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SEPTEMBER 1971 75¢

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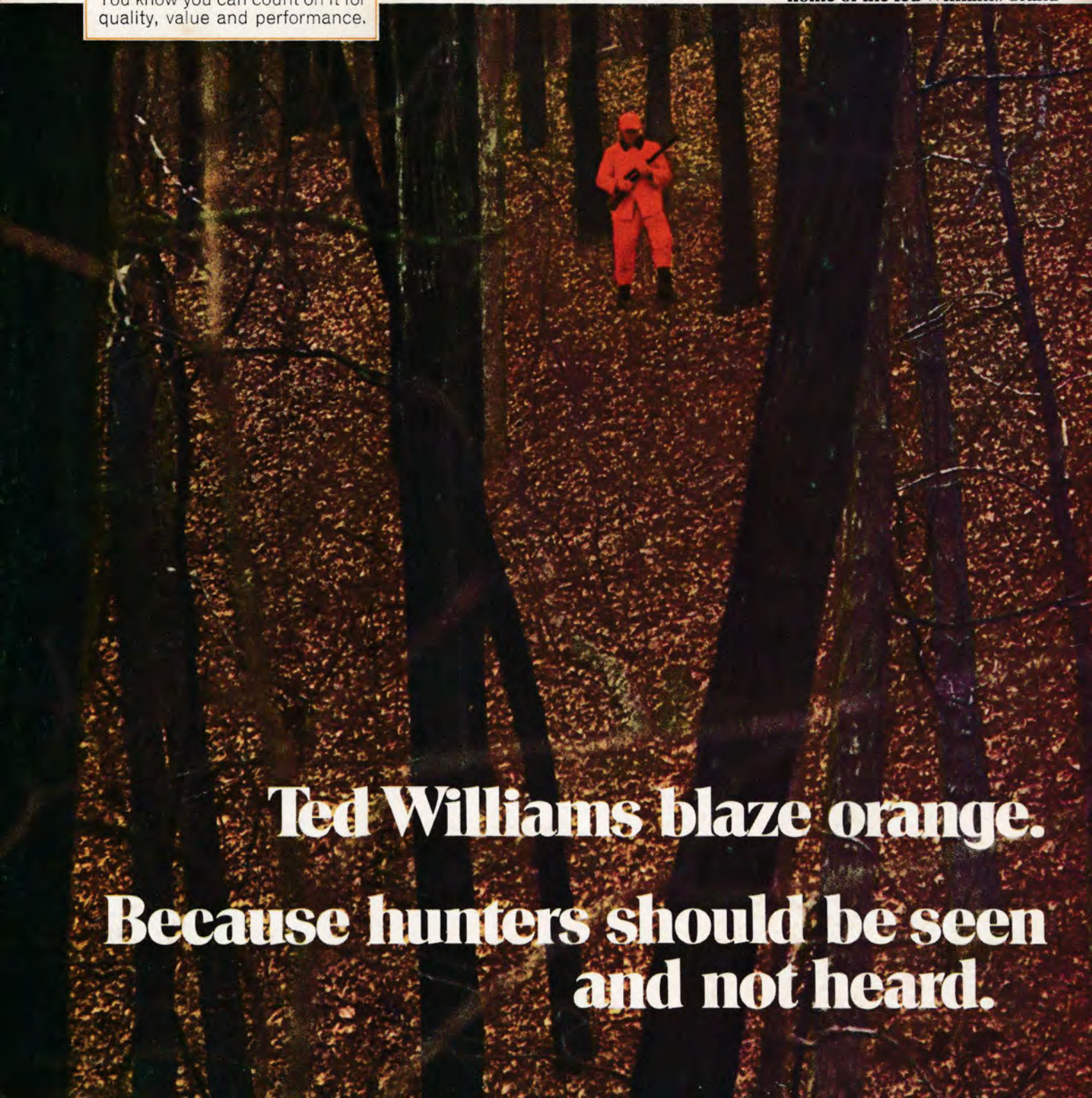
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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

GUNS MAGAZINE ATTACKED BY ANTI-FIREARMS GROUPS

Anti-firearms fanatics have been busy at work in Washington and with the mass media for years. And now they are starting to use the specialized media for their propaganda. One of the most outrageous articles I have read recently was in the March issue of U.S. Catholic and Jubilee. It was written by a Miss Betsy Bliss, who has a talent for rabble rousing but has little real understanding of firearms. This article was like many others that appeared in the last few months. They all try to link firearms with every rotten thing that ever existed. Miss Bliss in her article tries to link firearms with the Black Panthers, My Lai, the Ku Klux Klan, Vietnam, Kent State, the Minutemen, the Weathermen, the Mafia, Al Capone, Billy the Kid, Bonnie and Clyde, and the mass killings of Josph Yablonski and Sharon Tate.

The article is full of rabid emotionalism and one sided stories. For example, there are stories like this; "In Colorado, Robert Delaney was riding down a country road on a motorbike. His two sons followed on their bikes. Two shots rang out and both boys tumbled to the ground dead. A hunter down the road said he had mistaken the boys for elk". Or; "A Michigan man was sleeping when he heard footsteps outside his door. A robber? He panicked, pulled out the pistol hidden under his pillow, leveled it at the door as the knob turned, and shot his three-year-old daughter."

Miss Bliss also attacks the big firearms manufacturers like Browning, Weatherby, Winchester and Remington. Accusing them of being a conspiracy to bury anyone in Washington who comes out with any kind of anti-firearms legislation.

She contends that we should have a firearms system like Europe. In France you must have a government permit to own a handgun or military rifle. And the owners of these firearms are restricted to fifty rounds of ammunition a year. In Great Britain you need a certificate from the police to purchase or own a rifle and it is very hard to get a certificate.

Guns Magazine had an article in the April issue entitled "You can help repeal the Gun Control Act of 1968". It came under vicious attack from Miss Bliss. She seems to think that Guns Magazine is advocating the worst thing in the world, and she places it on the list of companies and things that will be eliminated in the future.

Miss Bliss and the U.S. Catholic and Jubilee attach guns to the Black Panthers and Weathermen. But what about the Audie Murphys and Sergeant Yorks of America? In both WWI and WWII we had to enter a war on short notice. We had to send tens of thousands of infantry men into combat without adequate rifle training. And we defeated armies that had highly trained infantry troops with previous battle experience. One of the main reasons for our great success was that our boys had years of rifle experience before they went into the army. So when they were in combat they knew how to handle a gun. Those were the days when the Japanese were advancing toward Hawaii and had already taken part of Alaska. And Nazi submarines sank American ships as they came out of New York harbor. Those were the days American gun talent payed off with life saving dividends. The Miss Bliss's of America always forget about the American boys who knew guns and saved America so they (the Bliss's) could live a fat, safe and comfortable life.

Miss Bliss thinks that the big manufacturers like Browning and Remington should be controlled or put out of business. But again, back in WWII when Browning Automatic Rifles were used to stop the Japanese from taking Australia, it was only our enemies who worried about putting Browning out of business. And in my opinion it is still the enemies of America that worry about putting our firearms manufacturers out of business.

Miss Bliss thinks that we should have a system as in Europe where private citizens do not have firearms. But one of the reasons the Nazis had so easy a time over running France was because the French did not have the arms to slow them down at the local level. And in 1940 the British Government was taking guns out of museums and giving them to the home guard because the citizens were not armed. I wonder how Miss Bliss would like living under the Gestapo for five years like the French?

Now is the time to fight back with the truth about firearms. Now is the time when we must let our thoughts be heard in the local State legislatures and in Washington. The best way to do this is by joining clubs like THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA. Fill in the handy business reply envelope opposite this page and mail it in today. It will be both a service to yourself, to your children and to America.
Col. E. R. Becker

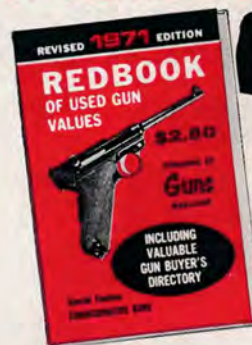
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George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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IF YOU like things artistic, take a look at the special offering of a 1972 Gun Collector's calendar offered jointly by GUNS Magazine and Arbed Galleries. I've seen the drawings used on this calendar, and they are great. See page 74 for full details.

GUN OF THE MONTH

Several more winners of our Gun of the Month contest have been verified, and we are pleased to announce their names.

Mr. B. Perno of Las Vegas, Nevada took a chance in our April contest, and won; he accepted, as his prize, a new Browning 5-shot autoloading shotgun. Mr. Howard Brendenberg of Hamden, Conn., won what turned out to be one of our most popular contest prizes, the Jimmy Lile Bowie knife offered in our May contest.

With the coming of the hunting seasons, watch for the bleeding hearts to begin their war against hunting. It has already started, as evidenced by a column in the sport pages of a Midwestern newspaper, where the reporter said "the time is coming again when men armed to the teeth will be out shooting fawns." In spite of the reporters venomous attack on hunters, he does make one good point; "the deer don't go around shooting each other or littering the landscape with empty beer cans and garbage." The eyes of the nation will be watching us, and if we act like creeps we will be treated like creeps. Teddy Roosevelt said it best: "... a proper hunting spirit, a proper love of sport, instead of being incompatible with a love of nature and wild things, offers the best guarantee for the protection of wild things."

THE COVER

A handsome pair of English dueling pistols complete with case and all of the accessories. Made by T. J. Mortimer of London in 1855, you will note that both pistols have right hand locks. Photo by Dick Friske.



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USS BEGOR LOADING LANDING CRAFT AT HUNGNAM, KOREA



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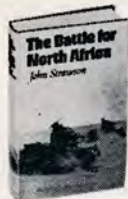
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The Duke

Enclosed is a check for two prints of the John Wayne centerfold in your June issue. Our whole family was very happy to see Mr. Wayne's classic set stare topped with his favorite fighting hat gracing the cover.

Out hats off to you for honoring this man and his dedicated years to the American people, and as you aptly stated, an honor to the man himself for his personal achievements.

Are we correct in our thinking that the cover photo is one from the movie "Hondo"? And, of course, the truly greatest smiling Mr. Wayne as "Rooster" will be our pin-up forever.

It is people like yourselves and Mr. Wayne that will perpetuate and keep the American way of life; and keep it to walk a straight road.

Mrs. Elaine Porchetti
Columbus, Ohio

Enclosed is a check for \$2.00 to cover the cost of the John Wayne poster.

Keep up the good work, you have a very fine magazine and in my opinion you could not have picked a better man for this award.

Keith R. Smith
Wooster, Ohio

My check is enclosed for two of the John Wayne posters. My most sincere congratulations on your most appropriate choice for your award. "The Duke" is the greatest and a fine example of a great America. Let's see some articles on the Colt he always carries and other guns he has used.

Gene Moore
Downers Grove, Ill.

Surely you jest—John Wayne Man of the Year—B.S. What has he ever done for American firearms owners? In a word, nothing. One has only to view his films to see unsafe firearms usage and historically incorrect firearms (1892 Winchesters used in the 1870 period, etc.) in use. What a disfavor to the thousands of loyal

readers of your magazine. Surely you could do better.

Unsigned letter.

Handgun Grab

The Article "The Handgun Grab Is On" by Carl Wolff (June GUNS) should serve as an eye opener to some people who still believe that sportsmen are safe. The danger is here and now!

Mr. Wolff is certainly right in saying that 1971 is the year for the big anti-gun push. The fact that anti-gun fortresses such as Mr. Dodd and Mr. Tydings were successfully "stormed" out of the Capitol Hill has only momentarily slowed down the national anti-gun movement. The forces that remain, with the aid of mass media will try to get our guns and by doing so the path will be ready for the big "liberal" push to try and topple the U.S. Government.

The only way that offers a reliable solution to the coming onslaught is to be united as one. We proved this last November when Dodd and Tydings were booted from office by united sportsmen casting their vote.

Fellow sportsmen, the moment is here! We have to let our presence be known effectively and decisively. United we can do it! My congratulations to Mr. Wolff for his article.

J.J. Galan
Miami, Fla.

No Problems

In reply to William P. White's letter (July GUNS) on the virtues of the wheel gun, let me say that reduced loads work just fine in my Browning 9mm. I've had no malfunctions whatsoever in all the times I've used the gun for plinking. As for his contention that semi-auto ammunition makes for poor man-stoppers, Super Vel has made this argument a thing of the past, which by the way, the revolver is!

Grady R. Harris
San Jose, Calif.



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HANDLOADING BENCH

By C. GEORGE CHARLES

I OFTEN WONDER how many handloaders who gripe about the accuracy of their home-brewed ammo really give serious thought to all the factors involved. From much of what we've heard, too much emphasis is laid on the oft-repeated saw, "Any rifle will shoot better with handloads (than with factory fodder, obviously)."

Many's the lad who has shot a few 2"-4" groups with his prize new Remchester, then complained bitterly that handloads didn't peel that down to 1" or less. The examples of this in my files are legion and they point out all too clearly that the *average* handloader/shooter forgets about the part the gun plays in this accuracy bit. He forgets that there is really no basis for comparison of factory vs. handloads until the gun itself is: 1) broken in, and, 2) tuned or refined to perform its very best with either factory loads or a known-to-be-good handload.

Ask any experienced rifleman (that means a fellow who shoots *seriously* 1000 or more full-charge center fire rounds per year) how long a *new* rifle takes to develop its accuracy. Most will allow at least 300-500 rounds are needed through the tube; others will maintain it takes as much as 800-1000 shots. Controlled tests show that some barrels continue to improve at least slightly for 2000-3000 rounds.

Lots of things happen in those first few hundred rounds; metal pounds a more intimate seat in the stock; the bore is polished. The process may be likened to breaking in a new auto engine.

So, even assuming that bedding and stock screw tension are perfect (and they often aren't), you aren't going to get the best out of any new rifle until it has been "shot in." Since it won't at first do its best even with standard factory loads, it seems rather useless to go to any great amount of effort in load development. Shoot the gun first for what it is a few hundred rounds with garden-variety loads.

Then, when the bore is slicked up

and metal is well-mated to wood, and you've done such minor tuning as seems necessary—then, it's time to get serious about loading for maximum accuracy. And, accept the fact that not *every* gun will perform measurably better with handloads than with good factory ammo. That may be heresy in some circles, but it's true as far as I am concerned. I refuse to burn up thousands of minutely-varying handloads to squeeze one more 1/16" off the group size of factory fodder.

And, don't overlook the fact that many a budding handloader (not you, of course, but those *other* guys) is capable of shooting well enough to determine whether his handloads are better than factory. A four-inch-group shooter won't get one-inch groups, no matter how perfect the ammunition.

A long time ago Elmer Keith wrote about his special long-range sixgun front sight. As far as I know, it was never marketed, so there is no way to buy one. All the same, it would be ideal for the fellow who is using a fixed-sight revolver with hot, light-bullet handloads. As many pistolers know, there may be as much as a full foot (12") spread of vertical point of impact between heavy and light bullets at 50 yards. Assuming your pet fixed-sight gun was factory-targeted for the standard store-bought load, fast-stepping handloads with lighter bullets will normally strike considerably low.

Simply determine how much front sight must be 'held-up' with the hot load, then scribe or file a line across it even with the top of the rear sight. Fill the line in with white or yellow paint and you are set for pinpoint shooting with both loads.

Incidentally, Ruger tells us they can furnish higher and lower than standard front sights for the new .357 Security Six revolver for just this purpose—zeroing with light-bullet high-performance loads.

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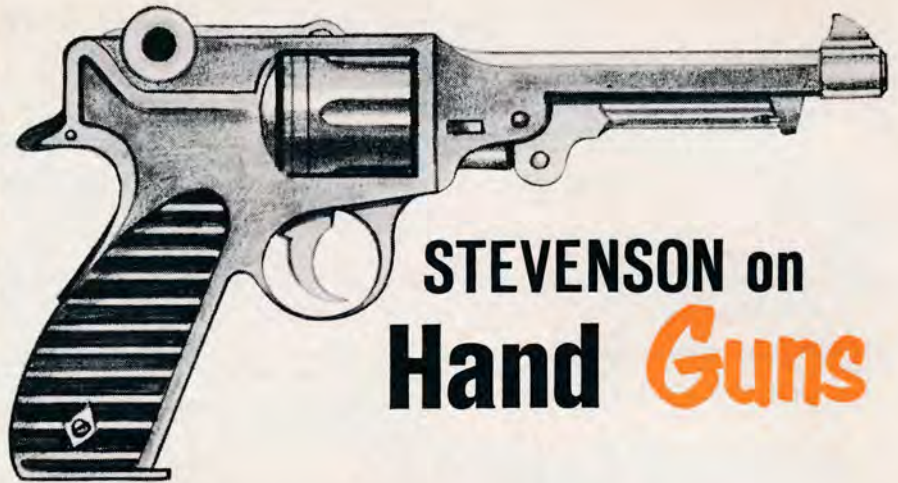
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STEVENSON on Hand Guns

IF YOU WERE a skeet shooter or a 300 meter prone rifleman or a trophy hunter you'd likely look down your nose at handgunners as an odd little clique possessed of an unlikely passion. If you were the U.S. chess champ or a professor of Byzantine history, handguns and those who shot them would be beneath your vision entirely. Here would be a sphere of human knowledge and endeavor so remote and obscure you would have passed it by unnoticed.

All of which is to say that viewed from without, handgunning is a pretty picayune pastime, and acquaintances who discover that I'm obliged to disgorge an article on the subject per month without fail look incredulous and inquire, "But don't you run out of things to say?" I'm not expecting to. Prior to taking over this column I had written about a hundred articles: 3 on shotguns, 2 on sporting rifles, 5 on SMG's, several on assault rifles, and the rest on handguns. That lot, and hewn to appropriate dimensions, would have been worth about 10 or 11 years of monthly columns, and it's certainly not bashfulness that leads me to say that I've hardly scratched the surface. For viewed from within, handguns and handgunning comprise a topic which is far beyond the intellectual resources of one man to exhaust, even if he were to devote a lifetime of 16-hour days to the task.

So what all is there to talk about? Looking at the active powder-burning side of the game we have plinking and informal target shooting, both at inanimate targets. With formal target shooting we have the I.S.U. matches, free pistol, rapid fire, standard pistol, and center fire. The N.R.A. matches offer all sorts of courses and then comes combat training and combat competition with the PPC and the freestyle course and others.

Shooting at animate targets offers

small, medium and large game shooting and combat shooting can be grouped into three basic classes; military, police and civilian personal defense.

That, though hasty and incomplete, should nonetheless appeal to all orderly minds, and is worth about two years of columns on the surface alone. How many more if we look a bit deeper? There are, for instance, several more courses derived from the National Match Course, and a half-dozen more derived from the FBI's PPC. In doctrinal competition with the PPC are a rash of courses which we have been content to outline under the sparse heading "Freestyle and Others." "Small game hunting" is not at all the same endeavor for the guy who takes a morning stroll through the hardwood to see if the squirrels are up, than it is for the brush pilot who just crashed over where the maps run out. Nor is taking a deer with a pistol quite the same stunt as taking a grizzly or a gorilla with one. And police combat shooting is scarcely the same game for the full-harness highway patrolman as for the undercover agent.

Thus we can easily blather for half a decade about the different facets of handgun shooting without even approaching the question of *how* to shoot, nor what guns and what action types and what calibers and loads are best for whatever's to be shot.

Handguns have a number of external characteristics which can be palavered over at wearisome length: grips, sights, barrel lengths, weight, triggers, balance, ad infinitum, not to mention action type. A combination of these elements which is the huckleberry for one handgunner will be worse than useless for another. An undercover operative would be about as well advised to try concealing a scoped Super Blackhawk in a crotch

(Continued on page 17)

Most automatic rifles are as accurate as you are...for at least the first shot. But what about the second? And the third?

Automatic rifle accuracy starts with your ability to recover from the first shot's recoil. Here's how the Remington Model 742 helps you...straight from the men who designed it.

The real key to hunting accuracy with an automatic is its speed of operation. If the rifle ejects and chambers cartridges too quickly (which is often the case), most hunters have a hard time recovering from recoil and barrel whip. If the rifle operates too slowly, a hunter may lose the extra-shot advantage he bought the rifle for in the first place. Somewhere between "too fast" and "too slow" is an optimum. So, the Remington designers set out to build a truly modern automatic rifle with an optimum rate of operation... a rate that would let a hunter make the most of the accuracy built into the rifle. The result of their efforts is the Remington Model 742.

The 742's rate of operation is engineered to help a hunter fire several shots quickly and maintain his sight plane from shot to shot, without changing position or grip. This rate is fast enough to maintain the automatic advantage...yet slow enough to give the hunter a big edge in his recovery from recoil. Which leads up to the second big reason why a rifle's operating speed is important: recoil reduction.

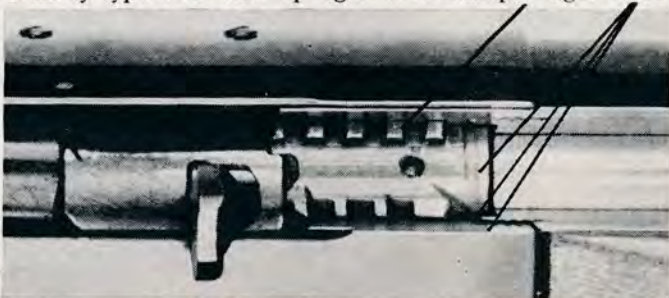
If the rifle mechanism operates too fast, a recoil reduction system really doesn't have a chance to be effective. And if the rate is too slow, it isn't needed because the hunter has plenty of time to recover... at the expense, perhaps, of additional shots. Essentially, the system in the Model 742 operates like most other automatic rifles. But here's where Remington designers used some engineering imagination.

The recoil force is more than required to operate the mechanism... and more than enough to give you a jolt. So, by capturing the peak of the recoil force in what Remington designers call an "Inertia Sleeve", that peak recoil force is split. This means you receive a softened initial recoil push.

Now the real advantage is obvious. You're set for your next shot quicker with the 742 than with other types of rifles. And the more experience you have with the 742, the steadier you should become. That means greater control. And greater control means you have a better chance

of keeping your sight picture from shot to shot.

Like every Remington rifle and shotgun, the 742 has certain features we think you'll want to know about. Like the "Teflon"-S** coating we've added to interior moving parts. The result is longer wear, smoother operation and easier cleaning. And the artillery-type bolt locks up safe and strong. In fact, the action is so safe and so strong that the 742 and its moving parts perform effortlessly despite bad weather. The artillery-type bolt locks up tight with multiple lugs. Three



Cutaway of M/742 receiver showing bolt locking system.

rings of solid steel completely enclose the cartridge head.

A rich blueing, "vibra-honed" parts with a mirror-like finish, Du Pont RK-W wood finish (just about the most rugged finish available) make the 742 owner a proud one.

The 742 comes in five great calibers: 6mm Rem., 280 Rem., 30-06, 308 Win., 243 Win. And you have your choice of an ADL or BDL "Custom Deluxe." The BDL "Custom Deluxe," incidentally, is available in right- and left-hand cheekpiece models. There's an 18½" barrel carbine that's great for hunting in brush, too. All feature black fore-end caps, white line spacers, clip magazines and receivers that are drilled and tapped for scope mounts. Priced from \$169.95*, the 742 offers a hunter tremendous dollar value. Finally, you ought to know that we test and prove the Model 742 with Remington and Peters ammunition. So, if you're after top performance, it makes sense to use Remington or Peters ammunition. Right?

This report about the Model 742 (we call it the "Woodsmaster") and all other Remington Reports are based on information straight from the men who design and engineer every Remington product. If you'd like to save your Remington Reports, we'll send you a folder to keep them in. And for even more details, send a postcard to: Remington Arms Company, Inc., Dept. 187, Bridgeport, Conn. 06602, for a free copy of our 1971 full-color Remington catalog.



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(Continued from page 14)

holster as a hunter would be to quest after bear with a derringer. A body-guard with a Hämmerli free pistol would have as slight a chance of success as the olympic hopeful who walked to the firing line with a snub .38. These are extreme examples, we all would agree. Argument becomes more acute, it would seem, the closer to agreement both parties are. No one disputes that a snub .38 is not worth hell room for 50-meter ISU competition. The question is whether a snub .38 is good for anything, and if so, for what. Or to rephrase, can not anything a snub .38 can do be better accomplished with some other gun?

Argument then can exist on any level of agreement or disagreement. While west coast police firearms instructors are heatedly in dispute as to whether the automatic ought not to replace the service revolver, their counterparts on the continental divide disagree as to whether the .41 revolver should replace the .357, plains states cops are pushing for the .357 to replace the .38, and east coast gendarmes, never questioning the primacy of the .38, are at one another's throats as to whether or not grip adaptors should be allowed. If this is ever settled, they'll doubtless resume their simmering dispute over whether triggers should be grooved or smooth and whether adjustable sights should be banned or obligatory.

And then of course there's the question of holsters, but let's not get into that.

If this weren't world and wealth of topics enough, the list as it stands, as far as the guns go, can be multiplied by three merely by looking from different vantages: that of the shooter, the engineer, and the sales manager. I might venture the observation that many gun writers view a new gun through the sales manager's eyes, though they cloak their pronouncements in a shooter's vocabulary. Others give a reasonably honest shooter's evaluation of a new product. But few try to criticise a gun from a technical standpoint. Few writers, myself certainly included, have the technical background to sustain us in a head-butting contest with factory engineers. Worse than this, many gun writers are entirely innocent of how a gun is made and of what goes on inside it. One was honest enough to admit in print that it took him "an anxious half hour, or more" to get the sideplate back on a Colt Trooper, even though he hadn't taken any parts out. "... what might have transpired had I REALLY taken the gun apart?" he inquired of his readership.

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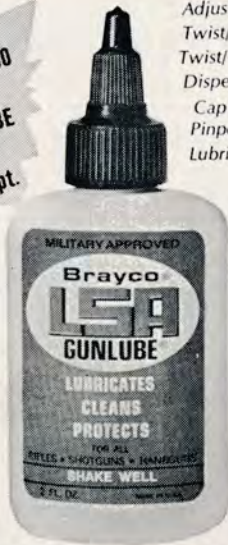
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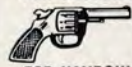
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I have more respect for this chap than I have for many of my colleagues.

And then there is the history and evolution of handguns; ah, centuries of columns right there. And cartridges; heaven preserve us from the Niagra of potential articles dammed up behind that one word.

All this is not merely to inculcate in the readership an appropriate reverence for the breadth and complexity of the subject I write about. It is also to note that you may grow grey and croak, or worse, let your subscription lapse, before I get around to a topic that interests you. I personally would be delighted to continue writing this column to please me, but the editor feels that it should please you.

So what do you want to hear about? Are you particularly anxious for word of the newest and latest, or would you like us to journey back to the halcyon days of frontier and black powder on frequent occasion? Are you mostly interested in how guns shoot, or how they are designed, or in the history behind them? Do you want to read about guns in common circulation, that you probably have shooting experience with yourself, or have you a yen to learn of the wierdo's—one-of-a-kind experimentals, those that didn't get adopted rather than those that did, holster size machine pistols, or maybe a revolving

automatic (not to be confused with automatic revolvers)?

Would you like me to press my modest technical capabilities to the outer limits and dabble in design problems, metallurgy, manufacturing techniques, and suchlike, or have we a large number of newcomers to handguns and handgunning who need an elementary introduction to the subject, a compendium of basic principles and terminology?

Finally, what sort of handgun shooting do you people want to see discussed: formal target shooting, combat shooting, or hunting? I'd particularly like to see how the constituency groups on this point.

So we'll just herewith call a referendum. Write and say what your particular handgunning interests are, and if most of you wind up clustered in one corner of the pasture, I'll try to nudge the column over thataway. If a few of you want to have a particular topic discussed, I'll do it if I can; if a lot of you are lined up for a given subject, I'll do an article on it whether I'm competent to or not. Finally, if, as is generally the case with shooters, you guys are as cohesive as pole-to-pole magnets or oil and water, I'll just continue, as one editor said, following my nose with the hope that some of you will be over yonder where I'm headed.



POINT BLANK



By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

FOUR YEARS AGO a small group of international sportsmen thought it would be a fine thing to invite their white hunters to a reunion. This they did and from the get-together has sprung one of the most energetic game conservation organizations on the globe. It just held it's third reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Called Game Conservation International—Game Coin for short—the latest conference, which went on for six days, attracted sportsmen, scientists, biologists, game technicians, and professional guides and hunters from all around the world.

The meetings were opened by remarks from John Connally, Secretary

of the Treasury, followed by Capt. Walter Schirra, flight commander of the Apollo VII space adventure, and by such well known experts as Dr. Randall Eaton, Purdue University, Dr. T. C. Robertson of South Africa, Bertrand Des Clers, France and Giri Raj Singh of New Delhi, India.

Game Coin, the more familiar title, ain't for pikers. It costs \$150 to get your foot in the door and if you were really well heeled you could undertake to sponsor one of the professional hunters from Africa or Asia, who are invited guests to the conference. Attendance was 1200, most of these American sportsmen who have either

(Continued on page 54)

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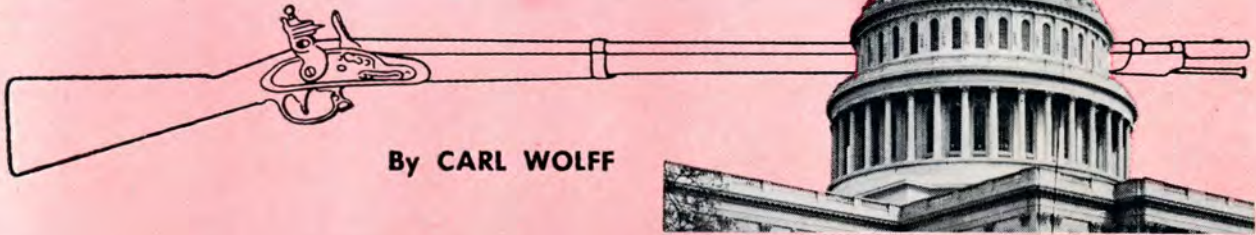
We've even included a booklet detailing the cleaning and maintenance of the guns. To help you keep them flawless. We're proud of the fact that we've been serving the black powder shooter since 1878. And that's a big part of the reason why we've done everything possible to make our first guns the best looking, best shooting black powder handgun replicas you can buy. Bar none.

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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

The shooting sportsmen have, for some years now, been calling for a law to make it a federal crime for using a firearm in a crime of violence. This kind of legislation has been pending before the House Judiciary Committee for two sessions of Congress now. Chairman Emanuel Celler (D.-N.Y.) and Minority Leader William McCulloch (R.-Ohio) have stopped the measure cold by refusing to hold hearings.

Well, anti-gunners such as Celler and McCulloch may have just accomplished about the same thing when they pushed through the 1968 Gun Control Act. The Nixon Administration has been reviewing the small print of the law. Felons have been charged with violations of the 1968 Act for having firearms in their possession—some have been convicted, some have been set free.

Comes now a "test" case before the Supreme Court of the United States: *The United States of America, petitioner, vs. Denneth Bass*. Erwin N. Griswold, the Solicitor General and attorneys for the Department of Justice have asked the Court to rule if the 1968 Act should "be construed to prohibit any possession of a firearm by a felon, or only possession that is specifically 'in commerce or affecting commerce'."

The 1968 Act (18 U.S.C. App. (Supp. V) 1202 (a)) provides in the pertinent part: "Any person who—(1) has been convicted by a court of the United States or of a State or any political subdivision thereof of a felony . . . and who receives, possesses, or transports in commerce or affecting commerce . . . any firearm shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both."

Another section of the Act (18 U.S.C. App. Supp. V) 1201 provides: "The Congress hereby finds and declares that the receipt, possession, or transportation of a firearm by felons (and others convicted by the 1968 Act) . . . constitutes (1) a burden on commerce or threat affecting the free flow of commerce, (2) a threat to the safety of the President of the United States and Vice President of the United States, (3) an impediment or a threat to the exercise of free speech and the free exercise of a religion guaranteed by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and (4) a threat to the continued and effective operation of the Government of the United States and of the government of each State guaranteed by Article IV of the Constitution."

After a jury trial in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Bass was convicted on two counts which charged him, as a previously convicted felon, with possessing firearms in violation of the two sections of the 1968 Gun Control Act mentioned above. He was sentenced to concurrent prison terms of fifteen months. Following his conviction, Bass's lawyers moved for a court order "in arrest of judgement" on the ground that the indictment did not allege and the prosecution failed to prove that his possession of the firearms was "in commerce or affecting commerce" within the meaning of the 1968 Gun Control Act.

The district court denied the motion, holding that the statutory phrase "in commerce or affecting commerce" modifies only the term "transports" and not the term "receives" and "possesses." The (Continued on page 56)

Shadow

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U.S. Sole Agent:

TRADEWINDS, INC.

Exclusive World-Wide Distributor

CASPOLL INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manufacturer:
NIKKO ARMS CO., LTD.

HIJACK LOADS

Above: Muzzle flash from the maximum 9-grain load is quite impressive out of 2-inch barrel revolvers. Below: Colt's new Mark III Lawman .357 Magnum revolver is now made in a round butt, 2-inch barrel version. Shown is a 9-grain Bullseye load with Red-Jet wax-plastic bullet seated down on the powder charge.



HIJACK LOADS*

<u>.38 Special</u>	<u>Vel./Energy 2" Barrel**</u>	<u>Vel./Energy 4" Barrel**</u>
4 gr. Bullseye	1661/67	1797/79
5 " "	1703/71	1889/87
6 " "	1784/77	1945/92
<u>.357 Magnum</u>		
6 gr. Bullseye	1842/83	2098/108
7 " "	1921/90	2141/112
8 " "	2015/99	2212/119
9 " "	2222/120	2403/141

*All loads used 11 grain Red Jet wax-plastic bullets, Bullseye powder, Federal small small pistol primers. Data collected on Avtron K233 chronograph, at 7.5 feet from the muzzle.

**Test guns—2" Colt Mark III Lawman 4" Colt Trooper Mark III.

THE DRAMATIC increase in aircraft hijackings in the past decade has posed a dilemma to authorities. What is the best way to deal with such an incident? Here is one possible solution to the problem of confronting a hijacker in flight aboard an airliner. This alternative involves special bullets in loads designed to disable the hijacker while minimizing risk to the passengers and aircraft.

By far the chief "countermeasure" against these offenses has been for flight crews to acquiesce to the demands of the hijacker. Early hijackings were usually on East Coast U. S. flights going to Miami and the diversion resulted in a short 90-mile side-trip to Havana. While all this was certainly inconvenient, it hardly justified making a fuss that might result in increased risk to life and property.

Success of the hijackings, plus the focus of the press on these events, only seemed to encourage this psychopathic behavior. One young man became an international celebrity overnight by being the first to hijack an aircraft across an ocean. Los Angeles to Rome seemed at the time to rival the New York to Paris flight in 1927.

The threat to life and property became highlighted by the international hijackings in 1970 of four giant airliners all within a few days in the Mid-East. The destruction of \$25 million in aircraft and threatened mass murder of the passenger-hostages pointed up the fact that hijacking could not be taken as some sort of eccentric parlor game.

With the odds for success on the side of the hijacker, an uncontrolled kind of "can you top this?" escalated hijackings into a bizarre, deadly game



Comparative impacts on 6 x 6 clay block shows dramatic results. Left, 110-grain Super Vel .357 Magnum penetrated completely leaving a 5½" cavity. The impact of an 11-grain wax-plastic bullet, right, created a crater about 4-inches in diameter and 2½-inches deep. The bullet disintegrated on impact and shed all its energy. Wounds induced by such an impact would cause severe shock and could possibly be fatal. Further testing is needed.

By JAMES D. MASON

of chance for air transport businesses and their customers. Various positive countermeasures were under taken, first to apprehend or discourage the hijacker on the ground, then to confront hijackers in flight.

On the ground, trained observers and magnetometers now try to identify potential hijackers so they can be ushered into private offices for further investigation. The mere presence of metal detecting equipment has discouraged gun-toting passengers. Proof of this is seen in abandoned guns found in planters or upholstered furniture near boarding gates at several major airports. Observers trained to identify behavioral characteristics of would-be hijackers are posted near boarding gates at terminals. All these efforts have seemed to decrease the number of hijackings, but they may prove ineffective for more highly skilled sky-pirates. This leaves the possibility of confrontation in flight aboard the aircraft.

A number of significant factors are involved in shootouts on board an airliner flying at 35,000 to 40,000 feet. A few of the popular contentions amount to little more than hysteria, but the fact is that conventional ballistics for handgun loads pose several real dangers.

The fear of decompression in flight from a bullet puncturing the skin of the fuselage need not be so fearsome as is commonly thought. Construction of the airframe is such that reinforcing stringers, stiffeners, and ripstops would keep the plane from disintegrating in the air. Skin thicknesses and mechanical strength of sheet materials could not allow for more than a small increase in (Continued on page 69)



Impact of maximum anti-hijack loads caused only slight dimpling of sheet aluminum equivalent in strength to the lightest weight material used for jetliner skins. The gun is Colt's Mark III Trooper, .357, 4" barrel.

GUN DIGEST

For more than 25 years *The Gun Digest* has captured the interest of gun lovers the world over.

By ARTHUR FARWELL

MORE than 25 years ago, 50,000 hunters and shooters were so interested in reading about their favorite pastime that, in response to an advertisement, they sent dollar bills through the mail to order a new book on guns, sight unseen.

Today, many of those same people—and 200,000 more—are annually plunking down \$6.95 apiece in gun shops, sporting goods stores, bookstores, and department stores around the world for successor editions of this well-known book, *The Gun Digest*.

Completely rewritten yearly since the mid 1940's, the book has grown from 162 pages in its first edition to today's 480. The current product includes full-color photographs of modern firearms, some 50 feature stories and articles by the sport's greatest authorities, and more than 125 pages of reference and catalog information on guns, accessories, manufacturers, gun books, etc., in each issue.

In command of this ambitious project are Milton Klein, president of Digest Books, Inc., Northfield, Ill., which is the firm that publishes *The Gun Digest*, and John T. Amber, who has headed the book's editorial staff for

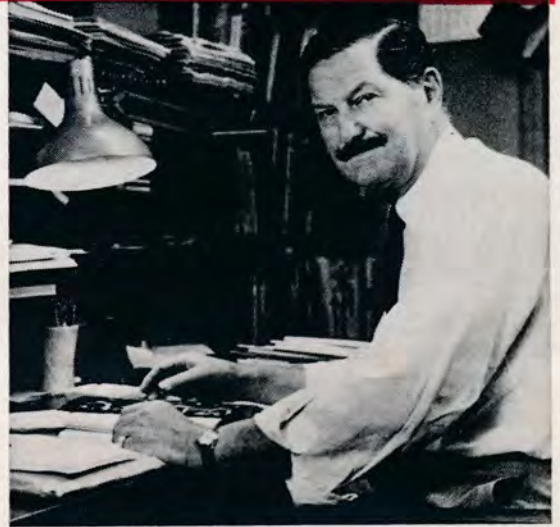
the past 23 years and 22 editions.

Milt Klein initiated the publishing project under the name Gun Digest Publishing Co. as an adjunct to his Chicago-based chain, Klein's Sporting Goods stores, at the tail end of World War II, when firearms were scarce. Today, having sold the sporting goods stores to devote full time to publishing, his firm is marketing 30 books, the majority of which are about hunting, shooting, firearms, and accessories. Additional titles cover other areas of sport, and still other books are nostalgia items, such as reprinted mail order catalogues.

Amber was not on board when the first edition of *The Gun Digest* debuted, but its basic format was much the same though not as all-inclusive

as it is today. The 162-page first edition contained such stories as "How to Call and Hunt Quail Without a Dog," "Military Small Arms of World War II," "Flyways of North America," and "Dressing and Preparing Game for the Table." Its 18 contributing authors included two who are among the very top in the field today—Jack O'Connor and E. B. Mann.

Currently ready for release is Amber's 22nd effort, the 1972 26th Anniversary *Gun Digest*. For this new issue, Amber has selected such things as "Buffalo Bill—Good Man With a Gun," a condensed history and biography of William Cody by James Serven, supported by magnificent old photographs and descriptions of his cohorts, the guns of that long period,



John T. Amber

1st Edition



6th Edition



9th Edition



14th Edition





Researching facts and figures for articles takes time and equipment, and Amber has a variety of ranges available to him for this purpose. Loads are carefully tested as well as guns to give the reader as much information as possible for safety.

benchrest rifle shooters, the big and small game hunters, the shotgunner and handgunner," Amber says. "Also, of course, we give adequate space to the wealth of equipment that's offered to shooters. In particular, we try to cover each year's new products thoroughly."

"Over the years, we've learned through incoming correspondence that our catalog section plus our sections on shooting books, arms associations, and the directory of the arms trade are all valuable to our readers," he added.

As editor of *The Gun Digest*, Amber has received thousands of manuscripts submitted for the feature story section during his 23-year tenure. Many of them have been written at his request, but hundreds have not. This poses no problem for him, he explains.

"My first love as an editor is the receipt and subsequent working on of
(Continued on page 48)

and the wild west shows.

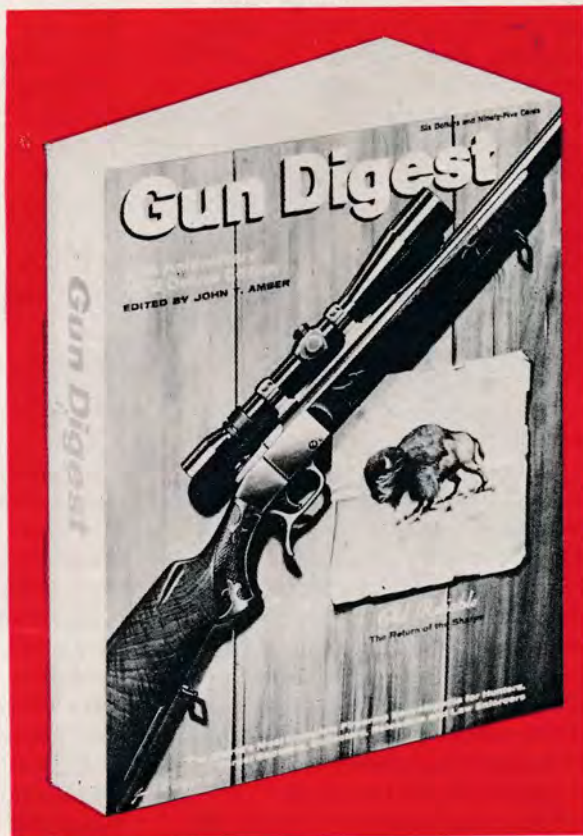
Readers will also see the first part of a story Larry Sterrett has done entitled "The Rifles of James Paris Lee," along with such other stories as "The Classic Double—A Century of Development," with a glossary of double gun terminology, by Wallace Labisky, "British Volunteer Rifles" by DeWitt Bailey II, "Remington Radicals" and "Screw Barrel Pistols" by L. W. Steinwedel, and "Extractors & Ejectors" by M. Stirman.

Amber took over the editorial chores with the fifth edition. Then as now, his editorial goals are sound and uncomplicated: To provide new, fresh, accurate material in each issue; to offer something of interest to all major segments of the shooting world in each

issue; and, of course, to build circulation for the book through the value of its contents.

"We try to include things for special interest groups such as target and

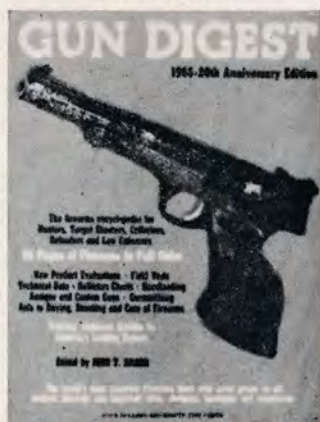
26th Edition



18th Edition



20th Edition





THE 250/3000

By HARRY O. DEAN

"BY POPULAR DEMAND." With this statement, the Savage Arms catalog of 1971 announces that they are "re-introducing" the .250-3000 Savage cartridge. This, to my mind is both a welcome statement as well as one which has considerable historical significance to any serious student of firearms. The man who designed this cartridge is often said to have ushered in the era of the true high velocity commercial cartridge. His name was Charles Newton. He designed many cartridges but the .250-3000 survived longer than any of the others. The reason for this and the history of its development make up the kind of a story I enjoy telling. You'd better make yourself comfortable, because I've decided to tell the rifle story too!

The Savage Arms Company has always been one of the most progressive in the firearms field. They boast a staff of highly inquisitive minds that are always on the lookout for something new. At the same time they do not turn their backs on anything simply because it is old. The effective reasoning asks one simple question. Is it good? The answer shines out in products that combine the best of the time proven elements together with the newest engineering concepts. Such combinations are hard to beat!

This time however, the Westfield

wonders have given us a double treat. They have revived a time proven rifle design and combined it with a time proven cartridge (also revived) to present the Model 99-A lever action saddle gun in .250-3000 caliber. Because both the rifle and the cartridge each have a great history, we are treated to a double barreled story. Which comes first, the chicken or the egg? In this case it was the rifle, so here we go.

Arthur W. Savage was working for the Utica Street Railway in Utica, New York when his mind turned to the design of a better lever action rifle. Smokeless powder had appeared on the scene and a new era of high-power cartridges was about to unfold. Sensing this, Savage realized that many of the existing lever action rifles had features that were far from desirable. He felt that certain aspects of their design were actually deterrents to the development of truly modern cartridges. To say that this gentleman was "far sighted" is a downright understatement. "Futuristic" is a much better word to correctly describe Arthur Savage's way of thinking. At a time when every gun had an outside hammer, our friend Mr. Savage envisioned a rifle whose top line would be unblemished by any such exposed parts. While other gun makers locked their breechbolts with vertical sliding bars, Savage sought to eliminate several parts by effectively locking the breech bolt *itself* in the steel wall of

the receiver. His aim—strength through simplification. He did not stop here. He looked upon the tubular magazines of other lever action rifles with a frown. He found several objections. The nose of each cartridge in a tube magazine is touching the base of the cartridge ahead of it. The ammunition had to remain blunt because a pointed bullet would be touching the primer of the next cartridge. It might tend to fire that round if the rifle's recoil was sharp enough. Arthur Savage had worked out a spool or spindle magazine similar to the Mannlicher-Shoener type. This rotary magazine had a number of favorable points. The use of modern, high intensity ammunition was invited by the fact that sharp pointed projectiles of high ballistic efficiency could be contained without the threat of premature explosion. Further, the balance of a tubular magazine rifle is constantly changed by the shifting of the remaining rounds after the firing of each successive shot. With the Savage method, the balance of the gun remains completely unchanged. An accidental drop might dent the relatively thin walls of a tubular magazine and render it inoperative. On the other hand, the cartridges in the Savage rifle, all contained within the heavier walls of the receiver itself, are obviously better protected against mishaps. The unique design of this magazine also allows the arm to be used as a single loader with the entire



SAVAGE IS BACK!

magazine contents held in reserve! This latter operation is expedited by the fact that the large receiver opening provides ample room for the unobstructed insertion of individual cartridges directly into the chamber.

Gun designer Savage, anticipating the thoughts and practical desires of the shooter, now turned his attention to one of the great bugaboos of big game hunters. In the heat and excitement of the hunt, a gunner might not know how many rounds he had left in his rifle. Nor would he be able to tell with the shells concealed in the tubular



Charles Newton

Box Score Ballistics of The .250-3000 Savage

	MV	100 yds.	Velocity, fps 200 yds.	300 yds.
87 gr. bullet	3030	2660	2330	2660
100 gr. bullet	2820	2460	2140	1870
			Energy, ft. lbs.	
87 gr. bullet	1770	1370	1060	820
100 gr. bullet	1760	1340	1020	775

To long term fans of the .250 I can only say, "Hi Brother", but new fans will want to know how to sight this cartridge. Out of respect for the fine potential of this caliber, I am going to slice the trajectory figures pretty thin. If you hang a scope on your gun, use the "S" zero and for iron sights use the "I" zero. Woods hunters can use a 100 yard sighting and you open country lads might like the 200 yard figures. Impacts above and below zero are shown plus and minus.

	50 yds.	100 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.
87 gr. bullet	---	+ 1.7	S - zero	- 7.9
	---	+ 1.3	I - zero	- 8.2
	-.2	S - zero	- 4.2	- 15.8
	+ .1	I - zero	- 4.7	- 16.8
100 gr. bullet	---	+ 2.1	S - zero	- 9.5
	---	+ 2.4	I - zero	- 9.8
	-.2	S - zero	- 4.2	- 15.8
	+ .1	I - zero	- 4.7	- 16.8

The potential of this round runs from woodchuck and coyote up to deer, sheep and antelope. Varmint hunters would favor handloads of a 75 grain bullet at around 3300 feet per second. With proper powders, long heavy bullets of 120 and 125 grains have been used on larger game at speeds of 2600 to 2700 F.P.S. The term "versatile" fits the .250-3000 like a halo.

magazine. If he was facing cornered or dangerous game he would certainly like to know how many shells remained in the gun. Foreseeing this situation, Savage pictured a self contained adding machine! A built in counter that would tell the shooter at a glance just how many rounds his rifle held in reserve. If you stop to think about these features, any *one* of which is a unique and desirable advance in itself, you can

readily see that Arthur Savage had written himself a pretty big order! He was an inspired man however and having outlined his goal, he set out to achieve it with a great amount of determination.

By the year 1893, he had put together a workable mechanism which proved to be worthy of a patent. With this excellent design, Savage sought to produce his (Continued on page 65)

THE SHADOW

By LEMONT CRANSTON

Wide rib of the "Indy," right, is easy to get used to and a definite aid in getting rid of shimmering heat waves. The "Seven," below, is lower priced but still high quality.



MY APOLOGIES, first of all, for the terrible pun in the title and subtitle—I just couldn't resist it.

The "Shadow" is the brand name for a new line of shotguns manufactured by Nikko Arms Co. Ltd. of Japan, and distributed in the U.S. by Tradewinds, Inc., Box 1191, Tacoma, Wash. 98401. Although there is no connection between the two, Nikko Arms was established by the son of the chief executive of Olin-Koden-sha, makers of the Winchester 101 over-under.

The Shadow shipped to us for testing was the "Indy" model in Trap style, and when the gun arrived, the first reaction was: "Not another Japanese over-under!" However, as the barrels, stock and fore-end went together, the attitude changed to one of admiration. The gun showed every indication of excellent workmanship on both wood and metal. The blued finish was smooth and rich, and the stock was of better than average quality and figured with neat skip-checkering on the semi-pistol grip and fore-end, and a glass-like finish that held up well to the abuse of five months of competitive shooting.

As you can see from the photos, the Shadow has traditional over-under lines, and a strong box-lock action with a four-lock system latching the monoblock constructed breech firmly to the frame. When put together, the opening and closing were smooth and effortless.

The Shadow "Indy" trap gun has 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ " barrels, and what the manufacturer marked as Full and Full chokes. Initial test shooting indicated that they were good, tight Full chokes with good pattern density and amazingly close point of impact for both barrels.

What the Shadow "Indy" has that is quite different from other over-unders we've seen is a most unique system of overcoming one of the problems of competitive shotgun shooting—those shimmering heat waves coming off the top of the barrel and distorting the sight picture. The heat waves are reduced, to some extent, by any type of ventilated rib; but the rib on the Shadow "Indy" is something to behold. You've seen wide ribs and extra wide ribs, but imagine a ventilated rib that's a full $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide—all the way down the barrel. Compared to the standard ribs ($\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ ") or even the

Broadway ($\frac{5}{8}$ ") this one looks like a landing strip for a 747. Beside the width, the "Indy" rib is unique in still another way. It is made unlike any other vent-rib, with two cooling fins (grooved to give the appearance of four separate fins) that run the full length of the barrel. The entire rib is made of aluminum and is full floating on seven studs to permit it to expand and contract independently of the barrels.

Nikko Arms claimed that this new rib design eliminated the shimmering heat waves 100 per cent. That's a pretty hefty claim, and one that we took with a grain of salt. It was pretty hard to get any respectable heat waves in near zero weather, and it was not until the spring thaw came that we had a chance to get the full effect of the rib. One warm spring day, we did do a lot of steady shooting, and try though we did, we found not one shimmer of heat from the barrels. It ap-

"Who knows what features lurk in the heart of this Japanese over-under?"

pears that this new vent-rib does work. I think, too, that because it is so wide, any heat waves that are present, and which would ordinarily come up and around the rib, are directed far away from the sighting plane so that they are not noticeable.

That takes care of one of the heat problems encountered in trap and skeet shooting. There is still another, and the Shadow "Indy" has the answer for this, too. If you've been using the heat- of the bottom barrel (and the ulti-

mate change in the point of impact) as an excuse for missing the last several birds, you'll have to think up a new one if you shoot a Shadow. The fore-end has six (three on each side) aluminum-framed vents which permit any heat build-up to escape.

From December through May, our test Shadow performed in the hands of six different Mid-west trap shooters; all with a pretty healthy string of "straights," and most of them no-nonsense money shooters. None of the

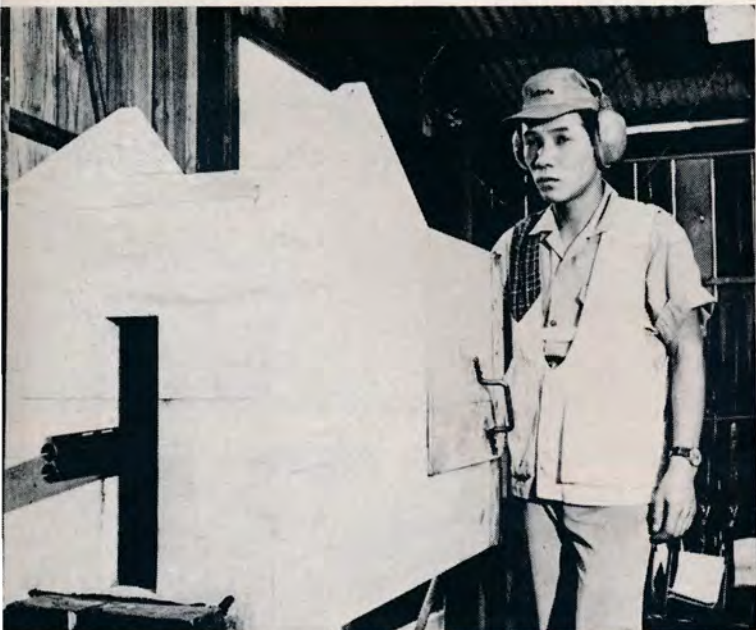
shooters reported any malfunctions, and all were pleased with the weight and balance of the gun. I thought sure that at least one of them would call the extra-extra wide rib a "gimmick," but none did. As a matter of fact, several of them commented on the fact that they found it easy to become accustomed to the rib.

If you are a trap shooter, I doubt that anyone less than the National Champion could persuade you to buy a particular gun, and I'm certainly not going to tell you to rush out and buy a Shadow "Indy." I will say that if you are contemplating such a purchase, you would do well to take a look at one before you buy.

Priced at \$475, the Shadow "Indy" is neither (Continued on page 56)



Close-up of the "Indy" shows impeccable workmanship on checkering, vent rib and the forearm vents. "Indy" model handled quite well in the tests and no faults appeared with the action that was smooth and reliable.



Each gun is test-fired at the factory in this blow-up proof box before it is okayed. Attention to detail is evidenced by the overall performance of the test gun as well as the finish of both wood and metal portions.

SHADOW SPECIFICATIONS

	INDY & CUSTOM	SEVEN
Gauge	12 only, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	12 only, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Action	Boxlock with four locking lugs; mono-block breech.	Boxlock with under lug locking; conventional breech.
Safety	Sliding tang with barrel selector.	Sliding tang with barrel selector.
Rib	Aluminum Airflow; free floating; pearl front and silver middle sight.	Steel ventilated.
Trigger/Ejectors	Single selective, gold plated; Automatic ejectors.	Single selective, gold plated; Automatic ejectors.
Barrels	12 only, Chrome bores Skeet, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Trap, 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".	12 only, Chrome bores, Skeet, 27", trap, 30", field, 27 or 30"
Stock	French walnut, semi-pistol grip, skip checkering, airduct fore-end, recoil pad.	French walnut, semi-pistol grip, hand checkering.
Stock dimensions	Trap; comb, 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ "; heel, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ "; pull, 14 $\frac{3}{8}$; pitch down, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Skeet: comb, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; heel, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; pull, 14"; pitch down, 2".	Trap & Skeet; same as Custom. Field: comb, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; heel, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; pull, 14"; pitch down, 2".
Price	Indy, \$475; Custom, \$1500.	\$350.



EXOTIC STOCK INLAYS



Guns
DO-IT-YOURSELF
PROJECT

By JIM CARMICHEL

INLAID patterns of rare and colorful woods are one of the most distinctive forms of stock decoration. As a general rule, however, this type of stock artistry is seen only on the more expensive custom firearms, probably because the apparent difficulty of such work scares off amateurs and more than a few professionals.

In truth, other than a little care, there is no great difficulty involved and the whole operation requires only a stark minimum of tools. Time required depends, of course, on the individual craftsman, but to give an approximate idea of the time investment, the completed inlay shown on these pages took slightly less than three hours *including time for picture taking*. So it is fair enough to say that our three piece design is a one evening project.

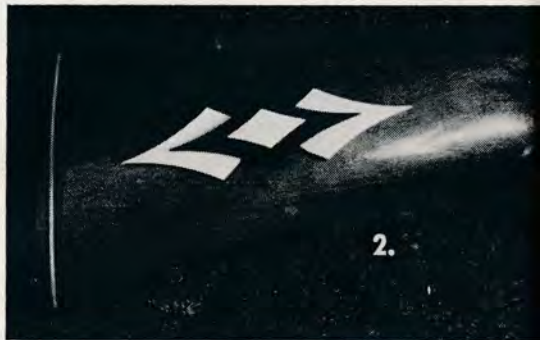
Inlay materials include a variety of woods such as holly (white), ebony (black), rosewood (reddish purple), zebra (light with dark stripes), cocobolo (multi-hued), vermillion (red), purpleheart (purple), osage orange (yellow) and other exotic types. These are available from Brownell's, Montezuma, Iowa in a goodly assortment of shapes and sizes. The inlays run from .30¢ to .80¢ each so the total invest-

ment for materials can hardly be called prohibitive. Materials for our project, comprised of three large-sized inlays, totaled \$2.40.

As for tools, you could actually make do with a pocket knife but a thin bladed chisel is best. Also, a handy little two and a half dollar incising knife kit offered by Brownell's is perfect for cutting outlines and shaving edges for a perfect hairline fit. The replaceable blades are razor sharp.

If you are interested in getting the job done in a hurry, or plan on doing a lot of inlay work, the Dremel Moto-Tool with router attachment will cut work time by more than half. With a little practice you'll be able to work right up to the edges with the router leaving only the corners and point areas to be finished with hand tools.

The first step is designing your pattern and arranging it on the stock. To help with the design layout and to get an idea of what the finished job will look like simply stack the inlays and look straight down at the pattern. This technique allows you to space the individual pieces to suit your taste and also to substitute different colors of wood until you get the desired effect. Also, this is your guide as to what order the individual elements are to



be inlaid. The pieces on the bottom are inlaid first and then on up the stack.

Holding the inlay firmly in position, trace the outline with the incising knife. Naturally you want to keep the incision perfectly flush with the outline of the inlay because the name of this game is *perfect fit!*

After marking the outline use the incising knife to deepen the cut to $\frac{1}{8}$ " or so. Don't press too hard with the knife or you'll bungle the whole thing. You'll have better control by retracing the outline with a series of light passes rather than one or two heavy passes

with the knife. Now you can start removing wood with the chisel or Dremel router. Take your time here and keep the "excavation" neat and even. When necessary use the incising knife to deepen the outline until you've reached full depth.

The inlays are about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick and when fully in place should extend above the surface of the stock only slightly, $\frac{1}{32}$ " or so is about right. When fitting the inlay you'll be tempted to try it often to see how the fitting is going. Be careful not to force the inlay in if the fit is too tight. You might find, to your utter dismay,

that the inlay won't come out or when it does it jerks a big hunk out of the surrounding wood. So be on the lookout for tight spots and keep them shaved away with the incising knife. A properly fitted inlay not only fits perfectly but is never so tight that it must be pounded in, only snug at the most. Overly tight inlays might, at some future date, absorb a little moisture, and not having anywhere else to expand buckle upward. This is cause for tears.

With the modern resin and epoxy glues now available, anchoring the inlay permanently (Continued on page 61)

1. Brownell's, Montezuma, Iowa, offers a variety of exotic wood inlays in several shapes and sizes. You can also use your imagination and design your own.
2. Arrange the patterns on the stock by stacking the inlays and looking directly down on them.
3. Tracing the outline of the element with the incising knife takes patience and a good eye.
4. Shaving the wood out of the inletting should be done slowly and with care to keep the edges sharp and even.
5. With the two outer elements in place, a rasp is used to work them down flush with the stock.
6. The third element of the design is inlaid just as the first parts.
7. Detail of the inletting for the final element. Again, close attention must be paid to detail on the edges.
8. All of the inlays were glued with Brownell's Acraglass epoxy glue for a tight, permanent fit.
9. Using a sanding block to smooth-up the finished inlays keeps everything smooth and flat on the stock.





Rifle ownership in England is difficult, at best. Police visits and forms are necessary evils of possession, and here an American in London unrolls the red tape involved in getting one.

by SIDNEY DU BROFF

THE MODEL 93 lever action .30-30 Marlin in my hands had been mine for fourteen years, but now, on a visit home to Los Angeles, all I could do was fondle it longingly. As a resident of London, where I work as a journalist, I could not slip the gun conveniently in the crook of my arm and return to Britain with it. The red tape involved in trying to get it into England had thus far been a deterrent of sufficient magnitude to keep me from even making the effort. However, the old attachment I felt for this gun returned, and I resolved to have my rifle restored permanently to me.

Back in London I made my way to the nearest police station and got a Firearms Certificate application form. Upon completion it was collected by the firearms officer who called at my home in order to observe the situation, surroundings and circumstances in which I live. The section pertaining to ammunition asked how much I intended to buy in the next three years. I said not more than 100 rounds at any one time, 200 maximum in a year, 600 maximum in three years.

The big question was, where did I

intend to use this rifle? If I have a thousand acres or so up in Scotland, it's no problem. The local police contact the Scottish police where I intend to do my hunting. If reasonable care will not cause danger to human life, the police are satisfied, and permission will be granted, with the request that I notify the police locally when I am up there hunting on my estate. But if I don't have a thousand acres in Scotland, or even 500, they would like to know exactly what I do have, since permission is granted for a specific area. While I am able to participate in deer hunting on land belonging to a friend, I did not want to be limited to that area alone, as there are other places in which I could conceivably go deer hunting—forests in various parts of the country; on land belonging to hotels with shooting rights, which they make available to visitors; as an invited guest on private land; and maybe I'd even lease some of my own land some time. I therefore did not mention any specific places, but stated that I would use the gun on land where I was invited and had permission.

This was not good enough; the police were not yet completely satisfied. They wanted to know of at least one specific

place where I intended to hunt. I gave them the name and address of my friend, who a short time later was visited by the police in his district. He confirmed that I could have access to his land. Eventually I was granted a certificate, which was a source of great delight to me, as if I had been deeply honored. It gives me permission to own that one specific firearm. The fee for the certificate is \$6.00, and is good for three years, at which time it must be renewed. When I buy shells the certificate has to be presented, duly stamped and signed by the seller who notes that I haven't exceeded my limit. He then makes an entry in his Register of the purchase, along with my name, address, and Firearms Certificate number. The Register is open to the police who may call at any time.

The police are also anxious to know what measures I have taken in my home to adequately protect my firearms from possible theft. They have the right to come to my home at any time, without prior notice, for a tour of inspection. Were they to feel that safety arrangements were inadequate the Certificate could, conceivably, be revoked. The theft of a high-powered rifle would be considered extremely serious, with



Knight Frank & Rutley, off Bond Street, London, across from Hanover Square, in a handsome and dignified building have monthly auctions. Sporting arms which had once belonged to British nobility can be purchased. A fitting place indeed!

Holland & Holland, on Bruton Street, London, is one of the famous English gun makers and are now combined with Westley Richards and Jeffery. They have long been suppliers of big game rifles for white hunters in Africa.



the police making a thorough investigation of the circumstances; if negligence could be shown, the chances are good that a Firearms Certificate would no longer be made available to me. Many English homes are extremely vulnerable, and illegal entry a frequent occurrence. In my own case, I have installed insurance locks on the doors, grills on the windows, and a chain with a good padlock, securing the guns. And when I am to be away, I tell my neighbors so that they can keep their eyes and ears open.

I am able to sell my rifle to a registered dealer or to an individual who has himself obtained a Firearms Certificate. I would then have to notify the Chief Officer of Police, who issued the Certificate, within 48 hours of the transaction, by registered mail. Not that I have any intention of selling my Marlin. It is a gun that gives me much pleasure, and is perfectly adequate for roe deer at relatively close range.

The roe is a small deer weighing about 50 or 60 pounds, covering most of Europe, and content to live on flat, completely open farm land as well as in the forests or the mountains. But for red deer or fallow deer in Britain, at the customary long ranges, or for moose up in (Continued on page 61)



Cogswell & Harrison, on Picadilly in London, is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. They were making guns when the original thirteen colonies were fighting for their independence.



HANDGUN SIGHTS

Charles Askins

By CHARLES ASKINS



PISTOL SIGHTS are all partridge in outline—named after E. E. Patridge who invented them—but it wasn't always so. Once the more common sight was a bead. It was usually $\frac{1}{16}$ " in diameter and was designed by Ira Paine during the 1830's. Here, more lately, we have tried scope sights on the handgun. And Dean King, a sight manufacturer of 35 years ago, used to offer a peep sight.

Pistol sights are awfully important because the two, front and rear, are so close together, the slightest deviation when these are aligned can play hob with the bullet's hit. If the front and rear sights were more than two feet apart as they are on the rifle then the equation would not be so critical. But this is not true. Usually the distance between the rear notch and the front post is something less than 10 inches and when the range is 50 yards, some 180 times the sight radius, the smallest fraction of misalignment is really exaggerated at the target.

Trials over the years showed the bead front sight with a U-bottomed rear was conducive to some pretty big errors. It was impossible even with the keenest eyes to hold the bead in the U-notch exactly the same each shot. One time the gunner got the bead sunk a little lower than the shot before; or he edged it over in one corner of the rear sight a bit more than for the succeeding shot. The partridge system, on the other hand, provided some excellent reference points so that these misalignments were not so apt to occur. The fact that the rear sight had a flat top, perpendicular sides and a flat bottom, which exactly

matched the front with its vertical sides and flat top made accurate aiming a good deal easier. That is the reason all handgun sights today, whether adjustable or fixed, have the partridge outline.

It used to be that the handgun, as it came from the factory, had a front sight that was $\frac{1}{10}$ " in width. This is pretty narrow and in a series of tests I one time ran, this $\frac{1}{10}$ " was tested against blades of $\frac{1}{8}$ ", $\frac{1}{6}$ ", $\frac{1}{5}$ " and one-fourth inch widths. I put the sights on a .38 Colt Officer's Model revolver and fired each at both slow and rapid fire. I found that the sight which shot the highest scores slow fire and, as well, made the tightest groups, was the then standard $\frac{1}{10}$ ". But at rapid fire this sight was not so hot. Especially in comparison to the other posts I tested. All of them would account for better rapid fire scores. However, at slow fire, both at 25 yards and at 50, the wider the front post, the poorer the score.

Obviously a compromise had to be made. I settled on the $\frac{1}{8}$ " width. It was not as good slow fire as the $\frac{1}{10}$ " but almost as accurate. And it was decidedly better at quick shooting. I settled on this width. Since then standard sights have gone to this size. Not because of my finding, let me hasten to add, but simply because a great many other shooters discovered it was best.

At least 35 years ago D. W. King, who manufactured pistol sights, came along with a front post which was $\frac{1}{8}$ " in width and was made of a red plastic. This sight was mounted on a graceful ramp and in the top of the ramp,



The now obsolete adjustable sights on the Officer's Model .38. The rear was movable for deflection (windage); the front for elevation. Unfortunately, recoil would cause the front sight to loosen and lose zero.

so that it reflected on the face of the post, was a chromium mirror. This was supposed to concentrate the sun's rays on the sight. A bit later King improved on this by adding a raised ventilated rib which at its near end had an adjustable sight. This sight was movable by clicks for both elevation and deflection. This was a decided improvement over the factory adjustable sights of that bygone era and was pretty widely used by target marksmen.

King also outlined his rear notch on some of his sights with a white epoxy paint and this contrasted quite spectacularly against the red front sight. These barberpole sights worked best when the shooter was one of these hombres who aimed where he wanted the bullet to hit. That is, he held into the middle of the bullseye and not at the bottom edge of the mark.

As the chief instructor of firearms for the Border Patrol, I one time had the job of sighting in some 600 service revolvers we had bought. These were shipped from Colt directly to me and I fired each one of them and adjusted the service sights. The guns were the New Service model and had a high upstanding front blade and a rear notch that was milled into the top strap of the frame. I developed



The Micro rear sight is stable under recoil and is suitable for either service or target usage.



Simple, yet effective, the MMC sight for the .45 is a much needed innovation for all-around use.



These two views of the partridge sight best show the correct sight picture from both the muzzle end and the shooter's view. System is best because it provides points of reference for precise aim.

a big wrench which I put on the front blade and simply bent it right or left to bring the gun to a zero. If it shot high I filed down the top of the frame; if it shot low I filed the top of the front sight. Later on I heard a lot of complaints from officers in the field that they had gotten a brand new sixshooter and the front sight was bent!

I owned a .44-40 New Service and sent it to King who milled off the front sight until it was only a base and over this he neatly fitted a second sight. It was slotted in the bottom and capped the old sight base very neatly. King then pinned it in place. For the rear sight he rounded it out and inset the U-notch with white epoxy paint. The front sight was a huge gold bead, some $\frac{5}{32}$ " in diameter. This was a quick-to-find combination and I liked it for close shots. It had little accuracy about it but the gun was not intended for anything except defensive shooting.

Adjustable sights are pretty modern. There has been a considerable amount of development over the past quarter-century. It used to be that the movable sights on the best of the Colt handguns had the deflection in the rear sight and the elevation in the front. The rear sight would hold pretty well but the front would loosen under recoil and play hob with your zero. The S&W was movable both ways in the rear sight which was better but these movements were crude and once the gunner had gotten a gun in zero, it was the better part of good judgment to leave the sights strictly alone!

On the Smith, the deflection was made by backing off on the left screw and tightening the right. This was left windage. For elevation there was an adjusting screw and a locking screw. After the first had been run up or down the second was tightened to hold the first in position. This was pretty primitive and left a great deal to be desired. I used to keep two target guns for match shooting; the first sighted in for the 25-yard matches and the second for 50-yard gunning. This was less hazardous than attempting to adjust sights on the one gun between ranges.

As the .45 auto started to get some action as a target proposition, various pistolsmiths adapted target sights to it. These took the form of a (Continued on page 63)



The rear sight as furnished by Elliason, plus a heavy rib. The rear sight is adjustable for both windage and elevation. The weight of the rib on the slide tends to dampen rise of the muzzle under the heavy .45 recoil.

1871-1971

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

ON THE following pages Jim Serven tells of the beginning of the cartridge era in Colt's revolvers, and George Nonte relates the story of the guns commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the National Rifle Association. But before you get into these articles it might be interesting to travel back to the period when this all began.

The year of 1871 saw Ulysses S. Grant as President of the United States. This was the year a cow kicked over a lantern and started the great Chicago Fire. In Africa,



Henry M. Stanley, searching for a lost missionary, approached a figure in the bush and asked: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" The population of the U.S., in 1871, was about 39 million, and another citizen was added when a boy—later named Orville—was born to the Wright family of Dayton, Ohio.

In the firearms field, 1871 was the year that two men of vision—Gilbert H. Harrington and William A. Richardson—joined together to form a new gunmaking firm. Two other gentlemen got together in 1871—Martin Bye and Iver Johnson—and they, too started a gunmaking venture still going strong today.

The hunter or shooter buying a gun in 1871 had a wide selection from which to choose. In shotguns, he had to make a choice between several fine American brands, including the Parker, and a host of imports from Europe. He also had to choose between the recently introduced solid "iron" barrels and the popular—and more expensive—Damascus or "twist" barrels; and between the muzzle

loader and the breech-loading models. Shotgun prices ran from \$12 up to \$125 for doubles.

Many models of firearms, both pistols and rifles, were available as military surplus, and a buyer could choose a used .36 Navy Colt "refinished like new" for \$13 or a second hand Spencer repeating rifle "Cavalry size with 22" barrel," at \$28. Of course, if he were so inclined, he could also have a new .41 caliber Colt's Patent House Pistol for \$15 (fully nickel plated with 50 cartridges) or an "Improved Winchester Repeating Rifle ("can be fired at the rate of two shots a second") for \$45—\$10 extra for varnished stock, octagon barrel and sling.

In 1871, rimfire handguns were all the rage, and you could purchase a "Sharp's Celebrated Four-Shooter" in .32 RF caliber which, according to one catalog "Will shoot through 4 inch boards," for a mere \$6.00—with 50 cartridges.

If we were in a well-stocked gun shop, we might find such things as a Bowie Knife, made of English steel, and priced at \$2.00; a powder flask for the .36 Colt priced at .85c; a double cavity bullet mould is \$1.25, and a box of Edward Cox English Waterproof Caps at .25c for 250 or \$1.00 for a package of 1,000.

If you wanted a book, you could have a copy of Frank Forester's "Manual for Young Sportsmen" at \$3.00 or the latest by W. W. Greener, "Modern Breech Loaders" at \$2.50.

Oh, how I wish that my grandfather had bought one of each of the guns available then and left them for me.

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Instructions
every one to be his

FLAGS of Hartford flew at half-mast on January 14, 1862. The Putnam Phalanx, drums muffled and arms reversed, escorted the body of Samuel Colt, the city's most distinguished citizen, to the Colt burial ground.

The death of this armsmaking genius was a great blow to the Colt Company, and it came at a very bad time. The nation was in the midst of a tragic war. The war had brought with it a surge of changes in arms design and ballistic concepts. Up the river at Springfield, Smith & Wesson was making a little revolver especially designed to use self-contained copper cartridges. Spencer and Henry breech-loading rifles were also using metallic cartridges; all this heralding the end to the caplock muzzleloaders which were being produced by Colt.

Sam Colt did not attain outstanding success for his arms single-handedly. He had the sagacity to gather around him capable men like Elisha K. Root, W. B. Franklin, F. Alexander Thuer, C. B. Richards, and William Mason. After Colt's death, these men rolled up their sleeves and shouldered the burdens of carrying on the extensive Colt operations with eminent success.

One roadblock to Colt's early entry into the cartridge revolver field was the Rollin White patent on a bored-through cylinder which had been assigned to Smith & Wesson. This patent

(to page 38)



THE BIRTH OF COLT'S BREECHLOADERS

By James E. Serven



A fine example of the Richard's conversion of the Colt Model 1860 Army revolver to .44 cal. Center Fire. Gun shows some of the original nickle finish. It is shown with a box of the original U.S. Cartridge Co. ammunition. Photo by Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr. from his collection.

The variety of methods to convert Colt's old stock of caplock parts into cartridge arms is illustrated by the four .44 caliber arms (top, left). Below them are Thuer conversions on the 1851 and 1861 Navy models. Directly opposite are two Navy pistols converted by the Richards-Mason method. The three smaller pistols, (top, right) are pocket or belt size conversions.



Major parts for the Richards-Mason method of converting a .36 caliber caplock Navy pistol to use a .38 caliber metallic cartridge are shown clearly above.



did not expire until 1869.

Colt's first effort to break Smith & Wesson's stranglehold on cartridge revolver manufacture was based on a September 15, 1868 patent of F. Alexander Thuer. To circumvent the Rollin White patent, a tapered front-loading metallic cartridge was employed. Similar attempts were made by other manufacturers to evade the White patent by using front-loading teat or cup-primer cartridges.

The Thuer system required very little alteration of the standard Colt caplock Army, Navy or pocket pistols to which the system could be adapted. In fact, there were some advantages over other later conversion methods in that the pistol could be used as a caplock in its original form, or by merely substituting a conversion ring and different cylinder it could be used with the Thuer tapered cartridges. These cartridges were unique for their time and among the very first center-fire cartridges produced in America. They were made in three sizes, corresponding to the .31, .36 and .44 caplock calibers. Special loading tools were provided by which the brass cases could be reloaded.

The Thuer system with its conversion ring, tapered cylinder and special cartridges, proved to be somewhat complicated and was received with very little enthusiasm by the postwar gun buying public. Surviving Colt-Thuer conversions are few and original specimens today bring a substantial price. Replica conversion rings and cylinders have been produced, so the collector must be wary.

After the Rollin White patent ex-



The major parts used in the C. B. Richards conversion of a Model 1860 Colt .44 Army caplock to shoot the .44 Colt metallic cartridge disassembled for viewing.

pired in 1869 the Colt Company was free to use a straight bored-through cylinder, but it was almost two years before they introduced their Richards conversion. This pistol was made only on the Model 1860 Colt Army frame and was the first Colt to have a spring-loaded cartridge ejector rod. A newly designed Colt .44 center-fire cartridge with flanged head was employed.

The conversion from a standard caplock pistol was accomplished by installation of a conversion ring firmly

attached to the recoil shield and in which was fitted a firing pin. The hammer was milled off to provide a flat striking face. A rather complicated ejector housing was designed, and this fitted into the slot normally used for the plunger of the old loading lever; a slot in the rightside of the barrel was milled to permit the ejector housing to fit snugly against the barrel where it is held securely by a transverse screw. The old caplock cylinders could be used by milling off the rear

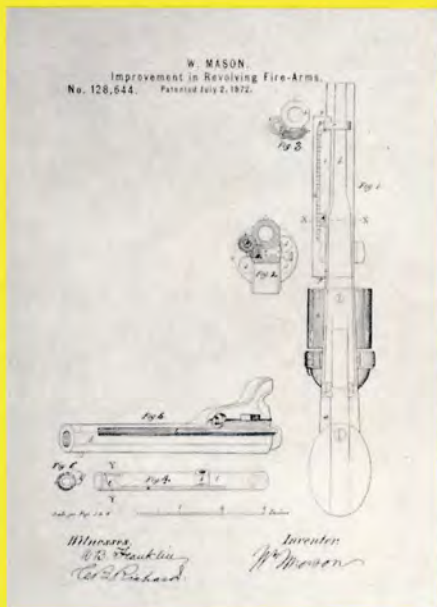
where the nipples normally were installed, resulting in bored-through chambers.

In an effort to provide a safe locking position whereby the firing pin could not accidentally strike the cartridge, Colt experimented by cutting twelve slots in the periphery of the rebated section of the cylinder. This was fine in theory, but those extra slots came at a position where the chamber wall was thinnest and it was found that the base of these slots would soon break through.

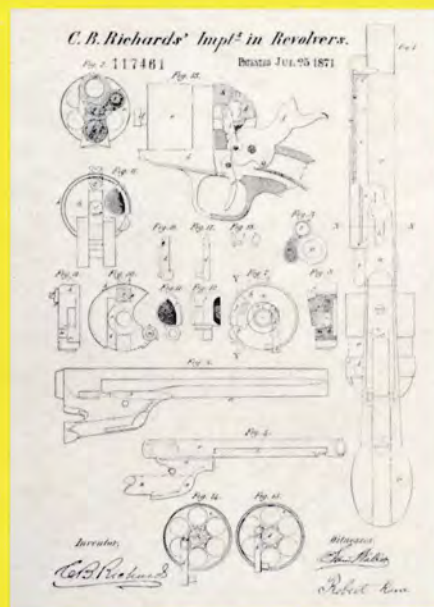
Here also for the first time was a hinged loading gate, permitting the pistol to be loaded or empty cartridges ejected without removing the cylinder.

The Richards conversion proved to be a far more popular model than the Thuer and was in truth a good, sturdy weapon. The U.S. Ordnance Department thought enough of them to order 1200 for the Army and a lesser number for the Navy.

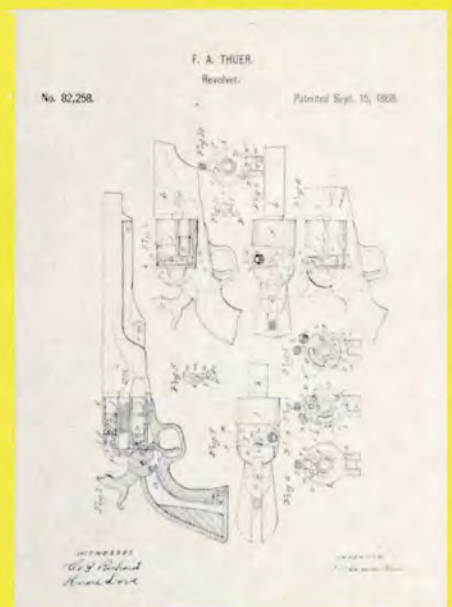
Just one year after the Richards patent, another Colt employee, William
(Continued on page 57)



Patent drawing for the Mason conversion system of 1872.



Patent drawing for the 1871 Richards conversion system.



Caplock conversion system as designed by Alexander Thuer.

GUNS
of the



NRA CENTENNIAL





Representative models of NRA Commemorative guns offered by Colt's. The Single Action is available in .357 Magnum or .45 Colt. The Colt National Match Gold Cup is in .45 ACP.

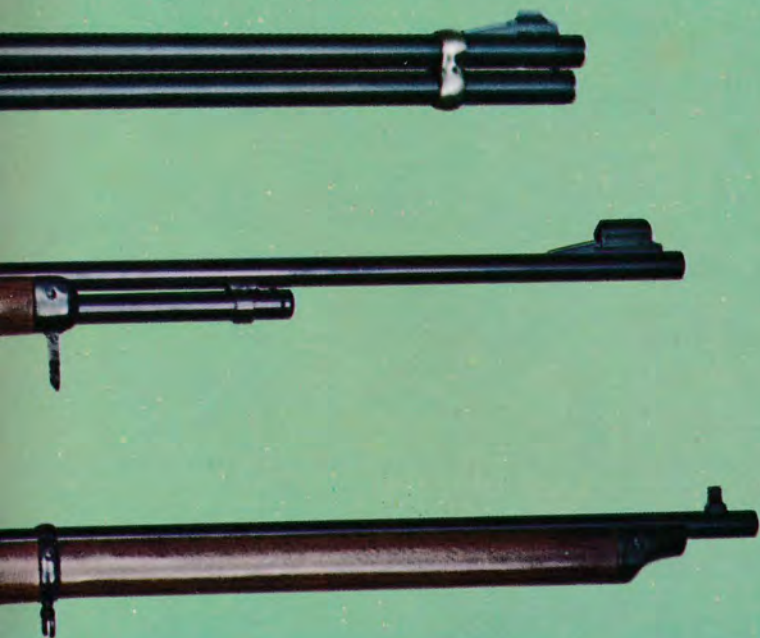
By MAJ. GEORGE C. NONTE

BACK in 1871, when the National Rifle Association became in fact a functioning organization, it is unlikely that even the most ardent supporters gave much thought to its continuing life. To them it was a good and necessary thing they had accomplished, and that it would, along with the nation, continue forever was certainly a foregone conclusion.

But, the celebration of its First Century didn't come all that easy. Today the NRA lives in a climate entirely different from that of its birth. If the truth be known—and it damn well should—the NRA now survives in a hostile environment, rather than prospering in a favorable clime as in the beginning. Pacifists, Do-Gooders, Humanists, *et al.*, have pounded the NRA unmercifully, beginning in the 1920's and '30's when they began shouting the theory that a firearm was inherently evil in itself and even *compelled* its owner toward violence and criminality.

In the past decade such attacks have multiplied in their ferocity and in the psychopathic obsession, "Damn all guns and shooting." If the NRA founders had no fears for its perpetuation, there have been times in recent years when it was obvious its opponents intended its destruction, or at least its total emasculation.

But, now, in spite of all manner of attacks, the NRA has survived and grown through a full century; it is even more vigorous than ever, and seems likely to persist another hundred years and more.



Top: Daisy BB gun is appropriately inscribed and comes in special packaging. Daisy is also offering a commemorative air pistol. Rifles shown below (not in scale) are the Winchester offerings; the sporting rifle and NRA Musket.

NRA CENTENNIAL

What better way to celebrate such an event than with the issue of special guns commemorating that Century of Service to U.S. shooters? What better way to allow and encourage members and shooters to participate in that celebration than to offer those same guns to them to become heirlooms and mementos? So, that is the way it's being done.

After lengthy planning sessions, the NRA contracted with Colts, Winchester, and Daisy/Heddon for the production and sale of duly authorized "NRA Centennial" commemorative guns. Selection of the models to be so designated was, of course, based on their historical and socio-economical meaning to not only the NRA, but to the Nation and to the manufacturers.

Naturally, the guns of a century ago could not be resurrected and built again. The cost would be prohibitive except for items from that period *still* in production.

In the true firearms field, the Colt Single Action Army (Model P) revolver and the U. S. M1911 .45 Government Model autoloader in its Gold Cup version were selected for obvious reasons. Hardly anyone would need ask why those two guns were selected. As for long guns (rifles only, we note, and wonder why), the choice was not so simple. The Winchester/NRA hierarchy settled on the M1894 lever-action rifle made over, first, in the image of the military-style M1895 once produced as the "NRA Model" and, second, as the classic "American Rifle" of the lever-action's heyday. Daisy/Heddon chose to ape both areas with look-alike BB guns in the image of the venerable M1894 Winchester carbine and the Colt Single Action Army revolver.

There are basically, two Colts, one Winchester, and two Daisys. But to more clearly depict the guns and times of that first century, there are variations, bringing the total to eleven different models; described in the tables.

All are beautifully finished; a cut or so above their production-run brethren; and all are suitably inscribed for the event they celebrate as described. The two Daisy guns are burnished to simu-

late honest wear and tear, rather than present the pristine new appearance of the other NRA Centennial models.

If you wonder what the NRA gets out of all this and the thousands of centennial guns that will be sold (in addition to deserved honor and publicity), wonder no more. Each authorized maker has magnanimously agreed to pay the NRA a royalty on every piece sold. The NRA, deprived these recent years of governmental support for competitive shooting, will use the income from this source to help defray the cost of last year's World Championship Matches in Phoenix, Arizona. Those of you who don't know that the NRA footed that massive bill simply

aren't keeping abreast of the shooting world.

There are other somewhat similar guns which fall more-or-less into the same category at this time, even though not duly-authorized NRA Commemoratives. Marlin offers its M39 .22 lever gun with a red, white, and blue medallion affixed to the right side of the receiver, bearing the inscription, "The Right to Bear Arms, 1871-1971" commemorating the NRA's 100-year fight for that very creed.

And, in yet another area, Harrington & Richardson is commemorating its *own* 1871-1971 Centennial with a re-issue of the much sought-after "Officer's Model" of the U.S. M1873 .45-70 trapdoor Springfield rifle. The DCM once sold thousands of Trapdoors to NRA members for \$1.50 or less.

These latter two offerings are outside the pale of NRA-authorized listings, but are so closely related that we simply can't ignore them. Our only regret is that, like most other people, we can't afford one of each to show how we really feel about shooting.

All these guns will shoot, and shoot well, as previous issues of their designs prove adequately. But I doubt that many people will buy them to shoot. Sure, I know the "I don't want a gun I can't shoot" syndrome, but this is a wee bit different. The importance of the NRA guns to *shooters*, as opposed to pure collectors, is much greater than it might seem on the surface. Without the activities of the organization these guns do honor, shooters might well not be shooting today. Our right to own and use guns might have been stripped away entirely long before now, and it is certain they would have been drastically reduced. An NRA Centennial in your gun rack will be a constant reminder that the right to have it there can only be the result of a continuous and never-ending fight against the bigots, the obsessed, the misinformed, the frightened, and the dozens of others who, because they fear or dislike guns, are determined to deny *you* that privilege. An NRA Centennial, whether in your rack or afield after game, constitutes a defiance of the anti-gun faction and a blow for freedom itself.

NRA COMMEMORATIVE GUNS

WINCHESTER (M-94)

Musket: .30-30, patterned after 1905 "NRA Model" of the 1895 rifle. Price; \$149.95

Rifle: .30-30, patterned after Model 64 Deer Rifle. Price; \$149.95

Both are inscribed "1871 NRA 1971" on left side of receiver; "NRA Centennial Rifle (or Musket) on right side of barrel. NRA medallion is inletted into right side of buttstock.

DAISY/HEDDON

BB Rifle: Spring/air lever action copy of the M-94 Winchester with burnished "used" look finish. Price, (approx.) \$19.95

BB Pistol: Repeating air pistol copy of Colt SAA with 4¾" barrel. Price, (approx.) \$11.95.

Both are inscribed "1871-NRA Centennial -1971," and carry the NRA medallion in the stocks. Attractive packaging carries short history of the NRA.

COLT'S

Single Action: Available in either .357 Magnum or .45 Colt calibers with choice of 4¾", 5½" or 7½" barrel lengths. Price, including wood case, \$250.

National Match: Gold Cup version in .45 ACP caliber. Optional .22 conversion unit available at \$70. Price, with walnut case, \$250.

Both are suitably inscribed as commemorative models. In addition, the cases will have lucite with official NRA commemorative medal imbedded so that both sides may be seen.



Wear this emblem with pride



Sportsmen everywhere will recognize this famous emblem when you wear it on your hunting or sporting jacket. Over one-million sportsmen are members of the National Rifle Association of America. So wherever you go in the great sports of shooting and hunting, this emblem provides instant recognition among the fraternity of gunowner-sportsmen.

Year Around Programs Every month of the year, NRA members have opportunities to enjoy the shooting sports—from Sighting-in days before hunting seasons to national, state and local matches. There are also marksmanship training, hunter safety programs and instructor certification.

Hunting Service NRA Hunting Bulletins and publications tell you about game availability, shooting preserves, as well as gun and game laws. You will learn about when and where to hunt, best equipment to use. Hunter Awards are issued for many types of game.

Firearms Information Service Experts on NRA's staff give you prompt, practical answers to your questions on firearms. This is a valuable service both for gun collectors and for those interested in gun alterations, making their own grips and stocks, reloading and engraving of shooting pieces.

Legislative Information Service As an NRA member, you are kept informed on proposed firearms legislation, which would place unreasonable restrictions on the legitimate use of firearms.

Non-profit Organization NRA is a non-profit organization, supported entirely by members' dues. Chartered in 1871, NRA celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year.

Enjoy these services Your NRA membership includes a subscription to the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN magazine—twelve big issues of the most authoritative publication on shooting and hunting. You will want to read and save every copy. Articles cover current shooting events, hunting, firearms history, gun collecting, amateur gunsmithing and many how-to-do-it projects.

Your membership also makes you eligible for—

- Low cost gun and personal accident insurance
- Opportunity to qualify as an NRA Certified Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, Home Firearm or Hunter Safety Instructor
- Free home range plans and other useful printed materials on specialized firearms subjects
- Introductions to NRA affiliated Clubs
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The age of the Colt

Wrap your hand around the grips and put yourself right back through history. When Colt's fabled Single Action Army became man's constant companion on the trail and by lonely campsites. You'll feel the same confidence, the same pride of possession as did those early pioneers. These two single action revolvers are exact counterparts of the "Peacemaker", that "gun that won the West." See the new Peacemaker .22 and New Frontier .22 at your Colt's Registered Dealer.





NEW FRONTIER .22

New, steel frame, .22 caliber version of the Colt Single Action Army Frontier Model. "Flat-top" New Frontier configuration features serrated ramp front sight and fully adjustable rear sight for windage and elevation. (The original Single Action Army was also offered in a target-sighted version in 1888.) Available with extra .22 Rimfire Magnum cylinder, easily interchangeable.

Specifications
 Frame: Steel construction and color case-hardened, with blued barrel and cylinder.

Barrel lengths: 4 3/4", 6" or 7 1/2"
 Sights: Ramp front sight with serrated ramp; fully adjustable rear sights
 Grips: American eagle style - black hard rubber

Options: Western style holster with safety strap, in black or russet leather and in plain or basket-weave finish
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There are a dozen or more gunsmithing books on the market. Some of them are fine treatises upon the more technical side of the game and go into great detail about machining, chamber reamer making, etc. Generally speaking, the existing books represent the skills and views and personal philosophies of only one or two people. Bob Brownell, widely-known purveyor of gunsmithing supplies and tools has taken an entirely different approach. During the past 20 years, Brownell has collected tips, hints, and problem solutions from the thousands of gunsmiths all over the world that obtain supplies from him. He has weeded out the duplications and grouped material under appropriate headings; and, in this manner, the experiences and methods of hundreds of individual gunsmiths form the body of this book. Periodically, throughout the book, we encounter the expertise and remarkable dry wit of Brownell himself as he expounds at considerable length on some particular subjects. His coverage of polishing, particularly that of handguns, is especially fine and is superbly illustrated with clear line drawings.

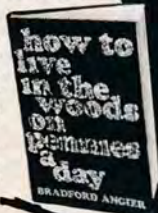
In some areas, Brownell has enlisted the aid of recognized authorities, i.e., Pete Brown on stock styles, and P. O. Ackley on the important subject of headspace. Farther along in the book, we find nearly 60 half-page size blueprint section views of guns most often encountered in repair work, as well as problem solutions and suggestions for the more common jobs that occur in particular models. Inasmuch as Brownell is in the gunsmithing supply business and has developed quite a few of his own products, Bob can be excused for a bit of bragging about them. Anyone who considers this aspect of the book a defect will find it more than offset by the well-known Brownell humor. No gun tinkerer can afford to be without this book. J.R.

(Continued on page 60)

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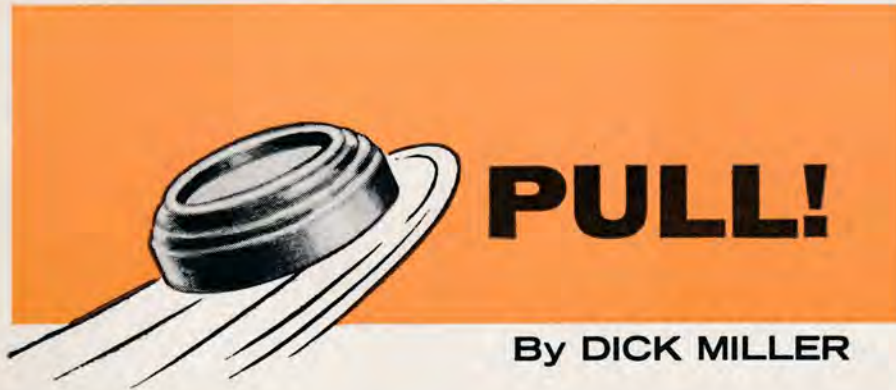
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TWENTY-SEVEN yard handicap shooters can win the big ones! One of trap's most hallowed traditions was shattered, or at least bruised a little in 1971 when a twenty-seven yard handicapper won the Golden West Handicap in Reno, Nevada.

Maximum yardage shooter Roy Tieg from Puyallup, Washington broke 98 long distance targets in the prestigious Golden West, under somewhat less than perfect weather conditions, then smashed twenty three more in a shoot-off with 20-yarder Roy Taboada of Millbrae, California to lay to rest the fable concerning 27 yarders. Not only did Tieg uphold the honor of the long yardage clan in the Golden West, he did it on the first day of his encampment on the maximum yardage stripe. He achieved the move to twenty-seven yards just one day before by winning second place after a shootoff in the Golden West Preliminary Handicap.

Tieg's story is all the more unique because he began shooting handicap targets from the twenty-yard stripe just four months earlier, and had shot himself backward (or forward, according to your philosophy) in the space of months rather than the usual years that it takes to reach the rarified atmosphere of maximum yardage.

Many trapshooters feel that twenty-seven yards is a fine place to be, but they wouldn't want to be there, because that yardage means an effective end to winning handicap trophies and purses. Their attitude is that 27-yarders command a lot of respect and big galleries, but they don't win the big ones.

It is true that Tieg is the first 27-yarder to win the Golden West, which is close to the Grand American Handicap in gold and prestige. It is also true that no maximum yardage handicapper has won the Grand American Handicap since Walter Beaver fired a 98 from the then maximum 25 yards in 1933.

Beaver was not only the last to win from maximum yardage, even if his feat requires an asterisk in the record

books, much like Babe Ruth's home run record, he was the only maximum yardage winner. The asterisk is required, to explain that maximum yardage is now twenty-seven yards rather than the maximum of Beaver's day, which was 25 yards.

Another of trap's most hallowed traditions is that no big name or well-known shooter has ever won the Grand American Handicap. This tradition, like many others, is not quite true, because Mark Arie, whose career is legendary, did win the big one in 1923 with a 96 from twenty-three yards. No nationally known gunner has turned the trick since. Some have been very close, even as close as runner-up, but our memories don't often include runner-ups. All that we need now is for an Eastern shooter to win a big trophies from 27 yards.

Trapshooters, especially those from the trap hot-bed of the Mid-West, are fond of saying that it's not too difficult to shoot high scores in the thin air of the far west, but wait until the Westerners fire in our heavy air, especially during the Grand in late August.

As this is written, we don't know what happened at Vandalia in 1971, but I'm going to stick my neck 'way out and predict that neither the tradition of long yardage perils in the Grand, and the pattern of winning by an unknown will remain inviolate for long, possibly not even through 1971, when you read what Roy Tieg did at Reno, or even what Frank Little of Endicott, N. Y. did. He was one of the six handicappers Tieg turned back in the Preliminary Golden West.

Little could win a big one, because he broke .9248 of 3100 handicap targets in 1970 from 27 yards. Any man who (or woman) who breaks more than 90% of his or her targets from any yardage is a threat to win on a given day (which is why that percentage calls for another yard under ATA classification procedures). Many trapshooters feel that long yardages are no longer the bugaboo that they once were due to improved gun and ammunition performance, which is

certainly to be considered.

I hold the theory that it is not only improved gun and ammo performances which will shoot down the most ancient of traditions, and possibly call for more asterisks in the record book. My theory is that the mental handicap of increased yardage is fast becoming less of a deterrent to winning scores.

That is exactly what I have seen happen many, many times when a shooter has been given more yards. He was discouraged or stopped by fear of the additional yards. Which is, of course, human nature in it's most elementary stage. We all fear, to a degree, the unknown. More yardage is an unknown, we don't know how well we can shoot from a new yardage, therefore we fear, overly so, it seems.

One of the reasons I feel additional yardage is more of a mental handicap than a limitation of the state of the art derives from a coldly objective view of shotgun and shot shell performance. Most trap guns, especially those used in handicap shooting, are full choke. Full choke is a degree of muzzle constriction designed to give most effective performance between the distances of 45 to 55 yards.

It has been well established that shooters with normal eyesight and reaction time pick up a clay target about 20 yards from the trap machine. Therefore, a 27-yard shooter has about an eight yard margin to break his target within the most effective range of the gun he is using. Handicap shooters firing from under 25 yards are, in theory at least, not utilizing the maximum degree of effectiveness of their instruments (guns).

So, if you fire from under 25 yards, you still have a lot of margin for getting optimum performance from your gun and/or ammo. And, it is no secret that with new wads, etc., shells are performing better than then when the above standards were set by the SAAMI technical committee in joint conference with the U. S. Bureau of Standards.

In addition to the foregoing theories on shotgun and shotshell performance, I have seen some practical demonstrations of reasons why you should not conclude that the handicap committee is a bunch of old meanies if they move you a little farther from your work (increase your handicap yardage).

As I have mentioned many times over the years in this column, I shot the southern Indiana, southern Illinois, and western Kentucky meat shoot circuits before I became involved in tournament shooting under ATA rules, with assigned handicaps, etc. Under the meat shoot rules, there was no such item as an assigned

yardage. All shoot-offs for the meat and/or money were from a minimum of twenty five yards. Many such events turned out to be endurance contests from 30 yards and upwards. Any consistent winner had no fear at all of 25 yards, or even greater distances.

After I started shooting the ATA circuit. I recall with considerable amusement the howls and screams of anguish of one shooter when he was informed by the ATA that he had been moved from 22 yards to 23 yards for the new tournament year. My sympathy for his plight was somewhat strained by the memory that upon any of many occasions I had to compete with him for a ham or other prize, I knew I had to bring at least a box of shells to the 25 yard line, because he was going to break at least 25 straight from that distance, and upon more than one occasion, we used multiple boxes of hulls after backing up to 25 yards.

He had no fear of 25 yards in meat shoots, because no one reminded him that we were shooting from 25 yards. It was simply the custom. You did it without thinking. When actual handicap yardage markers were assigned by a rules body, one yard more became a cause celebre. The handicap was more mental than real, because he could, in my experience, shoot as good from 25 yards as he could from 23 yards. And, so could a lot of my compadres of that era, regardless of what yard markers we might have been assigned or earned after we went the ATA route in addition to meat shoots.

When we shot in ATA tournaments, the traps had been adjusted to throw uniform targets. Many of the small clubs at which we fired 25 yard and longer targets had never heard of adjusting a trap. You fired at the bird without deciding whether or not it was a legal angle or even close to legal. Some of the trap locations were anything but uniform, and were on tops of hills with concomitant updrafts which made targets do weird things. Backgrounds left much to be desired. Shooting platforms were rarely level, and even non-existent. In some cases, you planted your feet on terra firma, which was not always so conducive to firma as it was to terra.

We all shot well despite these handicaps in conditions, which in reality made the distance handicap of 25 yards more imagined than real.

So, if you are hung up on handicap yardage, forget it. You can shoot as well from a lot farther back than you may think. You may even be the first 27-yarder to win the Grand American Handicap.



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GUN DIGEST

JOHN AMBER, EDITOR

(Continued from page 25)

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new and interesting material. I guess you could say that every time I open a manuscript envelope I have the hope that this will be—to call it what it isn't—the Great American Novel.

"Some things I receive are very good. And I certainly enjoy reading good material from an unknown writer. One comes to expect good work from good writers, I suppose.

"As a matter of fact, I really don't care who the guy is or what his name may or may not be," Amber says. "Anybody can write in, and if his material is interesting and at least fairly well done, presents fresh or more or less original material, I like to put it in print.

"We're not concerned about developing star writers as such, nor do we want any special credit for bringing along people who may have had little, if any, exposure elsewhere."

Nevertheless, a review of past years' Gun Digests reveals some names well known today which were not so when Amber first printed their work: Ken Waters, Frank Barnes, John Barsotti, James Triggs, Harold Davidson, Charles Hood, Bob Hagel, Gil Hebard, Don Martin, Paul Matthews, the late Baron Engelhardt, Maj. R. O. Ackerman, and Bob Bell.

Preparing an edition of *The Gun Digest* is more than a 12-month proposition for Amber. He estimates that some articles may be in the works for a couple of years or more. Some of these need further research, testing, or other technical evaluation. Because of the scope that 480 pages offers, Amber has often produced an article several times larger than it was on its arrival. Such expanded, definitive stories have been the special features of past issues.

For research, Amber has bookshelves loaded with more than 800 bound volumes and filing cabinets packed with thousands of pamphlets and brochures. He has access to an extensive assortment of old and new firearms, those often resorted to in

order to check information presented in the material sent to him.

His personal shooting facilities include 100-, 200-, and 300-yard and 300-meter ranges for making evaluations of new firearms and new ammunition, checking shotshell patterns, and testing the accuracy, reliability, and functioning of various firearms. He also uses various chronograph systems in his testing procedures.

"We undertake research in situations where there may be an element of potential controversy or room for argument and discussion," Amber says. "I try to dig into the background and related areas that are not generally explored to see what we might come up with.

"For example, a number of myths exist in the shooting world which we feel have not been fully explored, areas where the facts may be discovered and the truth revealed."

One recent such investigation resulted in a joint study by Amber and George Nonte on a handloading concept regarding the seating depth of bullets in various cartridges.

"It had long been held that seating bullets deeper in a given cartridge would automatically increase the pressure in the case because of the reduced volume available for the powder charge. But for years we had suspected that it might not be all that automatic.

"In fact, in working on what turned out as our article, 'Seating Depth vs. Chamber Pressure' for Gun Digest #24, we found that pressure did not increase automatically—in some instances, in fact, it would decrease."

"We also receive a great many suggestions and comments from readers which have not infrequently prompted us to explore things we hadn't given consideration or thought about. Such inquiries have resulted in a fair number of articles."

In addition, articles are sometimes researched and developed to such an

(Continued on page 50)

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extent that Amber and Klein judge worthy of further exposure and circulation, which is done by publishing additional, complete books which Amber edits.

At present, these include *Handloader's Digest* (now in its fifth edition), *Home Gunsmithing Digest* by Tommy Bish (the first edition was released last summer), *Single Shot Rifles and Actions* by Frank de Haas, and *Cartridges of the World* by Frank C. Barnes (now in its second edition).

On the drawing board for release this year is another completely new work by de Haas called *Bolt Action Rifles*. Virtually all bolt action rifles, including the military types, will be covered in this book, according to Amber. "Just as in his *Single Shot Rifles and Actions*, de Haas will cover complete takedown and repair procedures, customizing, disassembly and assembly, and provide parts lists, using scores of photographs and drawings throughout."

About the present state of the firearms industry as a whole, Amber is pretty hopeful, despite the problems that have been thrown at it and the putting down of it by so many people.

"I think today's products, in general, reflect the needs and wants of shooters. The gun-buying public is pretty conservative—a group which shies from a firearm that shows a marked departure from 'normal' style or appearance.

"Radically new designs and development—if introduced to shooting customers all at once—stand a poor chance of success compared with their potential adoption if the same designs and developments had been brought along over a number of years.

"For example, if a given rifle or shotgun were presented full blown in its all-new styling to today's potential customers, it wouldn't have the same chance of success as would that same ultimate styling if brought about gradually.

"In addition, I have seen sales rise and fall not from reliability so much as on appearance and style. Most prod-


ucts today are quite reliable."

Amber also feels that well-managed, factual reports of firearms have a good bearing on the decision of those who have read the report to buy or not to buy the tested item. "How much of a bearing these reports have on that decision I don't know. But we have not hesitated to call a spade a spade in our reports if a product merited some adverse criticism as to its construction, shooting qualities, styling, etc.

"Craftsmanship on new products is, of course, another story in itself. With a few notable exceptions, high quality wood craftsmanship, precision machining and fine metalsmithing have all but disappeared in mass-production guns. I don't like this, but I understand and recognize the need for conversion to more economical means of production. However, and somewhat surprisingly, the number of first class workers is increasing, the custom gunmakers whose output, naturally, is small.

"As for the future, the growth of the population alone will ensure the greater growth of shooting as a sport. Specifically, air rifle shooting has considerable growth potential, and I believe *The Gun Digest* was one of the first to recognize this editorially. Air rifle shooting offers a feasibility that isn't possible with cartridge guns because it can be done indoors at any time of the year, day or night, without noise, and with a very low cost for the pellets used.

"Handloading has developed into a tremendously popular thing in the last 10 years, too. It's not new, of course, but it is now a multi-million dollar industry that will grow to an even greater extent—as will the shooting sports generally, barring some restrictive legislation which might make it very difficult, perhaps, to even own a firearm.

"But I'm an optimist, and I believe—and hope—that the shooting sports will continue to grow so that more and more people each year will enjoy them." 

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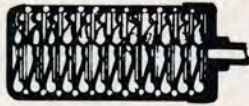


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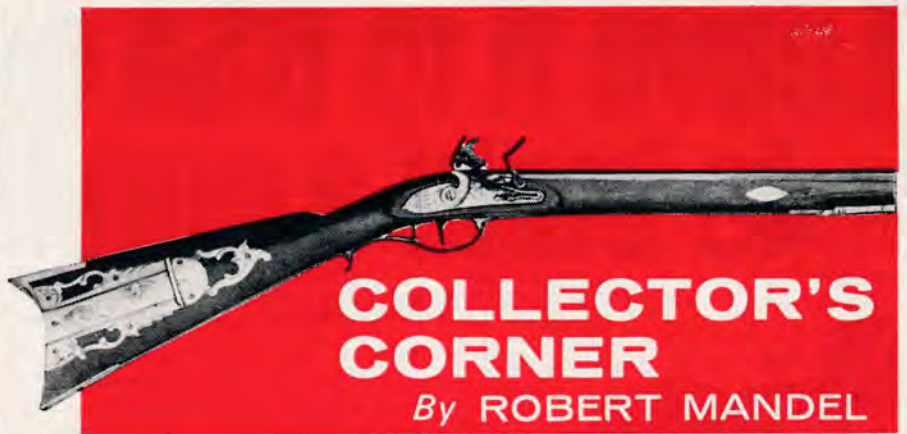
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COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By ROBERT MANDEL

IN THE quiet of an early Friday morning, the top gun dealers and collectors of the world once again converged on the magnificent Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas. Riding the escalator to the second floor Space Center, the whirl of the roulette tables and the one arm bandits is soon lost in the excitement of the world's most magnificent display of collector's firearms ever assembled under one roof. Held in the new Space Center of the Hotel Sahara, the largest convention hall in conjunction with a hotel complex in the world, the 9th Annual Winter Antique Gun Show featuring Remington Arms has outshone them all.

While the late Harry Mann had laid out the ground work for the beginning of the Sahara Gun Shows, the more than capable Ken Liggett, editor of the well known "Gun Report" and good friend to all of us in the gun world, had more than competently taken the reins and produced again what I consider to be one of the finest gun shows in the world. Gun Show Director, Ken Liggett, Sahara's Director of Publicity, John Romero and the Sahara itself spared nothing to making visiting gun enthusiasts, collectors and dealers attending the show feel that the Sahara Gun Shows are truly the finest of events. Past shows at the Sahara have been dedicated for the

most part to those arms that have played important roles in our history. Winchester, Colt, Sharps and even Bowie Knives have figured prominently in past dedications at these shows; so it was only natural that this latest show would be dedicated to one of the most important arms manufacturers, The Remington Arms Company. One of the highlights of the show was the display of General George Custer's Remington. A cased 1858 Model, engraved with the likeness of General Custer carved into the grips, its backstrap has engraved on it "Presented by E. Remington & Sons to General G. A. Custer". This show was a must for all those who are members of the "Society of Lovers of Firearms", for a person could go a lifetime without viewing or handling most of the firearms at this great show. To list all the displays, owners, and try to comment on each item shown would take this complete magazine; the only way you can get the impact is to visit one of the Sahara shows yourself. Sahara Gun Show, featuring Remingtons was once again a credit to the gun collectors and dealers. Gun Show Director, Kenneth Liggett and the Sahara's Director of Publicity, John Romero are to be congratulated. We of the gun collecting fraternity thank you. 

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Outers

(Continued from page 18)

hunted abroad or have imminent plans for the safari.

The Colt Company had a display which included the commemorative handguns of this year together with the new Sharps rifle. There was also a line of side-by-side double barrel shotguns. The company, through Gordon Walker, President, presented the Sharps for auction during the conference. It went for \$2100. The rifle will carry the serial number "1-GC" the letters for "Game Coin". Winchester had a full display of all their rifles and scatterguns and the new publishing division, Winchester Press, was much in evidence.

At the end of the 6-day pow-wow, the audience had been treated to more than 150 speeches, talks and commentaries, thousands of feet of game and hunting scenes, a nightly dinner or party, and the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the most famous white hunters in the game fields today. Of the many talks made by various authorities there was none more significant than that offered by Dr. Randall Eaton of Purdue University. He says the ecology movement is in danger of falling into the pitfalls of sloganeering. He staunchly defended hunters as necessary and desirable in good environmental management. More animals are born into the world than can survive and unless the surplus is removed some species will become extinct. He warned that unless the growing ecology movement gains more perspective it could become simply another passing fad with disastrous results for us all. "Conservation is not blind preservation", stated the speaker, "it is the wise utilization of natural resources, and this is precisely what wildlife is, a natural resource. Controlled hunting, call it what you will, cropping, harvesting, or killing, is one of the tools we must

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use in the best management of this resource".

John Connally, Secretary of the Treasury, a former Texas governor, and a charter member of Game Conservation International, was presented one of the new Colt-Sharps rifles. In accepting the gun he said, "I shall never take this rifle on safari with me. It's a single shot and anyone who was with me on safari knows this would do me little good". Jimmie Stewart, the motion picture actor, auctioned off a handsome collection of donated paintings and sculpture which included works from our best known African big game artist, Bob Kuhn.

In attendance was Peter Byrne, executive director of the International Wildlife Conservation Society, who for 3 years searched for the Abominable Snowman in the Himalayas and later came to northern California where he searched for the local variation of the Snowman. This is a critter called the Sasquatch.

Game Coin, a well heeled organization financially, has several score projects going to benefit wildlife. Wildlife conservation schools for the African natives, autos, airplanes, gasoline and other supplies are furnished game departments, parks and reserves, trapping and movement of hard pressed species are undertaken and most recently the organization provided an airplane and filled it with Asian blackbuck from the YO Ranch of Texas and flew the animals to distant Pakistan. The blackbuck is native of this end of Asia but has been so seriously decimated as to be almost gone.

Right now, under contemplation, is a project to trap lions in the Gir Forest of India and fly them to Iran for release. Because of a shrinking habitat and a lack of horned game the last remaining lions of the Gir are seriously threatened with extinction. The movement of a number of the great cats to Iran, which has a plentitude of natural food for them, would also put them in a country which has excellent programs for game conservation and restoration.

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"ONLY THE 'SHADOW' KNOWS"

(Continued from page 29)

"bargain" gun nor one that carries an extra \$100 or so on its price tag because of a prestige name. Without the Airflow rib and vented fore-end, it represents good value for the money; and if the extra wide rib and fore-end vents help you in your shooting, call them an added bonus.

We have not had a chance to see or shoot the Shadow "Seven," which retails for \$350 and does not have the Airflow rib and vented fore-end of the "Indy." However, the "Seven" is available in field configuration, and if the workmanship of the "Indy" is carried through onto the "Seven," it

should be worth looking into, if you're interested in an o/u.

There is also a Shadow "Custom" model which has all of the features of the "Indy," plus a highly engraved and gold inlaid action that is handsome beyond description. It is priced at \$1500.

Tradewinds will have Shadow shotguns going out to their dealers before you read this. Take a look at them next time you're in a gun shop; I think that you'll be as pleasantly surprised as I and everyone who had a chance to shoot our test gun.



OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 20)

court found this interpretation of the statute supported by its legislative history and the formal congressional findings in applicable sections.

Finally, the district court held that the statute as so construed was constitutional. On appeal, the court of appeals reversed the lower court. The Appeals Court found that, notwithstanding the grammatical context of the "commerce" phrase and the statute's legislative history of the 1968 Act should be construed to require an allegation and proof of an effect on interstate commerce of the felon's possession. The court reasoned that it would have been illogical for Congress to condition a transportation charge on the showing of a connection with commerce while exempting possession and receipt charges from the same showing—particularly since a transportation would necessarily involve a receipt or possession. The court was also of the view that substantial constitutional doubts about Congress' power to enact the statute would exist if the law were construed not to require a showing that a felon's possession was in interstate commerce.

In the relatively brief period since enactment of the 1968 Gun Control Act (June 19, 1968) approximately 150 prosecutions of the above type have been brought, of which a substantial number are pending before lower courts. The courts of appeals and district courts have sharply divided on the issue whether the statute requires specific allegation and proof that a felon's possession or receipt of a firearm had an interstate commerce connection. In decisions directly con-

trary, those of the Fourth and Ninth Circuits, convictions were upheld. The Justice Department is forced to charge felons in some areas of the nation and not to charge them in others.

Thus, the Justice Department petitioned the Supreme Court. "While the statute is not a model of logic or clarity, we think that the conclusion (of proof of interstate transport) . . . is not required by the statutory language and is inconsistent with the legislative history," reads the petition by the Federal Government. The statute was the result of an amendment on the floor of the Senate to the bill that became known as the 1968 Act.

It was passed with little discussion apart from an explanation of its provision by its sponsor, Senator Russell Long (D.—La.), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee: "I have prepared an amendment . . . simply setting forth the fact that anybody who has been convicted of a felony . . . is not permitted to possess a firearm. . . ."

Earlier, at the time the amendment was adopted, Long indicated that the amendment sought to "make it unlawful for a firearm . . . to be in possession of convicted felon." He also answered in the negative a question from Senator McClellan as to whether a felon could possess a firearm in his own home (114 Congressional Record, 14,773, 14,774).

These explanations seem to leave no doubt that the intended effect of the amendment was to make any possession of firearms by a felon a federal offense. It is now up to the Supreme Court!



COLT CONVERSIONS

(Continued from page 39)

Mason, received a patent (assigned to the company) on improvements to the Richards system. Collectors call this .44 caliber pistol the Richards-Mason conversion. Principal among its innovations were a simpler conversion ring, a modified ejector rod housing, and a barrel of new design which eliminated the old plunger aperture for the loading lever and had instead a solid barrel lug.

The conversion ring no longer contained a firing pin but was designed with a slot or aperture through which the nose of the hammer could penetrate directly to strike the head of the cartridge.

Apparently some of the old cap and ball parts were beginning to run out about this time and newly designed barrels and cylinders appeared on the scene.

The final design of the .44 conversions is generally called merely "The .44 Rimfire Colt." Rimfire .44 caliber cartridges were then popular for the Henry and Winchester Model 1866 rifles. Thus the same cartridges used in

this new Colt six-shooter could be used in the rifles. The .44 rimfire cartridge was especially popular in Mexico, and Mexico had been a good customer of the Colt Company for years.

Notable in this .44 model was the fact that it required no conversion ring. It had the same basic open-top lock frame but there was a new, longer bored-through cylinder and the new barrel had an integral rear sight. The typical Mason ejector rod and housing were employed. A notch was cut in the top of the recoil shield in order that the nose of the hammer could extend through and strike the rim of the cartridge. The basic lock frame permitted an interchange of either the 1851 Navy size grip or the slightly longer 1860 Army size grip, both of which will be found on pistols of this type.

The .44 rimfire pistol was contemporary with the Richards-Mason conversions and all bore these markings: —PAT. July 25, 1871—PAT. July 2, 1872.

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COMPARE VERSATILITY Go through your supply of reloadable cases and try to find just one that the Pacific DL-155 will not convert into a perfect reload. You can't. The DL-155 reloads paper and plastic cases of various base wad types and brass heights—all with minimum adjustment. Pacific has interchangeable bushings for both powder and shot, which means you won't be forced to buy a new charge bar every time you want to change the shot load. The DL-155's hoppers have a much larger capacity, and yet the no-spill instant removal feature and wide-mouth design allow quicker changing of loads. Compare versatility with any other reloader on the market and you'll rate the DL-155 on top.

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were hard at work in an effort to design a big caliber six-shooter with a better lock frame. The Colt method of fastening the barrel to the lock frame merely by a wedge was sometimes found to be unreliable. Remington and some other manufacturers had gained success by using a solid lock frame with a reinforcing strap over the cylinder and a permanent screwed-in barrel. Richards came up with such a frame in his patent of Sept. 19, 1871. This was a four-shot pocket pistol collectors call a "Cloverleaf" model. By a solid lock frame it is meant that the base, back, front and top strap are all in one piece, forming a square surrounding the cylinder instead of an open top and front as on the Colt cap and ball lock frames.

By 1872 the Colt Company was leading up to the introduction of one of the most popular revolvers of all time—the Colt Single Action Army, sometimes called the "Peacemaker" or "Frontier." It can be assumed that the .44 rimfire was the immediate big caliber predecessor of the Single Action Army which was introduced in 1873.

Up to this point we have occupied ourselves primarily with the Colt conversions in .44 caliber. They are a major part but only one phase of Colt's conversion endeavors. Large quantities of parts for the popular 1851 Navy model with octagon barrel, and the 1861 Navy model with round barrel were on hand. Both of these models had the same lock frame as the Army pistols. They were found to be suitable for conversion to .38 rimfire or .38 center-fire by the Richards-Mason method, except that in the Navy pistols the conversion ring was scaled down a bit to make its outer surface almost flush with the contour of the recoil shield.

Records of the Navy Department reveal that a number of Colt Navy cap and ball pistols from the Norfolk, Philadelphia, Boston and New York navy yards were returned to the Colt factory for conversion into breech-loaders. These will usually show the U.S.N. stamp on the base of the grip strap and an anchor and inspector's initials under the barrel.

The small frame Colt pistols of this period, usually classified as pocket or belt models, were generally referred to as the "1849 Model" (.31 cal.), the "Pocket Pistols of Navy Caliber" (.36 cal.), and the "1862 Police Model" (.36 cal.). The lock frames were similar in the small .36 caliber pistols, having a slight step in the section under the cylinder to accommodate the rebated cylinder. The .31 caliber lock frame did not have this frame feature as its cylinder was uniform the entire length. This is unimportant, however,

because very few .31 caliber pistols were converted. The great majority were the .36 caliber models which were converted to take the .38 rimfire or .38 center-fire cartridges.

I should note here that the Model 1855 Colt sidehammer pocket pistols were of an impractical design for conversion, and that early arms like the Paterson and Dragoon models were no longer available for conversion—and would be impractical for this purpose if they were in supply. Some, however, were converted by local gunsmiths, a practice bemoaned by any collector who finds one of these rare pieces, as that lowers the value.

There was a greater variety in the production of these small-frame Colt conversions than in any other group. We find them uniformly with the flush improved Richards conversion ring, but some were made with a loading gate, others had none. Some cylinders had a rebated round cylinder while others had a rebated fluted cylinder. Some had ejector rods and others had none. In some pistols old

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The "Cloverleaf" pistol, top, was the first Colt pistol to employ a solid frame with a top strap over the cylinder. It was a .41 caliber four-shot and came out in 1872.

barrels were used, with the aperture for the customary loading-lever plunger plugged, while entirely new barrel designs are found on other pistols. The barrel might be either round or octagon. All this, of course, offers a wider variety of specimens for collectors, some of whom limit their collecting activities solely to these interesting Colt conversions.

There are to be found variations from the production models described here but they are either experimental pieces or the work of some mechanic in the field. They have no importance in the actual progression of Colt production from the caplock to breech-

loading cartridge arms.

The machines under that great blue dome atop Colt's factory in Hartford's South Meadow by the Connecticut River were kept busy in the 1870s in spite of a lull in arms purchases after the war. Adventurous men were heading west where guns were a part of one's attire, and those who stayed at home found a need for pocket pistols.

F. Alexander Thuer had developed a good derringer pistol for Colt in 1870. These and Richards' "Cloverleaf" pistols of 1871, both chambered for .41 short rimfire cartridges, gained quick acceptance. To compete with Smith & Wesson's .22 "tip-up" revolvers Colt produced a little seven-shot .22. This had a detachable barrel and was of questionable open-top design. The company finally had to cut the price to \$3.25 to get rid of them, having in the wings ready for presentation by 1873 an entirely new solid-frame series called "New Line Pocket Revolvers." These "New Line" pistols were made in five calibers, with varied barrel lengths, and with a bird-head shaped grip. The .22 caliber was called "The Little Colt," the .30 caliber "The Pony Colt," the .32 caliber "The Ladies Colt," the .38 caliber

"The Pet Colt" and the .41 caliber "The Big Colt." The .22 pistol had a seven-shot cylinder while all others had five-shot cylinders.

Thus the Colt Company progressed from the manufacture of caplock arms (1836-1868) into the era of the cartridge arms. It was not an easy transition, but once the advance had been made to solid-frame models the company surged forward.

It is interesting to note that the first Colt Single Action Army cartridge pistols bore the July 25, 1871 and July 2, 1872 patent dates of the Richards and Mason conversion features. Later the Sept. 19, 1871 date of Richards' solid-frame "Cloverleaf" patent was stamped in the frame.

Soon we shall reach the 100th anniversary of that most famous revolver of all time—the Colt Single Action Army. Whether or not it was a "Peacemaker" may be open to argument. But it cannot be denied that it has played a big role in our history of the West. Its design has set a record in continued popularity. To all this we must doff our hats to those Colt conversion models that served as stepping stones to what the Colt people like to call "America's Right Arm."



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(Continued from page 45)

The Shotgun Stock

By Robert Arthur
(A.S. Barnes and Co., \$12.00)

Design, construction and embellishment are the main topics covered in this book dealing, as the title implies, with only the shotgun stock. It was written to help the shotgun lover and enthusiast find that elusive "butterfly"—the perfect fitting stock. Every aspect of the stock is covered in clear, concise, easy to understand terms and the book is augmented with nearly 100 line drawings and photographs to get the point across.

The book begins with a discussion of the design and fit of each part of the stock. Shotgun control and accuracy are emphasized in chapters which correlate aspects of the stock with gun balance, recoil, sights and ribs and the ballistics of shotgun cartridges. This background of information is then organized into a step-by-step method the shooter can use to sight in and fit his own shotgun stock. Of particular interest are the chapters on the theory of stock design for appearance, the development of experimental stocks and the modification of stocks for handicapped shooters. Moving on to the technical side of the matter are chapters covering woods, wood finishes, checkering and gun-stock decoration.

This is a very thorough and informative book of inestimable value to the shotgun shooter and especially to those involved in trap and skeet. Correct dimensions and fit of the stock are as valuable to the shooter as the right size shoes are for long distance runners. This book fills the bill extremely well, H.A.M.

The Model 1892, .30-40 Krag Rifle and Carbine

(Combat Bookshelf, \$1.00)

Here is another of the well done re-prints from Combat Bookshelf that belongs in every gun-man's library. The book is actually a re-print of the original 1893 manual of the first model of the famous Krag-Jorgensen rifles to be adopted. This is the manual that was issued to soldiers and armorers to provide instructions in the use and repair of the Krag. With over 130 fine illustrations done in the style peculiar to that day and age, this is an excellent reference for the owner of one of these rifles. The price is right, too! Detail is the key word and this book has it. H.A.M.

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DO-IT-YOURSELF INLAYS


(Continued from page 31)

in place is no problem, but a word of caution is in order; if the inlay fits as it should there is no way for excess glue to flow out of the inletted cavity as the inlay is pressed in place. Therefore it is important that only a thin coat of glue be applied to the mating surfaces.

When the glue has set all that remains to be done is to work the inlay down flush with the surface of the stock. For this use a fine cut rasp or even a metal file. If you are working on a finished stock you'll naturally want to avoid marring any more of the finish than is necessary—that is unless you are planning a complete refinishing job anyway.

After all the elements of the design are in place and worked down flush with the stock give the whole thing a smoothing up with 220, 280 then 320 grit finishing paper. If the stock was

originally stained, you'll probably have a bit of touching up to do on the area around the inlay in order to get the stock color matched up again. Now smooth on a few coats of stock finish and you're home free.

Of course, you may be wondering just how much this minimal investment of time and cash has increased the value of your gun. A three element pattern such as we used is worth, on the average, about \$25.00. In the "high rent" districts the figure may very well go three times this much! This naturally brings us to the final question; Just what good is an inlay anyway? Aside from the undefinable qualities of just owning an example of fine workmanship and beautiful woods there is the very real value of inlays for covering up damaged areas on your stock, knot holes and various other blotches. 

GUNS IN BRITAIN

(Continued from page 33)

Sweden—I need a rifle that hits harder, shoots further, and to which a scope can be easily attached.

It's back to the police station again for another form. This time I want a "variation"—to add a gun to my already existent Certificate. They want to know how many shells I have in my possession for the Marlin, and how many I would like for the gun I intend buying; the same number as for the .30-30 seems reasonable. At this point I am not required to state the make or model of the rifle I intend buying, as I may not yet have decided; it is possible that I am still shopping around. But I do have to have made a decision on the caliber. When—and if—permission is granted, I can then go out and purchase a rifle of my own choosing, in the designated caliber for which permission has been granted.

In this case it is to be a .30-06, because of the variety of cartridges available. It is a standard-size caliber throughout most of Europe and there

would never be any difficulty in obtaining shells to fit, or encountering European game with which it could not adequately cope. I have also decided on the gun. It is to be a Swedish-made Husqvarna, bolt action, with high comb and cheek piece, already drilled and tapped for a scope mount. The "variation" costs \$3.00. The police officer to whom I handed the filled-in form was the same man who had visited me at home earlier. Pleasant, amiable and efficient, he felt that there would be little trouble in obtaining permission for the second gun.

My Husqvarna will cost about \$170.00. A Savage, Model 110, .270 bolt action, costs \$158.00 in Britain; the 99c, lever action .308—about \$168.00. The German-Austrian made Voere, in varying high-calibers, from \$118.00 up to \$158.00, an English-made rifle, \$160-\$200. There is no purchase tax on rifles, unlike shotguns, which carry a 36% per cent purchase tax.

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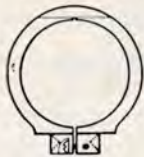
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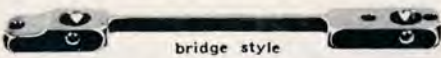


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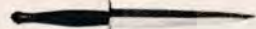
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pens to be looking for, is worth it. Guns imported into Britain start at a bit over \$100. These are Spanish side-by-side doubles of mixed reputation. An over-and-under Beretta costs \$250. Merkel, the highly-regarded East German over-and-under, is considered a good buy at \$1200.

Most English gunners would prefer to spend the three thousand and have the prestige. In England, showing the gun is more important than using it. There is magic in the name Purdy, Lang, Holland & Holland, Boss, Churchill. At an auction in London recently a man paid \$2400 for a Boss 12-bore side-lock double, with an extra set of barrels—about thirty-five years old. A Lang, approximately forty years old went for \$1680.

Cogswell & Harrison on Picadilly, in London, is celebrating their two-hundredth year of operation. They were making guns when George III was giving us a hard time in those thirteen colonies. Many of the London gun makers are very old and have names ringing with prestige.

A few days ago the mail man dropped the "variation" in my letter box, which permits me to take possession of my Husqvarna. I can hardly wait to get my hands on it. 

HANDGUN SIGHTS

(Continued from page 35)

high, upstanding front post and a higher rear. This rear notch was movable for deflection but had to be filed to get a proper elevation. Later on, feeble attempts were made to adapt an adjustable rear sight to the M1911. These were failures because the recoil was so severe the sight would not hold its adjustment. Among these dubious first sights for the .45 was one by Colt. King also essayed a rear sight and so did Buchanan, the west coast gunsmith. There were others that have since slipped into oblivion.

The need did not go away and indeed became more acute as the practice grew to shoot both reloads and hardball in the big pistol. Changes in point of impact necessitated a surefire adjustment in the rear sight. And an adjustment that once made would hold under the bounce of the .45 cartridge.

The first people to make a successful rear sight for the .45 was Micro. Their sight is mounted in the slot for the standard rear sight and consists of a base onto which is a leaf which holds the rear notch. Elevation movements are by perceptible click and are ac-



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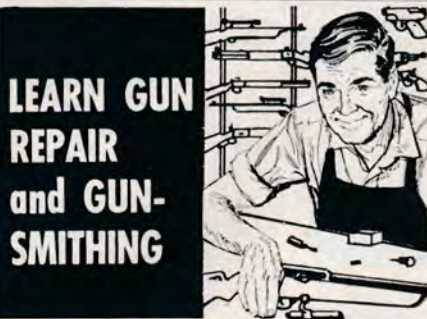
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complished by a screw in the top of the blade. It is not marked up or down and the shooter has to experiment with it to learn his directions. Movements are 1/2" at 25 yards. The deflection adjustment is likewise by clearly audible clicks, and is accomplished with a screwdriver. Again, like the elevaton, you have to familiarize yourself with the sight to know whether clockwise will move the notch left or right. The Micro rear has an accompanying front partridge-type post. This comes in sizes of 1/10", 1/8" and 3/32" with designs which are undercut, plain post or forward-slope.

The most sterling virtue of the Micro sight is the fact that it will withstand the recoil of the .45 auto. It is made for the whole galaxy of modern handguns, both automatics and revolver, but none put a more severe strain on its virtues than the slam-bang of the old M1911 under recoil.

A second most satisfactory rear sight for the big automatics is the Bo-Mar. This sight mounts into the standard dovetail and provides movements as fine as 3/8" at 50 yards. There are a variety of Bo-Mar sights; one of them is integral with a heavy full-length rib which not only adds weight to the pistol and thus dampens recoil but also lengthens the sight radius. The attachment of the heavy rib is a job for a skilled gunsmith. It is put on with a series of Allen screws and will not loosen under recoil. Like the Micro, one of the best features of the Bo-Mar sight is the fact that both elevation and deflection movements are absolutely impervious to the kick of the heaviest loads. This is the acid test, so far as I am concerned.

Elliason, a most skilled gunsmith, worked on the electric trigger for the High Standard and was one of the developers of the HEG machine rest. He also has a splendid rear sight which is integral with a heavy rib. This combo is intended for the .45 Auto, the Colt Super .38 and the Gold Cup models. Unfortunately Elliason has turned to other activities and his skill is lost, at least for the moment, to shooters.

The sights now attached by the Colt factory to its target models, both revolver and auto pistol, are absolutely reliable. The old difficulties of a quarter-century ago are now all ironed out. This is equally true of Smith & Wesson. There is no better sight made than that placed by S&W on the superb Model 51 auto pistol. Nor yet on their Models 41 and 46, among the .22 automatics. Likewise Ruger makes a completely dependable rear sight for his big sixguns. Despite these completely satisfactory sights as they come from the factory there is currently a tendency on the part of some

handgunners to experiment. The S&W revolver sight is attached to the as-issue .45 M1911 when the gunner decides to improve his gun. This is okay and the sight is quite dependable, but no better than many others. The contention is that it lies low on the slide and thus better suits it to holster carry and defensive use. The MMC adjustable sight as made by the MMC Co. of Deming, New Mexico is a combat sight for the .45. It lies quite low on the slide, is small in size, yet adjustable in both directions and absolutely reliable so far as remaining in zero. To attach it, instead of the revolver sight, is far less of a chore.

It is the contention of a good many handgunners that the fixed sights are far more practical for really hard usage than any kind of a relatively fragile movable rear sight. There is a good deal of truth in this contention. It stands to reason that a sight which must contain some small springs, detents, serrated screws, pins and joints is not going to stand the racket that a simple notch, milled into the top strap will withstand. But despite this admitted fragility—a factor a good deal like the scope sight on the hunting rifle—more and more handgunners are turning to the adjustable sight. If you do not agree with this, simply look over the current offering of handguns by all our biggest manufacturers. More handguns are now available with movable sights than without. This to include those models usually accepted by the Police, one of the last groups to accept the improved sight.

Along with the adjustable rear sight has been a change in the front post. Once it was a sort of half-moon but now it is mounted on a ramp and slopes forward. This is to prevent it dragging leather out of the holster during the draw or snagging in the clothing. Safariland, the west coast sheath makers, now offers a holster which has a channel cleverly stitched into the front of the scabbard which protects the front sight from snagging or gouging into the leather on the draw. The sight, as it comes from the factory, has a blued finish and the topmost edges are square and neatly defined. After a few years of holster carry the bluing disappears from the top and the edges of the post not only become bright but lose their cleanly defined outline. These are problems which can be licked.

I one time had the rear face of a slope-away post covered with gold plate. This was always bright but when I wanted to do any target work I simply fired up a cigarette lighter and blackened the 24-carat stuff. For service use the gold-faced sight was

excellent. This was somewhat like the old King red plastic post which has now slipped into oblivion. The Redfield Co., makers of a line of scope sights as well as an extensive miscellany of iron sights, have a dandy which can be adapted to the handgun. This is the sight they call their "Sourdough Partridge," and while it is intended for rifle mounting it can be adapted to the handgun. The face of this sight has a 45-degree angle and you have a choice of either gold or ivory. I like it.

When taking aim, I always look intently at the mark. The sights are brought into the picture and aligned but I continue to keep my focus on the target. It is impossible to see two objects with the same intensity at the same moment. When you aim a six-shooter you have got to either decide to see the target clearly or the sights clearly—you cannot do both. Even when sights are too far apart on a pistol, as with some of these numbers with 10-inch barrels, your eyes must continually jump back and forth between the front and rear sights, both cannot be seen with equal clarity. It is equally true about the sights and the target. One or the other will hold the focus. With me, I see the mark better. But this does not mean that the sights are just a blur. Far from it, I also see them with enough surety to take good aim. But there seems to be other schools of thought on this one.

Bill Blankenship, unquestionably

the finest pistol marksman this country has ever developed, puts his attention on the sights. His focus is on them and the target is sort of secondary. It is seen as somewhat of a blur and not nearly so clearly and distinctly as the sights. This is contrary to the system I have always followed. It is significant that Blankenship has won more championships, both nationally and internationally, than any marksman we have ever had. His method of taking aim is bound to have a lot to commend it.

Because of the extreme shortness of the sighting radius on the handgun, there is a tremendous need to be absolutely meticulous in the alignment of the front and rear sights. This is the reason that ranking shooters like our gunners concentrate their vision on the two sights. They have realized this is the secret of close hits. The front post must be drawn to the very top of the rear notch and held there with a precision which cannot be overemphasized; while the shooter is just as persnickity about maintaining the same strip of light on either side of the vertical walls of the post as it rests in the back sight. To permit the front post to drop even a hundredth of an inch in the rear notch, or to wobble onto either side of the notch, is to court disaster at the target. By an extreme concentration on the sight picture to the exclusion, somewhat, of the mark itself, the gunner assures a perfect alignment.

.250/3000: IT'S BACK AGAIN!

(Continued from page 27)

new rifle. The first ones were simply called "The Savage Rifle" and were manufactured by the MARLIN Gun Company! Why Marlin? The answer is simple. Our Mr. Savage had a great design but he lacked facilities to produce it! Contracting the work to Marlin proved to be a wise move and the new gun caught on quickly. You experts and collectors have your ears perked up here, don't you? Yes, the Marlin-made Savage rifles, the 1895 model, are highly desirable collectors items!

Before continuing, we must note that last year the Savage factory produced a serialized, "limited edition" production run of 1895 style commemorative rifles. This 1970 edition is over but as I write this, a few stores might still have one. If you see one, grab it! The prices of this special edi-

tion are already on the rise.

Back to our story, we find Arthur Savage modifying his rifle somewhat and setting up shop in Utica, New York to produce the improved model of 1899. The name "Savage 99" became so famous that it remains unchanged to this day, despite the fact that modern technology has brought about numerous improvements.

This brings us to the announcement of the new/old Savage Model 99-A rifle. This model, with the "A" suffix was for years the "bread and butter" basic gun of the Savage line. It was a plain Jane, no frills, no checkering, straight grip, simple, safe and sure sonofagun GUN! Unadorned but never unadored. Fact is, many are still in use, often in some pretty scuffy areas like the far northwest and Alaska. There is no man-tracked area

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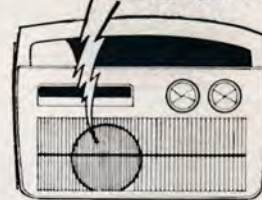


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in this world where the savage '99 hasn't been!

Now let's talk cartridges. Many gunmakers, notably the British, had what they called "Proprietary Cartridges." These were calibers that were exclusive to a particular manufacturer and which bore the company name. Our man Arthur W. had a jolly good go at this game. To compliment his fine rifle he created the .303 Savage cartridge. It packed its particular parcel of power with the weight of A.W.'s wisdom. The .303 looked like the twin of the then "new" .30-30. It was also .30 caliber but boasted a slightly longer neck. Why? Because the fast new .30-30 was doing well on medium game but many shooters of that period felt that the 170 grain .30-30 bullet was much too light. Playing both ends toward the middle, our hero decided to make his bullet weigh 190 grains and tuck its grooves deep into that long neck to retain the same overall length. Clever, yes? Now he offered his 99 lever gun in either of these calibers and both functioned perfectly. No, I did not say they interchanged, (Although one of them would).

Arthur Savage still dreamed of faster sharp-pointed bullets. He heard of a lawyer who was also a gun designer in Buffalo, New York. This fellow specialized in getting bullets out of the barrel in a hurry. His name was Charles Newton. A man so fascinating that the collection of his history has held me hypnotized since I was 17. Charlie and Arthur had much in common and walked the fields around Yorkshire corners where Newton demonstrated a particularly powerful .22 centerfire. After studying the Savage 99 levergun, Charlie showed Arthur a modified version of his .22 speedster which he had made by necking down a .25-35 Winchester cartridge. Visiting the Savage factory, Newton and the engineers settled on deeper grooves and a thicker bullet jacket. By the fall of 1911 the ".22 Savage High Power" cartridge was introduced. Arthur Savage had his first fast one!

This caliber, the second of the new line, boasted a 70 grain bullet at a velocity of 2800 feet per second. Designed for game up to deer, "The Imp" as it was sometimes called, was soon misused on larger game and this upset Charlie Newton greatly. Arthur Savage commissioned Newton to design a larger caliber and Charlie had one ready for him. He had necked the 7M/M Mauser to .25 caliber and found it excellent. Savage rejected Newton's plea to lengthen the action and in-

(Continued on page 68)

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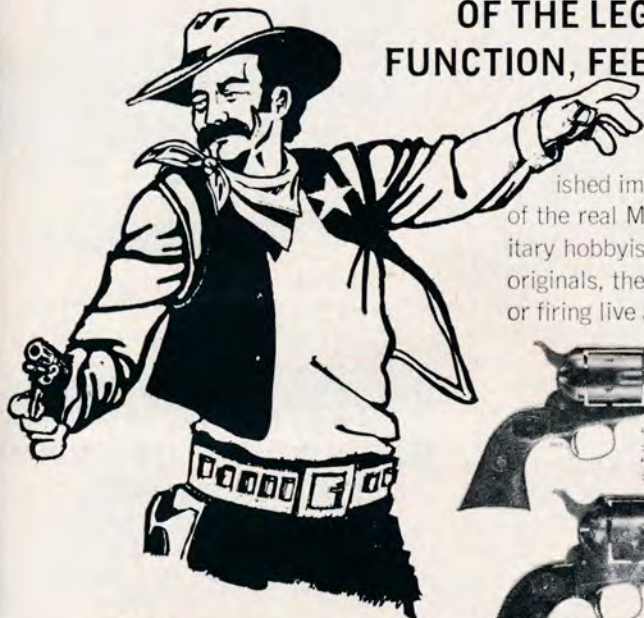
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(Continued from page 66)

stead asked him to cut back on the length of the cartridge.

At this point in our story, the .250 Savage is about to be born but the pains of its gestation were to bother Newton for many years. His plans called for a 100 grain bullet at 3000 feet per second. He argued strongly for a lengthed action and was frustrated by the refusal. His .25-7M/M would later be "invented" as the .25 (.257) Roberts. Working closely within the bounds of the existing breech mechanism, Charlie attempted to retain as much powder space as he could with a neck length that could properly encase the 100 grain .25 caliber bullet which he still favored. He now would settle for a velocity level of 2800 feet per second with this bullet. When he presented his shortened version and stated the ballistics he had achieved, he immediately found himself engaged in a new argument. The new cartridge functioned well in the levergun but the Savage staff had now concurred that the velocity of the new round should be 3000 feet per second! "A great selling point," they told Charlie. The factory engineer advised Newton that they would reduce the bullet weight to achieve the desired speed. When this was accomplished, the new round was announced with a three digit decimal for the caliber, hyphenated to include the velocity. The .250-3000 was born!

The bullet weight was now just under 90 grains, 87 to be exact. Newton had been concerned that the lighter bullet might not retain the necessary power at extended ranges. This was true. However, this bullet could be *sharppointed*, remember? Because of this the 87 grain bullet was able to retain well over half a ton of energy way out at the 200 yard range. In fact, the bullet was well past the 300 yard mark before it had dropped to 2000 feet per second. Here is where the Savage rotary magazine could finally prove its worth. The new caliber proved to be a fantastic medium game round with exceptional ranging qualities combined with phenomenal accuracy. The .250-3000 has lost none of these magic properties.

By a strange twist, there were some .250 fans who found the streaking 87 grain missile to be too explosive under certain conditions. The cartridge manufacturers then announced a "new" additional loading for the .250 Savage. Are you guessing? Yes, it was a 100 grain bullet at 2800 feet per second! That has a familiar ring doesn't it? With the passing of the years, the introduction of improved powders caused the ballistics of the .250-3000





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to gain a few feet per second and the 3000 suffix was dropped. The cartridge was simply called the .250 Savage and became so popular that other makers, here and abroad, chambered rifles for it. It was often chosen for feather-weight rifles because of its mild recoil and used by women and teen-age hunters as well as by men who needed a small lightweight rifle for climbing country.

By 1920, the Savage company had used the .250 case, necked up to create their fourth proprietary cartridge, the .300 Savage. This followed Newton's thinking because he favored a "family" of calibers on the basic casing in .22, .25, .30 and .35 diameters.

Now that we have covered the history of the 99-A and the .250-3000, we can look at the new Savage offering in a better perspective. The new/old rifle has the same straight grip, schnabel forend and plain finish. The smooth, uncluttered lines stand out. It weighs but seven pounds and with its 20 inch barrel, it's overall length is just a few scant inches over a yard. The wood is *oil finished*. To appeal to all tastes, it comes in four calibers, two of them new and two old. The .243 and .308 are available along with the famed .250-3000 and the .300 Savage.

Oh yes, one more thing. Although the .250-3000 is now loaded with the 87 grain bullet at 3030 feet per second, the folks at Savage would like to have you refer to it by its original name. Pride and nostalgia dictate that you honor it with its full and proper designation. The .250-3000 Savage!



HI-JACK LOADS

(Continued from page 23)

bullet hole size; most punctures would be clean and approximate caliber sizes.

The suffocation theory can be largely dismissed, since the compressors that maintain 5,000 ft. cabin pressure at 40,000 ft. of altitude are designed to overcome the normal small air leakages in the structure itself. Even several .38 holes would not increase the normal leakage rate significantly.

Blowing out of a window could cause serious decompression, but this would be only dangerous for people with chronic heart or respiratory troubles. The availability of oxygen from the plane's central system would overcome this difficulty.

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that they could damage vital parts of the aircraft, (e.g., fuel, electrical, hydraulic systems, etc.) that could cause flight failure and produce a crash. Conventional projectiles must be eliminated on this basis alone. But the most probable danger from regular lead core bullets is to passengers, who could be hit by the penetration of a conventional bullet even through seatbacks or partitions.

El Al, the Israeli airline so frequently harrassed by Palestine front organizations, has armed guards on flights. Reportedly, they are armed with a special handgun that shoots relatively heavy, slow moving bullets. The technique is to approach the hijacker and fire directly into the body, presumably with the muzzle pressed against vital body areas. This technique has been effective since one of last year's Mid-East hijackings was foiled by plain clothes guards using these loads.

While the low-velocity, heavy bullet designs reduce body penetration dangers, they cannot be fired openly in the cabin for fear of a miss. There is still enough energy in these projectiles to penetrate the fuselage skin and seatbacks endangering flight safety or passengers' lives. The need for close contact can induce the hijacker to shoot his weapon before he can be disabled.

Another approach is to use very light, composition bullets traveling at high velocity. Frangible plastic material that will hold together in the gun barrel but disintegrate on contact with sheet metal holds great promise for further development into a specialized ammunition. These loads could be ideal for hijack apprehension or for home defense.

During experiments with plastic bullets for a GUNS article, (see April, 1970), the use of Red Jet .38 bullets in a regular brass case ahead of a charge of Bullseye powder showed potential for use as an ideal anti-hijack and home defense load. The Red Jet bullet is made from low-density wax-plastic material. Because of a unique ribbon grain structure in the plastic made during the molding process, the bullets disintegrate when they impact on any rigid surface. When propelled by a suitable charge of Bullseye powder, quite significant short range velocities are possible. Because of the low mass of the bullet (11 grains nominally) not a great deal of energy is carried by the light projectiles. But the full kinetic energy of the projectile is transferred to a target on the terminal end in a very short period of time. This rapid terminal transfer has caused violent displacement of tissue



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in jack rabbits. One series of test loads would nearly separate the top and bottom halves of a good-sized rabbit at 15 to 20 feet.

Impact tests on clay blocks compared Super Vel 110 grain .357 Magnum loads against the Red Jet bullet propelled by 9 grains of Bullseye. Close range (five feet) penetration of the 6 x 6 clay block sections was complete with the JHP Super Vel bullet, leaving an onion-shaped cavity about 5½ inches in diameter. Penetration of the block by the plastic bullet was shallow (2½ inches deep) and indicated the complete mass disintegration of the projectile. The crater created by impact was about 4-inches in diameter and nearly hemispherical in shape. For the relative kinetic energies involved (440 ft. lbs. with Super Vel vs. 140 ft. lbs. for the Red Jet load), surface disruption in the diameter of the affected areas was similar. The effect on vital organs of the viscera would be disruptive to a point of causing instant disability or death. The rapid energy transfer with the induced shot would indicate that the Red Jet loads could be effective man-stoppers at ranges up to 30 ft., especially with multiple hits. Obviously, due to the poor sectional density, kinetic energy diminishes rapidly soon after the projectile clears the muzzle, seriously limiting the effective range of lightweight loads. Other considerations, such as the thickness of the hijacker's clothing would also have to be considered.

However, the advantages of such a load are many. When used inside an airplane in flight, the lack of penetration reduces any threat of damage to the aircraft. Firing from the rear of the plane forward means minimal danger to passengers, since this load will not penetrate seatbacks. A hit in the hijacker's vital areas should prove fatal or instantly disabling. Pain and shock resulting from a wound in the body extremities would most likely prove distracting to a point of rendering the assailant unable to return fire. The key to using any anti-hijack load is to assure instantaneous disability of the hijacker so he cannot use his own weapon or carry out threats of action.

To investigate the properties of Red Jet bullets in combat loads, a series of velocity tests were run using both .38 Special and .357 Magnum revolvers. Various loads of Bullseye were tried in order to achieve maximum velocity from the light 11-grain Red Jet bullets. Loads were worked up slowly to reach safe working levels. See the attached data table for results.

In all cases, the wax plastic bullets were seated down on the powder

charges with about 5 lbs. pressure. As fast as the Bullseye powder burns, powder ignition is enhanced by compressing the charge. A common wooden pencil was used as the ram, since the rubber eraser provided an effective buffer to keep from deforming the soft bullet material.

Although the velocities look formidable, the loads are still quite inefficient regarding internal ballistics. With heavier bullets, 9 grains of Bullseye is capable of producing more than a mere 141 ft. lbs. of energy. The light bullets move instantly under the slightest pressure and chamber volume increases more rapidly relative to powder burning rates than would be the case with a bullet of greater sectional density. It might be that a longer wax-plastic bullet would function better or that a bullet material is indicated that has a greater specific gravity than the Red Jet composition.

Adverse pressure signs were not present from firing any of the loads, so Magnum primers might also be substituted in the workup. All of the top loads in both calibers had heavy muzzle flash and spewed unburned powder granules. Heavier powder charges should not be used since all powder is not yet burned. Also, hand-

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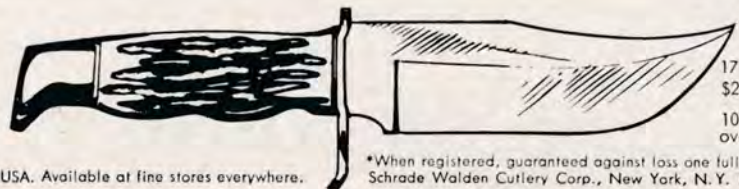
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loaders are cautioned about the deflagrational - explosive - properties of heavy charges of Bullseye. Bullseye overloads have been known to detonate in cylinders adjacent to a blowup. While no dangerous pressure signs were present in the test loads, charges heavier than those indicated herein for the specific bullet weights are not recommended. Besides, bases on recovered bullets indicated crumbling and disintegration; further increases in pressure could only effect more bullet deformation.

Test guns for the series were both chambered for the .357 Magnum cartridge. Colt's Mark III Trooper was used for 4-inch data and the new Lawman was used for 2-inch barrel trials. Both guns are exceptionally strong and can be recommended for use with the heaviest loads in the .357 family. Accuracy tests with the anti-hijack loads kept groups inside one inch at 15 yards, which is more than adequate for defense purposes.

An odd phenomenon was observed. If Red Jet bullets are fired with primer ignition only, as they were originally intended, a wax-plastic bullet residue builds up in the barrel. However, using the hot charges of Bullseye, no residue collected, and recovered bullets showed no signs of abrasion on the sidewall. Evidently, the bullets exit so fast that the material simply doesn't tend to adhere to bore surfaces.

It is interesting to look at the data for 6-grain loads in both .38 Special and .357 Magnum cases. The larger case developed significantly more velocity probably due to the longer time the bullet is in the case. Pressures have a longer time to expand before the bullet enters the throat of the chamber where gas leakage can occur, attenuating powder burning rates. For this reason, loading the .357 case is more desirable than using .38 Special brass for these loads.

Next, penetration of aluminum sheet material had to be tested to see if these loads conformed to this design criterion. Aluminum sheets 12 x 18 x .080-inch made from 6061-T6 aircraft grade aluminum were clamped into a test frame. Testing was done with a full-power load (9 grains Bullseye, 2403 ft. per second velocity) at 30 degrees, 15 degrees, and head-on from distances of 15 ft., 10 ft., and 5 ft. None of these loads penetrated the sheet which has mechanical properties nominally representative of the least resistant stock used in jetliner fuselage skins. Impacts on the test sheet made 3/4-inch dimples of 1/2 inch maximum depth; none of the hits gave the slightest indication of penetration or failure of the sheet metal material.



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Because aircraft windows are made from acrylic plastic material, a test was run with the Red Jet bullets on 1/8-inch sheets of Lucite. At all ranges and angles, the plastic was penetrated, leaving a neat 1/2 inch hole. Double thicknesses of the material separated by 3-inch air space also demonstrated complete penetration.

From the above data it can be concluded that these anti-hijack loads would not penetrate the aircraft hull, or most cabin structures including seatbacks. The projectiles will most probably puncture window structures but would not necessarily cause complete failure of the window section. However, further testing would be necessary to completely corroborate these statements.

These loads could be used for home defense, too. Penetration is a big disadvantage of shooting at an assailant in one's home. A person defending his home is liable for damage to a neighbor's property caused by a stray bullet. There is also the dismal possibility of shooting through interior walls of the home and hitting other members of the family. Tests of these anti-hijack loads were conducted on 1/2 inch plaster wall board, a common building material for covering interior wall surfaces in homes. Both .38 Special and .357 Magnum Red Jet loads were fired through this material mounted on the face and backs of studs in the test stand. Penetration was clean on the first sheet where bullets drilled neat holes at ranges as close as 3 ft. Impact with the first sheet disintegrated the bullets and plaster with absolutely no damage to the second piece of wall board on the backside of the structure. It would be impossible to shoot through residential dry-wall construction with even the hottest test loads given here.

Not nearly enough testing has been done with these loads to recommend them unequivocally for use as anti-hijack or home defense ammunition. But it is a step in the direction of finding a suitable projectile and load for these specialized purposes. It may be that the plastic material used in the Red Jet bullet is too low in density. A more dense material would carry more energy but also might increase penetration unless the frangible properties of the Red Jet are retained. If necessity is the mother of invention, there is no more pregnant possibility than exists now. News releases have hinted that low penetration loads are being developed for anti-hijack situations. It will be interesting to see if the design principles being employed are similar to those of these Red Jet loads.

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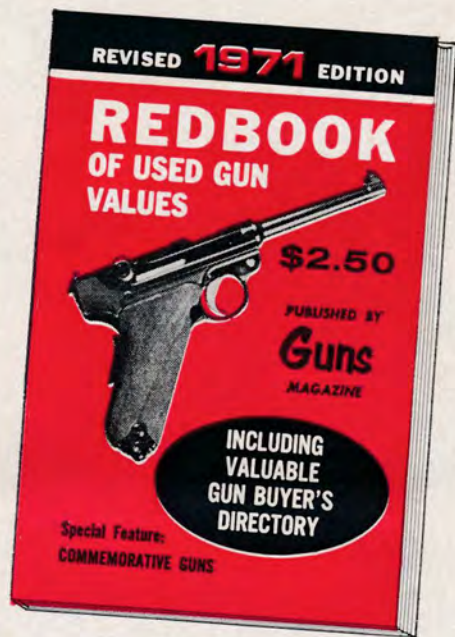
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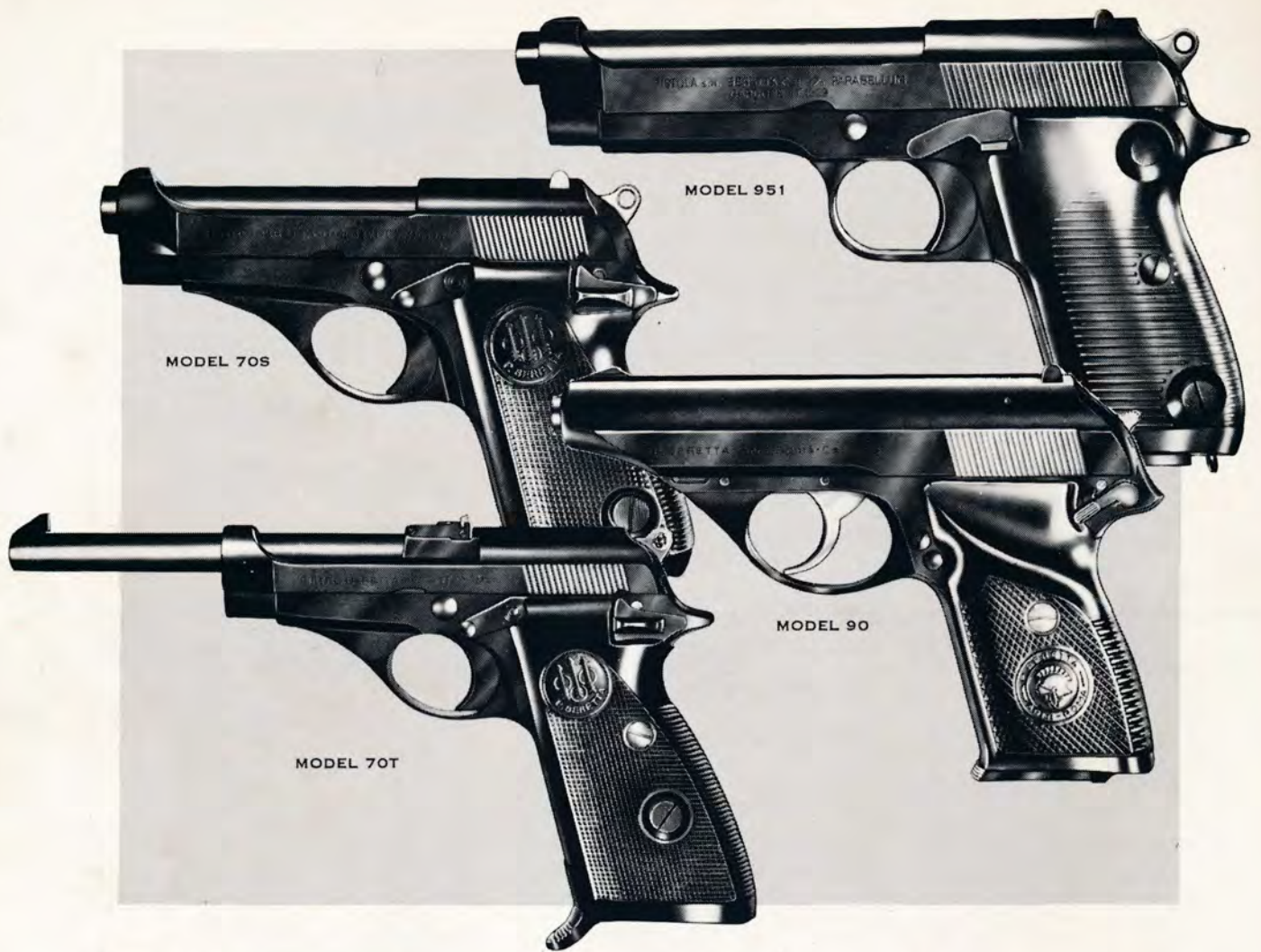
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Model 951	9mm	4 ¹ / ₂ "	8"	31 oz.	Fixed	Yes	Steel	8

†Double action.

*With three interchangeable front blades.

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magazine release, external hammer, deeply blued finish with black wraparound non-slip stocks, and slide hold-open feature.



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