseye could misbehave, or explode, and magically blow up handguns. Since *American Handgunner* and Hercules share a common goal of shooter education and safety, we appreciate your offer to print our analysis of this problem.

In order to explain the blow-up of a Los Angeles police service revolver three years ago, Hercules analyzed thoroughly the use of 2.7 grains of Bullseye in the .38 Spl. behind the 148-grain wadcutter bullet. Our tests completely exonerated Bullseye and were included in an article by Bill Davis in the December, 1978, issue of *American Rifleman*. Your readers may obtain a free reprint by writing to: R. G. Guenter, Hercules Incorporated, Wilmington, DE

many types, our metallurgists easily distinguish between the effects of combustion and detonation. As a double check, we also attempted to deliberately detonate a cartridge in a revolver. The primer was replaced by a military detonator containing 1.5 grains of extremely powerful high explosive, followed by 2.3 grains of Bullseye and a wadcutter bullet (3.8 grains of total energy). When we initiated the detonator, the cylinder remained intact and the chamber was barely swelled. This confirmed our thermo-chemical knowledge that there is not nearly enough energy in 2.7 grains of Bullseye to burst the cylinder of a good gun.

Up to this point, we had proven *what does not occur*, namely detonation. There simply is not enough energy in 2.7 grains of Bullseye to burst a cylinder, and metallurgy showed that the cylinder bursts from gas pressure; that is, from normal combustion of powder. But 2.7 grains of powder with a properly seated bullet produces

Effects on pressure
BULLET SEATING AND DOUBLE CHARGING
(.38 Caliber, 148 grain Wad Cutter)



19899. The work is condensed below.

Blown-up revolvers typically have a fractured cylinder, split lengthwise between the just-fired chamber and one or both of the adjacent chambers. Metallurgical examination of the grain structure of the steel surfaces of these fractures proved that the failure is from excess gas pressure of normal powder combustion, not from the shock wave of a detonation. Since Hercules also produces detonating devices of

only 8,700 psi, far below the proof pressure for .38 Spl., and the (estimated) 50,000 to 70,000 psi catastrophic failure level of the cylinder of light-frame to heavy-frame models. So, how can the cylinder burst under such low pressure?

The causes are rather straightforward:

- A. Multiple (2, 3, 4) charges of 2.7 grains raise gun pressures dramatically.

Continued on page 69

HANDGUNNER

The AMERICAN HANDGUNNER magazine is written for the competitor, sportsman, collector, hunter, combat shooter and lawman. If you're one of these or just enjoy fine handguns, you can share in the knowledge and experiences of men like Massad Ayoob, Mason Williams, J.D. Jones and James Mason. They're men who really know handguns and who excel in writing about them in The AMERICAN HANDGUNNER magazine.

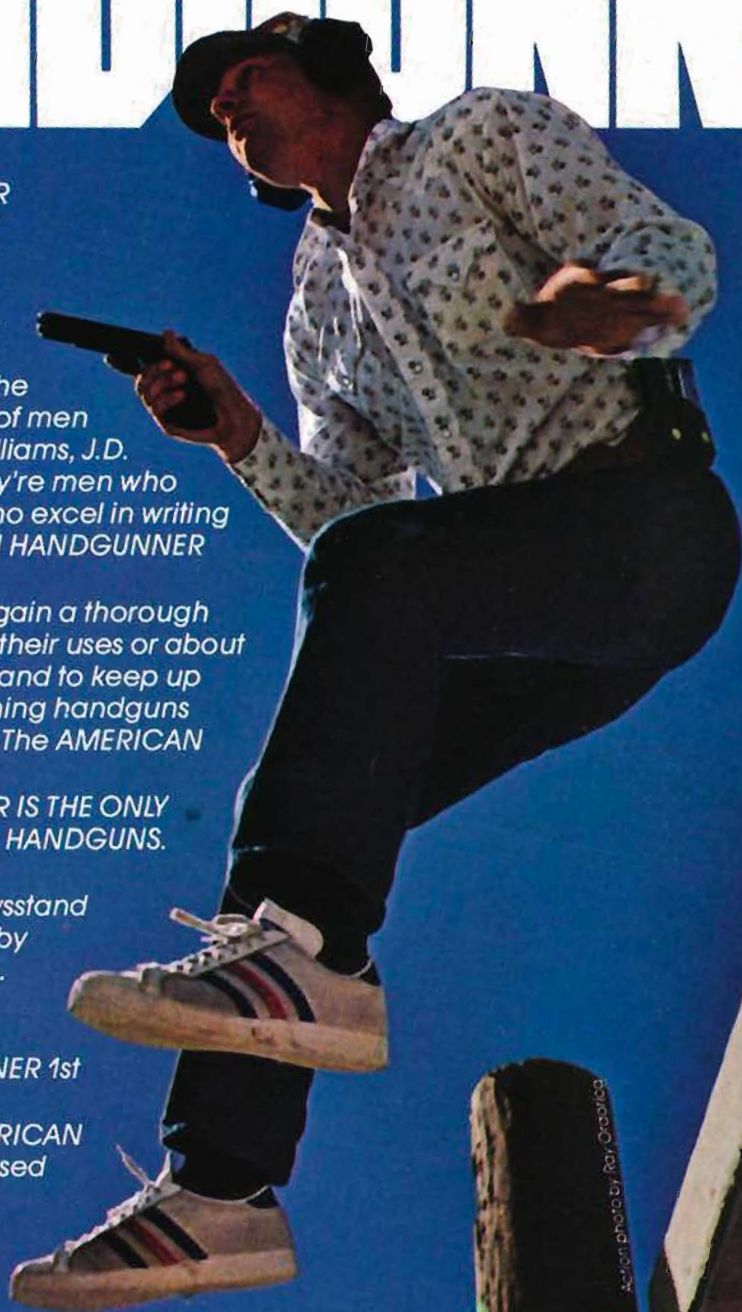
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SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

1981 INTERNATIONALS WERE TRULY A FAMILY AFFAIR

Farragut is the prettiest silhouette range I've ever shot on. Located 20 or so miles north of Coeur d'Alene, in Idaho's beautiful panhandle country, the dense forest and grassy meadows of Farragut State Park were a real treat to a greenery-starved desert-dweller. The range is a 100-yard wide hole in the forest, with the deep grass temporarily suppressed by fresh gravel pads built up around the target stands.

The range's usual six banks had been increased for this match to sixteen, and the sounds of 64 big bore handgunners busting steel simultaneously hammered home the fact that this was the biggest silhouette match ever held—1,456 entries!

Billed in advance as the Family Internationals, it was indeed that as the firing line

well as in all categories and classes down to sixth place. All were backed up with substantial prizes (like pistols, reloaders, chronographs). Coors, the rocky mountain spring water bottlers, pitched in to support trophy acquisition. The prize and trophy package added up to \$18,000 worth of goodies. Donations of merchandise and services were even bigger. Edd Page, IHMSA's PR director, had been busy year-long; his efforts resulted in some \$33,000 of goods and services, from pistols, supplies and accessories from the shooting industry, to dinners from local restaurants and a trip for two to Hawaii from American Airlines! Most of this pile of goodies was raffled off among the entrants during the five-day match. A little figuring indicates just about everybody could walk



was filled with fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, and grandparents—shooting, as well as spotting, coaching, watching and encouraging. From grade schoolers to grandpas, with every age in between.

I asked Ted Krauss and Scott Lindley, co-match directors for the event, who had come up with the slogan, and the idea behind it.

"Ted did," said Scott, "when we were back in Boston last year, we had quite a discussion on how this is supposed to be a family sport."

"Yeh," Ted jumped in, "until we hold the Internationals, and then they pick a fall date when kids are in school, and families can't travel together to the match. We wanted to hold one during summer vacation and in a place where everyone could, and would, come."

I expect another reason the match was well attended was the trophy and award package. Trophies were awarded to various team and high individual entrants, as

away with something.

The course of fire was 80 rounds, fired straight through, starting on pigs, with turkeys, rams, and chickens following. Setting 64 banks of targets takes a while, no matter how many setters you have, so on the first two days, each trip down the firing line took nearly two hours.

Shootoffs, to settle ties that couldn't be broken by reverse target count, were fired off on a tough course laid out using 22 targets. Five targets were set out for each shooter; a ram at 200 yards, a turkey at 150 meters, a pig at 150 meters and two chickens at 100 meters. They had to be fired in that order within a two minute period and twice through. Remember now, these were 22 targets (small!) and the course required sight changes for their size, and for some pistols/cartridges, changes between animals.

Forty eight shoot-offs were held for the forty straights (!) and two 79's in international unlimited, three straights in

triple A unlimited, and two straights in international production. High score in the shoot offs was an eight, fired by Mike Avery, who is now the 1981 unlimited champion.

Complete results were not available at deadline, but I did get some info on the champions in each category.

Cory Allen shot the first production 80 ever at the match, but lost the shoot off to Coloradian Lon Pennington, who shot the second 80, and two shoot off targets. Both were using Contenders in 7mmTCU.

Ron Cottrial, from California, set a new record in revolver, blasting 76 targets off their stands with his 10½ inch Super Blackhawk. He took all the rams, pigs, and chickens, missing but four turkeys.

Claude Kinard, Jr., from the State of Washington, used another Contender, this one in 30 Herrett, to take standing with an amazing 69.

Mike Avery, another Washingtonian, used a Tophat, a custom built XP-100, in 7X51 (7-08) to reach the top of the giant unlimited shoot off, and take the championship with an 8X10 to back up his 80.

Mixed in with all the shooting and socializing was the annual IHMSA members meeting, held to up-date the assembled delegates on the organization's progress, and to consider changes in the rules.

Most changes were minor this year, but the delegates did finally completely sever

the connection between production (single shots, autos) and revolver freestyle classes. The revolver category was created last year but shooters classification in R was to be the same as for their production gun, and vice versa. As few can shoot a revolver as well as a single shot, this put most in higher R classes than they could compete in. The members voted to cut that inter-tie, and allow a shooter to carry separate classifications in each category.

A similar linkage which had been in effect between big bore and 22LR classes was also cut, and the single shot and semi-auto 22LR categories were combined into one to more closely follow the big bore rules.

All of the approved changes will become effective on January 1, 1982.

I talked to a lot of shooters between my trips to the line, and one of the more thoughtful conversations was with Californian Dave Whitman. Not to make Dave out as a sage now, but he has been to every International, save the first, and as one of the organization's top shooters, old timers, and larger match directors, he's got a good perspective from which to comment on the sport, and where it's going. I asked first about the Internationals.

"Well," Dave said between puffs on his pipe, "they've grown to such a point I think we should begin to consider a permanent site and date for the Internationals, like the NRA's Camp Perry. This

would allow one host group to learn how to put on the match and the repetition would make a better, smoother run match.

"But more importantly, it would remove the uncertainty of scheduling, and allow people to make definite plans. Put it at Black Canyon (near Phoenix, the range is now the site of NRA's International Shooting Championships), in the late fall, or winter, and it would follow all state and regional championships."

My next questions were about equipment and cartridges—have we reached the top, or will there be more developments to come?

"We've been at the cutting edge of handgun development for four years now," Dave observed, "with new cartridges, pistols and pistol improvements. Look how far T/C has come for example. (He's right, although I'd never read a bad word about T/Cs for the first couple of years, their performance, when somebody was keeping score, was poor—now they're right on top). Then there's the 7mmTCU, long barreled revolvers, and Remington's new XP. I think we are reaching the peak with single shots, and the next direction will be improvements in revolver accuracy. Modifications to existing pistols will be made, or new pistols will be built to combine the strength and rigidity of a single action frame with the faster lock time of a double action. No, we're not done yet, there's

Continued on page 28

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SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

THE INFLUENCE OF MILITARY SHOOTERS ON CIVILIAN MATCHES

What was one of the biggest pistol matches in the nation—always 200-300 shooters—was held last March with 112 entries. Northerners traveled to shoot this famous Florida tournament as early as 1933. The younger Florida circuit match in Miami had entry and range problems in '81 and simply cancelled. This pistol circuit was probably at its best in about 1962, with Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa. The circuit seems to be finished now and the one match left of this trio, Tampa, is just a shadow of its great past.

Why? Inflation, poor management and sometimes complete disregard for competitor's opinions . . . "I don't care what you think, this is the way I'll do it here," to quote one tournament director. All of the above are reasons, but add also too much dependence on and catering to military entries at the expense of civilian shooters, by the NRA and almost all tournament sponsors. True, military marksmanship units have improved guns, scores, and ammunition. Military shooters are some of my best and oldest friends and I have seen them cringe under their superior officer's flagrant use of clout in matches. I refer to the attitude as military entries grew that schedules, awards and officiating would be done for that large block of military entries. General-Colonel-so-and-so wants the match schedule reversed and the civilians convenience be damned. The military influence dominated and the civilian entry began to disappear, its only defense—stay home.

Hind sight is a wonderful thing, but when the military started to shoot bullseye "professionally" in 1952-53, and I remember it well, civilians should have, individually and through the NRA, stopped and negotiated this stampede into our competition. The military professional shooter should never have been allowed in civilian sponsored NRA pistol matches, unless it was a two-way deal. In exchange, civilians could enter *their* matches, always held on excellent taxpayer built ranges, or civilians could at least have full use of the ranges for training and practice. About 20 years ago, many important matches, such as the U.S. International Shooting Championships were held on military ranges. We had the use of the country's finest ranges through such tournaments. Fewer and fewer pistol matches held on military ranges, allow civilians to participate.

Bullseye's mistakes were corrected by police combat shooters, as they still wisely forbid military competitors. Pistol silhouette and the running game rules define military, reserves and place of residence much more carefully than was originally done in bullseye. The NRA Pistol Rule Book better defines who may enter now, but the damage is done. The older civilian, the backbone of the sport, has left and the junior finds little future for bullseye, so he goes to Smallbore Rifle or International Pistol. Bullseye 2700 as shot, is not an International event.

I shot in a Preliminary Tryout in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, last April and the club members and the facilities represented the enjoyable traditional civilian pistol club. It probably never had 200 entries during the military entry boom. Neither has it had to cancel matches now that the military bubble may have burst. This is the type of civilian interest the nation has depended on year in and year out. Military marksmanship comes and goes with politics, but fortunately civilian interest for Americans survives. In certain events such as 2700 bullseye matches, handgunning right now, is badly depressed.

The match in Pennsylvania was indoors at the Kimberton Fish and Game Reserve Range and it impressed me again with how much more popular shooting would be in the U.S. if most matches could be held indoors. Nothing turns away a new competitor, or some veterans, like a strong wind blowing rain on him in 30 degree weather . . . this is just Florida winter weather I'm describing! Gallery shooting really exemplifies shooting as a precision sport. Skill and equipment not luck, play a bigger part indoors.

Ventilation problems indoors, particularly with the .22, which International mostly is, is not the monster the pollution "worry warts" have made it. As Kimberton does, the indoor range can also be used for meetings and instruction courses. We stapled 4 record targets and a sighter to a frame; you don't have to have the more expensive individual target carriers. This club has been able to sustain a full International pistol program for over a year, firing center fire outdoors in the summer. Gallery shooting makes a nice family night recreation, or a time and a place for the

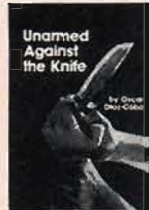
Continued on page 28



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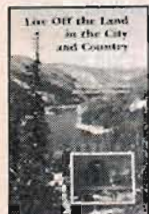
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CLAUD S. HAMILTON

**NEW ADD-ON JUMP REDUCER FOR THE
GOVERNMENT MODEL**

The D. B. P. Engineering Co., of New Orleans, now offers an attachment for the barrel of the Colt Government Model designed to reduce upward "jump" and help the combat handgunner recover more quickly for repeat shots. Installation is a job for a good gunsmith, for the front .55 inch of barrel must be turned down to accept the rear sleeve of the attachment. The result must then be carefully shaped to give good, tight fit to the bushing. The makers provide an excellent sheet of instructions for the job.

D. B. P. makes no claim that their "muzzle brake" reduces recoil. Rather, they say, it is specifically designed to lessen "jump" and prolong it over time, and give it a softer feel. A second advantage claimed is that of low cost. The brake retails for \$31.50 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. Installation is estimated to cost \$20.00. Considering the custom made barrels having this feature on the market, this is a very good price.

The brake installed gives an overall barrel length of 5.85 inches causing you to need an "open-toed" holster or one specially made to accommodate the longer barrel. It features three, pear-shaped vents—one at top center and the others 60° to right and left. These have been carefully engineered to reduce gas pressure gradually.

Recently D. B. P. was kind enough to send me two of their brakes already installed on new Colt Series 70/Mk IV barrels and a sample of a production brake that has not been installed. The first barrel, which I will call "Barrel No. 1" was a prototype; the second—"Barrel No. 2" has a current production brake installed.

I looked these over and what I found in

physical dimensions of the brakes, within the recognized limits of my somewhat primitive measuring equipment, of course, is shown in Table A.

I had previously tested barrel No. 1 when its internal diameter was about .455 straight to the muzzle, giving a bullet clearance of about .003". D. B. P. discovered about that time that internal diameter needed to be enlarged to about .460" where the brake fits the barrel, and tapered from there to the new muzzle. This was necessary because it became evident that some bullets might be striking the forward end of the brake destroying accuracy and risking damage to the brake.

Two friends and I took a new Colt Series 70/ Mk IV pistol, a Ransom Rest and a SpeedMeter II chronograph to the range at Fairfax Rod and Gun Club and got set up to, simultaneously: shoot groups for accuracy, measure upward barrel jump, and clock muzzle velocity! It didn't turn out to be the pat-your-head-and-rub-your-stomach drill that it should be like. Once everything was set up it was just a matter of not forgetting the sequence of doing things.

We worked first with the Colt, with its original barrel, mounted in the Ransom Rest. Before each shot we measured the angle of the barrel at rest and after each shot we again measured it in the fully recoiled position. I didn't have to pay too much attention to the groups as the Ransom Rest pretty well took care of them and kept me from shooting up the chronograph sky screens, too!

We used three different batches of ammunition: Remington-Peters 185 grain match wad cutters, lot LX30D, Federal 185 grain match wad cutters, lot 25A-8354, and Super Vel 190 grain jacketed hollow points,

Table A

	Outer Length	Internal Diameter At Barrel	Internal Diameter At Muzzle	Vents Length	Vents Max Width
Sample brake (not installed)	1.313in	.610in	.460in	.470in	.612in .185in
Barrel No. 1	1.403	.610	.458	.472	.633 .229
Barrel No. 2	1.313	.610	.460	.474	.614 .190

Table B

Barrel	Rem.			Federal			Super Vel		
	Vel	Angle	Group	Vel	Angle	Group	Vel	Angle	Group
Colt	740.7	14 1/2°	2.89"	752.7	14.9°	1.75"	1019	25.7°	4.53"
No 1	902.7	11 1/2°	3.36"	1153.8	12 1/2°	2.44"	1139.3	23°	5.38"
No 2	1161.7	11.2°	4.05"	1165	12.3°	2.14"	1189.4	23.7°	7.7"

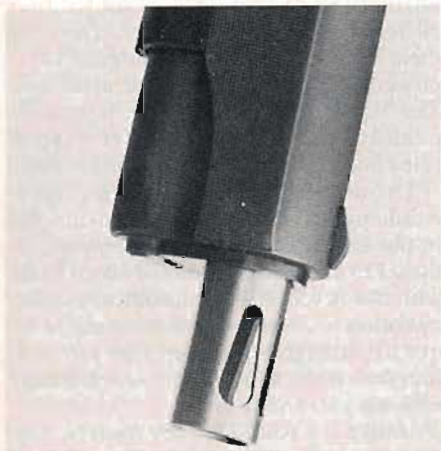
lot BB 237 1. When we finished with the original barrel, barrel No. 1 and No. 2 were put through exactly the same shoot.

Finally, after all the "scientific" data had been collected, we gave the barrels the *really* important test . . . we shot them by hand against the Colt. My friends and I were in general agreement that there is, in fact, a jump reduction of about 10 to 15%.

Later when I sat down and digested the data we'd collected, I found that our subjective impression was pretty well confirmed, see Table B.

In every instance the upward recoil angle of the rest with the barrels having the brakes was less by about 2° than that of the plain barrel. Accuracy, while nothing to write home about, was adequate for service pistols, and far better than what I had seen with barrel No. 1 in its prototype form. D. B. P. tells me that they got identical sized groups with barrel No. 2 before and after installation of the brake. Just to put this matter of group size into some sort of perspective—after four years or shooting off the Ransom Rest my data indicate that the *average* groups size for *all* handguns I have used and *all* kinds of ammunition is about 2.3 inches.

I am sure that there are readers who will criticize my use of the Ransom Rest for this sort of testing. It is not a calibrated in-



strument and was not designed for use in measuring recoil, but rather as a tool for eliminating human error in handgun and ammunition testing. In my own defense I would offer that I have found the rest to be very well made and very consistent in its resistance to recoil.

I must admit that the velocity figures came as a surprise to me. I would question them had they not been taken by a most reliable "operator" who has put in much time on that chronograph. Rather than accept my figures "as is" I would suggest that the combat shooter consider the rather small size of the sample I was able to shoot and assume that he will gain about 100 plus feet per second muzzle velocity with the brake in addition to the reduction in jump . . . not a bad bargain!

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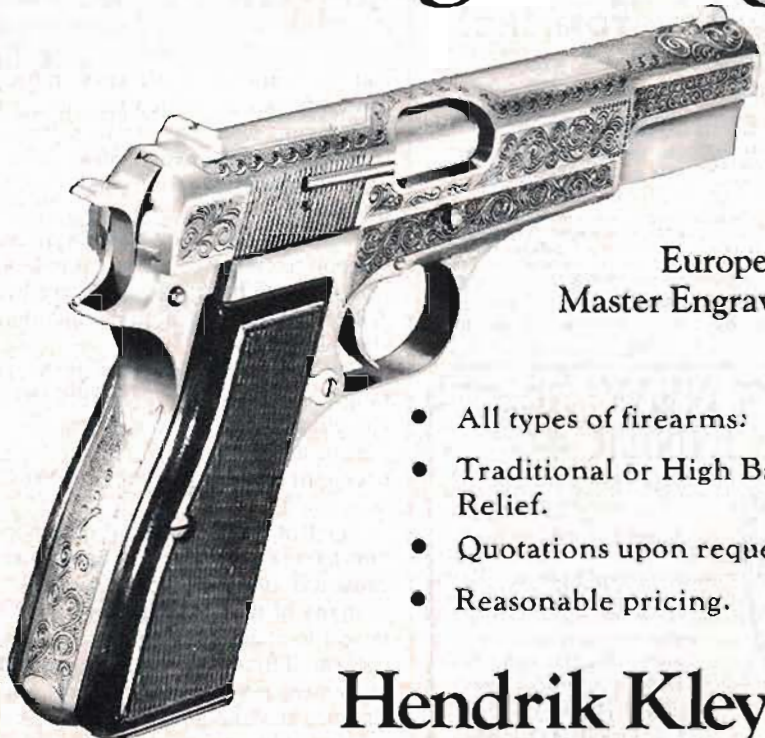
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COP TALK

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TWO SYSTEMS TEACH METHODS FOR STOPPING THE GUN GRABBER

When you're a cop, you have to realize that every time you're in reach of a suspect, that suspect is within reach of your gun; 20 percent of murdered cops are slain with their own handguns, or a partner's, and the percentage is rising for a couple of reasons. First, convicts are teaching each other in the prison yards how easy it is to disarm a cop. Second, according to Jordan Roth and Bob Downey, California Supreme Court decisions have held that it's premeditated murder if you kill a cop with a gun you brought along, but only manslaughter if you do it with his service gun, snatched in the "heat of passion."

Downey and Roth are the authors of "Weapon Retention for Officer Survival." The first whole book on the subject, it is published by Charles C. Thomas 301-327 E. Lawrence, Springfield, IL 62717. Roth and Downey are both black belts and veteran street cops, currently teaching unarmed defense to police at a San Luis Obispo justice academy. Their book is a stark and shocking illumination of a death trap that awaits more policemen every day as the criminals grow more sophisticated.

Police are likewise becoming aware of the problem. For years, gunwise policemen have worn snatch-resistant holsters—but that's not the whole answer, because some cops are murdered after losing their drawn guns to crooks. Besides, the punks in the prisons have caught on to breakfront and other security holsters and found ways of defeating them.

Right now, there are three "systems" of weapon retention being taught to U.S. police. All have been proven to save lives of police students in actual, documented street incidents.

One is the Roth-Downey Method, taught in California. Probably the most complicated of the three approaches, it is part of a system which has developed an excellent reputation among West Coast policemen.

The Roth-Downey Method is popular among unarmed combat instructors, because it is somewhat martial arts-oriented: in many of the techniques, the officer is taught to attack the suspect's hand, wrist, or arm. This facilitates an immediate movement into a controlling armlock that finishes the encounter with the suspect helpless. Gun-oriented police instructors don't care for it, though; they prefer to attack the weapon because if you have both your hands on the guy's gun arm, he can

grab the pistol with his free hand and shoot you before you can free your arms. To work many of the Roth-Downey techniques, you should be highly trained, freshly practiced, quick and limber.

Another system is the Lindell Method. Developed by Kansas City's head self-defense instructor Jim Lindell, it is aimed at the average officer, whose reflexes and muscle tone may be only mediocre. Lindell teaches a dozen basic techniques for retaining the gun in the holster during a snatch attempt, for wrenching it away from a suspect who grabs it after it's drawn, and for disarming the man who already has control of your weapon. He developed the system after nine cops were disarmed in 18 months, with tragic and multiple fatal results. Since then, 31 K.C. cops have suffered disarming attempts. Thirty of them kept control of their handguns, overpowering and arresting their attackers. The 31st, a new female officer, reportedly panicked and forgot to use her weapon retention training, and the man escaped.

I took Jim's course at the S&W Academy, and am now certified to instruct in the Lindell Method of Weapon Retention. I like it, and Kansas City cops I talk with like it, too. It gives the officer a dozen options, and if he makes a move out of sequence, alternative movements are built into the system to allow him to still escape with his gun and his hide.

Unlike the Roth-Downey System, Lindell's leaves it entirely up to the police officer what he'll do after he has extricated his gun from the criminal's eager fingers. In street practice, this has ranged from wristlocks to fists, to at least one officer who bonked the attacker with the walkie-talkie he had in the other hand. In all cases, the suspect was decisively subdued.

Lindell's system is easy to learn and to retain. Kansas City cops are doing great on six hours introduction and two hours a year refresher training. The Lindell Method has been accepted by the Justice Systems Training Association for teaching the police agencies around the country.

The third system is the one taught by this writer and judo/jiu-jitsu black belt John Peters through the Defensive Tactics Institute, which is dually based in Boston and Los Angeles. While the other two programs concentrate on hand-to-hand grappling for the officer's weapon, DTI teaches this along with lecturing on the psychology of the gungrabber, how to decide whether

or not to wrestle a man for a gun pointed at you, and a lot of hardware considerations.

In the latter area, DTI students get hands-on familiarity with about \$1,500 worth of security holsters, representing every design that is now offered to police. Backup guns are discussed: what to carry and where; the tactics of employing one during a disarming or kidnap attempt; and how to write a proper department guideline that will make the chief comfortable with permitting the carrying of second handguns.

The grappling techniques taught at DTI are unlike the others, being based on an updated version of the FBI System. Some of the techniques involve breaking the attacker's finger in the trigger guard of the officer's weapon. The simplest of the techniques taught in the three systems, the DTI methods also receive the least actual practice time: one and a half days of the three-day course, versus three days of pure gun-grappling in the Lindell Course at S&W Academy.

Since I help teach one of them, it would be presumptuous of me to rate the three programs. Actually, they are not competitive; they teach different aspects of, and approaches to, the gungrab problem, and therefore they complement each other.

For the physically agile and active officer, the Roth-Downey system may appear the most attractive. It also goes the deepest into showing officers how gun-grabs happen, and how to prevent same by strategic stances and approaches. Police officers may contact Jordan Roth, California Specialized Training Institute, Camp San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

The average officer who is locked up into a department that insists on old-fashioned, snatch-vulnerable holsters and does not allow backup guns, is going to have to concentrate on gun-grappling anyway; his best bet may be the Lindell Method. This will be taught next year in at least two 3-day programs at Smith & Wesson Academy, Page Boulevard, Springfield, MA 01101. Contact Hank Kudlinski at that address for details.

For the weapons instructor, especially if he works in an agency that allows snatch-resistant holsters, second weapons, and other hardware, the DTI Weapon Retention program may be the answer. It's also the only one that covers retention of shotguns. Contact John Peters, Defensive Tactics Institute, 15 Cedarcliff Rd., Braintree, MA 02184. DTI offers low cost training at both East and West Coast facilities, and a traveling staff that can come to your department.

If you can't afford any of them, at least buy Roth and Downey's book "Weapon Retention for Officer Survival." After you read it and realize the scope of the danger, then you'll find a way to afford professional, certified training in how to keep anyone else from getting your weapon and killing you with it.



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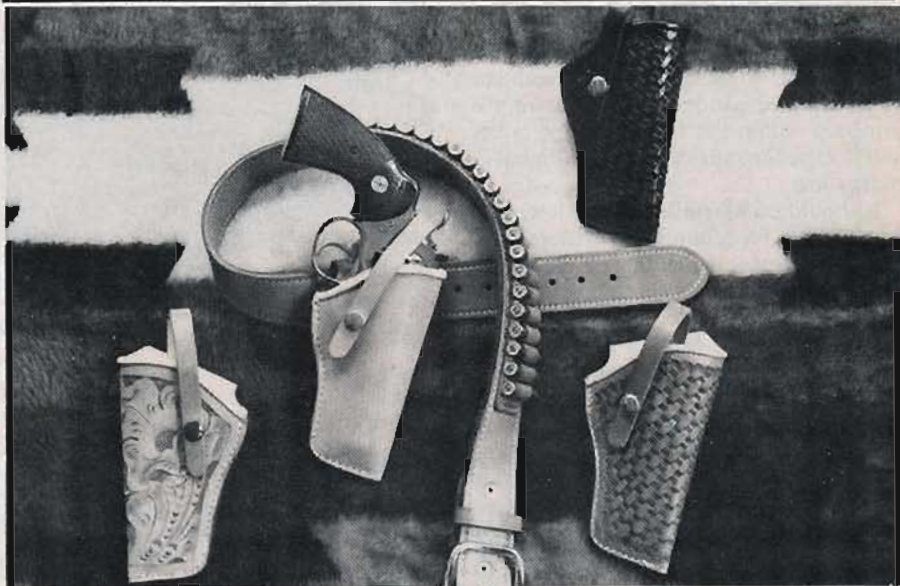


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Flying With Handguns

THE SKIES ARE NOT TOO FRIENDLY FOR THOSE FLYING WITH HANDGUNS—KNOW THE REGULATIONS BEFORE YOU HAND OVER YOUR GUNS

By Walter Leonetti

With the increases in the many forms of handgun competition, the growth of handgun hunting and the blossoming of handgun schools, more and more handguns are flying today—legally.

There is a procedure you can follow to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of your prized handgun. The following is provided within the framework of safety and to expedite the sidearm's movement to reduce loss.

It should be noted that the following is an overview. Procedures may change from airport to airport depending on the size of the area served, its population, local laws, federal regulations, etc.

No civilian may bring a loaded or unloaded handgun past the X-ray machines/metal detectors in any airport. Flight crews cannot place a weapon of any kind in the cockpit of any commercial aircraft. Every handgun which has to fly can only fly as the contents of a suitcase which must go



Reduction of your handguns to major sub-assemblies helps you demonstrate that the guns are unloaded and incapable of firing without assembling.

others will affix a label or tag to the exterior of the suitcase stating, in effect, that your gun has been inspected and is unloaded. Other airlines place this tag into the suitcase. Some combine the tag and the waiver. To complete this potpourri, at least one airline leaves the entire matter to the discretion of the agent as to what to do with the tag.

It is well worth your time and effort to investigate this aspect of your trip prior to buying your tickets. Some of these tags are high-visibility red in color with large black print stating "firearms inspected" or "firearms unloaded." Imagine your suitcase on a baggage belt in a large metropolitan airport with one of these tags on the exterior—an open invitation.

Some airlines require that your handgun be transported only in "hard," lockable suitcases. Others require lockable suitcases only. Still others require you to demonstrate to the agent that your luggage is lockable. Check this before flying.

It should be emphasized that all airlines insure each piece of baggage up to a certain amount. That amount will probably not cover the replacement of your handgun and the suitcase, let alone the rest of the contents. Additional insurance is obtainable through all airlines for a reasonable amount. Insure each bag for the appropriate amount.

If you are transporting more than one gun, place only one in each bag. This will insure against loss of all of them with the theft or loss of one piece of luggage.

Bring a reasonable amount of ammunition with you for the purpose the trip is being made. One hundred rounds of anything is enough, but you should research

the availability of ammunition at your destination. Some agents are hesitant to ship rimfire ammunition but all types of handgun ammunition can legally be shipped as long as factory type packaging or plastic reloading boxes are used. A general rule of thumb is to have ammunition packaged so that all rounds are physically separated from each other. Card-board boxes can be crushed in the rough-handling your baggage might receive.

Let's distill this information down to a practical format which will reduce the possibility of problems.

Unload the handgun or, even better, reduce your gun to major sub-assemblies; for example, remove the slide/barrel from the frame of a semi-automatic, remove the cylinder from a revolver.

Place the sub-assemblies into a pistol rug or small, hard container in which all parts will fit. Place this into the center of a hard, lockable suitcase and buffer all sides of the pistol rug or container with clothing. Make sure the hard suitcase locks and that you have an extra key.

Your plastic or factory ammunition boxes should be placed at the bottom of the suitcase with the primer side pointed towards the locks. Airlines regard ammunition as a hazardous material, but in proper containers ammunition can withstand the rigors of flight. It might be wise, if you require a large amount of ammunition, to ship it by other means rather than air.

Your choice of airlines should partially be based on which one places the waiver/tag inside your luggage so you have reduced the probability of theft. Another

Continued on page 57



Airlines handle firearms differently but their objectives are all similar.

into the cargo hold of the aircraft. No weapon is permitted in the passenger compartment. All of this holds true for all handgun ammunition.

To comply with federal regulations you must go to appropriate airline ticket counter and declare that you have a firearm. You must then demonstrate to the ticket agent that the gun is unloaded. It is a requirement that ammunition be separate from the gun. The confusion starts at this point so follow closely.

Most airlines will have you sign a waiver that your firearm is unloaded. Some airlines place this waiver inside the suitcase,

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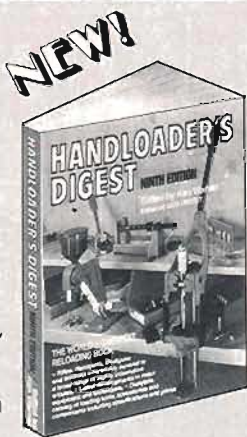
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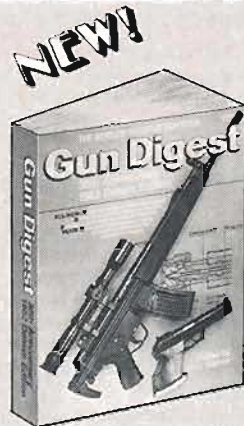
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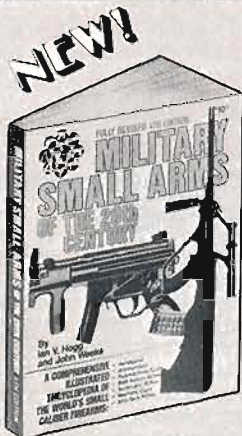
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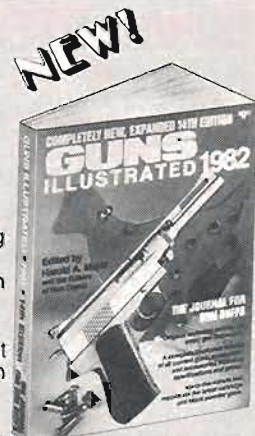
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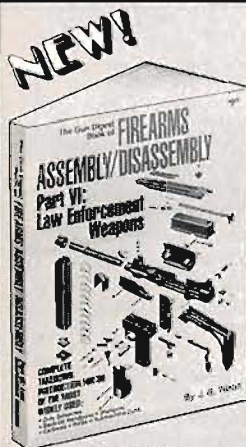
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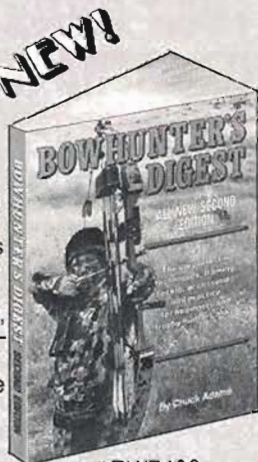
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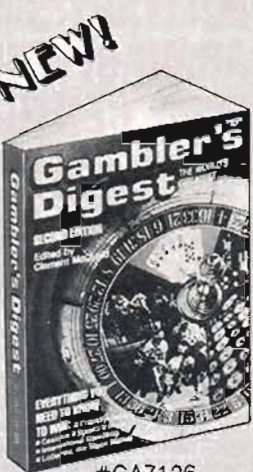
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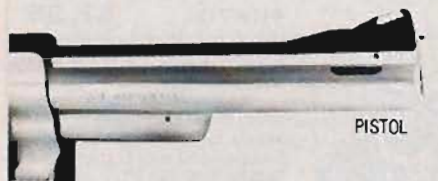
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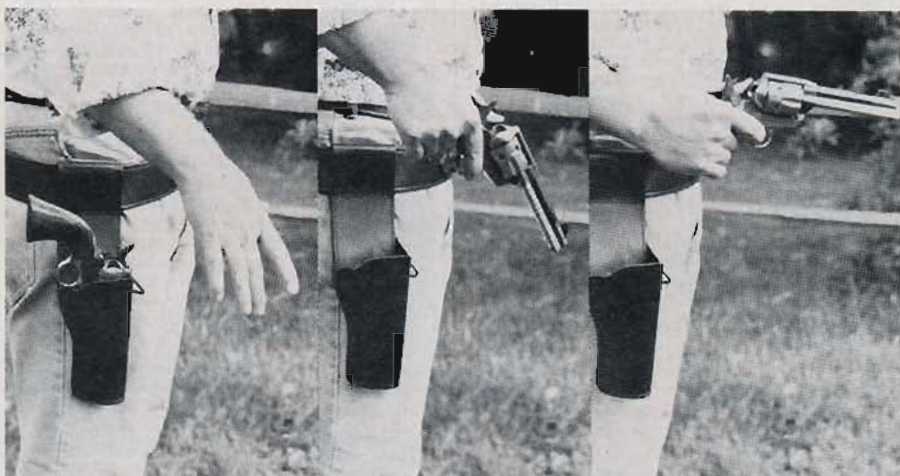
FAMOUS JORDAN HOLSTER AVAILABLE FOR SINGLE ACTION REVOLVERS

One of today's shooting legends is former U.S. Marine and retired U.S. Border Patrol officer, Bill Jordan. Formerly with the NRA as Southwestern Field Representative, Bill broke into the firearms writing field by authoring his modern gunfighting classic, "No Second Place Winner." After leaving the NRA, Bill became a staff writer with GUNS magazine and is currently Senior Field Editor for Guns & Ammo magazine. While Bill demonstrates unusual shooting skill with all firearms, his skill with a wheelgun is legend. Fellow firearms writer, Skeeter Skelton, says of Jordan: "Bill Jordan is the most unforgettable handgun man to emerge in the last 40 years."

the trigger guard to position the gun butt for the greatest ease of drawing. The muzzle plug was retained and the result was the new Jordan Holster, standard today in the US Border Patrol.

For many years Bill toured the U.S. putting on D.A. fast draw exhibitions using wax bullets. I have personally seen him drop a ping pong ball from the back of his gun hand, held waist high, draw his revolver and fire a wax slug which hits the falling ping pong ball before it can hit the floor! Until recently, Bill used a standard Don Hume Jordan holster for these demonstrations.

Recently, while looking over the new leather products available from Don



Bill's contributions to the art of handgunning include his own design of combat grip for D.A. revolvers, the Jordan Trooper by Herret's Grips, and the Jordan holster as exclusively manufactured by Don Hume Leathersgoods.

Bill designed the Jordan holster while serving with the U.S. Border Patrol. At the time, the issue holster was a S.D. Myres holster, a fine holster in its own right. Such greats as Gen. George S. Patton carried his famous ivory handled Colt SAA revolver throughout WWII in a Myres' Border Patrol holster. The Bianchi Gunleather Museum contains the personal sidearm and holster of another shooting legend, Col. Charles Askins. The holster is a Myres' Border Patrol model. From Myres, this holster was available for SA and DA revolvers, as well as for the Colt 45 auto.

Starting with the Myres holster, Bill had them trim away the leather around the trigger guard and add a steel insert in the drop shank and belt loop. A leather plug was sewn into the holster pouch just below

Hume Leathersgoods at the '81 SHOT show, I ran into Bill and spent a very pleasant half hour visiting with him. Discussing holsters and fast draw, Bill told me that he preferred his holster to hang straight up and down for maximum speed, but had to use the butt forward cant because of the time spent wearing a gun while seated in an automobile.

The Jordan Holster has been available for DA revolvers and certain large auto pistols from Don Hume Leathersgoods for years. Now, displayed for the first time at the '81 SHOT show, there is a Jordan holster for the SA revolver. I immediately placed my order for a Jordan rig for my favorite Colt SAA .45 with 4¾ inch barrel.

The Jordan rig I received shows the top quality one expects from Don Hume. It is an attractive red/brown color, made of top grade cowhide. The drop shank is noticeably longer than in the DA version and it hangs from the belt vertically.

As received, the pouch fits my Colt SAA tight enough so that there is no need for a

retaining strap. In case the pouch stretches with use, to the point that the Colt isn't held with the desired security, a traditional over-the-hammer spur thong keeper is included. It should be noted that Bill's philosophy for gun security dictates that retention straps, etc., be used only when one expects immediate extreme physical activity.

The only thing I would change with my new Jordan SA rig are the bullet loops. Eighteen in number, they are individually stitched to a separate leather strip, and then fastened to the traditional Hume/Jordan gunbelt with screw post binders. I would prefer bullet loops that are integral with the gunbelt, although this method is equally as functional and helps hold the price down.

While this is not meant to be a competition fast draw rig, I wanted to try it on my electronic fast draw timer. Being a field rig, I used the draw and then thumb cock method with my Colt, and then tried my Ruger fanning SA using the poke fan style, where the gun is poked through the fanning hand directly at the target. This is a very accurate draw and is faster than most practical styles of drawing a SA revolver.

With the thumb cocking style, it was possible to achieve consistent draw and hit times, including reaction, of .60 second. The ram fan style dropped these times to .50 second. Not bad for a rig designed for everyday, all day use. The new Don Hume Leathergoods Jordan SA rig can carry Bill Jordan's name with pride.



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RELOADING TESTS

DAN COTTERMAN

HANDLOADING PRODUCTS EVALUATED AFTER EXTENDED TEST PERIOD

The introduction of a new product is invariably followed by a passel of articles devoted to its appraisal. The product in question may, in fact, be so new it isn't available to consumers; still, those favored by advance factory samples hurry to be among the first to publish their personal announcement and review.

I have thought for some years that a better plan would be to wait until a product had had time to settle in the marketplace, then publish the reviews. Such a delay would allow the testers of products plenty of time to have them about, use them, and form broader, more balanced opinions regarding their worth.

Conscious of the advantages cited, I have been in no particular hurry to mention such products as an anti-leading lubricant, cleaner, and preservative called Break-Free; Lee Precision's Auto-Prime; and Bonanza's super-press, the Co-Ax. I have, instead, worked with these not-so-new items extensively in order to have my report reflect the benefit of more experience.

Any lubricant used by handloaders should have minimal effect on primers. It is important, therefore, to note that the San/Bar Corporation, marketers of Break-Free, states that primers soaked in the stuff for a period of two weeks were not affected. Although I did not actually immerse primers in Break-Free, I did

spray a quantity of them with the lubricant, after which I allowed them to sit for about a month. They were then seated in .44 Magnum handloads stoked with 7.5 grains of Hercules Unique and allowed to sit for several days. Each round, of which there were 20, fired with equal verve, certainly an indication that neither the primers nor the powder had been adversely affected.

Spraying primers with lubricant of any kind is not, however, to be recommended for the simple reason that any slickness applied to the outside of the cup will increase its tendency to back out. There also is a loss of "feel" in seating primers.

Break-Free, which contains Teflon, also is touted as a cleaner, a preservative for metal surfaces, and a remover of rust. I will not dwell at length on these factors except to say that it works according to San/Bar's claims.

The first order of importance to those who load cast or swaged bullets that expose raw lead to the bore is San/Bar's statement that lead fouling is reduced following the use of Break-Free.

For obvious reasons, I do not recommend applying Break-Free, or any lubricant, to the chamber surfaces of revolvers or auto-loaders. It was, however, applied to the bores of several test handguns of both types in order to determine its value as a shield against powder and lead residue.

Nothing is 100-percent effective against lead fouling, and I've tested just about everything that's come on the market for the past 20 or more years. As any shooter knows, there will be some amount of residual deposit of fouling following any shooting session. However, with Break-Free, I have found that the adherence of such fouling, especially leading, is materially reduced. In most cases, simple dry-patching resulted in a level of cleanliness that might otherwise have required arduous scrubbing.

PRECISION PRIMER SEATING

Much has been written (a lot of it here) about the importance of accurate primer seating. There was, in pursuit of this goal, the Parke Precision seater, which, unfortunately, is no longer available. This device accomplished the seating of each primer .005-inch past the surface of the cartridge head; with it the tactile aspect was all but



Continued on page 32

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SIGHT SETTINGS

Continued from page 12

working but serious competitor to practice his sport. When traveling any distance for a match, I always favor one indoors over outdoors, at least the weather can't absolutely wipe it out.

Fortunately, the NRA Pistol Committee at this writing, is mostly civilians and very much civilian oriented, but working with an ailing sport. Perhaps bullseye has had its day. There may never again be 2,430 competitors at the nationals as in 1955. However, to help handgun popularity, we must encourage the coming generations to shoot International Pistol. The NRA International Competitions Committee is usually made up of military or ex-military shooters, probably due to lack of interest by civilians and misunderstanding of International and how easily it can be fired on existing conventional club ranges. Much credit must be given this committee and its hard working members for International's continuing success. It is usually fighting tremendous pressure from other NRA interests.

I do think, though, that the NRA International Committee covers too many shooting sports. It should be refined to an International Committee for pistol and one for rifle. I know there are sub-committees for these now, but something much stronger and more effective is needed. If you agree, we should work for their establishment and be ready to supply the knowledgeable people to do the work. Both such committees could still be combined for the powerful International Competitions Committee we need for all Olympic and legal reasons. Surely handgunners can show the need and interest for such committee specialization to the NRA. Hunting and Wildlife, and Black Powder and other NRA committees have produced the pressure and manpower to have their own committees. Think it over, then write Gary Anderson, Executive Director of General Operations at the NRA. Gary's a shooter and is interested in what you think.



SILUETAS

Continued from page 11

more to come."

There were several manufacturers in attendance; T/C, Hornady, SAECO, Omark and Western Gunstocks to name a few. I stopped and talked to Hornady's Jim Smith and asked if silhouette was really as big a deal as many of its proponents claim.

"Yes, it is," he stated. "Silhouette shooting is the biggest thing happening in the industry now. There are new demands for pistols, components and reloading tools. You see, the average silhouette shooter

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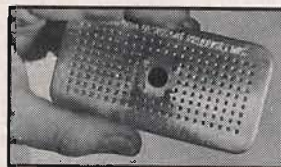
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burns a great deal of ammo in a year, far more than a hunter."


I asked next if Hornady had any way of measuring this, by say, the additional demand for the bullets silhouette shooters use.

"That's hard to gauge," he responded, "as we've been back ordered on bullets for some time now. We've increased production 40% and still haven't met the demand. I guess the silhouette shooters demand is best seen in 7mm though. We had a small demand for these bullets from hunters and target shooters before. Why, we sold hardly any 7mm match bullets. Now we can't keep up with the demand."

So. A big match, some fantastic scores shot, and it looks like there's more to come. I can't wait for '82.

GET INVOLVED

It's easy for columnists to get wrapped up in their importance and lose touch with their constituency. I don't want to do that. I get to talk to a few of you, but obviously can't catch you all. So, to change that, I'd like the rest of you to send me a note on your thoughts on various topics. I'll print the best and burn the rest. Drop me a line: P.O. Box 22074, Phoenix, AZ 85028-0074.

To start things off, how about letting me know if you agree with Dave on the need for a permanent site for the IHMSA Internationals. (Does Black Canyon and a winter vacation in the sun appeal to you?) 

ARNETT PATENT

Perry Jay Arnett, designer of the interchangeable multi-caliber conversions for the .45 auto pistol, has developed an accuracy device for the Colt .45 that produces predictable mechanical positioning repeatability of the rear of the barrel to the slide. His patent, No. 4,222,308, shows that the rear of the barrel is tapered, and it fits into a corresponding taper of a recess at the breech face of the slide; this centers the barrel laterally. To assure vertical centering, the patent shows a contoured under-barrel lug which, with a special design of slide stop pin, holds barrel in battery in the same position, shot after shot.

This patent is being offered for sale under an exclusive licensing agreement. For more information, contact: Perry Jay Arnett, 97 South 100 East, Parowan, Utah 84761, (801) 477-8008.

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HOW GOOD IS THE NEW REMINGTON

7MM BR

SILHOUETTE?

Long awaited, Remington's 7mm BR Silhouette cartridge and pistol are here and first tests indicate stunning results!

By Philip C. Briggs



THE LONG AWAITED Remington XP-100 unlimited gun has finally arrived. XP-100 unlimited guns were first seen at the 1976 IHMSA National match in El Paso and have been the guns to beat in their classes ever since. But if you wanted one you had to have it custom built. As 15 inch barreled XP's would seem to be as easy to build as the standard versions, and with an established, large and growing demand, Remington's entry into the sport has been expected for sometime. Pistols finally began arriving on dealers shelves in the spring of 1980.

After all that wait, the obvious question is—just how good is the pistol? That is, did Remington take the time to do it's home-

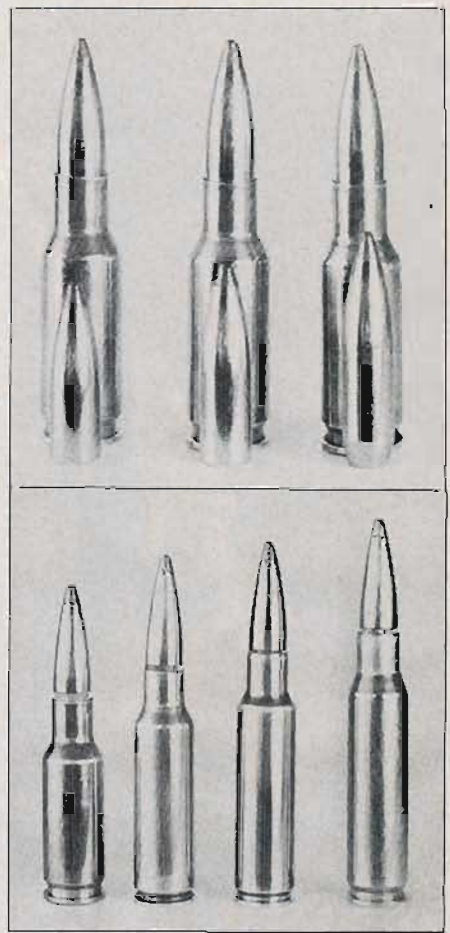
work, or are we left with another corporate idea of what we need?

I received one of the first available guns from Elgin Gates, IHMSA President, along with dies and brass and set out to find the answer. Now, 800 rounds and a few matches later, I'm ready to answer the question.

The pistol looks just like a typical economy XP-100 conversion, a long barreled action ensconced in the abominable nylon stock. The barrel dimensions were fixed by Remington's decision to use the existing stock, so it's a slender .57 inches in diameter at the muzzle. Slender, but still fatter than what the stock was molded for; the barrel channel on my pistol had been milled out with a ball-shaped tool leaving a knife edge juncture of outside and inside forearm surfaces. The barrel's contour starts out nice and fat though (1.17 inches) holding that dimension to just about the point where the shoulder on a 7 IHMSA case would lie. The barrel is beefier in this area than the IHMSA barrel I have, so I expect there's enough meat there for those of you that plan on rechambering to something longer.

As silhouette shooters have their own preferences in sights the pistol comes with but a ramp for the front sight and two sets of screw holes on the barrel. The receiver is tapped for a receiver sight on the rear of

Continued on page 57



Top: The 7mm BR loaded with 120 and 140 gr. Sierras and the 160 gr. boattail bullets. **Below:** 7mm variations, left to right; the BR, 7mm x 1 3/4', 7mm IHMSA and 7mm-08. All of these are popular cartridges among unlimited silhouette shooters.



Above: Pacific dies for the 7mm were used to form brass. **Left:** Author firing the new Remington, with good results. **Right:** Author's XP-100 has Micro rear and Burris front sights. Rear sight, mounted on Weaver base, worked well. Barrel markings of caliber on this mass-produced gun for unlimited class



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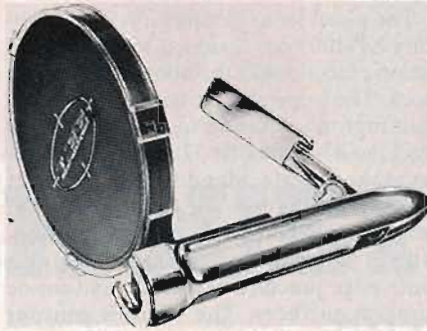
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RELOADING TESTS

Continued from page 26

eliminated. However, where seating depth is not controlled mechanically, feel is about all you have going for you; you have to know when the primer's anvil contacts



the base of the pocket and when to stop applying pressure.

This critically-important sensitivity to applied pressure is mitigated through the use of compound leverage such as is engineered into bench-mounted handloading presses.

Compound leverage is applied, albeit on a minor scale, with the use of Lee Precision's Auto-Prime; yet, because of reduced leverage, the handloader is able to cultivate a proper feel in the important function of primer seating.

The Auto-Prime is augmented by a full complement of shell holders—interchangeable without the use of special tools—and can be quickly converted for the seating of large or small primers. The little tool is, however, inexpensive, therefore, I have found it expedient to have two; one for large primers and another for small primers.

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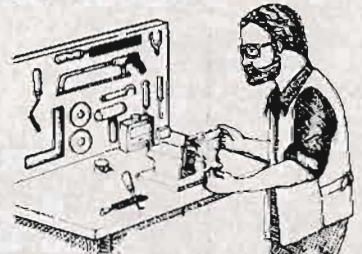
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The Devel Gammon



On May 23rd, Mickey Fowler won the prestigious 1981 Bianchi Cup Invitational Pistol Tournament. To do so he used a highly sophisticated and customized version of the venerable Colt 1911A1 .45 autopistol. His pistol, the Devel Gammon, will be the subject of this brief article.

While there are certain areas of the Gammon's design that Charlie Kelsey of Devel Corporation, the gun's builder, is reluctant to talk about, I think there will be enough brought to light here to make the subject interesting. I've discussed the pistol with Charlie several times, fired it, field stripped it, and photographed it, so that its workings are no mystery to me.

First of all, I must say that writing about the Gammon is somewhat difficult for me, because of my views on practical pistols and practical pistol shooting. Anyone who has read my articles in the past should realize that I favor basic pistols and equipment that fulfill a practical role either in defensive shooting or realistic practical matches. The Gammon is a game winning tool and nothing more, and I think Charlie Kelsey would agree with me on that point.

The Bianchi Cup Invitational Pistol

By Rick Miller

Tournament is a very specialized game that promotes highly exotic equipment. The Devel Gammon was designed and executed to give Mickey Fowler an edge in this hotly contested match, and it did just that. Since this contest is purely sporting in nature, with no practical overtones, it can be viewed in the same light as professional golf or tennis, and the equipment used should be viewed in the same way.

With this thought in mind, Charlie set out to accomplish two things. First, to develop the ultimate game winning configuration for the old 1911 Colt autoloader; a suitable answer to the highly refined and specialized full house PPC revolvers; the ultimate in precision paper punching equipment in .45 autoloading persuasion. Secondly, the Gammon was conceived as a promotional idea to advertise the fact that Devel Corporation is now getting into the custom .45 business. I think on this score the project has been successful. A number of the top shooters at the Bianchi Cup expressed an interest in the Gammon's

design concept and what it does. Heretofore, Devel had been known only for their excellent custom work on the Smith & Wesson Models 39 and 59.

Before we go any further it should be mentioned that Kelsey does not plan to build any more pistols of this configuration at this time. This was a test bed project to show what Devel could do with the .45 Auto. Their future plans for the Colt pistol will follow more conventional lines, although several features tested in the Gammon will be incorporated into this work also.

The most radical innovation on the Gammon, without doubt, is the shortened lightweight slide and the balance weight in front of it. A lot of the felt movement in the hand upon discharge of the .45 pistol comes from the rearward impulse of the heavy slide impacting against the frame at the end of its stroke. Charlie felt that if the slide were lightened considerably this would reduce the disturbance in the hand when firing the pistol. Note that I didn't say it would reduce recoil, only that it would reduce some of the apparent movement felt by the hand, that is so charac-



teristic of the .45 Auto.

As a consequence of these ideas the Gammon's slide has been cut shorter than that of a Colt Commander, and it has been extensively lightened inside. This reduces its momentum in travel, and so theoretically to reduce that impact previously mentioned, with the frame.

At first glance, the Gammon appears to be nothing more than another long slide .45 Auto. Closer examination will reveal a hairline crack in what looks like a simple long slide arrangement. The slide itself only extends a little more than two-thirds of the way towards the muzzle, the rest is a stationary balance weight that is completely independent.

This independent muzzle weight serves three purposes. First, since it is not attached to the slide, that unit is lightened considerably. This reduces momentum, and hence felt movement in the hand, as already mentioned. It also speeds cycling time, which theoretically works toward the



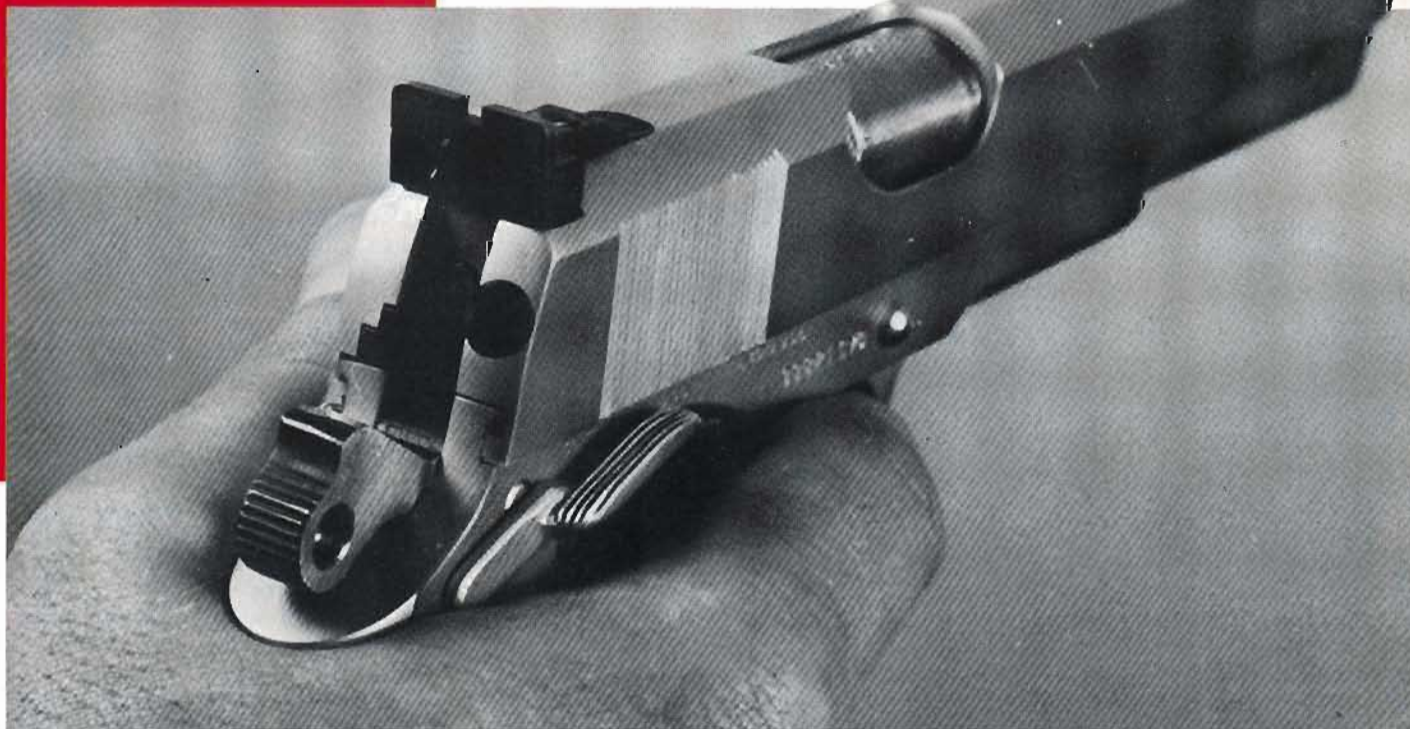
The Gammon may look like a long slide .45, but front is separate stationary balance weight. Photo below shows roller incorporated into feed ramp (left) and sight set up on the new Devel Gammon.

for a conventional Colt-Browning bushing. Instead, proper positioning of the muzzle end of the barrel is accomplished by mating a special beveled collar at the rear of the weight with a corresponding recess in the front of the slide. The rear end of the barrel is locked up in normal Colt-Browning fashion. The pistol is very accurate, so the system does indeed work. Mickey Fowler said that he was able to obtain a number of hand held two inch groups at fifty yards using his own match loads. Machine rest groups were not quite that good, but then, auto-pistols seldom shoot as well from machine rest as when in the hands of a champion shooter.

Since functioning is of paramount importance, no alibis being allowed at the Bianchi Cup or in IPSC matches, springs were developed for the Gammon by Walt Wolff. A complete set of recoil springs were made up to balance the pistol correctly with various loads, depending on whether the match in question was the Bianchi Cup, IPSC shooting, bowling pins,

is the roller positioned in the frame. This little device is a horizontal roller bearing positioned in the frame in such a way that the nose of the top cartridge in the magazine rests on it. This does three things, it keeps that round properly positioned while the preceding one is chambered, it reduces the friction of pushing a round up the feed ramp, and it prevents the possibility of the top cartridge nose diving into the feed ramp and tying up the pistol. This last point is its most important function. We all, from time to time, have had the experience of a perfectly good round, from a good magazine, in a good pistol, stub straight into the feed ramp and refuse to go up the spout. It doesn't happen often, but it does happen.

The frame roller has been a standard



same goal. Secondly, with all that weight as far out in front of the hand as possible, the pistol is quite muzzle heavy. This enhances its steady holding characteristics, which may not mean much on the street, but is certainly a boon on the competition field. Lastly, that extra weight out front does dampen muzzle flip and recoil noticeably. Recoil reduction is a subjective thing, and hard to measure. Some people think the pistol kicks less and some don't, but that weight out front does reduce muzzle flip, and that is another plus for the competitor.

Since the weight is fixed to the front portion of the barrel, there is no provision

etc. The quality of Wolff springs is well known, and the functioning of the Gammon lived up to that reputation.

The sight set up on the Gammon appears to be well thought out, and offers several advantages. First, the front sight is quickly interchangeable, so that various combinations can be used, again a touch for the match shooter. For instance, if you have a chromed slide the sights can be kept black. The rear sight is a modified Elliason, very neatly set into the slide. This sight package will be offered on all Devel .45 conversions.

Another interesting feature on the pistol

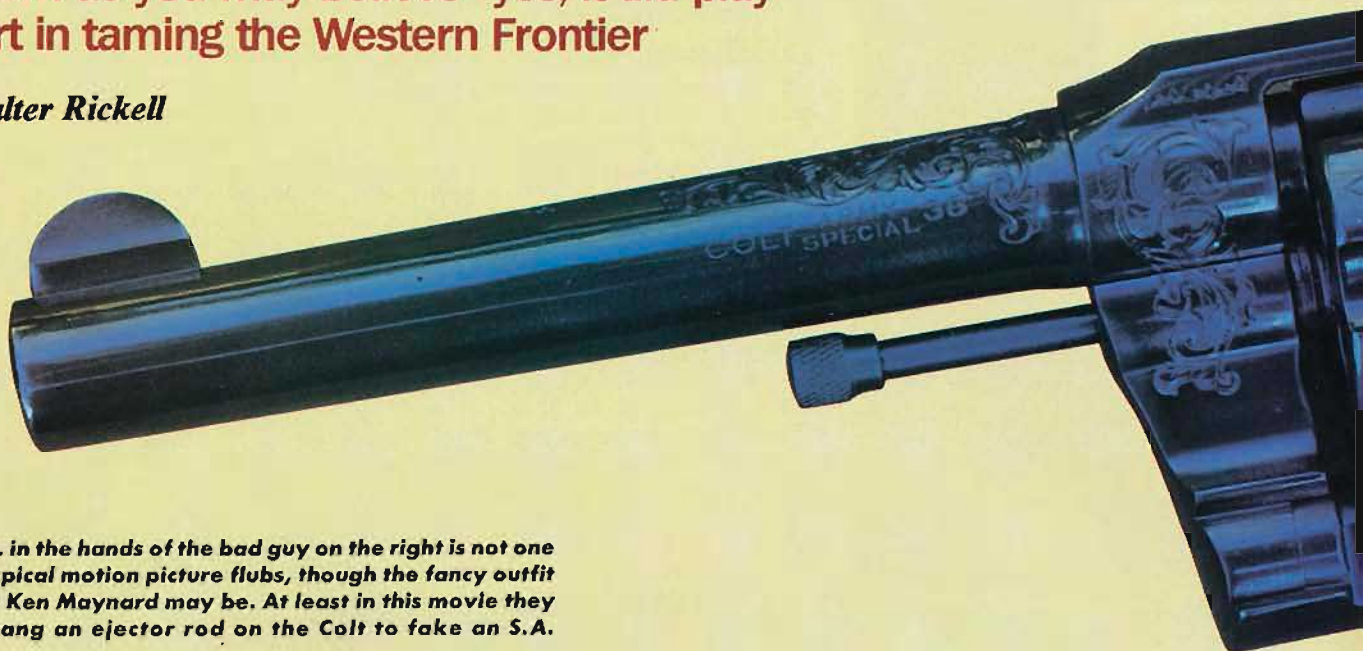
item on Devel M-39 and 59 conversions since their inception. Now that Devel is getting into the .45 business, this feature will be standard on their Colt pistol. Standard magazines will work in a pistol with the frame roller, but they must be relieved slightly at the front below where the top cartridge sits, a simple operation.

Speaking of magazines, magazines for the Gammon have a specially modified follower that allows an eight round capacity. With eight in the magazine and one up the spout the pistol has a nine round capacity. This was of no consequence at

Continued on page 75

The double action revolver is not as modern as you may believe—yes, it did play a part in taming the Western Frontier

By *Walter Rickell*



Colt D.A. in the hands of the bad guy on the right is not one of the typical motion picture flubs, though the fancy outfit worn by Ken Maynard may be. At least in this movie they didn't hang an ejector rod on the Colt to fake an S.A.



The double-action revolver on the Western Frontier seems strange when seen in the movies and their early stereotype Westerns. It might seem to be a modern handgun but its design has been in production over 100 years and many saw extensive service on the Frontier. The ease of just pulling the trigger to fire each shot, as opposed to cocking the hammer, then pulling the trigger, appealed to many of the good guys and bad guys alike.

The early models manufactured by several firms all had one thing in common, the internal parts were prone to breakage. This, of course, built an early reputation for this unique revolver being undependable. It was not until the turn of the century when Colt Patent Firearms developed what was called the rebound bar, which made the double action revolver dependable.

The first model of a new generation full sized revolver to be produced was the "NEW ARMY" model in calibers .38 and .41 Long Colt. It was called the "NEW ARMY" to distinguish it from the old model .38 DAs that were rejected by the Army earlier. The name did not help, for

Colt's "NEW"



the U.S. Army never ordered any, instead they changed over to the 1911 .45 ACP automatic.

Although no government sales were made the "NEW ARMY" became very popular with the public, especially in the Southwest and with the troops at the border where it played an extensive part in quelling the Mexican uprisings.

Another feature of the New Army was the ease of loading and unloading with a flick of the finger, using the swing out cylinder. The availability of various barrel lengths from 3 to 6 inches, made it popular with police departments, lawmen and detectives. In 1927 the name of the revolver was changed to "OFFICIAL POLICE" which was used until the early 1970s when

it was dropped from the line in that form.

The basic frame and action (the .41 caliber size) is still in the Colt line, for the "OFFICIAL POLICE" became the "OFFICER'S MODEL MATCH" and all its variations, the "COMMANDO" model and the famous Colt "PYTHON." So the modern Double Action revolver is not so new, it's been around longer than you think. The New Army revolver was made from 1892 to 1907, thus embracing a part of the era of the western frontier.



Editor's Note

Collectors should be aware that there are three major variations of the Colt New Army and Navy revolvers. The civilian version, with no military markings (\$85 to \$200 value); the Navy variations with USN on the butt (\$135 to \$350 value); the Army variations with U.S. ARMY on the butt (\$110 to \$275 value); for guns in very good and excellent condition.

Army

Hank Williams Jr.

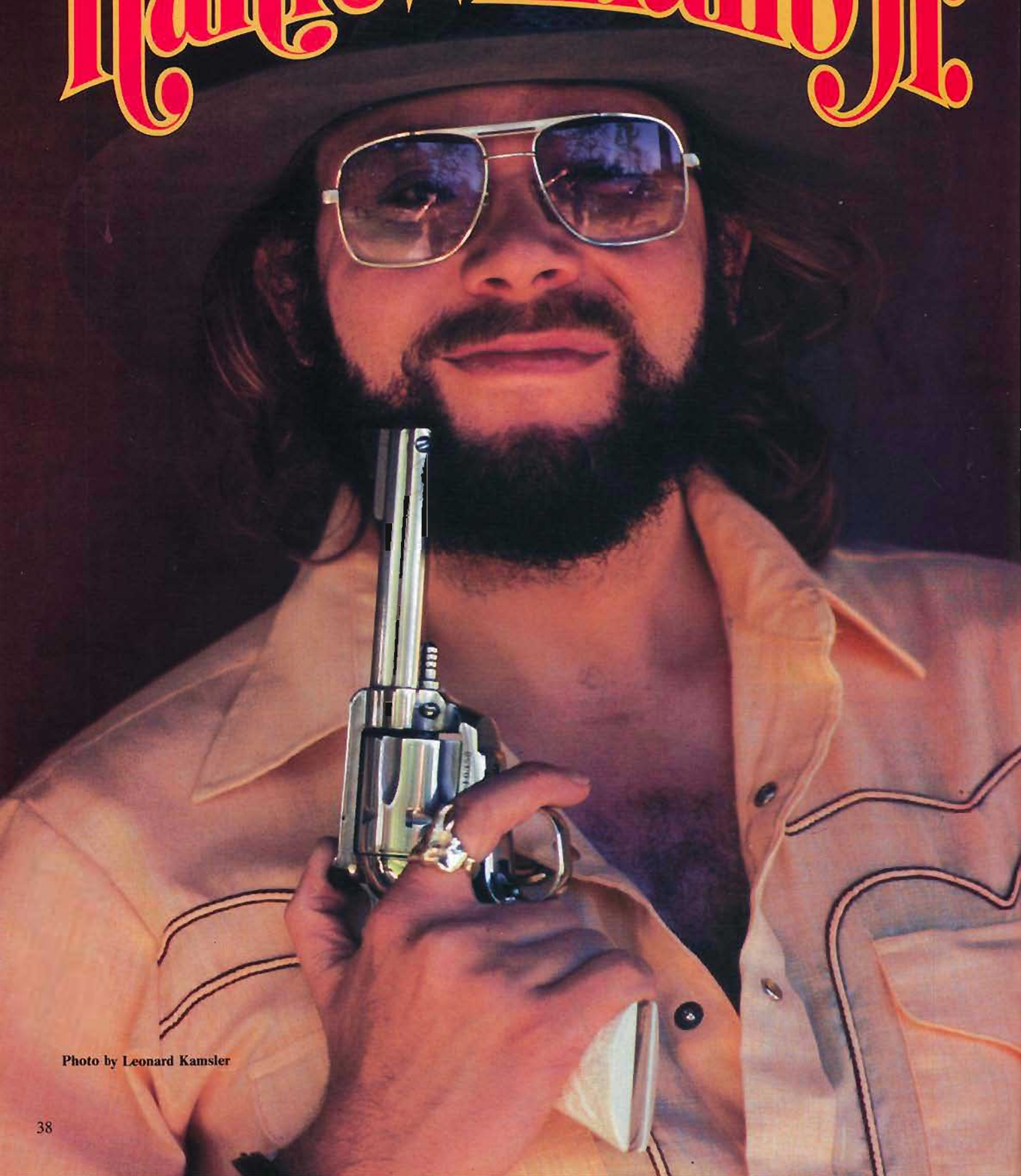


Photo by Leonard Kamsler

An exclusive American Handgunner profile of a country-western star, Ruger collector, pro-gun activist and handgun hunter

By Michael Bane



What little free time Hank has is spent loading fodder for his hunts.

The sun was only a few minutes from setting, sending long shadows through the woods along Montana's Continental Divide, when we grudgingly decided to call it a day. We'd been in the woods since before dawn; myself, country music star Hank Williams Jr., and rancher/guide/friend Dick Willey, looking for moose, and saying we were bone-tired hardly even began to cover how we *really* felt. We'd been heading roughly toward camp, becoming more dejected and colder as we worked our way out of the mountains. Nobody said taking a moose with a handgun would be easy—especially when the moose failed to cooperate.

We were all admiring the coming sunset, making small talk, when one of us remarked about how nice the moose looked silhouetted against the sky—we were *that* tired. Because, several hundred yards away, watching us, was the moose we'd been looking for all day. We all froze, and Hank Jr. slipped the 7½-inch Ruger Super Blackhawk out of his belt holster. He began working his way forward as the moose, suddenly wary, began ambling away.

For the next thirty minutes Hank Jr. stalked the moose, trying to maneuver a clear shot before the light failed. But the moose seemed determined to stall until dark. Finally, Hank Jr. got to within 100 yards of the skittish creature, and with the sun just minutes from going behind the mountains, he decided on a gamble. He stood up, put his fingers to his mouth, and whistled, which he followed with a shout, "Hey, moose!" The moose stopped stone dead and turned a perfect front-on profile to Hank Jr.

Two quick shots from the Ruger echoed through the mountains, and the moose dropped in his tracks. We paced off the distance—just shy of 100 yards—as the sun finally sank, and Hank Jr. beamed with happiness. "This," he said, "makes it all worthwhile!"

It's a long, long way from the glamor of Nashville's country music industry to the cathedral quiet of the Rocky Mountains, but for Hank Williams Jr.—the son of country music's most enduring legend—the trip between the two worlds is easy to make.

"People used to say to me, 'You hunt and fish too much. You're *never* going to be a big star,'" says Hank Jr. during an exclusive interview with GUNS at his "hunting cabin" near Kentucky Lake in Paris, Tennessee. "I said, 'Hey, did it ever occur to you that hunting and fishing is just as important to me as being a big star?'"

But for the second time in his 31 years,

Hank Jr. is a big star, one of Nashville's biggest, in fact. His songs, such as *Family Tradition*, *Whiskey Bent And Hell Bound*, and *Texas Women*, have dominated the top of the country charts, and his last national tour was earmarked by frenetic fans and standing-room-only shows. Last fall, NBC television scheduled a movie based on Hank Jr.'s life, starring Richard Thomas (of *The Waltons*) in the lead role. The movie is based on Hank Jr.'s autobiography, *Living Proof* (co-written by Hank Jr. and this author—in fact, the hunt mentioned at the beginning of this story took place while we were putting the book together).

For Hank Jr., his lifelong love of guns and hunting was and is far more than a hobby. It was a way to maintain his sanity in what quickly became the crazy world of country music. By the age of eight, when

most kids were just getting established in school, Hank Jr. was on the road, touring as the "reincarnation" of his famous Daddy, Hank Williams. He sang his Daddy's songs, told his Daddy's jokes, and, by the age of 14 was not only an accomplished performer but an international star as well.

"I had to get away from it," he says today. "So I went to my grandfather's—Mr. Shepherd—place in south Alabama. He had an old Colt Woodsman that he cleaned with gasoline from the tractor and oiled with Three-In-One, a Browning shotgun with no blue that he'd modified with a flat-file, and a .38 Smith and Wesson that he couldn't hit the side of a barn with. He didn't give a capital *damn* about big cities or the music business, and there's a lot of that in me still."

He quickly fell in love with both handguns and hunting. While the young Hank Jr. had access to literally everything and anything money and fame could buy, there was still only one way to become a good shot. "And I really liked that challenge," he says. "To hit a tin can at 100 paces or an old rabbit with that Woodsman, that was *hard*, and it meant something to me to be able to do it."

He has since hunted all over the world, from Alaska to Africa, but his first love remains the big-bore handgun. Around 1971, after twice having to wrestle an unwieldy rifle during a close-in boar hunt with dogs, Hank Jr. decided handgun hunting was the only way to go.

"With boars, I wanted both my hands *free*, so if it came down to it, I could *climb* something real quick," he says, laughing. "So I took a lesson from these old boar hunters in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, and got me a Ruger Blackhawk in .44 Magnum, cut the barrel down to five inches, and stuffed it in a shoulder holster. Then I thought 'Gawd, why didn't I do this a long time ago?'"

The Blackhawk remains his all-time favorite gun—"There don't seem to be so many American success stories, but Bill Ruger is one of 'em. Maybe that's why I'm so sold on his guns," he says. "They're so *darned* reliable! I've seen 'em with all the blue rubbed off and—honest—the cylinder held in with a stick, and when you cock that sucker back, it's going to fire. You can put a Blackhawk through hell, and it keeps right on shooting."

Since the early 1970s, Hank Jr. has taken moose, black bear, mountain lions, deer, wild turkey, antelope, and all manner of varmints with the Blackhawk, usually in

Continued on page 71

Here's one just for fans of the .22 rimfire.

Tom Volquartsen, who operates Tom's Gun Bluing Shop in Carroll, Iowa, made up this Ruger .22 auto pistol especially for this Custom Gun Giveaway.

The Ruger "Supreme" is a specialty of Tom's and quite a popular seller in his shop. Here's what's been done to your gun (if you should be the lucky winner).

The barrel is a 7" Premium Grade Douglas (Tom also uses a Match S hilen on request) with an integral barrel weight, and the barrel is Mag-Na-Ported. On the barrel is a Lyman dovetail base with a Burris blade front sight; rear is a Bo-Mar.

The frame is finished in satin nickel, and the barrel and receiver are glass-beaded blue. The custom trigger is gold plated and jewelled; the bolt is also jewelled.

Tom has tuned this Ruger to give a clean, light (2.5 to 3 lb.) trigger with a minimum of pre-trigger travel.

Tom makes up four versions of the Custom Ruger "Supreme" with barrel lengths ranging from 6" to 10". Tom's custom work is not restricted to Ruger autos. He also does Match Grade PPC revolvers, hunting and silhouette guns, as well as other customized .22's.

For detailed information on his work, send \$2.00 to: Tom's Gun Bluing Shop, 1818 Crestview Dr., Carroll, Iowa 51401.

TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM-J/F, local dealer name and address. Mail before February 1, 1982. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116.

Name _____
Address _____
City & State _____ Zip _____
HOM-JAN./FEB.
If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:
Dealer _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contest void where taxed or prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Winner must comply with all federal and local laws. Employees and agents of Publisher's Development Corp. not eligible.



Win this

CUSTOM "RUGER"



ER SUPREME"



Early in 1980, Charter Arms Corporation introduced their Explorer II semi-automatic pistol. Originally labeled the Jäg Huntmaster Pistol, to be available with a choice of 6, 8, 10, or 12-inch barrel, the Explorer II is based on the action of the AR-7 Explorer rifle produced by Charter Arms, with the receiver modified by the addition of a pistol grip, plus an open pistol-type rear sight. The method of barrel attachment is the same, although the barrel guide aligning notch is on the bottom of the receiver ring, and not on the top as on the AR-7 rifle, so the pistol barrel cannot be interchanged with the rifle barrel. (To install the pistol barrel on the AR-7 rifle would constitute a sawed-off rifle, and

By Larry Sterett

could create problems for the owner.) Even the scope mount for the AR-7 rifle can be installed on the Explorer II, making it ideal for handgun hunting where the .22 Long Rifle cartridge is suitable. (The 8-round magazine is the regular AR-7 magazine, and the pivoting safety on the right side of the receiver is the same.) The rear sight has a 0.140-inch wide square notch, and is screw-adjustable for windage and elevation, while the front blade sight measures 0.147-inch wide.

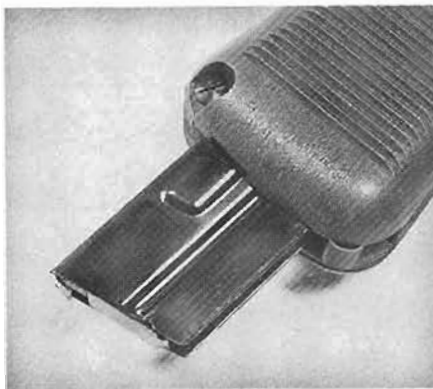
The Explorer II measures 15-9/16 inches

in overall length with an 8-inch barrel, and stands 6½ inches high. Empty, the pistol weighs 28 ounces, due in large part to the aluminum alloy receiver/grip assembly, barrel shroud, barrel collar, and cocking handle. The safety, trigger, barrel liner, breechbolt, magazine, magazine release, and interior action parts are of steel. Removing the single screw on the left side of the frame, above the magazine release, will enable the sideplate to be removed, exposing the trigger mechanism, etc.

The finish on the Explorer II is black, heat cured, textured enamel, sometimes called "black crackle," while the stocks are of grained brown plastic, simulating walnut, with grooves to provide secure grip-

SPECIFICATIONS:

Model: Explorer II
Caliber: 22 Long Rifle, rimfire
Overall Length: 15-9/16 inches
Barrel Length: 8 inches
Height: 6½ inches
Weight: 28 ounces, empty
Magazine Capacity: 8 rounds
Sights: Blade front, with square notch rear, adjustable for windage and elevation
Finish: Black, textured enamel, semi-gloss
Grips: Grooved, wood-grained brown plastic
Price: \$99.00
Manufacturer: Charter Arms Corporation, 430 Sniffens Lane, Stratford, CT 06497



Grip of the Explorer II houses one spare 8-round magazine, shown here partially seated in the grip well.

ping. The grip resembles that of the M1896 "broomhandle" Mauser pistol, except for being larger and more slab-sided. The reason for this slab-sidedness is to provide space for storage of the 8-round box magazine inside the grip; the regular magazine length of 7½ inches, a "broomhandle" grip, weight of 24 ounces, and the same sights as

on the regular AR-7. The Hy Hunter firm has been out of business for several years, and the Bolomauser pistol went with it, but Charter Arms Explorer II is an improved version, with an accessory scope mount that is much better than the original Hunter version. (Note: Charter Arms has no connection with the old Hunter firm, nor is the Explorer II copied after the Bolomauser, but only resembles it.)

The Explorer II was checked out for functioning and accuracy from the bench at 25 yards, using sandbag wrist rests. A

Charter's First AUTO PISTOL

The famous AR-7 survival rifle becomes a pistol in this unique auto-loader design Charter Arms calls Explorer II

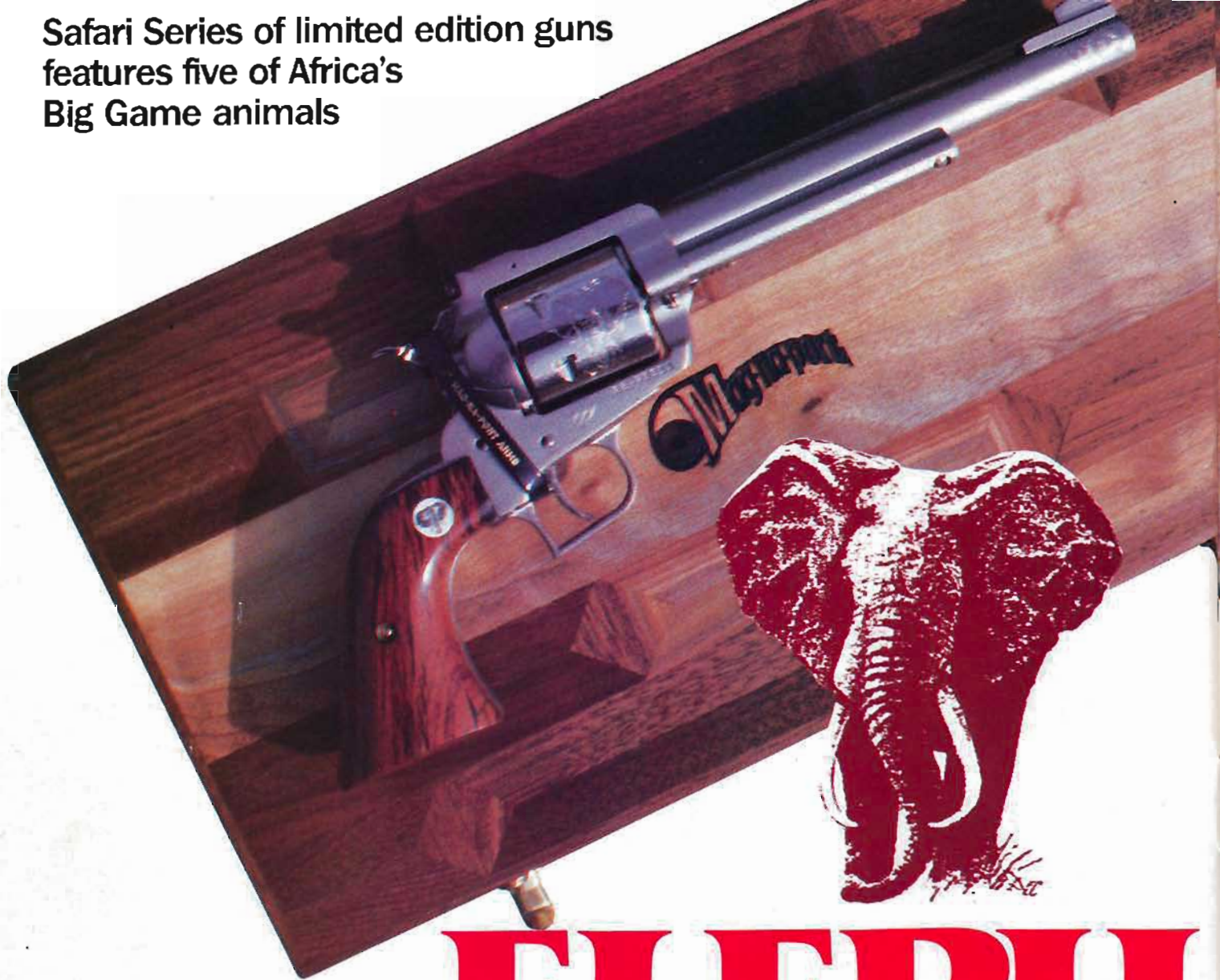
can be kept installed in position ahead of the trigger guard, while a loaded spare magazine can be kept stored in the grip.

The Explorer II is based on the AR-7 design, which was originally an ArmaLite product, but it is not the first such pistol based on the AR-7 design. Eighteen years ago the Hy Hunter firm made three different firearms based on the ArmaLite AR-7 design. Two of these Hunter arms were rifles—the M-1 Carbine resembling the M1 Carbine, and the T-62 Civilian Defense Weapon, resembling the "Tommy Gun," complete with finned barrel, compensator, and forward vertical hand grip. The third design was the Bolomauser Machine Pistol, which featured a barrel

2.5X long eye-relief scope was mounted, and firing consisted of five-shot groups, using a variety of cartridge brands, including Eley Match, Federal Power-Flight, Lapua, Remington Hi-Speed, and Western Super-X. The Remington "Golden Bullets" repeatedly produced the best groups, with most of them measuring ¾-inch in diameter, measured center-to-center, with none going over an inch. The Federal and Lapua loads did almost as well, indicating the Explorer II is suitable for small game hunting, or just plain plinking. There were no malfunctions with the Explorer II. It fed from the 8-round magazine perfectly, and ejected the fired cases with authority.



Safari Series of limited edition guns
features five of Africa's
Big Game animals



ELEPH

By J.D. Jones

At this point, I'm not sure if I'm writing about a sixgun or an investment. I guess it's a little of both.

The Mag-Na-Port Limited Edition Custom Rugers are legendary in both their quality and dollar appreciation. I know of no other Ruger collector items that have increased in value as much as the M-N-P Limited Editions. I don't know of any other "Limited Edition" guns made during the last 30 years that have had the increase in value of these M-N-P guns.

Guns increase in value in direct proportion to their desirability. Desirability or

"want" is created by appeal to a shooter or investor by providing an attractive, functional item of limited availability. Mag-Na-Port has this technique down pat.

Starting out with the basic Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum, Kelly has cut, chopped, polished, blued, plated, engraved and boxed in seemingly all manners and fashions. But, he always seems to come up with another design; another winner.

The Safari Elephant (The Second in the Safari series) is designed primarily as a collector's investment item with secondary emphasis on shooting—although they will certainly shoot. At \$1395.00, a gun that looks as good as this one does probably will look at the inside of more safes than it will look at targets.



Animal sketch and scroll engraving on "Elephant" is done freehand by Frank Conroy. Each of the 200 guns will come in a custom walnut case.

ANT!

The basic Super Blackhawk is modified as follows: the muzzle of the barrel is inverted from its outer diameter to bore. Collectors of guns trivia note—SSK copied this crown from the benchrest rifle guys; applied it to the SSK Custom T/C barrels and then to the muzzle of the HHI Sixgun. It now appears on the Elephant.

The finish is nickel. The cylinder, cylinder pin, cylinder pin release and all screws and pins with the exception of the rear sight elevation screw (blue), rear sight retaining pin (blue) and stock screw are bright nickeled. Prior to plating, the hammer and trigger are jeweled. The rest of the gun is satin or matte nickel. Prior to plating the cylinder is highly polished and engraved with the frontal view of an elephant and the sides of the barrel behind the

muzzle are tastefully scrolled. The engraving is the real thing—no acid etch or power work. This done freehand in the same manner of the old masters by Frank L. Conroy. Each engraving will therefore be similar, but not identical. The M-N-P number is engraved on the right side of the frame. Mag-Na-Port is EDM'ed into the topstrap and gold filled. The front sight ramp is reworked to a more pleasing appearance and a red insert installed. An action job has been done and a white outline rear sight blade installed. Grips are of high quality Rosewood with two discs of ivory scrimshawed with the likeness of an elephant's head installed. The action is sealed and once a seal is broken it will not be reinstalled. The purpose of this is to prevent the cylinder being turned and thus

impairing collector value and guaranteeing the cylinder was not turned.

The Elephant comes in a high quality custom built walnut case. It's lined in blue velvet and a scrimshawed disc of ivory bearing an elephant's head is inset in the corner. Scrimshaw is by John Metry.

How does it shoot? Hell, I don't know and I'm not going to find out. This one, as well as my other M-N-P guns will look at the inside of a safe and maybe be a retirement nest egg or whatever.

The rest of the Safari Series consists of 200 custom guns each of the Buffalo (completed and sold out), Elephant (only a few left as this is readied for publication), Lion, Leopard and Rhino which will probably be the last of the Safari Series. While it may be too late for the Buffalo and Elephant, orders for the Lion will be accepted in Oct. of 81, orders for the Leopard in October, 82.

In general, I figure any M-N-P Limited Edition gun to be worth about twice its purchase price on the collector market before it's made. As time goes on the prices go up. I've hear of MK Vs going for \$4500.00—original cost if I'm not mistaken was \$395.00.

There are many gunsmiths customizing Rugers. Mag-Na-Port customizes individual guns to a customer's taste. I know of no custom Rugers or original Rugers that will bring the money that the M-N-P Limited Edition guns do. The Elephant is available through Mag-Num Sales Limited, Inc. 30016 S. River Road, Mt. Clemens, MI 48045. (313) 469-6727.

TRIAL RUN OR PPC GAN



H

Ready on the line. Left shoulder down range, load and holster your weapon." At seven yards, the silhouette looked as big as a house and all you're supposed to do is fire 12 rounds in 25 seconds into the middle of the thing. No sweat. I knelt down and fumbled six rounds out of my box of Zero reloads, stood up and noticed I was the only one still trying to load. My computer-like brain immediately grasped the concept that loading from the belt was infinitely faster than loading from the floor. I made a mental note to buy a belt with .38 loops.

"The line is loaded. The line is ready."

"Wait a minute!" I yelled as I finally got the cylinder closed and tucked my stainless Security Six into my homemade competition rig. The rig consisted of a Roy's original pancake holster worn behind the hip. Two speedloaders were neatly nestled into a holder which was originally part of a Jackass shoulder rig. The loaders and holders were tied to my pants belt with a leather thong. One more speedloader was stuffed in a shirt pocket for maximum inaccessibility.

By this time, the other five shooters on the line looked like they were losing patience with me.

"O.K.," I said, "Let 'er rip." The targets turned and the six of us whipped into action. I saw four shots hit either the X or 10 ring. My last two strayed a little because my eyes wandered down the line. All five of my companion shooters had 6" guns with bull barrels, fancy sights and Pachmayr grips. They wore a belt and holster rig right out of "Star Wars"—leather and plastic all tilted backward. I dumped my spent cases on the concrete floor as everyone else deposited theirs in white buckets. The buckets also seemed like a good idea. Mental note #2. Buy a bucket.



My computer-like brain instantly grasped the concept that loading from a belt was much faster than loading from the floor. I made a mental note to buy a looped belt.

By John P. Crowley

I now had my 4" Ruger open and faced the prospect of reloading. I shifted the gun to my left hand. My fellow competitors were firing again before the speedloader found its way into my right hand. The loader didn't seem to want to align properly and I knew time was wasting away. Four rounds went cleanly into the cylinder and two missed. I dropped the loader, chambered the obstinate shells by hand and fired three shots before the target turned.

My face was starting to turn a little red. There were undoubtedly a few more mistakes I could have made but they would

have included shooting myself in the foot.

The voice over the loudspeaker said, "Holster your weapons, police your brass, and return to the 25 yard line for the second course of fire." At least ten people watched carefully as five shooters strode back to the 25 yard line and one scrambled around on the floor picking up brass.

Back at the 25 yard line, I breathed deeply and got the speedloader ready. It's absolutely amazing how slippery ammunition becomes when people are watching you load. This time I held six rounds, loose, in my hand to avoid the floor loading techniques mastered at seven yards.

I hoped that deep breathing would calm the slight tremor that had developed in my right hand. It didn't.

The loudspeaker came on again and described my next test. Eighteen rounds, all double action, six kneeling, six standing left hand barricade, six standing right hand barricade. Of course it was timed but the time didn't come through my ear protection. I thought casually that the time didn't really matter since I'd have to go full out just to get off all the shots anyway.

The target turned. I knelt down and began to fire. Between shots I noticed that everybody else was resting their elbow on their left knee. Seemed like a good idea. Everybody else was reloading while I finished off my first six rounds with elbow on knee. It didn't seem to bother anybody that this position isn't kneeling. Then I was into it again. The speedloader was a slow loader. After nudging the rounds into the cylinder with my thumb, the loader slid in. Finally I was ready for the left hand barricade.

Now, I had dry fired all of this at home. It seemed a hell of a lot easier in the bedroom than it did now. I slammed my right hand up against the barricade, took a death-grip on the gun in my left hand and fired. I didn't seem to have any feeling for where I was shooting. Then it dawned on me that I couldn't really see the front sights. Black sights—black silhouette. Neat! I compensated by jiggling the sight to get a reference before each shot. Time to reload again.

This time the loader actually worked. O.K. Look out right hand barricade. Two shots later the target turned.

In-between crawling around on the floor, picking up brass and reloading the slow loaders, I peered down range. There were several suspicious looking holes on the white paper outside the silhouette. I thought that without sights the whole thing became kind of like throwing rocks—all judgment, instinct and Kentucky windage. I was really wishing now that the whole thing was over. But it wasn't. Next course of fire was six rounds in 12 seconds, all double action from the 25 yard line. No reloading. I sent up a small prayer of thanks and pleaded for either safety or a quick death. The targets turned again.

It turned out that 12 seconds was a lot of time. I finished shooting using my jiggle sighting technique 'with some assurance that they were actually in the black. I holstered my weapon and stepped back. Then I noticed that everyone else had a stopwatch taped to the barricade. The rotten pistoleros knew how much time they had and used every bit of it! This I considered to be an unfair advantage. I was willing to give up two inches in barrel length, my standard action and barrel against their super modifieds, even my pancake for their speed rigs. The watches went one step too far.

There wasn't much time to think about

Continued on page 74

Enforcer®

Factory custom guns from M-S Safari Arms come in many styles. Here's a test report

By Mike Barach

The M-S Safari Arms "Enforcer" isn't just another .45 auto, but rather a fully custom piece, loaded with features that come on the gun as standard factory equipment. And that's what sets it apart from the others.

Designed essentially as a combat .45, the Enforcer is by no means limited to that segment of the shooting sports. It also fits the bill for hunting small game, as an off-duty piece, or general-duty handgun. It's not, however, made for mid-range target loads.

The test gun I received is finished with an industrial hard chrome Armoloy that resembles stainless to a degree, but has a matte finish and is slightly darker in color. The Enforcer is also available in standard blue; blue with all surfaces coated with Teflon; an aluminum-alloy frame, and

lastly an all-stainless version. All in all quite a selection and the price is the same regardless of your choice.

The 3.8 inch barreled .45 tips the scales at 35 ounces with the clip unloaded. Magazine capacity is six rounds and the bottom of the clip has a rubber base pad for securely locking it in place.

Sights consist of a ramp-type front with an insert slot already cut into it. A "Bullshooters" fluorescent sight insert kit is supplied with the gun. The insert kit includes six colors—red, yellow, orange, blue, green, and opaque black. There's more than enough pigment & resin for you to experiment with the colors in order to choose the one that's right for you. Installing an insert with this kit is very simply done, especially since the slot is already machined into the front sight. The front

sight on the Enforcer may also be had without the slot if requested at the time a gun is ordered.

A customer option of either the fully adjustable Behlert or S&W K-frame rear sight is available. Don McNabb, head of M-S Safari Arms advised that a new rear sight of their own design should be available by the time this test report is being read. My gun had the S&W rear sight and although it didn't seem to noticeably affect accuracy there was considerable play in the sight leaf. Of course, this isn't uncommon. My Model 29 had the same slop in the rear sight. On the other hand, the Behlert sight is very well made, offering precise click adjustments for both windage and elevation. It's your best bet by far. If you'd prefer another type rear sight M-S Safari Arms will install it for you while the gun is being assembled, at an additional cost. In conjunction with the sights the rear face of the slide directly below the rear sight may be checkered to reduce glare. This option was included on the test gun and is very nicely executed. Cost is \$15.00 extra.

The Enforcer comes equipped with Pachmayr's Signature grips, checkered neoprene mainspring housing, and a beavertail grip safety, offering a positive grip of the gun. The front of the grip frame has two deep finger grooves with large checkering on the front strap, just below the lower groove. This set-up is not only comfortable, but offers excellent control of the gun, especially in rapid-fire. The chopped .45 feels good, points naturally for me, and the slightly shorter grip frame fits my hand well. For two-handed shooting, the front of the trigger guard is squared-off and offers a secure rest for the index finger of the supporting hand.

A combat-style extended ambidextrous safety comes as standard equipment. The levers are large enough to easily make contact with the thumb and the top surfaces are serrated for a no-slip surface. A single extended slide release, located on the left side of the frame, releases the slide into battery with a push of the thumb, and without changing position of the hand on

Overall view of the Enforcer shows chopped barrel, extended slide stop and safety, finger grooved front strap and the beavertail grip safety.



the grips. The ejection port is opened up to insure clearance of the ejected brass and the magazine well is beveled to negate any hang-ups when slamming in a fresh magazine. The magazine release is conventionally located and isn't extended or enlarged.

The hammer on the Enforcer is also combat oriented being short-spurred and rounded with deep horizontal cuts that provide a good gripping surface for either cocking or lowering the hammer manually.

There's noticeably more resistance in cocking the hammer due to its design and the heavier pressure of a stiffer main-spring. The reason for this is to insure ignition with even the hardest primers.

The trigger is adjustable for overtravel, and mine let off at just under five pounds, which I feel is acceptable for this type of handgun. It doesn't feel that heavy to me and I couldn't tell it affected accuracy to any appreciable extent as the Enforcer turned out some pretty decent groups.

The major components of the Enforcer namely the slide, frame, trigger, hammer, and beavertail grip safety are investment castings machined to final tolerance fit. On the test gun the slide fits the frame pretty well with some vertical and horizontal movement—but is not excessive. I did note a couple of flaws in the casting of this particular slide located on the cocking serrations. I am, however, confident that this isn't representative of the breed and I

Continued on page 54

Each Enforcer comes with Bullshooter sight insert kit, easily installed.

Author used various brands of ammo; 45 match, hollow point and hardball.

Field stripping shows square spring recoil assembly of stainless steel.



AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

DIRECTORY OF CUSTOM PISTOLSMITHS

Here is the latest and most accurate list of custom pistolsmiths published to date. More than 130 'smiths are listed. Those listings followed by an asterisk are new names added since our July/August '81 update.

Except where a price is shown for catalog or price list, please send a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope for information.

The publisher and editors cannot recommend any specific pistolsmith, for we have not had personal contact with all of those listed. As with any other service, it will pay you to shop around for the type of work you require. We might add that since the publication of our first Custom Pistolsmith Directory, we have received few complaints from readers who have used the services of the 'smiths listed. Our best advice is to be patient, ask questions, and don't contract for work until you understand exactly what work will be done, when it will be done, and approximately how much it will cost.—Editor

ACCURACY DEN (Verne Juenke), 25 Bit-terbrush Rd., Reno NV 89523, (702) 345-0225—T/C Contender accurizing, .270 VJ Contenders, and Kit 'N Muzzle brakes for T/C, XP-100, or rifles.

ACCURACY UNLIMITED (Frank Glenn) 16036 N. 49th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85306 (602) 978-9089—General services plus full house PPC revolvers.

"ACCURATE" PLATING, 1937 Calumet St. #22, Clearwater FL 33515 (813) 733-0923—Specializing in .45 accurizing, sight alterations, trigger jobs. All types of gun finishes.*

ACTION WORKS (Charles Lowden), Box 23028, Richfield MN 55423—Hand-fitted action work on S&W, Colt, Ruger revolvers.

ALPHA PRECISION, INC. (Jim Stroh), 1231 Sunderland Ct., Atlanta GA 30319, (404) 458-0477—Custom IPSC, duty, silhouette guns. In-house bluing, plating.*

ARMAMENT SYSTEMS & PROCEDURES, Inc., Box 356, Appleton WI 54912, (414) 731-8893—9mm combat conversions, Teflon-S coating, and ASP M39 conversions.

AUTO SHOP (Marvin Wetstein), 8545 Wash-ington Blvd., Culver City CA 90230, (213) 836-0179—Customizing, accurizing of .45 autos.

BAIN & DAVIS (W.H. Little), 559 W. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel CA 91776 (213) 284-2264—Accurizing and action on all auto and revolvers.

BEHLERT CUSTOM GUNS (Austin Behlert), US Rt. 1 Northbound, Monmouth Junction NJ 08852, (201) 687-3350—Combat and PPC, wide variety.

BELLS CUSTOM SHOP (Dave Norin), 3313 Mannheim Rd., Franklin Park IL 60131, (312) 678-1900—Reliable and accurate .45's for combat.

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Continued on page 52

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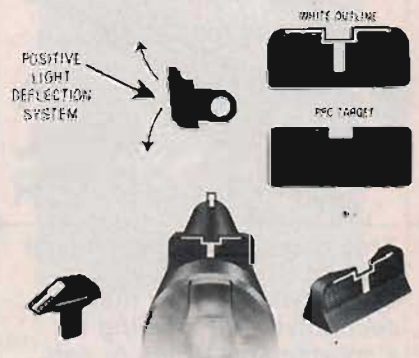
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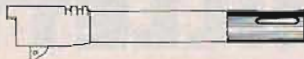
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ENFORCER

Continued from page 49

was advised by Don McNabb that changes are being made to correct some minor problems in production that occasionally affect appearance.

The Enforcer is equipped with a screw-in barrel bushing for better accuracy and a recoil spring assembly that utilizes a square wire spring, set for hardball ammo.

Field-stripping the Enforcer is done in the same manner as G.I. .45. The recoil spring assembly is of a different design in that it uses a separate rod that mates to the barrel link and extends through the recoil spring plug. The end of the rod passing through the plug accepts a hex-head cap screw, retaining it there and on the link end; the slide release passing through the link holds it securely in place.

In testing the Enforcer for accuracy I was more than happy with its performance. Safari Arms makes no claims about it other than "combat accuracy," but with proper ammo it'll hold its own in this department. Both Federal & Remington 230gr. hardball ammo grouped into 2½" for five-shots at 25 yards, using a wrist-rest from sandbags. Federal's 185gr J.H.P. yielded and 3½" group, while the Remington 185s went into 2½". The Federal 185gr. F.M.J.-W.C. ammo wouldn't feed or eject in the test gun, however the Enforcer isn't designed for this type ammo anyway.

Switching to handloads, five rounds of 11.0gr of Blue Dot and Sierra's 185gr. J.H.C. averaged 2½", 11.5gr. of Blue Dot and the Speer 200gr. H.P. went into 2½". Using Lyman's mould #452374, 225gr. R.N., I used Taracorp Industries new Mag-

num Bullet Alloy, which is somewhat harder than #2 alloy thus the bullets were a bit lighter in weight. With 5.8gr. of WW-231 and this bullet, five-shots covered a 2' group. Saving the best for last, Hornady's 230gr. F.M.J.-F.N. slugs loaded with 8.2gr. of HS-6 clustered five-shots into 1". This is by far the most accurate load tested, and out of curiosity I ran all of the factory and handloads through the chronograph for comparison of the 3.8' barreled Enforcer to my Gold Cup. Surprisingly enough, the short-barreled .45 was only 50-75 fps behind with a good many of the loads.

Some problems with jamming were encountered with the first couple of hundred rounds of ammo put through the gun. Since it was finished with the industrial hard chrome, a break-in period was required. The malfunctions gradually subsided as the gun was shot more and more. In subsequent testing sessions, the jams encountered were traced to the lips of the magazine. After adjusting the lips to properly feed the ammo into the chamber, the jamming stopped.

After putting some thousand rounds of a variety of both factory and high-performance handloads through the Enforcer, it's loosened up a bit, which is natural, but everything stayed where it was supposed to and I had no parts break. Overall I'm impressed with the Safari Arms Enforcer. The basic design is time-proven and with all the added custom features it makes a good gun better. The Enforcer retails at \$585.00 in your choice of the five finishes, plus a bushing wrench, and comes nestled in its own fleece-lined leatherette carrying case. A one-year warranty covers any defective parts. I think you'll find that the cost of the Enforcer isn't at all out of line when compared to the money that would



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be invested for a comparable .45, cost of custom parts, finish, and a pistolsmith's fee for performing his genius on the gun.

Since the Enforcer has a squared-off trigger guard, fitting a holster to the custom .45 could present a problem. I phoned Ted Walthall of Roy's Custom Leather (Highway 132 S. & Rawhide Rd., Magnolia, Arkansas, 71753) to lend a helping hand in tracking down a holster to fit the gun. A few days later a "Pancake" holster arrived, made to fit the Colt Commander. It lacked about 1/2" in seating far enough to fasten the thumb snap. Soaking the leather tabs in hot water and stretching them, the Enforcer was holstered and the tabs stretched over the rear of the slide and fastened. After the leather had dried and formed, the holster fits as if it were made for the gun. I normally wouldn't go through the trouble of performing this task, however I personally prefer the "Pancakes" over other holsters and considered it worth the time and effort.

M/S Safari Arms is a young company specializing in custom firearms and I expect them to grow into one of the larger firearms manufacturers in their field. As with any new company, bugs must be worked out of the products and that takes time, but they're well on their way. Plans are being made to offer a 9mm & .38 Super in the Enforcer, plus the silhouette action announced this year. I for one will be watching to see what else they have up their sleeve.

For more information on the Enforcer, Matchmaster, and other firearms & accessories write: Don McNabb, M-S Safari Arms, P.O. Box 23370, Drawer 535, Phoenix, Arizona, 85063.

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Reporting on an important match, in a magazine that is bi-monthly, is one of the most frustrating things to an editor. In June of 81, the IPSC U.S. Regional Championships were held in Virginia. You are probably reading this in December, and by this time, our team has already competed in the World Championships (and we hope, have won) held in South Africa.

Remember John Shaw, who won the Nationals last year? Well, he did it again in 81, and he did it with the likes of Mickey Fowler, Ross Seyfried, Mike Plaxco and a lot of other top competitors breathing down his neck.

The match was made up of six sub-matches plus the always exciting Man vs Man shoot-off. It was as exciting as ever, with John Shaw losing all three of his shoot-offs, retaining the National crown only because his nearest competitor, Mike Plaxco, also lost his Man vs Man matches.

Match One: "Vanishing Acts" was a standard exercise with electronic turning targets, shot at distances from 10 to 35 meters. John Shaw won this one with a score of 146 out of 150.

Match Two: "Metal and Motion" used moving Popper targets. It was a concealed carry match, and shooters had to wear a light jacket.

Match Three: "Smash, Crash & Dash" was probably the most physical of all the matches, with a high window, a Rhodesian Wall, an elevated tunnel and a climbing wall. Raul Walters ran the course in an amazing 49 seconds to win.

Match Four: "Shoot and Scoot" had the shooters knock down two Poppers, then run to a rail where, three seconds after the last hit, a target swung out and stayed for only two seconds. Ross Seyfried proved to be the best here.

Match Five: "Midnight Encounters" was held indoors under low light conditions. Mickey Fowler won this one.

After the smoke had cleared and the scores were tallied, the top three were Shaw, Lanny Provience and Mike Plaxco. The U.S. Gold Team, selected to compete in the World Matches in South Africa, consisted of: John Shaw, Ross Seyfried, Mickey Fowler, Nick Pruitt and Mike Plaxco.

The Silver Team had Tom Campbell, Lanny Provience, Mike Fichman, Ray Neal and Bill Wilson. Both teams have full status, and should prove a real challenge to the rest of the world competitors.

The 1982 Nationals will be held in Illinois with the Milan Rifle Club of Milan, Illinois the host club.

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FLYING

Continued from page 49

factor to consider in making your choice should be the number of times you'll have to change planes. Numerous stops increase the probability of your luggage being lost or delayed. A good rule to remember whenever anyone asks your itinerary is to state only the ultimate destination via your originating airline. Your baggage is routed from its originating point to your destination, relating anything else wastes your time and helps no one.

Buy a sufficient amount of additional insurance for every bag containing a handgun. It would be wise to photograph the gun prior to your trip in case you have to file a claim. When purchasing your insurance fully describe your gun, all of its unique features, its customizing, specialized action work, scope, etc.

Choose your airline carefully and enjoy your trip. Flying is once again becoming cheaper and it is still faster and safer than other modes of transportation. The odds are in your favor that with a little pre-flight preparation for your handgun, your guns will arrive in good condition, ready for that important match or once-in-a-lifetime hunt.



7MM BR

Continued from page 31

the action, and the stock has been molded with a relief cut for this mounting. The usual holes in the top of the receiver are there too, so scope bases, or a Bomar of Micro sight can be mounted on the front ring. The front sight can be mounted fore or aft to maintain the 15 inch maximum sight radius with either rear sight location. A special Bomar is available for the XP-100 action, and although a special Micro may be introduced in the spring, all that's available now are the various standard dovetailed varieties.

I opted for a Micro, and considered myself lucky to find a 3P (made for allow installation on a Government Model Colt) as any Micro was hard to find at the time. This was installed in a 40A Weaver base in a hand-filed dovetail. (Their number 35 works better.)

To match this you'll need a globe or a rifle-type patridge blade front sight. Suitable globes would be the Lyman 17A or the Redfield 65. The Lyman is dovetailed, and comes in several heights (try the 17AM1); there's but one dovetailed Redfield which looks to be about the right height. The only suitable blade I know of is the Burris. The M-series is the right width for the ramp and I'm using their M-531. The blade is .075 inches wide, and will require a .065-.070 inch wide notch in the rear blade. The

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notch in the Bomar is just right, matching this width in the Micro requires finding some .040 inch thick stock and filing one to fit.

I took the time to find seating depths so that all bullets tested were within .010 inches or so of the lands. I found the pistol to have a rather shallow throat, around .2 inches, which is fine for 120's or some 140's but not enough for 160's. The base of the heavier bullets, even when seated correctly, extended below the shoulder.

Once out on the range I was pleased to see someone else doesn't like to chase brass having fitted a shortened spring in the ejector; the cases just dribbled out on the table.

The bolt stop has been cut all the way, as the bolt face at full stroke comes back flush with the front of the rear ring. Far enough to eject loaded rounds—that are .4 longer than these. Wish they'd throated it another tenth.

I also noticed this little cartridge kicks enough that after the first 20 or so rounds the damn stock had tenderized my hand. You don't notice this with the .221 but this one puts out more recoil. That funny cut out along the bottom edge of the grip gets me. That, and as the grip is smaller at the top than at the bottom, it slides through your hand until it stops with a crash as the tailpiece strikes the first knuckle of your thumb. The stock is one of the things that detract from the pistol.

The cartridge is the direct descendant of Remington's 22 and 6mm BR bench rest cartridges. The short fat case is now the hot

set up in the sport (not too long ago it was the 222 and 6X47). If you measure the capacity, you'll find the case holds a couple of grains more powder than the 222 mag—6X47—7X47 cases do. It's not surprising then that my limited testing shows it to be the functional equivalent of the 7X47 (or 7TC/U I'd guess).

To illustrate this point I've included a comparison table which shows maximum velocities attained with an assortment of bullets in testing both cartridges. Maximum by the way was judged by primer appearance, functioning and visual indications of casehead expansion. Not com-

**TABLE 1
MAXIMUM VELOCITIES**
BULLET MAXIMUM VELOCITIES (fps)

	7X47mm	7mm BR
115	2600	—
120	—	2500
139	—	2330
140	—	2360
160	2160	2180

Top loads judged by primer appearance, functioning and visual indications of case expansion. Velocities instrumental at 10 feet.

pletely accurate, but indicative.

I did shoot each test load for group at 25 yards while clocking them over the skyscreens. (Ironsights, sandbag rest.) While you can't draw any conclusions from one five-shot group for each load, it does give some indications. I found a couple of real dogs, a few potential winners and shot a lot of one inch groups. The smallest groups

**TABLE 2
TEST LOADS**

BULLET	POWDER	CHARGE (grs.)	VELOCITY—fps	
			AVG.	VARIATION
120 GR. SIERRA SPITZER (2.27")	RL-7	24.0	2168	63
		26.0	2335	44
		28.0	2466	15
	H322	26.0	2160	66
		28.0	2292	25
		30.0* ⁹	2500	67
140 GR. SIERRA SPITZER (2.27")	H322	24.0	1974	48
		26.0	2104	43
		28.0* ⁹	2261	22
	BL-C2	28.0	1968	45
		30.0	2086	31
		32.0*	2227	33
H4895	34.0* ⁹	2339	11	
	24.0	1866	55	
	26.0	2022	27	
160 GR. SIERRA SPITZER (BT) (2.26")	H322	28.0°	2197	20
		29.0	2269	19
		30.0* ⁹	2360	28
	H4895	23.0	1750	31
		25.0	1875	34
		27.0	2009	33
H4895	29.0* ⁹	2172	22	
	22.0	1714	25	
	24.0	1870	20	
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went under three-quarters of an inch, the largest over two. I've summarized the load development work in the other table. You'll want to try several loads and work up slowly towards the indicated top. One carefully fired five-shot group with each will give some indication of performance and you can then load 3X5 for serious testing.

Brass is a big problem for 7mm BR users, potential and current. Potential users include those who are dying to have a Silhouette, but are stopped by the hassle of forming the stubby rounds. Current users are finding that successfully forming the Remington BR brass into the 7 mm version isn't an easy task and brass life can be short.

I expect Scott Lindley of the IHMSA headquarters staff has formed more 7mm BR brass than anybody anywhere, including the Remington staff. Twenty thousand rounds to be exact. So it was natural to call Scott to talk about his techniques and experiences.

Remington markets basic BR brass, factory formed to .308 with a small primer pocket, thin neck and shoulder areas, and special annealing to facilitate forming down to the various BR cartridges.

Early on Scott found that simply running this BR brass into the RCBS form die as directed produced ruinously high case losses—as much as 50% with some lots of brass. Loss was much less with other lots, which formed nicely. But Scott also found he couldn't solve the problem by selecting lots to form, as success often varied within a given lot. The problem seemed to be inconsistent annealing within and between lots, leaving the thin case unable to resist the forces imposed while pushing the shoulder back.

After considerable experimentation Scott found that lubing the BR cases with Forester's case lube, a white, mink oil-like product, and then initially forming in a 30 IHMSA sizing die to ease the shoulder back an eighth inch or so helped to overcome the wrinkled necks and buckled shoulders.

Scott also found he could form 300 Savage Federal, 308 or 300 Savage Remington or 300 Savage Winchester brass directly in the RCBS form die with but a 1% loss. Better yet, he's found once reamed and sized, it shoots just fine; when we talked this brass had been loaded eight to ten times and was still lookin' good.

You'll have to load a little lighter to start with should you go this route, but you should be able to develop satisfactory loads with the higher energy primer in the (probably) lesser capacity case.

By the way, the 200 pieces of brass I'm using have been loaded three to five times each, and I've had ten failures already—split necks.

The problem is, even when formed correctly, the brass ended up with fine longitudinal grooves visible all around the neck. They're folds actually, serve as stress



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concentrators, and will eventually become the location of cracks as the neck work-hardens from repeated sizing. Now your brass may not show these grooves. But if it does, I'd suggest you anneal the necks now to try to overcome the cracking problem before it starts.

There have been a lot of complaints about the brass forming hassle in the media and from individuals, and Remington is now aware that formed brass is needed; Richard Dietz of Remington has advised me that formed brass will be available sometime in 1981. By the way, IHMSA has quit forming brass for the members—too much hassle. They do have an alternate; rechambering to 7mm IHMSA or 7mm-08. The brass for them forms much easier. (You can make it in your sizing die.)

With the competition loads indicated in the table, I found I could shoot the course without adjusting the sights by holding on the feet of the front two animals with the 140's, halfway up the leg on the turkey, and a tight six o'clock on the rams when I switch to the 160's. When I stay with the 140's on the rams I hold part way up on the legs. The 160's will take turkeys with a six o'clock by the way, and the 120 varmint load works on the iron critters if I hold a tad below the foot on the turkeys, and on the foot of the rams.

At the first match I hadn't had time to sight in past the pigs; I missed a couple of turkeys getting sighted in, and the same for the first ram. Two rams (the old stands at Black Canyon) shrugged off hits with 160's leaving me with a 35X40. Not bad considering. A month later, I'd developed the indicated competition loads, but only had time to shoot a box or so getting my sight setting/holds figured out. Not expecting much, I worked the match all day, finally leaving Sara to figure out the awards while I went through by myself at the end of the line of shooters. Damned if I didn't go straight. Considering my thumb knuckle was sore from Saturday's practice (I'd padded it with some of Dr. Scholl's mole-skin) and I'd been preoccupied with the match, I was tickled. The first turkey must have been hit on the leg judging by the way it fell, half the rams went off hindleg first, and a couple fell forward, but still, they all fell. Looked the same on the score card.

Compared to the killers some shoot in unlimited (308 FL's, 7 and 8 IHMSA's) the 7 mm BR looks puny. Still, it's the functional equivalent of the 223/222/222 mag-based 7's, and they've done well. And when you get down to specific's, you'll find that most shooters load their big boomers down to levels that are obtainable with these modest sized cartridges. That's because 140-150's at 2100 fps or so generate as much recoil in the big guns as most are willing to shoot. More than that wears the shooter down, (if it doesn't cause terminal flinch) and will damage targets that are less than really hard. T/C in fact recommends loads for the T/C U that launch the 140 at 1800-1900. That's not hot enough in my

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book, especially on ram stands like we used to have at Black Canyon.

The loads I've settled on then are about as much (or more) than a lot of shooters use—which means the 7mm BR is big enough for most. Recoil energies run 13 to 16 ft-pds, which puts it in 41-44 mag territory. The recoil is more than most of the unlimited shooters I let try it expected from the little cartridge.

Back to the original question. Just what do we have here?

The BR case is touted by Remington as giving benchrest accuracy. And a local benchrest of some expertise claims the stubby cases produce less recoil than the skinny ones. Impressive claims.

Well, you couldn't prove either by me. Off a solidly sandbagged rest, with iron sights, I didn't find anything resembling benchrest accuracy. I expect that's due to the open sights (which are what we use in competition) and the plastic stock. Accuracy will be a tad less shot off the side of a leg. But it does shoot well, just take the accuracy claims with a small quantity of the appropriate seasoning—and remember too, the pistol will do it if you can.

This out of the box unlimited, offered at a reasonable price, is targeted at the beginning or novice unlimited shooter. Factory brass is not available and the forming process is involved and requires almost \$100 worth of dies. The aficionado might not mind doing it, and a novice could learn, but it adds to the cost of using the pistol and serves to deter both types of shooters. Worse yet, the forming process is not a sure thing—problems may develop with case loss, or lifetime.

The lack of sights makes it a hassle to get the pistol outfitted for the novice and the shallow throat will affront the serious shooter.

Still, if I was new to the sport and looking to get into the game cheap I'd buy one and try to find someone to sell me 1-200 rounds of brass. If I couldn't find the brass I'd get it rechambered to 7mm IHMSA or 7mm-08 and eliminate that hassle.

But if I had a 221 tossed up in the attic that was paid for, I'd put the same money into a medium weight barrel chambered for 7X47 mm and a fiberglass stock. The brass problem is eliminated as this one forms easy, without special dies (just full length size and fire form) and the performance is substantially the same as the BR.

So where does the 7mm BR fit in the scheme of things? Kind of depends.

It's not as good as the five to seven hundred dollar custom guns that I've been shooting. But that's expecting too much from a mass production, everyman's pistol.

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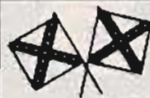
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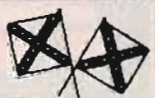


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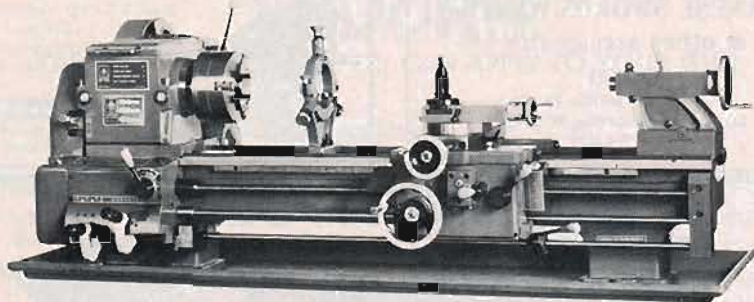
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G. Cleve Stanfield

TEST TARGET PISTOLS AT TARGET DISTANCES

It amazes me to see gun writers continuing to test target pistols at 25 yards. Venturino and Pickles recently did it in their articles on .44 ammunition and a comparison of the M-29 and Redhawk.

Almost any pistol will shoot 2-to-3-inch groups at 25 yards and to quote these results proves nothing. Testing of target pistols should be done at a minimum of 50 yards and the heavier magnums at 100 yards.

Another publication tested the High Standard 10X-auto at 25 yards. Big Deal! I'd like to know what it will do at 50 yards as used in the slow fire stage of the National Match course, or even out to 100 yards for .22 silhouettes.

Frank Shuster
Library, Pa.

LOADS FOR SCOPED HANDGUNS

I found the article on shooting NRA with a scoped pistol (AH, March/April, 81) rather interesting. However, there are a couple of points with which I must disagree.

I use a Clark .45 for both centerfire and .45 matches, and the loads that the author says he uses to get reliable functioning are approaching hardball. I don't believe his load of 4.5 grs. Bullseye/200 gr. bullet is necessary if a competent pistolsmith sets up a slide-mounted scope on a .45.

Clark set up my gun and it works fine with factory match ammo or 3.7 grs. Bullseye with a 185 gr. SWC.

The answers are:

1. Have a competent smith who is familiar with slide mounted scopes build the gun/scope system.
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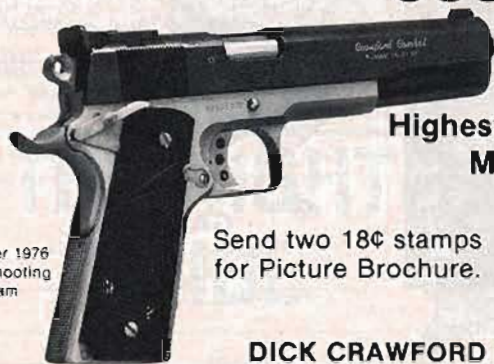
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For the record, I'd like to say that professionalism and gentlemanship still exist in the gunmaking business.

Earlier this year the hammer of my very little fired S&W Model 39-2 had its cocking notches broken. Without mentioning that this happened after only 400 shots, I ordered a new hammer and enclosed \$10 for the part and shipping.

Some time later I received a complete hammer assembly by registered air mail—and my check was returned!

What could have been a mere commercial transaction took the form of a demonstration of kindness, showing that customer Number X557 was a flesh and bone human being.

Ronaldo S. Olive
Santa Rosa, Brazil

TRY LONGS IN RUGER

Mr. Skinner (Speak Out, July/August) might like to know that my bull barrel Target Ruger auto will handle .22 Longs when five rounds are put into the magazine. This might be as good as Shorts for short range hunting and a lot cheaper than having a gunsmith modify the Ruger for Shorts only.

James Eckel
Farmington, Mich.

PPC MATCHES

I wish to respond to Lucy Chambliss's Sight Settings of May/June on the fate of the PPC rule change on the 7 yard match.

Despite the fact that I was quoted a couple times beating the drums for changes in the PPC, I was against the changes proposed by Ms. Chambliss. I was happy to see the one hand, 20 second Match One defeated.

My reasoning is not based on greed (being a custom 'smith) but on the premise that, for the vast majority of police officers, the PPC is *THE COURSE*. More sophisticated shooters will recognize the limits of the PPC course. However, neither sophistication nor shooting ability is a prerequisite for a police administrator, be he career officer or politician.

It must be conceded that the PPC does a workman like job of teaching basic marksmanship. But does the format fit the needs of the officer? Frankly no! While doing research I ran across a rather grim chart which compared the range of the opponent to the success of the officer. At ranges of twenty yards or more the good guys won 99 percent of the time. At three feet they lost 99 percent of the time. The break-even point was around eighteen feet to twenty feet. The officers expended 2.5-2.7 rounds in three seconds. This rather graphically illustrates the shortcomings of the PPC,

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where only twelve rounds are expended at seven yards-in twenty five seconds. Rather obviously a new emphasis on short range burst fire is necessary.

This brings up the most questionable part of the proposed change: firing unsupported at seven yards. Ms. Chambliss dug up a load of statistics (probably from NYCPD) indicating that officers tended to fire with one hand at that range. Now I am not privy to NYCPD training doctrine so I have no idea if one hand point firing is the approved method. It seems much more likely that it is a method advanced unofficially, probably over coffee.

The thesis that two hands is too slow is *WRONG!* Nearly every cop you meet can tell at least one story about improbable misses at close range. For the .015 seconds that it takes, put *both* hands on the piece, catch a sight picture and hit the target—not the air around it!

To correct these shortcomings I would suggest the following changes to the current PPC course:

1. A rule mandating that safety straps must be fastened at all times on the range and released only after the start signal for each stage.
2. Reduce the 50 yard stage to 6 rounds, fired from kneeling.
3. Utilize the 18 rounds saved at from 5-7 meters. The preferable method being 2 shot bursts from the holster with a 2½ second time limit.
4. Reduce the time on the current 7 yard stage to 15 seconds.
5. Reduce the time for the 25 yard shooting by half.

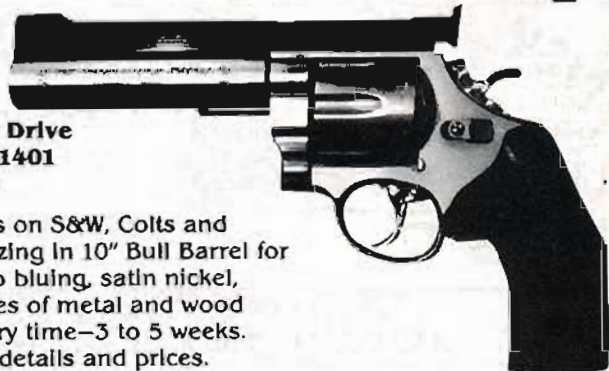
William R. Moore
Pittsburgh, PA

WEAK-HAND RELOAD FOR THE WHEELGUN

Weak-hand reloading was covered in the Nov/Dec issue in an article by Rick Miller, however, there is another way of reloading a revolver without snapping the cylinder in and out: (1) Cup the revolver in your left hand with the trigger guard at the base of your second and third fingers. The left thumb should be at the cylinder release, and the muzzle pointed away from you. (2) Push the cylinder release with your thumb and push out the cylinder with your second finger. (3) To extract the fired cartridges, hold the revolver with the trigger guard at the base of the fingers with the first and second fingers going through the frame where the cylinder was. push the extractor rod with your thumb, and turn the pistol muzzle up to dump out the fired brass. (4) Stick the muzzle in your belt to hold the gun. Reloading can be accomplished now with the use of either a speedloader, or with loose cartridges. (5) Now lift out the revolver and close the cylinder.

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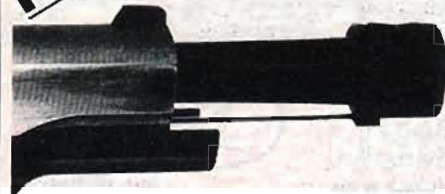
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American Handgunner Magazine

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Myles Shinsato
Honolulu, HI

JUNGLE HANDGUNNER HUNTS WILD ANIMALS

I am immigration officer at Tembilahan, a town lies on the bank of Indragiri great river, surrounding with a dense jungle which inhabited by a hunting wild animals, e.g. tiger, elephant, bear, and boar.

On my spare times I went to the jungle looking for some hunting animals. Hunting and gun shooting sport are my hobby and as a member of Indonesia Hunting and Shooting Association I am much interested by your magazine as the most famous handgun magazine ever published in the world.

I received your magazines from my friend in Dallas, Texas.

By the way, I'll be happy if you would like to grant me your embroidered emblems, free of charge (because of current difficult) which I'll be proud to display among friends of my association.

M. Sulaeman
Indonesia

RELOAD .38 SUPERS & SAVE YOUR BRASS

Surprise, surprise, not one but two articles in the November/December issue on my favorite, controversial cartridge, the .38 Super.

It was interesting to read about someone else's experiments. However, Super shooters are missing a bet by sticking with the light 9mm bullets. I have had very good results with 158 grain lead semi-wad cutters, 160 grain Hornady FMJ, and even the Sierra 170 grain FMJ.

The load I use most in our rather primitive practical pistol competition is 7.5 grains of Blue Dot behind the 160 grain Hornady FMJ. This load functions well and is accurate in all four of my stock Supers.

But I don't want to tout the Super too much—being the only one on the range using it means you get your brass back!

J. Harvey Wieler
Fairbanks, Alaska

GUN FINISHES

In your article on gun finishes (Nov/Dec) you quoted Bob Cogan of Accurate Plating and Weaponry, but you did not give the address of his firm. How about it?

Sorry about that. If you want to contact Bob, write to Accurate Plating & Weaponry, 1937 Calumet St., Clearwater, FL 33535—Editor.

B. The above mistake is worsened (still higher pressure) if the bullet is positioned deeper than prescribed.

The drawing illustrates both of these dangerous errors. Study each load, from left to right, and observe how these two errors each increase the gas pressure in the chamber. In all situations, the powder is burning normally and reproducibly. Since all revolver powders should burn completely before the bullet base clears the cylinder, multiple charges generate too much gas pressure for the available volume behind the bullet, while seating the bullet deeper reduces the available volume, thereby raising the pressure (*Handbook of Physics: PV = NRT*).

Since no sensible reloader would intentionally use multiple charges nor seat his bullet deeper than prescribed, we searched and found ways to produce each of these errors, plus proof of their occurrence.

Multiple powder charges

- (1) We deliberately distracted our technician by having him restart his progressive reloader or by interrupting his handloading. He produced double charges and triple charges.
- (2) One police department published the results of their use of a fired case to collect powder while emptying a

progressive reloader. Such cases were "emptied," then thrown into the bin. One such case was found to have 13 grains of highly compressed powder in it just prior to reloading.

- (3) A letter in *American Rifleman* (September, 1978) reported a gun blow-up at a firing range. The unfired ammo had 2.7 grains each, except one which had 7 grains. The shooter recalled that his tool stuck once or twice; every handle pull or jiggle evidently dropped another charge.

Deeply seated bullets

- (1) Incorrect setting of the bullet positioner is one way to seat the bullet deeper than prescribed.
- (2) Grease build-up at this station has been reported; it pushes the bullet deeper.
- (3) Trying to insert a second bullet will have the same effect.

The 2.7-grain Bullseye charge in .38 Special behind the wadcutter bullet must be the dominant handgun reload in this country. Little wonder that Bullseye usually is present when a blow-up occurs. In our own tests of multiple charges and deeply-seated bullets, we also used pistol powders made by others and, expectedly, they gave similar high pressures. Also, blow-ups of handguns have been reported

when powders other than Bullseye were in the cartridge.

We are firmly convinced that neither Bullseye nor other pistol powders magically misbehave in handguns. The current *Reloader's Guide*, a free publication by Hercules, devotes a full page to precautions to be taken to avoid multiple charges of powder and to avoid firing cartridges which have deeply seated bullets. We urge every handloader to follow these suggestions, to check his reloading equipment, to load carefully, and to continue enjoying the accuracy attainable with 2.7 grains of Bullseye.

Respectfully,

R. G. Guenter
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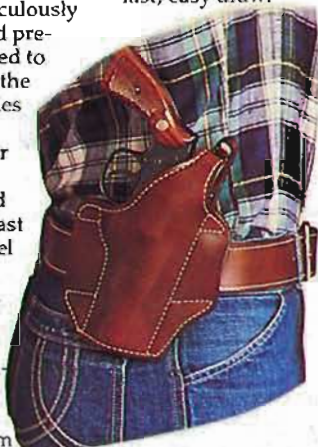
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and holster tight against the body. There's a removable belt strap on the opposite side and a removable hammer strap. This holster is available fully lined as Model 45. Both handle small, medium

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On the panel you'll see two air switches, an air pressure gauge and a pressure gauge regulator. The switch on the right operates the two cylinders in the downward stroke; the left switch, on the upward stroke. When the switches are staggered, one up and one down, the cylinders are in neutral, and Walt can lower the handle manually to set up the die and center the bullet.

From then on, it's a simple matter of flicking switches as each bullet is placed in the die. All of the hard work is done by the air cylinders, and done while Walt is sitting down.

You'll note the wrapping around the lube barrel; this is electrically heated wrap usually used to prevent water pipes from freezing. Walt's reloading is done in an unheated basement, and the lube gets too stiff to flow evenly. With the wrapper turned on, a 15 to 30 minute wait will heat up the lube to a workable consistency.

This set-up may be beyond the ability of many of us, but it sure works for Walt.

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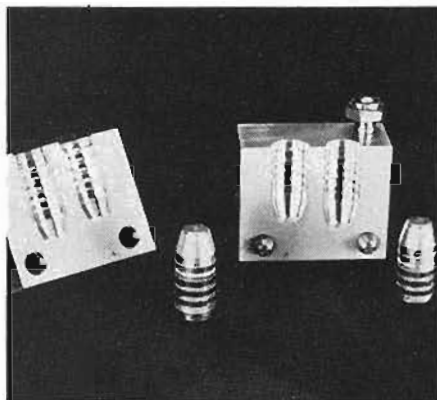
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Shown are the 350 grain gas check (.430) and 315 grain plain base Ramslammer. Retail price is \$30.00. Two different weights in one mold \$35.00. Individuals may order direct. Dealer inquiries are invited.

SSK Industries, Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910 614/264-0176.

HANK WILLIAMS

Continued from page 39

.44, but also .45 Colt and .41 Magnum. An avid reloader, Hank Jr. has finally arrived at his own pet loads for the heavy .44—"Ten point three grains of Herco and a 240 grain jacketed hollow-point bullet does the job," he says. "Although I find myself using more and more hard-cast lead bullets. I got that from Elmer Keith, who I'm lucky enough to know pretty well."

He's constantly tinkering on his substantial collection of Blackhawks—"I guess I've about got them down pat now"—changing grips, sights, the aluminum ejector rod housing and grip frame, and slicking up the action. That is, whenever he's off the road long enough.

He has numerous rare guns, but the one that holds the most value to him is a plain old garden variety Super Blackhawk with a 7 1/2-inch barrel, displayed in a glass case in

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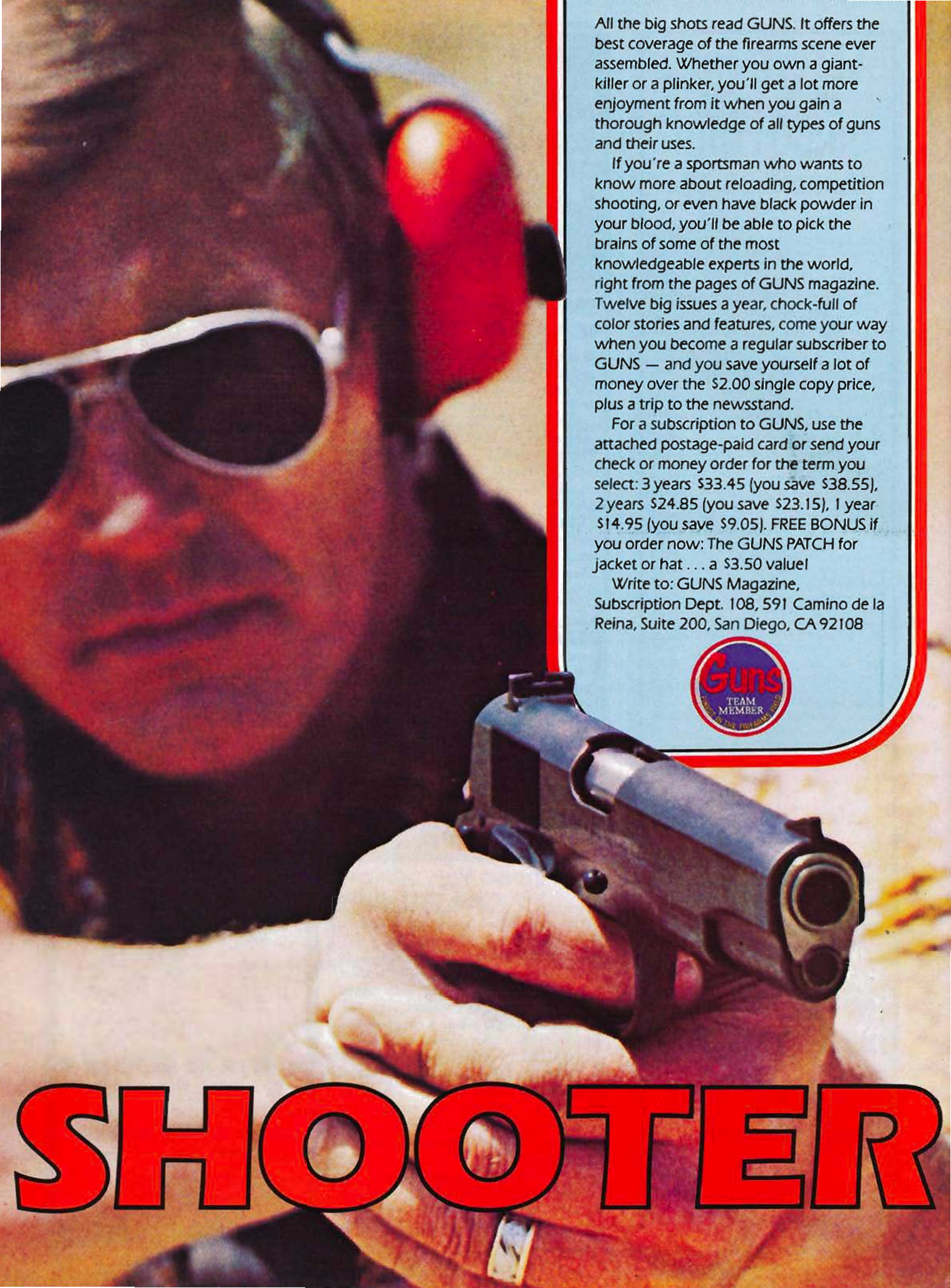
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SHOOTER

his den. It is the Blackhawk he was wearing in August of 1976 when scouting along the Continental Divide for an upcoming sheep hunt. He was the third man across a snow saddle on Ajax Mountain when the rotted snow gave way, sending Hank plummeting down the steep side of the mountain. He fell over 500 feet, part of it airborne, until he smashed, face first, into a boulder. His face and skull were completely shattered, and by all rights he should have died on Ajax Mountain. But, miraculously, he didn't, and after two years of painful reconstructive surgery he returned to the stage to become an even bigger star—and, perhaps, a different, more mature person.

Of course, he adds, Rugers aren't the *only* guns he carries. One of his newest acquisitions is a Smith and Wesson 629, the stainless steel version of the venerable Model 29. Of course, too, Hank Jr.'s piece is a little special—S&W chief Roy Jinks, a personal friend, hand-selected the barrel and supervised the construction and action work on the 629. Hank Jr.'s nickname, Bocephus—a name given to him by his Daddy—is engraved on the frame. The result is a gun equal to the legendary Smith and Wessons of earlier days, and, in Hank's own words, "One shootin' son of a gun!"

He remains committed to the big bores ("As an old guy in Idaho once told me," he says, "why shoot a .22 when you can shoot a .44?"), although he's drifting more and more to .41s instead of .44s. "If I had to give advice to somebody starting out handgun hunting today, I'd tell them to get a .41 Ruger Blackhawk with a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrel," Hank Jr. says.

A performer is in a unique position to influence public opinion, and Hank Jr.'s love of shooting and hunting has been no secret in Nashville. In fact, he says, more and more people are "coming out of the closet" and seeking his advice on guns and hunting. He's even written a caustic answer to the constant assault on handgunners' rights, a song titled *The Coalition To Ban Coalitions*, which will undoubtedly turn up on a future album.

In the meanwhile Hank has his own campaign to help out. Big name acts usually have a logo, a distinctive design that

REACTION COMBAT TARGETS

In the September/October issue of *The American Handgunner*, Jerry Usher wrote about the unique new reaction targets for combat shooting. The inventor, Fred Smith, was mentioned, but we did not publish his address, much to our chagrin. For those interested in these steel targets that pivot in the direction of the bullet impact, Fred has a new illustrated price sheet on all of his models. Write to: Target Systems, Inc., Box 832, Wilcox, AZ 85643 (602) 384-3761.

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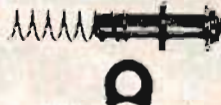
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adorns their album covers, promotional t-shirts, and what-have-you. After much soul-searching, Hank Jr. realized there was only one logo that he really wanted, and after much consultation in Southport, Connecticut, Hank Jr. got his wish. From now on Ruger's Prussian eagle will decorate Hank Williams Jr. albums, t-shirts, tour jackets, amplifier cases—even Hank Jr.'s twin-engined Beechcraft airplane. Instead of the "SR" in the center of the eagle, it will read "Hank," and all parties involved seem happy.

Hank's feelings are perhaps best expressed in one of his own songs, *Dixie On My Mind*, which, according to an industry newsletter, is the most requested country song of the year. It's about a tour in New York City, and it's Hank Jr. at his poignant—and satirical—best:

"The things you know that I miss most of all
Is the freedom of the rivers and the pines.
They don't do much huntin' and fishin' up here, you know.
But I have met a few squirrels and one porcupine . . ."

(**Dixie On My Mind*, Copyright 1981, Bocephus Music, BMI. Used with permission.)



TRIAL BY FIRE

Continued from page 47

it. Before I knew it I was back on the floor, picking up, reloading everything and trying to figure out how to score this mess. Out of a possible 360 I had scored 276. All things considered I wasn't unhappy.

We repaired our targets and put up a smaller silhouette to represent a 50 yard course of fire. (Our indoor range stops at 25 yards thus the reduced targets.)

I've always considered myself to be a fair country shot. Thousands of desperadoes represented by everything from balloons to walnuts have gone down before my smoking weapons. This P.P.C., however, was proving to be something else. From the line, our new undersize silhouettes looked tiny. The loudspeaker squawked again. Our final course of fire was 24 rounds to be fired in 2 minutes 45 seconds. We could use single or double action. We were to fire six seated, six prone, six left hand barricade, and six right hand barricade. I made sure the slow-loaders were loaded, slipped six rounds in my left hand and concentrated on not looking like I was ready to run. We loaded on command. The targets turned and the fun started again. This time I sat cross legged and fired my first six as fast as I could jiggle sight, cock and pull the trigger. As I got up on my knees to reload, I noticed the other fellows taking their jolly old time. All of them were using their knee as an elbow rest. It was a little too late for me to try that. After what seemed like

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forever, I had the gun loaded, dropped to my stomach and fired the second six. About this time I figured out that the other guys had also brought a rug to lay down on. Since I wasn't crazy about the concrete covered with dirt, gunpowder and spent brass, I made mental note #3—buy a rug.

The barricade firing went fairly well except for the two rounds which I managed to drop on the floor. Naturally they rolled forward of the line. I didn't trust these dudes with the funny holsters too much so I decided not to run after the ammo. Fortunately I had experience with loading from the box on the floor at the seven yard line so I only lost an estimated ten seconds there. One fellow had the audacity to check his hits with a spotting scope during this phase of fire. Come to think of it, maybe I was watching him when I dropped the rounds. Oh well, it's all spilled milk (or bullets) now.

When the targets turned I still had two rounds left in the gun. It was over. I had survived. After trying to be inconspicuous while crawling around for my brass, I went forward into the valley of the shadow of death to be scored. 110 points out of a possible 240 points. That brought my total score to 386 out of a possible 600.

Amidst a few mumbles about how high scoring takes time and maybe if I dry-fired the course a few more times, I bid my fellow shooters adios and got out of there before someone suggested I sign up for a second relay.

I've been back four or five times. I did break down and get some belt loops and standard speedloader holders. I retired the Ruger and pressed my old Colt Trooper with the 6" barrel into service. The Colt loads a lot easier and the longer barrel does seem to help. I even put a dot of white paint on the front sight. I still can't bring myself to get a Luke Skywalker holster nor to buy a special weapon. I'm shooting in the middle 400's now and I must say I'm having some fun. My wife doesn't seem to mind the gunpowder in the plastic mop pail. I did notice that the drawer where my life insurance policies are kept was slightly ajar. Maybe that's why she doesn't complain about the pail.

GAMMON

Continued from page 35

the Bianchi Cup, where six round strings are required, but in IPSC competition that extra round could be helpful. This is another feature that will be offered in Devel's standard .45 work. I think that the special followers will also be offered individually, for those who wish to convert their own magazines.

A number of people made the Gammon project a success. Aside from Charlie Kelsey and his assistant Tom Hunter, I should mention Will Haupthoff for drafting and detail design, Jerry Baker and Rick Westfall for prototype machining,

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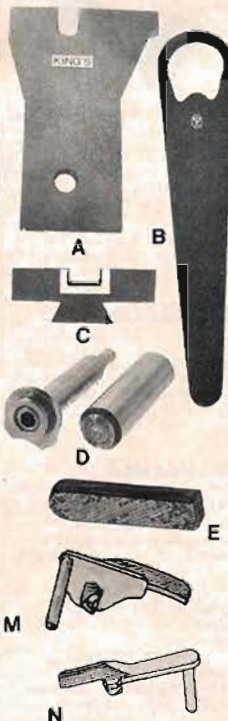
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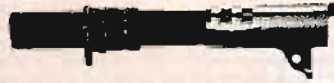
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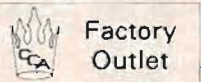
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and of course, Walt Wolff for producing the springs. The Gammon pistol was obviously a team effort.

In passing, it might be appropriate to explain the origin of the name Gammon, and why it was applied to this pistol. The word gammon is used in the game backgammon to describe a particular victorious move or play. Since this pistol was designed specifically as a game winning tool, it was christened the "Gammon," and since Mickey Fowler used it to win the 1981 Bianchi Cup, it turned out to be quite appropriate.

This definition explains the Gammon perfectly. It is a game winning instrument in the purest sense of the word. It would be of no use whatever in the quick and dirty world of defensive shooting. But as a game winning tool, in the sporting world of pistol competition, it has already proven itself a winner.

RELOADING TESTS

Continued from page 32

rier is raised, the clips immediately close to grip the rim of the shell. A further convenience is associated with the changing of dies since the dies are merely hand-inserted into a slot at the top of the tool.

Bonanza also indicates the advantage of exacting seating depth for primers. As I have said, I prefer to keep the priming of cases a separate operation with a separate priming tool. However, since it is possible to do a satisfactory job of it with Co-Ax, it seems that the decision of whether to make priming a separate operation is best left to the individual.

I am prepared to support Bonanza's claim that the Co-Ax is a press that "can be fully appreciated only by using." Its use, nonetheless, will call for a few minutes' practice, especially if you're used to a more conventional press.

The Co-Ax, despite its excellent construction and design, and despite its handiness and good looks, has a limitation in that it does not lend itself to file-and-trim operations. However, if you don't happen to be involved in shortening cases, forget it. You'll find the Co-Ax one of the strongest and least demanding of all.

It isn't possible for one person to have hands-on experience with every handloading product, and neither is it possible for one person to test every handload. That's why your participation in what this column sets forth is important to its success. Therefore, if you have a serious criticism of a handloading product—preferably accompanied by suggestions about how it might be improved—or a safe, accurate handload, I'd like to hear from you.

Meanwhile, information from other handloaders abounds, and I guarantee you a wealth of helpful data next time around.

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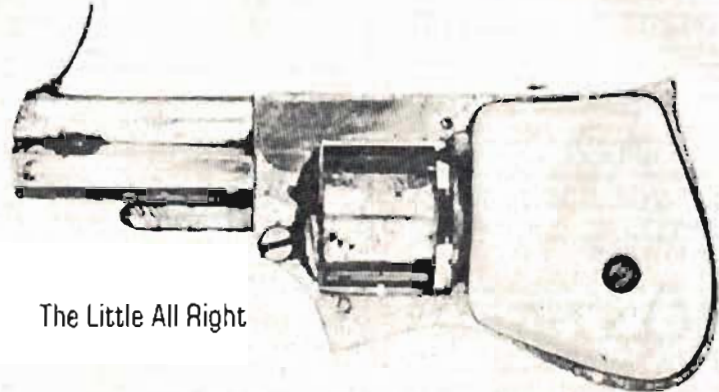
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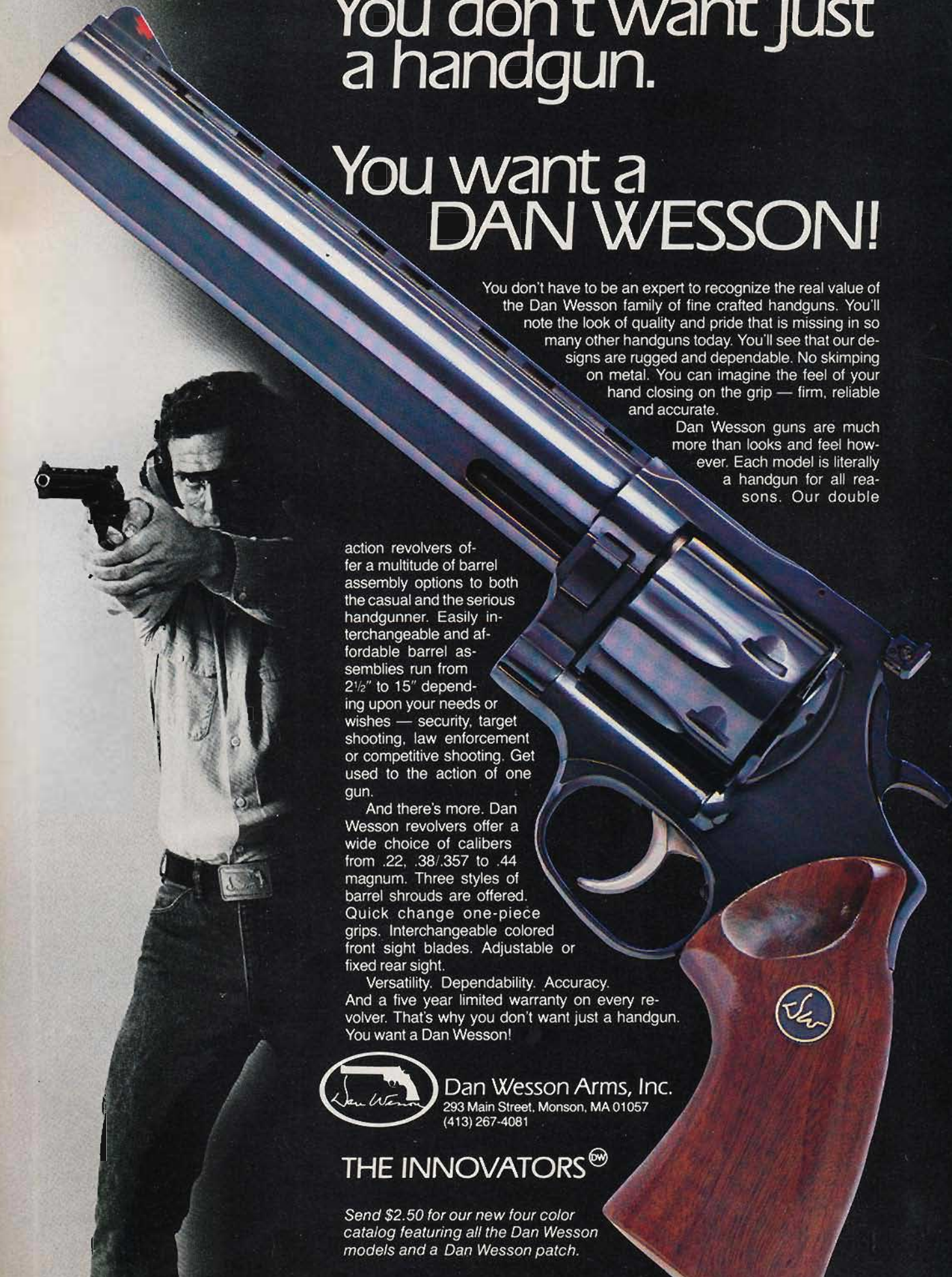
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