

T&E

DECEMBER 1971 75c

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Guns

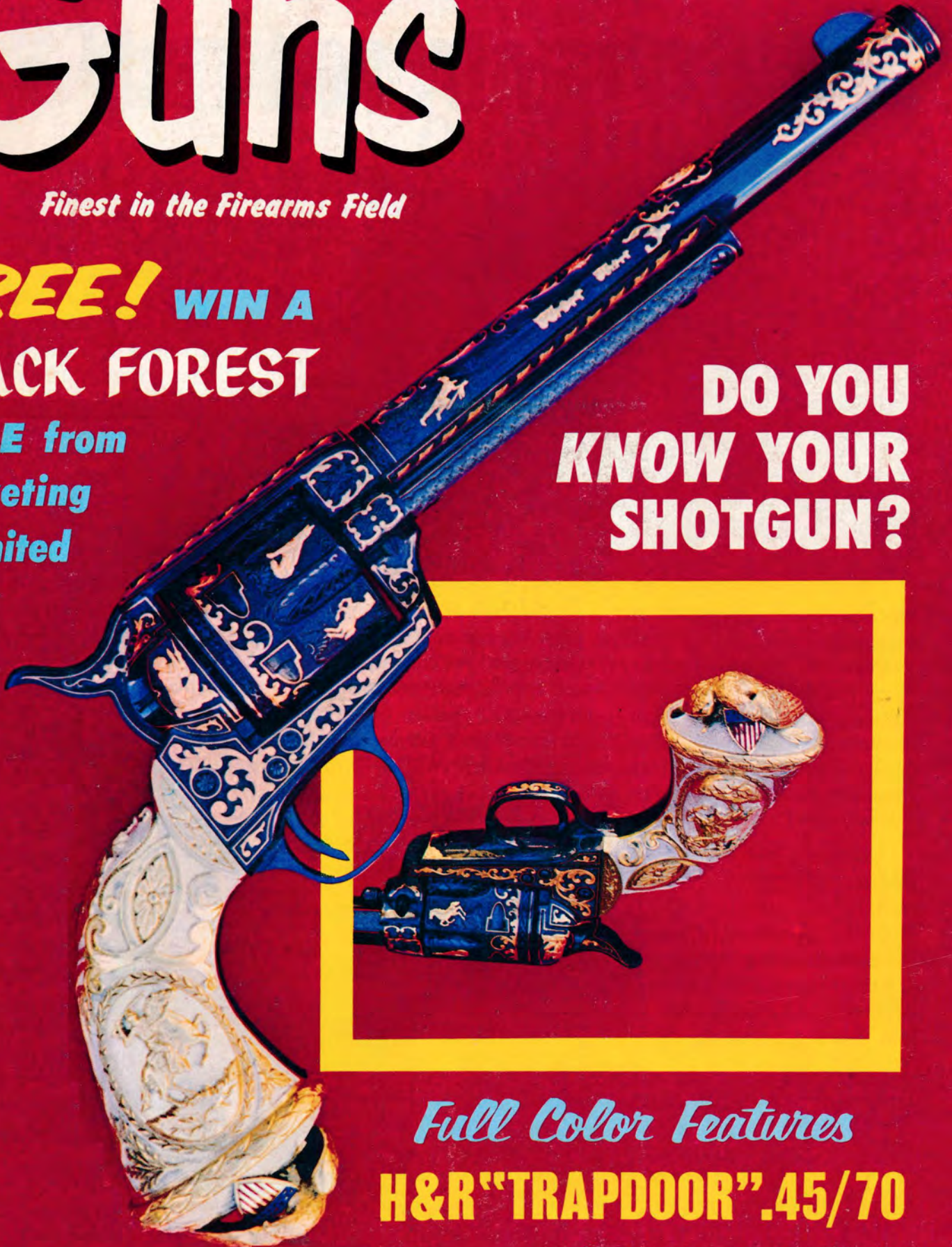
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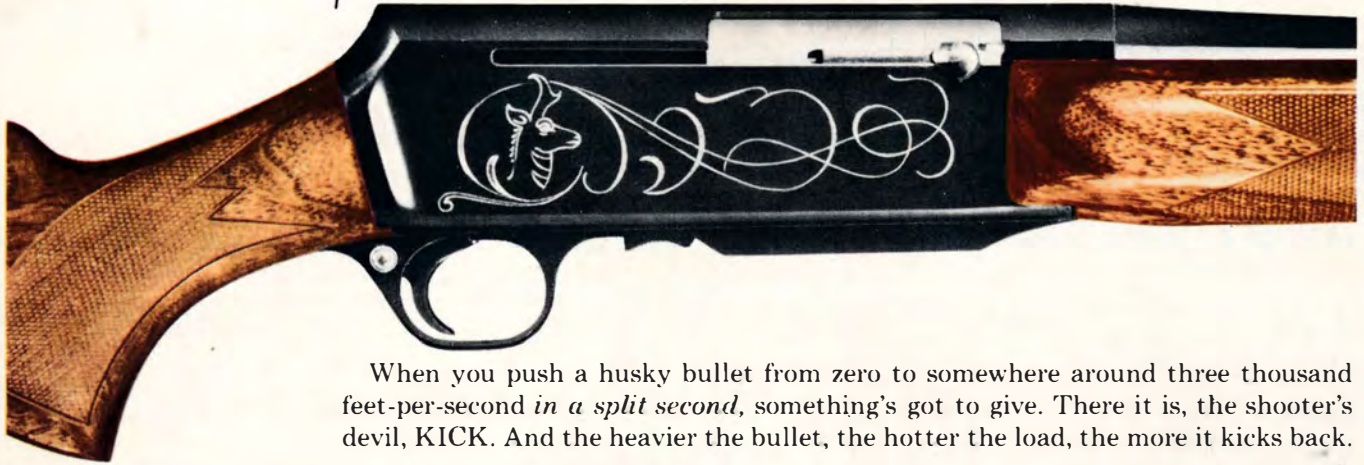
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DECEMBER, 1971

Vol. XVII, No. 01-12

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

CONTENTS

FEATURES

1971 SKEET CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Askins covers the latest championship shoot	Col. Charles Askins 22
FORWARD—RAKE HOLSTERS	
Slanted holsters prove best for speed and safety	James D. Mason 24
SKS CARBINE	
Popular new war trophy from Viet Nam	Lt. Col. R. F. Sullivan 26
KNOW YOUR SHOTGUN	
Thorough familiarity makes for hits	Wallace Labisky 28
MILITARY ACCOUTREMENTS	
Part II, Civil War to present	E. L. Reedstrom 30
HANDGUNS OF THE GCA '68	
How the law has changed designs	Maj. George C. Nonte 32
GUNS AND THE LAW	
Part IV, Non-Lethal Weapons	Col. Rex Applegate 34
OFFICER'S MODEL SPRINGFIELD	
Revival of the famed "Trapdoor"	Maj. George C. Nonte 36
STEVENS FAVORITE	
New manufacture of a great old gun	James D. Mason 40
FREE GUN CONTEST	
Win a free "Black Forest Rifle"	77

DEPARTMENTS

Shooters Club of America	5	Handgunning	Jan Stevenson 12
Crossfire	6	Questions & Answers	20
Handloading Bench		Pull!	Dick Miller 46
C. George Charles	8	Our Man In Washington	Carl Wolf 50
Point Blank	Charles Askins 10	The Gun Market	78

Jerome Rakusan	Editor	Col. Rex Applegate	Police
Harold A. Murtz	Associate Editor	Maj. George C. Nonte	Military
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SOME thoughts on the current scene seem appropriate at this time, considering that we are now entering into a brand new year. The legislative scene is still muddy, but comparatively quiet. There is no doubt that it will liven up, but most people feel that little in the way of more restrictive gun laws will emerge.

The real threat to the shooters is the wave of anti-hunting hysteria which is being heard all across the land. While aimed at the hunter, you can bet that any effects it may generate will be felt by the target shooter, plinker and even the gun collector.

While it bothers me greatly that the do-gooders get a hell of a lot of press with their anti-hunting tirades, what really concerns me are the numbers of shooters who are anti-hunting. Simply because they do not hunt, but use firearms in other ways, they believe that if hunting were banned, the heat might come off of them. How wrong they are! There may be some of the do-gooders who are really against the idea of hunting, but the majority use this only as an excuse to get to all who use and enjoy firearms.



CORRECTION. In our October issue, under the title: "Are Firearms Controls Effective," we acknowledged the article as reprinted from "Security World." Actually, the article was reprinted from "Security Gazette." We apologize for the error.



Coming up in our January "Safari" issue is a really fine article on hunting exotic game in the U.S. It will tell you why these game preserves were developed, and where you can hunt. Be sure to catch this one if you are a hunter. For all of the auto pistol fans, we will also have a full color feature on collecting the odd and unusual .25 auto pistols. If you like a bit of humor, watch the January issue for "Dere Mr. Acmi," one of the funniest I've seen in a long time.

THE COVER

This handsome Colt is all new. It is a modern piece, decorated in traditional "Tiffany-Style." The engraving and inlays were designed by Mr. Horacio Acevedo and Tom Haas. The grips are solid silver and gold. Over 1200 hours were required for the work. Photo by Walter Rickell.



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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER CARRIES PISTOL, WHY NOT EVERYONE?

The anti-firearms lobby has been busy again with their usual organized plans to smother the media with propaganda. Over the last few months I have seen several outstanding examples of their handywork. I am continually amazed by the complete lack of logic in their arguments, and the way they always take two contradictory points and try to link them together.

The July 24th issue of THE NEW REPUBLIC Magazine has an example of their nonsense. That issue had a feature article entitled "Gun Toting," and it started in the usual manner by saying "one thing in barbaric America that even the most tolerant and the most sympathetic visitors from civilized countries outside cannot understand. The US is the only industrialized country on earth that permits gun sales. There are a few restrictions but they don't restrict. Some of us would rather see heroin and sticks of dynamite freely available to purchasers than firearms, particularly handguns." Unlike the NEW REPUBLIC we at S.C.A. do not believe America is barbaric and heroin should be sold in the streets, but this is what the anti-firearms people are printing.

The NEW REPUBLIC does get close to the real point of the problem when they state "There are two main views on how to reduce America's appalling crime rate: (1) get at the social causes, or (2) use repression. No less than four presidential commissions employing hundreds of experts, millions of dollars and ten million words, have stressed the long-term need of full social justice. That is the burden of the Katzenback, Kerner, Eisenhower and Scranton reports. They just say the same thing over and over and it is tragic that so few listen." The S.C.A. agrees that social conditions are the main cause of violence and crime and not the mere sale of firearms. And at first glance the NEW REPUBLIC would seem to be in agreement. But then they go on to say "It is arrant folly to think we can sleep securely in bed at night while ghettos swarm with unemployed teenagers, one man in nine is below the poverty line, and junk guns are purchasable at hardware stores." So after a false beginning we see the unmistakable trade-mark of the anti-firearms fanatic. They try to link the sale of guns with every rotten thing in the world and then blame firearms for what is going wrong. I would like to ask the NEW REPUBLIC what firearms

have to do with unemployment? And I would like to ask them just how they came to the conclusion that ghettos were built by the firearms manufacturers? Naturally there is no relationship between the two. Even their point about firearms being freely sold in big city ghettos like New York and Philadelphia is not true. They start out by quoting the Government reports that crime is caused by social factors and then turn around and attribute crime to the sale of firearms.

The anti-firearms writers come up with one contradiction after another, they state that the "Nixon approach has too often been wrong-headed, cynical or even hypocritical. The Nixon approach has emphasized the old, simplistic theory of stiffer penalties, tougher laws, repression." They then about-face to say the solution is stiffer laws and tougher penalties for firearms owners.

In this same NEW REPUBLIC article they quote a little story. The conclusions N.R. draws from it are wrong, but the story deserves to be retold. It states "A couple of reporters went over to the suburban home of Chief Justice Burger the other night to insure coverage in case the Justice Department called on him with a late-hour appeal over the Pentagon papers. When the reporters rang at 11 p.m., according to NEWSWEEK, the handsome jurist answered the door personally, in a bathrobe, carrying a long-barreled revolver." We feel that Chief Justice Burger is no fool even if the NEW REPUBLIC wants everyone else to be one. And we also feel that what's good and legal enough for the Chief Justice of the United States should be good enough for everyone else.

Now is the time to fight back with the truth about firearms. Now is the time when we must let our thoughts be heard in the local State legislatures and in Washington. The best way to do this is by joining clubs like THE SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA. We cannot let complete lies about firearms continue to be spewed onto the public with no challenge whatsoever. Fill in the handy business reply envelope opposite this page and mail it in today. It will be both a service to yourself and to all the other men who are interested in the truth.

Col. E. Becker

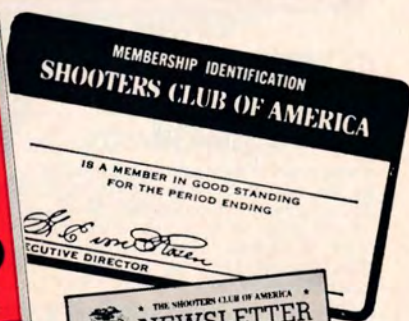
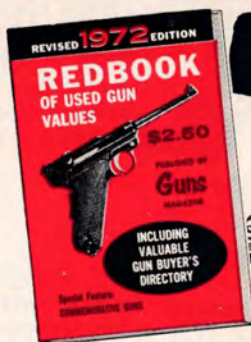
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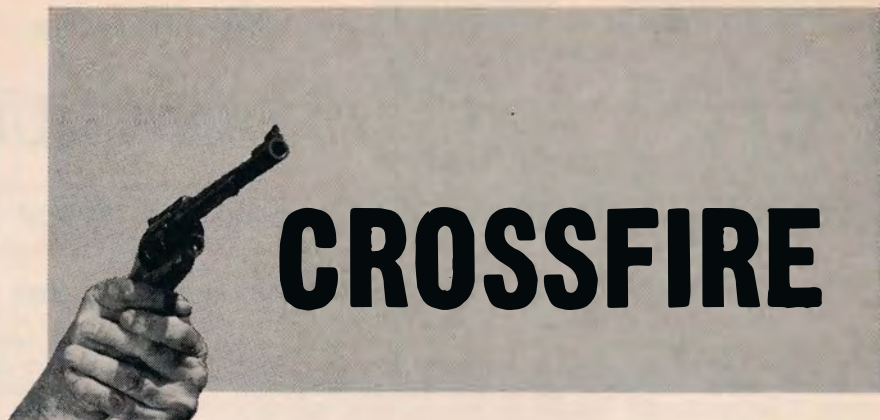
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CROSSFIRE

Supporters

Cheers to you for publishing, "Are Firearms Controls Effective?" I happen to have two close friends who are Chief Inspectors at Scotland Yard and both have presented the same facts as outlined in the article.

Unfortunately factual articles such as this are never published by the news media and distribution is limited to the pro-gun people. Copies of the article should be sent to every Senator and Congressman; especially those who are bent on taking the guns from the citizen.

H.E. Demick
Fairfax, Va.

It was very interesting reading the article by Colin Greenwood in the October, 1971 issue. It seems that Rep. Celler, mentioned in the Washington column, takes the same stand as English lawmakers. Didn't the American frontiersmen die for freedom from English dominance?

Keep up the great work of informing the American public of those "Commie-inspired" bills being pushed through by our so-called "peoples representatives." May we never see such a thing that happened in Hungary in this great country of ours. It just may happen if we don't keep abreast of current happenings and do something about them.

James A. Hand
Buffalo, N.Y.

YO Safari

This subscriber just finished reading the article on "Guns Safari" by Col. Askins in the July GUNS, and I must admit that something about it "stuck in my craw," as we Missourians say.

The Y O sounded like a very impressive ranch but the hunting of imported game did not. A hunt on the Y O would be a big thrill to me also, if I were hunting any type of game native to that area. I have hunted all my life and I place a lot of emphasis

on sportsmanship. To me this type of hunt did not seem to be that.

I do not mean any "slam" to the good character of Mr. De Matteo; I am sure he is a good hunter and sport. For myself, I am sure that I would feel a lot better to be hunting desired game in its' own environment. I can't help but feel that Mr. DeMatteo would feel as I do.

Due to the pressures that certain organizations and anti-gun people are exercising these days, I am surprised that this good magazine, and I consider GUNS to be the best, would play host to a hunt that could be a target for anti-gunners.

Bob Anderson
Granby, Mo.

Getting Better?

From the looks of the October, 1971 issue of GUNS, I'd say your magazine is getting better all the time. The "Do-It-Yourself" projects by Jim Carmichel and the informative full-color features like, "Nickel-Plated Firearms" make GUNS the best on the market. Keep it coming, just the way it is.

Randall Becker
Tomah, Wisconsin

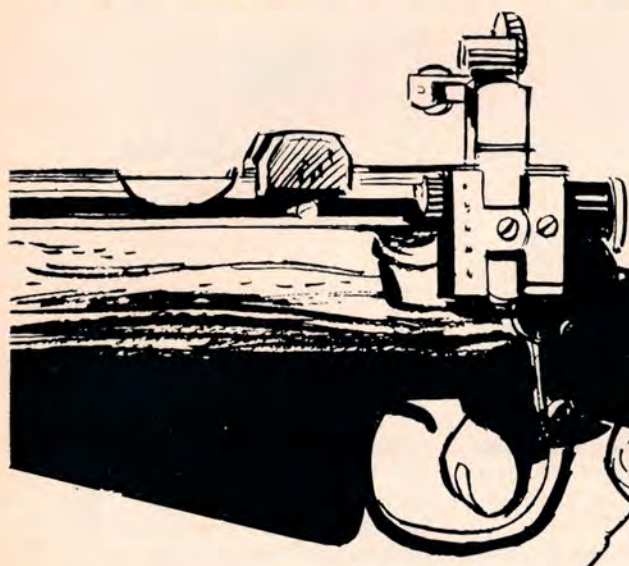
"The Shadow"

When I heard that there was a new Japanese shotgun on the market named "The Shadow," I knew some writer would ham it up by lining his test report, "Lemont Cranston." C'mon you guys, have the real writer please stand up.

All kidding aside, that looks like a real fine gun and I've got my eyes peeled for one in our area. We need a bit of humor now and then to take the seriousness away for a moment. Thanks for a refreshing change and a fine book.

John Langdon
Osso, Wyoming

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By C. GEORGE CHARLES

LAST GO-ROUND we talked about reloading life of cartridge cases as it is effected by the approach or occurrence of head separations. But case life isn't dependent upon that alone. In reality, cases probably fail more often up front than they do back near the head.

Split necks aren't all the problem they were years ago, but they certainly haven't departed the scene either. The cases of today may look the same as forty years ago, but they aren't. You'll look a long time to find a factory-loaded round with a split neck, even if it does date from the late 1930's or early 1940's. But, go back another decade or so, and they were fairly common. Witness the thousands of rounds of pre-WWII surplus ammo peddled with split necks. Pick up a box of 1920's production sporting or military ammunition of some bottle-neck, small-bore caliber, and chances are you'll find a goodly percentage of the necks split.

Why? The cases of those days were made hard—relatively speaking—with a fine grain structure throughout. It was thought necessary for the neck/shoulder area to be quite springy, and that meant hard brass. Then, to obtain solid assembly of bullet to case, the neck was made a good bit smaller than the bullet. When the bullet was seated, it stretched the neck, placing it in a permanent state of considerable tension. At least the state was permanent until the thin brass got tired and cracked or split. Sometimes this might take years, other times the neck might let go with a sharp "pop" only a few months after loading. One hunter/writer tells of ordering fresh European rifle ammunition shipped to Africa, and finding that many cases split at the neck during his safari.

Today, though, necks are made much softer, more ductile, and thus will stand the tension load for many, many years, without failure. Anneal-

ing techniques have advanced tremendously since the old days, and necks can be made as soft as desired without harming head strength.

So, if cases are so much improved, we shouldn't have split necks anymore, right? Right only insofar as factory loads are concerned. When that virgin case is fired for the first time, the expansion and contraction cycle it goes through produces a minute amount of "work-hardening"—to the greatest degree where the expansion is greatest. That is the neck.

Then, resizing and expanding induces further work-hardening. The brass gets harder and less ductile, smaller in grain structure. Each subsequent firing and reloading adds to the increase, and eventually the neck will become so hard that it will split with a sharp report when pulled over an expander plug or when a bullet is seated. If it doesn't fail then, it may split in storage after loading, just as did some of that long-ago factory fodder—and for the same reason. Too much tension.

All this time the rest of the case is also growing harder for the same reasons, but it is not under tension except at the instant of firing, so no failure will occur until long after the neck gives way.

Since different lots of brass, not to mention different makes and calibers, will vary considerably in neck hardness (even all over) there is no predicting how many loadings and firings will cause failure. We just know that *eventually* the neck will split, if the rest of the case holds up and it continues to be reloaded.

I never worry about neck splits until after four or five loadings. Then I begin to examine necks carefully. You'll notice the brass dragging a bit more on the expander plug; if you squeeze it between thumb and finger it feels a bit more springy; if you tap

(Continued on page 19)



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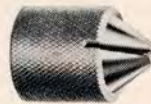
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POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

BYOND ANY SHADOW of doubt, the shotgun with the greatest reputation in this country today is the Parker. It has not been made for 30 years but it excites the most comment, enthusiasm and approbation. It is freely acknowledged to be the best ever made in not only America but possibly in all the world. The staunch reliability of the gun, its fine shooting characteristics, beauty of line and finish, good handling qualities and best materials and workmanship endeared it to shooters everywhere. The fact that it was always an expensive shotgun, in the higher grades, also added considerable glamor. People are inclined to believe if the item is a costly one it must be better. The Parker was that way.

The Parker Gun Company made coffee grinders before the Civil War. During the time of the hostilities the firm took a contract from the government to manufacture a breech-loading carbine. After the shooting simmered down the company commenced the making of breech-loading scatter guns. The first shotguns were outside hammer models, made with Damascus and twist steel barrels. The various models were all side-by-side doubles, Parker never deviated from this type of smoothbore. The first hammerless was made in 1889 and modern fluid steel barrels were added shortly thereafter. Despite the switch to ordnance steel the company continued to offer Damascus tubes, on order, until as late as 1926.

Automatic selective ejectors were standard by 1902 on the better grades and a selective single trigger was incorporated for those who were venturesome enough to try it about the same time. This single trigger like others was sometimes given to doubling. In 1922, Herman Shura, a German immigrant who was a remarkably adept inventor as well as a master gunsmith, designed the new Parker single trigger. It is a staunch and dependable mechanism indeed. The company, when in its original quarters at Meriden, Conn., turned out 10 or 12 shotguns per week. If the buyer

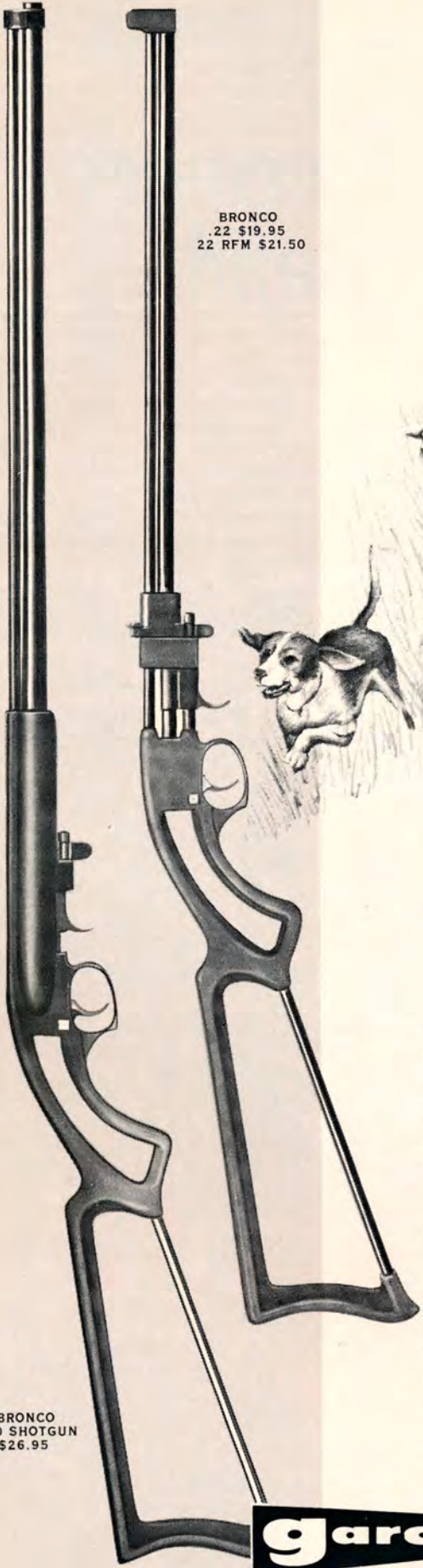
ordered one of the very high grade Parkers, like the AHE or AAHE, delivery time could be expected to be from 6 to 8 months. Even for those less costly models such as the GHE, DHE or CHE, the best the buyer could hope for was a wait of from 8 to 9 weeks. Parker artisans simply would not hurry over the execution of the finest gun made in America!

The Parker was made with any combination of borings that the buyer might suggest, but unless otherwise specified he got a gun which was bored modified in the right tube and full choke in the left. Barrels ran 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches in 12 gauge. Thirty and thirty-two inches in 10 gauge, with chambers of either 27½" or 31½". Stock dimensions were completely to order; full, half or straight grip. Ivory sights could also be ordered as well as automatic ejectors and single trigger. Weights ran: 12 gauge 6⅞ to 7¾ pounds; 16 gauge 6⅝ to 7⅜ pounds; 20 gauge 6⅛ to 6⅞ pounds; 28 gauge 5¾ to 6⅜ pounds; .410 bore 5⅝ to 6 pounds. The extra long range 10 gauge ran 10½ to 11 pounds; extra long range 12 gauge (for 3-inch shell) 9 to 9½ lb.

The A-1 Special, which sold in 1944 for \$898.01 was described in the last catalog put out by the Parker Company as having the finest specially selected curly walnut stock and fore-end with elaborate hand checkering. Stock includes Monte Carlo, cheek-piece or cast-off, rubber recoil pad or engraved skeleton steel buttplate. Extensive engraving could be had with gold inlay if desired, gold plated triggers (front one hinged); solid gold name plate engraved with your name or monogram, with double triggers or selective single trigger. Beavertail fore-end or raised ventilated rib were furnished as extras.


There was only one grade finer than the A-1. This was called the Invincible model and only two were ever made by the company. The shotgun sold for \$1500, and where these two extraordinary scatterguns are today is a matter of keenest speculation among

(Continued on page 18)



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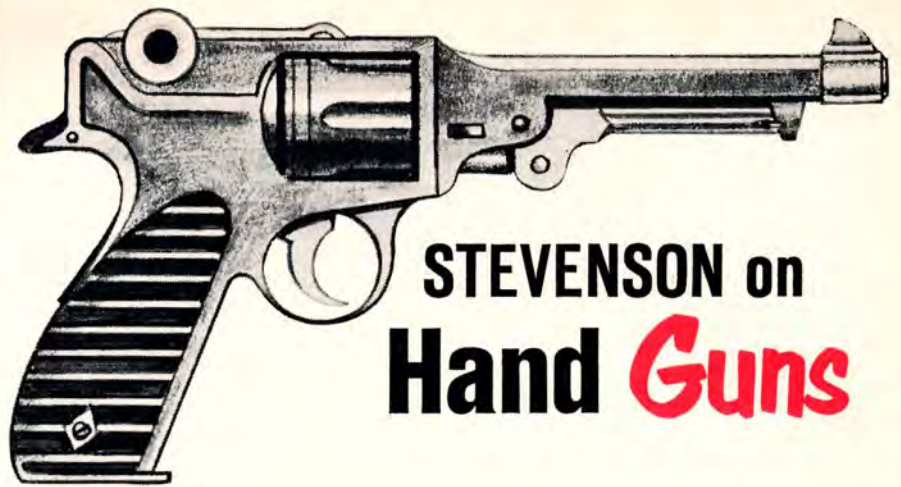
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STEVENSON on Hand Guns

OCCASIONALLY I feel a meagre twinge of envy for those guys whose lives revolve around job, wife, and mortgage. At least they've no problem caring for their guns: just hose them over with the aerosolized oil can every fourth payday. I've never been that homebound, hence the long term storage of my weapons is a problem I've had to contend with for almost the last decade and a half. At any given time I'll have the bare minimum of handguns on hand that I'm actively working with, while the other 90% of my collection sits mothballed in a vault somewhere. This mother lode of shortguns gets inspected only once a year, if that.

I first went overseas the fall of 1958, and was off for eleven months. In the interim the only place I could find to sequester my artillery was an enormous pine linen cabinet on the upstream side of the homestead. Ivy grew through the walls, the floor was rotten, and when it rained, which was often, billows of mist literally roiled through the room. It was the worst possible place to leave a gun, and the only place I could find.

When I came back the following September, it was with considerable trepidation that I hinged up the lid to the old chest. Mostly it was full of mold. On my shotguns and rifles scarcely a square centimeter of wood was visible—the stocks were a uniform slimy green. Yet none of the guns in that cabinet showed a particle of rust; the metalwork was pristine, the rifling sharp, the blue unblemished. Eleven months earlier, as I stacked them away, I had given each one, inside and out, a good swabbing with RIG.

That's the name of the stuff; stands for Rust Inhibiting Grease, comes in a yellow tube, and has been on the market longer than I can remember. It's made by RIG Products Company in Oregon, Illinois, and whoever they are, my hat's off to them. I've used their gunk religiously ever since 1957 or so, and it has never let me down. Actually I've never oiled up a dozen ten-penny nails with various brands of preservative and condemned them all to a month in a saturated atmosphere, so I really can't say RIG is better than its competition. All I can say is that I've always used it, and see no reason to switch.

Someday I intend to build me a half dozen robust storage cases for my pistols, with rope handles, internal hinges, double padlocks, each case to hold about 20 pistols rigidly racked side by side, 10 to a row with the two rows facing. This way the air can circulate around each gun, and a packet of silica gel will keep it all bone dry. As each gun is a different size, however, building the rackwork will be an outrageous pain in the anatomy.

As it is, I wrap each gun in wax paper and heap them into an orange crate. The wax paper serves two functions: it keeps the guns from scratching and denting each other, and it locks atmospheric moisture in to condense on each pistol. I did my ordnance up this way last time I went overseas, and when I came back two and a half years later the old, God-bless-it, RIG had kept each gun in perfect fiddle.

This brings to mind a fellow some years back who, now and again when a premonition grabbed him, would high off to the back forty with a gun

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and a thousand rounds of ammo and bury the lot. I mean he would spade up the earth and literally plant the whole affair. He was taking precautions against the forthcoming Soviet invasion, which frankly sounded a good deal less daft at the time than it does on reflection. Come to think of it, he'll probably wind up with the last laugh, for when Congressman Mikva's confiscation bill takes effect, he'll still have a gun or several, and we all won't. I don't know what sort of embalming process this fellow used, but it must have been elaborate.

When it occurred to Jesse James that in case of need it might be handy to have a gun stashed about ten inches under the sidelawn rosebush, he thrust a Starr revolver into a jar full of lard. It was some years after Bob Ford had shot Mr. Howard that someone, I assume by chance, dug up Jesse's sleeve card. I saw a photo of the delarded Starr, and it looked quite functional, though I imagine the powder charges were something the worse for the experience.

So if you don't dig RIG, try lard. But stay clear of salt pork; it's hell on guns.

• • •

For decades now—indeed, the better part of a half-century—the French handgun enthusiast who craved to know more of the subject than was available by word of mouth or from pilfered field manuals has been obliged to learn a foreign language—something of a humiliation for the average Frenchman, with his perhaps overweening pride in his mother tongue. Yet the facts were unavoidable: the key to knowledge was either English or German; there was not one book in print on handguns in the language of Voltaire and Balzac, and there hadn't been for a generation.

This longstanding silence came to an end in 1966 with the publication of Michel Jossierand's *Pistols, Revolvers, and Their Ammunition* (*Les pistolets, les revolvers, et leurs munitions*), an outwardly inauspicious little tome which was, we see in retrospect, to have a profound influence. Although admirably researched and lucidly—in places, brilliantly—written, Jossierand's book, as a physical product, was one of the most miserly efforts in the history of printing. Paperbacked, consisting of 174 small-format pages illustrated with 41 foggy photographs and three dozen lamentable freehand drawings, the book was offered, in a timorous first press-run of some 4,000 copies, to the public at the ludicrously inflated price of \$4 each. Perhaps no one had less faith in the book's future than its publisher, Crépin-Leblond of

(Continued on page 16)

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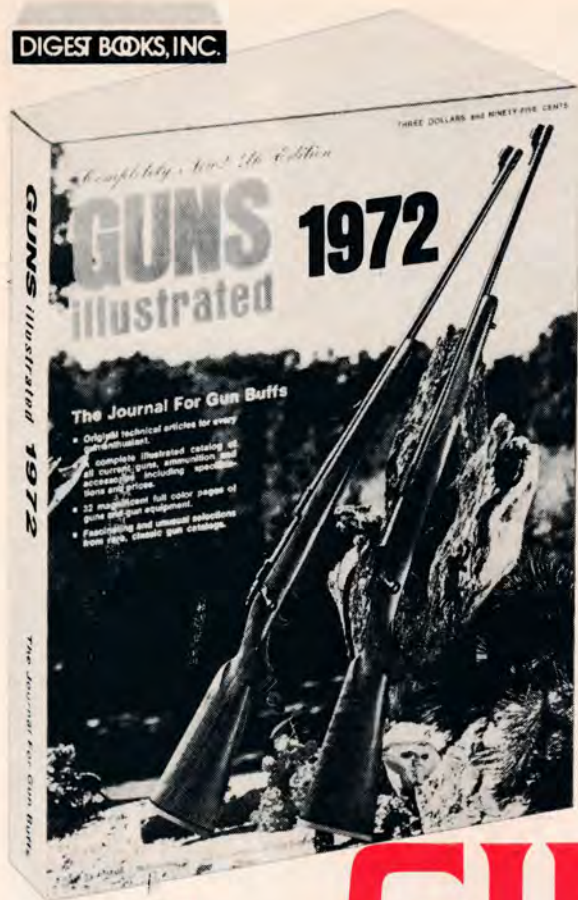
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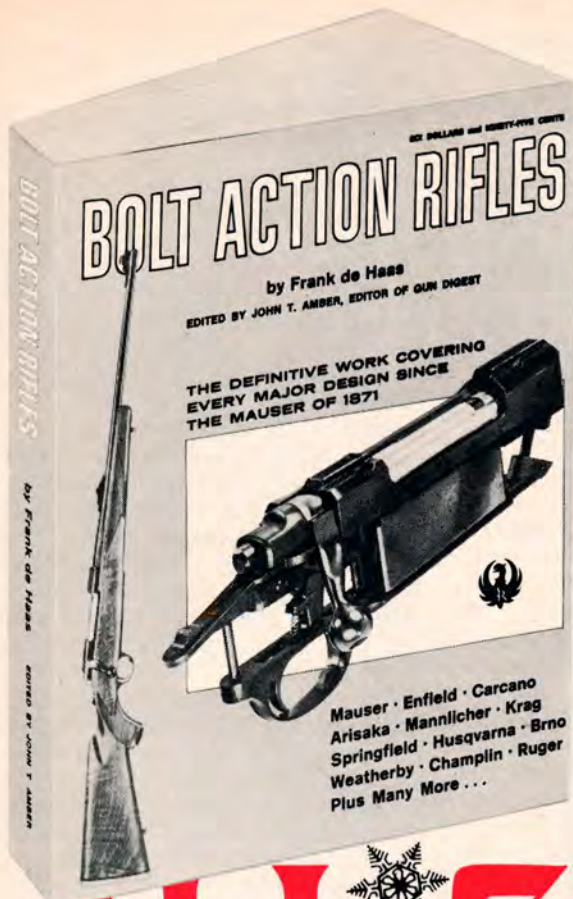
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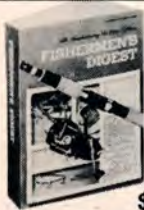
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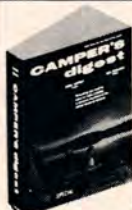
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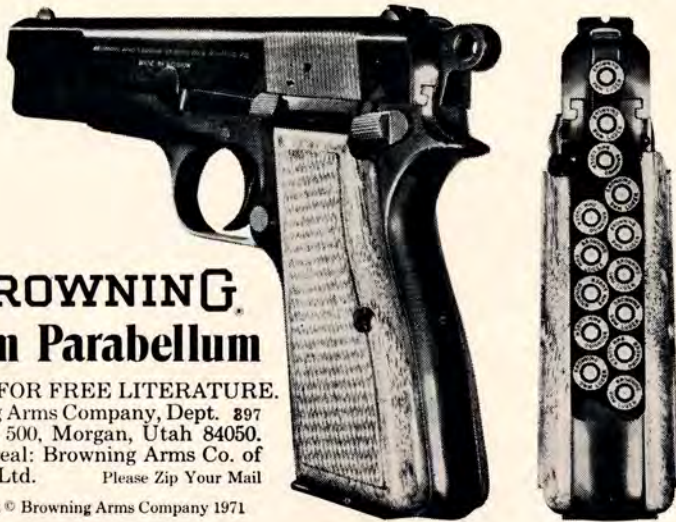


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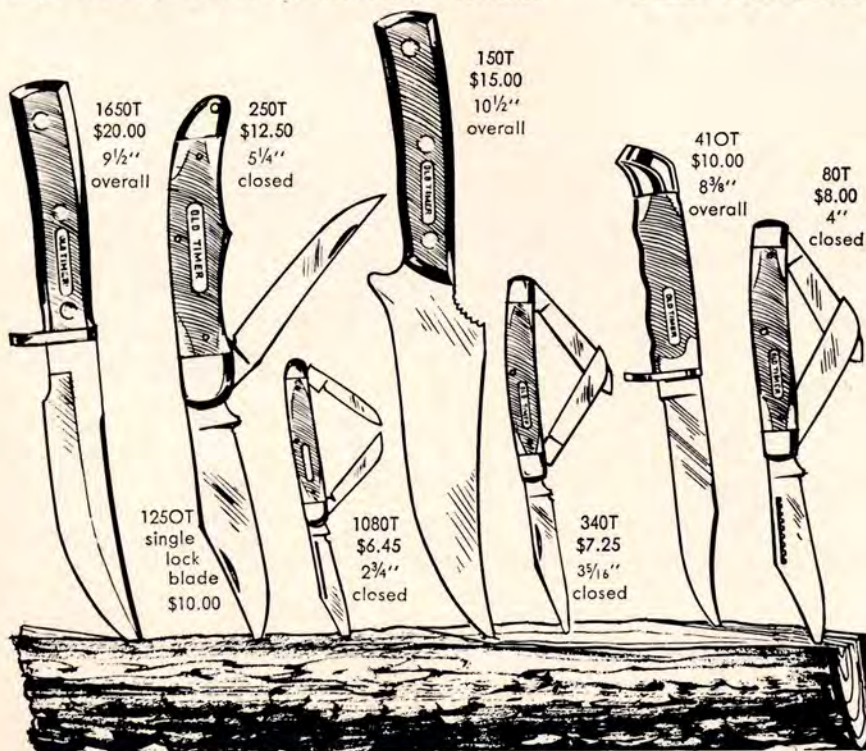
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(Continued from page 13)

Paris, whose business consisted of a half-dozen books on shotguns, and a string of obscure bi-monthlies devoted to hunting, fishing, horses, and dogs.

Despite lousy distribution, Jossierand's little book has gone through five reprintings, and an enlarged second edition is now in the works. The 20,000 sales mark has long since been passed, and this unanticipated success has caused a mild flap and much reflection in several French publishing houses.

Perhaps the most vivid example of the change of climate is Crépin-Leblond's second pistol book, which appeared last month. For in physical respects Jossierand's book and Raymond Caranta's new *Handgun Collector's Guide* (*Le guide des collectionneurs d'armes de poing*) are as little alike as a pulp mystery and the Gutenberg Bible. Caranta's is a luxurious book. Hardbound in cloth with an enameled full-color dust jacket, its two hundred seventy-six 8"x10 1/2" pages are printed on paper so heavy they verge on poster board. Four color plates introducing the book's major divisions add a touch of elegance without seeming in any way to overpower the black-and-white illustrations, as color so often does—very skillful layout here. Nearly all the 365 pistols discussed are individually illustrated, most by impeccable line drawings by Jean Jordanoglou, and the rest by clear photographs by co-author Yves Cadiou, who also undertook the onerous task of writing the technical descriptions. Caranta wrote the 47 pages of introductory text which covers the history of French handguns, French law on the subject, restoration of old firearms, and the criteria by which collectors' pieces are judged and evaluated. He also did the major share of the enormous research which stands behind the book, coordinated the project, and spent years setting up the net of dealer correspondents which enabled him to assign a current market value to each gun in the book.

Caranta's volume then serves the same purpose of identification and appraisal for Continental collectors which Clapel's *Gun Collector's Handbook of Values* does for us. And whenever possible, when an identification is up in the air, I avail myself of the French text, for the individual illustrations are distinctly helpful, and besides, it is an aesthetic feast par excellence, a status Clapel's book, for all its unquestioned merit, never remotely approaches. Yet the choice is not often there. Of American guns, Caranta treats only pre-1885 Colts, Remingtons, and Smiths, and twenty-seven fairly random percussion

and early cartridge pieces. It is with European guns, where Chapel is so notoriously thin, that the French book is strongest. French, Belgian, and Swiss martial pistols are thoroughly covered from the first regulation model to the present day, as are, curiously enough, RCMP sidearms. This corresponds, one might note, to the three French-speaking nations of Europe (Luxembourg and Monaco excepted as insignificant), with a tip of the hat to Quebec.

The remaining chapters treat, respectively, 91 flintlocks, 24 percussion pistols, and 57 patent and transition pieces of European provenance.

Obviously a book of this scope which discusses only 365 pistols comprises more void than substance. Forthcoming editions are intended to fill in the holes. The introduction speaks hopefully of a second edition, and it is significant that the reference numbers, one of which is assigned to each gun, run up to 2,330; the authors have left themselves ample elbow room. The biggest block of empty numbers falls between the percussion and European patent and transition chapters, where 450 slots are left vacant. What will eventually be put there, I haven't a clue. Where the book most needs expansion is more toward the front, where the martial and semi-martial pistols of the non-francophone European countries are yet to be catalogued. How this is to be done without revising the numbering system rather escapes me, but in no way diminishes my eagerness to see the next edition. And one could yet be forthcoming.

Several months prior to publication, Crépin-Leblond put up 5,000 copies for subscription at a few francs off cover price; within a few weeks the subscription was exhausted and the offer withdrawn. This despite a price in the \$30 range which would have largely crippled any book's sale in the U.S. Since publication I understand it has continued to sell well.

Crépin-Leblond's assurance that the market was there for a carriage-class handgun tome was based not only on the success of the Josserand book, but on two other events of the past year as well. About mid-year, Raymond Sasia, chief of firearms instruction for the French National Police, brought out a major work of tremendous visual attraction. Entitled *Speed Shooting (Le tir rapide)*, Sasia's book consists of 193 pages of 9"x11" enamel stock, illustrated with literally hundreds of first-class photos, and is perhaps the most thorough text on classic FBI-style combat shooting extant.

A month or so thereafter came Lucien Sérandour's *Modern Handguns*

(*Les armes de poing modernes*), a counterpoint to Josserand's book. Whereas Josserand had addressed himself directly and diligently to the historical and mechanical evolution of handguns and cartridges, and produced a work of some scholarly and conceptual merit, Sérandour came across with a far more conventional "beginner's" book. The heart of *Modern Handguns* is its 118-page catalog section, illustrating and providing basic data on each handgun of whatever origin currently available on the French commercial market. Surrounding this are seven chapters totaling 100 pages, giving a painless, if superficial, discussion of cartridges, holsters, reloading, fundamentals of handguns, choosing a gun, how to shoot, and firearms safety. The real significance of Sérandour's quite modest volume is its excellent physical quality, and the fact that it is published by André Balland, a vigorous, diverse, enterprising, and very wide-awake establishment, and distributed by Hachette, France's largest publishing and bookvending apparatus, which is headed by Simon Nora, recently chief assistant to the Prime Minister. All this bodes well, and the last time I was in France, Sérandour's book was saturating the nation.

While there, I had the chance to look through the manuscript of a forthcoming handgun book; it was extremely solid stuff. I also had the honor to dine with one of Paris' hardest-headed publishers, who outlined a series of books they plan to bring out which quite surpasses, in scope and organization, anything we have in English. As Caranta recently said, "For years the Americans have had a monopoly on firearms information, even when it concerned European guns, to wit W.H.B. Smith. We are now beginning to change all that". And there seems no doubt any longer that an adequate French language market exists to support his assault. If the French renaissance continues, and if proposed legislation in the U.S. puts as hard a quietus on everything to do with handguns as its sponsors would like, it may be our turn to line up for Berlitz courses.

For those who would like to refurbish their technical French, the Caranta and Josserand books are available from Crépin-Leblond et Cie., Editeurs, 12 rue Duguay-Trouin, Paris VI, France. Sérandour is available from André Balland, Editeur, 33 rue St-André-des-Arts, Paris, VI, France. It is best to inquire about prices. Sasia's book lists no publisher, and may have been an official publication. In any event, we will have occasion to speak further of it, and in the meantime, I'll make inquiries.

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(Continued from page 10)

collectors of the Parker line. One of the pair made carries the serial number 20,000. Just when the second Invincible was made is not known nor is the serial number available.

There were regularly nine different grades of Parkers. The Trojan was the cheapest, but so far as the materials which went into it were concerned, these were quite as good as those which were used to fabricate the A-1 Special. The differences between the Trojan, which sold for \$72.50, and the most expensive at nine hundred dollars, was apparent in the finish, engraving, quality of stock wood and the checkering, along, of course, with things like single triggers, ejectors and inlay.

Next to the A-1 was the AAHE grade, which sold for \$756.75 at the time of publication of the last catalog. Next was the AHE, at \$534.77; the BHE grade for \$393.51. And the CHE grade which fetched \$292.61. The DHE, GHE and the VHE, ranged downward from \$196.76 to \$140.25. Unfortunately, these days, most of the Parkers you see for sale are in these lesser grades. All were engraved except the VHE and of course the Trojan.

The Parker had always been made in 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauges. The 28 gauge was added to the line in 1903 and the .410 came along a good deal later in 1927. Ventilated ribs were first seen in the catalog of 1926. When skeet commenced to grow in popularity during the early 1930's, Parker immediately produced a skeet gun. It was made with 26-inch barrels, a straight grip stock, single trigger and auto ejectors, with a full beavertail fore-end. It was normally made in the VHE grade but could be had on order in any grade including the most costly.

The Parker was the most costly shotgun made. When the great depression of the early 30's struck, the company felt the crimp very keenly. Always a luxury item, the first thing the customer decided he could get along without was a high priced scattergun. Charles Parker, the company president and owner, sold out to the Remington Company on June 15, 1934. Nothing was changed nor altered by the new owners. The plant had always been in Meriden, Conn., and there it remained. Shotguns with serials above 236,616 are those made after Remington acquired the firm. Every model and grade that had been regularly made by the company was continued in the line.

After a year or two, Remington, having watched the sales quite closely, decided that it would be more

profitable to manufacture only the more costly grade Parkers. They elected to cut off those less costly models commencing with the guns which sold under \$196. In 1938, another decision moved the Parker Co., lock, stock and barrel to Ilion, New York, where Remington makes all its firearms. Parkers with serials over 240,289 have been made at Ilion. Once the move had been accomplished, the shop was set up completely apart from other Remington production. It maintained its own identity and operations proceeded much as had been done at the original stand. While the Parker had turned out 10 or a dozen shotguns per week at Meriden, up at Ilion this was reduced to but two or three weekly. Remington intended that the fineness, character and good reputation of the world's finest scattergun would be maintained!

In 1939 all non-ejector grades were eliminated from the line. The Parker was becoming an increasingly more highly refined shotgun under Remington supervision.

Clark Gable bought an A-1 and he shot it a great deal. One year, at the invitation of Harold Russell of the Federal Cartridge Co., he hunted in North Dakota for ducks and geese. His gun was the notable Parker. When he died he willed the gun to his old friend, Gary Cooper. Now that Cooper has gone to the happy hunting ground, the Parker's whereabouts are unknown.

Larry del Grego went to work for the Parker Co. long before it was acquired by Remington. He married the daughter of Herman Shura, the versatile gunsmith who had perfected the Parker single trigger in 1922. Del Grego was also a specialist and did finishing work on the ejector systems and the single triggers. In the early 50's he quit Remington and struck out on his own. He established a shop and with him was his son, Larry, Jr.

The great war of 1939-45 halted the manufacture of the Parker at Ilion. When the war was over Remington took a look at the cost of production and elected to not resume the manufacture of the world's finest smooth-bore. There were, however, a lot of parts on hand from the past days of production. These parts were sold to the del Grego shop and father and son commenced to assemble Parker shotguns.

These guns were quite on a par with any made by the Parker Co. When the parts supply ran out the shop continued to repair the fine shotguns. They are doing that today. If you have a busted Parker the shop requires twenty-five bucks just to appraise it.

(Continued from page 8)

the necks of two cases together, they give off a sharper, more musical sound. When all that occurs, they are getting hard.

If you want to avoid any case loss, that's the time to anneal necks, especially if they might be left loaded for several months.

The best method of annealing is immersion in molten lead. That old story "heat cherry red with a torch and drop in cold water" has probably ruined more cases than it helped. Red is too hot, much too hot. Set the thermostat of your electric bullet-casting furnace at no more than 600°F, even 550°F, and melt a few inches of lead in it. Don't flux the lead.

Dip your decapped cases mouth first about half their length in light oil and let the surplus drain off. Then, immerse the neck and shoulder only in the molten lead for 6 to 10 seconds, withdraw, throw out any lead clinging inside with a flip of the wrist, and drop into water. The neck will be properly annealed, soft, but not so soft as to crumple or fold when resizing or seating bullets.

How many times can cases be annealed? I don't know of any limit. I

know of some lots still in use after having been annealed as above nearly a dozen times. And they still look and function fine. The key to long life is in annealing each time just before the necks get hard enough to crack, and in not getting them too hot. Only about 450°F is needed to do the job, and the 600°F mentioned above is maximum if you don't want to burn the brass.


Annealing isn't the only way to extend case neck life. In order to resize all cases so they will chamber in all standard rifles, it is necessary to make dies quite small in the neck. Consequently, some dies reduce necks of cases fired in some guns by as much as .015". In some instances this may be twice as much as is needed. That extra sizing-down and subsequent expanding-up work-hardens the brass all the more, hurrying along the day when the neck will split.

Don't, repeat, don't, blame the resizing die maker. He has no choice if his dies are to be useful to everyone.

In a particular gun with a particular batch of cases, reducing the amount of resizing and expansion can extend case life greatly. There are two routes you may take. First, send fired cases to the die maker and tell

him you want a die producing minimum neck reduction. He'll make it, on a special-order basis, and you'll pay a bit extra for it, and probably wait a while for delivery.

Second, you can take a standard resizing die and carefully polish the neck (only) portion of the cavity to larger diameter. This is best done with a brass rod lap and fine abrasive powder, but abrasive cloth wrapped around a nail chucked in a hand drill will do the job. Open up the neck until the unexpanded inside diameter of a resized case neck is about .003" less than bullet diameter. At that size the expander will true up the inside without excessive working of the brass.

Don't, however, ever complain to the maker about a die you have so altered. By changing dimensions you have voided any guarantee that might have applied originally. If you polish too much and the case won't hold a bullet properly, it's your problem, not his. And, keep in mind that once you've altered a die in that manner, it may not work with other lots of cases. Cases with thinner necks won't be reduced enough to hold bullets tightly. It's not all wine and roses, you know. 



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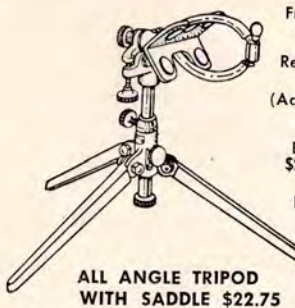
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We have enlarged the staff of our Panel of Experts to give you the best possible service on your questions. Remember, write directly to the expert at the address below—do not send questions to GUNS Magazine—and be sure to include the \$1.00 and the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

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"National Ordnance"

I have a Springfield Model 1903-A3 that is marked "National Ordnance" on the receiver ring and was wondering if this gun is as strong as those produced by Remington and the other "brand name" companies. I would like to sporterize the gun but was wondering what the barrel length should be.

Charles Elmore
 Louisville, Ky.

You have no worries about your 1903-A3 Springfield. It is when we consider conversions of the 1903's that the serial Number should be over 800,000 in order to be safe on all makes. I don't have the "exact number run-down" at my fingertips, but this is necessary in order to make determinations on all makes below 800,000.

If your barrel is in good condition, leave it the full 24" length. As for "what needs to be done," it's strictly up to you and how much you wish to spend on it. I've used them in the old military stocks, after forging the bolt, changing the safety and installing a scope. The bolt and safety change runs about \$20.00. From there the

scope cost depends on what priced instrument you select. I have also used these rifles as issued for hunting, though heavy they are. Then, I own one which I restocked, blued, and converted to a .35 Imp. Whelen. Our shop also rechambers them to .300 Win. Magnums.—W.S.

ML Importing

I am employed by the Department of the Army. In the near future I am to be sent to Europe for a period of three months. I would like to know if it is possible to purchase black powder rifles and handguns over there and where. Is it legal to bring them back into the U.S.?

William Blain
 Hunter, Utah

I am afraid I can not give you very complete answers to your questions, although I have been inquiring around. The chief problem is one of interpretation, when it comes to private importation of personally purchased firearms of "antique" classification. One government agent will say it is all legal because they are not

technically firearms. The next agent will insist that you purchase an importer's license, even for a decorator. Your own D.O.A. legal advisors would be the best ones to consult—then you can quote them afterward. To the best of my knowledge, someone in your position could purchase black powder arms. The rub would be getting them home without meeting the wrong agent. Some makers are Gregorelli Vittorio of Gardone Val Trompia, Italy, and Antonio Zoli of the same place, among others. Liege is an arms center in Belgium. Check the Hanquet firm there.—R.O.A.

Spandau Luger

I have in my collection a Luger dated 1918, serial number 6276 with all matching parts except the clip. The toggle is stamped with a crown and the word "SPANDAU." On several parts there is an "S". It is chambered for the 9mm cartridge and shows about 90% blue. Can you tell me anything about this pistol and it's worth?

Joyn Fowler
Berea, Ky.

Informed students doubt that any Lugers were actually manufactured at Spandau; after 1918 it seems that everybody and his brother-in-law beat Lugers together from parts and added a mark or two to the gun. The "S" is held by some to represent a code mark for the year 1935; by others it is felt to represent manufacture by Simpson & Co.

To come to some realistic conclusions about your gun, it would have to be examined, physically, by an expert; it is impossible by mail; sorry.—S.B.

.30-06 Blanks

I am just starting out in handloading and have not yet accumulated a good supply of brass. I have been offered a supply of military .30-06 blanks at a very attractive price. Would this brass be suitable for reloading and reforming? I would dispose of the powder in the proper way as I have been warned not to use it.

James Gamble
Decatur, Ga.

It is not possible to generalize on .30-06 military blank cases. Many lots of the M1909 blank were produced by reloading mixed lots of fired cases returned to the arsenals. Generally, this type of blank can be readily identified by resizing die marks ahead of the extraction groove and by its complete lack of any primer crimp. Such blanks
(Continued on page 71)

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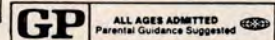
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& Children

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COMING SOON TO YOUR LOCAL THEATRE

WORLD SKEET



A squad in action during the firing of the All-Gauge Championship. After a year-long drought throughout the state of Texas, the rains came continuously for a week turning the shooting fields into seas of slushy mud.



Two new members of Skeet's Hall of Fame are Jimmy Robinson, the game's best historian, critic and booster, and Robert Stack, an ardent skeet shooter.

22

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE WORLD SKEET CHAMPIONSHIPS, fired at San Antonio, Texas, were notable for several things. A record entry of almost 700 of the best shotgunners in the country, a cleanup for Remington guns and Federal cartridges, and eight days and nights of continuous rain. The skeet field became a quagmire, commercial row, housed in a circus tent which leaked badly, had to fold up, and the wails of anguish from the competitors could be heard clear down along the Rio Grande. The rains broke a year-long drought and Texas cattlemen attribute the moisture to the skeet shooters and have invited them back. Instead, the National Skeet Shooting Association announced at the termination of the powder burning that the 1972 revival would be staged at Rochester-Brooks Gun Club, Rochester, New York.

Outstanding event of the week's shooting was a ceremony when five of Skeet's ranking gunners were inducted into the Hall of Fame. First of these was Bob Stack, the well known TV and movie personality. Stack was named to Sports Afield's All-America skeet team in 1935, '36 and '37. The fellow who has always selected the members of the annual skeet All-America Championship, Jimmy Robinson, perennial shooting editor, has held the spot since 1925, was also inducted into the Hall. Not because he has ever shot skeet, but because he has been its best historian, critic and booster.

Dick Shaughnessey, who won the first national 12 gauge championship with a 16 gauge side-by-side, was another honored by inclusion into the select circle. With him was Henry Joy, who lost his right eye from a ricocheting

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Almost 700 of the country's best shooters showed up for the World Skeet Championships in San Antonio, Texas that turned out to be a wet, but highly competitive week of shotgun shooting for all contestants.



Dick Bienapfl was winner of the All-Gauge Championship.



Robt. Paxton, winner, Overall Championship.

pellet and went on to learn to shoot from the other shoulder. Joy was the first to break 250 targets in a national championship and captained the All-America team. Finally the Hall of Fame honored a gal, Jean Smith of Florida. She won eight national championships and was captain of the women's All-America team.

Twenty-five years ago the popular skeet gun was the pump repeater. This is no longer true. The average squad at the championships this year was made up of four autoloaders and one over/under. I counted one pump shotgun. It was fired by Kenny Barnes, the California hotrock, to win the 20 gauge championship. It was once considered absolutely essential to have a Cutts Comp on the nozzle end. I counted precisely eight of the muzzle apertures. An interesting thing, too, was that many shooters firing the 12 gauge no longer attach a recoil pad. Likewise custom stocked jobs, even with the fancy over/under Brownings and Krieghoffs, seldom sport a Monte Carlo comb.

It has always been considered (Continued on page 74)

EVENT & WINNER	GUNS FIRED					AMMUNITION				
	REMINGTON WINCHESTER	BROWNING	KRIEGHOFF	ITHACA	OTHER	REM.	WINCH.	FED.	CIL	
*Champion of Champions H. Stilwell, Oreland, Pa. (100)	44	5	3	11	—	—	8	9	41	4
*Referee's Championship H. Speary, Fairport, N.Y. (100)	15	4	1	3	—	—	4	9	11	—
.410 Championship R. C. "Red" Hill, Detroit, Mich. (100)	274	63	85	90	15	7	132	185	205	8
28 Gauge Championship H. C. Creamer, Jr., California, Md. (100)	198	35	58	65	6	—	40.2%	14.2%	45.5%	—
20 Gauge Championship Kenny Barnes, Bakersfield, Calif. (100)	325	34	62	84	26	—	116	212	213	10
12 Gauge Championship Dick Bienapfl, Minneapolis, Minn. (250)	378	79	48	76	19	—	132	196	256	16
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP Jack Johnson, San Antonio, Texas (197) Gun Fired: Remington Model 1100 Ammunition: Unknown					OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP (Aggregate of .410, 28, 20 and 12 gauge matches) Bob Paxton, Corpus Christi, Texas (548) Gun Fired: Remington Model 1100 Ammunition: Federal					

*Record of guns fired and ammunition used incomplete.



Eldon Carl, designer of the Carl holster, executes a fast draw from one of his rigs. This design has been proved for over a decade of service as a police rig.

FASTEST

Getting the gun out of the holster quickly, safely and on target is half the battle. The forward-rake holster makes the job easier.

HOLSTER DESIGNS come and go, but only a few seem to make sense and perform well. Popularity is a fickle measure of holster efficiency since some of the most ungainly designs have survived the longest. Often, choices of leather rigs are made for reasons of tradition or singular convenience and rarely do shooters take the time to analyze their needs or the functions of a holster before making a purchase.

Recently, Triple K Mfg. Co. of San Diego, Calif., started marketing the Elden Carl line of holsters. While these items are primarily made for police use, their design is readily applied to combat and field shooting as well. Of general importance are the design features of these forward-rake holsters that can help any shooter evaluate other types of rigs, also.



These comparison photos show the basic differences between forward-rake (left) and back-rake (right) holster configurations. The forward-rake design provides significant improvements in gun handling safety and speed.

HOLSTER?

By JAMES D. MASON

Depending on one's point of view, a rake can be a garden implement or a person of dissolute character. But, in the holster game, rake refers to the angle a handgun is canted off the vertical when held in its holster. This angle can be critical to the safety and efficiency of the particular leather rig.

Until about 40 years ago, holsters traditionally had no rake and were little more than sheaths to support and protect the handgun. While these mundane functions were adequately provided for by old-time western rigs, gunfighters had to modify things a bit. It was common in the old west to see gun slingers wearing outsized gun belts draped diagonally across the pelvis so as to lower the reach of the handle of their Peacemakers. The lowered holster position facilitated drawing long-barrelled hoglegs when social equalizing was called for. Other fast-draw gunmen wore the holster at the end of a long belt loop extension to accomplish the same effect. In nearly all cases, though, the muzzles pointed straight down the leg in the carrying position. It was not uncommon to hear about a drunken or overly anxious cowboy who put a 250 grain .45 Colt slug through his foot or leg while negotiating a quick draw.

In more recent years, we have seen the rake angle for holsters go forward and rearward for a number of reasons. The back-rake design became popular in the 1930's following development of fast-draw techniques by the FBI. Close-fitting, concealed holsters for revolvers or auto pistols called for carrying the gun high on the belt and to the rear. This made necessary canting the muzzle of the gun to the rear to afford a practical drawing angle. Later holster designs copied this back-rake configuration for "river" and regular police-duty rigs.

Resurrection of the live-ammunition single action fast-draw technique into a national sport in the early 1950's brought back the danger of accidental wounding. Competitors soon started canting holsters forward to point the muzzle out ahead of the shooter's leg and foot. This virtual-

ly eliminated the messy self-inflicted wounds business but also netted a handsome bonus. The guys with the forward-rake rigs began winning all the speed competitions.

Shortly after this period, Elden Carl, a San Diego County (Calif.) career peace officer, designed a holster and belt system that employed the forward-rake principle adapted for police duty use with the double action revolver. This idea was subsequently adopted and refined for use with both revolvers and auto pistols in combat shooting. Carl, a life-time combat shooting master, won the Senior Combat Fastdraw event (Leatherslap) at Big Bear, Calif. three years in a row (1960, 1961, 1962) with his new duty holster design. During the 1962 season, he also used this rig to capture the Southwest Combat Pistol crown. In the past decade, the forward-rake holster has been an integral part of the development of this dynamic shooting sport.

The regular combat holster does not use the exaggerated forward-rake (30-40 degrees) of the single action quick-draw rigs. Instead, a moderate 15 degree angle is used, just enough to aim the muzzle about 8 to 10 inches ahead of the toes of the average shooter. This design has been thoroughly tested as a police duty holster and proven in combat shooting competition for 10 (Continued on page 58)



Deputies Walker (left) and Sanders warm-up before time trials. The average times for the Carl forward-rake rigs was 1/8 of a second faster than the conventional holster. Note comparative times in the table at left.

HOLSTER DATA

Trials

Deputy	Forward Rake				Back Rake			
	1	2	3	tot	1	2	3	tot
Bird	.33	.27	.24	.84	.66	.54	.41	1.61
Krtek	.43	.47	.39	1.29	.53	.53	.50	1.56
Walker	.62	.49	.41	1.52	.55	.68	.55	1.78
Sanders	.67	.48	.54	1.69	.71	.48	.65	1.84
Totals				5.34				6.79
Average				.45*				.57

*21% time improvement for the forward-rake holster.

CHICOM SKS



Newest War Trophy

By LTC R. F. SULLIVAN

ONE OF THE MOST popular war trophies returning with servicemen from Vietnam, and one you're likely to see for sale in increasing numbers, is the Chinese-Communist-made Simonov semi-automatic carbine or SKS. Unlike the highly publicized Chicom assault rifle (the AK-47) the SKS can be fired only semi-automatically and may legally enter the U.S. The AK-47 cannot.

The SKS basically resembles the German Gewehr Model 43 rifle of World War II except for the folding bayonet on the SKS, its shorter upper handguard and sloping magazine. The unassuming appearance of the SKS car-

bine belies a well-designed and reliable performer.

The Simonov is a gas operated semi-automatic, weighs 8.8 pounds fully loaded and uses the Soviet intermediate 7.62 x 43 cartridge. Termed a carbine because of its 20.47 inch barrel, the SKS holds ten rounds in a staggered, double-row magazine that is integral to the weapon. The overall length of the SKS is some 40 inches but the span from butt plate to the rear of the receiver is a mere 11 inches. The cartridge for the SKS is commonly called the 7.62 mm short and is readily available in the U.S. Comparisons of the 7.62 mm short and the popular .30-06 car-



The parts of the SKS as they are removed for cleaning: 1. Receiver cover; 2. Captive recoil spring assembly; 3. Bolt and bolt carrier assembly; 4. Upper handguard assembly housing the gas cylinder tube; 5. Gas piston and spring. Receiver cover, operating handle and bolt are stamped with serial numbers. This action is basically a scaled-down version of the obsolete PTRS antitank rifle system.



The Simonov SKS carbine was introduced in 1946 and fires semiautomatically only. The bayonet is permanently attached and fixed by pulling to the rear on the handle and rotating it upward until the bayonet muzzle ring snaps over the muzzle. To fold the bayonet, pull the bayonet handle upward until the muzzle ring clears the muzzle and swing the blade downward into its groove in the stock.

tridge show the following:

Characteristic	7.62mm Short	.30-06
Velocity	2411 fps	2800 fps
Weight of round	253 grains	396 grains
Weight of bullet	122 grains	150 grains
Weight of Propellent	25 grains	50 grains

From the above it can be seen that the 7.62 mm cartridge is no slouch despite its diminutive size. Both cartridges are rimless and bottlenecked.



Soviet 7.62mm Model 1943 cartridge (right) appears to be a refinement of the 7.92mm Kurz developed by the Germans during World War II. A .30-06 is shown at left. Note lengthy serial number on the receiver.

Already mentioned was the folding bayonet which distinguishes the SKS from most other carbines in its class. Unlike most Soviet bayonets, the SKS's folds directly beneath the barrel, not sideways. It may be locked in either the extended or closed position by a locking mechanism at its hilt.

The SKS safety is at the inside rear of the large trigger guard. Pivoted forward, the safety prevents trigger movement and firing. In the "off" or rearward position, it fits snugly against the trigger guard. This is a simple, effective and extremely handy safety mechanism.

Having a gunsmith check any foreign weapon is a must, just as is a thorough cleaning before firing it. Many of the SKS appearing in the U.S. were captured from Communist caches where they may have been unattended for long periods. The disassembly to accomplish this vital cleaning is simple.

First, clear the weapon by opening the bolt to make sure no cartridge is in the chamber or magazine. Place the safety in the off position, to the rear of the trigger guard. Disengage the retainer pin located in the right rear of the receiver. This pin holds the receiver cover in place.

Remove the receiver cover by pulling it to the rear. Next pull the recoil spring out of the operating handle assembly. The operating handle and bolt are removed by sliding the assembly to the rear of the receiver.

On the right front of the front sight is another retainer pin. Rotate it upward and toward the muzzle until the upper handguard assembly can be unseated by pulling at the rear. This may prove difficult if the weapon has not been properly maintained and may require some experimentation with the angle of the retaining pin.

Once the upper handguard assembly is out, the gas piston and spring may be removed from under the front sight. Be careful as the piston and spring are under tension and are held by the bevel of the retainer pin.

This completes the disassembly necessary for normal cleaning and exposes the critical areas of the barrel, gas piston and receiver. Reassemble the parts in reverse order once they are clean.

(Continued on page 45)

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SHOTGUN?

By WALLACE LABISKY



ON A GRAY, December day nearly 25 years ago, a young hunter on his first deer hunt sat patiently watching a game trail that snaked through a deep cut angling up from the river flat. The stand had been carefully scouted and it held a great deal of promise. There was a clear, unobstructed view of the trail itself, encouragingly marked with recent sign. The range from stand to trail was barely 40 yards—certainly not excessive for his slug-loaded 12-gauge autoloader. Below, along the river's edge, other hunters would be on the prowl, bird-dogging the jungle-like thickets of wild plum and chokecherry. And on this day the wind was in his favor. Sooner or later, he reckoned, those hunters were going to move a whitetail, and with a little luck he'd be in business.

As they often do where first-timers are concerned, the Red Gods smiled benevolently. Within an hour a fork-

horn buck came sneaking up the trail, pausing every twenty yards or so to cautiously test the breeze and to intently study his backtrack. The great moment, climaxing much anticipation and three days of hunting, was at hand.

With the buck in a broadside calendar pose, the situation could hardly have been more propitious for a first-time shot at big game. A cinch shot if there ever was one. But, *alas!* A sight picture that had seemed perfect for a lethal rib-cage hit slammed the slug harmlessly into the bare-earth bank against which the buck was silhouetted. Too high!

Acutely aware that the buck wasn't going to stand there for long, the tenderfoot desperately tried to make sure of his hold as he hurriedly triggered off the two remaining rounds. Both followed the path of the first, and the buck's white flag went to full mast in a farewell salute.

Flubbing a chance like that went beyond mere disappointment. It was a crushing experience. And I ought to know. That young hunter was yours truly.

The one and only consolation that goes along with making mistakes is that in the long run we usually benefit. The episode of the missed buck was, at the time, a bitter pill to get down, but it effectively hammered home one rule of gunning that cannot be ignored. *You have got to know your gun.*

My calamitous mistake, and one that surely has been shared by a great many others, was that prior to the hunt I failed to punch some holes in paper. Even a very brief session at the range, involving no more than a fistful of loads, would have uncovered the missing link. I would have learned that the sight picture which was just right for shot loads and rising birds was entirely wrong for rifled slugs and deer. Had



Left: The author prepares to range test a new shotgun before taking to the field. A rest is helpful as it minimizes the chance for shooter error such as the wobbles. Above: Simple wooden frame consisting of two uprights and a few cross-bars and large enough to accommodate a sheet of 4'x4' paper works nicely for pattern testing shotguns. Note how paper is held.

I been armed with that small piece of grass-roots knowledge, my first deer hunt might very well have ended on a happy note.

When it comes to pre-hunt preparation, riflemen in general are a long breed apart from shotgunners. I've known rifle buffs who would spend almost every spare hour during an entire summer season doing everything possible to insure the taking of that hoped-for trophy animal months later. These chaps may seemingly fuss around in circles like an old hen with chicks, but certainly not without rhyme nor reason.

Through the process of elimination they will single out the most accurate load. The gun will then be carefully sighted in, and following that many more groups will be fired at distances both closer and beyond the zeroing range to learn the need and amount, if any, of Kentucky correction. And they're likely to top off all this with a good deal (Continued on page 60)



THE DEVELOPMENT U.S. MILITARY



By E. L. REEDSTROM

FOUR YEARS of war had tempered the army of the United States and ranked her a great military and fighting force. Admired by European military men, our campaigns were required study by foreign staff colleges—but before the smoke of the last great battles had hardly time enough to clear, old veterans picked up their arms once more to deal with a new and skillful maneuvering foe, the American Indian. Throughout the Civil War, fighting on the frontier had never ceased; and after the end of the Confederacy, the military's task was doubled with the great migration to the West. Broken treaties, thievery of Indian agents, and whiskey-peddling, gun-selling traders added more kindling to the fire. Now, more than ever, tribes sought to bar the white

man's path across the continent and fought a savage war for survival.

The army was dissatisfied with the Model 1870 musket and the performance of the .50-70 cartridge. In 1872 the Ordnance Board considered the .45-70 cartridge, ballistically a great improvement over the old .50-70. They also developed the new Springfield "trapdoor" Model 1873. Three models succeeded the Springfield Model '73 "trapdoor" in the .45-70 caliber—Models of 1879, 1884, and 1889—until the adoption of the Krag in 1892. The infantry was furnished with two leather cartridge boxes, pattern 1872, Type 1, holding 24 cartridges and carrying a tool in a side compartment, and pattern 1872, Type 2 holding the same amount of shells only it was smaller in size. Both boxes were suspended from the belt with the aid of a "Brace Yoke," but only



Brown canvas and leather cartridge belt for .45-70's. Model of 1876.



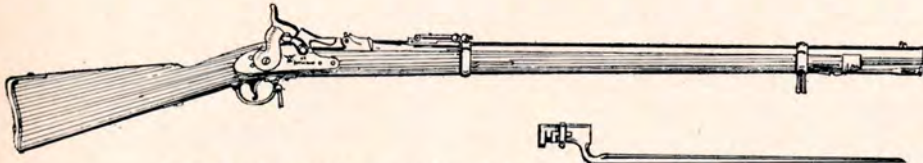
Shown open and closed, the Pattern 1872 Infantry Box Type 1 held 24 cartridges and a combination tool.



U. S. Pattern 1872 Infantry Box, Type 2 carried the same amount of cartridges but was reduced in size.

OF ACCOUTREMENTS

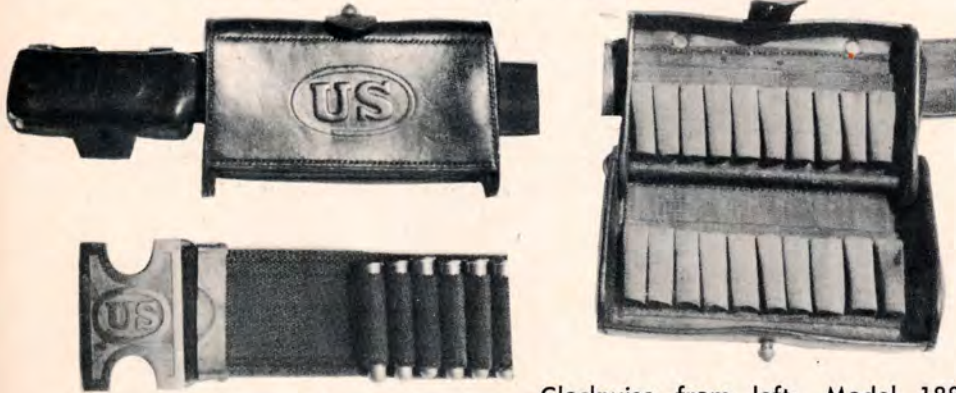
PART 2



U.S. Springfield "trapdoor" Model 1884, caliber .45-70.



U.S. Krag Model 1898, caliber .30-40, five-shot bolt action.



Clockwise from left: Model 1887 cartridge belt for .45-70's; McKeever patent cartridge box of 1870's; McKeever box was hinged for easy access. Made for .45-70 and .30-40.

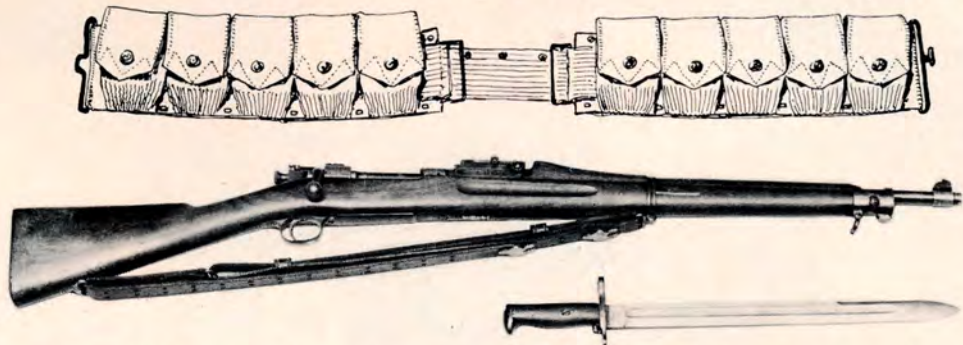


this system was practiced if both boxes were worn, with the total 48 rounds of ammunition. Otherwise, a single cartridge box (No. 1) could be worn alone (during drills or garrison duty), sufficiently supported by the waist belt and placed either in front or behind. On the front flap of both 1872 patterns was embossed the U.S. oval. The loops for holding the car-

tridges were cloth strips shellacked to some degree of stiffness and sewn to the inside of the box in three rows, eight loops to a row.

Between 1866 and 1880, hundreds of cartridge boxes were submitted for trial by the army. A great many of them were used and adopted for issue on an experimental basis and then

(Continued on page 56)



Top: Model 1910 dismounted cartridge belt had 10 pockets holding 100 rounds of ammunition. Above: The U.S. Springfield Rifle, Model 1903, caliber .30, was the principle arm of U.S. troops until after the start of World War II.

GCA HANDGUNS

By MAJ. GEORGE C. NONTE

BACK IN THE DAYS before GCA 68, we were allowed to import any type of *safe* conventional handgun from abroad. By "safe" we mean presenting no mechanical hazard to the shooter. Then, though, in December of 1968 the boom was lowered and into effect went various Treasury Dept. rules called "Factoring Criteria For Importation of Handguns." This criteria attempted to establish a distinction between "sporting" and "non-sporting" handguns, with those in the latter category presumed to be the more likely to be used in criminal acts.

The Fit Hit The Shan, for the Factoring Criteria prohibited importation of *small* guns. Weight, caliber, and dimensional minimums immediately terminated the flow of "pocket" or "kit" style and size guns, regardless of quality, price, utility, or popularity. To show how widely this prohibition acted, here is a partial list of the popular guns it excluded from our market.

Astra .22 and .25 Auto

All Star CF autos smaller than the Model B and Starlite

All small-frame RF revolvers

Browning .380 and .32 Auto

Browning .25 Auto

All revolvers with barrels under 3"

Llama .32 and .380 Autos

All other small .25 and .22 autos

All Beretta models except the Brigadier and long-barreled .22's

Colt Junior .25 (then made in Spain)

Walther .22, .32, .380 PPK

Walther .22 TPH

In short, *all* small guns were outlawed on the assumption that they "***serve no sporting purpose." An assumption open to considerable criticism.

There were two immediate results. First, some importers who had previously handled hundreds of thousands of low-cost guns (often of questionable quality) made arrangements to produce or assemble those same guns in this country. Parts and tooling were imported and put in service in new plants here, resulting in hardly any reduction in the flow and availability of such guns.

Second, the foreign countries to whom the U.S. firearms market is economically important started screaming. And not ineffectively. Working through proper international channels they maintained (and it would seem rightly so) that such arbitrary prohibition of importation violated certain trade treaties with the U.S.A. There was—and is—substantial talk of trade reprisals. This is a very touchy subject within our government—any reduction in the world market for our own exports is viewed almost with terror. Apparently the probability of just such reprisal action was either overlooked or discounted.

It is interesting to note that had the situation been reversed, our government would most likely have done the same thing—screamed "Foul!" long and loud, being traditionally of the opinion that we should be able to sell *anything, anywhere.*

There was a third result, but it took much longer to become visible. We are just now seeing the benefits of same. Fighting, in some instances, for survival, the foreign makers took a long hard look at what could be done to make at least some prohibited models qualify under the Factoring Criteria for importation.

The burden imposed by weight, size, and caliber eliminated things like .25 autos from consideration, but certain other small guns could be upgraded. Fortunately, the Factoring Criteria placed considerable value on features such as: grip safety; magazine safety; wide (target) hammer and trigger; large (target) stocks; chamber indicator; adjustable sights; steel and (Continued on page 48)



The new Western Valley Arms .25 auto is of the new breed.



Typical of the "Saturday Night Specials" banned by GCA 1968.

Smallest importable pistol is the Spanish Astra "Constable."

Because of the GCA '68, we
seeing new names and
signs in pistols.



Old Browning, always a
top seller, now banned.



New Browning sports
new sights and grips.



Older Llama from Spain
resembles our .45 Colt.



New Llama has changed
little over the years.

Department
of the
Treasury
Internal
Revenue
Service

Factoring Criteria for Weapons

Note:
The Internal Revenue Service
reserves the right to preclude
importation of any revolver or
pistol which achieves an ap-
parent qualifying score but
does not adhere to the provi-
sions of section 925(d)(3) of
Amended Chapter 44, Title 18,
U.S.C.

Pistol model

Individual characteristics and factor allowance	Sub-total (points)
Overall length	_____
For each 1/4" over 6" (1 value)	_____
Frame construction	_____
Investment cast or forged steel (15 value)	_____
Investment cast or forged HTS alloy (20 value)	_____
Weapon weight w/magazine (unloaded)	_____
Per ounce (1 value)	_____
Caliber	_____
.22 short and .25 auto (0 value)	_____
.22 LR and 7.65mm to .380 auto (3 value)	_____
9mm parabellum and over (10 value)	_____
Safety features	_____
Locked breech mechanism (5 value)	_____
Loaded chamber indicator (5 value)	_____
Grip safety (3 value)	_____
Magazine safety (5 value)	_____
Firing pin block or lock (10 value)	_____
Miscellaneous equipment	_____
External hammer (2 value)	_____
Double action (10 value)	_____
Drift adjustable target sight (5 value)	_____
Click adjustable target sight (10 value)	_____
Target grips (5 value)	_____
Target trigger (2 value)	_____
Prerequisites:	_____
1) The pistol must have a positive manually operated safety device.	_____
2) The combined length and height must be in excess of 10" with the height (right angle measurement to barrel without magazine or extension) being at least 4" and the length being at least 6".	_____
Score achieved	_____
Qualifying score is 75 points	_____

Revolver model

Individual characteristics and factor allowance	Sub-total (points)
Barrel length	_____
(muzzle to cylinder face)	_____
Less than 4" (0 value)	_____
For each 1/4" over 4" (1/2 value)	_____
Frame construction	_____
Investment cast or forged steel (15 value)	_____
Investment cast or forged HTS alloy (20 value)	_____
Weapon weight (unloaded)	_____
Per ounce (1 value)	_____
Caliber	_____
.22 short to .25 ACP (0 value)	_____
.22 LR and .30 to .38 S&W (3 value)	_____
.38 special (4 value)	_____
.357 mag and over (5 value)	_____
Miscellaneous equipment	_____
Adjustable target sights (drift or click) (5 value)	_____
Target grips (5 value)	_____
Target hammer and target trigger (5 value)	_____
Prerequisites:	_____
1) Must pass safety test.	_____
2) Must have overall frame (with conventional grips) length (not diagonal) of 4 1/2" minimum.	_____
3) Must have a barrel length of at least 3".	_____
Safety test:	_____
A Double Action Revolver must have a safety feature which automatically (or in a Single Action Revolver by manual operation) causes the hammer to retract to a point where the firing pin does not rest upon the primer of the cartridge. The safety device must withstand the impact of a weight equal to the weight of the revolver dropping from a distance of 36" in a line parallel to the barrel upon the rear of the hammer spur, a total of 5 times.	_____
Score achieved	_____
Qualifying score is 45 points	_____

Form 4590 (11-69)



New Walther PPK/S.



Old Walther PPK.



Importable Beretta has
new barrel and sights.



Old model Beretta pocket
pistols are not imported.



GUNS and the LAW

Non-Lethal Weapons, Part IV

THE FIRST MAJOR U.S. riot of the decade of the sixties occurred in 1962 at Oxford, Mississippi on the campus of the University of Mississippi. The Federal Government's attempt to force the school to admit its first Negro student set off violent rioting resulting in hundreds injured and two deaths. Numbers of untrained, ill-equipped, hastily mobilized U.S. Marshals, backed by some U.S. Border Patrol elements, were forced to assume a passive, defensive role for several days of mob assault. During this period, in the same manner as occurs today, the majority of the U.S. Marshal's casualties resulted from thrown objects. The rioters would be repelled, by tear gas grenades, then retreat, reform, and again attack the marshal's lines. Unfortu-

nately, there were campus buildings under construction so there was plenty of "ammunition" in the form of stones and bricks readily available. Some students placed bricks in the center of long bath towels, grasped both ends and whirling it around the head like an ancient sling, hurled these deadly missiles from a distance into the marshals ranks. Other students tied inner tubes to crotches of trees, utilizing these giant sling shots to launch bricks, bottles of acid and fire bombs from ranges well beyond the marshal's retaliation capabilities.

The number of the missiles, thrown or launched, combined with the lack of visibility due to the smoke from burning tear gas grenades caused so many casualties that the government situation was saved, and the use of

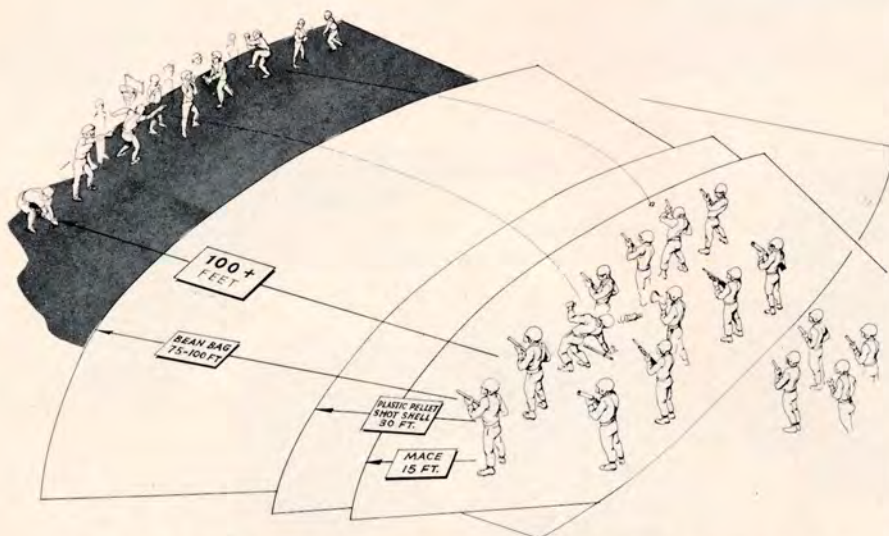
gunfire for defensive purposes was avoided, only by the arrival of regular Army Military Police battalions, from nearby bases. The military units finally dispersed the rioters but also suffered severely from thrown objects.

At the time of this writing, British troops in Belfast, Ireland are depicted on TV screens, facing the same problem. Small bands of rioters approach their lines, throw fire bombs, rocks and bricks and then retreat down the littered streets to reform for subsequent attacks. The soldiers under political restraint and unable to resort to firearms, suffer many casualties and only finally succeed by virtue of their continuous presence and numbers. The British, like some U.S. police are now using shields and other personal protective gear but, similarly, they lack effective non-lethal armament to disperse individual rioters before they get within missile throwing range.

A new six-inch solid rubber projectile fired from a pistol type gas projector has been introduced. Reports indicate that this weapon has had neither the range, force, nor accuracy to achieve the desired deterrent effect. After the psychological effect of initial exposure of the weapon wore off, the rioters apparently no longer feared it. As in the past, the Tommies still must basically rely on tear gas, rifle butts, bayonets and gunfire. Last February the Associated Press carried a news photo depicting a Santa Barbara, California policeman using, in his apparent frustration, a hand held sling shot to fire rocks back at rioters pelting his unit with all types of thrown objects.

Blows, thrusts, jabs and smashes from batons and gun butts have long been accepted by the public as acceptable degrees of force when police

RADIUS OF DETERRENCE



The tactical problem is to provide police with weapons that can knock-out individual rioters, agitators, etc. at ranges of 100 to 200 feet.



By COL. REX APPLIGATE

and military are engaged in civil disturbance operations. Television and the news media depicted such police use of batons against demonstrators and rioters during the May 1971 anti-war demonstrations in the nations capitol. No noticeable or lasting press and public outcry came as an aftermath. Accordingly, police use of a long range projectile to inflict the same type of deterrent force or shock should be acceptable in these changing times when the official and public attitude toward civil disorder and individual violence has hardened.

This weaponry gap was generally covered in the second article of this series. What follows are the most recent U.S. approaches to less than lethal, longer range impact projectiles currently in use, or under development. These and similar type weapons must be properly employed by trained men, at other than point blank ranges, to avoid serious casualties and possible fatalities. These rounds and weapons are designed to deliver, at other than close range, a non-penetrating projectile that inflicts punishing force. The slower velocity of the relatively large diameter missile creates a painful, deterrent impact on the individual rioter with a minimized possibility of serious injury.

The 37mm (1½" caliber) gas gun, used to project tear gas shells and barricade rounds is to be found in the majority of police arsenals. Its versatility has recently been increased by the introduction of a shell that fires cylindrical, hardwood blocks about 1½" long and one inch in diameter, at relatively low velocities.

This round is now manufactured in the U.S. by several firms and was first reported to have been used with tactical success by the Hong Kong Police

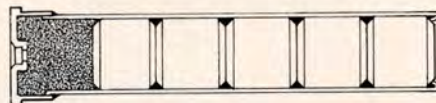
in 1967. The first known American police employment was during the summer of 1970 when the Berkeley, California police fired it during campus related disorders at the University of California. Approximately 500 demonstrators were dispersed beyond rock throwing range by use of a few rounds.

The new round has a claimed effective range of 75 yards. Although its pattern is unpredictable, a 15-20 foot spread can be expected. At 25-75 yard ranges, painful, but not entirely incapacitating impacts are delivered. At closer ranges the ricochet method of fire, bouncing the blocks off the pavement into the lower extremities of the rioters, is recommended. The multiple block shell costs approximately five dollars a round. It is best used against closely grouped masses of rioters. It is not selective or accurate enough to be employed with consistent success against individual rock throwers, agitators, looters, etc. It's universal adoption by police as an additional degree of force is, as yet, in the future.

The stun gun bean bag system, consists of a firing tube with triggering mechanism and handle extension, capable of being used as a conventional police baton that fires a 40mm caliber shell loaded with a 4" diameter, pancake shaped, shot filled, canvas bag. This weapon system is now available from MBA Associates of San Ramon,



Conventional 37mm tear gas gun.



Wooden block shell for the 37mm.

California. Other special 40mm loads consisting of multiple wooden block shells, dye markers, tear gas, flares, and smoke are stated to be available. These rounds are not useable in the standard 37mm police gas gun. Since the summer of 1970, this weapons system has been extensively demonstrated to police agencies. However, it was not until February of this year that the weapon was actually used and fired under mob-tension. Sheriffs' deputies of Alameda County, California fired a small number of stun bag and multiple block wooden rounds at anti-war demonstrators in Berkeley, California. No rioter injuries were reported but officers claimed that the initial psychological impact was effective and the crowd moved back out of rock throwing range.

The manufacturer claims that the pancake shaped projectile fired from the rifled tube, traveling at 110 mph,
(Continued on page 73)

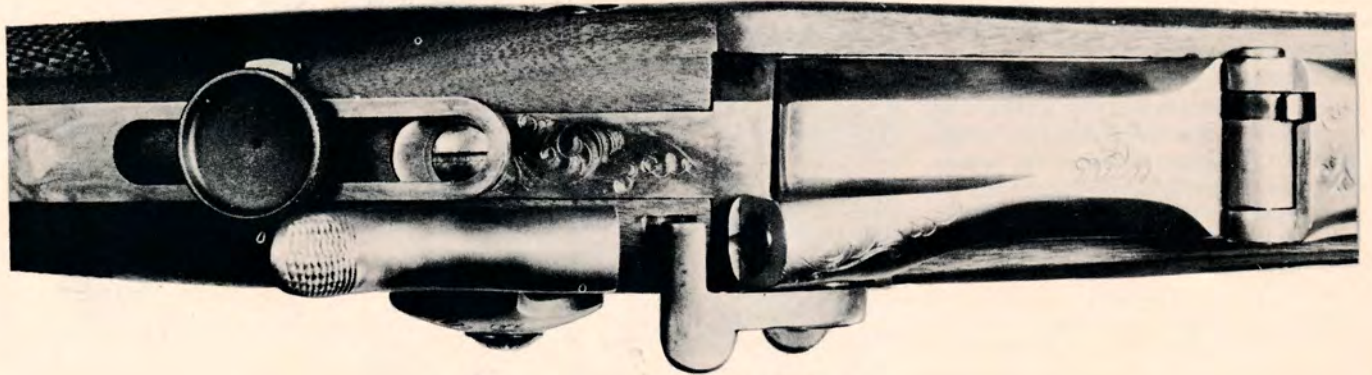


Blake .410 clip-fed gun fires golf ball-size projectiles at rioters that are painful, yet non-lethal. The gun is accurate in excess of 100 feet.


THE TRAPDOOR SPRINGFIELD ...



The classic Trapdoor action, shown open at top for loading. Bottom photo shows receiver and tang in one piece; original '73's had these as separate units. Color photo of the Officer's Model on facing page courtesy of Harrington & Richardson, Inc.



A CENTURY LATER



ONLY one civilian arms manufacturer has produced large quantities of all the modern M-series U.S. service rifles; the .30 M-1 (Garand), 7.62mm M-14, and 5.56mm (.223) M-16. Considering the number of years during which private industry has been building our war rifles, that's a pretty fair record.

Harrington & Richardson is the company. It built roughly 450,000 M-1's, 537,584 M-14's in '59-'64, and just completed delivery on a very substantial contract for M-16's. And so, today H&R is again making a U.S. service rifle, or rather, what *once was* the standard army rifle. And, this time, Uncle Sam isn't getting the guns. They are strictly for commercial sales.

It all came about when H&R authorities began searching for a fitting and proper way to celebrate its first century of operation—its 1871-1971 Centennial. All too often, today's shooters don't realize that H&R has manufactured civilian arms steadily since 1871, ranking it right along with the oldest of our gunmakers. Of course, if you want to be technical, the name was Wesson & Harrington in the early years, but names aside, it's still the same company.

In any event, after considering all manner of guns that might be offered as the "H&R Centennial Model," the famous "Trapdoor Springfield" .45-70, of 1873-1888 vintage, was chosen. This was certainly fitting in view of H&R's great military rifle contribution to our defense.

OFFICE & NABARD
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
Harrington & Richardson Centennial
1871-1971



Lock engraving is quite well done even when you take a good close look at it.

The Trapdoor was chosen over other U.S. military arms that might have served the same purpose because it was the first *practical* breechloader to be officially adopted by the U. S. Army and to become general issue way back in 1873. It actually saw combat in the Spanish-American War after being replaced by the Krag.

But, just *any* Trapdoor (rifle, carbine; 1873, 1884, 1888, etc.) wouldn't do. H&R chose to reproduce the Officer's Model. This variation of the venerable Trapdoor is not only the scarcest of all, it is probably the most ornate *service* rifle produced by any national armory since the cartridge period began.

As collectors know, the Officer's Model was literally custom-built by Springfield Armory after the manner of fine sporting rifles of the 1880's. Apparently, somewhere between 500 and 800 such rifles were built, as near as can be determined from records available today.

Surprisingly, most were *finished* outside the Armory. Employees bid on the job, and were furnished the basic components (and presumably some form of specifications)—lock, barreled action, etc.—which they then "fitted-up" in the manner of custom gunsmiths. Thus, the end product was not a true production-line gun as was the standard rifle and carbine.

H&R chose to develop as accurate a modern copy of the Officer's Model as

possible, using modern production methods where possible. As can be seen from the photographs, they succeeded admirably. The engraving, finish, sights, stock, accessories, etc. are copied directly from authentic Officer's

Models. Because of variations in the originals—stemming from that individual finishing already mentioned, and the fact that there were evidently *two* patterns—it can't be said that the H&R Centennial is an *exact* copy. It is best described as a *typical copy*.

Ten thousand "standard" Officer's Models have been (are being, actually) made and are available through normal H&R trade channels. Dealers will have them at \$250 to \$300 each. Then there are 1,000 "Springfield Armory Museum Silver Carbine" units selling for \$1,000 each. Each comes in a fitted mahogany case—and that's not flashy, decorative silver, but plenty of fine sterling. Every metal part is spotless and gleaming like your finest sterling tableware.

Ten of these silver carbines are being presented to the Springfield Armory Museum (numbers 100, 200, 300, etc.) which will sell them to raise





Overall view of left side of H&R rifle shows classic lines maintained in a modern replica.

operating funds. Those ten guns will be the rarities of the future.

Mechanically, there are a few differences between the original and the new O/M—partly to suit modern production methods, and partly to insure that a specimen won't be re-worked or artifiically aged and passed off as an original by some unscrupulous party. The major difference is in the use of an integral receiver and tang where the original contained two parts. This, in itself, precludes fakery, but there are other internal differences that an educated collector can spot easily enough.

The receiver, breech block, and some other parts are made by the investment casting process and can be identified as such by a trained eye. Externally, though, the *new* Officer's Model looks just like the old.

How does it look? To my eye, fine. Overall finish is excellent. The 26-inch

barrel is deeply blued and carries the proof mark. All other metal parts (receiver, block, hammer, lock, guard, butt plate, even screw heads) are case-hardened with subdued blue and grey mottling. All have been nicely polished.

The stock is of dense, dark walnut, deeply hand-checked at wrist and fore-end. Finish is oil, and the fore-end tip or nose-cap is of pewter-like metal, cast in place. A wood ramrod (cleaning rod) is held under the barrel by a single blued steel pipe and a barrel-mounted pin which enters a hole in the knurled rod tip. The other end of the rod is fitted with a slotted steel tip

for swabbing. The rod is, incidentally, long enough to reach completely through the bore from the muzzle. Neatly-done, leaf-scroll hand-engraving is found on receiver, breech block, tang, guard bow, butt plate, hammer, lock plate, and nose-cap.

The front sight is a conventional round, gold bead dovetailed into the barrel. At the rear is a color-hardened folding tang sight. Over 21½ inches of elevation adjustment is available by loosening the aperture. Unfortunately, there is no scale to allow return to zero. If you'll be shooting your example, you'll need (Continued on page 58)



Close views show details such as barrel markings and fine checkering; inside of lock which is as close to original as possible; facsimile of the original proof mark on stock; and contemporary rear sight with handsome case hardened finish.



THE STEVENS



A boy and a rifle are inseparable things. Thousands of youngsters learned to shoot with the Stevens Favorite.

SAVAGE ARMS has this year revived the Stevens Favorite rifle. Offered as a special model for 1971 only, this "new" gun recalls the period that was prelude to .22 rim fire hunting. The early Favorite is the rifle that made the .22 Long Rifle cartridge come of age in the hands of hundreds of thousands of young marksmen.

The decade of the 1890's brought forth an explosion of ideas; many of these have endured for the better part of our century. In the field of firearms, who can dispute the place of the Model '94 Winchester, the "modern" Mauser action, or the .30-30 smokeless powder cartridge? Most shooters are not aware that the ubiquitous .22 long rifle cartridge also became popular in that decade along with a rifle that helped establish the sport of small bore hunting. This sport today accounts for well over half of the hunting licenses issued yearly in the U. S.

To many people, a boy and his rifle are inseparable things. As part of the total development of the boy into a man, shooting and arms have played a traditional role.



The Model 71 Stevens Favorite as offered by Savage Arms.

FAVORITE

While some quarters disparage this role today, there are few activities for an early teenager that are more wholesome and rewarding than shooting. The skills and responsibilities in handling arms build poise, confidence, and self-image for tens of thousands of youngsters yearly, contrary to the picture projected by anti-gun forces that plays on the few human failures that abuse the sporting use of arms.

The Stevens Favorite was the most popular boy's rifle of all time. It introduced shooting to whole generations of youngsters. What could be more fitting than to have the new Stevens-Savage commemorative gun shot by a lad from the fourth generation since the original was introduced?

A young friend, Jon DePriest, is quite poised for his thirteen years. But his impatience to shoot the little Stevens showed in his twinkling eyes when the rifle was uncased at the shooting range. He spent the better part of an afternoon and several boxes of long rifle ammunition having a ball with the new Favorite and recreating an episode



Differences in the breech-block, hammer and tang are obvious. Still, the Model 71 retains old-time styling.

repeated millions of times over the years. It gave me quite a warm feeling to see his enjoyment as my own youthful experience unfolded again while pictures for this article were taken.

Few commemorative guns will evoke the nostalgia or carry as much unsung significance as Savage Arms' rebirth of the Stevens Favorite. During his youth, my father owned three Stevens Favorites all dating from the 1894 version. The first two of these guns were shot-out on five-for-a-penny BB caps, a favored round of the young-fry of that day. Today we stand in awe of the term "shot-out .22 barrels" but only because we take for granted the high state of development of .22 rim fire ammunition. Chlorate priming of rim fire ammo prior to 1926 (the year "Klean-bore" priming was introduced) pitted almost all bores to

some degree. Ineffective cleaning solvents and low basic cost of .22 rifles (\$5 bought a Stevens Favorite at one time) encouraged careless handling of barrel cleaning chores. Lead fouling due to inefficient lubricants also corrupted the bores, contributing to inaccuracy. When a rifle lost its accuracy after several thousand rounds, it was easy enough to purchase another gun.

Low cost and outstanding value were important to the popularity of Joshua Steven's brain child. Stevens was instrumental in the introduction of the long rifle cartridge in 1837. He was concerned with designing a rifle to bring out the potential of the new rim fire round and adapted a version of his side-plate action of 1834. These guns are referred to as the Model 1839 Favorites and are characterized by a one-piece cast receiver and rather short integral tangs used to attach the stock. This action also had a "bow" type flat leaf mainspring and the barrel take down



This youngster spent the better part of an afternoon with the Favorite and enjoyed every moment. While small enough for young shooters, the dimensions are fine for adults, too.



screw featured a swivel ring.

The popularity of the Favorite was such that the gun was modified slightly a few years after its introduction and designated the Model 1894. Among other details, the receiver tangs were lengthened and the main spring was redesigned. This Model 1894 is the usual configuration encountered today. The barrels continued to be made octagonal out to the end of the forearm, then rounded on to the muzzle. Later versions of this gun featured a knurled barrel takedown screw head. These guns were all made on a standard frame until 1915 when the "heavy" action was introduced.

The 1915 modifications included a thicker action with some heavier internal parts. (The whole action weighed about 4-ounces more than the 1894 version.) The mainspring was changed to a coil design with plunger, guide, and yoke to fit the hammer. This design change virtually eliminated mainspring breakage. The breech block was machined with a square or flat top design. The No. 17 designation continued as the standard rifle but it was made on the new frame with a round tapered 24-inch barrel replacing the half-octagonal design. The No. 27 model was also introduced and featured a full-length octagonal barrel. Various sight options came on all of the Stevens models, but the standard gun was by far the most common. Between 1894 and 1940 in excess of 500,000 rifles including all variations were made and sold.

My father's third Favorite was the Model 1915 No. 17 rifle. He used it for plinking and bagging Arkansas cottontails in his early teens, then it was packed away. My first shots were taken with this gun. Shortly after I started plinking, my uncle gave me a Model 67 Winchester and the Favorite was again mothballed. Resurrected from the bot-

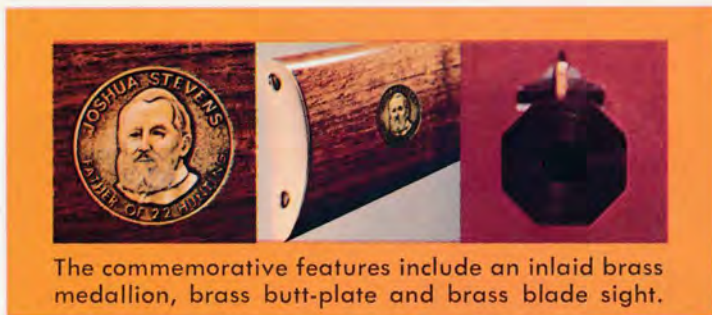
.22 RIMFIRE DATA*

BRAND	M.V.	VELOCITY VARIANCE	M.E.	NOMINAL GROUPS
Hy-Score BB Caps	943 fps	63 fps	29 fp	1.20 inches
Mini-Caps CB caps	697	57	31	.875
Eley Tenex LR	1038	64	96	.70
Winch. T22 LR	1116	65	111	.75
Federal H.V. LR	1247	49	138	1.25
Hodgdon H.V. LR	1291	101	148	.90
Eley H.V. LR	1318	46	154	.75
CIL H.V. LR	1262	47	141	.85
Mini-Mag H.V. LR	1213	89	130	.95
Mini-Mag H.V. LR HP	1326	46	144	.80
Super-X LR	1264	57	142	.75
Wildcat LR	1265	48	145	.80
Rem. H.V. LR	1272	52	144	.90

*Data taken on an Avtron K233 chronograph with K101 photoscreens. Readings calculated to five feet from the muzzle, 5 round series from a 22" barrel. Accuracy data was made at 25 yards.



The commemorative Model 71 Favorite has a 22" full-octagon barrel and weighs about 4½ pounds.



The commemorative features include an inlaid brass medallion, brass butt-plate and brass blade sight.

tom of an old clothing trunk a couple of years ago, the bore was found to be in fair to good shape but the general condition of the action and chamber would not justify shooting high-speed loads. About this time, Numrich Arms announced their offer to supply replacement barrels for the Favorite and this kindled interest in renewing the acquaintance with this old gun.

The re-introduction of the Favorite by Savage Arms this year came as a surprise, in the middle of my research on the older gun. This gave a new dimension to the story and an opportunity to examine the new offering from a comparative viewpoint.

The new M71 is not an exact replica of the older No. 17. Its general shape and configuration are very similar to the old gun, but there are several major differences in the action. Most of these changes add up to a superior action and a safer gun than past models. For some people though, these changes may also serve to kill some of the romance prompted by fond memories of the original rifle.

Aside from the commemorative gold plating of hammer and finger lever, brass butt plate, and an inletted medallion of Joshua Stevens on the butt stock, outwardly the Model 71 Favorite has a case-hardened receiver of the same general shape as the original. The new part has no tangs formerly used to attach the stock. Instead, the M71 has a square receiver end with a shallow V notch where the stock is secured by a bolt through the butt stock, similar to the way shotgun stocks are mounted. The hammer and finger lever are noticeably different from the shape of the original parts. The new finger lever has more generous proportions allowing gloved fingers to reach the trigger. The new hammer is scaled larger with a wide serrated spur that can be more easily manipulated. The new trigger

appears to be a casting and lacks the esthetic appeal of the slender, tapered original.

The swing-block action is the same, (the Stevens block pivots downward on a pin and should not be confused with falling block or rolling block designs), and employs a pivotal link that wedges off-center to bind the breech block in position behind the chamber. Thrust from chamber pressure at ignition time is absorbed through the linkage and transfers to the breechblock and finger lever pins. It is after these pins in the

linkage wear out-of-round that looseness appears in the locking system. Finger lever tension relaxes first making it difficult to keep the lever in closed position. Later, head-space opens up. One of the best means of re-establishing finger lever tension and headspace is to replace the barrel or to set the barrel back into the receiver a few thousandths of an inch.

The original Favorites used screw pins to hold the breech block finger lever, trigger, and hammer in position. The M71 (Continued on page 64)



Side view illustrates the larger finger-lever and omission of the take-down screw at the bottom, front of the receiver. Also, the new Favorite's hammer and finger-lever are plated. Receiver is color case-hardened with a gold inscription on both sides.

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SKS CARBINE

(Continued from page 27)

The receiver cover, operating handle and bolt are stamped with the weapon's serial number. These should be identical to the number appearing on the left side of the receiver frame. If they don't match, the parts have been cannibalized and it is even more important that your SKS be checked by a gunsmith before firing it.

Loading the magazine without a cartridge charger is easy as the magazine accepts the ten rounds comfortably. These rounds may be ejected without opening the bolt of the SKS by pulling the magazine catch to the rear. This catch is forward of the trigger guard. The magazine will then swing out and down, freeing the cartridges.

The carbine sights are simple and adequate. The rear sight is a notched leaf-type and is graduated from 0 to 1000 meters in hundreds. The front sight is a covered post.

The trigger mechanism suffers from approximately 1/4 inch of dead space or dead pull. The gun has little recoil and the sight picture is easily held during firing. The SKS is well balanced and the action of the bolt is sharp without being distractive.

The accuracy of the SKS is good. My first five rounds formed a tight two inch group at 75 yards from the prone position, without previous zero. Good shooters should do much better after becoming used to the heft of the SKS and performing any necessary sight adjustments.

The hunter or plinker can make practical use of the folding bayonet. Folded downward, it may be used as a rest or support for the muzzle. The only adverse feature of this excellent gun is the shortness of the stock, particularly noticeable when firing from the prone or off-hand positions. This deficiency can be remedied for the average shooter by simply adding a rubber recoil pad to the butt plate.

Basically the SKS is a fine carbine and, due to its light weight and the performance of the cartridge, it is well suited to hunting "as is." While the gun does not possess the fine finished characteristics of a hunting rifle, it is rugged and able to take a lot of abuse. Both the interior and exterior are left in the "rough" and many machining and tool marks have been left with little or no thought of a "quality" appearance. But then, a gun doesn't have to look good to be effective. In this instance, that's the name of the game.



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pages**



By DICK MILLER

NEXT YEAR can be your big year in clay target competition! 1972 can be your year if you were barely a beginner in 1971. Some of 1971's choicest trophies were won by shooters who were rank tyros when this year was properly ushered in.

The coming year can be an extremely rewarding one for you even if you have never fired a shot at a flying clay target when you read this. Shoot reports from all over this continent have recorded victories by shooters who took up the games of trap and skeet since January 1, 1971. If you shot well in 1971, and came close on some big ones, 1972 can be the year that you do more than come close to winning.

By the time this column reaches print, you can't do much about the major championships of 1971, because all or most of them are now in the record book, in a record year for clay target shooting. But, 1972 is your oyster, waiting to be cracked.

If you want to get in on the fun of one of the nation's fastest growing sports, the games of trap and skeet, you still have time in 1971 to get in some valuable experience to prepare you for 1971. If you have never fired at a clay target, I will suggest some do's and some don'ts. If you have a shotgun which has done well for you on game targets, I would shoot it at either trap or skeet for your first try. You should shoot a short-barreled, open choke field gun at skeet, or a longer barrel, tighter choke gun at trap. Don't be in too big a hurry to buy either a trap or skeet gun. No one can tell you which of the various models and action types will work best for you. You should shoot as many different actions and types or brands as possible before you make a decision (which is still likely not to be final, if you continue in the games).

Don't copy the shooting style of someone you know to be an expert, just because he or she happens to be

an expert. A style which works wonders for that shooter may not fit you at all. You should try to be as natural and relaxed as possible, and to enjoy shooting, rather than making it a chore. The more relaxed you are, the smoother and more even your swing is likely to be, and that breaks targets. If your muscles are all tense, and you are tied in a physical and mental knot, you will miss targets that you should have hit.

There is an old saying floating around every trap and skeet field which holds that shooting is ninety percent mental and ten percent physical. While there is much truth in this ancient adage, it could be re-said to imply that foot position (which takes place as a result of a mental action) is equally important. If your feet are improperly positioned, you will find it hard to hit targets no matter how good a wing shot you might be.

I have written entire columns on the position of the feet for both trap and skeet, and at each post, but I don't propose to do that here. Foot position for trap can be simply stated by saying that you should point your left foot, if you are a right shoulder shooter, and your right foot if you are a left shoulder shooter, at the spot where you would expect to break the most severe angle from any given post. For two specific examples, if you shoot from the right shoulder and are on post one of the trap field, the most extreme angle and probably the most difficult target for you would be an extreme left angle target. This shot is made easier by pointing the left foot at an angle of about 45 degrees from the trap-house (southpaws point the right foot at this spot).

Moving across the field, the next most difficult shot would be an extreme right angle from post five. This shot is made easier by pointing the left foot (for right-handers) at the 45 degree right angle. On either of these posts, if you point your "pointing foot" at the trap-house, you will have

to "shove" the gun at an extreme angle, rather than swing on it, and it's harder to shove a gun than it is to swing it.

Foot position for skeet is equally simply stated by saying that your pointing foot should be pointed at the spot where you expect to break the target. Foot position is only half the formula in skeet, because after you have placed the feet properly, you must also swing your body back toward the appropriate traphouse before calling for the bird. If you have done both things properly, you easily and smoothly swing past and break the target.

Some shooters may accuse me of over-simplification on the last two formulae, and I'm aware that the formulae do not tell the whole story. The whole story requires a feature length or book length approach.

All I'm trying to do here is to get the brand new shooter started in the simplest, easiest, and most comfortable manner. The rest can come with practice and experience.

The new shooter (and experienced shooter) will do well to remember that trap and skeet are fun games. You don't have to grab the gun in a death grip and man-handle it. Just hold it easily and comfortably. The gun is not going to get away from you. A shooter with a vise-like grip

on his gun can easily be too tensed and tight to reach an extreme angle. For the shooter who has been shooting in competition, but who can't quite bag the big trophies, his or her problem may be simply the will to win, or unwillingness to pay the price of victory.

Many experienced clay target gunners feel that the games of trap and skeet are not physically demanding. I don't agree with this. Shooting a hundred, two hundred, or more targets takes a lot of starch out of the shooter. Anyone who has spent any time around the gun club has heard it said that to win you have to break them all, then outlast a lot of other people in a shoot-off. In my book, the shooter who is physically prepared has the best chance for winning the shoot-off.

It seems to me that there are three general classes of clay target gunners. First, the shooter who shoots for fun, then the gunner who shoots to win, and a third class, the shooter who shoots for fun, but who finds more fun in winning.

Winning at trap and skeet exacts a price, just as do other sports and endeavors. For some shooters, the price of winning must be a program of exercise, getting an adequate amount of rest before and during a tournament, eating the proper food and at the

right times, and saving "living it up" for more appropriate times. This is not to downgrade the social activities which are an integral and most enjoyable part of the clay target scene. It is only to suggest that for some shooters, the price of winning may be saving the socializing for after winning rather than before.

Certainly 1971 can be the year of years for a lot of good shooters who are on the threshold of greatness. Every student of the clay target games of whom I have any knowledge agrees that there is one vital factor which separates the good shooter from the great shooter. That one vital factor is the ability to concentrate on every shot, one shot at a time, not five at a time, not one hundred in an event, or two hundred or more, but on each separate, distinct, and individual shot and post.

The difference between a good year in 1971, and a great year in 1972 can be a resolution to start today on blocking out from the mind everything except breaking one shot from one post. Like most other desirable attributes, this is not easy. It is very easy to think of total score, of a missed shot on the last post, what you did on the next post the last time you shot it, the knowledge that you are straight, the puller, the field, background, noise, conversation, traffic,

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the squad, home, family, business, the shooter next to you, winnings, losses, optionals, yardage, and a whole "pot-pourri" of things that do not contribute to breaking just one target at a time.

If you suspect that lack of total concentration has lost you some key targets in 1971, you can change 1972 by getting the hang of concentration now. I suggest that you do it now, because you may find that the effort at total concentration can cost you a few targets in the beginning. This total effort may be strange, and cause you to become a little more tense and tight than usual until you learn to concentrate without conscious effort. That can take practice, which is what you can do best now in preparation for that big 1972 you have promised yourself.

Speaking of practice, too many shooters have fun during practice shooting, and blow sky high when the event is for real. I had this problem and licked it only by setting a goal in every round, which caused one of my fellow skeet shooters to remark that he never saw anyone who would shoot so hard just to win a coke. What he didn't know was that I had to make that coke as big in my mind as winning the state championship, or I had a tendency to play during practice rounds, which can develop bad habits. I was one of those shooters who shot for fun, but found it a lot more fun to win than to lose. How about you?

GCA HANDGUNS

(Continued from page 33)

high-strength light-alloy construction; etc., etc.

On the surface the solution was simple—but implementation took time, tooling, redesign, and money. Two areas needed work. First, minimum weight and dimensional requirements had to be met; usually by longer barrels and/or slides, and deeper frames. Once this was done, the minimum envelope of the gun was established. Then, enough of the other features had to be added to the basic unit to earn sufficient "points" to qualify for importation.

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(Continued on page 52)

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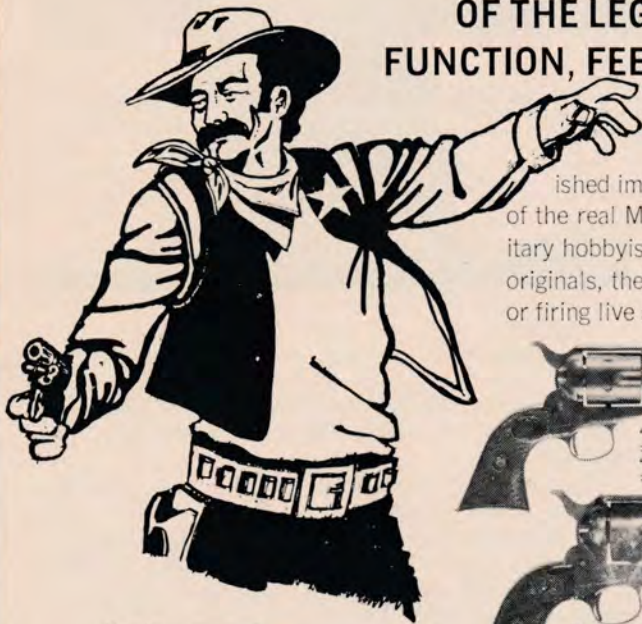
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF



Senator Thomas J. McIntyre and Congressman Bob Sikes have proposed that President Nixon declare the fourth Saturday of each September "National Hunting and Fishing Day." This special recognition would be to honor the more than 50 million hunters and fishermen for their contributions to conservation and outdoor recreation.

Many here in Washington feel it is past time the services of the sportsman are recognized. It is likely that the proposal, made in the form of Senate Joint Resolution 117 and House Joint Resolution 798 will pass Congress and be signed by the President before the September deadline. However, it is also likely that some do-gooders such as the U.S. Humane Society will object. Several such organizations have official policies against hunting for recreation. Some even object to fishing.

Since the turn of the century hunters and fishermen have consistently been in the forefront of every conservation crusade. Our Nation's early conservation leaders, such as Theodore Roosevelt and Gilbert Pinchot, were hunters and fishermen.

Outdoorsmen who hunt and fish were the first to decry the destruction of America's forests, streams, soils and wetlands. They were the first because their love of the outdoors had made them aware of the beauty of nature and the necessity of protecting wildlife habitat and scenic grandeurs.

For more than 50 years outdoorsmen carried a lonely crusade to manage our natural resources wisely. They alone stood against profit makers who raped nature in the name of progress.

They were the ones behind every major conservation action here in Washington and in State capitals. They created

their own publications to warn all Americans of what would happen to the environment.

It is only in recent months that Americans were awakened to the threats of the destruction of their environment. Through the efforts of organizations like the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the American Sport Fishing Institute the news media popularized ecology and environment.

The total American citizenry became aware of the serious need for conservation. This is not news to hunters and fishermen who gladly welcome the public to help with a crusade that outdoorsmen have conducted since before 1900. All Americans are needed to join the campaign to use our Nation's resources wisely, but let them not forget who has carried the load.

Hunters and fishermen are a significant boost to the economy of the Nation. Their expenditures for equipment, meals, lodging, travel, and guides reach into nearly every county of the United States. Rural America, with its limited resources, receives much of its cash crop from the outdoorsman.

In 1965, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife reported that hunters and fishermen spent over \$4 billion in pursuit of their favorite recreation. The 1970 survey, which is scheduled for printing this fall, will surely show that hunters and fishermen now pour more than \$6 billion into America's economic arteries, much of it where it is needed most in the rural areas where people are being starved off their own lands.

According to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, in 1965 sport fishermen drove 23 billion miles to enjoy 522 million (continued on next page)

recreational days; hunters drove over 8 billion miles and enjoyed 185 million recreational days. The 76-page report is filled with statistics on the contributions of hunters and fishermen to the Nation's economy, but there is no measurement yet devised for measuring spiritual values. We cannot measure the rejuvenation of a sportsman who has spent an hour on a peaceful trout stream or slow trailing a jumpy covey of bob white quail. We do know that 50 million hunters and fishermen appreciate a chance to spend a few hours enjoying nature and resting from the tensions of complex life. We do know that those who hunt and fish are better citizens for it!

Many of the ills of our society originate in our vast urban concrete complexes where there is little opportunity for the people to reach a wilderness area and recreate their spirits by communing with nature. In fact, some studies show those who travel each weekend to the mountains and lakes and seashore have less strife and turmoil.

When man in his lonely trip through his allotted time on our planet removes himself too far from the woods and waters and soil from which he springs, there are inevitably complex tensions, frustrations and trouble.

Two general statistics illustrate why hunting and fishing are wholesome recreation for citizens: A study in the Seattle juvenile court over a 20-year period showed that of 45,000 youths who came before the court not one of them had an outdoor hobby, and a study by the jailer of Knox County, Tenn., over many years now shows that out of 10,000 inmates less than 2 percent had ever owned hunting or fishing licenses.

Hunters and fishermen were responsible for establishing all 50 State fish and game departments. From the very beginning, these departments were supported by the sales of hunting and fishing licenses. Financial support has always come from hunters and fishermen, not from the general public. Yet, all State fish and game agencies are charged by law with the welfare and protection of all fish and wildlife.

Hunters and fishermen are proud too that their moneys provide protection for more non-game species of fish and wildlife than those species which the outdoorsmen pursue. Their demands, following the deplorable market-hunting era of the 1800's, set seasons and bag limits.

This has been found an equitable way to manage the welfare of each game species and also insures that outdoorsmen have an equal chance to enjoy the annual harvest of surplus fish and game.

Since 1937, when hunters asked that the 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition be put into a special fund for wildlife management and land acquisition, more than \$435 million have been collected through this excise tax known as the Pitman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. In 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson submitted a bill to Congress to end certain excise taxes, sportsmen demanded their taxes not be removed. American outdoorsmen are unique in all the world in that they asked to be taxed in order to enhance their favorite recreation!

Sports fishermen also asked that their tackle be taxed 10 percent. The proceeds from this money is prorated to the States as is the 11-percent tax on hunting arms and ammunition. It becomes clear that the sportsmen of the nation are paying for America's wildlife and conservation.

What Congress is being asked to do is honor the hunters and fishermen by passing a resolution which asks President Richard Nixon to declare the fourth Saturday of each September as "National Hunting and Fishing Day."

It is likely the measure will be signed by the President before this reaches the readers eyes, yet those who hunt and fish should be proud of our history and tell the anti-hunting people; "Yes, and don't you forget it."

Whenever a fish or wildlife game species has become in short supply, it has inevitably been the hunter and fisherman who demanded protection and that his money be spent on wildlife research, management, and law enforcement.

In fact, it has been sportsmen's money that has largely insured the welfare of hundreds of non-game species. There is today no species of game fish or wildlife in America that is in danger from sportsmen.

The endangered species which we read so much about are non-game species. The careless destruction of habitats and the wanton pollution of our environment have caused these non-game species to become endangered. The hunter and fisherman money is doing more for these species than help from any other source.

For instance, in California \$1 million in sportsmen's license fees are expended annually for the enhancement of non-game fish and wildlife. In another instance, Ducks Unlimited, a private organization of ardent waterfowl hunters, has spent millions of dollars in Canada to increase and improve nesting areas.

It is true that the Ducks Unlimited members hope to increase the annual surplus of waterfowl for hunting, but their wildlife areas support over 250 species of non-game wildlife.



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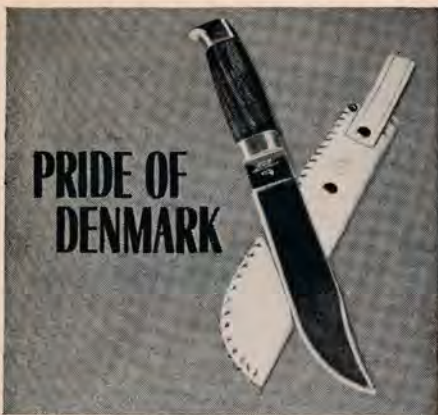
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(Continued from page 48)

frame. Voila! A new model that could be imported, designated PPKS. Very successful, too.

Other makers weren't quite so fortunate with a ready-made solution. Star, for example, required extensive redesign of its basic line of small CF autos, and the new models aren't even yet available—probably later this year. In the interim, though, Star went another route and reduced the dimensions of its Model B service-type pistol as much as the law allowed. By also switching to a light-alloy frame it produced the "STAR-LITE" in 9mm Parabellum which, if not a true pocket gun, comes close enough. It is now the most compact 9mm production pistol available.

Gabilondo, maker of Llama pistols, was also stuck with .22, .32, and .380 autos which just barely failed to qualify for importation. Adjustable sights, wide trigger, wide hammer, thumb rest stocks, and a chamber indicator put them over the hump. In .380 caliber, the new improved model now has a clean governmental bill of health and is currently available from Stoeger Arms in at least limited quantities.

Browning couldn't salvage its .25 auto, but did a thorough facelift on the .380 Pocket Model which is now again available. It has been changed from the original M1910 configuration by addition of thumb-rest stocks, wide trigger, adjustable target-style sights, extractor modified to function as a chamber indicator, and increasing slide and barrel length about 3/4". In this new form its utility as a pocket pistol has been seriously curtailed, but it does qualify for importation—and that is the important factor. In any event, a target-style .380 auto is a bit unusual, and that is what the new Browning constitutes.

A related but different result is the re-introduction of the old 9mm Llama ESPECIAL by Stoeger. It is the smallest of the older Browning-type 9mm designs and did not sell well as long as true pocket-size guns were readily available. Now, though, it is expected to do well among those who want plenty of power but don't like the bulk and weight of the big service guns. The Factoring Criteria brought it back after over a decade off the domestic market.

Revolvers enjoy a unique position in that in one respect they are so much more easily modified than autos. To qualify for importation a .38 Special must generally have oversize stocks, wide hammer, adjustable sights, and a 4" barrel. Several importers bring in such guns, complete with an extra set of small stocks. The pur-

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chaser can then change stocks and get closer to pocket size. Another importer brings in 3" or 4" (or any other length) barrel guns, then amputates them to 2", puts on small stocks and a new front sight—thus avoiding the effect of the law quite legally and profitably. The 2"-gun market is booming. In this respect the Factoring Criteria merely forces consumer prices up without reducing gun availability in the least.

Yet another effect has just recently become apparent. Colt, for example, barred from receiving the Spanish-built Junior, contracted for assembly and/or fabrication of the gun here. Thus, the Junior got back on the market quickly enough. With foreign pocket-auto competition quite effectively wiped out, U.S. makers took a new look at the market. It seems certain this played a large part in Smith & Wesson's introduction of its M-61 .22LR hideout gun. It is just as certain that this no-competition atmosphere was instrumental in the formation of new domestic companies and design of new pocket guns just now becoming available. As a result we now have the American Firearms stainless steel .25 autos and the K-25 .25 auto by Western Valley Arms, not to mention the Michigan-built Mauser-Bauer .25 auto just announced but not yet actually available. And, from grapevine reports we hear there may be other new makes and models.

What we really have as a result of GCA 68's import regulations (restrictions) is an extensive reshuffling in sources of all the tiny watch-pocket guns, and an equally extensive modification and improvement program in the medium-size foreign handguns.

Is all this bad or good? Has it served the purpose intended? In regard to the first question, some can be said on both sides of the fence. Regarding the smallest and cheapest guns, nothing has changed except the location of the factories. Quality of design and manufacture of those guns hasn't changed, as far as I can determine, though prices have risen a bit. Certainly the new factories will produce as many guns as the market will absorb, something foreign plants weren't always able to do. If the intention of GCA '68 was—as announced—to reduce handgun sales and improve quality and reliability, it seems a flop.

In regard to larger existing guns, those near the Factoring Criteria cut-off level, the effect has been to—technically at least—improve the breed. Certainly the addition of chamber indicators, more reliable safeties, magazine disconnectors, etc. makes a gun safer and more desirable

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from both a practical and an engineering viewpoint. Other features such as rudimentary thumb-rest stocks and wide hammers and triggers on obviously non-target guns serve no useful purpose to the average gun buyer. All they accomplish is to add to the cost. Many a potential buyer can't understand—nor can I—why he should be forced to pay \$15-\$20 extra for such fripperies which are actually more hindrance than aid in typical use of the gun. This might be equated with being forced by law to buy an optional automatic transmission or radio on an automobile when they aren't needed by the purchaser. The classic example is the packaging of one imported revolver with large stocks installed to meet the rules, and an extra small set. The buyer must pay for both sets for the privilege of throwing away the big ones and installing the smaller to meet his need.

Handgunners are paying the extra cost, but their comments on the subject are mostly obscene.

Generally, though, in the .32 and .380 class auto pistols, the new rules have forced into use many long-known desirable design features. Further, there has been considerable effect on totally new designs. Where in the past a chamber indicator or other desirable feature might have been left out to keep production cost down, it is now included because under the Law it makes the gun "safer."

Additionally, we see increased wariness among handgun designers both here and abroad. If the current approach becomes permanent, then who knows what next year might bring? Maybe factoring will be extended to domestic guns. Maybe it will be expanded to include the larger guns. Consequently, more attention is being given by designers to the areas covered by the Factoring Criteria. Guns are being designed with a large "safety factor" so that tightening up the rules won't necessarily be fatal to a new and expensive design. This approach is obvious in the new double-action small auto pistols just introduced by Beretta and Astra. Those people spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in developing the new models and can't afford to have them legislated out of the American market.

In this respect the effects have been good. We've seen much improvement of 50-year-old designs, and considerable imagination in new designs. This certainly does mean better guns. The big question is whether we can afford them that much better—the new Browning and Llama .380's cost 1/3 to 1/2 more than pre-GCA '68 models. How does that grab you?

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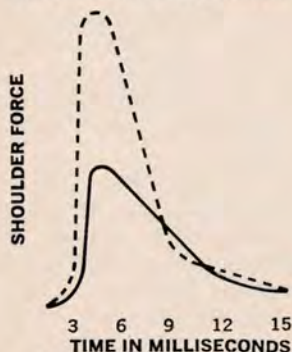
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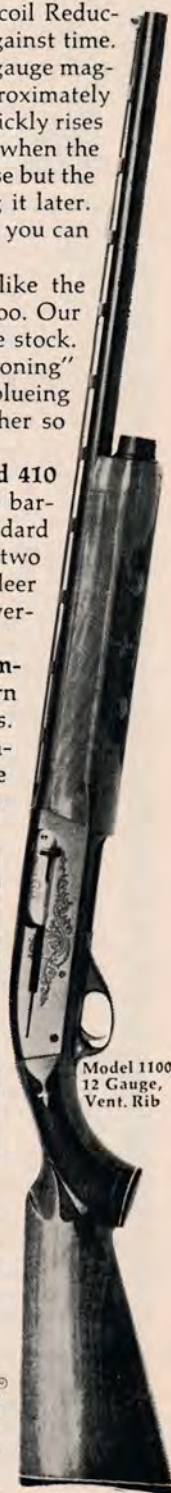
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(Continued from page 31)

discarded. Few boxes that were used by the Army were made anywhere other than at the arsenals. (However, during the Civil War it was necessary to contract them out.) The "Half Moon" Dwyer pattern cartridge pouch, issued in 1874, held 40 cartridges, was wool lined, and was carried on the belt. Modified from the original pattern of the early 1870's, it was then carried on the shoulder sling by mounted companies, and although several other types of pouches were used, the Dwyer pattern seemed to be the favorite. On the front flap was the usual U.S. oval.

Keeping company with the Colt Model 1873 Army revolver was the black leather holster from the Civil War with its wide semi-circular flap. This holster was designed with a belt loop to accommodate the regulation belt of 1.9-inches wide. A larger loop on back of the same pattern holster is designed for looped cartridge belts, of the Mills patent, and was not accepted by the army until 1878.

Most popular of cartridge boxes to come out of the transition period of the 1870's was the McKeever pattern. This box was to be in continuous service for some 36 years with the regular army, and can still be found in use by the guards as standard dress equipment at the Arlington National Cemetery.

With the Springfield breech-loading rifles, the combination tool Model 1879 was issued. It had a screwdriver, pin punch, mainspring wrench, and a secondary screwdriver riveted to the tool. This combination tool was made only at the Springfield Armory.

As early as 1876, the importance of the cartridge belt was realized. During the hardest of campaigns, the black leather cartridge boxes were too slow in supplying shells for the new breech-loading rifles, so the soldier on the Western frontier was quick to remedy this fault by copying the ammunition belts from the civilian scouts attached to the frontier posts. The scouts and frontiersmen devised a method of putting their cartridges within easy reach by fabricating homemade leather belts with loops to hold their revolver and rifle ammunition. General Anson Mills perfected

and devised a method to manufacture a woven web ammunition carrier, which for a number of years was rejected by the Army. Finally, in 1878, after years of pleading, Mills succeeded in getting the Army to accept his newly perfected woven belt which carried fifty .45-70 cartridges. The government arsenals did not produce these belts; instead they were purchased from contractors. Leather equipment throughout the world was to be replaced by web ammunition carriers and its accompanying web equipment, a new innovation in military turnover. In later years, General Anson Mills stated, "I only regret that they (meaning his newly perfected equipment) were not designed for construction but . . . rather for destruction."

In the 1880's web belts came into fashion, and for field service these belts were used as late as the Spanish-American War of 1898 and the subsequent Philippine Insurrection. The war between Spain and the United States, at the same time, was of short duration, mainly because the Spanish Army lacked discipline, training and leadership. Although our troops were outnumbered in the field and the Spanish were armed with German-made Mauser rifles, an excellent weapon, the average Spanish soldier had never been properly trained in the use or care of it. Whereas, the Americans carried the old-fashioned Springfield rifle—a cumbersome gun that fired black powder cartridges, belched a white cloud of smoke giving away the position of a soldier. Also the forces of Regulars and Militia that stormed ashore in Cuba in 1898 were not trained for jungle fighting. And, there was a shortage of everything the men needed, including the accoutrements for the weapons.

The .45-70 Springfield "charcoal burners" were finally replaced by the U.S. Magazine Rifle Model 1892, Krag-Jorgensen, caliber .30, a bolt action with a knife bayonet. It held 5 cartridges and was the first U.S. rifle with the top of the barrel covered with wood to serve as a hand guard. This was also the first rifle to use smokeless powder and a reduced cali-

ber cartridge. The cartridge being reduced somewhat in size allowed doubling of the number of loops on a belt by establishing a second row superimposed on the first. On single row loops, depending on length, 45 to 50 loops, for the .45-70 and .30 caliber were manufactured. Bandoliers for both calibers and of similar patterns were produced in dark blue, gray, and tan—Kackee or Cock-ee called by some British units in North and South Africa (a Hindu word meaning dust color "Khaki"). The trend toward khaki had amounted to brown colored fatigue clothing and webbed equipment being introduced in the Spanish-American War. All web cartridge belts were not fixed with the brass U.S. (or Militia plate) belt buckle; they could be unfastened and worn without.

The first knife-type bayonet was used with the Krag rifle. Two other type bayonets came out for the 1896 and 1898 models called Bolo bayonets. One such was shaped after the old Bowie. The Bowie and Bolo knives were experimental; used in the Philippines unsuccessfully, they were soon dropped.

The New York cavalrymen used a black leather half-flap holster for the Colt .38 caliber, double-action revolver. Stamped "N.Y." within an oval, the holster was carried on the right side with the revolver butt forward. Along with this was a 12-round leather cartridge pouch worn on the belt. It should be noted that the first successful webbed belt accepted by the army was the Mills Pattern of 1887, blue or gray color, 45 loops, single row, for the .45-70 cartridge, with the U.S. brass buckle and a steel bayonet scabbard attached, with swivel frog.

The combination tool for the .30 caliber Krag came with two screwdrivers and a pin punch, riveted together at the head end of each. This tool was issued with the rifle and carried in the butt stock on later models, stamped "U.S." on the pin punch blade.

The United States entered World War I in the spring of 1917. During the gigantic troop movement, the Doughboys experienced a nightmare of tanks, automobiles, horses, artillery, supply wagons, and endless lines of troops. Added to their discomfort was the weather, with rain beating down on "tin hats" giving a man a pounding headache. Hobnailed boots weighing four pounds each worked blisters on tired feet. Olive-drab uniforms spattered with mud, and the entangled arrangement of heavy equipment on his back . . . made up the fighting infantry. The U.S. Maga-

zine Rifle Model 1903, caliber .30, was suitably used for both infantry and cavalry, eliminating the long standard combination of rifle and carbine. The basic design for this rifle was taken from the German Mauser. Internationally known as the "Gun of Glory," the Springfield saw service through World War I and even World War II until replaced by the equally famous Garand M1 rifle. Both weapons were designed by the Springfield Armory.

With the advent of the Springfield, Model 1903, five-shot clip-fed rifle, the cartridge belt once again underwent a total re-designing. The Model 1910 webbed cartridge belt for .30 caliber was referred to as the Mills Infantry (dismounted) Belt, having 10 pockets, two clips in each, totaling 100 rounds. Thomas C. Orndorff and Anson Mills invented and developed the first webbed cartridge belt with only nine pockets; each pocket contained four clips, totaling 180 cartridges. When filled, these belts averaged 10 pounds in weight, so it was found necessary to attach shoulder straps to help support the added weight. However, the 10-pocket was favored and soon adopted by Ordnance. Mills also manufactured much of the marching equipment with no leather appearing in the entire outfit. Knapsack, haversack, and canteen were almost entirely of tightly woven waterproof webbing. This equipment was exclusively used in the Army, Navy, and in the British service. Buttons fashioned with the spread eagle design, of brass or dull-finished bronze were earlier models. Accompanying this belt was the Model 1910 first aid packet, hooked to cartridge belt front. The Model 1905 bayonet with wood grips was manufactured at the Springfield Armory and the Rock Island Arsenal. A bayonet scabbard was of olive-drab webbing with a leather tip.

The interest in the evolution of this country's fighting man is not surprising. His tools of war, and how he used them can be traced from one battle to another; however, it is surprising how the infantryman has survived these medieval-type clashes with antiquated weapons and equipment, when our enemies were better equipped in most cases.

The U.S. soldier presently is better equipped and better trained than ever before. The war tools and weaponry of our contemporary armies now include a large degree of individual specialization. However, with all the bewildering array of complex and organized gadgets, the destiny of a future war will be decided the way it always has been, by the action of our combat infantrymen.

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SPRINGFIELD OFFICER'S MODEL

(Continued from page 39)

to make some reference marks on the leaf.

The sample gun weighs 8 pounds on my postal scale and stands 45 inches tall on its engraved, color-hardened butt. Of course, it is chambered for the cartridge whose development it shared, the venerable .45-70 U.S. Gov't.

All in all, a very attractive piece, even if it were not noteworthy as both the Officer's Model and the H&R Centennial.

H&R has announced that only 10,000 of this Officer's Model will be built. This does not necessarily mean the other Trapdoor models won't be forthcoming. Joe Widner, of H&R, certainly wouldn't deny that considera-

tion had been given to other models. I can think of one or two I'd like to see: a plain cavalry carbine; a full-length "Sharpshooter;" a 20 gauge "Forager," etc. Maybe even a heavy-barrel target version with appropriate sights as one or two old-time gunsmiths turned out on liberated actions three-quarters of a century back.

In any event, this Harrington & Richardson Centennial Officer's Model catches my eye, and fancy, more than any of the commemorative rifles produced thus far by the competition. It's an honest reproduction, especially built, not just window dressing on an existing stock model. A most refreshing approach; one I'd like to see more makers take.



HOLSTERS: FORWARD-RAKE FOR SPEED

(Continued from page 25)

years. For safety, speed, and accuracy it is unparalleled.

A number of other features mark the Carl holster as a quality design. A wedge of leather mounted inside the holster cambers the frame and handle of the gun away from the body. The cut of the belt loop keeps the area around the grip clear so the shooting hand grabs the gun without touching leather. A spine of sheet metal laminated in the belt loop extension positions the holster against the leg in the standing position and allows the gun to be drawn without binding or re-

quiring a tie-down thong.

The forward-rake uniformly positions the gun handle directly above the shooting hand when the arms hang naturally at the sides. Drawing the gun requires only one fluid motion to acquire the handle, lift the gun, and push it forward to the firing position. Wrist and hand positions are natural for a quick, accurate, and uniform grip on the gun handle. This contrasts to back-rake holsters, where the wrist must be bent to grasp the handle, then straightened to bring the gun into firing position. It is impossible to attain a maximum strength of grip while the wrist is bent. All this wrist bending increases drawing time and raises the probability of a first shot miss.

Not only is drawing from a forward-rake holster more natural and faster, but it is safer. At no time does the gun muzzle cross the body. This is in contrast to any other holster design, where at some time during the draw the bore-line crosses the plane of the body. Both back-rake and open-front holsters create the possibility of a self-inflicted wound. In some designs where the trigger guard is covered, time is lost acquiring the trigger position once the gun is unholstered.

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coordination of the trigger finger. Even champion quick-draw specialists will occasionally shoot-out the bottom of a holster with a live round. The possibility of this kind of incident happening to police trainees is great enough that most departments forego training officers in draw-and-fire techniques. While this policy saves range accidents, it falls short of fully professional training standards where quick draw skills might save lives in the line of duty. The use of the Carl holster could revolutionize police training in this respect.

It may be that the forward-rake holster is the best possible training and duty rig for the rookie policeman. In addition to safety and the natural position of the gun handle, the Carl holster is available with an optional quick-release safety strap. This strap is made with the short leg behind the gun so the snap can be opened with the thumb of the shooting hand as part of the normal grasping motion. The release is positive, not relying on parts of the holster or gun to open the snap. Upon opening, the geometry of the straps eliminates any possible binding on the hammer or frame of the gun. Accomplished quick draw shooters have completed draw-and-fire sequences repeatedly with the Carl holster in as little as .15-second, with the gun unstrapped and the hand no less than 4-inches away from the gun. Under the same conditions, but with the gun securely strapped, times of .20-second are routine. Records have been set at .11-second, unstrapped, with the Carl rig timed on an electronic instrument.

To test the holster with inexperienced shooters, four new San Diego County Deputy Sheriffs were asked to participate in a draw-and-fire exercise using their regular duty back-rake swivel holsters and the new Carl forward-rake rigs. All of these men were students in the training academy and had no previous quick-draw experience either with their own holsters or the forward-rake design. The deputies, Frank Bird, Bob Krtek, Chuck Sanders, and John Walker were given blank ammunition and a few minutes to practice drawing techniques before trial times were taken. So as to compare holster configuration only, guns in both kinds of holsters were unstrapped.

The timing instrument was a commercial Fasdraw Timer that uses an electro-mechanical **s w e e p s e c o n d** clock with an electronic start-stop control. The forefinger of the shooting hand depresses the start button on the control box. This action zeroes the clock. The start-stop control is mounted on a microphone stand and is adjusted to the height of the shoot-

er's hand as it hangs at his side. When the shooter reaches for his gun, the start button is released and the clock begins running. When the gun fires, the sound excites a microphone which stops the clock. Each revolution of the sweep hand takes one second and there are 100 intervals to the revolution. The timer can accurately clock draw-and-fire sequences to plus or minus .01 second.

The trial data (Chart) shows a significant advantage for the forward-rake design. It is especially well adapted for training rookie policemen. The combination of safety and im-

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proved drawing time should build confidence in the police officer as well as to make large group training possible for draw-and-fire techniques. While it is too early for official responses from police departments testing the Carl holster, this is definitely an item that all departments should investigate. Not only rookies, but experienced patrolmen gain a significant edge in gun handling time out of the Carl holster. Because of this, a whole group of tactical shooting possibilities open up to the police officer.

Further information can be obtained from Triple K Mfg. Co., 568 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, Calif. (92103). Triple K offers a complete line of police leather at attractive prices. Quality is evident from examining the holsters. The rigs are made from 7 oz. strap leather that has been specially treated to be acid free for use with metal products. Machine stitching is done with waxed linen thread and hand-sewn reinforcement is used in critical and inaccessible areas of the holster. All laminations are glued and stitched to give maximum service. Basket weaving and other hand tooling is deep, rich, and consistently executed. Production of this line of holsters and accessories is managed by Carlos Monge who has worked with Don Hume, Safety Speed and Buheimer in past years.

Tradition is hard to overcome, and some features of the Carl holster will be compared to existing designs. Many officers like the swivel holster for comfort while seated in the patrol cars. Upon leaving the vehicle, though, the snap must be refastened to secure the gun. If, in a careless or hasty mo-

ment, the snap is not fastened, nothing can be so disconcerting as trying to reach for a gun handle and have it out of the expected position. Also, if the safety strap is unfastened in anticipation of drawing the gun, the swiveling action can drop the gun to the ground if the holster catches on the edge of the car seat or door handle.

On the other hand, the Carl forward-rake holster is rigid, but the angle of rake biases the holster upward in the sitting position. Moving the muzzle away from the leg a couple of inches relieves all pressure on the gun belt. While seated, it is impossible for a prisoner to remove the pistol from the holster since the gun butt rests near the seat back. It is a simple matter, however, to draw the gun merely by rolling the hip over slightly if the revolver has to be drawn inside the car. The forward angle of the gun makes it unlikely that a prisoner facing a policeman could seize the service revolver from a moderately alert officer.

I have been using a Carl holster for combat shooting over the past several weeks with complete satisfaction. While the design favors the 4-inch barrel handgun, 6-inch barrels still carry quite well. I plan to use this design in the field with heavy magnum revolvers.

Until a shooter uses one of these rigs, it is hard to describe the feeling of confidence it gives in regard to gun handling speed and safety. Prices are quite reasonable compared to other holsters of comparable quality. It is in the handgunner's interest to examine this line of holsters before purchasing any brand.

SHOTGUNS: KNOW YOURS WELL!

(Continued from page 29)

of practice shooting from various positions at both known and unknown yardages. Some will say that these chaps are plagued with an incurable mental hang-up, but there's no getting around the fact that these same "nuts" seldom fail to hang meat on the pole.

The average shotgunner, on the other hand, travels a pretty haphazard path by comparison. He tends to take just about everything for granted. Thirty minutes before the appointed hour he picks up his thunderstick, squints through the bore, grabs a box or two of shells and merrily goes his way. If he has a bad day, he can blame that string of misses on a lot of things,

but he will never be able to isolate the real cause if he lacks that very basic knowledge of how and where his gun is shooting. These are things that can be learned only through trial shooting on the range. And lest anybody get the wrong idea, this "familiarization course" is just as important with shot loads as it is with buckshot and rifled slugs.

Range testing a shotgun with shot loads falls under the heading of patterning and there are two avenues of performance to be explored. First of all, there is the accuracy aspect. We want to know *where* the barrel centers its pattern in relation to the so-

(Continued on page 63)

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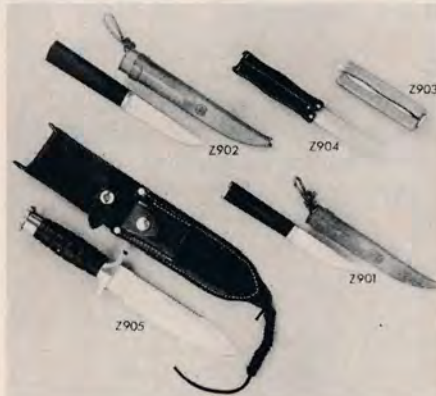


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(Continued from page 60)

called sight picture. And, secondly, we want to know the full story on the shot pattern itself.

But before we can get down to the business of uncovering any idiosyncrasies that our pet scattergun may possess, we have to have a safe place to shoot. Some skeet and trap clubs, as well as rifle ranges, have a corner set aside for shotgun testing, and if you have access to such facilities, you're in luck. If not, you'll have to hunt up an out-of-the-way spot that provides either a natural backstop or about 300 yards of space to "catch" the shot pellets. And when checking out rifled-slug loads, it's mandatory to have a very positive backstop immediately behind the target frame. Lacking this, you'll want at least a full mile or more of total "wilderness" to serve as a slug trap. The rifled slug has a nasty habit of ricocheting upon striking any hard surface, such as a rock, ice or even frozen earth, and it pays to have plenty of space down-range that is uninhabited by either humans or livestock.

For pattern registration with shot loads, you might as well do it properly, which means that your target should be at least 48 inches square in size. A steel plate constitutes a good bet for the permanent setup, while probably the best portable rig consists of a simple wooden frame for accommodating sheets of ordinary wrapping paper.

The steel patterning plate, when used by itself in conjunction with a "white-wash" mixture for erasing each shot, has the disadvantage of demanding immediate pattern evaluation. This eats up a lot of time and prolongs the range session. I much prefer to put the patterns on paper because this enables me to run off a sizeable string of shots before the wind rises, and the results can be evaluated later, out of the weather and as time permits.

When firing for pattern, and particularly when endeavoring to determine precisely where the barrel prints, a rest of some sort should be employed. A sandbag placed under the hand that grips the fore-end will do a lot toward eliminating that human malady known as the "wobbles." Also, it will be of substantial help in ruling out error that might creep in as a result of flinching. Shotguns do have a way of accentuating butt-stock authority when fired at a stationary target, and it is not at all unusual for even the most hardened shooter to flinch in a minor way as he triggers off the shot.

The rest need not be a bonafide shooting bench as used on a rifle

range. Almost any improvisation will suffice. For example, with the shooter either sitting or standing, a sandbag placed on a camera tripod will do the trick; or, the shooting can be done from the rear seat of a car, with a sandbag in the open window. Even that common household item, the ironing board, can be pressed into service as a portable benchrest for shotgun testing.

Forty yards is the traditional distance for assessing shotgun choke performance, and this also is a good range at which to check the barrel for pattern centering. A ten-yard length of stout cord with a heavy spike fastened to each end makes a handy tape for measuring off distances. The center of the pattern plate or paper should be marked with a small bull which is of contrasting color and about three inches in diameter (round or square, it doesn't matter). This will serve as a point of hold and will show at a glance whether the barrel is throwing high or low, left or right.

There's an old saying, and for the most part it's a pretty valid observation, that if you can't see the bird, you can't hit it. So a good hold is one which floats the aiming marker, or bull, just above the front bead. For openers, when using a pump gun, an autoloader or an over-under with a ribbed barrel, try a down-the-rib sight picture—in other words, cheek the stock with enough firmness so that practically no rib is visible. In cases where the rib is fitted with an extra bead at mid-point, stack the two beads so they form a figure eight. If the gun has no rib, start by seeing the full height of the front bead just above the receiver groove.

For most side-by-side double-guns the relationship between the top rib and the axis of the bores is such that a small amount of rib must be seen to center the patterns in the vertical plane. A good starting point is to see about 1/8-inch of rib. If in doubt as to what this amount of rib actually looks like, place a 1/8-inch thickness of cardboard on the rib at the breech end and elevate your eye until the front bead comes into full view. Remove the cardboard and you've got the picture.

Several shots should be fired using the same sight picture in order to minimize the possibility of invalid findings due to shooter error. Patterns that are off center in the vertical plane by not more than three or four inches in either direction can be considered close enough, and you can "lock" the sight picture in your memory. But if off by a greater amount, modify the picture and keep shooting until you

(Continued on page 69)

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STEVENS FAVORITE: GREAT NEW COMMEMORATIVE

(Continued from page 43)

locates these pins in nearly identical placements but uses force-fit pins instead of screws as a production expedient. The barrel, too, is pinned on the M71, eliminating the knurled screw take-down feature. This more secure barrel mounting probably contributes to improved accuracy. The commemorative model has a torque-type mainspring for hammer operation which is contained within the hammer part and positioned on the hammer pin. The triggers on both old and new guns serve as the sear to release the hammer. The old half-cock safety position is replaced on the M71 by a hammer safety bar similar to that used on double action revolvers. The hammer can reach the firing pin on the commemorative model only when the trigger is intentionally pulled, retracting the safety bar. If the hammer falls for any other reason,

the safety bar will block the hammer before the firing pin is struck. Old, worn Favorites sometimes slipped off the safety notch and fired the gun on the closing stroke of the action. This cannot happen on the M71.

The firing pin was always a vulnerable part on the old Favorite, subject to battering and breakage. The pin on the M71 is spring loaded to carry in the retracted position and is held in the breech block by a hollow retaining pin. The head of the firing pin is quite large and dome shaped to endure many thousands of blows. As near as I can determine, the forward motion of the new pin is limited so as not to strike the rim of the extractor, a source of difficulty in the old Favorites that were dry fired. The Model 71 extractor will eject cases consistently if the muzzle is elevated slightly and the finger lever is worked smartly. Evidently, the extractor/ejector is not equipped with a plunger and spring to augment the force and speed of extractor operation as was the case on older models. It is usual to have to withdraw the fired case off the extractor with the fingers if the barrel is pointed own or level at the time the M71 action is opened.

Performance of the M71 was checked against my Model 1915 fitted with a new Numrich Arms replacement barrel. The original round barrel of this old rifle had shot enough rounds of high-speed ammo to cause expansion of the chamber diameter near the breech opening. The result was a bulging of high-speed cases at and around the area of the extractor cut. While no ruptures had occurred, it was not prudent to continue using the gun with high-speed ammunition. There are many thousands of Stevens Favorites that could be restored to top shooting condition by installation of a Numrich replacement barrel. About the only other part that might require replacement is the extractor. These are also available from Numrich Arms at nominal prices so that for less than \$20 a shooter can restore his old Favorite. Occasionally hammer and linkage pins on older Favorites may break or become seriously out-of-round. This problem can be solved by your local gunsmith who can make and refit the broken or worn parts.

Since it is unlikely that either the

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new or the old Favorites will be used for anything other than small game hunting, plinking, and informal target shooting, I used these two guns "as is" with no special sights or other accessories. While it is more than likely that some people would want to install an inexpensive 4X scope on these rifles, I was not about to drill and tap the barrel of a \$75 commemorative rifle for this purpose.

A variety of ammunition was checked for velocity and accuracy before field trials. Shooters will experience considerable variation in the performance of different brands of .22 long rifle ammunition in different guns. For this reason, it is usually a good idea for a rim fire shooter to acquire one or two boxes of a variety of brands merely to keep on the shelf for testing purposes. Each rifle to be tested can then be put through its paces to see which type of ammunition it likes best. It is altogether possible that four different rifles will shoot best with four different kinds of ammunition. A summary of the results of my testing is included in the table.

These tests offered the opportunity to check velocities and grouping characteristics for a number of brands of .22 rim fire ammunition. Shooters should investigate uses for BB and CB caps especially for safe, indoor off-season practice. The Stevens Favorite with its swing block single-shot action is a natural for this kind of fun-shooting. Where rodent pests are a problem, light report and relatively low energy of this kind of ammunition can be ideal. Care should be taken not to shoot on flat, hard surfaces, though, since ricochets are most probable from these slow moving bullets. Omark-CCI CB Mini-Caps for all outward appearances look like .22 shorts, but they have reduced charges. These cartridges hold tight groups and are a challenge to shoot. The use of BB caps can lead the bore after prolonged use, while the Mini-Caps have a fully lubricated bullet which will minimize fouling.

Eley Tenex is an English target ammunition imported and distributed by Savage Arms. While velocity seems low, cartridge design is carefully balanced to give maximum precision performance. Velocity retention and time of flight to the target are more constant for this cartridge compared to most high-velocity and many target-type rim fire cartridges. Yaw characteristics of light, blunt bullets at transonic velocities cause greater bullet dispersion rates with correspondingly larger group size. This same phenomenon creates excessive turbulence and a faster relative decay of velocity for

hot loadings over long distances. These considerations are most important to the long-range precision rim fire shooter rather than the plinker or small game hunter, however.

Winchester's new T-22 ammunition was fired and gave quite good performance. The use of standard velocity loads is adequate for almost all shooting with rim fire guns. They are powerful enough for most small game out to 50 yards. The new T-22 appears to perform at about the same velocity as the old reliable Leader brand. The new cartridges incorporate a number of improvements in bullet design, lubrication, and propellants.

The test program for all these rim fire cartridges was not critical enough to ascertain precise differences in accuracy. Since the shooting was done with a gun having open sights, my feeling is that most of the flyers that spread the groups were due to sighting error, and that with scope sights and a smoother trigger the new Stevens would be an exceptionally accurate gun. As a matter of fact, some three-shot groups at 25 yards measured .35 inch but became .75 to 1 inch by the fifth shot. All ammunition tested printed 5-round groups of one-inch or less at 25 yards, which is about all a casual shooter will demand from an

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Hodgdon's and CIL brands were new to my experience and both performed quite well in all respects from the Favorite. While it may appear to be fruitless to comment on different brands of .22 rim fire ammo, the fact is that one brand may shoot much better in a given rifle than several other makes. Some guns may shoot several brands equally well, but it is usually common to find one or two brands that shoot exceptionally well. Sight equipment and shooting conditions will have to be good enough to show critical ammunition differences, however.

It is interesting to note that CCI, Remington, and CIL ammunition comes packaged in plastic containers that arrange each round bullet-down for convenient handling. The convenience of this kind of storage alone is enough to recommend it, but also, rounds can be rationed five at a time from the container which is reusable. These containers are highly recommended for field as well as target shooting.

Velocity variances in the data represent extremes from the array of five trial shots. It is surprising that while we expect this comparison to identify the most accurate ammunition from the least spread in velocity, the truth is that it doesn't seem to make much difference with rim fire ammunition. Hodgdon's LR ammo grouped as well if not better than the Federal which had less than half as much velocity spread. Notice, too, that the target quality ammunition did not have the lowest velocity variances. It would seem that such things as bullet design, consistency of manufacturing,

(Continued on page 68)

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(Continued from page 66)
lubrication, and reliability of priming take precedence over powder charging in determining accuracy.

These tests are by no means conclusive. Significant variations exist between different lots of the same ammunition brand, even with strict quality control and modern manufacturing procedures. Usually, if I find a good lot for a given brand of cartridges, I buy a carton or more to assure a future supply for a certain rifle. I have found certain brands like Eley and CCI that seem to shoot well in all rifles.

After testing ammunition, we took the Favorite afield for some plinking. Handling characteristics of both the old and new Favorite rifles are fast and natural. Without a doubt, these factors weighed heavily in the early popularity of this little gun. There is adequate weight (just under 4 lbs.) for a substantial feeling even to an adult shooter, while good balance allows quick movement. Barrel length for the M71 is 22 inches with an overall length of 37 inches. While the blade style open sights of the M71 are authentic replicas of the original, I would prefer a red bead or sourdough front blade with a white outline rear sight for field shooting. This change is easy to make on the Numrich re-

placement barrel for old guns, but many shooters would not want to alter the pristine authenticity of the commemorative gun.

A low power scope sight would enhance performance of this gun since the barrels seem to be capable of quite good accuracy. The full length octagonal section of the commemorative gun provides a very rigid tube for such a light barrel. Trigger pull is heavy and rough, although it breaks clean at the moment of final release. Trigger pull smoothed gradually as several hundred rounds were fired. The pull is single stage, with an exaggerated over-travel after release. It takes a bit of practice to get the hang of it.

A single shot rifle may have limited appeal to field shooters, especially those who prefer self-loading .22's. The challenge of single shot field shooting may even seem out of place today. However, it is not unusual to find one's marksmanship improving when there is pressure for a first shot hit. For all practical purposes, a bolt action repeater is no more effective than a single shot on fast breaking cottontails. For safety and control of novice shooters, a single shot rifle with exposed hammer such as the Favorite is ideal. Many of the small fry are quite impressed with a sporting arm that seems designed with them in mind.

One of the big appeals for the Model 71 Favorite is the collectors' incentive. With only 15,000 of this limited commemorative issue to be produced, this is a gun that will increase in value in future years. One wonders, though, if the Favorite might not be offered in a more common version at lower cost after the commemorative year. In this regard, two facts are evident. The Stevens Favorite is as good a boys' rifle in 1971 as it was in 1894, but \$75 is a lot of bread for a lad's plinker unless he happens to be J. Gotrocks, III. Jon DePriest's fascination with this lever action single shot is more than coincidental. In my opinion, a less ornate model of this gun selling in the \$45-plus price range would fill a definite need.

Whether or not continuous commercial production of the new favorite comes to pass, it appears that the commemorative Model 71 will be over-subscribed. For those who miss the boat, the prospects look good for rebarreling an old Favorite with the Numrich Arms .22 LR replacement barrel. Of the tens of thousands of these guns in trunks, closets, and attics, many can be effectively renovated for just a few dollars to go on and serve still another generation of shooters.

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(Continued from page 63)

hit the right combination. Remember, the shooter's eye serves as the rear sight on a shotgun, and to correct for low centering it has to be positioned higher—that is, more rib or barrel must be seen. And, of course, vice versa to correct for pattern centers that are printing too high.

We might note in passing that because they utilize a common sighting plane, the barrels on twin-tube guns have to be in proper alignment if they are to "shoot together" or superimpose their patterns. This is a touchy gun-building chore at best, and more often than not some slight disagreement will be found to exist with an identical hold or sight picture.

With over-under guns it is quite common to find that the "upstairs" barrel will center a bit higher than the "basement" tube. And with side-by-side guns there is a prevalent tendency for a cross-shift to occur; the left-hand tube will throw slightly to right, and the right-hand tube slightly to the left. However, considering the total spread of the shot pattern, a difference in impact centers of only a few inches is of no real consequence.

It's a credit to the firearms industry that relatively few doubles with improperly aligned tubes ever reach the shooting public. I've played around with shotguns for something like 35 years, test shooting many over-under and side-by-side guns, and in all that time I've encountered only two that were really cantankerous in this respect.

One of these was a rather expensive stack-barrel job and at 40 yards the top barrel centered its patterns a good two feet higher than where the lower barrel was pointing. In the field, that top tube netted me a lot of misses, except in instances where the birds were climbing away at a very sharp angle.

Then there was a side-by-side smokestick that was even more confused. Like a green recruit arriving at boot camp, it didn't know its left foot from its right. The barrels cross-fired to the extent that the pattern centers registered close to four feet apart.

When the disagreement between the two tubes is of this magnitude, the situation is hopeless. No shotgunner can ever shoot well with such a gun, and the smartest thing he can do is to part company with it—immediately, if not sooner.

Now that we have determined precisely where Old Betsy is placing the shot pattern, the next step is to stand up on our hind legs and do some dry pointing. Try to mount and point the gun in exactly the same way as you

would during the heat of battle, be it a covey of quail bursting out of a hedgerow or a cock pheasant clattering up from the cornstalks. Pay particular attention to the sight picture you're getting. Reach back into your memory to see whether it duplicates the picture which produced those right-on results when firing from a sandbag rest. These simple exercises will serve as a fairly reliable check on stock fit.

All this, of course, should be verified at the pattern board, again triggering off a string of several shots to maximize the validity of the results. Strive to simulate actual field conditions by mounting, pointing and getting the shot off with as little delay as possible. Assuming the stock dimensions are reasonably correct, the proper sight picture should come easily and the patterns should center where you intended—not with the exactness that comes with shooting from a rest, but within the limits required for consistent hitting in the field.

But let's say that the proper sight picture is elusive, that the patterns are printing "out in the woods" by a substantial amount. What then?

In this case stock fit is obviously at fault and the shooter will not be able to number himself as that somewhat mythical "average" individual that the factories have in mind when they settle on stock dimensions. If the comb is too high, the patterns will strike high; and, conversely, a too-low comb will result in shooting low. As we've already seen, this is because the shooter's eye acts as the rear sight and as its position changes in relation to the barrel, so does the shot charge change its point of impact.

When pattern centers are off by no more than about one-third their total width, it is possible to adapt oneself to existing stock dimensions and do a pretty fair job of gunning. But when off by greater amounts, more drastic action is indicated—namely, butt-stock alterations. Trimming down a too-high comb is no great chore, but—a word of warning!—proceed with care. Follow the cut-and-try approach, with strong emphasis on the "try." Replacing wood is far more difficult than removing it.

In the case of low pattern centering, it should be kept in mind that this can also be caused to some extent by a stock that is too long. Except for the Monte Carlo type, the long stock positions the eye lower because the shooter will be cheeking the wood farther back where the drop is greater.

At about this juncture some of you readers probably feel like interjecting that there has been far too much jawing here about sight pictures, that a

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shotgun is a gun to be pointed, not handled and fired in the deliberate manner that a rifle is generally used. Granted, there's not much truth in that. Proficient shotgunning is certainly as much an art as it is a science. But the *artiste* relies heavily on his subconscious. And if we are lacking that knowledge which constitutes the very basic things, the subconscious becomes prone to failure when called upon to take command and fully coordinate in a fraction of a second the various human reactions that are so essential to top-drawer wing-shooting.

Getting a revealing picture of how a shotgun barrel performs with shot loads is a somewhat more involved undertaking than determining its performance with rifled slugs. Aside from learning precisely where the barrel shoots in relation to the point of aim, the main concern with slug loads is how tightly the barrel will group. And as a final step we should also make it a point to know the slug's trajectory curve (in relation to the adopted zero) over a distance of, say, 25 to 100 yards.

But turning to shot loads, there are many more specifics to be ironed out. Does pattern efficiency (percentage of pellets contained within a 30-inch circle at 40 yards) agree with the choke markings on the barrel? Is the choke (i.e., width of the pattern) right for those distances at which the majority of the shots will be taken? Is it a patchy pattern containing several pellet-free areas large enough in size to permit a game bird or clay target to slip through untouched? Assuming correct pellet size for the job and considering the maximum distance at which shots will be attempted, does it provide density that is sufficient to insure the multiple hits required for a clean kill on game or a well-broken claybird. And what about pellet distribution—is it balanced, or is it characterized by high density in the central area, with very sparse coverage at the edges?

In view of all that has been written on the subject, nearly every shotgunner has the fundamentals of scatter-

gun performance fairly well in mind. Essentially, this is a game of numbers, so to speak, and one which hinges primarily on these elements: (1) shot size, (2) charge weight and (3) choke constriction. Through manipulation of these factors, substantial variations can be produced in both pattern density and pattern width.

We can, for example, alter pattern density up or down the scale merely through the selection of shot size, by increasing or decreasing the per-load pellet count. By the same token, we can vary pattern density in either direction by turning to a lighter or a heavier charge weight of a given shot size, and this will have much the same effect as changing choke but without the attendant differences in pattern width. And it's obvious that in addition to either shrinking or increasing pattern spread through a change in choke, we can also take this route to control pattern density.

But to rely completely on these generalities is carrying trust a bit too far. After all, shotgun barrels are notorious individualists and that particular load which is nigh onto perfect out of one barrel could easily rate as sour apples from the next, even though they are as two peas from the same pod—same maker, same length, same choke marking.

Selecting that very best load for the gunning situation in question certainly rates as a vitally important part of getting to know the whims and fancies of your particular gun. You can theorize on paper by playing the numbers game, you can bank on the advice of your buddies, or you can simply make a plain, old-fashioned guess. Perhaps combine all three approaches. But you'll never really know for certain where to place the blame for those crippled birds or those outright, embarrassing goose eggs until you print those patterns where you can read them. It all adds up to the need for burning powder at the pattern board. There just isn't any other way.

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PANEL OF EXPERTS

(Continued from page 21)

will be found loaded in cases with excess headspace condition and numerous other minor deficiencies.

On the other hand, blanks loaded in new but sub-standard cases not suitable for ball ammunition will be found. Thirdly, there are those blanks loaded in perfectly satisfactory new cases. I do not know of any way in which you may ascertain which of the latter two groups your cases may come from.

I would not hesitate to use new, unfired blank cases for light or moderate loads in .30-06 or for reforming to lesser calibers for the same type loads. I would, however, be reluctant to use them for full-charge loads in any high-intensity cartridge.—G.C.N.

Proper Load

I recently purchased a replica muzzle loading rifle from Replica Arms which fires a .424 projectile. Although a small pamphlet was supplied with the weapon, no mention was made of the proper charge to use. Can you tell me the proper charge to use in this rifle with the .424 ball.

W. R. Dickerson
Bellevue, Wash.

For a .424 ball in a good quality modern replica rifle, you could say an offhand target load would be approximately 42 grains of FFFg black powder, a service load for longer range or small game might be 63 grains, and for larger game 84 grains or a bit more.

But, this type of arithmetic is a gross over-simplification. Actually, each muzzle loader is an individual, and should have loads worked out for it properly—that means by you, on the range! Don't let anyone pretend that he can tell you what is correct for your rifle. It can't be done, and no truly experienced muzzle loader will try.

Many tables and good basic information will be found in the back of the 200-page catalog of Dixie Gun Works, Union City, Tenn. 38261, which costs a mere buck.—R.O.A.
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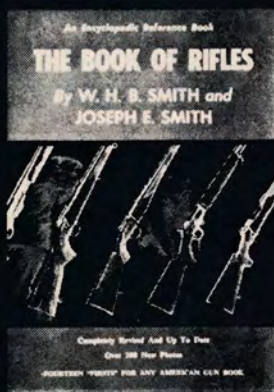
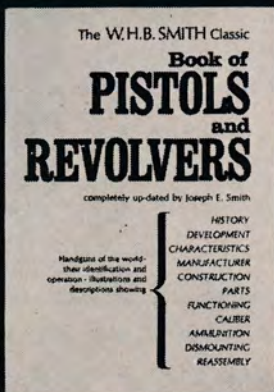
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NON-LETHAL WEAPONS

(Continued from page 35)

strikes with an impact twice that of a hard-pitched baseball, but with a reduced possibility of serious injury. The individual Stun Bag rounds cost \$7.00 each but can be reloaded for training at a fraction of the initial procurement cost. The relatively high cost per individual round, the rate of fire, effective range, questionable accuracy against moving individual targets out of missile throwing ranges, and the reduced injury potential are some of the factors influencing any substantial police procurement. At this time it is too early to predict law enforcement acceptance of this new concept that is being advocated for general police use as well as for special issue riot purposes.

The Blake Impact Gun weapon is in the final development phase and manufacturing rights are under negotiation. An aluminum alloy launching tube with magazine is attached to the barrel of a sporting type .410 or 20 gauge, bolt action shot-gun. Velocities are controlled by various color coded blank shells that propel the 700 grain plastic projectile. At the option of the user, 42, 75, and 150 foot pounds of muzzle energy is delivered at velocities of 165, 220, and 310 fps in the form of a painful, nonpenetrating impact. The molded plastic projectile is golf ball size and dimpled to enable ballistic stability. The rationale for selection of the golf ball type projectile is well founded. Thousands of people over the years have been accidentally hit, with few serious injuries, on the national golf courses. Vice President Agnew recently reaffirmed this fact for the enlightenment of millions of T.V. viewers.

It is estimated, on the basis of preliminary tests that the average police officer using the rifle type sights can consistently hit, per minute, five man-size silhouettes at the 100-200 foot range. It is believed that one basic, all-purpose loading and standard velocity can be developed, that will provide the necessary force, range capability and accuracy, after further testing.

Cost estimates indicate that the Blake Gun can be marketed to law enforcement at the approximate cost of a magnum revolver. The cost of the propellant round and projectile would be in the \$2.00 range, or less than a third that of a stun-bag or conventional tear gas round. This weapon has the potential of enabling an officer

to selectively and accurately deter, or temporarily incapacitate, a looter, agitator, or rock thrower at ranges beyond 100 feet. It is a development that should be closely followed by the military and law enforcement. Nothing so far has emerged in this field with such interesting and immediate possibilities.

Throw back dangers, such as might be encountered when rioters hurl back fired stun bags or golf ball size pellets, are limited due to lack of range capability and velocities.

Objections to the dangers in the use of impact projectiles at very close or point blank range always emerge. However, like any other weapon, correct training and disciplined use in riot situations is mandatory. The potential tactical riot control value of a longer range, deterrent type, impact missile far outweighs any hasty judgements involving the potential or probable police misuse of such a weapon.



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1971 SKEET CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 23)



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that the 26" barrel was exactly right for the skeet gun, and it did not matter whether it was on an automatic or the superposed type. Most of the guns I observed had this tube length; but there were some exceptions. Occasionally you would see a 28" barrel and some on the autoloaders and others on the O/U's. Exceptions were a single old Remington Model 11 automatic and some gunner with a Model 1100 with only a 24-inch barrel. There always has to be some feller who won't follow the crowd!

No one fired without a raised vent rib. There wasn't a single side-by-side shotgun in the matches.

Skeet is ridiculously easy. After the first 100 targets in the 12 gauge championship, an event which had an entry of almost 700 shooters, there were 100-odd tied with perfect scores. After the second 100 targets there were still 40-odd ties, with perfect 200 scores. The fellow who won broke 561 targets. It is obvious the game is not tough enough. The international style of skeet is the solution. In this variation the target is thrown farther, faster and is slightly smaller in diameter. The shooter must keep the butt of the shotgun at his hip and after he calls for the target it may delay up to as long as 3 seconds before it appears. There was a 200-target international match at this year's championships. There were no ties in it. The winner was Jack Johnson, a USAF sergeant who fired 197. His was the outstanding performance at the 1971 revival.

An ardent skeet shooter myself, it was revealing to observe current skeet shooting styles. The "in" thing right now is to pull the left hand back almost to the receiver and then point the 1st finger of the left hand down the side of the forestock. This is believed to give the gun more accuracy. The marksman is sort of pointing out the target when he does this. Of course the left hand is slipped way around on the side of the forend and the grip is weakly maintained by the last three fingers of the left hand. It looks pretty silly but it is fashionable right now.

Muff-type ear protectors are out for skeetmen. They interfere with the gun as it is mounted and simply will not do. Everyone uses the ear-insert kind. Skeet vests are in a decline.

Most shooters go for a leather bag suspended from the waist with a partition in it, one side for live hulls and the other for the empties. Virtually everyone wears some kind of head-gear, either cap or hat. Shooting glasses are almost the unanimous choice, with the majority of them dark for protection against sun glare. During the matches it rained continually and was dark, gloomy and heavily overcast. The dark glasses were a handicap under such conditions of poor light.

Shooting stance has pretty well standardized. With the feet spread apart, the body leaned well forward, the head down quite low, and the entire position aimed at that spot where the target will be broken. The old squat which was so popular when skeet had its beginning has largely disappeared. The concentration of the gunner before he asks for the target is an obvious thing and it contributes very markedly to the ability of the ranking shooters to chalk up long runs without a miss. There are notable exceptions to the good shooting stance usually seen. The winner of the all-gauge (12 gauge) event carried both elbows straight out from the shoulders on a line with his ears. He points the 1st finger of his left hand alongside the forestock and his hand is not beneath the forend at all, but alongside it. These eccentricities did not seem to hurt his scoring but it is pretty questionable if they helped either.

International skeet requires the shotgun butt to touch the hip before asking for the target. In American skeet the gun can be mounted before the target is called. You will not see one shooter out of a hundred who holds the butt below his shoulder when he makes ready to call "pull". Everyone, virtually, shoulders the gun. In the beginning it was the plan that skeet was to be a 'tween season sort of sport to keep the gunner's eyes and hands in trim. The gun was supposed to be at hip level just as it would be in the game fields. When this was one of the rules the officials found it was impossible to enforce the thing. So the regulations were changed and American shooters were permitted to shoulder the gun. They have been doing it that way ever since.



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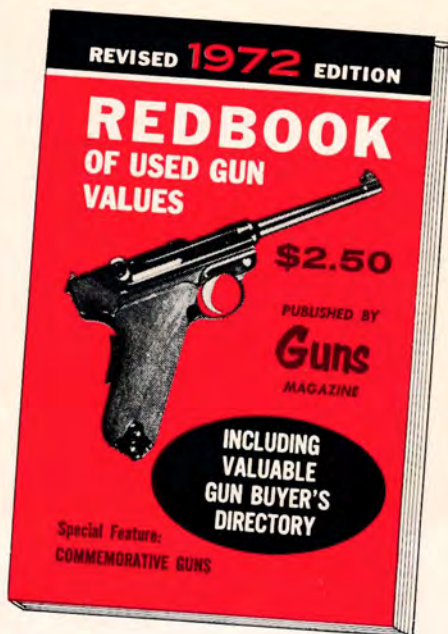
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