

NOVEMBER 1970 75c

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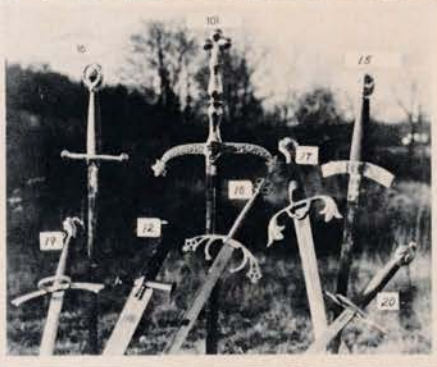


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52 MINI SKEAN DHU with 3½" blade, 5½" overall, leather sheath, flat black grip. \$3.00
55 BLACK SKEAN DHU, Scottish stocking knife, with 3½" Sheffield blade, 8" overall. Sheath of moroccan leather and plated fancy fittings. \$6.75
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19 MAROZZO, 16th century rapier-broadsword. Cast brass, steel blade, 41" overall. \$28.00
12 MACDUFF, 11th century knight's sword. Wide blade, iron crossbar, leather wrapped handle, 40" overall. \$32.00
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17 CHAMPION 14th century elaborate knight's broadsword. Brass cap and bar, brass wire bound grip, 41" long. \$31.50
20 AGRIPPA, the 16th century rapier-broadsword with finger guard. Cast brass, steel blade, wire wrapped grip, 44" L. \$28.00



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361 INDIAN NATIONAL KNIFE, 9" blade, horn handle. . \$8.00
368 GHURKA KUKRI, 12", horn handle, with 2 karda knives. . \$13.50
367 GHURKA KUKRI, 9", still a heavyweight. \$9.00
366 GHURKA KUKRI, 6", for the collector. \$6.00

SLEEVE KNIVES OF THE ORIENT

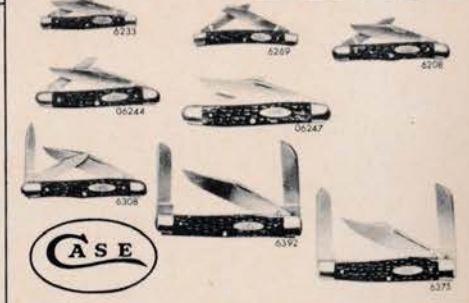
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06247 Per. 3 7/8" closed, bone stag, concave ground. . \$6.50
6308 3¼" closed, bone stag, concave ground blade. . . \$8.00
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TRIGGER TALK

CATCHING up after vacations, here are the latest names of recent winners in our free gun contests. Terry Ferrel, of Kirkland, Washington, walked away with the Universal Carbine offered in our April issue. Now shooting the Weatherby Mark XXII from our May issue is Ron Sato of Pearl City, Hawaii. Ed Grant, Tucson, Ariz. won the BSA Monarch rifle from our June contest. Maj. James Bright of Pease AFB has added the Harrington & Richardson Model 404 shotgun, offered in the July issue, to his gun rack. Congratulations to all of them, and here's hoping we can add your name to the list soon.

The gremlins got to us again in the October issue, and we failed to give credit to Trophy Hunter Line, a division of Ithaca Gun Co., Terrace Hill, N.Y. 14850, for the dramatic color photo used with the "Pronghorn" article. Our sincere thanks and apologies. To help salve the wound, why don't you drop them a line requesting their latest catalog. It's filled with all kinds of camping equipment, including some of the finest tents I have seen in a long time. You'll be doing me, and yourself, a great favor.

This is election time, and the time to do something positive to help all of the shooters of this country. Vote, and if you get a chance, vote again. In a recent issue, we ran an ad which listed various legislators. We have also listed the names of lawmakers in our various columns. We must, however, advise you to be careful when deciding your vote. Although a man may have voted for one or the other of the anti-gun bills, this may not automatically brand him as one who should be voted out. Take a look at his opponent; it may be that he is even more anti-gun than the incumbent. It could well be that by voting out one man, you will be putting in office another who will do us a lot more harm. Vote, but be careful of how you vote.

THE COVER

A custom made Ranger Arms rifle, fully engraved and gold inlaid. The full story of this rifle, and the entire Ranger line, will be found on page 36. Cover photo by Harry Knode.

NOVEMBER, 1970

Vol. XVI, No. 0-11

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

Last month I was cruising the Atlantic coast aboard the yacht of an old Army comrade, and one night we had a private showing of the movie PATTON. I was especially interested in seeing the film because I had heard President Nixon was very impressed with the film's contents. After viewing the movie, I was struck by the relevance it had for today's firearms problem.

General Patton was a man who knew this world can be a damn lousy place at times. He knew that there are dirty jobs that have to be done, and sometimes it is necessary to destroy a lot of people to complete these jobs, but always with the knowledge that in the long run you are saving more than you are losing. He had the courage to look the ugly side of reality in the face and go out and get finished results, instead of vainly looking for comfortable solutions that did not exist.

General Patton's bold straight-to-the-point thinking is what we need from our Congressmen. We at SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA know that our country has a very real, serious and growing problem with the misuse of firearms. Congress has been looking for some easy solution, some panacea, some miracle cure-all, where the firearms problem will disappear forever. But the misuse of firearms is very serious and its solution will require equally serious action.

Our Congressmen must realize that there is no easy solution to our problem. Someone will have to pay a high price. The only question is who? And the only answer is the criminal and the persons actively misusing guns. These are the people who will have to be destroyed. If General Patton were looking at the problem he would probably say "send the sons of bitches to jail, and keep them there till their bones are nothing but rotten rat food." And that is exactly what the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA is advocating. Congress must stop talking, stop its bleeding-heart-over-intellectualization, and start acting. It can start by tripling all sentences involving guns, and it can restrict parole for prisoners in this class.

During an election is the time when Senators and Congressmen genuinely listen to the people they are supposed to represent. Now is the time to write your congressman, and ask him point blank about his stand on firearms legislation. Make it clear that your vote is hinging on his answer. If everyone of our 14,500 members

writes, plus the pressure from SCA through the Washington lobby, we will be able to make ourselves heard.

Now is the time to start splitting tickets, and to make this point crystal clear to the candidates. You cannot say that one party is pro-firearms and another party is anti-firearms. Your vote has to be determined by what each individual Senate and Congressional candidate thinks.

After tripling the sentences for all crimes involving guns, will this mean that many hoods will spend the rest of their lives in jail?—yes it does. Is this a cold-blooded course of action?—yes it is. Is this the only kind of action that will get results?—yes it is. We at SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA can propose this solution with a clear conscience, for in the long run many innocent lives will be saved. In the long run more criminals and young people will be detoured from using firearms illegally. It is much much better to get our hands a little dirty right now and solve the problem, rather than let it fester and grow year after year until out of driven desperation Congress finally turns to this solution anyway. The solution will be much harder then.

At the end of the movie PATTON, the General wanted to attack Russia. With our vast Army in Europe, and the A-Bomb, we could have easily won. With Russia under our control, China would never have gone Communist. But all the bleeding hearts were horrified by this proposition. They only saw the dirty work they would have to do in 1945, and they ignored tomorrow. Well tomorrow is here, and for years we have had an endless stream of burnt, twisted, shredded and mutilated bodies coming back to America. Our sons, brothers and friends who have been murdered by the Communists. For years we have seen billions of dollars in capital investment funds drained from the veins of our country to fight the communists, with 90,000 young men murdered and 500,000 wounded since WWII—and no end in sight. This is the heartsickening and constantly increasing price we are paying for yesterday's "Humanitarians". Will our sons and grandsons have to pay still another price because we were too weak and spineless to do what had to be done with the criminals? Help the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA say NO to this question—send in your membership today!

Col. E. R. Becker

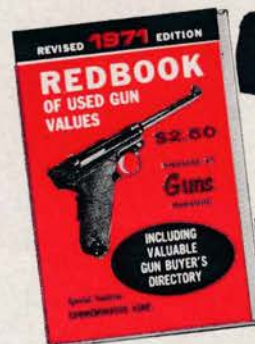
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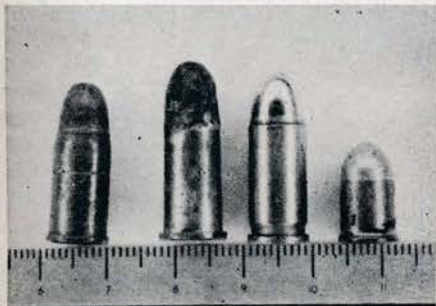
Bittner Comments

In response to J. B. Wood's Bittner article (September 1970 *GUNS*), I would like to offer some corrections and additional information.

It is my opinion that the Bittner was made a good deal later than the 1893 date usually ascribed to it. The number Mr. Wood assumes to be the serial number is actually the proof serial number, as was the custom of the proof houses of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The last two digits of the proof serial, "98", do indicate the year in which it was proved 1898; the number "526" he finds inside is the actual manufacturers serial.

The earliest Bittner I have owned was proved in 1897, and its serial was in the 200 range. The proof mark over the chamber with the number "3" inside it is that of Weipert, Bohemia's proof house. I believe that less than 1000 Bittners were made, probably starting no earlier than 1896 and continuing no later than 1899. Because of their initial date of manufacture and commercially unavailable cartridge, all Bittner pistols are classified as *antiques* under the Gun Control Act of 1968.

I have enclosed a photograph of an



actual Bittner cartridge from my collection. The companion cartridges are (left to right): .32 S & W Revolver, Bittner, .32 ACP, and 8mm Gaulois repeater. Its headstamp is "R.W.S. NURNBERG," and its dimensions are: Overall length, 26 mm; case length, 16.9 mm; and bullet diameter, 7.7mm. The bullet is nickel jacketed, and covered with greenish wax lubricant.

I trust this will shed some additional light on this most interesting transitional era pistol.

Joseph Schroeder

Missing Magazine?

I noted the GI on the cover of the September issue has lost the clip for his .45. Hope he didn't need it in the near future after the photo was taken. Keep up the good work.

Frank O'Bell
Huntington, Ind.

Ed. note: We knew we'd get letters on this one! Actually the picture was taken while the gun crew was on training maneuvers at the Cu Chi "Ambush Academy" in Viet Nam. Note, the cover information on page 4 in the September issue!

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For 99 years, the National Rifle Association has consistently promoted better education in shooting skills and firearms safety, better conservation, better game management, the development of better gun-sports equipment and the protection of shooters' privileges.

These were the basic aims of NRA's founders, and they remain to this day, the basic aims of this national, non-profit organization.

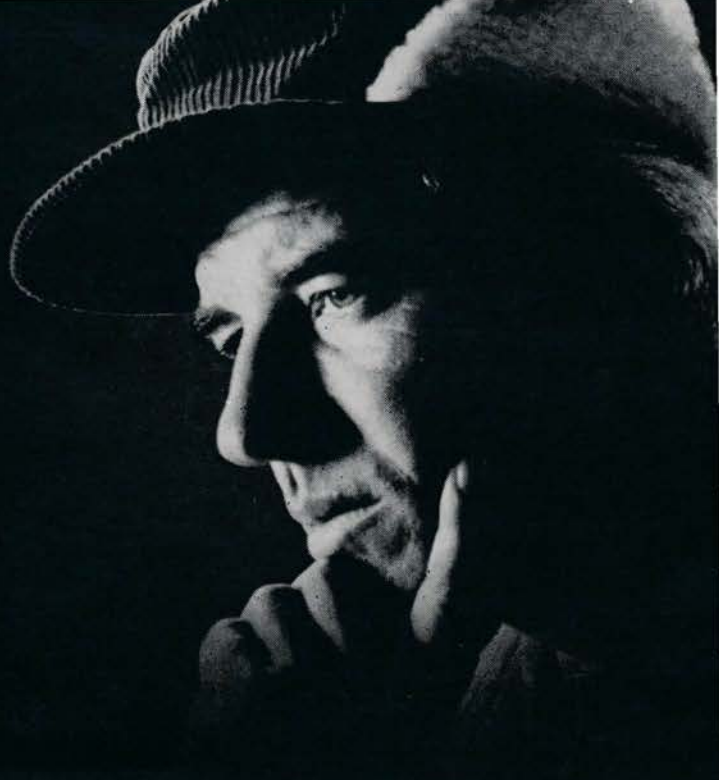
All the other benefits that NRA offers its membership—warm, good fellowship, friendly competitive tournament shoots, awards for hunters, firearms information and many, many others—are simply the evolutionary by-products of nearly a century devoted to serving the best interests of America's responsible gun owners.

You need NRA—and NRA needs you!

Never before in history has the threat to the rights and privileges of responsible gun owners been so great as today! Never before have *you*, as a responsible gun owner, needed NRA's efforts to preserve and protect your shooting interests as today! And never before has NRA needed *your* active, cooperative support as today!

NRA's responsibilities to you as a shooting enthusiast are never ending, and must be maintained on a *continuing basis*. To achieve this, NRA has set a goal of one new member every minute, around the clock and around the calendar. Let's start our march to this goal by signing *you* up for NRA membership—right this minute!

NRA has to win it— one new member every minute!



Here are a few of the dozen or more benefits you'll enjoy as an NRA member: An annual subscription to "The American Rifleman," the illustrated monthly magazine that entertains and educates more than a million sportsmen-readers • Prompt answers by experts to all your firearms questions • Firearms safety courses from which over 3 million shooters have benefited • Hunting information in the form of bulletins on gun laws, hunting dates, game availability, shooting preserves • Low cost gun and personal accident insurance • National, regional and local recreational shooting tournaments • Annual awards for hunters in all categories • The brand, spanking new directory of qualified and approved hunting guides, outfitters and hunting camp operators in North America—and *much, much more!*

So, Mr. Sportsman—if you *really care* about preserving—now and *in the future*—the shooting privileges and freedoms you enjoy today, you owe it to yourself to join and support NRA—the big, strong, long-established organization that, in cooperation with many other leading organizations, is so effectively fighting to maintain these freedoms for you!

FILL OUT, CLIP AND MAIL YOUR NRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NOW. (SEND NO MONEY—NRA WILL BILL YOU LATER, IF YOU WISH)



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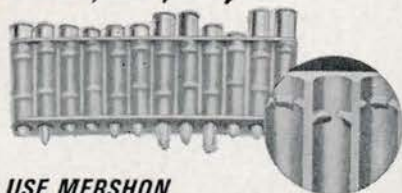
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

THERE'S a big fuss brewing up in Washington that is bound to have a serious and lasting effect upon handloading in all its forms. Most of you have already encountered the record-keeping requirements imposed by ATFD regulations (under GCA '68) on the purchase of components for handloading handgun calibers and the so-called "interchangeable" calibers which can be used in both rifles and handguns. Thus far those regulations and requirements haven't placed on us any restrictions we can't live with, even though they clearly appear to be entirely useless and unproductive. At least those regulations do not actually prevent us from obtaining; they just make it damned inconvenient. We can live with them if we have to; at least until we can exert enough pressure for more practical and reasonable regulations to be formulated and placed in effect. That this can be accomplished is clearly evident in cooperation we have recently experienced with ATFD representatives in amending existing regulations.

But, all that pales into insignificance beside some of the many pieces (23 at last count) of legislation that are now being proposed in the Congress with the announced purpose of "eliminating or reducing bombings." The legislators proposing such legislation no doubt have good intentions (as well as very real fear that some extremist will plant a bomb in one of their multi-million-dollar congressional buildings). Unfortunately, those who cry loudest and propose the most severe legislation appear to be almost totally ignorant on the subject of bombs, explosives, propellants, *et al.* Their knowledge of explosives appears to be limited to knowing that dynamite is a widely distributed commercial explosive and is generally available without too much trouble. In their ignorance, they lump small arms ammunition propellants (smokeless powder) with dynamite and demand that "Gunpowder and dynamite must be kept out of the hands of the public."

In essence, the bulk of the legisla-

tive proposals boil down to some form of Federal licensing arrangement that would require all purchasers to be licensed; and "the license be issued only to those persons who can prove a need for explosives in the conduct of their business." No matter how they word it; no matter how they attempt to justify it; no matter what they say about the "Intent of Congress"—any simple literal interpretation of that type of legislation will completely wipe out handloading. Unless handloading is actually your business, your means of livelihood, you will not qualify for a license, and without that license you cannot legally obtain or possess smokeless propellant powder.

Now, if you don't think that will happen, if you think it is so ridiculous as not be worth your attention, think again. I can assure you that unless every handloader and a good many other people take action now, such a law will be passed before long. Congress is determined to hold up some form of action to the public and say, "See, these bombings are under control; we've passed a law that makes it impossible for militants to obtain explosives." And while they are saying that to impress constituents, the militant bombers will be quietly at work mixing diesel fuel with tons of cornfield fertilizer, making the same explosives regularly used for many blasting jobs. They won't be inconvenienced much, for it will have 25% MORE explosive power than the TNT our Army uses to blow up pillboxes, fortified bunkers, dams, buildings and anything else that needs prompt and thorough destruction.

Congress alone isn't responsible for this frantic rush to outlaw anything that can be called "explosive." Countless thousands of citizens who fear (with or without reason) bombing in their areas demand it. Unfortunately, their knowledge of the subject is even less than that of their legislators, but with an election year coming up, no office-seeker is going to worry much about a little thing like that; he'll promise those cryers, "We'll stop this

(Continued on page 12)



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(Continued from page 10)

bombing by making it against the law to have dynamite." Seems to me it's already against several laws to go around blowing up buildings and people.

Many journalists have joined the hue and cry. Latest media entry in the race seems to be the National Broadcasting Company. On its "today" show, NBC interviewed one Andrew Teller, member of the International Society of Explosives Specialists, during the week of 8 June. The interviewer displayed a notable unwillingness to ask the usual questions designed to bring out the true facts in any discussion. In fact, Teller had the stage rather to himself, a monologue in reality, except for one leading question. For it, NBC's Mr. Neumann asked what Teller thought about hunting ammunition. Primed and ready, Teller announced with quite a righteous air that he didn't see any reason why a man who bought a hunting license would object being licensed to obtain ammunition or powder. Yet, at one point, he voluntarily admitted that licensing wouldn't stop bombings! If that's so, then what the Hell purpose will licensing serve—other than to give the legislators something to brag about. At no point in this one-sided and misleading presentation did NBC make any attempt to bring up the subject of all those other items that are explosive or can be made so easily by anyone who feels like blowing up a building.

And that is where you, if you take the time to make yourself heard, have those same legislators by the neck-hair. Because, believe it or not, they propose to severely restrict sales and possession of smokeless powder for reloading without making the slightest effort to control the most common powerful explosive in this country; plain old Ammonium Nitrate which is sold by the ton, the truck-load, the trainload every day throughout the Nation as fertilizer. Chances are, the garden department of your neighborhood supermarket or discount store has enough of it stacked carelessly on the sidewalk or in the back room to demolish a pair of downtown city blocks. Properly sensitized with diesel oil or any of a number of other combustible materials, a single 100-pound bag of that harmless fertilizer immediately assumes the power of 100 to 125 pounds of TNT.

It all boils down to this: Congress has the inherent right to pass legislation that will wipe out private use and possession of smokeless powder—but if it does so, we have an equal right to demand that such legislation apply equally to hundreds of other

equally or more hazardous materials which are not now controlled in any manner. This applies to not only ammonium nitrate, gasoline, cleaning fluids, lighter fluid, and many solvents and thinners, but to an almost endless list of common commodities and chemical compounds, all of which can be bought without difficulty and which either already are highly explosive in their usual form or can be readily converted to be so.

The fact that Congress chokes to ignore these other highly hazardous and explosive materials is a result of either total ignorance of the subject upon which they attempt to legislate—or—certain knowledge that there are too many farmers who use fertilizer; factories who use the other compounds; etc. for any such controls on those items to stand the remotest chance of passage. Somehow, I can't believe that the Congressmen I know personally are all that ignorant. I do know that they are usually keenly aware of where opposition to given legislation is likely to develop; and equally aware of how to sidestep that opposition. And can you imagine the screams that would rise up if farmers were told that they must obtain a Federal Explosives license to buy and use fertilizer! And how much louder would those screams be if they had to submit to fingerprinting and mugging for that license, then account precisely for every pound of fertilizer used!

Now we handloaders aren't going to make one iota of progress with those determined and frightened legislators and pressure groups by simply pointing out that smokeless powder restrictions would destroy a hobby and severely inconvenience a few hundred thousand gun enthusiasts—they generally don't like pro-gun people anyway. No, you can write letters of that sort to every Congressman until you run out of paper. It won't do a bit of good—you'll get that stock answer, "But that's a small enough price to pay if it saves lives," accompanied by the clear implication that you are placing your own convenience above other people's lives.

But, if you demand that any restrictions to propellant powders be applied equally to other similarly-hazardous and explosive materials, we'll make some progress. We have that legal right and Congress has that legal responsibility. Congress cannot arbitrarily apply restrictions to one item on the basis of hazard or possibility of illicit use without including other items of the same characteristics. It's as simple as that—providing someone (YOU) hollers loud enough.

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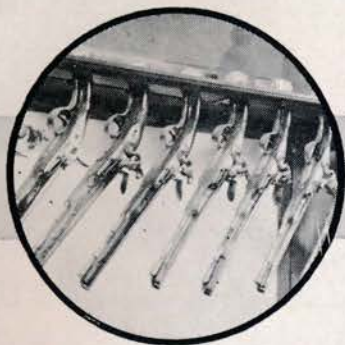
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GUN RACK

Sorel Boots

I never thought the day would come when I would be looking forward to winter, but here I am, waiting for the first cold snap. The reason for this strange behavior is a pair of Sorel boots I received several months ago. These are exceptionally well-made boots, fabricated by Kaufman Footwear Ltd. of Canada.

The reason for my anxious restlessness is that the Sorel boot has been touted as one of the best for keeping feet warm—even in the coldest weather. Here's how they do it. The rubber bottoms come up the side for a

few inches where they meet the top quality leather sides. The secret of the Sorel is quality; only a top quality rubber bottom can be used without a steel arch support (which conduct cold to the feet) and only top quality leather uppers will permit the feet to breathe so that the perspiration is not captured. The Sorel also has a felt liner, but they found that although felt was the best material, it balled up into little chunks, and wool became uncomfortable. So, they added about 25% acetate fibers to the wool felt, and came up with a liner that really works. The Sorel is, as you might ex-

pect, extremely popular in Canada, and if you see a Canadian timber cutter, who stands on cold, frozen ground all day, you can bet that his boots are Sorels.

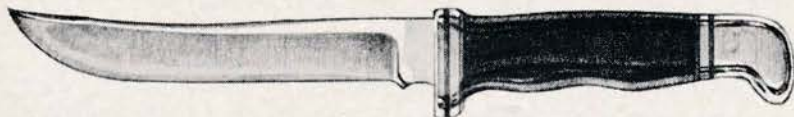
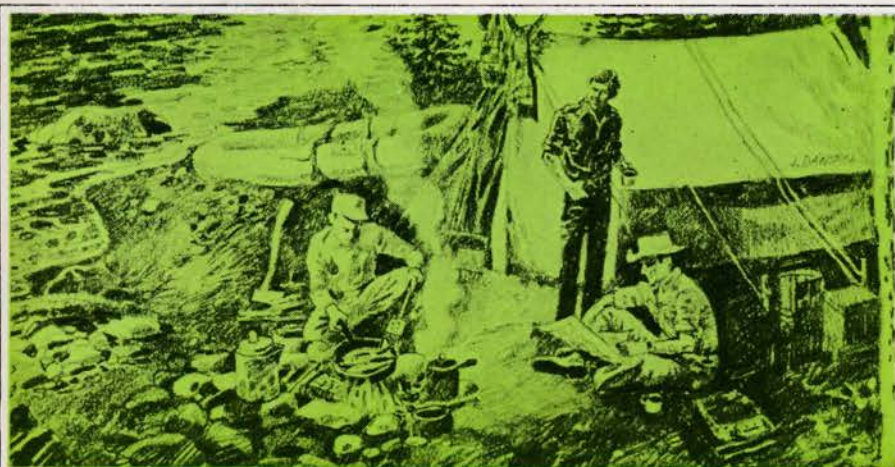


Kaufman also makes an all-leather boot, called the "Chinook" which is guaranteed waterproof, and as handsome a boot as you'll ever see. The Sorel boots sell for \$14.95 to \$24.95, and the Chinooks are priced around \$30.00. If cold, wet feet curtail some of your hunting, I'd suggest that you see your Sorel dealer. Drop a line to the manufacturer for information on where you can get these boots. Kaufman Footwear Ltd., Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

Remington M1100

The most popular autoloading shotgun in point of sales is the Remington Model 1100. It sells like camels in Khartoum, a fact which keeps the model in chronic short supply. This year the Remington company came along with a new one. This is the new Model 1100 lightweight 20, a feathery number intended just especially for feathered targets like bobwhites, ruffed grouse and mourning doves. The new 20 weighs only 6½ pounds and it handles like so much eider-down. Over a long day behind a pair of fast moving pointers the weight never grows on you.

The 20 of mine weighs 6 lb. 7 oz unloaded. The barrel is 26" bored improved cylinder. With Remington
(Continued on page 16)



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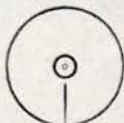
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"All-American" skeet loads, a charge of 2¼ drams Equiv. X 7/8-oz X 9 shot, it will pattern 55%. This is a pretty strong improved cylinder, more like quarter choke, but for doves it is ideal medicine. For quail, I switch to 7½ shot and the pattern then runs between 45% and 52%. The magazine holds 4 cartridges, this has to be plugged to 2 rounds. The gas operation is wonderfully soft as to recoil and the faultless operation of the gas system has seen me fire more than two thousand cartridges in the field and at skeet this year without a bobble.

The raised vent rib, 3/32" in width, is stippled and glare-dampened and adds a good deal to pointing accuracy, but what makes this shotgun such a joy in the field is a subtle built-in balance which Remington engineers achieved when they designed the 1100 model. Whether at skeet or on live birds the gun points surely, quickly, and with a lethality which soon assures the user that here is the gun for him!

The stock with its 14" length of pull and 1½" drop at comb, together with a pistol grip which feels quite comfortable to the average hands, permits the gunner to fetch the gun to shoulder with a fluidity of motion that sees it settle on the target very rapidly. I consistently kill bobwhites on the rise some three to four yards closer to the gun than with any other arm I use. I account for this by the fit of the Remington and its ease of handling.

Not intended for wildfowl shooting the lightweight 20 is not chambered for the 3-inch shell and indeed it performs superbly with the 7/8-ounce to 1-ounce loadings. I have had a most satisfactory season shooting only the light skeet loads in it.—Charles Askins

Beretta AL-2

This is the second season for my 12 gauge Beretta AL-2 autoloader, bored modified with 26-inch barrel. This is the latest scattergun imported by the Firearms Division of the Garcia Corporation. It has a twin, the SL-2 which is the pump repeater. Both use identical receivers, barrels, stocks, trigger assemblies and magazines.

The AL-2, my favorite, is gas operated. The gas is tapped midway of the barrel and impinges on a cylindrical flanged piston which in turn transmits the blow to a ponderous hollow tubing which surrounds the magazine. At the one end of this cylinder is the operating rod. The shotgun is light and mild of recoil and a great deal of the secret of its lightened kick is this heavy tubing which absorbs a consid-

erable part of the recoil during transmission.

Gas cylinder and related parts are stainless steel. The breechbolt is chromium finished and all this contributes to complete freedom from rust and corrosion.

The AL-2 receiver is a lightweight aluminum alloy. It is notable for a dearth of screws and pins. There is one pin which holds the trigger assembly. Last season I pounded slightly more than 2500 shells through the Beretta. This year, some 1850 rounds have been fired. The receiver shows no evidence of this considerable amount of shooting. The breechblock



locks up in an extension of the barrel. It does not lock into the receiver, and there is, for this reason, little strain on the action. The trigger and hammer assembly is mounted on the bottom plate as is the push-button safety. There is a positive disconnecter which eliminates the hazard of the gun doubling. Trigger pull is clean and snappy, breaks at 4 lb. 2 oz.

The magazine holds 3 shells and one in the chamber makes four. The company provides a plug to reduce the capacity to 3 cartridges. The AL-2 is chambered for the standard 2¾" cartridge.

Barrels are completely interchangeable without any fitting or tinkering by a gunsmith. Lengths run 26", 28" and 30-inch with the customary borings of FC in 30-inch, 28" modified and 26-inch improved cylinder. The gun of mine is 26 inches but is bored modified, the choke measuring .705". It shoots strong 65% patterns with Federal, Remington or Western field loads and oftimes goes FC with the larger shot.

The Beretta has a stock of 14 inches length of pull, 1½" drop at comb, and 2½" drop at heel. There is no recoil pad which is a pity. It is checkered at the pistol grip and forestock. The barrel has a raised vent rib of 3/32" width, nicely stippled to eliminate light reflection. The gun, unloaded, weighs 7 lb. 2 oz.

This is a marvelously effective killer on uplands game. I shoot it extensively on mourning doves, white-

(Continued on page 18)

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wings, quail, both bobs and blues, as well as teal in early season. It points lethally, kicks lightly, and never seems to grow heavy toward the end of day. With the ever growing popularity of the gas-functioned scattergun this is one of the most appealing newcomers.—Charles Askins

Pecar Riflescopes

Many old time shooters will remember the Pecar scopes as one of the group of high quality optics from Germany which were popular before the influx of imported scopes and the tremendous growth of the U.S. scope industry. The Pecar scope line had been imported by several firms in the past 15 years, and if it did not become a booming sales success, I think it was due more to the marketing mistakes than to the scope itself. This is a scope of the highest quality, and one that should be examined before you make a final decision on your optics. We have been using one of the Pecar 1.5-4X variables on a 742 Remington, and its performance has been outstanding. The optics are among the finest we have seen, and the mechanical parts worked to perfection.

The unique feature of the Pecar scopes is the availability of an interchangeable reticle. The variable we have sells for \$84.95, and has the

standard crosshair reticle. For an extra \$22.95, we got a spare reticle system—one piece which includes the windage and elevation system—with a heavy verticle post, two heavy horizontal bars, and a dot. Installation of the new reticle is simple, and can be accomplished in a minute or two.

Installation of the new reticle did not change the point of impact, nor did it introduce any parallax. You have a choice of more than 15 different reticles to choose from, and the Pecar line includes three variable scopes, four fixed-power scopes with steel bodies, and two lightweight fixed power scopes.

The prospective scope buyer should take several things into consideration when examining the Pecar. First, the interchangeable reticle system is a plus, and if you have a need for it, it could be a great plus. The Pecar, even if you can't use the interchangeable reticle, is a great scope buy—you'll get your money's worth even if you don't utilize the reticle feature. The Pecar does not have a constant-centered reticle, and it does take 26mm (not standard 1") rings, but these are available at any gun shop. Because of this, it is most important that the scope be mounted by a competent gunsmith, but this should be done in any case. It seems silly to spend a lot of dough for a good scope, and then

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be satisfied with a less-than-professional mounting job.

Again, I think that anyone interested in a good scope should check several models before he buys, and one of these should be the Pecar-Berlin. Available from: Pecar Tucson Ltd., 1910 E. 14th Street, Tucson, Ariz. 85719.

Eddie Bauer

It is traditional on the African safari to wear a safari jacket. These garments were originated by the professional hunters and there is a lot about them that is practical and worthwhile. Probably nothing more than the four roomy pockets. On any hunting foray, the African bush included, you simply cannot have too many pockets. There seems to be something stuffed in each one and sometimes I am tempted to wear a fisherman's jacket which has pockets in the tail of the garment and down the sleeves! On a just concluded African junket to distant Botswana, I had a couple of Eddie Bauer safari jackets.

This outfit is notable for the high quality of their wearing apparel. Long noted for extremely worthwhile goosedown winter coats, vests and jackets, the latest safari coat is typical

of the goodness of the product. The material is an extra heavy weight blend of cotton and polyester fibre



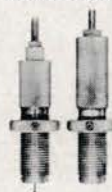
and it not only keeps its shape but it resists quite well the devastating effects of the safari camp laundry.

The Bauer safari jacket comes in two colors, you have your pick. Either desert sand or Loden green (dark green). It is cut generously as to length and width, has a bi-swing back, sleeves that can be rolled up, a belt which is nonessential, plus four roomy and generous pockets. It may be worn either with or without a shirt. I favor the latter style as it is more comfortable. While the desert sand color is more handsome of appearance, the Loden green hue is more practical for the hunting fields. Bauer also provided trousers to match.—Charles Askins

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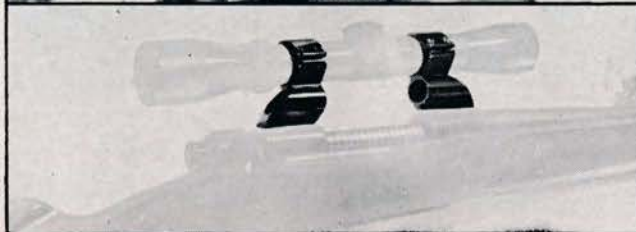


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Shooter's view of the sitting position using a small automatic pistol. This is one of the best.

IGNORANCE may not be bliss, but it can be an advantage. *Not* knowing the wrong things may be more important than knowing the right things. Right?

Yeah. If you're confused, you have an inkling of how I felt in the face of the totality of all shooting lore, composed, I learned later, of equal parts of cold scientific fact, honored historical tradition, and wholesome organic fertilizer.

I didn't get interested in shooting until just a couple or three years ago. My wife, with some unsubtle nudging, presented me with my first gun for Christmas. It was a Crosman 38-T, one of those .22 caliber CO₂ six-shooters that looks and feels like a Smith and Wesson magnum. It comes with a six-inch barrel and gets about 50 shots per 12 gram cylinder, and for an extra four dollar bill you can get a 3 inch barrel that converts the whole thing to a Dick Tracy special.

Purchased more as a feeble personal protest against Big Brother's increasing enfringments on my rights than as a serious sporting or defense arm, I had no idea what extremes of lunacy that seemingly innocent toy would lead me to.

For a starter, my total previous experience with firearms was about a year's weekly paper-punching on a fifty-foot indoor Junior NRA range. This was somewhere about 6th or 7th grade, and, as I was the proverbial 98 pound weak-



This sitting position works better with small automatics than sand bag rests as the barrels are too short to lay properly on the rests.



The Browning .25 automatic is certainly a fine little "plinker" that can give the shooter the practice he needs at a comparatively low price.

AT 100 YARDS

By NEIL SMITH

ling through most of grade-school, the winning combination of a twelve pound rifle and the formal target competition soured me somewhat on the shooting sports.

I was left with the rudiments of apple-on-a-post alignment, squeeze-don't-jerk technique, and a compulsive urge to police up any brass I saw lying around. This, of course, is handy and sensible for a shooter and loader of centerfire cartridges, but it is maddeningly distracting for a rimfire plinker. I was also left with no notion whatever of the limitations of small bore arms, especially handguns.

Understand, I'm a great fan of the NRA. I wouldn't be where I am today without it. Someday I'll get even.

With a foundation like this, I could have used a brother-in-law on the county school board. Before you could say "Alexander Hamilton", I was driving brads with that air-gun in my 30-foot basement range, using an interlocking two-handed grip with knees, elbows, and a couple of toes thrown in. That 44 ounces of assorted alloys was doing things for my arm that would make Charles Atlas trade in his G-string for a BB gun.

I could write my name in spattered lead at ten paces, but the first time I tried a really long shot (75 yards — I'm not a man of small ideas) I made an exciting and novel discovery: bullets don't travel in straight lines, but in parabolas. Very steep parabolas when you're cooking with gas. Naturally, rather than crank up that lovely click-adjusting rear

sight and spoil my 30-foot sight picture (besides, the adjustment screw isn't long enough) I found if I aimed about sixty-five feet above the target, I could come close to hitting paydirt every second or third shot at 75 yards.

Now I was hooked. I devoured magazine articles on long-range pistol shooting. (For and against. I'm no bigot.) Then I rushed out and bought myself an equalizer that would make me a little more equal.

What I ended up with, my first firearm, and my first pocket pistol, was an Astra Cub in .22 short. She was 11 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches of deadly Spanish steel, a thirteen ounce howitzer that shot approximately where I pointed her with really surprising reliability. All for thirty-odd bucks and my life signed away on a government form.

Now, no one ever told me a gun like that is impractical beyond twenty yards; why, the first and last time I ever drew a gun in self-defense, it was the Astra I relied upon. My would-be assailant was 150 pounds of hungry St. Bernard, and he was more frightened by my six-cell flashlight. I'm glad, though. I have a feeling .22 shorts just would have made him very, very angry.

At any rate, six month's arduous practice with my three-pound gas-belching short-range blunderbuss under my belt had left me delirious with overconfidence. I took my new pride and joy out to our handy combination shooting-range/garbage dump south of town. The only bench avail-



The Llama "Especial" .32 ACP is another good gun for non-serious shooting. This one has had a trigger shoe fitted to greatly improve pull.



The Walther PP has often been referred to as the "Cadillac" of automatic pistols and for good reason. Quality is outstanding.



The Llama "Especial" is no longer being imported due to the GCA '68. Lyman mould is for 77 grain loads. Note the cannellure on loaded rounds, applied with a SAS tool.

able was on the 100 yard rifle range, so I leveled my trusty Astra at various objects 50, 75, and 100 yards downrange. And damned if I couldn't dot the "i" in Schlitz 3 times out of 4 using the two-hand knee-clamp full-lotus contortion I'd read about. It scorched the hell out of my pants, but could I ever shoot straight!

Yes, they laughed when I sat down at the bench rest. They called my trusty mini-hawgleg a fly swatter and a cigarette lighter. But by now I was addicted to the wierdest wildcat branch of the firearms sport ever fermented in the feverish brain of an untutored novice.

Me: "See that rock downrange—the little one on the back wall—about 73 yards, wouldn't you say?"

Wham! (Short barrels make quite an auditory impression, if nothing else.) A puff of dust two inches below and to the right of said rock.

Them: (Glowing praise, considering the flinty-souled bunch I hang around with,) "Pretty good for a little peashooter like that; now would you give me a light?"

I scrimped. I saved. The runs in my wife's nylons had runs. The dog ate Brand X.

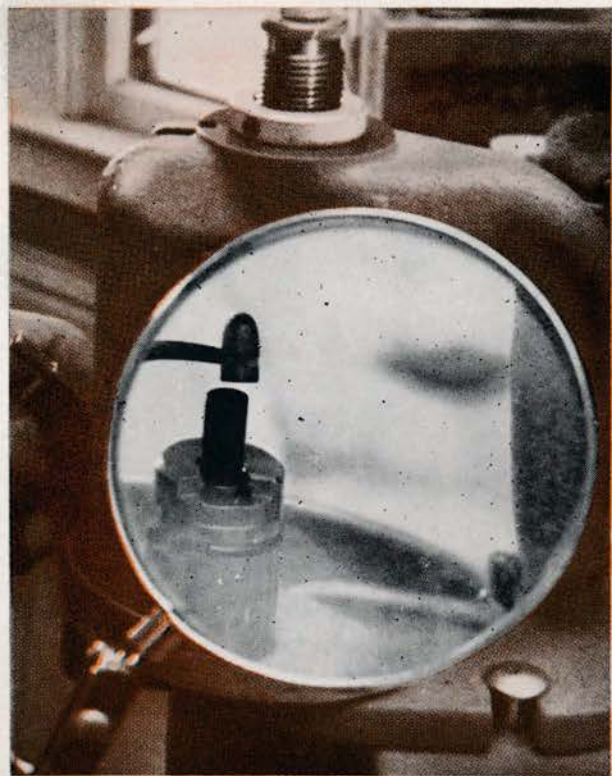
But the dear girl (wife, not dog) juggled the books courageously and *almost* uncomplainingly. (Yes, there are wives like that. Simply exercise as much taste and discrimination in choosing a mate as you do in choosing a shotgun, and wedded bliss can be eternally yours.) Finally I had enough for the ultimate of pocket-pistols, the Cadillac of firearms, a Walther PP in .22 long rifle.

Now I never missed at 100 yards. (Well, hardly ever.) I simply required abysmal ignorance, gritty determination, and total absence of crosswind. It also helped to aim four feet high, and utter a silent prayer to the benevolent shade of Daniel Boone.

It was at this point I also learned to cheat at that most time-honored of plinking games, "Kick the Can." This is a relatively simple competitive pastime requiring a can or some other shootable object and a number of shooters. Object: each player fires in turn, knocking the can downrange. Each shooter keeps it up until he misses, dropping out. Last to move the can wins. This is not as easy as it sounds, because of the tendency to shoot high at objects below eye level, or because of the tendency to overcorrect, or because of the continuously changing ranges involved. Add to that the hurricane-force wind continually blowing over the dustbowl we laughingly call a shooting range, and you have a game for a real sport. Especially if the wind blows the can back at you.

As I said, there is a way to fudge. Just aim a couple of inches *below* your mark, and if the bullet misses, the resulting spray of dirt never fails to throw the can a couple of feet. I've won a lot of beer this way, and somehow, it has a flavor somewhat akin to that of the stolen watermelon my dad used to tell me about.

Another snazzy game for super plinkers requires the use of a bottle. Point the mouth of the bottle toward you and try to put out the bottom without breaking the neck. For some reason this is easier than it sounds, although I highly recommend the use of plastic soap- (Continued on page 57)



The author wasn't kidding about using tweezers and a magnifying glass! Cartridge being loaded is for the .25 ACP Browning. Lots of fun!

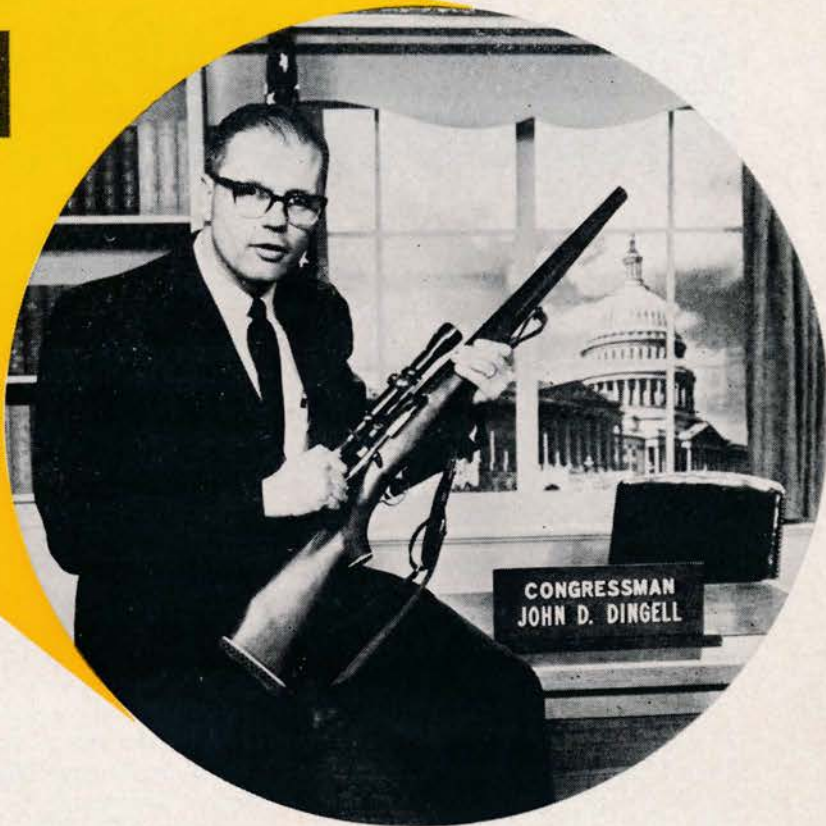
SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN DINGELL

**A day with a pro-gun
Congressman from Michigan.**

By CARL WOLFF

REPRESENTATIVE John D. Dingell (D., Mich.), learned about lawmaking around the campfire while hunting and fishing with his New Deal father, the late Congressman John D. Dingell, Sr., and in the House of Representatives, directly, by serving as a House Page during his teenage years.

He now chairs the powerful House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation. He is engaged in a major legislative effort to create a national network of public shooting ranges, federally supported through the manufacturer's excise tax now collected on handguns. He has, since the anti-gun controversy started, lead the fight against such laws. This he has done much as a hobby while most effectively representing his people, most especially those in his district of lower Michigan.



If a label must be put on Rep. Dingell, or "Long John," as his fellow lawmakers affectionately call him, he would have to be called an old-fashioned liberal. He is totally dedicated to the fundamental Constitutional freedoms for Americans.

"The right of the honest citizen to have a firearm in the home for his protection or for whatever lawful purpose is one of the fundamental liberties unique to the United States in all the world. It is," as stated by John, "one of the rights that makes this country the best, the freest nation on the face

of the earth."

Congressman Dingell has represented the people of Michigan since 1955, following his father's death, and has earned praise from many prominent observers, including veteran lawmakers such as the retiring Speaker of the House, John McCormack, who in 1964 called John "truly a People's Congressman." He has been honored with about every national conservation award around. In the Congress, he is "Mister Conservation." He is also an avid reader of GUNS Magazine.

Following (Continued on page 72)



Congressman Dingell has been a long-time reader of "Guns" and outdoors magazines.

Wolff, right, talking with Dingell and his secretary at the start of a busy day.



MINDANAO

GUN

By ROBERT L. UNDERBRINK

DURING MOST of the Pacific War—from mid 1942 until late 1945—the gun lay hidden in the crotch of a tree on Mindanao Island in the Philippines. It was an 1873 Colt .45 Single Action revolver, owned by a famous American military commander, Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. “Skinny” Wainwright. Throughout the period that the pistol remained concealed in a tree in the Southern Philippines, the general was a prisoner of war.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States found itself in a war for which it was little prepared. Though led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, a brilliant tactician, the 100,000-man garrison in the Philippine Islands was unable to halt the enemy. Within three weeks of the outbreak of hostilities,

MacArthur was compelled to withdraw his forces to the mountainous and jungle-covered Bataan peninsula. While the Japanese 14th Army slowly slashed its way down the peninsula, their air force mounted increasingly destructive bombing attacks upon Corregidor, the island fortress in Manila Bay, where General MacArthur had his headquarters. When MacArthur was ordered to Australia in early March 1942, General Wainwright became commander of all U.S. forces in the islands.

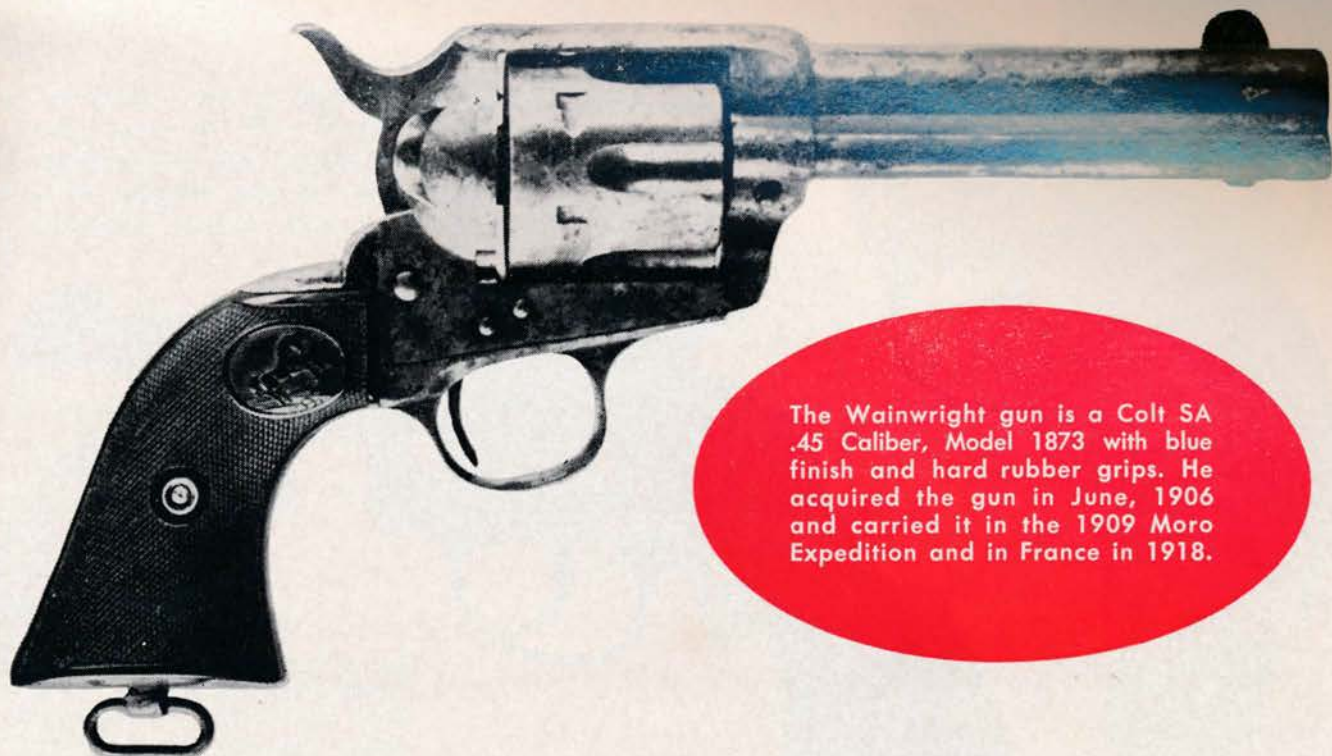
With relief out of the question, the outlook for the more than 100,000 persons on Bataan and Corregidor was exceedingly grim. For a hundred days and a hundred nights, the troops on Bataan repulsed determined assaults by the enemy. Finally, sick and starving, physically exhausted, the American

and Filipino soldiers could fight no more. On April 9, 1942, the shattered Bataan command surrendered to the victorious Japanese. Corregidor now stood alone.

In response to Gen. Wainwright's appeals for critical medical supplies and badly-needed anti-aircraft fuses, two U.S. Navy PBY flying boats were dispatched from Australia. Following a brief stopover in Mindanao for refueling, the big seaplanes continued north, landing off Corregidor on the night of April 29, 1942. Cargo was hurriedly discharged and more than fifty passengers, including many nurses, boarded the aircraft. Despite a bright full moon and the fact that the flying boats lay within range of enemy guns, the seaplanes took off safely and headed south into the night.



Maj. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, is shown talking with Douglas MacArthur, October 10, 1941. Official U.S. Army photograph.



The Wainwright gun is a Colt SA .45 Caliber, Model 1873 with blue finish and hard rubber grips. He acquired the gun in June, 1906 and carried it in the 1909 Moro Expedition and in France in 1918.

Col. Stuart Wood, Wainwright's intelligence officer, was a passenger in the lead plane. At that period of the war, the United States was confronted with a serious shortage of persons who

understood Japanese. Since Col. Wood, a language student in Tokyo from 1938 to 1941, had an excellent command of Japanese, MacArthur had ordered his evacuation from Corregidor.

Shortly before the PBY's landed off Corregidor, Gen. Wainwright entrusted his personal revolver to Col. Wood, along with the request that it be presented to Gen. MacArthur. Wainwright wanted the general to have the gun "as a token of his admiration and esteem, and in appreciation of their close personal relationship." Wood assured Gen. Wainwright that he would do everything in his power to see that the revolver reached MacArthur.

Wainwright had owned the gun for many years. In April 1906, the gun, serial number 277996, had been shipped from the Colt factory at Hartford, Connecticut, to William Reed and Sons in New York City. Wainwright apparently purchased the gun from Reed's soon after his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in June 1906. He had carried it in the Philippines during the 1909 Moro Expedition, and also in France in 1918. Gen. Wainwright had taken the revolver with him when he returned to the Philippines in 1940, and now he wanted to give it to his good friend, Gen. MacArthur, in Australia.

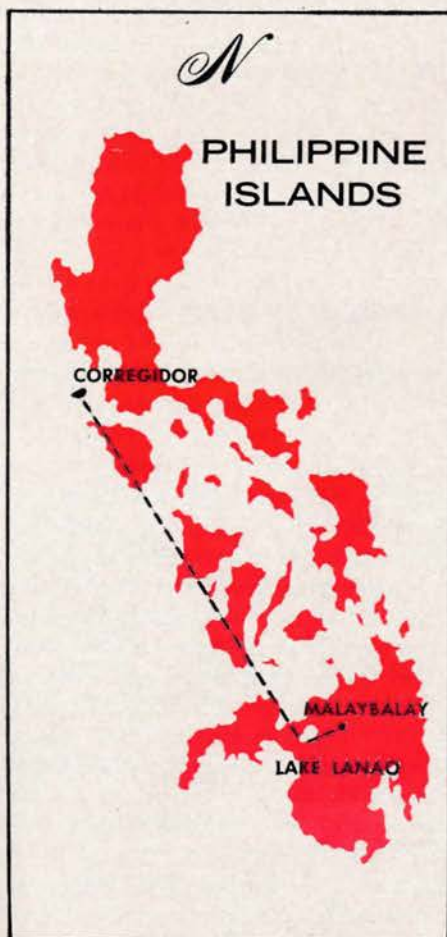
The flying boats landed at Lake Lanao the following morning. Since

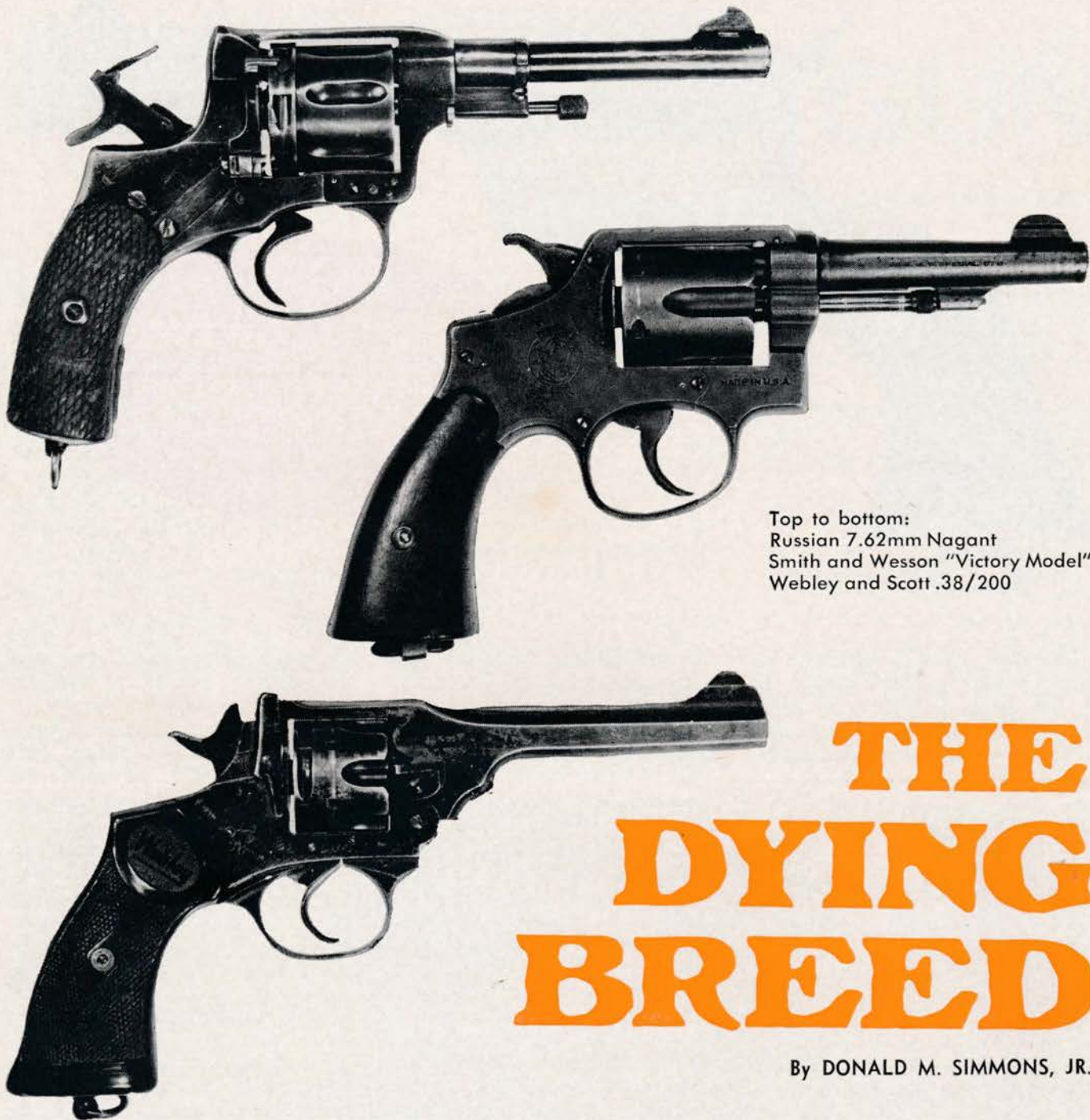
the PBY's would remain there until dusk, they were carefully camouflaged to prevent discovery by Japanese aircraft which patrolled Mindanao during the day. Unfortunately, when the flying boat carrying Col. Wood and his companions attempted take off that evening, it hit some submerged rocks, tearing a long gash in the fragile hull. With water pouring into the flying boat, take off was out of the question, and the pilots hastily beached the aircraft.

By the time the passengers disembarked, the center compartment had two feet of water, with more coming in all the time. The bow rested on the beach and the port wing hung over the shore, but the plane was settling by the tail, which lay in deep water. In the growing darkness, crewmen slogged through the ship stripping it of all excess weight. Even so, the tail section slid lower into the water, and it appeared doubtful the flying boat could be salvaged.

Abandoning the disabled seaplane, Col. Wood, Navy Commander Frank Bridget, and the rest of the evacuees made their way overland to an army air field located at Del Monte. From the airfield, they radioed an appeal to Australia for a four-engine bomber.

While the evacuation party waited at Del Monte, the Navy men at Lake Lanao worked feverishly attempting to repair their (Continued on page 59)





Top to bottom:
 Russian 7.62mm Nagant
 Smith and Wesson "Victory Model"
 Webley and Scott .38/200

THE DYING BREED

By DONALD M. SIMMONS, JR.

THE THREE MAJOR Allied powers of World War II probably played the swan song of the revolver as a serious war weapon. I can hear revolver lovers the world around getting ready to do battle with me for this heresy, but before we come to blows, let me point out that I'm speaking in a military vein and not as a shooter, or even as an admirer of this wierd mechanism.

There were many cases during World War II when a nation's stock pile of arms was running out and when the faithful revolver was brought out of mothballs and recommissioned. I am not talking about these retreads. I am talking of revolvers which were made during World War II and were issued to troops in fighting units. The Russians, the British and the Americans each made and used revolvers probably for the last time they will ever go to war. My intention is to look at these revolvers and dig into the why and wherefore of their lease on life at this late date. First

off, let's take a look at the Russian 7.62mm Nagant.

The Russians had always taken great pride in their cavalry, the legendary Cossacks. When it became brutally apparent in World War I that the pony boys could no longer save the day in a battle against machine guns, the Cossacks were de-emphasized but not entirely disbanded. The Russians, of all the great powers, were the most loathe to banish completely their four legged comrades. Even in World War II, one will find many instances of the USSR using horses in war to haul carts and even artillery. The cavalry always loved their obsolete revolver and you will find that Russians made revolvers all through the war, for this branch mainly, but these pistols were carried by men in all branches and were real fighting guns.

What kind of a revolver did Ivan use? Well, it was reasonably rugged and well made. It was carried by officers and more likely the old cavalry type. The Russian Nagant

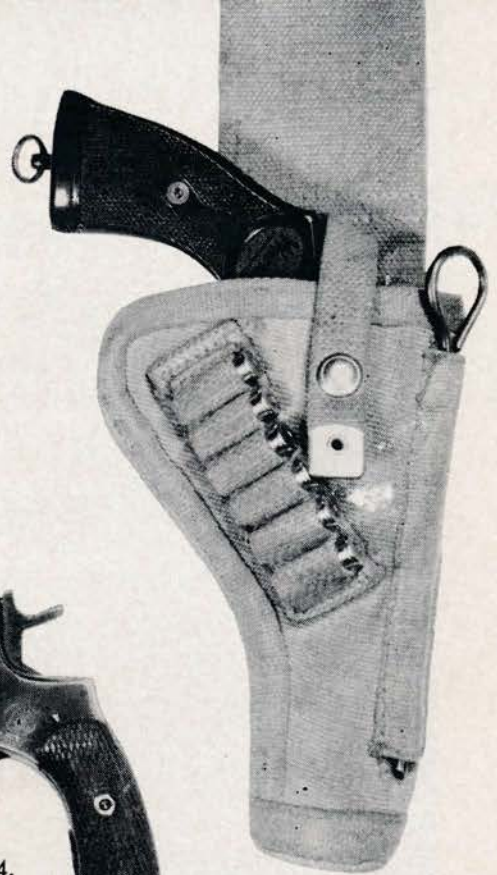
The revolver was a fighting gun in every sense of the word. With the advent of the automatic, it has been phased out of the armies of virtually every major power.



Early S & W K-22.



Russian Nagant made in 1944.



revolver was designed just before the turn of the century by a Belgian inventor named Nagant. The original Nagants were made by the Belgian firm of Pieper and were bought by the Czarist Russians, starting in 1895, for their Armed Forces. The Russians later began their own manufacture of these revolvers. The Nagant has one very unique feature found in no other type of revolver and that is a gas seal between the front of the cylinder and the rear of the barrel at the moment of firing. The cylinder of this unusual pistol is carried forward so that the edge of the shell of the cartridge actually enters the barrel. The projectile in the Nagant is loaded into the shell so deeply that it cannot be seen from the side, much like a wadcutter .38 special but even more deeply seated. The gas seal thus formed has another benefit in that it overcomes the classic weakness of a revolver, alignment. The alignment of the cylinder and the barrel is assured by the Nagant system. As in all good things there is a price to be paid for these two benefits. The Nagant is extremely cranky to cock in either double or single action due undoubtedly to the extra energy needed to cam the cylinder. The second fly in the ointment is that all this extra mechanism undoubtedly could lead to a field maintenance nightmare.

The Nagant was the only hand arm in the Russian military until the 1930's when the Tokarev automatic pistol started to replace the older gun. The Nagant and the Tokarev both fire a 7.62 mm projectile but the velocity of the Nagant for all it's gas seal is 950 feet per second compared to the hot 1500 feet per second of the Tokarev. The grips on the Nagant are made of wood, but a unique feature is the addition of wood at the front and the rear of the frame. This is a separate piece of wood sandwiched between the sides of the frame. My guess is that due to the extreme cold found in Russia, this wood was added to save

hands. The late Nagant's are double-action, i.e., they will fire with the hammer in the down position by a strong pull on the trigger. When the trigger is released after firing, the hammer is locked in a rebound position. Even if the hammer's firing pin were resting on a loaded chamber, it wouldn't fire if accidentally struck. This rebound hammer lock is a safety found in all well designed revolvers. The most antedated thing about the Russian gun is it's method of loading and unloading. The unusual seven rounds capacity cylinder must be loaded singly from the right rear by swinging a loading gate down—shades of the Colt Single Action. Ejection is by a non-spring loaded rod ejector, also reminiscent of the Colt Single Action. For an arm made as a serious weapon through the 1940's, this was a very anachronistic method of loading and ejecting. This pistol is also equipped with a military lanyard loop on the bottom of the grip. Even late in World War II the Russians gave their Nagants a good external polish and a conventional blue finish.

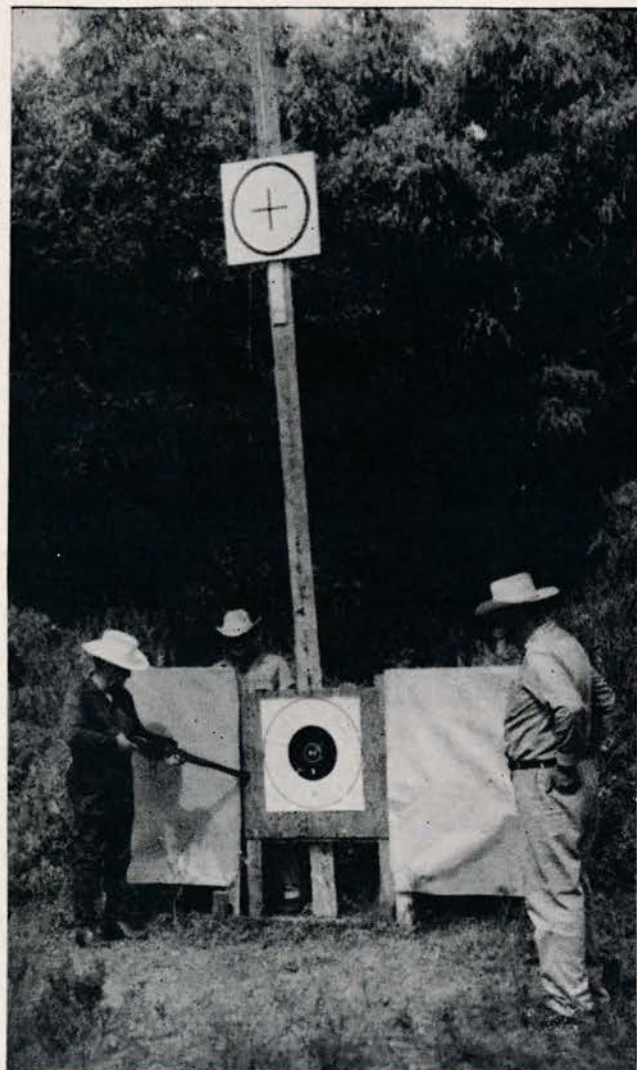
All in all the Russian Nagant is a well made and rugged arm and is only handicapped by being hopelessly complicated and too costly for military use. This is true of all revolvers in the eyes of the modern military. Notice that the Nagant does do away with the classic gas leak at the cylinder and that perfect alignment is guaranteed between cylinder and barrel. Even with these unique pluses the Nagant is an antique that outlived it's prime by years.

The Webley and Scott .38/200 is next on the list.

In the decade before World War II, the British had decided to do away with their .455 revolver and replace it with a .38 caliber revolver. The British Army, unlike most of the other major countries, had never adopted an automatic pistol. Their thinking just before World War II was that a .38 caliber slug moving (Continued on page 62)



Some outfitters are honest and ethical, others are quite unprincipled. Be sure you get a list of references from each.



A BIG GAME hunt to involve from 10 days to as much as a month and a half, is an expensive affair in both time and money. It should be approached with all the caution that the ordinary expenditure of from five hundred dollars to as much as seven or eight thousand would require if the money was invested in, say, real estate, automobiles, or other tangible property.

The hard facts are that a hunting expedition these days is a costly adventure. If you elect to shoot on this continent it is a good bite, but if your plans take you to such far-away places as Kenya, India, Australia or the moors of Scotland, it is a good deal more expensive. The least thing a fellow can do to be sure his dollars are well invested is to make sure he is getting all he pays for before he shoves off from home. These days the woods are full of quick-buck artists who are out to gather in your dinero and in return give you something less than a satisfactory hunt. We propose in this opus to provide a few guidelines so that you avoid the shysters as much as you can.

North American hunting usually involves moose, bear, mountain sheep, elk or pronghorn antelope, with secondary expeditions for deer, mountain goat, caribou, mountain lion and javelia. Almost invariably the hunt involves a trip either by plane or auto, with a subsequent joining up with the outfitter and travel either by hunting car, plane, horseback or afoot to the main hunting camp. This preliminary journeying adds to the expense of the hunt and sometimes, as when going to Alaska, it is a big item. An outfitter, who hunts in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area of Idaho, meets his parties on the Montana side of the Idaho-Montana border and mounts them up on horses for a 50 mile ride into his camp. Many a sportsman, by the time he has made that ride is not fit to hunt for 4-5 days. Be sure you

Be sure you are properly sighted in before leaving home. Most western shooting is done at 200 yards.

While there are many reputable outfitters around the world, many are out for a fast buck, and not the four-legged kind with fur!

Charles Askins



By CHARLES ASKINS

PLANNING THE BIG GAME HUNT

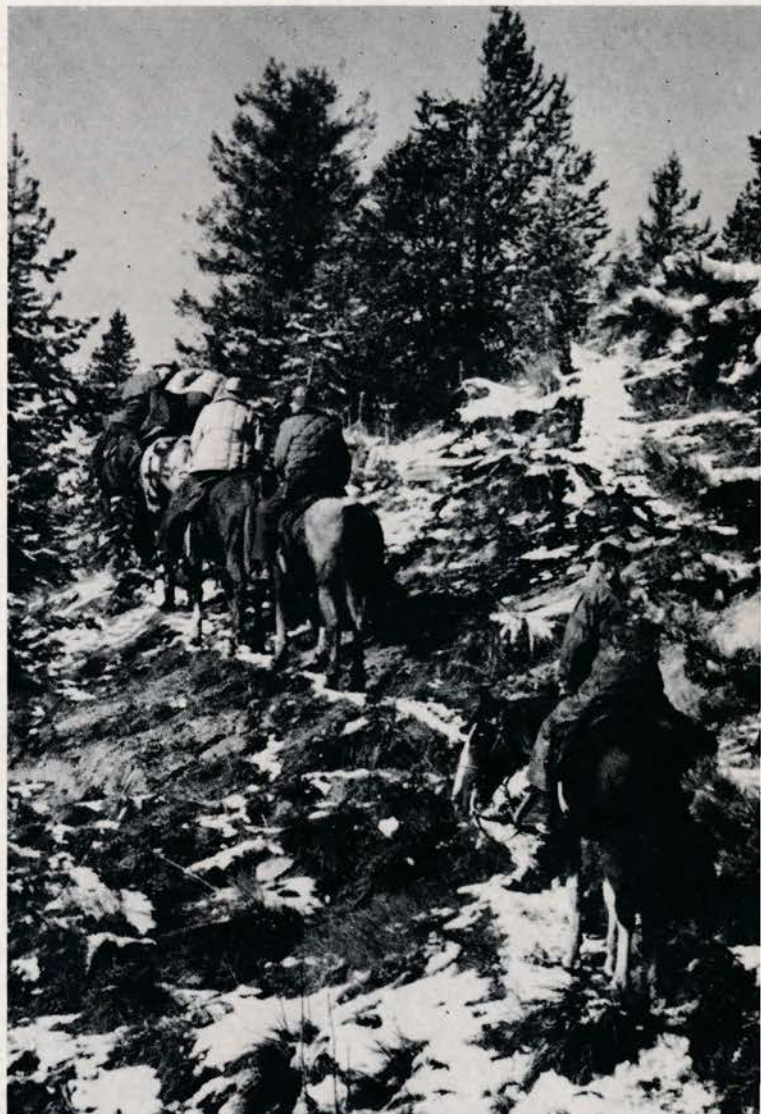
know exactly what is ahead for you before you contract for that long-dreamed of hunting soiree!

It is quite easy to get in touch with a guide-outfitter in the area where you want to hunt. Most of them advertise in the guns and shooting magazines and all you need do is to write a short letter and you will get the full story, complete with prices. You will find, in making a study of the offerings and the costs, that the story all has the same ring to it but the prices may vary considerably. Unlike the housewife who always takes the lowest figure because it is a bargain this is not the procedure with a big game hunt. The jazbo who cuts his going figure below that of his competitors will nine times out of ten give you exactly what you buy. You get a cut rate and a hunt that is exactly what you have paid for. Something that will leave a sour taste in your mouth.

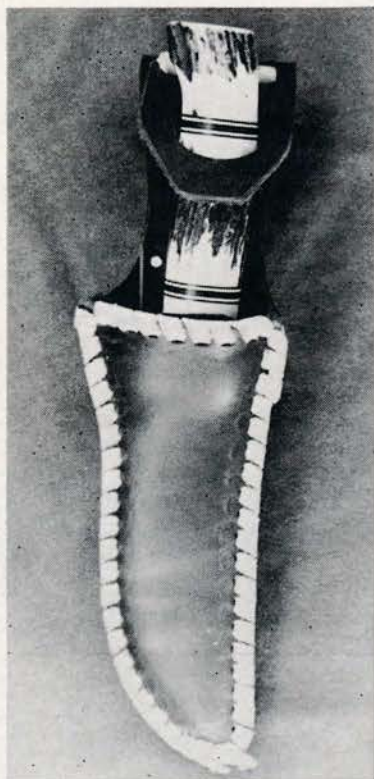
The thing to do is to write for the information and the prices of not less than 4 or 5 outfitters in the area where you want to hunt. After you have heard from them, studied their brochures and compared their prices, then write each of them again and ask him for references. And these should be clients who hunted only the season before. When this list of references has arrived, be quite diligent to write to each of them. Not to the the first name on the list but to all of them. Keep careful account of those who reply. If you write to 6 references and get replies from only two, be suspicious. Why didn't the others recommend the outfitter? You may be sure you did not hear because something went sour with the hunt. Unless every last reference replies and all of them are quite enthusiastic about the guide-outfitter, I would have many reservations about shooting with him. There is something he does not do or something he does badly which has persuaded his references not to put their stamp of approval on him.

If you do get replies from all the references and all of them say the "Old Boy" is okay, *(Continued on page 43)*

Most big game hunts in the mountains involve lots of horseback riding. Be prepared for saddle sores!



WORLD'S FINEST



AS MOST KNIFE BUFFS are well aware, there are more men turning out handmade knives today than ever before in our nation's history; and it is a fact that the finest knives the world has ever seen are being made at this very time in the United States.

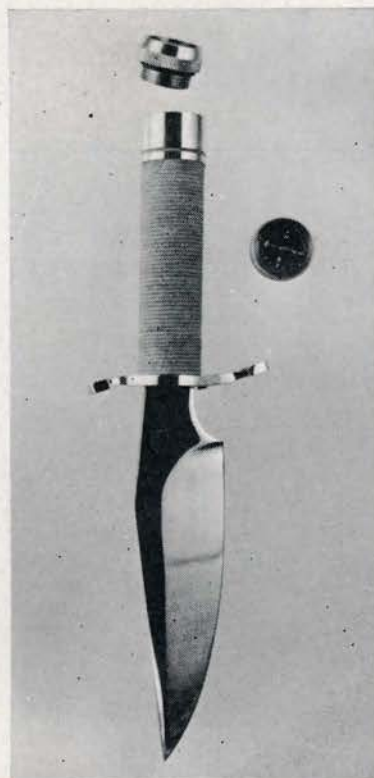
Thirty years ago there were not 10 men engaged in turning out top-quality handmade knives—today there are more than 30 makers whose work is outstanding, plus a dozen or so more making at least fair knives.

In reality, the popularity of handmade knives in America can be traced back primarily to one man—Jim Bowie. This American folk-hero, already famous as a result of the notorious brawl on the Vandalia Sandbar, placed an order with one James Black of Washington, Arkansas, for a custom-made fighting knife. Black had a reputation on the American frontier of being one of the better blacksmiths in business at that time. Soon after accepting Black's handiwork, Bowie was assailed by three highwaymen, all of

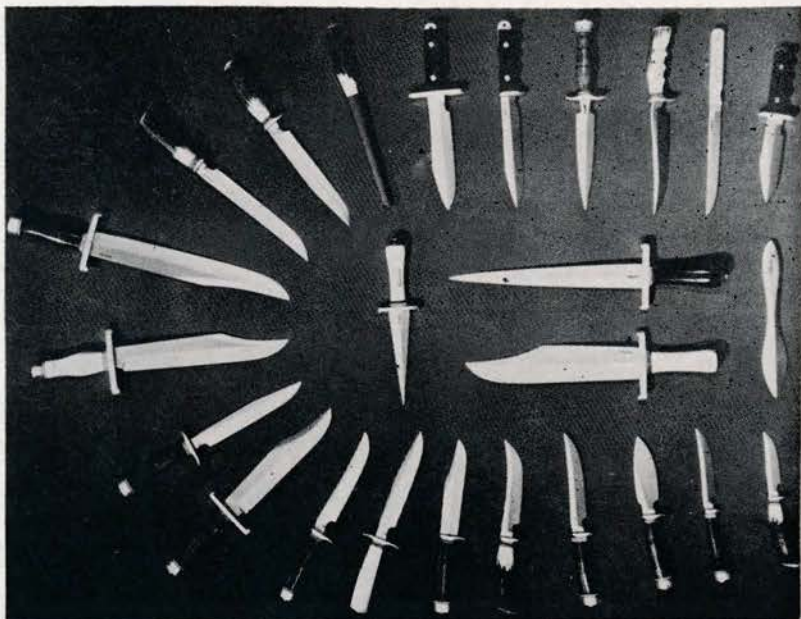
whom he promptly dispatched with the new knife. Shortly thereafter, Black was besieged by men who wanted knives "just like Bowie's". It was but a short semantic step to the simpler, "Bowie knife." Black, then, may be said to be the first American cutlerer to do a brisk business in handmade knives.

During the first quarter of the 20th century, only a few men turned out handmade knives in any quantity, and up until World War II men such as Ruana, Staeger, Scagel, and a few others were the outstanding practitioners of what appeared to be a dying art.

Then W. D. Randall, Jr., began to turn out excellently crafted fighting knives for the nation's servicemen, and soon more and more orders flooded his Orlando, Florida, shop. It was not long before Randall was weeks, then months behind on his orders. Soon other makers began to turn out knives, and the impetus given to the market for handmade knives by Randall started the boom that we are experiencing today.



Above, left: The famous Morseth sheath furnished with all Morseth knives. Left: An original survival knife made with hollow handle for fishhooks, medicine, etc. Below: Some of the offerings of "Bo" Randall of Florida.



KNIVES



By B. R. HUGHES

By 1960 there were perhaps 25-30 men engaged in making handcrafted knives in the United States, and since then the number has increased steadily.

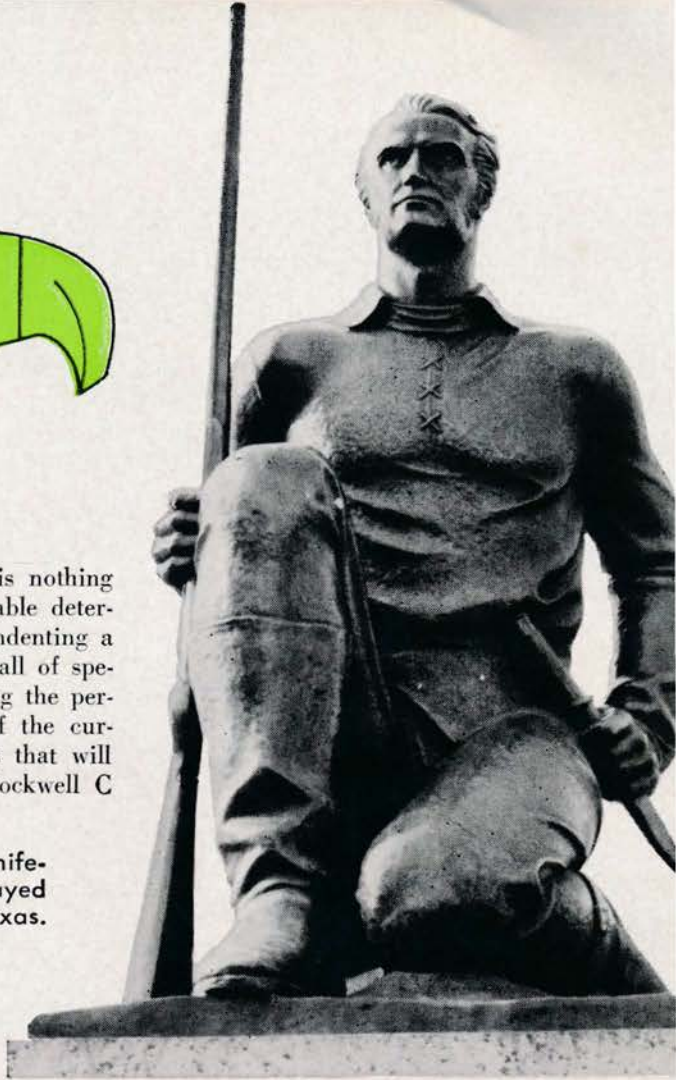
Generally speaking, we may divide the men who turn out handmade knives into two groups—the smiths and the makers. The smiths favor forging a blade, while the makers grind until they reach the desired size and shape. Which method is best? That depends upon whom you ask, but suffice to say that, for example, R. W. Loveless is a maker and W. F. Moran is a smith. Obviously, either method can result in a superior knife provided the work is done by a skilled craftsman.

In the strictest sense, all of today's makers use one of two types of steel: high carbon tool steel and alloy tool steel. The so-called stainless steel is in the latter group, and the most common used for blades today is 440C. High carbon tool steel is simply steel containing .90 percent or more carbon.

Frequently knifemakers use the Rockwell C scale to express the hard-

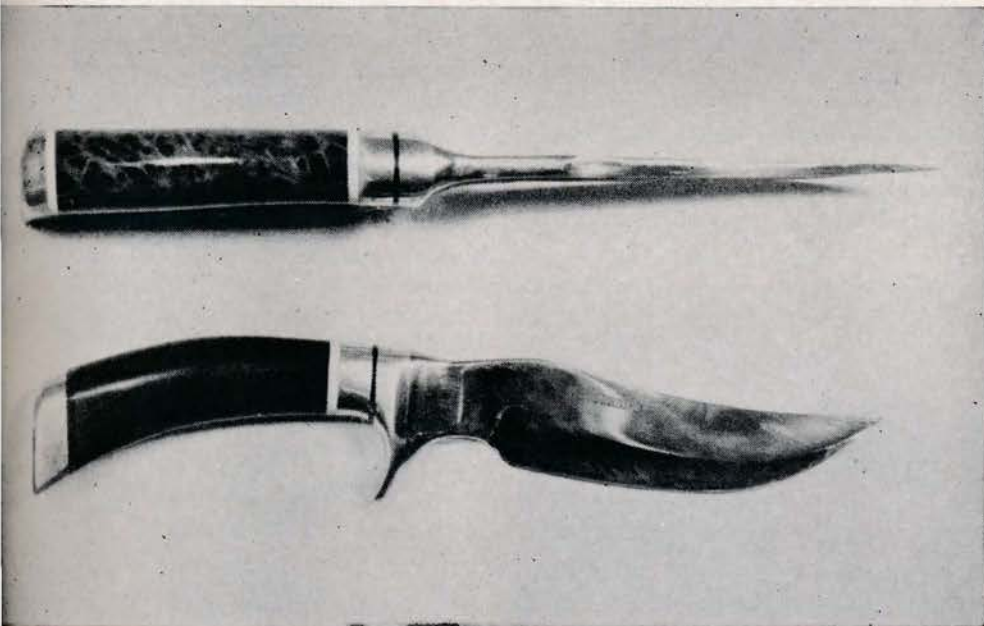
ness of their blades. This is nothing more than a comparative table determined by a test made by indenting a piece of steel with a steel ball of specific diameter and measuring the permanent indentation. Few of the current makers produce knives that will go as low as 50 on the Rockwell C

One of the legends of knifedom, Jim Bowie is portrayed by this statue in Bowie, Texas.



A custom skinning model made by Harvey Draper. The handle is made of Indian Sambar stag. →

Thunderbird Knives, 912 So. 2nd St., Blackwell, Okla., is offering custom knives, plus kits for do-it-your-selves. ↓





Two fine examples of knifemaking artwork—a Cooper Alaskan Skinner, left, and a Ralph Bone Model L.

and the sheath offered by Morseth must rate top billing. It contains a fiber inner-sheath which fully protects the wearer while locking the knife snugly in although it can be easily removed. Then there is a “locking” flap which fits over the handle, assuring the wearer that his knife will be there when he needs it.

Today's knives range widely in overall quality, with some being sold rating little better than junk. However, the majority of modern makers turn out work that is excellent by any standard, and a few offer knives that are superlative. A note: The poor knives generally cost just as much as the good ones, so price alone is not a guarantee that your money will result in the purchase of a top-quality knife. The best safeguard is to try to examine the actual product itself, and, failing this, look over the brochures offered by most makers and take note of their features and guarantees. Beware those which state your money will be refunded only if you return the knife in “new condition”. Obviously, you cannot tell much about a knife if you cannot use it, since looks are often deceiving. Many of the makers, such as Dowell, Heath, Hueske, and Loveless, to name only four, offer really good guarantees. Remember if you request any makers' brochures, to send along at least fifty cents to cover the cost of postage, time, and the cost of the brochure itself.

Frequently, one encounters some article in which some writer has selected the “top ten” or “finest five” of today's makers. Usually such ratings are at best based on insufficient information, and at the (Continued on page 69)

scale, with the vast majority falling into the 54-58 bracket. A very few will exceed 60, but in some cases this results in a knife that is somewhat brittle.

The favorite handle materials today would include coco bolo, a hard wood with orange and red streaks that takes a fine polish; rosewood, a wood which has an even grain with colors ranging from dark brown to purple; and Micarta, a laminate of fabric and phenolic resin which is virtually indestructible. Ivory, while attractive, is not a particularly good handle material, as it will generally crack, regardless of the care lavished upon it. Stag is a fine material, and Indian sambar stag is

considered ideal, as this type does not have a hollow core. Most makers offer such handles, while Merle Seguire offers caribou stag, which makes a most attractive handle.

One factor connected with handmade knives that is too often neglected by maker and buyer alike is the matter of the sheath. A quality knife deserves a quality sheath, and a few which I feel that are outstanding include those offered by Morseth, Seguire, Draper, Dowell, Dennehy, Sparks, Randall, Bone, Sewell, Zaccagnino, and Loveless, in no particular order. A good sheath should not only contain the knife—it should protect the wearer—



The Lile knife designed primarily for skinning. Note the well executed finger grooves on the handle.



Col. Uri Yarom (left) receives the Kentucky from officers of the Conn. Gun Guild, S. Daniel Juliani (center) and Eric Earn.

A "KENTUCKY" GOES TO TEL AVIV

By ROBERT MANDEL

ON MAY 17, 1970, Ye Connecticut Gun Guild presented a rare Kentucky Rifle to the Israel Defense Forces Museum of Tel Aviv. Accepting this gift for the museum was Lt. Col. Uri Yarom, Assistant Military Attache of the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

In accepting the rifle Col. Yarom said "You could not have chosen a better symbol to give the state of Israel. This rifle is the symbol of a young nations struggle for freedom. Yet it is a symbol not just of a national freedom, but of individual freedom. I don't believe there is a better feeling of individual freedom than the hunter walking early in the morning through an un-polluted countryside with an un-registered rifle on his arm."

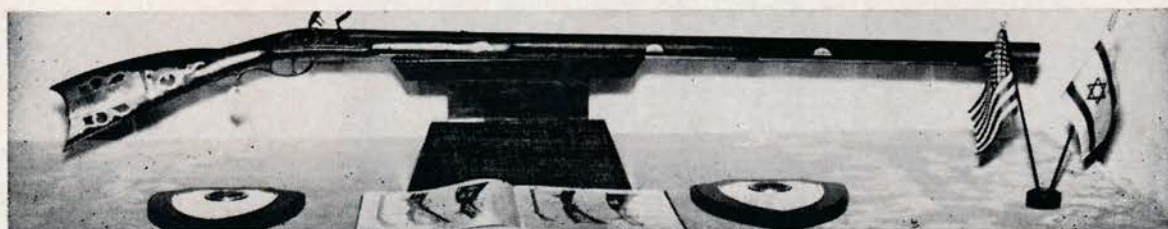
Presentation of the Kentucky Rifle was made by S. Daniel Juliani of West Hartford, Past President of the Connecticut Rifle and Revolver Association, and Eric Earn, President of the Connecticut Gun Guild. In attendance for the presentation were some 130 leaders of industry, labor and businessmen; leaders of sportsmens organizations and curators of major historical museums, including the Smithsonian Institute.

Among the notables were, to list a few: William Britcher, Materials Manager, Military Arms Division, Colt's Patent Firearms; Bill Clede of the Hartford Times and Marlin Firearms; Dewey Godfrey, Director, National Rifle Association; Stephen V. Grancsay, Curator Emeritus, Metropol-

itan Museum of Art; Tom Hall, Curator, Winchester Museum; Robert Harris, Sales Manager, High Standard Manufacturing Co.; Larry Lewis, Board President, Springfield Armory Museum; Charles Lyman, Director, National Rifle Association; Richard McMahon, Vice-President, Marketing, Small Arms Division, Colt's Patent Firearms.

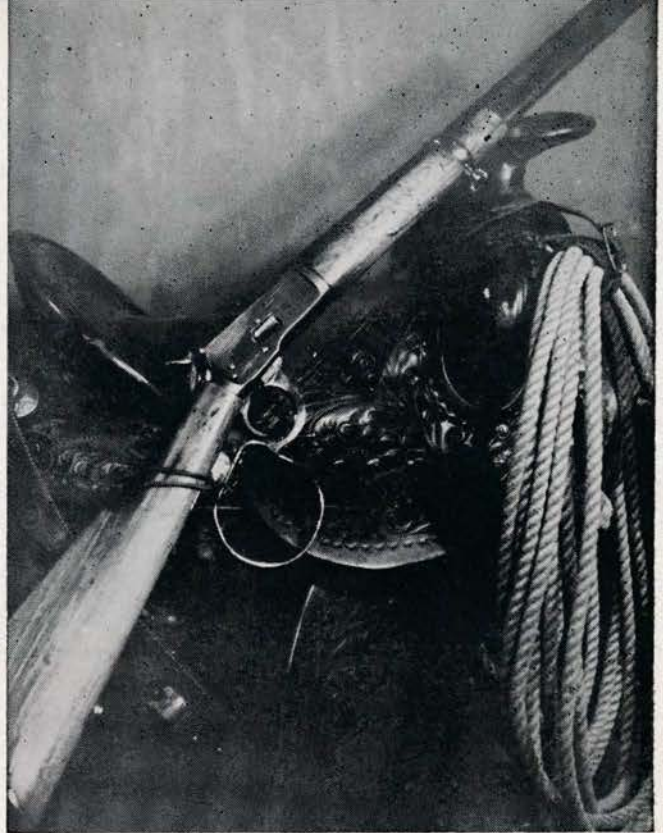
The start of this presentation began when Dr. Eugene Sockut of West Hartford was visiting Israel last spring. Researching a magazine article on the history of the Israeli Army, by chance he visited the Israel Defence Forces Museum and Curator, Col. Lourie, who expressed the museum's lack of a typically American rifle, the Kentucky. Dr. Sockut brought the idea back to Ye Connecticut Gun Guild who unanimously voted to buy a rifle and donate it to the Israeli museum. Dr. Sockut and Lawrence A. Kaufman of Windsor, Connecticut found a museum quality specimen flint-lock made by John Dreisbach of Union County, Pa. in the early 1820's. Beautifully inlaid with silver and delicate stock carving, it was a perfect example of an American Kentucky Rifle.

Said by one observer at the presentation, "... Now there is a symbol of America . . . an early migrant gunsmith named Dreisbach, made a Kentucky rifle so that a man named Doerschier can introduce a man named Juliani to present the same Kentucky rifle to an Israeli named Yarom."





Virgines, left, Monell, right, both duly attired.



Rifleman "Special" with ring loop and repeater screw.

Guns of the Gunslingers

Appearing throughout the Mid-West, these "pardners" put on a mighty good show.



By GEORGE E. VIRGINES

Gunslingers on the stage at a show. Note Western motif of the stage curtain back-drop.

THE MANY OLD TIME Wild West Shows such as Buffalo Bill, Pawnee Bill, Miller Brother's 101 Ranch Show, plus other past Western type exhibitions, all served as an introduction to the public what the wild and wooly West was like. Perhaps their versions were a bit exaggerated, but audiences from one end of the country to the other, and European countries included, loved it.

For the first time, many of the Easterners and Mid-Westerners had the opportunity to view and witness a real live cowboy and Indian in action. At last, after reading the fantastic stories and accounts of wild Indians and hard shooting cowboys, the public could sit on the side lines and innocently and safely watch these daring escapades. In person they could view Indians attacking a covered wagon; bandits holding up a stagecoach; cowpunchers displaying their skill at bronc busting, bull dogging steers, fancy roping, expert horsemanship, and exhibition shooting that bordered on impossible.

The people loved it and clamored for more. But by 1940 most of the lively Wild West Shows had folded. It was the cinema Westerner that slowly began to replace these type shows. New Western idols appeared such as William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Jack Hoxie, Buck Jones, Ken Maynard, and Tim McCoy, to name a few. Some of them appeared with their own wild west shows or with circuses. In between their heavy movie making periods they made personal appearances. But even this type of entertainment began to disappear.

Some of the old time Western movie stars either died, slowed down, or retired. One exception is the ever popular Colonel Tim McCoy who is still going strong touring the country.

After World War II new names and stars caught the public's fancy. Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Rex Allen, Bill (Hop-a-long Cassidy) Boyd, and a few others appeared to lend their names to Rodeo Shows. But this was destined to fade out. With the coming of television Jim (Matt Dillon) Arness of Gunsmoke, Lorne Greene, Dan Blocker, and Michael Landon of Bonanza fame, Chuck Connors as the Rifleman, Richard Boone (Paladin) and many others became the new breed for TV viewers to idolize. Many of these stars make personal appearances, but they don't have the impact that the old time wild west shows produced. But of course time changes and the cost of exhibiting and moving a full scale western type show makes it just about prohibited.

Although the changing of times has rendered the wild west shows a memory for some, and the new generation can only read about these fabulous presentations of yesteryear, but one and all, old or young, they still long to see the cowboy or gunslinger in action and in person. Whether he rides a horse, drives a stagecoach, wrestles a steer, or puts on an exhibition of fancy gunslinging, the Westerner still has that certain and compelling appeal.

With the coming of the sport of Fast Draw, this had a certain audience appeal to many. But in spite of the excitement and tension it created amongst spectators, the sport *(Continued on page 53)*



Weapons used by the Gunslingers. Note cap gun, bull-whips.



Crazy shotgun with the steel insert sleeves for blank ammo.

RANGER ARMS

COVER STORY

IN 1967, a new firearms company was born, and the first child, a center fire rifle, was called the Texas Magnum. A natural choice, since the birthplace was Gainesville, Texas, and the rifle was chambered for many of the popular magnum cartridges. The second born was called the Texas Maverick, and it was a short-action version of the Magnum.

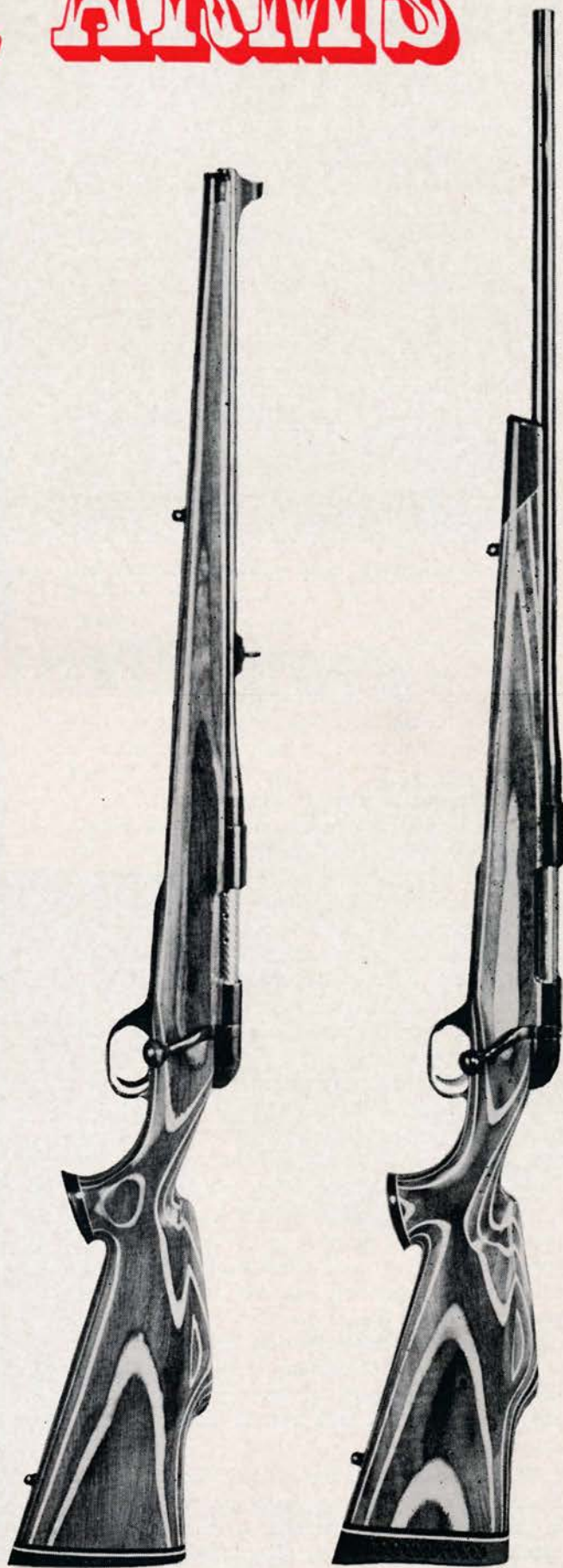
Today, the Ranger Arms rifles are established as a part of the American firearms scene, and the trend they developed—custom quality and features on a production basis—is becoming common practice.

The Ranger rifles feature an action that incorporates many unique and worthy design concepts. The bolt handle lifts only 60 degrees to unlock; the push-button safety is located in the trigger guard; the trigger is fully adjustable; the firing pin travel is shorter than most other actions; and the rifles are available with either right or left hand actions.

These features, plus the quality and workmanship which go into the entire rifle, are reflected in the prices of the completed rifles which run from \$325 to \$425. (full color brochure available from Ranger Arms, P.O. Box 704, Gainesville, Texas 76240).

The Ranger rifles shown here in black and white, are the latest designs, featuring sporter and Mannlicher style stocks of laminated woods.

The high quality of the Ranger rifles make them a natural for further ornamentation, and our cover photo provides a good example of this. This rifle, in .22-250 caliber, has a custom-made myrtlewood stock, and some very handsome engraving and inlays created by Luther M. Daniels of Red Oak, Texas. The rifle is owned by Jack Burrell of Dallas, and the photo by Harry C. Knode.

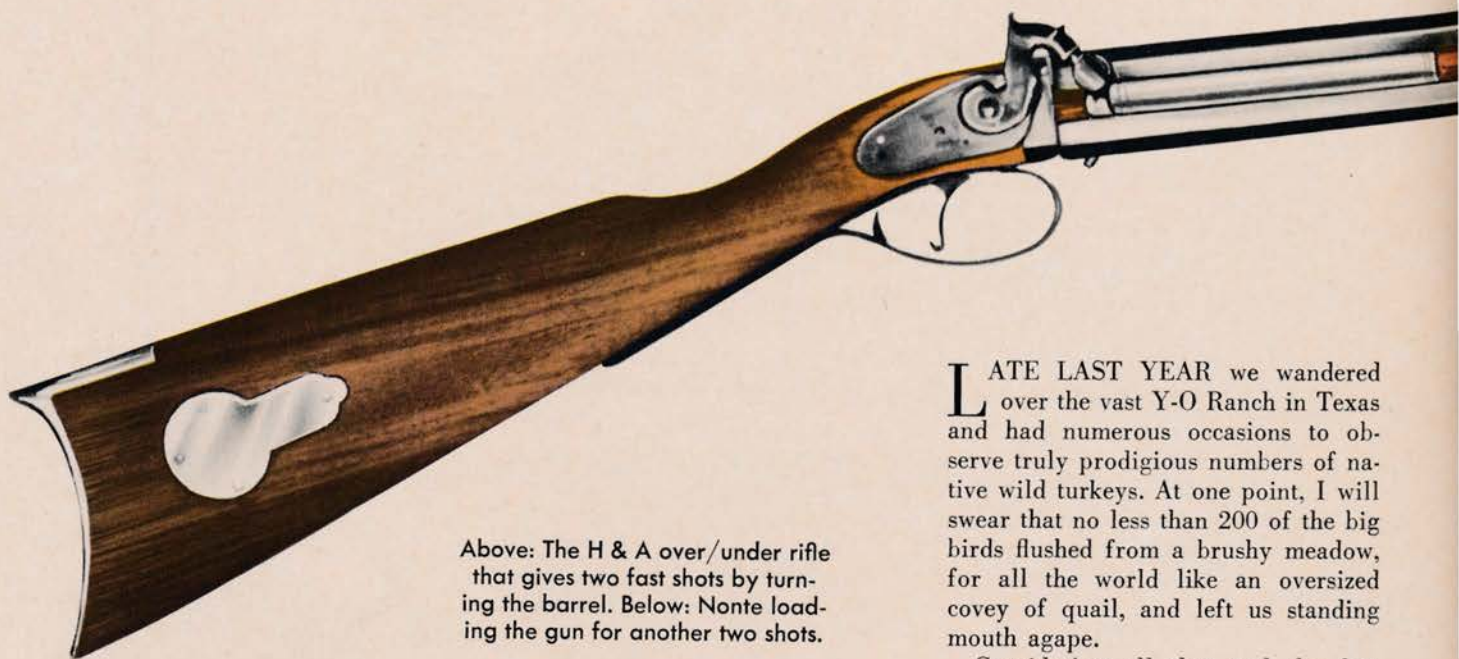


**THE TEXAS
MAVERICK**

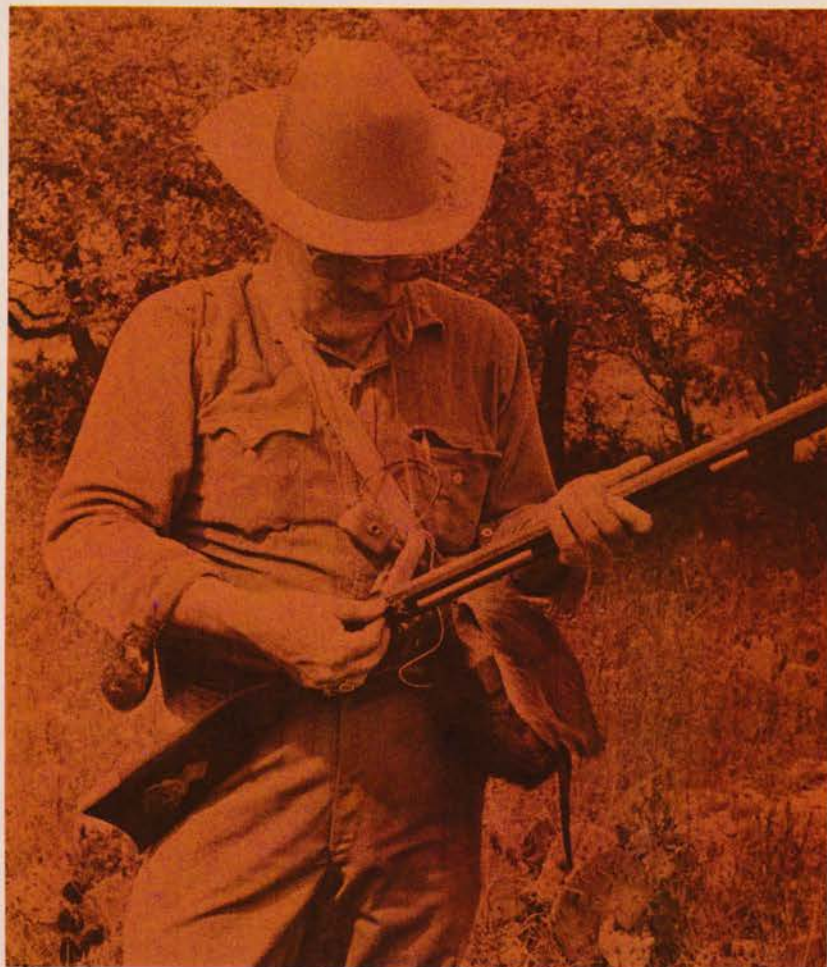


**THE TEXAS
MAGNUM**

HOPKINS & ALLEN



Above: The H & A over/under rifle that gives two fast shots by turning the barrel. Below: Nonte loading the gun for another two shots.



LATE LAST YEAR we wandered over the vast Y-O Ranch in Texas and had numerous occasions to observe truly prodigious numbers of native wild turkeys. At one point, I will swear that no less than 200 of the big birds flushed from a brushy meadow, for all the world like an oversized covey of quail, and left us standing mouth agape.

Considering all that and the fact there wasn't time then for serious turkey shooting, plans were made to return the following April, when Kerr County Texas would be holding its first Spring gobbler season. And, to make it just a wee bit more interesting, the decision was made that this Spring hunt would be made with muzzle loaders. Now, it may seem silly to pick an old front-loading charcoal burner for a job like that when there is a fine 6mm M700 Remington within reach. It shoots harder, farther, and flatter, but that just isn't enough to overcome the feeling I've long had for the front-loaders. Somehow, the old-timers are just more fun.

During the intervening months, I decided to cheat just a little bit and use a two-shot rifle. This was available in the person of the Hopkins & Allen Over-Under Turnbarrel percussion rifle distributed by the Challenger Corporation. On the surface, it appeared that this gun would give a reasonably fast second shot without a hurried and fumbling reloading in the event the first shot got screwed up. An uncommonly wise decision, as you will learn here before long.

In any event, the gun was promptly procured from Challenger in .45 caliber. That may sound a bit big for tur-



OVER-UNDER IN THE FIELD

keys, but I've always been partial to the large bores, finding that they generally produce more consistent accuracy than the smaller so-called "pea rifles." As it came from the box, the H & A rifle looked good. With the hammer at half-cock, the barrels could be quickly and easily rotated 180° to place first one and then the other under the hammer, and each barrel was fitted with its own set of sights; eliminating any problem of "regulating" loads as is required in modern double rifles. One disadvantage of this is that the rear sight of the bottom barrel falls right at the balance point and interferes somewhat with comfortable carrying—but not to any marked degree. Possessed of *two* octagonal barrels, but of only 32" length, it was just sufficiently muzzle-heavy to hang well and steady for off-hand shooting. The lock functioned well, albeit with a rough, creepy trigger pull and a slightly soft mainspring. Both those deficiencies were corrected without any difficulty.

Eventually, it came time between spells of bad weather to give the gun a bit of range work. A combination of a .445" diameter ball and G.I. cleaning patches lubricated with vaseline turned out to fit both barrels well, though one was a wee bit tighter than the other. One barrel could have used a slightly thicker patch, the other a slightly thinner patch to produce the same degree of fit with the same diameter ball—but to do so would have seemed a bit much. The G.I. patch compromise performed beautifully in both tubes and did not offer any loading difficulties.

As it happened, one flask on hand had already been cut to throw 52 grains of Curtis & Harvey (English) IF powder



Nonte and guide pulling the day's dinner out of the hunting car. The gun shot well and the craftsmanship was excellent.

—so this charge was used as a starter. Though a relatively light charge, this seemed as good a place as any to begin.

A half dozen rounds were fired initially from each barrel without any particular attention to holding or accuracy, primarily just to get the feel of the gun and to limber it up a bit. Then, I swabbed the bores with Black-Solve, cleaned the nipples, dried the bores, and started getting serious. The first two shots, one from each barrel, were separated from each other by only about 3/16" of target paper at 50 yards. "Hmmm, says I," and loaded up two more. The second pair of shots removed that connecting paper and produced a classic "four-leaf-clover"

group. Admittedly, it was somewhat below point of aim, but who cares—front sights can be filed down easily.

Discounting one flyer, well out of the group, the next six shots (equally divided between the barrels) opened up the group only moderately. Frankly, I considered this a most impressive performance. The accuracy was more than adequate for turkey shooting, and even though a relatively light load, that big, soft, lead ball would certainly kill cleanly with any decently-placed shot.

All the same, it seemed appropriate to try some heavier loads. First, the charge was advanced one giant step to 65 grains, where for some reason, one

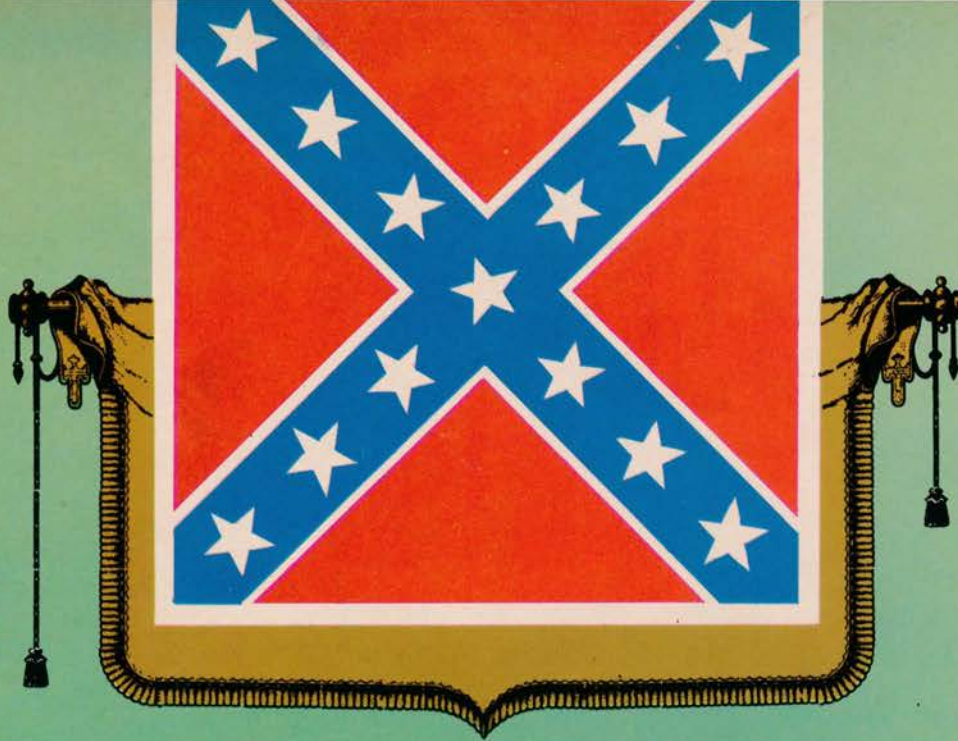
(Continued on page 52)



JEFF. DAVIS



REUNION
Confederate Veterans
REVIEWED BY
Ex-Præs't
JEFFERSON DAVIS
MACON, GA.
October 28th, 1887.



Jefferson Davis

THE career of Jefferson Davis as a statesman began when he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1845. Following this, he served as a Colonel in the 1st Mississippi Infantry during the War with Mexico. In 1847, he accepted an appointment to the U.S. Senate, and in 1853, became Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. He re-entered the Senate in 1857, but bade farewell after the secession of his state in 1861. On February 22, 1862, after serving in a temporary status, he became the first—and only—President of the Confederate States.

Jefferson Davis was a gun collector, and in his collection were his personal guns, and those given to him by his fellow officers and comrades during the War Between the States. After his death in 1889, his family moved to Colorado, and the Davis gun collection was kept intact as a family heirloom until a few years ago.

The State of Mississippi has, on display at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson, five guns from his collection, including those in his possession when he was captured by the Union in 1865. These were retained as trophies of war by the U.S., but were reclaimed by the Davis heirs in 1914.

The Model 1851 Colt Navy pictured here, serial number 16612, was a part of the Jefferson Davis collection. Unfortunately, there is no record of the significance this revolver held for Davis, though family legend has it that it was presented to him by one of his fellow officers and was, in fact, carried by Davis during the post-war years.

Davis spent his last 10 years at his plantation home "Beauvoir," which overlooks the Mississippi gulf coast and is, today, open to the public as a museum and shrine to the memory of the President of the Confederacy.

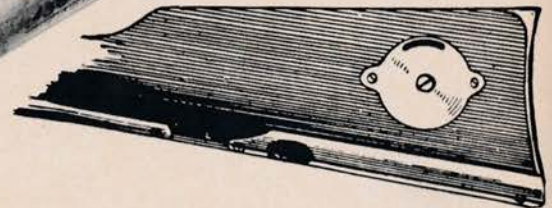
FROM THE COLLECTION OF, AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY, DR. R. L. MOORE, JR., PHILADELPHIA, MISS.

THE ODD



A coffee mill and a Sharps carbine were mated during the Civil War to form one of the rarest firearms to come out of that great conflict.

From Bannerman's Catalog, 1938.



Above left: Stock of the Sharps Coffee Mill Carbine was altered to accept the mill but original grease box plate was left intact to act as a side plate. Above: Left side of the stock shows the slot in the disc where ground coffee came out. Beans were poured into round hole.

COUPLE

By JOHN H. HARDING

WHILE THERE ARE many rare weapons to come out of the Civil War era, perhaps the rarest of them all is the Sharps Coffee Mill carbine. There are indications that only 8 were produced. But the reasons behind the modification of the Sharps rifle into the Sharps Coffee Mill Carbine vary sharply, having lapsed into near obscurity in the intervening century since the work took place in the St. Louis Arsenal in 1863.

Colonel R. B. Lewis (retired), a member of the National Rifle Association, notes: "There hasn't been much of anything published about the Sharps CM Carbine that had a small coffee grinder in the stock. I know that there are very few specimens in collections. Maybe six or so. Seems to me I've seen one in the Winchester collection and another in the Nunnemacher collection at the Milwaukee Public Museum, maybe two or three others." (Colonel Lewis is right on both counts of museum ownership. This writer has seen the piece on exhibit at the Milwaukee Museum. T. E. Hall, Curator of the Winchester Gun Museum, states in a recent letter, "Our particular 'Coffee Grinder' is a new Model 1863 Sharps Carbine. In 1951 we acquired it when we purchased the Pugsley Collection. Mr. Pugsley in turn purchased it through Francis Bannerman. We have no other information concerning it." Howie Madaus, Assistant Curator of History at the Milwaukee Museum, said in a telephone interview, "We had no idea it was such a rarity. It came with a collection which was given to us." This particular piece, serial number 18364, is a Model 1853 Sharps, .54 caliber with a brass butt plate and brass ring. "Sharps Pat. 1848" is stamped on the tang behind the hammer. The lock plate is marked "Sharps Pat. 1852." Craddock R. Goins, Jr., Associate Curator, Division of Military History of the Smithsonian Institution verifies the existence of a model in the Springfield Armory Museum, Springfield, Massachusetts and a fourth hangs strangely out of place in a collection of Pennsylvania Rifles owned by Bob Zellmer, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.)

Estimates of the number in existence vary from two to twelve. The piece is indeed so rare and so little known about it that it's difficult to assess exactly what the number is.

Never has a firearm been so clouded in the pages of history. Colonel Lewis relates, "Satterlee mentions them in his *Breechloader in the Service*, and Gluckman also in his book on martial arms. But neither has much to say about them. In over 50 years of gun collecting and reading dealers' lists, I have never seen one listed for sale."

The mill is held by a spear-shaped plate in the stock 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide by 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " long. It has a detachable curved handle ending in a knob. Lewis mentions in passing, "In one of the books on Remington, the statement is made that some Remington carbines had these mills also, but I have never heard any other evidence on that variety, nor do I know of a specimen. However, the same outfit that was promoting the Sharps mill may well have tried some on Remingtons as well. If so, they must indeed be rare." There were 30,000 Remingtons bought versus 80,000 Sharps carbines. If they were to be issued, one mill to a company as one school of thought feels, about a thousand of them should have been manufactured. With apparently only 8 made, it would appear this theory is difficult to substantiate. However, Francis Bannerman Sons, *Antique Arms Catalogue*, New York, 1933, indicates this to be the case in its caption on the Coffee Mill carbine picture. Craddock R. Goins, Jr., of the Smithsonian, quotes in greater detail from the 1938 Francis Bannerman catalogue: "During the Civil War a workman employed at the St. Louis Arsenal devised a plan to incorporate a coffee mill on the butt stock of the gun. Sharp's carbine was selected. The grease box on the butt stock was retained as one of the plates; the handle was detachable and easily carried in the pocket. Several models of the carbine were altered in this way. It was intended to issue one of these carbines to each company; they are now very scarce." This school of thought envisions its use with coffee only. Coffee beans were poured into a coffee aperture and the crank was turned to issue ground coffee from a slot in the side plate.

A second version of its potential use revolves around Union Army guerillas. The eight models altered to take the coffee grinder were to be issued to Northern soldiers who would be operating behind Confederate lines. These soldiers with the grinders could raid farm houses, etc., for food, but a tool was needed to (Continued on page 56)



Overall view of Sharps CM in Milwaukee Museum.



GUN OF THE MONTH

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PULL!

By DICK MILLER

WHAT SUGGESTIONS would you have concerning my gradual decline in ability to hit those d... clay-birds at trap, other than to throw away my shotgun" begins a plaintive letter from a PULL! reader. Because it occurs to me that he is a member of a large and not very exclusive fraternity of frustrated clay target shooters, I have elected to answer his letter via this column, rather than by a personal letter which would, of necessity, be rather lengthy. Also, the advice I would try to give him can reach thousands of other similarly constituted shooters who have not (as yet) been moved to write for suggestions.

I can dispose of one part of his opening sentence very quickly. Please don't throw your shotgun away! All is not lost. So that I can involve thousands of other PULL! readers in this case history, here are the basic details.

Our frustrated reader is forty-nine, in reasonably good health, and with good reflexes. He has excellent sight with corrected glasses, and is quite far-sighted without glasses. His shooting career began via non-registered league shooting, and progressed rather rapidly. His 1963 16-yard league average was 96.7, and his handicap average was a respectable 94.7 from twenty-two yards. He was high gun in his league for two consecutive years, and runner-up in the third year. Because of this sparkling league performance, he decided to have a fling at ATA registered shooting, which is a natural and inevitable conclusion.

But, when he joined the ATA circuit, something happened to his shooting. His averages began a downward trend, twenty-five straights became hard to come by, and despite a couple of hundred straights, his 16-yard average has plummeted to barely ninety percent. His handicap average, still from twenty-two yards, has dipped to 85% and is dropping.

At this stage, he did what thousands upon thousands of shooters before him

have done, namely, switched to another gun. His reasoning for the switch to another gun is more frank than I have heard from many of his predecessors. He felt that if he shot the new gun for a while, he could then return to "old Betsy" and that his score would perk up. Now, he glooms that he can't shoot either gun.

One key sentence appears in his letter. That sentence is "I just can't seem to get comfortable on the firing line—I have tried different stances but to no avail."

At this point I suspect that no stance is comfortable when you are not breaking targets, and conversely, that no stance is uncomfortable when you are breaking targets. I have seen shooters miss scads of targets from a picture-perfect stance, and seen other shooters win the Grand using a stance somewhat reminiscent of an octopus with an itch. So, I suspect that stance is more mental than physical. Any stance that results in broken targets is a good one, no matter how it looks to someone else.

Now, for our disgruntled shooter, and for PULL! readers who are following along in this case history, comes the kicker! I have often said in this column and elsewhere that all shooting is ten percent physical ability, and ninety percent mental. I'm fond of saying that in the Grand, for example, on a day when three thousand shooters compete, one thousand of those shooters are equal in physical shooting ability, but that only ten shooters can win trophy places. Those ten shooters who win trophies are those who most successfully handled the pressures of tournament shooting.

To support this theory, I offer in evidence the known scientific fact that all shooting when reduced to its simplest terms is no more than hand and eye coordination, and that barring obvious physical or visual handicaps, a very large percentage of the genus homo sapiens is endowed with adequate hand and eye coordination. If there are those shooters who doubt

this theory, stop and think objectively about the number of times you have been badly fooled by a target, that you know in your heart that you did everything wrong but your God-given coordination took over and much to your surprise, you broke the target.

Now, for some thoughts that are germane to our frustrated letter writer's problem (and his legion of companions). For many people there is a profound difference in the mental attitude toward non-registered shooting, industrial league shooting, and all forms of informal shooting as opposed to tournament competition under ATA rules and sanction. I began my own clay target shooting career in the thirties and forties by shooting non-registered targets and in so-called "meat shoots" at small clubs in Southern Indiana, Southern Illinois, and Western Kentucky. On that circuit I met some shooters who were invincible at those clubs and in those shoots. But, only a handful of those shooters did well when we gravitated toward ATA and NSSA sanctioned tournaments.

I remember well one shooter with whom I became acquainted. He was more than a formidable opponent in a meat shoot. When we took up the game of skeet, he would almost invariably break 25 straight in a practice round. But, when you told him that this was for real, and that the tournament had started, I think the highest round he ever recorded was an eighteen. Unfortunately, he did as I counseled our letter writer not to do, and gave up shooting.

I am fully cognizant of the perils inherent in counseling another shooter at long distance (or at close proximity, for that matter) but after the foregoing preliminary observations, I am ready with a diagnosis of our letter writer's problem.

I strongly suspect that in the warm, congenial atmosphere of non-registered and/or of industrial league shooting, with shooters who are friends and acquaintances, he does not worry about his stance or about breaking the target. He has the confidence derived from knowing that his league record is good, and that he is demonstrably one of the best shooters in the league, if not the best. This mental attitude does wonders for shooting high and higher scores.

But, graduation to ATA tournaments is another story. He is very possibly shooting on new and strange fields, against shooters whom he does not know, and who are not aware of his sparkling league performance. The net result of this new set of circumstances is that he, in common with all athletes, is trying too hard.

We are all familiar with the football quarterback who can't get the team moving, and whose passes are not hitting the receivers, the baseball player whose batting average drops from .300 to .200, the basketball player who can't buy a basket, and the golfer who blows three-foot putts.

Almost invariably, these collapses are attributed to trying too hard, and when the athlete "gets loose" once more, the passes are caught, the hits start coming, baskets start swishing in, and the putts fall once more. So it is in the shooting game.

I would counsel our friend that he is just as good a shooter today as he was when he won the league championship in consecutive years, and was runner-up the next year. There is no question at all concerning his physical equipment. If he can break hundred straights, the raw material has to be there. If he had never broken the century, I might have to take a different tack, but the evidence of ability to break them all can't be discounted. His averages over the years are additional evidence that he has the potential of winning any time he shows up at the gun club. These averages are not the results of one-time or spotty performance. They indicate good, solid, physical shooting ability. All that is lacking is the mental discipline.

To this man, and all others like him, I would give this advice: Walk out to the post, blot everything else from your mind, remind yourself that the target you are about to shoot is just like thousands of others you have broken in the past, get loose and comfortable, and say to yourself that you are going to break this ONE target. Not the five on this post, not the twenty-five on this trap, and not the amount to be shot in the total event, but this ONE target. If you break one hundred straight, you must break them ONE at a time. There is no other way.

Much too often, the shooter who graduates from informal or non-registered shooting to tournament shooting can think of nothing but posting a high or winning score. High or winning scores must be shot one target at a time, and if you forget that, you can be tempted to throw your gun away. Please don't throw your gun away!

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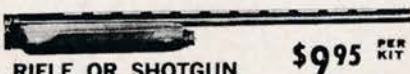
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(Continued from page 29)



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then the next thing is to put up a deposit. This earnest money payment is quite appropriate and is required by all reputable outfitters, both in this country and abroad. The outfitter has a comparatively short season in which to make his money. He has put up a considerable sum to get all the necessary aircraft, boats, autos, horses, tentage, cooking gear, etc. together. Along with these items he must hire pilots, assistant guides, wranglers, cooks, camp boys, and others to put on a good hunt. Unless he insures that you will be on hand on the agreed dates, he is left, quite often, holding the bag. To insure the client will show up when he agreed to, requires a deposit which may run between 25% and 50% of the full guide fee. You should not quibble about paying this money as it is standard procedure these days.

A good many sportsmen feel when they contract a hunt, put up the earnest money and indicate their willingness to make the hunt, the guide should then guarantee the game. A good many guides will do this. This is an indication, many times, of bad ethics. It scarcely matters how plentiful the game may be, nor where the hunt will be staged. The absolute guarantee of the game is bad business. The only place I know where the game is guaranteed and where the outfitter always delivers the goods is the YO Ranch of Texas. This concern actually has so many whitetail deer they can unqualifiedly assure the huntsman of his game. But when you get this sort of rockbound guarantee from the African outfitter who assures you of a lion and a leopard—as example—or from the Indian shikari who says you will most certainly kill a tiger; or the British Columbia guide who tells you in writing that you will shoot a ram with a 40-inch head; or the Alaska outfitter who tells you that a 9-foot Kodiak bear is a cinch for you, or a 70-inch moose, or a caribou with double shovels, then take your business elsewhere. This is an indication of bad ethics, of dishonesty, and an unscrupulous attitude which will evidence itself in many other ways before the hunt is concluded. It simply does not matter how plentiful the game may be, nor what prior successes may have been, the guide-outfitter who assures you by letter or by phone that you will get the game sticks his neck out altogether too far.

I seek out the outfitter who tells me

that we will go into the best hunting country known to him, that we will stay long enough to kill the game, that he will try his damndest to get me the trophies I want—but he cannot guarantee a thing—he is the fellow who is honest and ethical, and more apt to provide a completely satisfactory expedition.

One elk season, hunting out of Cro-foot Lodge on the Salmon River of Idaho, I rode up over Sheep Hill fire lookout and gazed down on quite a remarkable sight. There, in a lovely little meadow stretching from the first slopes of the mountain off toward the drainage below, was a tent village. There were a dozen huge pyramidal tents, all in a very military row, and all simply swarming with people. This was a hunting camp and by count, as we rode near, I counted 63 people. This hunting camp was the brain child of a single man who ran advertisements in all the leading rabbit shooting and cane-pole fishing journals and in his ads guaranteed every customer a trophy bull elk. I bumped into a couple of these pilgrims in a day or two, out with a woman for a guide. They had signed up for a 7-day hunt, which cost each of them \$500. I met them on the fifth day and neither had seen even so much as a cow elk. Yet each has been guaranteed a trophy bull. So had the other sixty-odd inhabitants of the huge camp. This is chicanery of the most blatant sort and yet it goes on all the time. Had any of these sixty-three sports taken the time and the little trouble to have investigated this outfitter they would have quickly learned he was a shyster.

Find out from your outfitter how you will hunt. Will it be by hunting car, by plane and afoot, by horse and afoot, or by boat. I do not like these expeditions where you are loaded up in a hunting wagon, usually a 4-wheel drive pickup, and then tool the mountain trails seeking a chance shot. This is common practice in New Mexico and Colorado for deer and elk. You may be sure if you can reach all the accessible hunting country while comfortably seated in a well cushioned auto seat that all the rest of the hunters in the area will be doing the same. It rules out collecting any really desirable trophies, insures the game is as wary as so many foxes, and leaves the sportsman with a feeling of little accomplishment when he knocks off

(Continued on page 50)



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(Continued from page 48)

his prize while resting the rifle over the hood of the vehicle.

If the holiday is to involve foot-slogging, which more often than not involves mountain climbing, you better be sure you are ready for it. Most of us come off the flatlands and a stint in the high Sierras represents not only the hardest kind of unaccustomed effort but the scarcity of oxygen at the higher levels is another problem. If you know you are going to make a hunt for sheep, goats or mountain grizzly, you simply cannot commence too early in the year to get ready for it. You should walk not less than 3 miles every day and at least 5 over the weekends. If there are any hills or mountains in your country by all means include them in the daily jaunt. If you are over 40 it is excellent insurance to see your local medico and get his okay for the exercise before you begin. Even with this preparation you will find the mountain scaling is a strenuous grind.

In Africa, a popular place to hunt these days, the white hunter has organized shooting so that the client rides around all day in the safari car. He alights only long enough to make a short stalk, deliver the shot, and climb back aboard again. This is a far cry from the days when Teddy Roosevelt hunted in Africa. He used a horse but everyone else in his party went afoot. Some enterprising outfitter in Kenya kept statistics on the ages of his clients over several years and found they averaged over 55 years of age. This may have had something to do with the present arrangement. It places a small premium on physical conditioning.

If the hunting trip is to involve stalking from horseback, this like the hiking stint, demands preparation. It is absolutely amazing how many sportsmen go into the game fields knowing full well they will be required to mount up and travel from 10 to 25 miles daily in the saddle and yet they make utterly no preparation. They seem to feel because they have ridden at some time in the past that, like swimming, all they have to do is to climb aboard. The truth is that riding a horse all day, and especially in the mountains, will chafe a lot of tender hide. Not so much on the backside as along the thighs and the calves of the legs. I have seen sports who would ride the first day and then be on their bellies in camp for the next four allowing the saddle gall to heal. This is the most asinine sort of judgment to conclude that without any preliminary hardening up you can fork a horse and ride off into the

mountains and get away with it. You should ride as a preliminary to the hunt not less than three times weekly, for at least 3 months before that appointment with your outfitter.

In Africa and indeed also in India, a pair of light walking shoes of the kind usually referred to as desert boots, do very well. This because the walking is a minor affair. In the mountains when hunting sheep, goats, grizzly, moose and caribou, the footgear assumes a lot more importance. It should be selected with care. The boot should be of an 8" or 10" height, with heavy cowhide uppers and sturdy soles. I like hobnails in the soles. Even tho these are noisy, the racket the nails put off is more than compensated by the protection to your feet which the hobs afford. The last thing you want to select for this kind of hunting is the lightweight moccasin-toe hunting boot which is often referred to as a "bird-shooter" type. These boots are altogether too lightly made, too soft, and permit the foot to slip and slide within them on the slopes and in the rough going.

Purchase the hunting boots at least 60 days before the hunt and wear them on all your tramps. The footgear should be big enough to take a light and a heavy sock together. The light sock of cotton and the heavy outer one of wool. If you are going to hunt in the rain, or snow, and your outfitter can tell you, then a second pair of similar boots is an absolute necessity. Once thoroughly wetted it takes two full days before the fire to dry them. The idea that any boots are waterproof or that there is any preparation that will render them impervious is all applesauce. It is good practice to oil them with neatsfoot oil as this keeps them pliable and a bit easier on your feet. Nothing, but nothing, is more important on a big game hunt where a lot of walking is in the cards than proper footgear.

If you are hunting on Kodiak Island or on the Alaska Peninsula there will be a lot of foot-slogging in the equation and this has to be done in hip boots. Rubber, and tied to the waist belt. Usually the sport waits until he reaches the town of Kodiak or the city of Anchorage to invest in his rubber waders. The hunting ground is all muskeg, a mixture of spongy grassland, overlaid with water. Leather boots are completely out of the question. The hip boots are the full answer. This footgear is tiresome, cumbersome, and heavy. But there is no help for them. It is the better part of good judgment to carefully fit a pair at home and ship them with your other gear when you leave for the Alaskan adventure.

Nothing is quite so satisfactory as woolen clothing for the fall or early winter hunt. This to include underwear, shirts, trousers and gloves. There should be one full change just in case your horse falls down fording a stream, you slip on the deck of the boat and go over-board or simply get caught on the side of the mountain four miles from where you and the guide tied the horses when the rain-storm came.

A rain parka and rain pants beat a slicker all hollow. If the outfitter offers a pair of chaps to wear while riding, take 'em. You will find these shed water better than anything yet found. A hat is better than a cap, and the woolen gloves should have a leather shell over them. A down-filled coat, like the Eddie Bauer, is a must.

In Africa or India, two sets of summer weight pants and jackets will do nicely. While you wear the one set the camp boys launder and press the other. When the safari or shikar is concluded it is customary to give the clothing away. Sometimes, especially during the winter season in Africa it is good insurance to fetch along a sweater and a Bauer goosedown jacket. These things feel good when turning out before daylight to journey 30 miles in the safari car to reach a lion bait before good light.

Don't expect the outfitter to produce a gun cleaning kit when you get into his camp. Fetch along your own and see that it includes a sturdy rod and plenty of rust inhibitor. The customary thing to do these days is to pack the rifle in a hardshell gun case. It rides best for air travel in one of these styrofoam-lined boxes. However, once the juncture is made with the outfitter it may be pretty much out of place. If you are hunting by light plane it takes up too much room; if by boat it is likewise apt to be too bulky. And certainly by horse it is out of the question. Then you should switch the rifle to a leather scabbard. A full length case which can be lashed on the saddle will serve during the hunt.

After 6,000 miles to the African safari the sportsman is always somewhat aghast to find out that the white hunter is perfectly happy to push off after dangerous game without the client firing a single shot to check scope zero. Nairobi, the mecca of countless American safarists, has no rifle range. Once the huntsman gets into camp the professional will grudgingly permit him a few shots to check out sight alignment but you can usually expect to hear him grumble that all the shooting is spooking all the game for miles around. Les Bowman, the hunting editor of this maga-

zine, used to be a big game guide-outfitter in Wyoming. I'll tell you it was a must to go out on Bowman's range and show him that not only your rifle was in zero but that you could shoot before he'd take you into the field. On Kodiak Island, Bill Pennell and Morris Talifson run a cracking good brown bear operation. They live in an old salmon cannery on Olga Bay. Right behind the bunk house is a 100 yard range and you don't get out of the main camp until you step out there and show them that you are sighted in and that you can shoot.

When you sight in at home, it is far better to get a 200 yard zero. The modern hunting rifle that is set right on the button at 200 yards will be about 3 inches high at 100 yards and about 7 to 10 inches low at 300 yards. The 200-yard zero is a good compromise. When you get into game country check that zero to be sure the rigors of travel have not done any harm to scope or mount. I know a careful soul who packs along a Sweaney Site-a-Line collimator and every evening in camp he implaces the gadget to check his zero. This does not involve any shooting in the hunting camp and yet it assures him that no harm has come to glass or mount during the hunting day.

In Africa and India, I have never seen such excellent care of the trophies after the game has been downed. The reputable outfitter keeps a little group of skinners in camp and these fellows are really skillful and know how to care for the trophy after it has been pulled off the carcass. Later they turn your skins, horns, etc. over to a local taxidermist who dips, crates and ships to your home or to your taxidermist stateside. It is a smooth and wholly satisfactory business. In Alaska I have had the same splendid care of skins and horns. These have been shipped by such outfitters as Nelson Walker, John Swiss and Bill Pennell directly to Jonas of Denver and in every case the care in the field was exceptionally good. In such places as Angola, Mozambique, Vietnam, the East Indies and Central America the lack of care with the trophies after the hunt was over was really criminal. The good satisfaction of a perfect hunting trip can be greatly marred if the trophies finally reach home in a state of whole or partial ruin.

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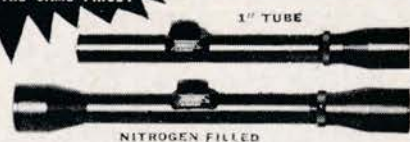
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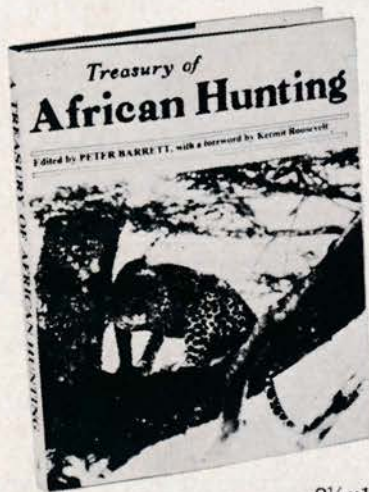
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H & A TURNBARREL

(Continued from page 39)

barrel strung the shots bad vertically, while the other produced equally undesirable horizontal stringing. A further advance to 70 grains produced some slight improvement, but no continuation of that trend was noted at 75 grains. At that point, the heavier charges were discarded. Eventually, a heavy load will be worked up for white tail, but that's in the future.

Further shooting with the 52 grain charge indicated the early group was not a fluke and that the gun could be depended upon to place its first four to six balls, from a clean bore, touching or very near each other at 50 yards. In addition, the combination of Curtis & Harvey powder and the vaseline-lubed patch left the barrels relatively clean—so that ramming pressure did not become excessive until after seven to ten shots had been fired from each barrel. Of course, in the process, I broke one of the crooked-grain ramrods supplied with the gun and once inadvertently put both charges down the same barrel, then a ball in each. Muzzle loaders soon teach you to keep your mind on your work!

The load was standardized at 52 grains of Curtis & Harvey 1F powder, 1445" diameter ball, and vaselined G.I. cleaning patch. Remington #11 caps fit best. A two-leg ball seater and a four-hole loading block were fabricated out of oak and dowels, and all the other goodies necessary to keep the gun working in the field were combined with it in a Challenger two-gun, rigid, foam-lined case and dispatched via Ozark Airlines to the Lone Star State.

All the arrangements for the Spring turkey hunt at the Y-O Ranch had been made with Hal Swiggett and he promised to sit up with a bottle of good scotch to attend to our needs the eve of opening day. Then began a comedy of errors hardly fit to describe but which resulted in fast shuffling of airline schedules, cancellation of charter plane, missed appointments, and finally, arriving at the Y-O at the ungodly hour of 3:15 A.M. on opening day. Hal and the scotch bottle had long since given up. Considering that dawn and breakfast were only an hour away and that the cook had coffee started, we chose to pretend that it was all intentional and that we were simply ready for an early start. Yecchhh.

Two hunting methods were offered;

calling from a blind or cruising likely areas unobtrusively in a jeep until a gobbler could be spotted where one could work into position for a shoot. We chose the latter since the country was open enough that once a bird was spotted, he could then be intercepted along his probable path if not spooked too badly. Of course, this wouldn't be possible if the birds were not familiar with motor vehicles from their continuous movement in normal ranch operations.

A number of birds were spotted the first day, and we covered a lot of ground. However, for one reason or another, we weren't able to make intercepts favorable enough to allow a shot within the 50-yard limit I had imposed upon myself and the gun. Several birds were spotted where they could have easily been taken with a high velocity rifle, but that wasn't our game. As would be expected, though, there were none of the turkey flocks we'd seen some five months earlier. By Spring, they'd all scattered, with plenty of lone Toms in evidence and occasional two's and three's of both Toms and Hens. Turkeys there were—and in plenty—no doubt about that.

The second day out began most auspiciously. Entering a new territory with B.N. Talbert leading the way, birds were spotted almost immediately, and within an hour, we had swung wide of a pair of Toms trotting down a delightful little valley. The H & A Turnbarrel was snuggled up to my shoulder as I hunkered down behind a small bush and drew a bead on the fast-walking Tom approaching. Now, he wasn't more than my allotted 50 yards away, moving not particularly fast, and still I shot right over his back. Give me a little time, and I can come up with a half-dozen perfectly logical reasons for the miss—but I haven't quite got them down pat yet. Anyway, somewhat upset by the smoke and noise, yonder Tom shifted to a high trot and continued on down the valley which stretched a lot farther than we figured he would run full tilt.

I trotted over to meet the oncoming Jeep and as we pulled away B.N. remarked he knew just the place to catch that elusive Tom again if he didn't change course. Such was the case, for no more than 10 minutes later, Tom was again trotting into my sights under almost identical circumstances, this time without his com-

panion. This time, I bore down hard, and that .45 ball whipped ahead of its cloud of white smoke to punch completely through Senor Tomas just under the mid-point of his spine. Not as big as some of the gobblers subsequently brought to bag that weekend at the Y-O, he still served admirably to blood the H & A Turnbarrel and to ease my craving for Spring turkey.

Though it may seem a bit anti-climactic, we had noticed a reasonable abundance of jackrabbits but had deliberately neglected them up to that point. The next few hours disclosed quite a number of them, once we applied ourselves to the task, and almost invariably they chose to go to cover in low bushes which did not entirely conceal their outlines. While they felt thus secure and sat tight, it was possible to approach to 25 or 30 yards, from which distance that Turnbarrel rifle did remarkable execution. I guarantee you that no jack hit in the shoulder by a .45 round ball propelled

by 52 grains of powder is going to get up and run away. In the end, we collected a day's meat supply for the ranch's pet Jaguar.

All in all, the H & A Turnbarrel enjoyed a most productive hunt, and clearly indicated its superiority over comparable single-barrel rifles because of the rapidity with which a second shot could be taken. In fact, it was not impractical to obtain a second shot at a running jack if one were quick with his fingers. Simply ear the hammer back simultaneously with rotating the barrels 180, and the second barrel is ready to fire. It is quicker done than said, and with a bit of practice, I suspect one could accomplish it roughly as rapidly as he operates the bolt of a typical Mauser-type magazine rifle. If you're in the market for a muzzleloading hunting rifle that will give you an edge, yet not be priced out of sight, best you visit your nearest shop and take a look at the Hopkins & Allen Turnbarrel.



"GUN SLINGERS"

(Continued from page 35)

lacked variety, Western variety that is.

With the lure, fascination and interest stirred up by the new generations who zealously have explored the many facets of the exciting West, Americans are touring the country seeking out the places of history. So consequently, many states, counties, and towns, are reliving their lively and historical past. Today the West celebrates its stirring yesterdays with civic whoop-dedo of pageantry and celebrations.

Tombstone, Arizona, the most celebrated town associated with the Wild West re-enacts the famous O K Corral gunfight between the Earps, Doc Holliday, the Clantons and McLaurys. In Tucson, Arizona there's an old movie site called Old Tucson, mock gun fights are staged that thrill the ever changing crowds. At Lincoln, New Mexico once a year the Billy the Kid pageant is presented in which the Kid's famous escape from the County Court House is portrayed. Deadwood, South Dakota has its re-enactment of the Trial of Jack McCall, killer of Wild Bill Hickok.

Every year scores of Western communities commemorate their local histories in every Western State: Ari-

zona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, Texas, and many others.

Besides the many communities that celebrate, there are the more commercial exhibitions such as Disneyland's Frontierland, Oklahoma City's Frontierland, U.S.A., Knotts Berry Farm, Anaheim, California, Dodge City, Kansas, and many more tourist attractions that provide Western atmosphere and excitement.

This all leads to one thing, the West's history has never stopped. Right down to the allure of one man facing down another in a sixgun duel. Many individuals have been inspired to tour the country and present Western gun type exhibitions.

One such group that has been very well received and acclaimed is called The Roving Gunslingers. (See GUNS, August 1962, December 1962, February 1963, May 1966). They appeared at many Frontier Day celebrations, centennials, fast draw contests, rodeos, television, and benefits. This group has staged shows from two men to ten men. The two ramrods and original

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organizers of this show group are Chuck Monell, former Foreman of a Guest Ranch and Rodeo performer, and the author, a Fast Draw and fancy gun exhibitionist.

Their group is called a Western Variety Show Group because they feature Western singing, bull whip manipulation, fancy rope spinning, and a clown for laughs. But their shooting act and the many guns they use has created the greatest interest. This group could also be called the roving ambassadors of good will because they commence every exhibition with a lecture of safe gun handling and strive to practice, preach, and promote safety-first with firearms. In the face of so much anti-gun legislation, they try to demonstrate that other items have been instrumental in causing bodily harm by exhibiting a common house brick, kitchen knife, and a wood club. Also they mention the many gunsports such as trap-shooting, skeet shooting, hunting, target shooting, gun collecting, and fast draw, all of which have organizations and clubs that will teach how to handle and shoot guns safely.

If, through these lectures, one person's life is saved or one more citizen is converted to a pro-gun enthusiast, the time and effort has been worthwhile.

Surprisingly, many people never gave a thought to gunsports or what other weapons were involved in accidents. So it's always been rewarding to have people come up after the show and remark their appreciation of bringing these facts to life. On the lighter and entertaining side is the enthralling appeal that is shown to guns of the gunslingers. Especially the amount and many types of guns used in the show. As many as twenty-five guns make up the Gunslinger's arsenal.

Gun tricks of the Old West such as the various and tricky ways of drawing a gun from the holster; the Road Agent's spins; Curly Bill spins, and other fancy gun artistry always creates a great deal of interest and amusement for the crowds. In some shows where space and time permits, the famous O K Corral shoot-out. This is always a real show stopper.

In creating the various gun demonstrations in the show, The Roving Gunslingers have strived to exhibit the type of guns the public has seen in their favorite Westerns. Number one gun, naturally is the old favorite, the Colt Single Action Frontier. Virgines uses two Colt Single Actions, they were manufactured over 50 years apart, with Serial numbers, 272766 and 21946 SA, caliber .45. These old shootin' irons are the guns that the public really associates with the Old West.

Another Colt that creates a lot of "ohhhhs" and "ahhhhs" is the Buntline Special with the 12 inch barrel, caliber .45, Single Action, and Serial No. 18387SA. One thing missing from this interesting weapon is the shoulder stock that was once available with the original long barrel Colt Single Actions. However it is against the law for any handgun of this type to have such a stock. The Buntline Special, though romantically linked with Ned Buntline, famous Western writer, was actually Colt's bid for business in the pocket pistol or rifle line, with a stock. The Wyatt Earp television series promoted a new interest in this particular type revolver and when Colt decided to once more provide the long barrel gun, they were amazed at its reception and appeal in sales.

The fact that this Single Action with a 12 inch barrel can be fast drawn almost in the same speed as the short barrel revolvers is a constant amazement to the audiences.

What is the meanest gun of the Old West? The sawed off double barrel shot gun takes credit for that title and reputation. Many are familiar with this type gun as they remember it from being demonstrated in the wild westerns as the weapon used by the shot-gun messengers to guard Wells Fargo's treasure box on the stagecoach. Or used by the Town Marshal to back off the lynching crowd.

The Roving Gunslinger's showy shot-gun is nickel plated, with barrels just over eighteen inches. Next gun is the "Gambler's Special", the Derringer. Usually in the movies this type of weapon is so small and used so fast that the audience rarely gets to see it. So it's always a curiosity piece. In the act a Colt Derringer No. 4, caliber .22 is used. This is an exact replica of the Colt Derringer No. 3 1872 Model that was manufactured in .41 caliber. This gun, in its attractive blued and gold finish, was brought back by Colt Company in 1959 and has become very popular.

Perhaps the most questioned and exciting gun is the type rifle that Chuck Connors of Rifleman fame used. So naturally The Roving Gunslingers had to demonstrate this type rifle. More questions are asked about this gun than any other used in the show.

The rifle chosen to be custom made into what is called the "Rifleman Special" is the Spanish "Tigre" M92 Saddle Ring carbine in caliber .44-40. The shape of the trigger is the only noticeable difference. A Winchester was considered, but I just hesitated to experiment with a collector's piece and of course the price made a difference at the time. The main identifying fea-

ture of the Rifleman's "Special" is the large ring loop lever.

Earl Svendsen, Chicago gunsmith of note, assisted in designing and re-making the ring loop and the set-screw, which is the important feature that is set in the ring loop. This set screw is adjustable to fire the rifle as fast as it can be levered so when the lever is closed it trips the trigger and allows the hammer to fall and fire the gun. To fire the rifle single action or lever one shot at a time the screw is merely backed out. The barrel was cut down to 18½ inches as was the tubular magazine, this made flipping and spinning the rifle just a little easier with short arms. The whole idea of this type rifle is to make it showy, Hollywood style.

John Wayne, a veteran of many Westerns and still a great favorite, originally used the ring loop Winchester in many of his Western movies, including "Stagecoach." Chuck Connors made this rifle a picturesque piece of gun legerdemain and The Roving Gunslingers are keeping the Rifleman "Special", movie version, legend alive.

Perhaps nobody ever heard of the "Crazy Gun" until the Roving Gunslingers designed it for "Hayseed" the clown. A plain old double barrel shotgun with exposed hammers was used. The barrels were cut down to 22½ inches and then about 8½ inches of each barrel was bent at a 45 degree angle opposite of one another. Facing the gun, the barrels are pointed left and right. An exaggerated sight was mounted and the gun finished in silver paint. For target and trick shooting a Daisy Model 1894 Spittin Image Carbine is also included in the arsenal.

Chuck Monell's favorite and constant sidearm is the old favorite, a Colt Single Action, caliber .45. A pair of consecutive serial numbers 477NM & 478NM, caliber .22, New Mexico Golden Anniversary Model Colts are also displayed by Monell & Virgines. These attractive pieces are presenta-

tion models and inscribed on the backstrap of both guns with our names and "Deputy Sheriff-Lincoln County, New Mexico."

With such a versatile arsenal, naturally safety first is of an utmost importance. One member is chosen as the safety officer. It is his job to check and load all weapons before each performance and to re-check and empty all guns after each show. These safety precautions have paid off in the fact that not one gun accident has occurred in the several years that this group has been performing with the use of guns.

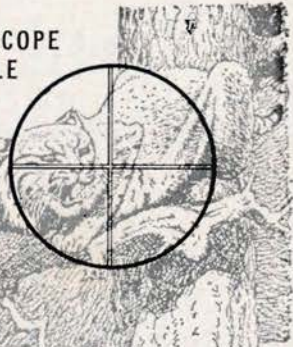
The astounding part of this type show and in view of the variety of weapons that are demonstrated, not one round of live ammunition is used or allowed to be carried by any member. This also safeguards any chance of a live round accidentally being loaded or fired.

All of the ammunition used consists of 5 in 1 blanks, wax bullets, .38 Special banks, .22 rimfire blanks, BB's, and even caps for the toy pistol used by the clown.

In close quarters, .22 metal adapters are used in the Colt .45's. This disk-like adapter fits the rear of the cylinder and the holes are off-set so .22 blanks can be fired. An extra cylinder has also been used that has the rear of the cylinder bored out for .22 blanks and the front part of the cylinder is bored out to look like the standard .45 size chambers. But the extra weight of the cylinder made gun juggling awkward because of bad balance.

The gun safety talks, fast draw, fancy gun handling exhibited by this professional group has inspired tremendous interest in gun sports. At least that is what the many news writers have said. If so, this group hopes that it has been helpful in erasing some of the bad impressions of guns given by the headlines. We hope we have, in our small way, kept alive some of the legends of the old Wild West Show.

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COFFEE MILL SHARPS

(Continued from page 43)

grind corn, wheat and other cereals taken from farm house larders.

Elizabeth Comfort, Reference Librarian of the State Historical Society of Missouri appears to back this theory when she quotes from "Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia," edited by Francis Lord, Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: "A real rarity of the war is the Sharp's carbine coffee mill. This ingenious adoption of the patch box as a coffee mill was not extensively made. Apparently the handle was easily lost; moreover, ground coffee was usually issued or the soldier found other ways of crushing their coffee beans." She quotes further from "The Treasury of the Gun" by Harold L. Peterson, Ridge Press Book, Golden Press, New York: "There was even one model with a coffee mill in its butt stock. The theory was that the mill would be useful for grinding corn and other grain that the troopers might forage from the countryside, as well as the issue of coffee. Very few were made, however, and the coffee-mill Sharps is today one of the rare American military arms."

Of the two theories, the latter sounds more practical. Because of the limited number manufactured it would seem only a limited number of soldiers would be using it, such as guerillas operating on their own. Further, it is believed the cavalry were to be the first to test the piece. A carbine is normally a cavalry weapon, still, a horseman is probably the only type capable of operating in anything resembling a practical fashion behind enemy lines. But it is equally possible the small number produced was due to a defect discovered when the gun was used. The stock and handcrank are detachable and can be carried in the pocket. Therefore they become susceptible to easy loss.

There is also variation of opinion

on what type of Sharps carbine was converted. One version has it a Sharps Model 1859, caliber .54, while Zellmer's is a new model 1863, Serial Number 55787, as well as the Milwaukee Museum's Model 1853.

Considering Sharps arms were manufactured in Hartford, Bridgeport and Philadelphia, in successive re-organizations of the company and many models of the rifle were developed, it's entirely possible several different models could have been sent to St. Louis and modified. St. Louis was probably chosen as the site of modification for that city was the Union base of supplies during the Civil War. The Sharps Model 1859, caliber .54 is said to represent the peak of development in the Sharps percussion weapon. The value of the coffee mill version could vary from several hundred into the thousands of dollars depending on the bent and desire of the collector, as well as the condition of the piece and perhaps of the greatest importance in this case, its scarcity. Antique Colt hand guns have been known to change hands for amounts running between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Bob Zellmer recalls attending a gun show. A dealer at a nearby table had a pistol which, Zellmer later found out, he hadn't really brought in to sell. A would-be buyer stopped by the table, surveyed the weapons on display and then spotted the piece on the floor. He asked to look at it and following a close examination, asked the price. The dealer, not intending to sell, quoted \$7,500. The buyer not hesitating, paid in cash and left quite happy with the transaction.

Zellmer's dad first heard of Serial Number 55787 back in 1929 through a friend travelling in the South. It was spotted in a junk shop, the exact location of which is unclear although it is known to be in either Kentucky

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or Tennessee. The friend, not being a collector declined the chance to buy. In 1930, the older Zellmer heard from his friend again that the carbine was still available for \$20. At that price, even in a depression year, Zellmer felt it a good buy and forwarded a money order for the gun, sight unseen. The carbine arrived a short while later but came close to not arriving at all. One end of the package had torn open and the gun could have easily slipped out and been lost in the mails. Fortunately for Bob Zellmer it didn't. The father eventually sold his gun collection except for the coffee mill Sharps which he passed on to his son.

Bob Zellmer recently made an excursion into the city at the invitation of Assistant Curator of History Howie Madaus to examine the museum's coffee mill carbine. In the process, Zellmer stripped the piece down, checked out its specifications and made an exact and thorough study of

the coffee mill modification. He found the coffee mill to be identical to his with interchangeable parts. An exterior look at the mill is misleading for only the exterior plates are hand-worked. These plates, one on each side of the stock, are hand filed to conform to the radius of the stock.

Speaking as a man with long experience with antique weapons, Zellmer says, "I firmly believe these two carbines are original coffee mills. The fact that one was found back in 1929 as well as the interchangeability of parts and similarity of workmanship."

He firmly warns of counterfeit carbines. "Certainly some must exist. But only an expert could identify the genuine article. Zellmer willingly offers his opinion to anyone who wants to check a coffee mill for authenticity and he feels qualified to recognize an original model.

"For one thing," Zellmer said in closing, "the mill really grinds coffee." 

POCKET PISTOLS

(Continued from page 22)

bottles rather than those of the glass variety. Two reasons: you can tell near-misses from complete wipeouts, and this is educational. Secondly, because of the heat, I wear sandals a lot, and broken glass is not conducive to continued good health.

I might also mention that a visible near-miss seems to impress the rubes as much as and maybe more than a dead-center shot. I can't say why unless it's a side-effect of the great American struggle for mediocrity which has heretofore given us soap operas, the graduated income-tax, and Lawrence Welk.

Speaking of digressions, that above-mentioned Walther was blooded last year when I was forced to kill a deer (my first) with it. I did sort of knock it down a little with my brother's .30-06, but the cussed beast was reluctant to become venison. I highly recommend carrying a coup-de-grace pistol on big game hunts. It may not be sporting, but at least it saved me a ride on the horns of a dilemma. (Colorado's dilemma season is in September.)

My first center-fire pistol was a Llama in .32ACP. This little diamond in the rough looks like the runt of a litter of G.I. 45's, except for a ventilated rib along the top. Sadly this is but one of the many fine guns embargoed by the 1968 Gun Control Act. In fact, every firearm I intend to mention here has gone the way of the passenger pigeon with the exception

of the Walther. I hope this makes you mad. I hope this makes you so damned mad you'll go out and vote. I'm going to. However, we were speaking of happier things . . . Don't let the big guns scare you out of loading small pistol cases. My brother had a lot more fuss with .30-06 and 9mm Luger, but then he was loading with one of those Mattel Hammerific outfits that are so attractively inexpensive. I'm even loading .25ACP now, which is a squinch harder, as your basic setup should include tweezers and a good magnifying glass. RCBS has dies for .32 and .25, but bullets are a little harder. The only place I could find them was in Herter's catalog.

One other caution: it's impossible to get a powder measure to reliably throw one grain of anything, so patience and a good set of scales are in order. The powder measure hassle can be speeded up a couple of ways—depending on how much guts you have and whether you're willing to take a chance on having them spread around a little. The first, most perilous method is to use dippers made of cartridge cases with a stout wire handle soldered on. Berdan cases are nice for this as powder can't fall through the flash holes. It also gives you something to do with the damed things. Like I said earlier, I'll pick up any kind of brass. Dippers should be smaller than the caliber you're loading so they'll fit inside the case mouth, precluding spillage. An exception is

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.25ACP unless you have access to a supply of 2.7mm Kolibri cases—and insurance against being murdered by cartridge collectors. File the cases patiently until they'll throw the right amount—I'll warn you, it's all in the wrist; consistency in dipping is akin to consistency in wingshooting—it's a kinaesthetic thing. Use a straight-edge, like the front of a matchbook cover (sans matches—please!) to strike off excess powder. I say this is perilous because you've nowhere near the safety margin in small cases you have in larger ones.

I'm chicken personally. I throw my dipped charges into the scale pan and then into the cases. It's slower, but my insurance man sleeps nights.

I guess I oughta mention that my .25 is a Browning, and since I bought it mainly to noodle around with loads, I steered clear of the lightweight model. Mine weighs a groaning 9 1/10 ounces and I'm just now learning to shoot it straight. If I could just figure out what to do with my leftover fingers on the grip . . .

But again I have digressed, which is a shame, because I was about to say that the Llama recently handed me the biggest and "pleasantest" surprise of my admittedly short shooting career.

Some weeks ago, Chuck Carper, an ex-gunsmith friend of mine from Golden, Colorado took the bunch of us out to the home of a real old-time shooter, name of Gene Gurnea. Now, I was born in Colorado, but I never would have guessed that there was that much open land so close to Denver and its satellites. Like they say, miles and miles of miles and miles.

Mr. Gurnea is 82, and the sort that regales his victims with tales of 1400 yard shots with his twelve-foot long .45-70 trapdoor Springfield. Trouble is, you have to believe him, because if you don't, he'll show you how he can pick the wings off a fly at 200 yards, and let you choose right or left wing. And it was a small fly, too. I just hope I can shoot like that when I'm 82. If you haven't met your Mr. Gurnea,

your education is incomplete.

Naturally the whippersnapper couldn't be outdone, so I leveled my Llama at the rock on which the wingless fly had been sitting, and pulled the trigger, aiming dead on. I expected a puff of dust halfway down-range, but damned if the ball didn't hit a mere four feet below the mark. The follow-up, Kentucky-style, was right on the button. Find that in your drop-tables!

Chuck, a shooter of at least 35 years' experience (and one of my continuous needlers, concerning my passion for small auto pistols) says his jaw hit the ground, but I was too busy wiping the grass stains off my own to notice.

There are some morals here, of course. I admit to some unfair advantages. First, I practice a lot. In the first year I had the Walther, I put 5000 rounds through it.

Secondly, I'm one of the guys that gets cussed regularly because handguns (and not just the small ones—Chuck's Ruger .44 is no exception) are made for the smallest hand likely to use them, and I could wear women's gloves if I didn't mind the stares and strange offers.

Third, I'm not ashamed to use two hands, not being in the cavalry, and I don't mind using a car fender, large rock, or tree to lean against if one's handy. Camera tripods are overrated, but a stepladder is nice if you don't mind carrying around the extra weight.

But last, and most important, I never believe what I hear or read concerning what a given gun or cartridge can't do, until I try it myself. I have an idea that if serious shooters invested a fraction of the time and energy in these small pistols that they spend trying to tinker up that trusty old veteran G.I. .45 into a semblance of reasonable performance, the pocket pistols would shoot rings around the big ones.

If that's ignorance speaking, at least it's the ignorance of experience. Figure that one out!



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MINDANAO GUN

(Continued from page 25)

partly-sunken seaplane. Using anything available—tree limbs, army blankets, inner tubes—the men worked all through the night. By mid-afternoon, nearly 24 hours after being disabled, the patched-up flying boat made a hazardous take-off and returned to Australia. But its weakened condition made it impossible to carry any passengers.

By that time, the Japanese had landed on the north coast of Mindanao and were moving inland. With Del Monte in danger, the Wood-Bridget party fled south some 40 miles to a small landing field outside Valencia. Though the anxious evacuees waited at Valencia field for three nights and a B-24 bomber flew up from Darwin, the lack of communications and a severe storm prevented the aircraft from making the pickup.

When it became clear there would be no further attempts at rescue, Wood, Bridget, and their companions went to the nearby town of Malaybalay, where they were befriended by Paul A. H. Fortich, the local provincial governor. At Malaybalay they learned that Corregidor has surrendered, and that Gen. Wainwright had ordered all American military personnel throughout the Philippines to do likewise. Col. Wood realized that his party would soon have to give themselves up to the Japanese, but he did not want the Wainwright gun to fall into enemy hands.

He explained his predicament to Fortich, and in a short time, the governor provided "some heavy grease akin to cosmoline," a quantity of rags, and heavy wrapping paper. After covering every exposed part of the revolver with grease, Wood carefully wrapped it in cloth, then again with the waterproof paper.

Fortich, Bridget, and Wood then selected a tall tree located about a hundred yards from Fortich's house. The two American officers climbed the tree and secured the waterproof package high in the crotch of the tree, making certain it was sheltered from the weather and invisible from the ground.

Before Wood and Bridget returned

to their party, Fortich assured them that he would guard the hiding place. He promised to forward the gun to Gen. MacArthur after the war. Failing this, he would see that it was returned to Gen. Wainwright.

Several days later, Wood, Bridget, and the rest of the evacuees were taken prisoner by the Japanese. When Col. Wood rejoined Gen. Wainwright in prison camp some months after, he reported caching the revolver in Mindanao. Wainwright indicated that he hoped to recover the gun and would then present it to MacArthur.

When the United States liberated the Philippines in 1945, Fortich removed the Wainwright gun from the crotch of the tree. In February 1946, about six months after the war ended, he entrusted the pistol to his friend, Col. C. E. Walter, who was returning to the States. Walter agreed to deliver the revolver to Gen. Wainwright.

Upon reaching the United States, Col. Walter found it impossible to carry out his promise; and he transmitted the pistol to Maj. Fred W. Varney, a fellow veteran of the Philippine campaign. But Varney was out of the country, and so Walter entrusted the Colt, with appropriate instructions, to the major's daughter. Several years elapsed, however, before Maj. Varney finally wrote to General Wainwright; and, unfortunately, the general died before making any reply.

After further delay, and with Gen. MacArthur's consent, the pistol was sent to West Point, New York, where, on June 4, 1956, the Colt revolver was formally presented to the West Point Museum by the surviving members of Wainwright's Class of 1906. The gun will be "permanently preserved in the West Point Museum as a constant reminder of the 'Hero of Bataan' and the gallant men who fought so valiantly on Bataan and Corregidor, and as a memorial to the Class of 1906."

It is altogether fitting that the gun, so long hidden in the crotch of a tree on Mindanao, Philippine Islands, is now at West Point where Gen. Wainwright began his military career.

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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

This fall, there will be 33 seats in the Senate up for grabs. Among these are some of the most anti- and some of the most pro-gun lawmakers in the Federal Government. The following list rates position:

Burdick, Quentin (D., N. Dak.) member of the Judiciary Committee where most of the anti-firearms bills have been referred. He voted "Nay" when the senate passed the Gun Control Act of 1968, but he has not introduced any legislation to remove its provisions.

Byrd, Harry F. (D., Va.) member of the Finance Committee where legislation eliminating recordkeeping requirements for .22 rimfire ammunition and handgun ammunition now await review. He voted for the Gun Control Act of 1968, and has not introduced legislation to remove its provisions.

Byrd, Robert C. (D., W. Va.) member of the Judiciary Committee where the anti-firearms bills have been referred. He voted "Yea" when the Senate passed the 1968 Act, but has introduced legislation to remove the controls over rifle and shotgun ammunition and ammunition components. The bill is still pending before the Judiciary.

Cannon, Howard (D., Nev.) member of the Commerce Committee which did have control of anti-gun bills pending in the Senate but gave up the authority to the Judiciary. Pending before Commerce, at this writing is a measure to put the tax now collected on handguns in to conservation funds and to build public shooting ranges. He voted for the 1968 Gun Control Act. He has not introduced legislation to remove its provisions.

Dodd, Thomas (D., Conn.); chances are he will not be reelected. He has, at this writing, lost the seat on the party ticket. If, by chance he is elected, he

will no longer chair the subcommittee where he reviewed anti-gun legislation.

Fannin, Paul (R., Ariz.) member of the Finance Committee where elimination of recordkeeping requirements for .22 rimfire ammunition and handgun ammunition now await review. He voted "Nay" on the 1968 Gun Control Act. Has introduced legislation for mandatory additional penalties for use of a firearm in crime.

Fong, Hiram (R., Hawaii) member of the Judiciary Committee where anti-gun bills await review. Voted for the 1968 Act, and has not favored any amendments to remove its provisions.

Goodell, Charles (R., N. Y.) member of the Commerce Committee where the afore mentioned handgun tax awaits review. He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Robert Kennedy. He voted for the 1968 Act.

Gore, Albert (D., Tenn.) member of the Finance Committee. Voted for the 1968 Gun Control Act. Faces an up hill fight for reelection.

Hart, Philip (D., Mich.) member of the Commerce and Judiciary Committees. He voted for the 1968 Act. Has introduced legislation to put the tax now collected on handguns in to conservation and public shooting ranges.

Hartke, Vance (D., Ind.) member of the Commerce and Finance Committees. He voted for the 1968 Act. He has not introduced legislation to amend any of its restrictive provisions.

Holland, Spessard (D., Fla.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted for the 1968 Act.

Hruska, Roman (R., Nebr.) member of the Judiciary Committee. He has been the friend of the shooting sportsmen. We need people like him in Congress.

Jackson, Henry (D., Wash.) member of the Government (Continued on next page)

Operations Committee now holding hearings on anti-bombing. Legislation could outlaw handloading equipment. Voted for the 1968 Gun Control Act.

Kennedy, Edward (D., Mass.) member of the Judiciary. He is also driving force for additional anti-gun legislation. Chances are he will be re-elected even though he has come under fire for death of Miss Kopechne.

McCarthy, Eugene (D., Minn.) member of the Finance Committee. Did not vote on 1968 Gun Control Act. Will not run for office this fall.

McGee, Gale (D., Wyo.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted "Nay" on 1968 Act. Has pro-gun legislation pending—good man.

Mansfield, Mike (D., Mont.) head of democrats in Senate. Under fire for supporting gun controls. Has introduced and had the Senate pass legislation providing additional penalties for a Federal felony while armed.

Montoya, Joseph (D., N. Mex.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted for the 1968 Gun Control Act.

Moss, Frank (D., Utah) member of the Commerce Committee. Voted "Nay" when Senate considered 1968 Act.

Murphy, George (R., Calif.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Has pro-gun viewpoint.

Muskie, Edmund (D., Maine) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Did not vote when Senate considered 1968 Act.

Pastore, John (D., R. I.) member of the Commerce Committee. Has anti-gun viewpoint.

Prouty, Winston (R., Vt.) member of the Commerce Committee. Voted for the 1968 Act.

Proxmire, William (D., Wis.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted for the 1968 Act.

Scott, Hugh (R., Penn.) leader of Republicans in Senate, member of Commerce and Judiciary Committees. Voted for the 1968 Gun Control Act. Has bills pending before the Commerce Committee to put hand gun tax into conservation and range construction.

Stennis, John (D., Miss.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted "Nay" when Senate considered 1968 Act.

Symington, Stuart (D., Mo.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted "Yea" when Senate passed 1968 Act.

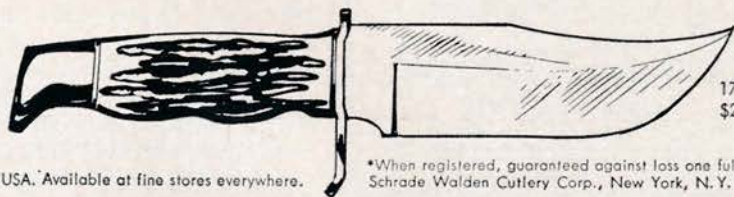
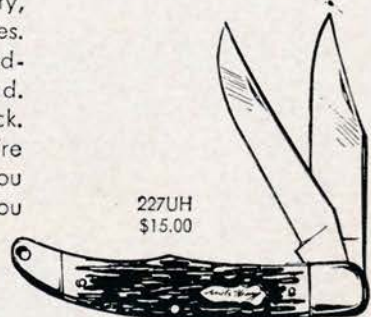
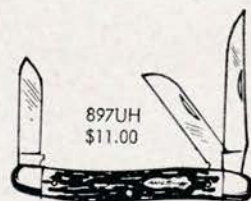
Tydings, Joseph (D., Md.) member of the Judiciary and Commerce Committees. Has made more gun controls

(Continued on next page)

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an issue in his forthcoming election. Is most anti-gun lawmaker in Senate.

Williams, Harrison A. (D., N. J.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted for the 1968 Act.

Williams, John (R., Del.) member of the Finance Committee. Voted for the 1968 Act.

Yarborough, Ralph (D., Tex.) member of no committee considering gun legislation. (Was member of Commerce.) Voted for 1968 Act.

Young, Stephen (D., Ohio) member of no committee considering gun legislation. Voted for the 1968 Act.

* * *

Senator Jacob Javits (R., N. Y.) recently addressed the Nassau County

Lawyers Assoc., and, as expected, took a few swipes at gun owners. He said: "It is time to cast aside the frontier mentality and accept scit limitations on the ownership of guns. Permits . . . should be granted only if a need for the use could be demonstrated by the applicant." He went on to say: "We should not be governed by the alleged inconvenience of the sportsmen when the safety of the community is at stake. Their rights, experience has shown, can easily be preserved even with registration and gun control." It would be interesting to ask Mr. Javits just what our "rights" are, since he is so eager to take them away under the guise of "controls."



DYING BREED

(Continued from page 27)

slowly was a more effective killer than the larger, equally slow moving .455 Webley. Their military forces had also concluded that double action fire was more effective than single action fire. Thus, some of their revolvers of World War II will be found with no cocking spur or full cock notch on their hammers. This use of double action fire is also the theory of the late American, Ed McGivern, one of the fastest shooters in the world, but to think of the relatively untrained soldier using this form of instinct shooting was startling. The British also had another unusual practice in allowing enlisted men to carry handarms. The handgun has always been a class thing to the military. Scenes of an officer leading his troops out of the trenches waving an impotent pistol over his head are grist to the officer's mill. The British had found that there was no correlation between the ability to shoot a revolver and the ability to be an officer and a gentleman. Most enlisted men in combat wound up with a handgun no matter what the great planners had in mind. The British outlook was certainly commendable. The British troops were therefore armed with the Enfield Service .38 revolver No. 2 Mark 1. They also used the Webley and Scott Mark IV .38 caliber and the Smith and Wesson .38/200 which they purchased from that American firm. In desperation they even used many of the old Webleys in .455 caliber.

The British had a very good revolver in their above mentioned pistols. To the American, the native British revolver has one strike against it in that it is a troop-break action. The word "top-break" has become a dirty word associated with some of the jun-

kiest trash that was made during the pre-World War II days. But "top-break" to the British meant the same thing as it did to Smith and Wesson as used in their military pistol, the Schofield. In the British service arm, the latch on the side of the frame cams very tightly even after many many rounds have been fired. These revolvers are also double-action. They have rebound hammers for safety and are equipped with a military lanyard loop at the bottom of the grip. The British use the classic number of rounds in the chamber—six. The Enfield and the Webley and Scott are both well made in the best English tradition. I have really never understood the extreme complexity of the British way of retaining the cylinder in the frame. These revolvers lock the cylinder by a pivoted yoke which is cammed by a screw-retained operating arm. American manufacturers of "top-breaks" accomplished the same locking by threading the forward shank of the cylinder with threads which were opposite to the direction of the cylinder's rotation. Webley and Scott were so worried about their gun's appearance that they even stamped them with the cryptic legend, "War Finish". This message covers a very guilty conscience of a first class manufacturer. This preoccupation about their external appearance didn't stop with the manufacturers, as many collectors shun these guns too. These revolvers were first given a parkerizing coat as was normal with many military arms in World War II. To top this non-commercial finish, the British Government decided to paint these guns with a protective black paint. If there was any finish which could be guaranteed to raise the



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hackles on the neck of a purist in the gun world, it is a flaky black paint, over parkerizing.

These revolvers in spite of their unattractive looks were superbly made. There is no more stringent a taskmaster than combat troops. I've often wondered why after the best military minds have decided what is right for the exacting duty of a service arm, some homespun genius will completely butcher the arm and call it a "sporting" weapon. My only conclusion is that the use of the word "sporting" is taken from that word's shadiest meaning.

Last but not least is the Smith and Wesson "Victory Model."

In the early days of World War II, the British were already purchasing a war time edition of the Smith and Wesson's military police pistol in .38/200. Thus, it seemed logical that our own government should turn to that firm for a pistol to arm our own mushrooming military forces. The United States Coast Guard and the Navy Air Corp were supplied with a slightly different model of the Smith and Wesson Military and Police. The difference between the British contract revolver and the Victory model was in cartridge and barrel length. The British used the aforementioned .38/200 which was ballistically equivalent to our .38 S & W, the U.S. type was chambered for our more potent .38 Special. The U.S. used a four inch barrel compared to the English standard five inch. To our civilian shooter's eyes, the S & W Victory model has a rather unattractive appearance. This is because this S & W hasn't the usual superb external polishing and rather than being blued, this pistol is Parkerized. Yet internally the lock work is just what one would expect of this firm's product. The Victory model in my collection works just as smoothly and shoots as well as any commercial Military & Police that I have ever tried. The Victory Smith and Wesson has a swing out cylinder and a one push extractor. This extracting method is much faster than the Nagant's and yet allows a rigid frame for years of accuracy. There might be some who would question the use by the Coast Guard, as "combat tested", but Navy and Marine fliers of the dark days when we were slowly taking back island after island in the



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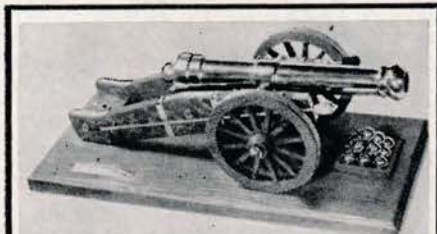
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bloody Pacific War were fighters in every sense of the word.

These three revolvers are probably the last we will ever find used in modern war. The Germans seemed to realize as early as World War I that the automatic pistol as made today, using modern smokeless powder was the military replacement for the cranky revolver. By now the rest of the world's military have relegated these whirling dervishes to the scrap pile. The Russians use the Tokarev, and Makarov and the Stechkin automatic pistols. The British have shelved their Webleys and have embraced the Browning High-Power automatic in 9 m/m Luger. We have our perennial Colt .45 Model 1911 and 1911A-1, but even this automatic is rather obsolete when compared to the German Walther P-38 of World War II. So I think that we may conclude that any wars fought in the future will be fought without revolvers, but I could be wrong. In a Field Manual published in 1960 we find fifty pages devoted to the "Revolver, Colt, Caliber .38, 2 inch barrel, "Detective Special". I don't know—maybe we ought to bring back the Match Lock.

There is an almost unbroken stretch of one hundred years in which the revolver was the handarm of the battlefield. This period started with the American Mexican War of 1845 and ended with World War II in 1945. When the revolver entered the arena, it was in competition with muzzle loading, smoothbore flintlock muskets. There certainly can be little doubt of the superiority of a six shot, rifled, percussion arm like the early Colt Dragoons over this type of competition. I think the biggest reason for the length of the revolvers tenure in this country has been the superbly made products manufactured by Colt and by Smith and Wesson. I think a secondary reason has been that in the U.S.A., most of our police are armed traditionally with revolvers. This tradition is so strongly rooted that it doesn't even seem strange to the U.S. citizen. Today, without much fanfare, police of larger cities are being rearmed with automatic pistols. We, therefore, may see the end of the revolver as a modern arm in this century in all of its major uses—Military, Police, and even Competition Shooting.

The Guns Magazine

Panel of Experts

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

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208 W. Fifth, Dept. Q, Colville, Washington 99114

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Dick Miller—Trap & Skeet

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Springfield Adaptor

Enclosed is a photo of my M-2 Springfield rifle. Do you know where I can get a .22 adaptor for this gun.

Oscar E. Carlson
Paterson, N.J.

The rifle shown in your photograph is not an M-2 Springfield. The "U.S.

Rifle, .22 caliber, M2" is entirely different from what you show. Your rifle appears to be the standard M1903 in .30 caliber, while the M-2 is chambered for the .22 Long Rifle cartridge, utilizes an entirely different bolt and receiver, and is fitted with a small detachable box magazine containing 5

rounds and inserted through a hole in the floor plate.

Perhaps you are referring to a .22 caliber conversion unit to fit the .30 caliber rifle. This unit was at one time made up in substantial quantities and marketed by Numrich Arms Company, West Hurley, New York. It consisted of a barrel, bolt, trigger guard, and magazine, all of which could be inserted in the standard M1903 rifle after removal of the original bolt. However, this unit has not been offered for sale for a number of years. You might, by contacting Numrich Arms directly, be able to obtain a specimen, but I would not hold out much hope for it. Your only other alternative is to place a "want ad" in the various shooting publications, indicating that you wish to purchase a "Numrich Arms .22 caliber Springfield conversion kit."—G.N.

Belgian Spencer

I have a Spencer carbine with Belgian markings on it. It is marked on the receiver as follows: "Union Armurriere Belge—Liege—" Can you tell me if this weapon was manufactured in Belgium or if it was made in America, shipped to Belgium and marked there.

Mitchell Goldberg
Albuquerque, N.M.

Your Spencer carbine with Belgium markings is one of the first I have heard about in some years . . . it is not Belgium made, but purchased here and shipped to Belgium and marked.—R.M.

Manhattan Revolver

I have a cap and ball revolver, 5 shot, approximately .36 caliber with matching serial numbers and manufactured by "Manhattan Fire Arms Mfg. Co., New York." Barrel length is 5 inches and there is some engraving on the cylinder. Total length of the weapon is about 10 inches. It looks similar to the Colt 1851 Navy. Can you give me some information on this

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gun and also tell me where I might obtain a barrel stud for it?

C. Neil Vann
San Diego, Calif.

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Astra Ammo.

A friend tells me that the Astra Model 400 pistol is able to shoot almost any ammo basically in the 9mm/38 class. Is this true?

Ray Ott
Reading, Penn.

I dislike to disillusion you, but the Astra M400 pistol was not, I repeat, was not, designed to handle any cartridges other than the 9mm Bergmann-Bayard (9mm Largo). It was designed exclusively around this cartridge, and any propensity it has to occasionally function with other cartridges is purely accidental and coincidental. It is a matter of record that even when chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge and fitted with a magazine designed also for that cartridge, the M400 pistol was not acceptable to the German government. The inability of the M400 to perform satisfactorily with the 9mm Parabellum cartridge is what led to the development of the M600 which was then purchased in the quantity in 9mm Parabellum by the German government. Use of the 9mm Parabellum cartridge in the M400 produces a condition of grossly excess headspace which can cause ruptured and/or badly deformed cases and blown primers. I have proved this on numerous occasions in several different guns.—G.N.

Russian Colt

I have a Colt S.A. Frontier and the barrel is marked "44 Russian CTG".

Someone told me it is quite rare in this caliber. It is in excellent condition. What is it worth?

N. Gabriel
Walpole, Mass.

You are correct in assuming that your Colt Single Action is quite rare in it's .44 Russian caliber as only 154 were produced in this caliber by the Colt Firearms Company. Without knowing its true condition it would be hard for me to establish a true value but I am sure that even in just good condition its value would be well over the \$300 figure and if it's condition were better its value in turn would increase.—R.M.

Ortgies .380

I have just started collecting German handguns and just bought one marked "Deutsche Werke Werk Erfurt". It is in .380 and I paid \$15 for it. Can you tell me the value and did I get taken.

P. DuVall
Mamaroneck, N.Y.

The Ortgies is a very interesting pistol and the .380 is quite scarce. In very good condition a .380 should be worth twice the current market price of the .32. With original clip it might be worth as much as \$100.00 to a serious collector—but it would have to be in very good condition, original throughout, including magazine.—S.B.

.45-70 vs. .444 Marlin

I know by modern standards the .45-70 is considered obsolete but assuming that a good strong action and modern powders were used, how would the old timer measure up to such a cartridge as the .444 Marlin?

J. L. Northum
Tinker AFB, Okla.

In a properly designed modern rifle, the .45-70 cartridge can be loaded to far exceed the .444 Marlin in killing power. For example, the standard 405 grain soft point bullet can be driven at approximately 1850 fps from a 28" barrel by 53 grains of IMR 3031 powder. This load develops only approximately 29,000 psi chamber pressure, so could be increased in an action such as the Ruger #1.—G.N.

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BOOKS

ANTIQUÉ FIREARMS

By Frederick Wilkinson
 (Doubleday & Co. \$10.95)

Over the last few years, there seems to have been a rash of antique-type gun books, many that just are not worth the price on the flyleaf. Here we have a book of a different nature, one written by a man that has made a study of the arms, not of the books written before. A fine book and a must for the collector of antique arms. *R.N.M.*

GERMAN INFANTRY WEAPONS OF WAR II

By A. J. Barker
 (Arco Publishing Co. \$3.50)

Beginning as would be expected, Barker kicks this book off with the veritable Luger pistol. There is an interesting commentary on the formation of the German infantry with excellent illustrations of the formation of German infantry Regiments, Companies and Machine Gun Companies. He goes into a good bit of detail on German small arms ammunition including the topic of consumable cartridge cases.

Submachine guns, light machine guns, anti-tank guns, mortars, grenades and lots more are covered in good detail. Again, photos and illustrations are top quality showing the quite apparent German fascination for small arms novelties. They experimented with ideas and designs back in the 1940's that are just becoming reality in the past few years.

One of the most useful parts of the book is the "Appendix 4"; a listing of

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the German Small Arms Manufacturers' Codes that gives the codes in an alphabetical order. Some rarely seen weapons are illustrated here that are not seen in other journals. A companion piece to "British and American Weapons of WW2." H.A.M.

BLUNDERBUSES

By D. R. Baxter
(Stackpole \$4.95)

As a collector of blunderbuss pistols myself, I found the Blunderbusses book by Baxter especially interesting, for until now there has been little written about this most popular of antique weapons. It covers in great style the development of the blunderbuss from it's earliest origins to the end in the percussion period... over three hundred years of development. An excellent book for the collector's library. R.N.M.

GERMAN PISTOLS AND HOLSTERS 1934/1945 MILITARY-POLICE-NSDAP

By Maj. Robert D. Whittington III
(Brownlee Books \$15.00)

One of the best reference books in this highly specialized area of weaponry. Maj. Whittington has compiled a highly technical hard-bound collection of pistols and holsters used from the start of Nazi Germany in 1934 to it's end. The book is comprised mostly of illustrations that are clear and concise. He covers the topics of acceptance stamps and proof marks used on German produced and/or purchased pistols; the pistols procured for the military—Heer, Luftwaffe, and Waffen SS, 1934-1945 of both German manufacture and foreign manufacture; pistols procured for the police system and the NSDAP, holsters used in conjunction with those weapons as well as the holster manufacturer's codes from 1940-1945.

In the very interesting "Miscellaneous" section Whittington covers the delivery of Astra pistols and their serial number ranges according to models manufactured for the Germans, dates delivered or shipped, and letters heretofore unpublished concerning

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the initial contract between Astra and the German government.

This book would have to be considered a "must" for the German gun collector or fancier. It is extremely detailed and well illustrated. Sure to become a classic. *H.A.M.*

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LUGERS AT RANDOM

By Charles Kenyon, Jr.
(Handgun Press \$15.00)

We are quite impressed with this latest offering from Handgun Press, *Lugers at Random*. It is profusely illustrated with clear definitive pictures giving two views of each weapon covered. Over half of it's 416 pages are photos or illustrations covering Lugers from the beginning, basic model, to highly sought after rare models.

There is an excellent section in the front of the book dealing with the different toggles, safeties, model types, proofs and serial numbering as well as the historical evolution. Containing twelve chapters in all, *Lugers at Random* deals with the contract Lugers, military and commercial models, Simson, Mauser and Simson re-works, Krieghoffs and cut-aways. The last chapter deals with the topic of accessories for this famous gun.

Excellent line drawings of the many and varied proof marks make identification quite simplified and sectional drawings from the original patents clarify the actions of the original and transition pistols.

This is truly one of the best books to appear on the Luger, with over 400 illustrations, covering the Luger in all its variations. *H.A.M.*

ANTIQUE WEAPONS

By Richard Akehurst
(Arco \$5.95)

Part of a new series by Arco Publishing Co. on books for the antique buffs, covering guns, silver, maps, etc. This then is the antique weapons part of the series: a survey of the weapons of Europe, the Near East, India, Japan and the American frontier. It covers their history with particular emphasis on those available to collectors. *R.N.M.*

CUSTOM-MADE KNIVES

(Continued from page 32)

worse represent slanted material. In view of this I would simply like to list, in alphabetical order, the makers of today whose work is at least acceptable and who make knives on at least a semi-professional basis. There are a few very talented amateurs, such as Lee Diggs, Palo Verde, California, and Ray Quincy, Paso Robles, California, whose output for any given year may not exceed a dozen knives, and due to their very limited production, I am not including them in this listing.

Ralph Bone, 806 Avenue J, Lubbock, Texas. This firm, which employs a number of workmen, offers about a

dozen models ranging in price from \$25 to as much as \$100. Because of the additional shop personnel, the rate of production here is higher than is the case with most shops.

H. G. Bourne, 1252 Hope Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. No brochure is offered by this maker who strives to avoid "any stereotyped style", preferring to offer survival models, push-daggers, and patch knives. Prices range from around \$20 to \$55.

Peter J. Callan, 7813 River Road, Waggaman, Louisiana. Callan offers a very limited number of knives featuring some beautifully crafted handle work, including engraved guards and

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butt caps, inlaid game heads, and carved ivory handles. Standard work begins at \$30, and some of his top custom work will run around \$150.

Nelson Cooper, P. O. Box 1423, Burbank, California. Cooper lists approximately 17 different models, ranging in cost from \$19.50 to \$150. Micarta handles are standard on most of his knives, and Cooper does a particularly good job of bonding together the blade, guard, and handle. Cooper began making knives as a hobby in the 1920's, and he estimates that he has made over 20,000 knives during his career.

Dan Dennehy, P. O. Box 4479, Yuma, Arizona. Dennehy sells his knives under his "Dan-D" trademark, and he gives first priority on his orders to servicemen. Prices begin at \$28 and go up to \$70. Leather washer handles are standard, although other materials are available on special order at extra cost.

T. M. Dowell, 139 St. Helens Place, Bend, Oregon. Eleven models of very functional design are offered by this maker, who gives the prospective customer a wide variety of exotic hardwoods for handle selection. Prices range from \$20 to \$63.

Draper Knives, P. O. Box 94B, Ephraim, Utah. Harvey Draper offers a comprehensive selection of beautifully crafted knives with prices ranging from \$46.50 to \$87.50. It is difficult to find any fault with the work offered by Draper.

John Ek, 3214 N.W. 54th St., Miami, Fla. 33142. Specializing in combat knives, with seven styles available. Prices run from \$25 up.

Clyde Fischer, Rt. 1, Box 170M, Victoria, Texas. Once a custom stock maker, Fischer now specializes in big, husky knives with stag and wood handles. Prices begin at \$40 and go up to as high as \$150.

Loyd A. Hale, 4857 Challen Street, Riverside, California. Hale, a newcomer to knifemaking, makes knives strictly to the customer's wants, and his handle designs are unique. Prices begin at \$18 and go up.

C. M. Heath, 119 Grant Street, Winneconne, Wisconsin. Heath has been making knives for more than 20 years, and he learned the art from Bill Staeger, one of the pioneers of 20th century knifemaking. Four basic models are offered, ranging in price from \$27.50 to \$85. Heath knives are lightweight and practical in design.

George Herron, 920 Murrah Ave., Aiken, South Carolina. Herron turns out a very limited number of knives, with prices ranging from \$25 to \$37.50, and no brochure is available at this time. He is one of the most talented,

in my opinion, of the newcomers to the profession.

Gil Hibben, Box 7, Manti, Utah. Both a standard and a "signature" line are offered by this smith, with prices beginning at \$32 and climbing to \$185.

Chubby Hueske, 4808 Tamarisk, Bellaire, Texas. Since 1968 when he began making knives as a professional, Hueske has shown impressive improvement, and he now offers nine models ranging from \$32 to \$135 in price. Hueske knives are rugged, and, like Herron, Hueske appears to be a real comer.

Walter Kneubuhler, P. O. Box 327, Pioneer, Ohio. Patterned after the knives carried by the 19th century "Mountain Men", a Kneubuhler knife is a real addition to any collection. Prices start at \$30 and the top of the line is the Grand Teton, listing at \$100. Stag handles with wrapped German silver guards are standard. Walter also offers a nice line of tomahawks for black powder buffs.

Jimmy Lile, Rt. 1, Box 56, Russellville, Arkansas. Lile lists 15 models in his catalog, with his price scale running from \$37.50 to \$125. Walnut is a favored handle material.

R. W. Loveless, Box 837, Lawndale, California. There are many who consider Loveless' knives to be the finest on today's market. His workmanship is flawless; his designs are original and practical; and his materials are beyond reproach. A Loveless blade will run Rockwell 62-64, without a trace of brittleness. These blades are made from a special steel, and Loveless owns every ounce that was ever poured. Prices begin at \$85.

Joe F. Martin, P. O. Box 6552, Lubbock, Texas. This maker has thus far escaped a great deal of national attention, but his knives merit comparison with the best! He specializes in combat and survival knives, and he is one of the few cutlers who prefers to forge 440C steel. Prices range from \$22 to as high as \$60 and up for a large Bowie.

John T. Mims, 620 South 28th Avenue, Apartment 327, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. A gunsmith, Mims turns out a limited number of handmade knives, all of customer design. Prices vary with the customer's wants, but mostly range from \$25 to \$55.

W. R. Moran, Route 5, Frederick, Maryland. Considered by many to be America's finest smith, Moran offers 22 models, with most models listing in the \$50-\$70 category. Moran is currently 18 months behind in his delivery book.

Steve Morseth, Box 406, Redmond, Washington. The grandson of Harry

Morseth, who founded the shop, Steve is still turning out the laminated blades made famous by his grandfather. Prices are in the \$25 to \$35 category, and, as mentioned earlier, the Morseth sheath is tremendous.

Jom Pugh, P. O. Box 771, Azle, Texas. Sculptured buffalo head butt caps, available in gold, silver, or bronze, are the highlight of this line, with prices beginning at \$125 and skyrocketing to \$2,100 for a knife with a cap and guard of solid gold!

W. D. Randall, Jr., P. O. Box 1988, Orlando, Florida. The "big name" in handmade knives even today, Randall lists 21 models in his current catalog with prices beginning at around \$35. Leather washer handles are standard, as are duralumin caps. There is currently a waiting list of 30 months for a Randall knife.

Ruana Knife Works, Box 574, Bonner, Montana. R. H. Ruana was one of the trailblazers for modern knife-makers, and he still makes his knives very much as he did back in the 1920's. Prices haven't changed too much, either, beginning at \$7.95 complete with sheath, which is virtually a give-away for hand-forged work. The resulting knives are not as "slick" as those offered by many, but they are good.

Jack D. Schmier, 16787 Mulberry Circle, Fountain Valley, California. A very few models of original design are offered by Schmier, with prices beginning at \$28.

Merle Seguire, Box 1956, Juneau, Alaska. Months behind on his orders, Seguire offers truly functional knives at realistic prices. His blades are made of somewhat thinner steel than most makers use, but they are sturdy and hold an edge well. Prices begin at around \$35.

Blackie Sewell, 894 Kings Court N. E., Atlanta, Georgia. A strictly custom maker, Sewell works to the customer's design, but he specializes in fine Bowies. Prices are not low, but the workmanship is high.

W. J. Sonnevill, 1050 Chalet Drive W., Mobile, Alabama. A professional only since 1965, Sonnevill's work, while good, is still not up to the quality of some of the established masters. Prices range from \$37 up.

Bernard Sparks, Dingle, Idaho. A sure bet to be one of tomorrow's top names, Sparks offers a very limited number of beautifully crafted knives of original design. Sparks prefers a forward-slanting guard, which works very well in actual usage. Prices begin at \$35.

G. W. Stone, 703 Floyd Road, Richardson, Texas. This Texan has turned to stainless steel, not only for his blades, but for his guards and butt

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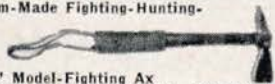
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you select for *your* dream knife, re-
member this: A good knife deserves
proper care. Don't use a handmade
knife as a substitute for a screw-
driver, and if you desire a throwing
knife, order one made for that specific
purpose.

A good handmade knife is generally
made of somewhat harder steel than
those made by mass-production tech-
niques, and consequently it *should*
hold an edge longer. A good test is to
slice corrugated pasteboard and see
how long your knife will slice cleanly
before it begins to drag. A good knife
should cut for at least 10-15 minutes.

One of the greatest aids in putting
and keeping a fine edge on a good
knife in my experience has proven to
be the Arkansas oilstones offered by
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ing.

Before closing, allow me to tip my
hat to a quartet of knifemakers who
are the next thing to strictly hand-
made shops. Browning Arms, Buck,
Gerber, and others all offer knives in-
cluding some hand-craftsmanship but
also featuring some production line
techniques. Their products are far su-
perior to some handmade knives
being offered today, and, for the most
part, the prices of these knives are
well under \$30. Certainly no sports-
man who carries a Browning, Buck,
Gerber, Puma or Olsen knife at his
belt need ever have to apologize for
his cutlery to anyone.

Although the initial cost of a top-
quality knife may seem high, such a
purchase is a lifetime investment, and
I'll gladly make this wager: Should
you use a top knife for a short period
of time, I'll bet you'll never again
willingly use a lesser blade!

JOHN DINGELL

(Continued from page 23)

John while he covered his congress-
ional assignments and worked for the
people of his 16th District in Michigan,
was a little like being on a rollercoas-
ter. To get things done, which John
does, a Congressman has to work on a
hundred unrelated projects.

This GUNS contributor first met
John some ten years ago. I called
from the Senate Press Gallery for a
comment on a bill he had introduced.
When he found out I wrote for
GUNS, he invited me by to "see his
pride and joy."

While we talked about the legisla-
tion, he took out of the closet a Model
95 Winchester on its way to the guns-
mith. It was a 7mm military, without
stock. He had just picked it up for a
few bucks in a second-hand shop. The
action had a tendency to jam in the
open position. "They don't make fine
guns like this old Teddy Roosevelt
any more," he told me with the pride

of ownership in his eyes. "It is a
beauty, alright," I said, as we worked
to free the action.

He continued: "Teddy's the father
of the nation's conservation move-
ment. Did you ever read the letters he
wrote as President of the Winchester
Company? His eyesight was appar-
ently going, and he could not under-
stand why his guns would no longer
group. Well, the company couldn't
very well tell the President of the
United States it was him and not the
firearm."

The conversation that day, more
than anything, discloses the true John
Dingell. Although his father was a
congressman, he entered World War
II as a private and became an officer
while fighting the Germans. He met
and married his wife while working
his way through college with a sum-
mer job as a ranger in the Rocky
Mountains.

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Here is a man, like other congressmen, who makes \$42,500 a year. Obviously, he can afford the best in firearms. Yet, his "pride and joy" was the old 95 Winchester. He is an avid reloader and spends much of his leisure time in the outdoors with his wife and four kids.

He has little leisure time; the day I followed him, he should have been home recuperating from a cold, but his congressional duties required his attendance in the House. His day started at 8:30 in the morning. Over coffee he and the office staff met to consider the day's program; committee meetings, people to see, phone calls to make, and legislation before the House. He seemed like a general laying out a battle plan.

He chairs two subcommittees of the three committees of which he is a member, the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries (where he has the Wildlife Subcommittee), and the Select Committee on Small Business (where he chairs another subcommittee currently investigating franchises).

It is from Committee assignments that lawmakers get power, obviously John is (as we call VIP's here) a "heavyweight."

Not one, but two, of the committees were meeting the day I followed him around. From his office we rushed to a 9:30 meeting of the Commerce Committee where a complicated piece of legislation involving freight rates was undergoing a public review. On the long bench before his nameplate awaited the prepared text of the day's witnesses.

The chairman called the hearing to order. While the first witness read his statement John read through all the statements before him, drawing lines under occasional statements. When the witness finished, the Chairman called for questions from committee

members. John, being the second-ranking majority member present, has second crack at the witness. So went the next two hours with John being called to the phone once to speak with the House leadership about a bill pending debate and vote. And, on another occasion, his office brought some papers to be signed.

At 11:30 he excused himself from the hearing to go to the Select Committee on Small Business. He departed handing a couple of written questions to the committee counsel to be asked when later witnesses appeared.

In the next committee, again the statements awaited his review. Again he read through the prepared remarks of witnesses. When the current witness finished, again the questions came. Not in the manner of those surrounding the anti-gun hearings, which most gun owners watched on TV, but polite, probing ones to explore the witness's written testimony.

At 12:30 the committee adjourned and we headed for his office for lunch—two sandwiches each and a pint of milk each. As he ate, he dictated into a dictaphone answers to letters received that morning.

Hardly had we finished eating when the signal bells started to ring, indicating a vote was being called for from the House floor. His secretary filled him in on what the vote was about. We walked out into the hall to join other members of Congress on their way to vote. We boarded an elevator marked "Congressmen only during role call." Down we went to the basement to board one of the waiting subway cars, where a guard reserved seats for Congressmen. All the time we traveled, John and other members talked legislation. At the end of the subway ride, we boarded yet another specially marked elevator which lifted us to a hall next to a lounge that emptied into the House

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chamber. I could accompany him no farther than the lounge.

The lounge had much of a club atmosphere, with newspapers and magazines available and there were big ashcans to accommodate the big cigars some members are fond of smoking, but cannot take onto the House floor.

The lounge is off-limits to all but lawmakers, their aides, Pages, and newsmen. It is where a lot of lawmakers hide out from lobby types and others they do not want to meet. Not that a "lobby" is a bad thing to be here, in Washington, it is a part of the legislative process, but when one wants to force himself he hangs out around the lobby of the Capital Hill buildings or in front of the lawmaker's office (hence they get their name — "lobby").

Four times that afternoon we made the same trip. John working at his desk in between calls. He also had six visitors and some 15 phone calls. One visitor came for the Commerce Department lobbying for a bill the Administration wanted to push. Another visitor was a paid lobby for a shipping company.

Once at his desk, he looked up, "What do you know about fiberglass auto bodies," he asked. "Are they practical?" "They will not replace metal," I answered. "While they are lighter, they offer less protection, and take too much time to assemble and repair." He then proceeded to dictate a letter suggesting that a fiberglass manufacturer in his district look into the possibility of getting contracts from boat or trailer builders. From his reply, I gathered the constituent wanted a small business loan. John gave the letter-writer the name of an employee in the Small Business Administration and phoned the employee telling him to expect a call or letter from his constituent.

So went the day in the life of a pro-gun legislator. Before I left, I asked John why he was so vigorously opposed to anti-gun controls. "The legislative process must work through committees," he said. "It has become my committee task, along with other duties, to work for the protection of this nation's fisheries and wildlife. It is good for us as a people to get out into the outdoors to fish and hunt. The country is better off for its sportsmen.

"The conservation movement needs them. The wildlife needs their protection and their cropping off of the surplus to prevent starvation, and I like to hunt and fish. We can't hunt without firearms. Enough said?" "Yes, sir, Mr. Congressman. Thank you very much."

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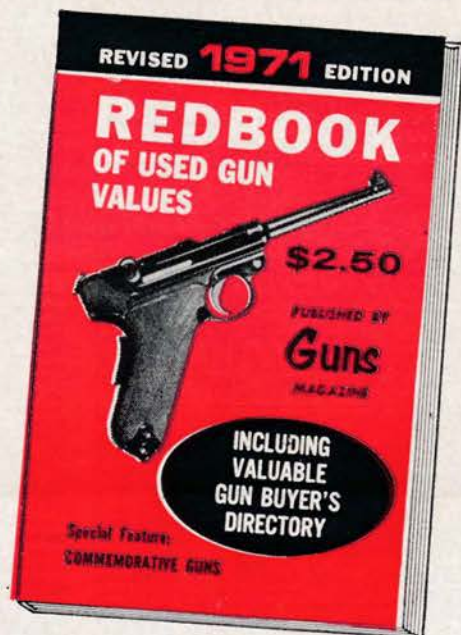
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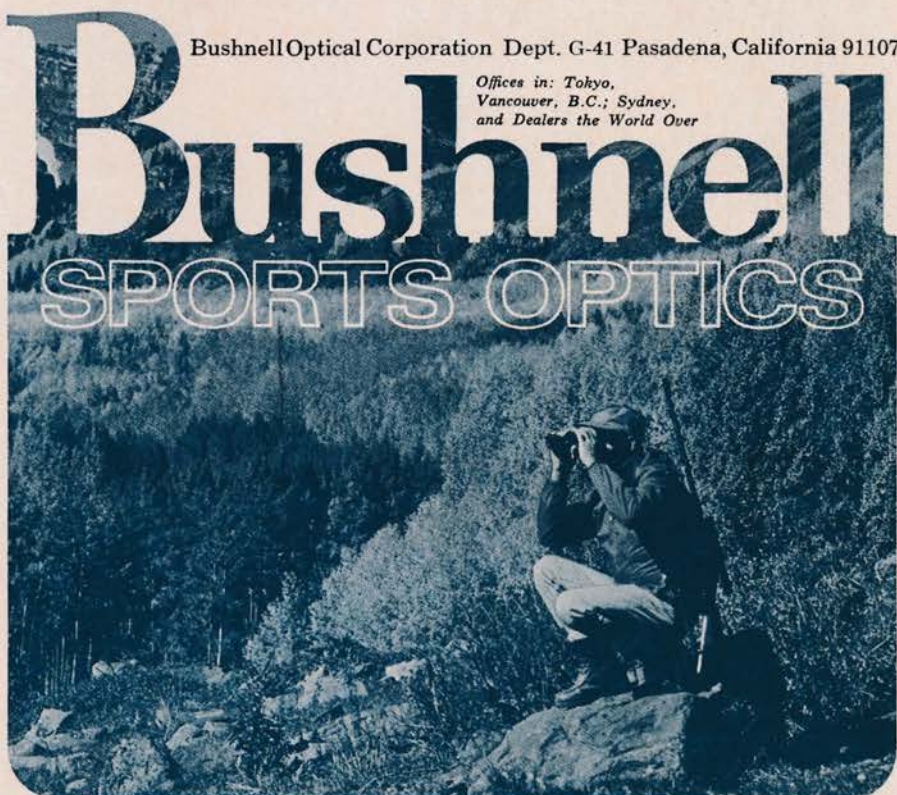
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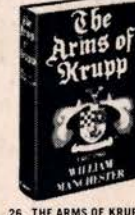
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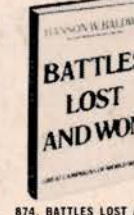
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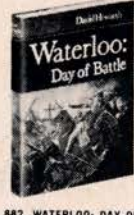
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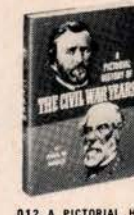
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