

AUGUST 1959 50c

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

Guns

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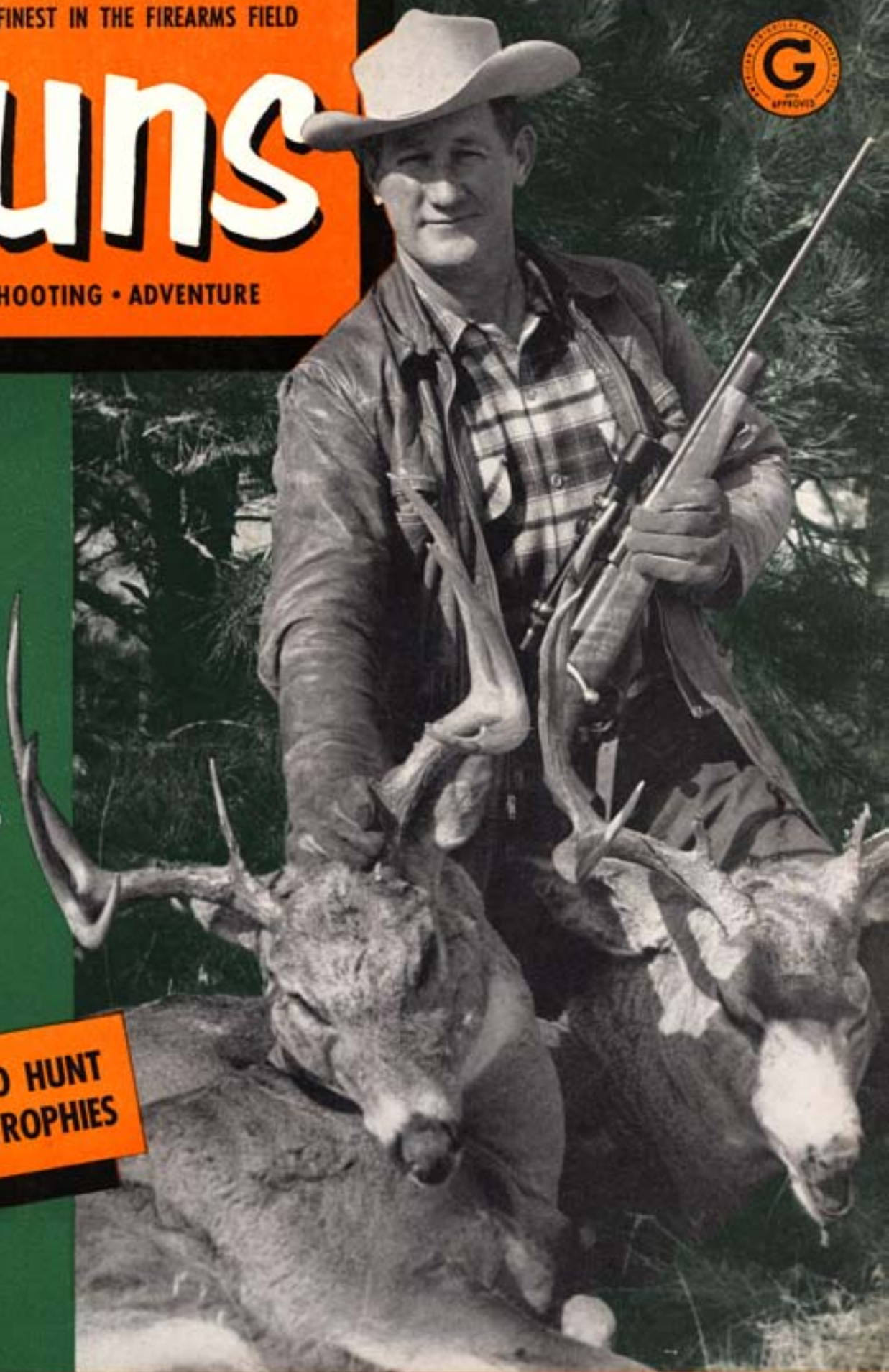


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By **JOHN RUSSELL**

Star of ABC-TV's "Lawman" Series

GUNS HAVE BEEN part of my life. Both my father and grandfather also had a great fondness for them. Many of the weapons in my collection were given me by them. In fact, my favorite is a .44 cap and ball Colt Army, which belonged to my grandfather, a captain of the militia in Virginia City in the late 1800's. This particular gun, made in 1860, was a big favorite during the Civil War.

When practicing on the firing range I use the .22, .38, or .45; but nothing compares to the .44 cap and ball Colt for "inking." I have a mold with which I make my own lead balls. It may be archaic, but I get a kick out of the loading ritual, using powder, ball, and cap. Considering the clumsiness of the weapon, it's quite accurate at short distances. I intend to use the .44 in my television series sometimes, especially since it fits the period during which our stories take place.

**MY
FAVORITE
GUN**



By **E. B. MANN**

Editor, GUNS Magazine

CHOOSING ONE favorite gun is not easy for a man who loves all guns, and friends who know me as a pistol addict will wonder at my choice of a rifle; but this Winchester M70 .270 holds a special place in my affection. It's an "I told you so" rifle; experts whose names you'd know said "it couldn't be done," that a .270 cut down to 7¼ pounds (including scope and kick-pad) and to 20" barrel length would lose too much accuracy, have too much jump and too much muzzle blast. Instead, thanks to superb stocking by the late Harvey Rodgers and precision metal reduction by Paul Seates (both then of Albuquerque), the rifle shot near minute-of-angle groups out to 400 yards (beyond which no game need worry about me, with any rifle), handled sweetly, and busted no eardrums whatsoever. It has traveled many rugged mountain miles with me, in hand and in saddle scabbard, and has done its job wherever and whenever I have done mine. The scope is a Leupold 2½X in Lehman ring mounts, sighted at 275 yards for point-blank hold at any range I ever expect to tackle.



TRIGGER TALK

ANY ERRORS you find in this issue you can blame on Bill Edwards—not because he made them but because he is in Europe running down articles for future issues and this issue therefore got one less than its usual number of proof-readings.

No other magazine in the gun field gives its readers the benefit of staff coverage of world-wide shooting subjects that GUNS has provided and will continue to offer. The Edwards "nose for shooting news" has few equals and no peers, and we can tell you now that the stories Bill brings back for you will be full of both information and surprises.

Bert Popowski has earned an authoritative reputation in shooting's halls of fame, and his story, "Racks For Records," reveals some tips for you trophy hunters that have long been well-guarded secrets. Part II of this two-part series will tell you, in our next issue, where to find and how to hunt other big game trophies.

Our shotgun articles this month suggest two new targets for you upland gunners—cottontail quail and chukar partridge. Both of these immigrants are winning the keen admiration of shooters and conservationists.

Varminting is so attractive to the highly expert, long range, high velocity fans with their super-duper equipment, and the magazines have been so full of their not always quite credible exploits, that maybe it's time we were reminded that varmints can be fun also for the ordinary man with an ordinary rifle. If you're in this popular category, you will like Carlos Vinson's story on page 26.

On the other hand, if you are planning an African safari or even just dreaming of it, don't miss Elmer Keith's story of the trophy he didn't go for. (And incidentally, if that safari is or could be more than just a dream, write Keith about it. His address: Salmon, Idaho. He is the official Western Representative for White Hunters, Ltd., and can plan the whole trip for you.)

Our story on page 22 about the sometimes overlooked Spencer is western in flavor, but it is a chapter to insert in any man's history of American (or world) gun history. When you've read it, you'll add Spencer to your list of guns that made history.

"The Old Man's Gun" is an off-beat story for GUNS, but as we read it here, we found ourselves smiling over our own memories of other guns, other incidents that cement the affection men (and women too) feel for the guns that have served them well. This story won't tell you what gun to buy or how to use the gun you have, but—we think you'll like it, as we did.

Whether you like Clyde Ormond's "Teach The Gal To Shoot" will depend, we suppose, of which of the two strongly opinionated groups you support: the husbands who think wives should share husbands' interests, or the husbands who believe hunting should be kept "for men only." We refuse to take sides in this one, but if you're a "share" husband or father, this one is for you.

And that, as far as space permits, is GUNS for August.



THE COVER

Ever think of studying soil analyses of various possible hunting areas before taking off after that long hoped for record breaking trophy? Tips from an old hand at hunting for record heads may make it possible for you to realize that long-time dream.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

AUGUST, 1959

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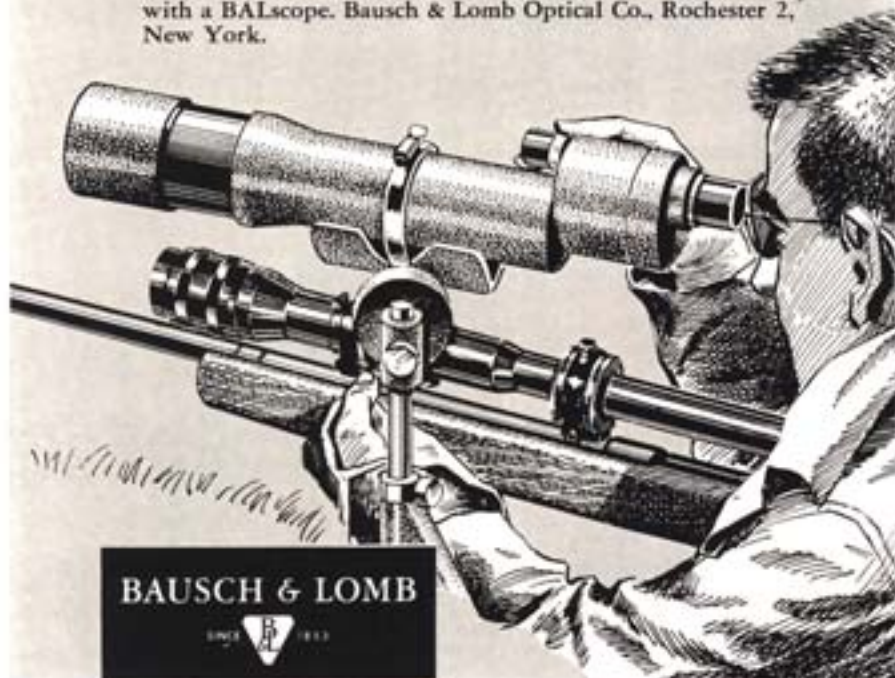
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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

♦ Chicago, Ill. A year-and-a-half inquiry among nearly half a hundred lawyers of all branches of the profession by H. Jay Erfurth, local gun enthusiast, has revealed the astonishing fact that not one of them knew the words or the meaning of the 2nd Amendment to the Federal Constitution. The group queried individually over a period of time includes several attorneys active in Civil Liberties work, a professor of Constitutional Law, and numerous others. The general consensus was: "It has something to do with quartering troops in time of war, doesn't it?"

★ ★ ★

♦ Seattle, Wash. Pete Rademacher, the "Gentleman Boxer" who never had a pro fight before he fought heavyweight champ Floyd Patterson, has been making the rounds of baseball camps selling air rifles. The idea is that a rifle is good for a ballplayer's coordination and will help him hit better.

★ ★ ★

♦ Washington, D. C. Pfc. Richard Smela, a short, slightly-built draftsman stationed at Ft. McNair, Va., was startled to see his name posted on the company bulletin board. The notice said he would compete in the Military District of Washington's rifle matches. His name had just been tossed in to fill the fort's quota of men. A draftee who'd never competed in any sort of matches before, Pfc. Smela nevertheless felt his company's honor was at stake, gave it everything he had, and, after two days of shooting, won the silver cup and first prize.

★ ★ ★

♦ Washington, D. C. Pvt. Edith Baum has been doing real fine on the police pistol range and gives every indication of becoming one of the Washington Police Department's best policewomen. Miss Baum has a particular reason for wanting to be just that. Her father, FBI agent William Baum, was killed in a gun battle with gangster Baby face Nelson.

★ ★ ★

♦ Trenton, Ga. A single bullet ended the desperate freedom bid of Alabama convict, William Smothers, as he tried to shoot it out with a Georgia lawman. The notorious bandit, who kidnapped four persons in his escape attempt, was felled by a shot by Trenton Police Chief H. H. Hutchings. The convict went for his gun, but Chief Hutchings winged him before he could get off a shot. His shoulder was shattered by the bullet.

★ ★ ★

♦ Louisville, Ky. Daniel Boone's famed Kentucky long rifle is a short rifle now. Children swinging from the barrel of the muzzle loader on the park statue here have broken off a two-foot section. It will be repaired.

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P.G.S. Scope Shields

P.G.S. Inc., 622 Gratiot St., Saginaw, Mich., has a pair of neoprene scope shields suitable for almost all hunting and target scopes. These are of soft flexible neoprene construction, and slip on both ocular and objective lenses of the scope. They offer a great deal of protection to the lenses, and the rear shield also offers almost complete protection to the eye of the shooter who uses a scope with short eye relief, or a scope on a rifle of very heavy recoil. The covers are a snug fit, and project out from the scope some two inches at each end, thus offering a very good rain and sun shade. They also have an inner ring to carry rain or other moisture around to the bottom, which is left open for water to drip out without coming in contact with the lens. In aiming, they cut out all side lights and reflections on the lenses. A well made, reliable product for the price of \$1.95.

Specifications for .44 Magnum Dies

Forty years ago, I experienced the same trouble reloaders experience today with revolver bullets jumping their crimp. This was with the old .45 Colt with Remington factory black powder loads of 40 grains black and 250 grain bullet. If I left one cartridge in the cylinder while five or six were fired, the bullet in that cartridge would jump its crimp from the recoil and would stick out of the cartridge case enough to project past the cylinder and tie up the gun. In shooting a grouse or a rabbit and then reloading, I soon learned to check my loads and turn any that showed they were jumping their crimp, so they would come next under the hammer and be fired. I also carried a short hardwood plug for driving bullets back in the cylinder.

Many hand loaders now write me, wanting to know if they cannot reload revolver ammunition without full length resizing of cases. I tell them all to full length resize, as it is the only way to reload good, reliable, accurate ammunition. Only by properly resizing the cartridge case full length and then expanding it to a proper inside diameter can you insure perfect uniform bullet pull,

perfect grease and oil seal, and a proper crimp on the bullet. If not properly crimped and the case properly sized, the bullet can and will after a series of shots tie up the gun.

Today, both .357 and .44 Magnums will jump their crimp in the same manner as the old black powder .45 Colt loads. These factory loads are crimped on soft bullets and they will start to move forward after a few shots. Dr. Leonard Nippe of Toledo, Ohio, has run a great many lengthy experiments on the amount of crimp jumping by the Remington .44 Magnum factory load, and here are his findings:

If one cartridge is left in the chamber during the firing of the other five chambers, the remaining cartridge will show that its bullet has moved forward in spite of the crimp about 3/64". After 10 shots, the bullet will have moved forward 3/32"; and after 15 shots, the bullet will move forward 3/16" of an inch and tie up the gun by protruding out the front end of the cylinder so it cannot revolve past or under the end of the barrel. These figures were arrived at after very lengthy experiments with Smith & Wesson guns. The bullet usually would jump its crimp enough to tie up the gun at from the 11th to the 15th shot. So it's imperative, if you shoot factory Remington loads, to shoot all in the cylinder before reloading, or else to turn any unfired cartridges so they will come under the hammer first at the next firing of the gun.

Dr. Nippe asked me long ago for dimensions for the resizing die and expanding plug when reloading .44 Magnum ammunition, and I then told him the full length resizing die must reduce the cases to about .423" inside diameter before the bullet was seated if a good firm crimp was to be maintained, one that would hold the bullet against recoil. I also told him that expanding plugs, if used, must be ground down to about .423". Since then, Dr. Nippe has experimented a great deal in connection with the R.C.B.S. Gun & Die Shop of Oroville, Calif., who make the best three-die set we have seen for revolver reloading. After a great deal of experiment, they found that the resizing die should reduce the .44 Magnum case to .420" inside diameter, and the expanding plug should be ground and polished down to .422" for best results with a bullet of .429" diameter. I had good luck with an expanding plug of .423", but I used my 250 grain Keith bullets cast one to 16 tin and lead. With the harder bullets used by Dr. Nippe, they found that the smaller diameter was better.

Perfect reloaded revolver ammunition can only be achieved with perfect dies, and many die makers allow very sloppy tolerances. If

your sizing die does not reduce the case enough for very tight friction fit of the bullet at your specified diameter, or if the expanding plug expands the resized case too much to give proper bullet fit before the crimp is achieved, then those dies should be returned to their makers.

.458 Winchester Reloads

For some time, I have been recommending 66 to 70 grains of 3031 with 480 to 500 grain jacketed soft nose and solids in the .458 Winchester. Now comes corroboration from Fred Huntington of R.C.B.S. Gun & Die Shop, Oroville, Calif. J. W. Hornady and Fred Huntington ran a series of chronograph tests on the .458 with those fine 500 grain soft nose and steel jacketed solids that Hornady makes in this caliber, and they found by actual chronograph test that 70 grains of 3031 seemed to exactly duplicate the factory loads. Hornady of Grand Island, Nebr., makes these fine bullets and R.C.B.S. Gun & Die Shop makes the tools to do a perfect job of reproducing factory loadings.

Speer Reloading Manual For Wildcats

An excellent reloaders manual, covering about all the important so-called wildcat cartridges, is offered by Vernon and Raymond Speer, bullet makers, Lewiston, Idaho. Chapters cover Wildcat Cartridges, Pressures and the Hand Loader, Rifle Accuracy, Exterior Ballistics, Ballistic Properties (including sectional density tables), ballistic Coefficient and energy tables. There is also a chapter on muzzle velocities with relation to powder temperatures.

This is a most useful book for all rifle loaders and particularly for the experimenter. Cartridge case drawings and specifications accompany each cartridge. While this book does not cover all wildcat cartridges, it does cover a good many of the more popular ones.

Stock Bending

For years, the Pachmayr Gun shop, 1220 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., have made a practice of stock bending to give more or less drop as desired in both rifle and shotgun stocks. I do not know how this is done, but suspect they are heated in oil and bent, then clamped until the wood takes a permanent set. At any rate, if you have a shotgun with a half inch too much or too little drop, or if you want cast off or cast in, contact the Pachmayr Gun Works. They can give you the exact specifications you wish, with no damage to the stock. The job is permanent.

New Smith & Wesson .22 W.R.F. Magnum

We understand that Winchester will be in production on the new .22 W.R.F. Magnum cartridge this fall. As previously reported, this cartridge fires a 40 grain jacketed .2245" hollow point bullet at 2000 feet from rifles and 1600 feet from revolvers. Smith & Wesson are now boring barrels and chambering cylinders for their fine K-22 in 4", 6" and 8" barrels for the new cartridge. This will make the finest .22 grouse and rabbit gun yet produced in a hand gun. Nothing beats the fine little K-22 as a .22 caliber handgun, and now, with the much more powerful cartridge it will have power enough for (Continued on page 45)

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CROSSFIRE

Shooting Family

Glad to read that the ladies are getting a chance to prove their marksmanship (July issue, "Who's Too Young To Shoot"). I have long felt that more women would share this pleasure with their husbands if given a chance to understand the thrill and good fun of shooting and perhaps eventually hunting.

Have always loved both and had a father who taught us to respect a gun at all times and treat it as a friend. My husband seems to enjoy shooting once in a while with me, although I don't practice as much and am not near the shot he is. We've enjoyed many a hunt together.

It is always a contest when your magazine comes as to who looks at it first. In our gun cabinet are: a muzzle loader (one deer accounted for), a .45-70 breach loader (one deer also), a Mauser action 250-300 caliber rifle (many deer), a 20 gauge Savage, and an over and under .22-410 Savage, a .38 revolver, and two cork guns. Our younger son seems on his way to being a "gun nut" too; he likes his brother's guns, but is "too little to shoot a bear."

Camille Campbell
Gore Bay, Ontario

Is This The Answer?

The "Minute Men" article hit the spot. What we need today, along with the billions that are being spent on defense and foreign aid, is an armed citizenry ready and able to defend our country at a minute's notice. Here's how it can be done:

In 1960, the Army is issuing the new M-14 rifle. The "grand old man," the M-1, will be obsolete. Millions of these fine M-1 rifles could be put to good use by distributing them (through the National Guard and Reserve organizations) to civilians... 18 years of age or over, who would take and pass required courses in firearms marksmanship, safety, maintenance, and use in partisan warfare. These courses could be taught by the local units of the National Guard and Reserve. Each recipient of a rifle should receive cleaning gear, 100 rounds of ammunition to be kept on hand, not used for hunting), and an identification card. He should be required to report to the Armory annually to submit his rifle and gear to inspection and take refresher courses in firing, etc.

A by-product of this would be a better understanding between the Military and the civilians; something that is much needed, and that comes to pass when the two work together for common causes.

It is our heritage to own weapons, our duty to defend our country and our homes. What I have suggested may not be the answer, but it's something to think about.

Maybe, if it's what we want, if we think about it and talk about it and pull for it hard enough, some day we'll get it.

Please don't print my name; but if anybody wants to know who I am, you can tell them.

M/Sgt. _____
U. S. Army Marksmanship Cadre

Bouquet

I have neither the time nor the inclination to be passing out roses; however, I can't resist dropping a note to tell you that of the nine different gun and sporting magazines that I subscribe to, yours is by far the most helpful. Every time I write anybody for information, you folks seem to go out of your way. Your last letter of January 8 in regard to my Ferlach over-under rifle was just such an example. This is appreciated very much.

M. W. Ozier
Champaign, Ill.

Famous Fakes

Congratulations to Mr. A. Baron Engelhardt on his extraordinary article on Juan Peron's San Martin Colts (June issue). Your "Trigger Talk" Editor does not have to apologize for "publicizing" such famous fakes. Your exposure has increased the value of Peron's pair of Colts. Indeed, if I had the means, I would go all the way for this pair of "authentic fakes."

Such an evident fraud pulled on the famous (or infamous) dictator is pleasantly reminiscent of the "art trick" of which Herman Goering was the celebrated victim at the skillful hands of an obscure Dutch painter, who even confused the most eminent art critics of his country with his "creations" of "authentic Van Der Meers."

Louis Bélanger
Westmount, Que., Canada

Straight Dope On Enfields

I cannot give you the exact quantities and other details, but believe I can give you enough information to answer readers' inquiries. We produced a total of approximately one and a quarter million of these rifles. The first ones (about 200,000) were produced on a direct purchase order from the British Government and, therefore, were not marked "U. S. Property." They were, however, marked with the square "S" on the side of the receiver which identifies all of these guns which we manufactured and, incidentally, was also used prefixing the serial number on the Thompson sub-machine guns of which we produced over a million for the British and U. S. Governments.

The first guns produced had the original Enfield-type adjustable rear sight with the ladder leaf and various ranges up to several thousand yards. They also had the sliding Enfield bolt release at the back of the bolt-

head raceway, similar to that found on most other Enfields.

After this early production, the U. S. Government took over this contract on a lend-lease basis and thereafter all guns were marked "U. S. Property." Somewhere along the line, we then went to the two-height tip-over peep sight, which was not only cheaper but more rugged. Perhaps about in the middle of the contract, one of our engineers conceived the idea of simplifying the bolt release by doing away with the bolt locking slide at the rear of the bolthead raceway and, instead, cut a clearance about 1/8-inch behind the front receiver ring. If the bolthead was then held at this point, it could be rotated up and the bolt removed from the rifle. This apparently worked quite well and was located so that the open bolt would not rest in this position because of the sear action on the back stroke and the pressure of the main-spring on the closed stroke.

There were other variations in the course of production, the principal ones being in the design of the cocking piece. Likewise, some of the latter guns had two groove rifling instead of the conventional six groove rifling. The entire production was made with birch stocks.

O. M. Knode, Vice President
Savage Arms Corporation
Chicopee Falls, Mass.

Anyone Can Shoot

Was very interested in "Shooting Is For Everyone," page 26, April issue of GUNS. I know a man in Knoxville that goes on wild boar hunts (and gets his boar), who has his right arm off at the shoulder. He uses an H. and R. single barreled 12 gauge. Told me he waits until hog is from 15 to 40 feet; uses rifled slugs.

Another friend is 86, is a former law officer; carries a .45 Colt New Service 7 1/2 barrel and can still shoot a chicken's head off.

I am a member of the National Rifle Association and have been for 23 or 24 years. Sure enjoy your magazine, especially Elmer Keith. Don't like that newfangled "Buck Rogers" Remington auto. Rather have my .22 Mauser.

Thomas Sims
Heiskell, Tenn.

We'll Try

Your excellent magazine rates tops with me for modern guns, but you sorely lack articles on antique guns. Sometimes you have an article, sometimes not. You concentrate on everything new and almost completely ignore the "Old Timers." I seriously think that you lose many a subscriber because of this. It probably could be remedied by having a 50-50 split. One half on Modern guns and the remainder on Antiques.

Also, if you could add more articles to your magazine it would be more enjoyable. Except for these suggestions, keep up the good work.

William S. Devine
Wayne, New Jersey

Truth Is Stranger Than Cannon

I am amused by the heading for Dorr Carpenter's account of his Cannon: "Not just the gun you'd choose for Home Defense." I have had to rely on a rather less effective weapon. During 1940, when we expected invasion from the Germans, I was provided with a kind of drain pipe on a tripod called

a "Northover Projector." This wonderful piece of apparatus was intended to launch an S.I.P. bottle... a kind of Coca Cola bottle filled with phosphorous and rubber which burst into flame and smoke on impact. Range was about 150 yards if the thing was elevated 45 degrees or thereabouts. It was breech loading but used a black powder charge with percussion cap ignition. I would have much preferred Dorr Carpenter's Cannon.

John M. Harding
London, England

These Guns Weren't Burned

I enjoyed Donnelly's "I Burned Guns You'd Buy" perhaps a mite more than your average reader. Instead of burning them, I was sent to school in Paris to learn how to waterproof and pack them for storage. With the grudging help of an ex-Afrika Korps Staff Major, I set up an assembly line at Ordnance Depot O-653 just outside of Rheims, and with a crew of Kraut prisoners, processed literally thousands of captured small arms by cleaning them, dipping them in cosmoline, and wrapping them in waterproof paper. They were then packed in pine cases and shipped to Russia, by order of our Paris HQ. It's an even money wager that our guys ran into a lot of those same weapons in Korea. The big question, of course, is where we'll run into them the next time.

John W. Breathed Jr.
Encino, California

He-Man's Book

I have read your two latest issues of GUNS and find it very interesting, full of information that is useful to every sportsman. As I do a lot of chuck hunting and target shooting, also reloading, with a .222 cal. rifle, I find your book a lot of help. I certainly hope we will see more of this in the future in this he-man's book for gunners.

G. E. Briggs
Hartford, Conn.

Praises for "Terni" Carbine

I can't help but disagree with you in your opinion of the 7.35 mm Carcano: I find mine very good. It's light weight and I think shoots a bit better than the .30-30. It will always be a fine saddle or jeep gun. It should do very well on light to medium game at 200 yards or less.

For hi-velocity weapons, I lean toward the .250-3000 Savage M99. With hand loads, the 87 gr. bullet can attain 3500 f.p.s. with only about 50,000 psi chamber pressure. I think it can beat the .243 Win.

For heavy stuff, I'll always use "old faithful," my .348 Winchester. It has a heavy bullet and will throw it as far as is safe to shoot. (As you see, I prefer to find a lever action rifle.)

W. E. Hensel, Jr.
Baldwin Park, Calif.

Wants the Kay-Chuk

Received my March issue of GUNS today. Am very pleased with the article in the Handloading Bench, Harvey's .224 Kay-Chuk. Have been looking for a handgun but considered .22 RF too light and heavier gun too much recoil. Am getting a reloader in the future for .308 caliber (Model 83 Winchester) and will also get a Kay-Chuk.

Leslie A. Kolden
Glasgow, Montana

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GUN RACK



By LES BOWMAN

A Report On The Model 725 Remington .280

NEARLY ALL new rifles or calibers are reported in most out-door and gun magazines by competent gun writers, but many of these writers shoot the guns only on the range, seldom actually using them on any game, or enough game, to give a factual report on their hunting use.

Various models and makes of rifles, handling 7 mm or .284 bullets have been brought out over the years, and (with the exception of that old reliable, the 7/57, which can be termed an international caliber) most of these cases have been of a wildcat nature. This has tended to dampen the enthusiasm of the user after a short time, due to the trouble of obtaining ammunition. However, in spite of this fact, many of the users of 7 mm calibers have stuck with the rifles, as witness the diehards who use the .280 Ross, which is actually an off-size caliber.

I have long been a .270 fan, owning one of the first Winchester '54's in this caliber ever to come on the market, some 30 years ago. During this time, various 7 mm rifles have come into my possession, and this caliber, next to the .270, has taken more big game for me than any other during the past 20 years. I have used the 7/61, the German 7/64, and the .275 H & H when Weatherby brought out his 7 mm, it proved to be in the same class as the .275 H & H, and adequate for any game on the North American continent. Weatherby rifles, that had started out as wildcats and required hand-made and handloaded cases, finally reached a production and standardized basis, and factory ammunition became available on the shelf.

This was followed, a couple of years ago, by Phil Sharpe's S & H 7/61. Here was a well designed cartridge, factory produced by Norma; but it was a magnum and required a special shell holder for use in handloading presses. However, both these new 7 mm calibers are magnums, and the demand still existed for a standard case in 7 mm, to be used in a reasonably priced, standard production arm. The fact that custom bullet makers, such as Sierra, Hornady, and Speer had all developed and brought out excellent bullets for the 7 mm's had revitalized the demand for a production gun to handle them. In our own case, using the .275 H & H and the 7 mm Weatherby, we had excellent game-getting results with bullets such as the 154 gr. Hornady R.P., the 160 gr. Sierra B.T., the 160 gr. flat base Speer, and the 160 gr. Nosler partition. Even on moose and grizzly, we had seen little use to go to the 175 gr. bullet.

The 7/57 was and is a well liked big game cartridge. However, for the most part, the early available bullets had too much weight and length for any long distance work, being in this respect somewhat similar to the old Navy Lee 6 mm. The newer bullets of 150 gr. to 160 gr. weight helped this, but the 7/57 was still on the low side as a real big game

cartridge, especially when it came to elk, moose, and such game.

Last summer Remington Arms Company sent me two new guns and I was asked to use, loan, and really give them the works. These guns were the new Model 725 Remington in .280 caliber, and I was immediately greatly impressed by them. They were bolt action rifles, the type I much prefer for my work. Second, they were reasonably light in weight, which, at altitudes of 6500 to 12,000 feet, where we hunt, is highly desirable. The final point that appealed to me was the standard shell case, actually little different from the .270 or '06 cases except for markings and bullet size.

I immediately ordered a set of loading dies from R.C.B.S. and, before they arrived, shot up all the factory ammunition I had received, targeting in and making impact and drop checks. I equipped one rifle with a Buehler bridge mount and a new Bushnell Command Post 4 power 'scope, and the other with a Redfield mount and a 2½ Bear Cub 'scope. Light gun slings were installed on each gun. I had no trouble with the 'scope installation and, contrary to what I had read someplace, I found it was not necessary to remove the rear sight or even the front sight sleeve.

My first agreeable surprise came after I fired a round of shots, five each of 125, 150, and 165 gr. factory ammunition, and found that all weights grouped in nearly the same 2" pattern at 100 yards. This is the only caliber, with the exception of the .270, that I have found to do this with varying bullets.

I then shot for tight groups and found the 150 gr. bullet to be the best for this. Most groups of five shots averaged 1½ to 1¾ inches. I thought this could perhaps be due to the somewhat undersized bullets which are undoubtedly made with the pump and auto rifle in mind. But they were excellent groups for factory guns and ammo.

The guns were pleasant to shoot from a recoil standpoint. I had several others try them for fit and quick sight-finding, and the stock shape proved to be much better than most standard guns. However, we all found fault with the grip; it seems to be too large and bulky. Probably this reaction is due to all of us being more used to custom made stocks with more slender grips.

Trigger action under actual firing conditions was excellent, and I made no change on either rifle. The thumb safetys are very good, the three-position feature being a real point. All through the hunting season, a total time of over six months, when the guns were carried in saddle scabbards or by hand through brush and tree country, no change of shape or position of the safety was indicated as desirable or necessary.

About the time I had become well acquainted with the way the factory ammuni-

(Continued on page 60)

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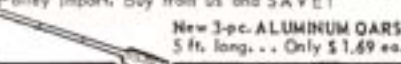
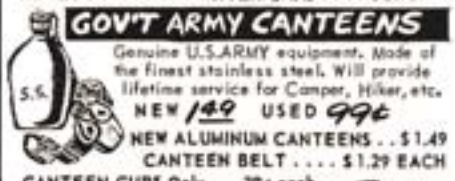
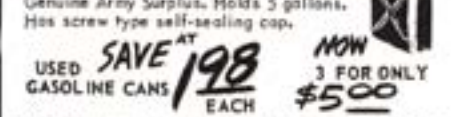
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**WHERE TO FIND
HOW TO HUNT**



Racks For Records

PART I: MOOSE, ELK, DEER, PRONGHORN

**PLANNING, NOT LUCK, ACCOUNTS
FOR THOSE RECORD HEADS HUNTERS
DREAM OF. HERE, A TOP-FLIGHT
HUNTER TELLS YOU HOW TO PLAN**

By BERT POPOWSKI



Steel tape backs Popowski's judgment in selecting this fine record-class pronghorn, in the Wyoming Red Desert.

EVERY YEAR, tens of thousands of America's big-game hunters sally forth with gritted teeth and the firm conviction that this time they'll bag the buck or bull that will pop the eyes of their hunting friends for the next quarter-century. They're tired of bringing home mere eating meat. What they want is a head with horns that reach from here to there and are yeah-high.

But only a very small fraction of one per cent of those hunters know the need for the meticulous preparations that must precede the actual hunt. And that's why that tiny percentage of knowing hunters annually drag in the bucks and bulls that get inside the trophy throne-room. The rank and file work their hearts out, run down every slight rumor of a giant buck or bull, and are firmly convinced after years of failure that luck alone determines who gets the king-sized heads. And sometimes it's true. Sometimes some stumble-foot gets a prize that dedicated trophy-hunters would swap their eye-teeth for. Last year, I saw a veteran deer hunter actually reduced to tears when the whitetailed buck he'd hunted two seasons fell to a visiting hunter's bullet, and he learned that the successful hunter had promised the head to his son—to saw up into home-crafted hunting-knife handles! The thought of the ruination of that top trophy was really more than he could stand.

Actually, the primary requirements for the trophy hunter are only three-fold: knowing where major trophies are to be found; having a guide who is himself on the lookout for



Packing into rough country where big ones are apt to be found means cutting gear to essentials, as in this "Siwash" camp in southwestern Canada.

really fine heads and will spend some time in locating them; and, finally, being able to spend enough time to look over a lot of animals and select the one that will fill the bill. (Money helps, of course. It gives the hunter the time to make a leisurely and painstaking trip, stay as long as he likes, hire a top-drawer guide who is willing to work for his customer's satisfaction. But just money won't make trophies grow where they aren't. That takes a shrewd selection of locality which, in turn, eliminates 90 per cent of the dry runs that plague so many hunters.)

There are several factors that produce trophies, no matter what the species of big game. First is isolation, which allows animals to stay out of hunters' reach until he reaches real trophy proportions. No trophy animal jumps from the yearling to the record class. He spends years learning the country, seeking out the foods he craves, and growing. He



Near-record whitetail (left) and near-record mule buck are proudly displayed by Wyoming sportsman Don Baldwin.



Big enough to cradle hunter is this regal bull elk rack taken in mountains near Jackson Hole country in Wyoming.



builds size, vitality, and endurance which help him survive during hard years. Second is food; plenty of it, and in areas where the essential minerals are found in abundance. It's no secret that, where essential minerals are abundant, both in licks and in soluble form that plants can absorb, they help build bodies of a size to feed and support heroic headgear. You just don't find big heads on scrawny bodies; they're in proportion.

Finally, there is the matter of genetics and eugenics. When an exceptionally fine male mates with an equally fine female, their physical proportions often combine in their offspring. If some unusual traits of intelligence and wariness are also transmitted, so much the better. Add suit-



Head shots ruin cape, may shatter skull so that a record head can't be measured for official record.



able foods, isolated living localities, and time, and all that remains is for the dedicated trophy hunter to find and "reduce them to possession."

Trophy hunters fall chiefly into two major classes: the guys who have heard of or seen single outstanding animals in an area and are willing to devote the season to the pursuit of that animal, and hunters who get a terrific thrill out of seeing a lot of game, love to stalk carefully and exhaustively until they find just what they want. I've hunted both ways, but I prefer the latter method. There's a constant thrill in passing up one fine head after another in search of something better. In fact, I'm not sure that I don't enjoy feasting my eyes on a lot of game even more than I enjoy the heart-stopping moment which ends the search. Every day is Bank Day in that kind of hunting; but to enjoy it, you must pick a game-rich country—something like our western states, the Canadian Provinces, or Alaska. You need also plenty of visibility, such as is provided by the open plains, the huge mountain parks and basins, and the elevated lookouts found in mountain country. You can "hunt" a lot of country from such a spot, without moving. Here is where a good pair of binoculars pay off.

Let's commence with elk, or wapiti if you would be scientifically correct. Though found in some northern and eastern States, they are in huntable numbers only in the West and Canada. Eight states have elk concentrations numbering 6,000 or more head. Arizona has 6,500, New Mexico 6,900, Washington 30,000, Wyoming 36,000, Oregon 40,000, Montana 41,500, Colorado 56,000, and Idaho 30,000. Trophy-wise, the bulk of the best heads have come from Wyoming's Big Horn mountains and the Jackson Hole area south of Yellowstone Park; from Nez Perce county of Idaho; from Jefferson and Gallatin counties in Montana; and from southwestern Alberta and southeastern British Columbia in Canada. I personally prefer the Absaroka mountains of Montana, northwestward of Wyoming's Big Horns, and southeastern British Columbia. But the Big Horns themselves are a fine limestone-rich plateau-type hunting country.

An elk is a long-legged, wide-ranging critter and hunters who go after trophy bulls should be in excellent physical condition. Beware the guides who say they'll ride you right up to your top bull; elk have ears like foxes, and when you bag a buster bull you'll have earned him.

The palmate-antlered moose, biggest of the deer family, comes in the king-sized Alaskan-Yukon brand, the middling Canadian size, and the Shira (Continued on page 54)



Massive muley horns (left) were product of South Dakota's mineral-rich graze. Spiked logging boots (above) insure safe footing on rocks, logs, or ice.

Teach the Gal To Shoot

TEACHING "THE LITTLE WOMAN" TO SHOOT IS NO PROBLEM—AND CAN GIVE YOU YOUR BEST-EVER HUNTING COMPANION

By CLYDE ORMOND

BOTH MY WIFE and daughter like to hunt big-game, and to shoot. Many times, when we've returned from a successful hunt, an envious fellow shooter has asked, "You mean your wife went with you? . . . Boy, I wish I could get my wife interested in shooting! I'd not only have more fun and get to go oftener; she'd get a bang out of it. I know she would. One of the reasons she resents my hunting is, she's bored with those afternoon card parties."

Yet, in most of the cases, it's the man's fault that his wife, daughter, or girl friend doesn't like to hunt and shoot. It's true that, today, more gals are taking to the outdoors—maybe it's an evidence of this new "togetherness;" but many aren't—because they're scared. They are missing the fun of a great sport because of an initial, unhappy introduction to it—by a well-meaning but bumbling man.

Here is the typical way in which many a husband deprives himself of a wonderful field companion. By pleading or barter, he gets his wife to agree to go on a hunt. Naturally, since he's the only hunting member of the family, the rifle or shotgun is his. It is too big for her, doesn't fit her properly, is probably too husky in caliber. So she'll be ready for the hunt, he insists, on the way to the hunting country, that she bang away at a can, for practice.

Not knowing what to expect, she assumes



Pride of accomplishment lights face of author's wife as she holds up first sage hen, bagged with a Winchester double 20.



No "big bad gun" but fun to shoot was verdict of author's 14-year-old daughter regarding 7 mm.

Daughter Nikki bagged first antelope with 7 mm after three weeks practice, enjoyed both practice and hunt. Some big game cartridges suitable for the lady gunner are (from left to right) .243 Winchester, 100 grains; .250 Savage, 100 grains; .257 Roberts, 100 grains; the 7 mm, 139 grains; .270, 130 grains; .30-06, 180 grains.



Using the rifle she had used on deer, a .30 Remington auto, Wyoming lady bags pronghorn.



a trial position, points, and whangs away. What happens? She is scared stiff at the noise, smacked in her pretty nose by the comb, jolted on the shoulder, and surprised that nothing worse happened. She's had it. Thereafter, she'll take canasta.

On the opposite extreme, and just as bad, is the eager but ill-advised husband who knows his lady is delicate, effeminate, and not really up to that brand-new magnum rifle of his. So—he gives her a puny caliber or gauge, inadequate to the game. When she doesn't bag that duck, pheasant, or buck, she thinks it's her fault, that she's just not cut out for shooting, and—floopy goes the entire project.

I've learned from personal experience that both methods are wrong: that women *do* love to shoot and can become darned good at it, if started right; and that there is no need, either, for them to use a cartridge or caliber inadequate to the game they hunt. I found this out, not through any brilliant deduction of my own, but rather from bald necessity, after I'd put my big foot into it.

My daughter Nikki is a healthy, normal girl. While growing up, younger than her brother Ted, she learned to shoot a .22. As most girls do, she took to it like a duck to water. Well, I promised the boy that when he became 14, I'd take him hunting. This was duly done, and the boy killed a coyote with his first shot from a big-game rifle. He bagged a nice buck antelope just a few shots later.

So then the pestering began. "Daddy, when can I go hunting?" Nikki asked. What could I say? There was only one thing to say, so I said it: "When you are 14, too."

Idaho at that time had a special antelope hunt. The ratio of applicants to lucky permits was top-heavy to say the least. To prolong an obligation, I promised the girl that she could apply, and if she was lucky enough to get a permit, I'd take her antelope hunting.

You know what happened. I was suddenly confronted with a promise to fulfill, and with just three weeks to teach her how to shoot well enough so she could make that initial experience a successful one. Briefly, we began with a Model 70 Winchester, 7 mm rifle, and *dry* shooting. Each day, religiously, after her high school classes, we'd take the rifle and walk around the acreage. I taught her how to sight with a scope; to breathe three times and hold the third; to squeeze. At unannounced times, I'd stop, point out a post, head-gate, clod of dirt, or tumble-weed, tell her it was an antelope, that she must shoot and hit it from the position she was currently in. We concentrated only on one position, sitting. The times she squeezed off at an imaginary buck, on an empty chamber, was a credit to the stamina of that firing-pin.

The third week, I made a full-sized cardboard antelope, substituting it for the "game" in the tours around the acreage. And about three days before the hunt, at one of the sessions, I simply slipped in three live handloads, and said, "Do just exactly as you've been doing."

Well, Nikki laid those three bullets into a spot on the cardboard buck's shoulder which your hand would cover—at 110 yards, from sitting. Later, she killed her antelope buck with the first shot she fired on a hunt. And when I asked her if the recoil bothered her, she asked, "Recoil? What's that?"

Because of the similarity, and if you'll pardon personal incidents, I'll tell you of something which happened nearly



"What do you mean, recoil?" asked author's wife after dropping caribou with Sharpe & Hart 7 mm.

a decade later—last fall, in Alaska's Wrangells. After an all-afternoon stalk, the outfitter, Don DeHart, and I got my wife up to a creditable caribou bull. She used a 7x61 Sharpe & Hart Magnum, and plastered him full into the boiler-room the first shot. I asked her the same question, "Does the kick bother you?"

"What kick?" she asked, grinning to her ears.

I could cite numerous instances (Continued on page 50)

Chukar Challenge To Mountain Gunners



Imported birds and domestic shotgun tangle in fast fusillade in which Chukar partridges, brought from India to stock Oregon's hills, come off second best against three loads of No. 6s from Curtis' battered M12 Winchester.

By WILLIAM CURTIS

FAR BELOW ME, a line of green marked the course of a dinky creek in the bottom of a big canyon. Above me towered rocky pinnacles and ledges, separated by runty stands of dull, green sage brush. Not a bird called or moved anywhere. Yet, less than a hour earlier when I was in the bottom of the valley, this canyon wall had been alive with running, clucking chukar partridges. But that's the way it is with these hardy Indian imports. Now you see them—and now you don't. Bagging them is something else again.

When I first heard and saw chukars, I thought filling the three-bird Oregon limit would be easy. Now, I was beginning to wonder if I'd have to chase these zebra-sided speedsters over most of eastern Oregon's rough chunks of real estate to knock off even one. Slowly, wearily, I zig-zagged up to the last peak without jumping a target. No

doubt about it, they were gone; no use to look further. I muttered a hunter's oath and started angling down towards the red and white dot that was my pickup.

About half way down, not less than 15 chukars burst out of the sage without the slightest warning. Caught flat-footed, I felt the back of my neck prickle with excitement as I desperately jacked a shell into the barrel of my Model 12 Winchester repeater.

My first try folded a climbing bird 40 yards distant. A second shot missed, clipping juniper twigs behind a quartering target. I shoved in a third No. 6 just in time to clobber a tail-ender, trying to mark down my two kills while keeping one eye on the retreating covey. I know better now. The uniform grey-brown upper parts of the red-legged, red-billed runners blend neatly with the desolate terrain they live in, and dead birds can be lost birds

THESE WILY ASIAN PARTRIDGES THRIVE ON OUR HIGH, ROCKY, WESTERN MOUNTAIN RANGES, DISAPPEAR LIKE GHOSTS IN THIN COVER, OFFER RARE SPORT TO KNOW-HOW GUNNERS

if you aren't careful. I searched for 20 minutes before these two were pocketed. . . The rest of the bunch? They vanished. I didn't even bother to look for them. Which was just as well; I wouldn't have found them—and, starting towards the pickup again, I kicked out a "sleeper" that I was lucky enough to nail a good 50 yards away. So I filled my limit, but I couldn't claim much credit—except for the shooting.

Since that day, I've noticed that chukars make a habit of getting up at precisely the exact moment you least expect them. I've hunted these birds a number of times since that initial venture, and it's easy to see why many field biologists, as well as hunters, predict bright futures for them. They are game targets, well able to survive even in well-gunned country.

In Oregon, for instance, no chukars had been introduced until 1951. In 1956, when this hunt happened, I got plenty of action. There was actually an abundance of birds.

California tried an experimental season only a few years ago, and in 1958 enjoyed a two-months opening in some southern sections.

So far, chukars have thrived chiefly in the same type of country over most of the western and Pacific states. The rugged, rocky peaks are fine for them, and this is a country where they compete with few game birds. Some of their range overlaps mountain and valley quail territory and, once in a while, terrain of the Hungarian partridge. But wherever I've hunted them, there's been plenty of room for all. On the other hand, chukars planted in any but the rough, sage brush peaks rarely make a go of it. Here in the Coast Range where I live, where you would expect them to thrive, they may hang on for several years but then slowly dwindle away.

In Eastern Oregon, I talked to miners, cowboys, and Fish and Game field men who told me that *(Continued on page 58)*



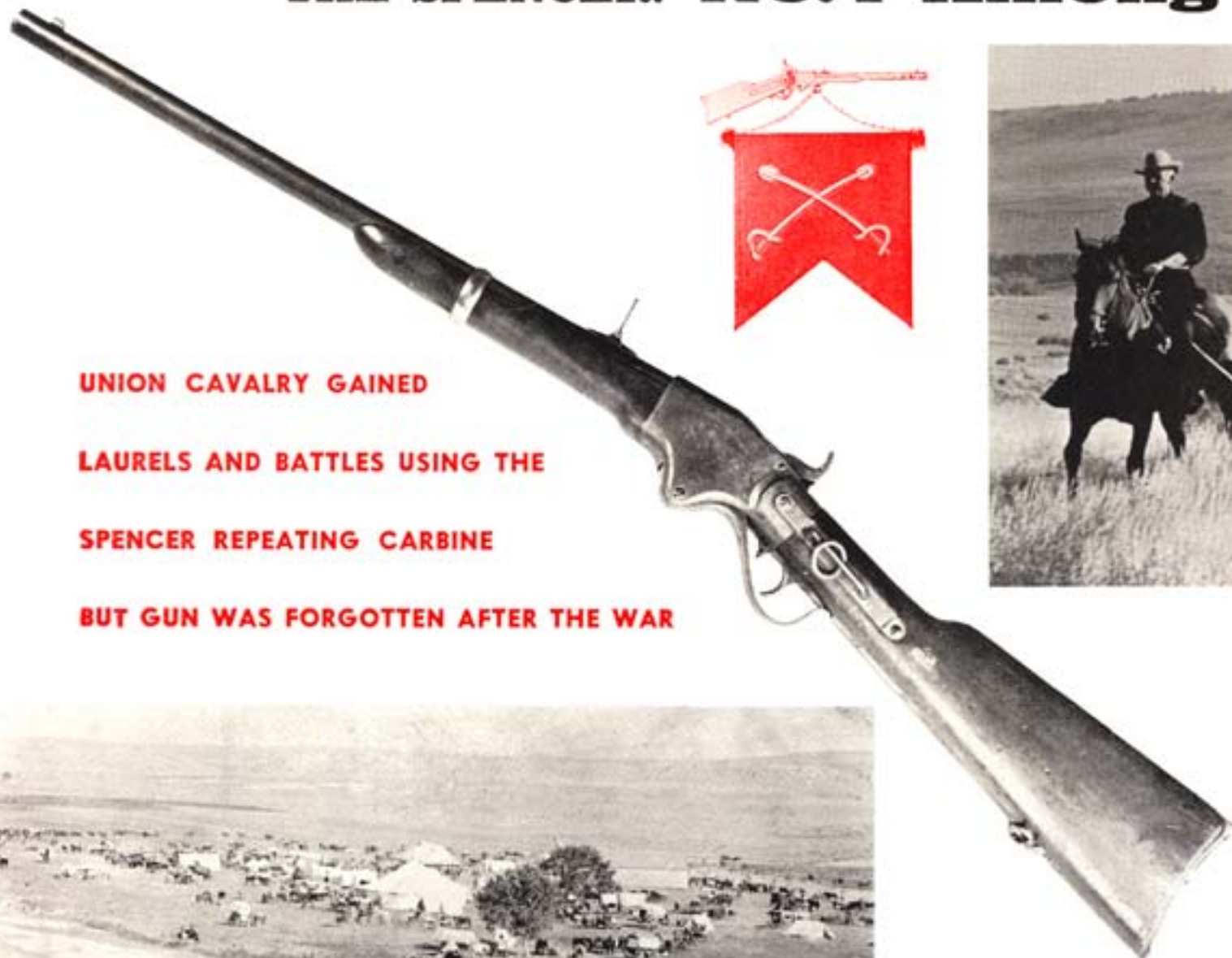
Downing chukars was only half the job: in rocks, brownish birds were tough to find.

Western rifleman Curtis grips scattergun in erect stance; slips shells through pump action rapidly when chukars show themselves.



M12 author uses is take down model, ribbed fore end, with slanted stock.

THE SPENCER: **No.4 Among**



UNION CAVALRY GAINED

LAURELS AND BATTLES USING THE

SPENCER REPEATING CARBINE

BUT GUN WAS FORGOTTEN AFTER THE WAR



Old photo shows cavalry encampment on historic Beecher's Island in Arickaree River, site of classic battle in which handful of men under Col. Forsyth used repeating rifles to defeat massive charges led by chief Roman Nose. Island is named for Lt. Beecher, killed in battle.

By J. L. BEARDSLEY

THE TITLE "the gun that won the west" is claimed by two arms firms today. This may be because historian Frederick Jackson Turner did say the west was won by "The Colt, the Winchester, and the plough." But of all the arms used during that vital period from 1860 until the 1890s, one of the most important in the winning of the west, the 7-shot Spencer rifle and carbine, has been overlooked. Compared to the Winchester-built Henry repeater, of which just 1731 were bought by the Union during the War, over 90,000 Spencers saw service. As the standard Union

cavalry arm it rolled up a devastating record. Later on, as the most effective arm of our too-few horse soldiers in the Indian Wars, it gained new credit. Colonel Custer, charged with the mission of wiping out a Sioux encampment on the Washita river in 1868, was made efficient by use of Spencer magazine carbines in the hands of his few troopers. Custer knew the firepower effectiveness of the Spencers; had used them in the War. Indeed, much of Custer's dash and valour might be attributed to the firepower superiority of his Michigan Cavalry troopers armed with Spencers. Then, in

"The Winners of the West"



Movies garb U.S. Cavalry in uniforms of Spanish War period, but Civil War and Indian campaign troopers depicted (above) actually dressed like sergeant with Spencer at right.

1876, Custer met his end; his basic weapon, a single shot Springfield rifle. The big bone-shocking .52 caliber Spencers had been retired to the surplus sales, and the White Eye soldiers went forth with single shot Springfields to fight the Indian on the Rosebud.

The rifles and carbines of youthful inventor Christopher M. Spencer were critical in the War. Some authorities give Spencer firepower credit for turning key attacks at Gettysburg; weighing the victory for the Union. In campaigns in the border states; in engagements with the Army of the Cumberland, Spencer repeaters figured in the balance. Ironically, a Spencer carbine was among the armament of mad Booth, found when his body was taken after killing Lincoln. And though it has not captured the popular fancy since, one Spencer did a job of capturing which changed history: Booth had a Spencer to hold off pursuers, until his nerve failed, but one nery Michigan Cavalryman carried his Spencer cocked and levered ready, pointed at the pit of Jeff Davis' stomach as he called for the corporal of the guard. Whether the Michigan Cavalryman got the \$100,000 in gold offered for taking Jefferson Davis, late President of the Southern Confederacy, dead or alive, is not known; but his Spencer carbine still reposes, an honored display in a Michigan museum. In truth, the Spencer really "ended the war," and would have done so sooner, if the inventor himself had not run into opposition. Lincoln himself approved the Spencer gun: the shingle at which he fired is preserved today.

Chief of the Ordnance Department was General James W. Ripley. Ripley has been pictured as a stiff-necked, reactionary military idiot for refusing the importunate inventors of patent arms who pressed upon him from every



Maj. North's Pawnee Scouts were undefeated when they carried Spencers into battle.



Col. Forsyth's fifty Spencer-armed scouts resisted 800-2000 attacking plains Indians.





Scalp taken at Arickaree fight, copy of Remington painting of the battle, Forsyth's sword, Indian bow case and quiver, are on display in Kansas State Historical Museum.

direction with devastating weapons to win the War in a day. His conservative affection for the single shot muzzle loading cap-lock Springfield M1855-59-61 Rifled Musket which he had nursed along into production as the most highly perfected M/1 infantry arm of its day, was reasonable and practical in the light of circumstances. He foresaw a prodigious logistical snafu sure to arise if promoters with repeating, old-caliber, not-necessarily-safe-in-the-hands-of-an-unskilled-soldier firearms were allowed to salt the Army with their manifold weapons. These snafus did arise; troops did enter battle with limited equipment or, most shocking to Ripley's thrifty Yankee soul, threw away their patent arms and fought with powder and ball and salvaged muzzle

loading rifles from a previous battlefield. There were, among the over 30 different styles of patent carbines offered for Union Cavalry, one or two exceptions. Some, such as the Burnside, persisted in quantity because of political pull. Others, such as the Sharps, used standard powder and ball, and were not dependent on specialized ammunition. But only about 30,000 Sharps arms in all were bought officially by the Union during the War. Once the initial objections of General Ripley were overruled, the North bought and kept on buying Spencers until 94,196 Carbines and 12,471 rifles were placed into the hands of many Blue-belly fighting men. To support these arms in the field, 53,233,924 rounds of cartridges were obtained, special metal rimfire shells much like a .22 Short, in proportion but .50, .52 and .56 caliber.

This gun that "won the War," and in the hands of Indian-pacifying troopers made possible the winning of the west, was designed in the turbulent days just prior to 1860. The market was good for "patent arms," especially for military types having some application to the growing militia movement of the late 1850's. C. M. Spencer, who was to become one of the leading figures in the world's machine tool industry after the war, got his start with a U.S. patent issued March 6, 1860.

This contribution to the Union Cause was a lever-operated rolling block repeating rifle, with seven cartridges pushed forward by a follower in a butt-stock tube magazine. The follower tube was pulled out in loading, and seven rounds dropped in. Ammo came packaged in 7-round brown cardboard boxes. When the Spencers achieved wider distribution in 1863, Blakeslee's Cartridge Box, a septagonal leather back-pack holding seven 7-shot loading tubes, gave the Spencer-armed trooper a high rate of fire. The Spencer metallic cartridge played an important part in its success.

The inventor took as a model the rim-fire .22 cartridge brought out by Smith & Wesson for their first revolver, in 1857, patented ultimately in 1860. He scaled it up to approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " bore, designed several actual cartridges which were tabulated as "Spencer" loads although one or two of the other carbines of the period were designed to fire the same round. Spencer had to perfect, or aid in perfecting, equipment to draw a big cartridge case which was a proportionately big manufacturing problem. Ammunition was made for Spencer (Continued on page 41)



Scarce Infantry model Spencer (top), caliber 56-50, 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. barrel, was built by Burnside Rifle Co., 1865. Rare sporting Spencer, caliber .56-46, 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. barrel, was built for big game hunters after Civil War, is in Winchester Collection.



New Coturnix quail, "four ounces of epicurean delight and a challenge to any hunter," are being released in many states.

By K. D. CURTIS



New Target For Upland Guns

NEW QUAIL PROMISES FAST SPORT IN AREAS WHERE BOBWHITES CANNOT SURVIVE. HE'S SMALL, FAST, AND A TASTY MORSEL

A BIG SURPRISE is in store for gun sportsmen. Here's how it happens:

You are out hunting, hiking past places where you'd never expect to find game birds. Maybe you're prowling a grassy, unwooded, shrubless pasture, or you're in ranch country where ordinarily only the meadowlark, cowbird, or killdeer rise to wing. As you know, there are millions of such acres in America today where few or no game birds can be found.

Then the surprise is sprung!

Suddenly, with a vibrant *w-h-i-r-r-r*, a speedy little game-fowl rockets right out from under your toes and, like the quail he is, drives ahead as rapidly as he rises. You stand flabbergasted as he flies in an ascending arc, with minimum up-and-down bobble, and climbs only high enough to make for the next cover—the spot he's likely had in mind just in case he's flushed. His flight pattern is much like that of a Bobwhite quail "single" flushed without benefit of point.

Don't let the size of this little fellow fool you. He's a true game bird, and a delicious treat on the table. Millions of Europeans and Asians know him well, though he has been a stranger in the Western Hemisphere. He is the Coturnix Quail (*coturnix coturnix*).

Not long ago, I talked with Melvin Steen, the man who has had a lot to do with the introduction of this newest American game bird. Now, the new head of the Nebraska Game Commission, Steen was recently with the Missouri game commission, where he did a lot of experimenting

with the Coturnix. In fact, Missouri pioneered Coturnix breeding and propagation in this country.

Steen, for years chairman of the committee of the International Wildlife Commission for the study and introduction of exotic game birds, remembers how he "accidentally" encountered the idea of transplanting the Coturnix Quail. One day, while with the (Continued on page 53)



Poised for covey rise, Ralph Houk, Dave Dennis, Bob Peel, and four-legged hunter named Gus wait for feathered bombs to burst out of upland cover near Hutchinson, Ks.

CHUCK HUNTING Is Not

"For Experts Only"



Vinson can spot chucks at distance through Weaver K8 on Colt 57 but here takes close look at opening of hoof-breaking dugout.

DON'T LET 'EM KID YOU,

CHUCK SHOOTING DOESN'T REQUIRE SUPER-

NATURAL SKILL OR SUPER EQUIPMENT.

FACTORY LOADS IN FACTORY RIFLES WILL DO

By CARLOS VINSON

"COME WITH ME tomorrow," said Freeman Brown, his voice over the telephone fairly crackling with excitement, "and I'll show you more woodchucks in less time than you've seen in a coon's age!"

Now, that's a challenge it would be hard for me to resist, even if I tried. And I knew Freeman could make good on his promise. A group of Van Buren County farmers had been after Freeman for some time past to come up, and bring some one up with him, to help thin out the woodchucks that were playing havoc in their fields. This was mid-June, and here in Tennessee, that's about the beginning of a varmint season that stays open from then until frost. Freeman and I are both dyed-in-the-wool fans for chuck shooting, and this first hunt of the season challenge was too good to miss. I was ready at eight next morning.

So far, this sounds (to chuck hunters) like just another hunt—fascinating sport, but what's to write about? I'll make it even more average by admitting that Freeman and I are just average Joes; we use no outlandish equipment, no magic methods, and we're not the world's best rifle shots. But we'd been arguing some points through the winter, and this was a chance to prove (or disprove) some theories. And we did it. At least, we proved them to our satisfaction.

Freeman was shooting a Model 722 Remington, .244 caliber, with a K8 Weaver scope. My rifle of the day was a Colt "57" (recently replaced by the new line of "Coltsman" rifles), in .243 caliber, also wearing a Weaver K8 scope.

There were several other points of difference, all of which had figured in our winter arguments. The scope on Freeman's rifle had been mounted by an expert, and the same expert had done the sighting in. Freeman was shooting hand-loaded ammunition, and this loading job too had

been done by a real handloading expert. The fellow has six or seven hundred bucks worth of loading equipment, and does everything scientifically. The .244 handloads carried 70 grain bullets.

My pore little ol' Colt 57 had not been so pampered. I had followed the instructions that came with my K8 Weaver scope, and mounted it myself. I did the sighting-in job all by myself, too. I sighted in at 40 measured yards, and this put me on zero at 250 yards. My ammunition was factory loads all the way, for the sighting-in and also for the hunt. I used Winchester Super Speed cartridges, .243 caliber (6 mm), with soft-point bullets in the 80 grain weight. We had argued a lot about those bullet weights, as well as which rifle and which caliber was best and how would my factory ammo and home scope mounting stack up against Freeman's expertized equipment.

On the way out to the hunting grounds, Freeman stopped at a place where we would have a high ledge back stop, to see just how our rifles were shooting. Naturally, he used his handloads, and I used my factory ammo.

At 40 yards, both rifles were smack on the money. At that distance, we riddled a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch black bull on white paper. Next, we increased the distance to 250 yards and used a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch bull. There was a fairly strong cross breeze blowing, but even at the 250 yard distance we made no allowances for it. Again, we were both on the money. There wasn't enough difference in our targets to detect a difference. With three shots each, we tore up the $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch bull. We took good rests while firing, and the cross wind didn't seem to vary the courses of our bullets one bit.

Satisfied that our rifles were sighted correctly, we motor-ed on to the shooting grounds, checked in with our farmer hosts, and got started.

While glassing the first alfalfa field with our binoculars,



Glassing shows chuck feeding (1), then Vinson takes offhand 80 yard shot with .243 Colt rifle.



Van Buren County farmer who let hunters check his chucks compares kills with Freeman Brown (M722, rt.).

we spotted no less than six feeding chucks. Two of them were grizzled old adults, and the other four were half to two-thirds grown young ones. The ranges, I judged, were from 125 to 300 yards. Through my 9 X 35 Bushnell binoculars, I could follow the movements of even those 300 yards away perfectly. The cross breeze was still blowing, and I whispered to Freeman to ask him what he thought about it. "I'm still not going to make any allowances for it," he whispered back. I decided not to make any allowance either. We had needed none on paper targets; why should we need it on live ones?

Laying down, I found a big sedge sod I could use as a forearm rest. I decided to try one of the old chucks in the far corner of the field, a good 300 yards away. Freeman elected to try the other adult chuck, which was a good 250 yards from our shooting positions.

"I'm going to center my cross-hairs smack on his shoulder the next time he sits up," my friend whispered. "What're you going to do?" "I think I'll try to center on the head as he sits up," I whispered back. "That should make my bullet strike about the shoulder area—I hope."

Freeman was shooting from a sitting position, with a tightened sling and knee rest. "When I count five, shoot," he whispered, as both chucks suddenly sat up to scan the surroundings. It was a rather long, whispered count which gave me plenty of time to center my scope's cross-hairs on the chuck's head.

Both rifles cracked at almost the same time, sounding like one long report. My chuck seemed to explode in its tracks. "Mine disappeared in the alfalfa," Freeman said,



Brown lines up on pasture check a couple hundred yards out, taking firm sitting position which allows him to get good elbow support.

as he worked a fresh cartridge into the barrel. He was not sure just what his shot had done. Through my binoculars, I could see my chuck laying very still in the alfalfa, and I was sure that it was a clean kill.

Two of the young chucks ran a few yards to den entrances, and then sat up for one more look-see to find out what all the noise was about. Not many old chucks will do this, but most of the youngsters will. That's why we always try for the old ones first when both old and young are out feeding in the same field.

Having worked a fresh cartridge into the chamber of my rifle, I centered the cross-hairs on one of the young chucks. I judged the distance to be 150 yards, so I held about two inches below where I wanted for the bullet to strike. In other words, I centered the cross hairs on the top part of the young chuck's belly (Continued on page 39)



Magnificent 54" kudu horns please Keith and tracker (top), look fine mounted. Keith's .333 OKH 300 gr. slug killed clean at 92 yd. range.

Africa's Great

By ELMER KEITH

I WENT TO AFRICA with the intention of getting all of the Big Five: elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, and leopard; and I wanted a sable antelope. That was about the extent of my planning. But when White Hunters Ltd. appointed me their Western Representative, John Lawrence, my white hunter, told me that I must now get a greater Kudu "if only because he is our trade mark and on our letter heads." After gazing at the beautiful mounted specimen in the outer office of White Hunters Ltd., I quite agreed with John. Greater Kudu was added forthwith to my "most wanted" list.

We drove south from Nairobi, 175 miles to Arusha, Tanganyika, in John's safari Jeep, rebuilt with hunting body for the grueling work of African hunting. The big Austin truck followed us, with some ten boys perched on top of the mountain of camp equipment and food. John's little elephant trackers rode with us in the back seat of the Jeep. At Arusha, we spent a day purchasing licenses, going through the Game Department museum, and getting everything lined up for our long trek down into southern Tanganyika. The general game license, plus the special licenses for the big five, the greater kudu, the sable, and the oryx put a \$700-plus dent in my bank roll, but we were then ready for the bush.

WISE AS A HEAVY-ANTLERED OLD WHITE-TAIL BUCK, WARY

AS A HARD-HUNTED BULL ELK, FAST, AND FEARED ALIKE BY MEN AND LIONS,

THE GREATER KUDU IS ONE OF AFRICA'S TOP TROPHIES

Our first camp out of Arusha overlooked part of Lake Manyarra and the scarp of the Rift wall. It was a very pretty camp, with a line of palms on one side and the plain leading away to the lake on the other. That night I did not sleep much. It was my first night in the African blue, and I clearly heard, several times, the grating, coughing, grunt of a leopard half a mile away, and the moaning of a lion in the distance. Toward morning, a hyena let out its maniacal cackle right under my tent veranda and six feet from my bed. I was a tenderfoot in Africa, in spite of 30 years of big game outfitting and guiding from Mexico to Alaska in America, and I slept with my .476 Westley Richards loaded and in easy reach on a camp chair beside my cot.

I was awake long before daylight, listening to the cries of the many strange birds: francolin, guinea fowl, and others. Then my personal boy called with a tray and his cheery "*Chi Beana*," and I drank a cup of scalding hot tea, washed, and slid into my clothes while John and the trackers, Galu and Guyo, waited for me in the Jeep. That was the way the next 40 days were to start: up before



Tank-like and dangerously unpredictable, rhino need big medicine like Keith's .476 double W-R.

Gray Ghost

daylight, a cup of tea and a hurried wash, and off in the Jeep for the hunting grounds, where soon the burning African sun popped over the horizon and the day began.

This camp netted us a fine oryx, a seven foot leopard, and wonderful guinea and francolin shooting. It was all new to me and my eyes soaked it up: herds of wildebeast, zebra, oryx, and occasional eland, grants, and wart hogs; and once I got a glimpse of the great yellow head of a lion a half mile away in long grass.

We drove next to Singida and spent a night there in a little hotel run by an Indian; thence on south through Manyoni and deeper into that African bush. Our next camp netted a fine old bull elephant with tusks measuring 5½ and 7 feet, and an exceptional wart hog with great tusks protruding some 11 inches and with a 14 inch spread at their tips.

From here we pushed on west and south, finally cutting a trail deep into some rocky hills to the sable country. This was miombo bush country and fairly heavily timbered



Wily, fast, hard to see in spite of size, kudu are ranked high among Africa's choice trophies. Keith's specimen, 54" horns, is close to record.

with thorn and the miombo bush on which both Kudu and sable like to feed. We camped a quarter mile from a water hole, or what passed for a water hole in African parlance. It was a mud hole, to my notion, its contents resembling fairly thin cement. But all manner of game watered there; we found the tracks of elephant, rhino, buffalo, eland, wart hog, zebra, hartebeast, sable, Kudu, and other species on the muddy banks. And our boys somehow strained, filtered, and distilled that muddy soup until they wound up with clear, sweet, drinking water which, with a small mixture

of orange squash, made a very good palatable drink. It also mixed well with Scotch.

Though the beautiful cow kudu, resplendent in their grey white striped coats, stood within 30 yards of our Jeep trail and watched us slide by, we had but one sight of a good bull. We spotted him a quarter mile ahead, in the edge of some heavy thorn. I slid out of the Jeep with my .333 O.K.H. loaded with 300 grain soft nose, and attempted to head him off in the bush some 400 yards from the Jeep. But he was far too wary; I never got another glimpse of his great, spiral-horned head.

The kudu has tiny hooves for an animal as big as a small bull or very large cow elk. The hooves of a great bull are only about the size of a 150 pound deer. How such a great beast can travel on such tiny feet is beyond me, but travel he surely can. . . We trailed two big rhino tracks from this camp, only to find old cows with good long horns, but both with young, so we had to turn them down. They scented us, snorted, swapped ends, and

hide there and a wounded elephant or buffalo could never get at him. They spend the night in these hide-outs, poke their old muzzle loaders almost against the side of a beast, and let go. Ivory, rhino horn, hide, and biltong all bring good prices by native standards, and this is the greatest problem the Tanganyika Game Department has confronting them.

The morning we left this camp, we drove by the band of sable from which I had removed the old bull. Another great black bull had taken over the harem, and he was a beauty, with even longer horns than the one I had killed. He stopped and looked us over at 60 yards. This, to my opinion, is Africa's most beautiful antelope. He is proud as a peacock, knows his strength, and fears nothing but man. Even lion give him a wide berth. Sable, roan, and oryx are all fighters and have been known to kill both men and lions.

We made a long all-day drive, partly with no road, and arrived on an open timbered ridge for our kudu camp.



Used for lion bait, wart hogs are frequent targets for all African hunters. Shown left is Keith's best specimen, with tusks 11 in. long, with 14" spread. Kill was made with .333 OKH Mauser. Camps, like one above, were named for trophies taken at that location.

departed with miniature steam whistles blowing, and I shoved the safety back on the .476 Westley Richards as we hiked sadly back to the Jeep.

I killed a grand old sable bull here while hunting for a tree in which to hang a lion bait; but although we saw kudu tracks, we never glimpsed a greater Kudu bull. Once we trailed a pair of lions a long way, until a herd of buffalo obliterated the lions' tracks and we never could pick them up again. One morning we found a cow elephant near our water hole. She had been wounded in the head and left hip by a poacher, and she was very much on the prod. We got a wonderful close-up shot of her as she came for us in bright, hot sunlight.

This water hole, like every one I saw in Tanganyika, had its poacher hide-out near the water. Poaching accounts for ten times as much game as is legally shot there. I am convinced. This poacher hide-out was a hole dug back under the roots of a great thorn tree and only six feet from the edge of the narrow water hole. A native could

It was a very pretty place with shade trees and miombo bush interspersed with thorn. Many rocky ridges lay beyond this camp, and there were several good water holes within a few miles. We soon spotted tracks of the Greater Kudu, more than we had seen anywhere. Native poachers also worked this beautiful country, and we jumped a pair from a hide-out at the water hole. A great bull rhino had watered there the day before. He made the largest tracks of any I saw on the trip; but, though we trailed him a good ten miles one day, we never did catch up with him. A bull rhino had killed a native near this camp a short time before. His horn went into the man's buttocks and penetrated clear up through the heart.

There were rhino all over the place, as well as kudu, so we took both my .476 and the .333 O.K.H. with us every day, never knowing what the day would offer. Guineas were very plentiful and I killed enough with the 12 bore so that all the boys had chicken dinner—and do they love chicken. All I had to do was say "chicken," (Continued on page 31)

and they would grab the shotgun and a box of shells and come running. Those natives were the best retrievers I ever hunted with. They would spend any amount of time running down a wounded bird, then would cut his throat in accordance with their Mohammedan religion so they could eat him.

Once as we were working our way back to camp through the thorn bush, I saw the last six feet of a big black cobra going swiftly into a clump of thorn. This was one of the only three poisonous snakes I saw in 40 days in the African bush. This country was inhabited by a great many mongoose of several different varieties. We saw packs of them every day. They must clean up an awful lot of snakes, and we wished them luck.

The morning of the 29th, John sent Guyo and a local native to look for kudu while we trailed another rhino. But our rhino fed down wind and into thorn so thick we knew we could never get him, so we returned to camp. Guyo joined us there, reporting that he had seen two great bull kudu in an old shamba on the other side of the ridge. Knowing that Kudu like to feed in the early morning and late evenings, we decided not to work that shamba until dark. The thorn was thick and full of rhino sign, so we had to carry the heavy rifles at the ready. Little Guyo packed my .333 O.K.H., while I kept the .476 in my hands at all times. John had his old .416 filled with solids in case we ran into a belligerent rhino. Coming into close contact with one of these animals unexpectedly can be dangerous!

We worked our way to the edge of the shamba and spent a half hour looking out over the partly cleared land. There was no sign of game, and John decided to move north a quarter mile to a spur ridge overlooking another shamba that had grown up in miombo bush. We arrived at the last cover and John, Gabu, the native guide, and I all spent considerable time looking over the expanse of bush and open country before going on out to the edge of the ridge. There, Guyo looked down the steep slope below us, and instantly his black eyes took on a shine. He rushed to me with the .333 O.K.H., grabbed my .476 from my hands, whispering, *Bigwa, bwana, pigu!* I followed him to the edge of the thorn, and John moved forward until he could also look down the slope of the hill with the glasses. I turned the safety over on the .333 O.K.H. and worked out to the edge of the hill until I too could look down.

There, only 90 yards away, was a great bull kudu feeding on the big miombo leaves. Only his head, horns, and neck, and the front of the left shoulder were visible, but one look through the scope was enough for me and I swung the cross hairs on him. I saw the shadow of thorns through the cross hairs and moved slightly to my right to clear the bush. Just then, John whispered, "Hurry! He's going to go."

As the cross hairs centered at base of neck and front edge of shoulder, I squeezed. As I finished the trigger squeeze, I whispered back to John, "He is too late."

At the crack of the little .333 O.K.H. and the plunk of the heavy 300 grain soft nose, the kudu dropped out of my sight. Instantly, I threw another cartridge into the chamber and started to aim again, intending to give him another for safety; but all I could see

(Continued on page 40)



KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

Senator Robert C. Byrd,
West Virginia



ONE OF THE fundamental questions that stood as a potential threat to the successful launching of the United States was quieted by the adoption of the Second Amendment. By that Amendment, the people who had but recently ratified the Constitution, granting to the Congress power to raise and maintain armies, made it clear that there was still a residuum of military authority beyond the reach of the central government. They emphasized to all and sundry that the States still recognized the responsibility for their own housekeeping. The Amendment, I like to think, is a continuing reaffirmation of the worth and value of the individual. The militia—that great body of the citizenry—is still a potent force. Their right to "bear arms" is no threat to peace, but a guaranty of protective strength.

Senator Dennis Chavez,
New Mexico

YOUR REQUEST is one which has been asked repeatedly in the past few years and is one which means something a lot different today than it did at the time the Constitution was written. Concededly, the Second Amendment does not today carry the significance or pervasive importance of, say, the 5th or the 14th Amendment. Nor indeed does it have the same appeal that it did in 1791, when the memory of restrictive measures upon the Colonies was still fresh. But it is not dead. And while the militia may have given way to atomic bombs as the means of public protection, there is still place for the individual initiative and courage typical of those ancestors of ours who demanded the right "to keep and bear arms" for the security of their free States.

Representative Clarence J. Brown,
Seventh Ohio District

I BELIEVE FULLY in the provisions of the Second Amendment to our Constitution, and feel there should be no restrictions on the proper ownership and use, by private citizens, of what may be designated as normal firearms. However, I do believe that it is proper to have restrictions against the ownership of such arms as machine-guns, submachine guns, sawed-off shot guns, etc., by other than officials authorized to own and use them. Then, too, legal restrictions against the carrying of concealed weapons or the ownership of deadly weapons by those with a criminal record could and should be held as not infringing on the Constitutional rights of citizens under the Second Amendment.



Congressman J. Floyd Breeding,
Fifth District, Kansas

IT IS MY FEELING that this amendment is very important to the Constitution of the United States and I would certainly help defend it. I believe any person should be allowed to have his own guns and ammunition, and to use them as he sees fit, so long as he abides by the rules and regulations laid down by the game laws of our States. I would be very much concerned if we revoked this freedom, because if every gun had to be registered, and every box of shells accounted for, it certainly would be infringing upon one's rights as a citizen.

Congressman H. Carl Andersen,
Minnesota



BY THE ADOPTION of the Second Amendment to our Constitution we established the principle that each citizen has the right, and with it the responsibility, to arm and prepare to defend himself, his State and his Nation if called upon to do so. As a Nation dedicated to the cause of the Prince of Peace we choose this course of individual right and responsibility rather than march armed to the teeth into the meeting places of the world. We pray and work for peace, but if our efforts should fail it might once again become the responsibility of our citizenry to take up individual arms in the last, desperate battle for freedom and survival. In such event we would surely bless our forefathers who guaranteed to each and every one of us that "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

By HERBERT ROBINSON

The Old Man's Gun



OLD GUNS, LIKE OTHER OLD FRIENDS, ARE THERE, READY TO SERVE YOU WHEN FEAR OR DANGER THREATEN YOU OR YOURS



THERE'S NOTHING like a man's gun room for remembering.

Sometimes when things become a little hectic, I retire to my gun room to study my books or to rub down a shotgun or a rifle. I like to clean guns. The fragrance of gun oil and powder is a man's smell, a gun man's smell.

I have before me an old lever action Winchester that was built for the .32-20 black powder cartridge. Maybe it's not so old; they say a person is as young as he feels, and if that can apply to a gun, this old rifle is young. It has a serial number of less than 10,000, and it has been much used, but the stock is still firm with no cracks. It has a few nicks and bruises, but these are proud scars, like a man's battle scars. The action is smooth as only a well used gun can be. The barrel is somewhat leaded, yet after more than 60 years' use, it will still group in two inches at 50 yards.

Funny how important a gun becomes as it shares more and more in your life. I remember back in the middle thirties. I was just a young one then. It was a stormy, windy night. The old pine next to the house howled with each renewed burst of wind. Lightning flashed, making visible the grotesque, gnarled shapes of the apple trees in the orchard. This, and the "bang-bang" of the barn door, alarmed us young ones. Dad didn't pay much attention to the storm. He just looked up from his paper once in awhile and asked if it had started to rain yet.

Then Mom called to dad from the kitchen where she had been doing the dishes. She didn't say much; just pointed out the kitchen window to the barn. There was a light in the barn—then darkness—then light again, flicking, irregular. Dad mumbled something about, "Looks like somebody

usin' a flashlight." It did, too. And that did it. Us kids were scared stiff. And, kid like, we huddled before the dark window and let our imaginations build up our fears. I think Mom was scared too, though she would never admit it, then or later.

Dad walked to the fireplace and took down the old Winchester rifle. He levered a shell into the chamber and picked up a lantern on the way to the door.

Funny how our fears subsided when dad loaded up that old gun. We watched him fight the wind to the barn, saw him pause for a moment beside one of the red-lighted windows. Then he disappeared inside.

It seemed like ages before he came out. When he did appear, he seemed quite nonchalant...but the suspense



was unbearable. He latched the barn door and walked slowly back to the house. When he came in, he jacked the load out of the chamber, hung the gun back on its peg, then looked at us—and grinned.

"Loose light bulb," he said. "Wind was shaking it, makin' it flash on and off."

Just the same, as we kids huddled under the blankets in the upstairs room that night, we analyzed every sound, every creak of the old house, and (Continued on page 33)

every movement outside, every flash of lightning helping us to imagine all kinds of night monsters. A boy's dreams are a part of the wool and warp of the fabric of his manhood, and I went to sleep that night dreaming brave dreams of wildest adventures with the old man's gun.

The old rifle was a hunting gun, of course, not a weapon. But it was called upon for defense again, several years later.

We were in another house. Grandmother was staying with us while our parents were on a trip. The house was an old "shot-gun" type with a small room built on to the gable end. We kids slept in that room, and we were there this night I'm remembering. Grandma was there, too, telling us stories.

The moon was full, lighting the countryside with a pale, ghostly brilliance. You could see, across a field of "shock" corn, the old lonesome oak that stood on top of a distant hill. Half-way up this hill stood an old red barn where migrant workers used to camp. Grandma was telling us local legends—about "Black Anna," the witch, who used to live in this locality, and about the three "gypsy" boys who were hung from that very tree yonder and how every stormy night you could still hear them begging for mercy.

That put us "in the mood," of course.



I've forgotten which of us first saw the dark shape moving between the shocks of corn toward our back gate. But we all saw it, and our neck-hair was all a-bristle when the shape stopped for a moment at the old iron fence and we heard the rusty old gate creak open.

Grandma had turned out the light by this time, and she came to the window again to see if she could recognize the night visitor. But she couldn't; his wide-brimmed hat shaded his face. Rigid with excitement, we watched as the black figure crossed the yard and walked into the blackness of the porch. We heard him as he tried to open the kitchen door. It was locked, and he started to shake it. My Uncle Ed lived about a mile away from us and Grandma raised the window then and called, "Is that you Ed?" But the shadow only moved over to the end of the porch and stood there, not speaking. Then he moved back to the door again and began to shake it violently.

That was enough for Grandma. She took the old rifle down from the wall pegs, poked the muzzle thru the half-opened window and said, firmly, "I've got a gun here. Speak up—or git!"

About thirty seconds passed, and then the

(Continued on page 65)



AUGUST IS THE MONTH of months for the clay target shooting fraternity. The month is bracketed by national tournaments in both skeet and trap.

Sunday, August 2, is preliminary day at the 1959 NSSA World Championships, on the grounds of the Princess Anne Gun Club, Lynnhaven, Virginia. Serious gunning for the skeet titles will begin on Monday, with the 410 bore races, followed by small gauge Tuesday, twenty-gauge events on Wednesday, and the 250-target all-bore championships through Thursday, Friday, and until noon Saturday.

1959's NSSA World Championship events will be the richest on record for the skeet-gunner. The National Skeet Shooting Association dangles \$7,500 worth of trophies, about 350 in number, as the pot of gold at the end of the skeet shooting rainbow. And, speaking of gold, the NSSA has also sweetened purses to the tune of \$5,500 for the big event. Five hundred dollars of the purse will be applied to Preliminary Day. Since no trophies will be awarded on the warm-up day, five dollars of each entry on that day goes toward the kitty for shooters who tune up with hot scores.

All of which should guarantee that the 1959 running of skeet's biggest event will be the best ever, and that August, 1959, will be the greatest month in clay target annals. The month which begins on such an optimistic note should bow out in a blaze of glory, since the 60th Grand American Trapshooting tournament festivities close on the 29th. Preliminary days for the Grand are August 21-22-23. Record firing begins on Monday, August 24, and closes on Saturday, the 29th.

Amateur Trapshooting Association officials plan extra drum-beating for the 60th Grand American, the oldest and largest of all sports tournaments. It is expected that more than 2500 shooters will fire at one hundred targets each in the Grand American Handicap Championship event, high point of the tournament, on Friday, August 28.

And, if past history of the Grand is a reliable guide, some unknown shooter will be the handicap champion of the world, and several thousand dollars richer, when the sun sets on August 28. The 16-yard, doubles, and high-over-all trapshooting titles usually go to well-known shooters whose tournament records are ATA history; but the richest prize of all, the Handicap event, is up for grabs to each of the 2500 hopefuls who will be on hand Friday, the 28th of August.

Extra attention other than the hoop-la attendant to the milestone of sixty years will be focused on the Grand this year by the expected return to the shooting scene of Mr. Trapshooting himself, Washington State's

Arnold Riegger. Arnold probably feels at this point that trapshooters have been practicing diligently during his short lay-off from the tournament circuit. In a recent Reno handicap event, Riegger broke 98x100 from the rarified atmosphere of the 27 yard line, then had to shoot 150 targets in a shoot-off to settle for fifth place. His feelings may have been much like mine, when after congratulating myself on breaking 98 from the 21-yard line in the Preliminary Grand, I had to shoot another 100 targets to transfer the seventh place silverware to my trophy case. Some days it's tough all over! But, that's what makes the clay target sports so exciting, and accounts for their steady growth.

ANGLES AND STRAIGHT-AWAYS

Trap and skeet shooters all over the nation mourn the sudden death of Jim Wareham, popular and well-known manager of Chicago's Lincoln Park Gun Club. Jim was a gentleman, a shooter, and a friend of all shooters. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.

★ ★ ★

The shooting bill-of-fare for August, 1959, also includes an event of international flavor in the form of the Pan-American Games Skeet shoot, to be held at Lincoln Park Gun Club, in Chicago.

★ ★ ★

Be sure to bring the wife along to the Grand this year. Entertainment for the ladies has been a fixture of the big trapshoot; this year, a new building insures that the always-enjoyable program for the ladies will be even more attractive. After all, you will want her to be there when you are presented with the winning trophy, so bring her along. The Grand has always been a family vacation for many shooting families; this year it will prove more so, because of the new facilities.

★ ★ ★

To our readers who may not be tournament trap and skeet shooters, why not plan your vacation to include a stop in Virginia for the skeet tournament, or a stop-over on U.S. 40, at Vandalia, Ohio, ten miles north of Dayton, for the Grand American. It will be a high point of your vacation, and you'll be glad you stopped.

◆ Washington, D. C. Sir Harold Caccia, Britain's ambassador to the United States, not only hits the mark verbally and diplomatically but even more literally. Sir Harold spends much of his leisure time hunting or target shooting. A crack shot, on a recent Austrian Alps vacation, he bagged an ibex, five stag, and a chamois.

★ ★ ★

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All NRA Very good or better!

CAL. 30-06

FINEST and LATEST U.S. Army Bolt Action Rifle!



Virtually unfired . . . fresh from government cases . . . AND ONLY \$27.95!

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SURPLUS M1917 30-06 rifle—famed Springfield/Mausser "speedlock" action designed to cock on closing, complete with precision micrometer receiver sight (where it belongs!). For you telescope enthusiasts, the bolt and safe are **already** designed for scope clearance. This super-strength action can be converted to take virtually ANY cartridges but it already shoots the BEST OF 'EM ALL, the fantastic U.S. 30-06, available in every spot in the good of U.S.A.! (The most highly developed cartridge ever made!) Bargain U.S. made M.C. ammo only \$7.50 per 100, ultimate Model '17 seekers at only \$5.00 additional.)

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6.5MM ITALIAN IN CLIPS . . . \$7.50

Specimens averaging original 6.5mm Italian ball loads for all these important rifles. Packed in original 6 rd. clips ready to use in all those Italian 6.5 mm rifles and machine guns. Cheapest price ever offered for these magnificent repeating cartridges. Components alone worth double!

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Exceptional original Mauser from commercial export source in 20 rd. boxes each loaded with 7mm Mauser, work to enable flawless bullet pull and effortless ejection, under this "Pistol Ammo" special today—economy and verities combine! Wait no longer!

U.S. .30 (.30-40 CALIBER) KRAG . . . \$5.50

Leave it to Ye Old Hunter to return promptly with this original Krags rifle, complete with original Krags rifle, beautiful original Commercial U. S. Army 200 gr. 87 loads all the best that even reloading companies can supply, not available elsewhere, so better order now to be sure! Manufactured by Winchester, Etc.

.30-06 "FULLIN" AMMO . . . \$3.50

No one, but the one, ever sold "Fullin" Ammo as this incredible price. Ye Old Hunter was fortunate to be secured in buying to order himself. This rare commodity was specially reserved just for you customers, before your pocketbook with this fabulous price. A shocking value!

9MM F.N. STEYR PISTOL . . . \$5.00

This amazing Red Hunter favorite! This most shattering offer of the century. Each original Steyr 9mm Steyr pistol powder ammo packed in original long boxes, 10000.

.42 COLT BERDAN RIFLE . . . \$10.00

Amazing Red Hunter Ammo buyer and shattering deal! Original .42 Colt Berdan cartridges in unopened 6 rd. packets from U.S. Arsenal. Paper-jacketed 210 gr. ball lots in like new condition as this unbelievable bargain.

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Who else but Ye Old Hunter would have found this bargain? Original Remington 11MM loads in original paper—275 27 load bullet makes superb target or hunting load. For those who like a 43 Remington rolling block. Appears magnificent or unobtainable elsewhere. Worth twice the price for components alone!

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 - Knicker 30 06 caliber machine gun . . . \$2.00
- Knicker 30 06 magazine for all box type magazines. See conditions for all items magazines, and for special offers. If postage is not included in order, instructions must be shipped by First-class Express collect. Add postage and tax.
- Buy them in these fabulous magazines for the low price listed plus only \$5.00 delivery (if not for the SECOND one. Take advantage of this special too!

GIVE-AWAYS GALORE

Ye Old Hunter—still recovering from last year's give-away sale and only saved from complete bankruptcy by a fantastic horse-trade in the Shetland Islands has the gall to again hazard foreclosure for the sake of his friends. Having again received this year's "Huntsman of Distinction" award, thus permanently retiring the cup, awarded by the Octopus Arms Associates (remember their tentacles are everywhere) and also recently crowned undisputed champ of the "Gypsy Gladiators"; Ye Old Hunter spared no effort to share his joyous good fortune with others, and give everyone a chance to save himself a fortune on these beautiful, exotic sale items—and even to purchase the ultimate value Model 1917 (above) with savings obtained here. TODAY!!

★ 1/2 PRICE SALE ★

SALE ITEMS CONFINED TO THIS BLOCK ONLY

YES—UNBELIEVABLE AS IT SEEMS, you must believe those raptured orbs of yours. This is the give-away of a lifetime. Imagine—you pay our already bargain price for one of these rifle or ammunition specials, and for only \$1.00 more you receive a second rifle of the same type, or a second 100 rounds of ammunition of the same caliber. Don't delay on this special, special. Order today from this ad. Immediate delivery!

REMINGTON ROLLING BLOCK 7MM and 11MM REMAINS \$1.95

\$1.95!! YES \$1.95 CHINK OF IT!! Even you an absolutely unbelievably incomplete original M1917 Remington or 11MM repeater machine or Ye Old Hunter will select receiver and barrel assembly. Order now for the surface of that dream specter, shipped 11000000 collect.

PANCHO VILLA SPECIALS! CAL. 7MM REMINGTON ROLLING BLOCKS

ONLY 92¢ per lb.!!! TOTAL PRICE \$8.28!

Yes, here it is, the original "gun crank condition" Tom Remington. You can almost see the finger prints which the former (anatomical) owners pressed into the wood as they realized the jig was up. Instantly the Remingtons like these! All guns perfectly complete. Finest and best ready to clean up. The top of the century, only \$8.28. Also some original "Long Tom", or ultra rare "Short Tom" buy-outs. These historical specimens, only \$1.95 each. A Treasure.

FAMED .43 ORIGINAL REM. ROLLING BLOCKS

Wt. 9 lbs. ONLY 62¢ per lb. TOTAL PRICE ONLY \$5.58!

You can't buy prime hand-picked at this price. Condition of all rifles in "Gun crank special", meaning that the outline is clearly visible through the front and you can see light through the bore. Little of that old fellow's price will show this fantastic bargain to NRA your condition. Checked with compass in the hands of famous Latin American. It is truly a precious shattering bargain at only \$5.58. shipped promptly. Action alone worth four times as much. A gun really a dream. Add this historical rifle with an original barrel, only \$1.00, when ordered with this rifle, supply and transportation.

ORIGINAL U.S. KRAG "LONG TOM" RIFLES

CAL. 30-40 . . . ONLY \$13.95!

A unique sporter. The smoothest and most loved U.S. bolt action rifle ever made at a price which does all you should. Used and loved, and worn to prove it are these original U.S. Krags 30-40 "Long Tom" and definitely without upper hand-picked. Also an occasional sight of a rifle may be found. However, at \$13.95 you are always ahead.

ORIGINAL MAUSER MODEL 71/84 "BIG 11"

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The FIND of the century—the BEST of the century. Complete in every detail and fully functional down to the minute of detail which else you see with every stroke of the bolt. When it speaks, there is thunder in the hills. There is no telling what condition you may attain from the hours spent joyfully gazing up these horrible specimens, with luck. NRA "Fair Condition" is possible! Only \$9.95, complete!!!

GARRIBALDI'S GREATEST!

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Custom-Stocking The Big-Bore Rifle

By NATE BISHOP



You think your gun kicks? Captain L. E. Wadman's big .577 double rifle (shown at about $\frac{1}{3}$ recoil) jumped completely out of both of shooter's hands.

AT ONE END OF THE RIFLE "range" of calibers, big bores have a charm for shooting enthusiasts in direct ratio with their size. The bigger the caliber, the greater appeal the rifle has, especially for the average shooter who suddenly decides he'd like to own something a little bigger than his present maximum. Then, of course, comes the time on the firing range when it kicks him silly, and he decides he really didn't want to own such a monster after all.

Since many potentially popular American rifles are within this hard-kicking caliber class, gunsmiths have evolved improved muzzle brakes and many other recoil-reducing ideas to attach to the factory issue. But of all gimmicks for taming objectionable kick, shaping the stock right is one of the most satisfactory solutions. Whether in building up a complete custom rifle, or in fitting one of the factory big bores with something a little fancier in the way of wood and finish, a properly designed stock will turn complaint into comfort.

Maybe it would be well to start out by defining what is meant by "Big Bore," for it is not an exact term. To the English, it means a firearm bored to one of the shotgun gauges such as 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12, or rifles such as the .600

FROM INLETTING TO STOCK PROFILE, CUSTOM STOCKS FOR BIG-BORE RIFLES NEED ATTENTION TO DETAILS FOR SAFETY AND COMFORT IN SHOOTING



Although big Winchester "African" in .458 Magnum is precision-inletted to gauge at factory, bolt with square section steel bar is needed at recoil lug recess to avoid splitting the stock. Metal must not wedge wood apart in inletting.



Goering's 9.3 x 70 Schwy-Mauser shows stock evolution, shapes to reduce kick. Cheek piece slants away from cheek bone; long pistol grip curve avoids finger bruise.

and .577, with the latter just barely making the grade. To an American, "big bore" means .30 caliber or a little larger. To me, "big bore" means rifles in calibers .375 up to .505 (any rifle of more than .505 caliber I define as a Hand Cannon), with muzzle energy of from 4,000 to 6,000 pounds, and free recoil (in a rifle weighing from 9 to 11 pounds) of 35 to 75 foot pounds.

Strength is the most important factor in the selection of wood for a big bore rifle stock. Wood density is also im-

portant. Density in rifle stock wood determines the strength, just as the denser structure of steel makes it stronger than cast iron. Many tropical woods are extremely dense and very strong, but they have the distinct disadvantage of being also extremely heavy. A wood that is a happy medium between strength and weight is necessary, and appearance is important. Nothing that I have ever found or worked with in wood suitable for big bore rifles is equal for custom stocking, all factors considered, to French walnut.

Strong as good, dense, heavy French walnut is, it requires reinforcing to withstand the recoil of some big bore rifles. This is not alone because of the amount of the recoil but, and it is the more important reason, because of the placement and the insufficient size of the recoil lug in many bolt actions such as the Magnum Mauser. The best method I have found of reinforcing the stock to cope with the recoil in a big bore rifle is to insert a 1/2 inch dowel pin of ebony or other extremely dense hardwood through the stock at a point where, when the stock is inletted for the recoil lug, the back of the lug and the bottom of the action will bear on flattened faces of the reinforcing wood dowel.



Rigby .350 Magnum with low comb, high scope, no support for face.



Misplaced trigger puts 2nd finger against guard where kick can hurt.



Correctly designed stock for M70 provides needed support for face.



Zero-pitch stock with butt pad at right angle to line of bore aids in reducing kick but height of thrust—axis of bore—above shoulder still makes Buehler's .505 Gibbs a bruiser. At right, Holland double .600 made for late King Faisal II of Iraq shows straight stock necessary to hold the jolt.

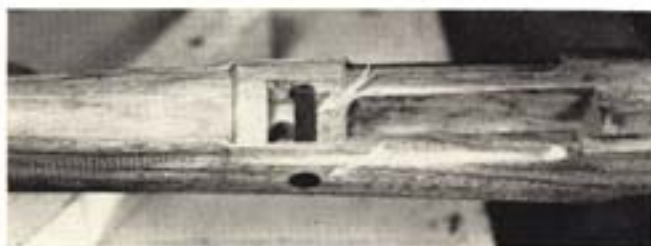


Some shooters believe that this dowel or cross bolt is used to compensate for poor inletting. This certainly is not the case. Since no stockmaker can accurately prophesy the reaction of a given piece of wood to the effect of recoil, the added reinforcement is a much needed precautionary measure. Because of convenience in mass-production, Mauser military rifle stocks, even in standard calibers, have such a stock-strengthenener of steel fitted.

Extreme care should be used in bedding big bore actions and barrels. The action should bottom on a perfectly straight line, with absolutely no wedging on the sides. Examination of many "hair line" fitted custom stocks often discloses that the action cuts tend to close in when the action is removed. This is thoroughly bad on the big bores. All rearward-facing vertical surfaces of the action, with the exception of the recoil lug, should *not* contact the stock wood. Failure to relieve wood at these critical points can cause splitting of the stock and flying splinters at a velocity sufficient to penetrate skin and eyes. Most critical in heavy calibers, stock fit at the tang should be loose even in calibers as light as 6.5 mm. or .243.

The stock should be as straight as the shooter can tolerate, with a high, well rounded comb sloping very slightly forward, and a zero-pitch butt. The forearm should be about half the length of the barrel, rather full, and tending toward a pear or beaver tail forearm in section. The pistol grip, with a circumference of at least 4½ inches, should be a well rounded oval and not too closely curled. The distance from the trigger in the release position to the front of the pistol grip cap should be between 3½ and 4 inches, depending upon the size of the shooter's hand. The length of pull should be from ¼" to ½" longer than the shooter would ordinarily specify for a light weight sporter stock, to minimize the effect of recoil.

There is no good reason for a cheek piece on a big bore rifle stock but, properly made, it is not objectionable. I recommend a cheek piece only for the individual who, because of some peculiarity of build, such as a hollow-checked face, feels that he can better and more accurately sight the gun with a cheek piece on the stock. With big bores, a scope sight is rarely a practical accessory, since hunting ranges are short. Binocu- (Continued on page 49)



Critical inletting points in big bore stock are at cross bolt where recoil lug should bear evenly on front, top. Some bolts are steel: Bishop prefers hardwood dowel.



To avoid splitting small of stock, action should not bear at two rear inside radii and at tang tip. Even with recoil lug solid, stock will "give" over magazine.

CHUCK HUNTING IS NOT "FOR EXPERTS ONLY"

(Continued from page 27)

section. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw that Freeman was also leveling down on one, and this time there was a split-second difference between our shots. "Got mine," I heard Freeman muttering; but now it was my chuck that had disappeared in the alfalfa. I did not know for sure, but I figured I had hit him.

There were no live chucks in sight now, so we decided to investigate. We found four very dead chucks, all smacked solidly in the shoulder area. Those chucks never knew what hit them. The cross wind had not thrown us off one bit, proving that both the .243 and .244 are top-drawer wind buckers. In fact, this and later shooting convinced me that they beat everything I have ever tried in this respect, and this includes the .218, .222, .220, .250, .257, and .308.

The farmers had not been wrong in saying that the area "was lousy with woodchucks." There were dens in almost every field and fence row, and still others along the ditch banks. Many of the dens were big and deep enough to make the moving farm machinery hazardous. We counted over 20 separate dens in one 35 acre field. It was a real woodchuck jackpot. On a couple of the farms, Freeman even knocked off a few of the critters with his scope-sighted .22 rifle. It took real expert stalking to get within .22 range, but that's part of the sport.

Our shooting scores were not perfect, by any means. We missed three of four pieces during the day. Our best luck was between eleven and twelve o'clock, and after two-thirds in the afternoon.

We changed rifles for a few shots to see if that would make any difference. It did not. There was just no material difference in the shooting and killing qualities of the handloads and the factory loads. And evidently, by following the mounting instructions that came with my scope, I had done just as good a mounting job as the expert. We bagged a whole flock of alfalfa-chomping woodchucks, and not a cripple did we have to crawl off into some den hole to die. When those .243's and .244's smack them, they usually stay put.

I see little difference in these two calibers for woodchuck shooting, and they are my choices above all other calibers for chucking. There's no noticeable recoil; they buck wind better than any of the other varmint calibers that I have tried; both are minutely accurate at ranges up to 450 yards; and they are no more expensive to shoot than the other varmint calibers. I think these are adequate reasons for my preference.

A lot of potential woodchuck hunters get discouraged before they start, because they figure it is a sport for experts only. 'Tain't so, fellows, and don't let anyone kid you. It is a sport that any average rifle shot can enjoy successfully. I know that I myself am only an average rifle shot, yet I manage to get my share of chucks in practically any company I go chucking with.

Those who are not equipped to do handloading or do not have a good handloading friend to do it for them need not feel badly about it. The standard factory loads will do the job adequately, and the factory loads are cheap enough when you figure a dozen cartridges as the price of a day's sport. More

power to the boys that get a bang out of handloading as a hobby; but for the chaps that can't indulge in such hobbies for one reason or another, the factory loads get the job done.

Considering today's modern varmint rifles and scopes, anyone with a fair knowledge of guns and scopes and with reasonable shooting ability can mount a scope on a varmint rifle and zero the whole job in adequately. Drilling and tapping is done at the factories, so anyone who can read and understand instructions can do the entire job successfully.

I have a new 8x Bushnell "Command Post" scope that I am going to mount myself on a new Savage 110 in .243 caliber. I will select the proper fittings, and I do not anticipate any difficulties in the mounting and sighting-in jobs. I also plan to do my own mounting of a 6X Coltmaster scope on a new Coltsman rifle in varmint caliber. Again, I do not anticipate any difficulties. And I will continue to use standard factory loaded ammunition only.

A good chuck rifle in .243 or .244 caliber can be bought for a little over a hundred bucks. Add another sixty or so bucks for a scope, around seventy-five for adequate binoculars, maybe four bucks for a good leather sling strap, and that's it except for the ammunition. That's no more than a good set of golf clubs, or the equipment for duck hunting or deer hunting would cost you. And in most states, the chuck is on the pest list, making a considerably longer than average shooting season possible. In most areas, chuck shooting lasts from June to cold weather, which means from four to five months of real top-drawer shooting fun.

A .244 cartridge costs only a little more than a high velocity 12 gauge shotgun shell, and the average chuck hunter will not fire his rifle as many times during an average chuck hunt as a duck or a pheasant hunter will fire his shotgun.

Many more sportsmen could be enjoying woodchuck shooting today if they could but get over the idea that the sport is for the experts only, and too expensive for them to indulge in. Actually, it is a sport that any average sportsman can take part in successfully and comfortably, and without undue financial strain. Let's more of us enjoy it!

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AFRICA'S GREAT GRAY GHOST

(Continued from page 31)

was the seat of John's well washed shorts and the flying back sides of Galu and the local native as they hurdled thorn bushes four feet high down the steep hillside.

I turned the safety on the .333 O.K.H., and Guyo and I walked down the slope. John came around a thorn tree and held up both hands clasped together, shouting, "He's a bloody beauty, Elmer! A bloody beauty!"

He looked good to me, too—then and when we turned him over to Rowland Ward at Nairobi, and even better now that Andy Hagel of Salmon, Idaho, our taxidermist, has him beautifully mounted.

The light was fading, and we had to work fast to get both black-and-white and color-slide stills; but once the pictures were finished, the boys soon had the head and cape removed for a fine shoulder mount. They then proceeded to take the meat from the carcass. John said, "I'll pack the head and cape; you bodyguard us back through this heavy thorn over the ridge. The boys will carry the meat." I remonstrated he would get all bloody, but John said, "Who cares about blood when we have such a grand head?" So, slinging the .333 O.K.H. on my back, I filled the .476 with solids and poked ahead up the narrow crooked trail through the rhino thorn. But no rhino snorted on our way to the Jeep, and we loaded meat and head, turned on the lights, and drove to camp.

John was right; the head was a beauty. The steel tape showed a strong 54" on the curl for each horn. Both horns are perfectly symmetrical and even in their curve, with beautiful, ivory colored tips.

John and I celebrated that evening with a hot bath, clean clothes, several long, cool Scotch-and-sodas, and a fine three-course dinner. Kudu meat proved excellent, and we enjoyed three meals from it.

We hunted rhino several days more from this camp, but always the wind would change or they would hear us, and we never even glimpsed a rhino at this camp. We did see two more great bull Kudu one morning, at around 300 yards. Each night, we listened to the drums as the natives in a nearby village held a three-day-and-night beer-bust and dance.

Greater Kudu are shy, retiring beasts. Hunting them is much like going after a wise old white-tail buck or a wary, hard-hunted bull elk. They can hear an empty cartridge drop at 200 yards with those great fan-shaped radar screens they use as ears. They can also see as well as an elk, and their sense of smell is equally keen. Combine these faculties with their gray coloration, and you can understand why they are called "the great gray ghosts of Africa."

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NO. 4 AMONG "THE WINNERS OF THE WEST"

(Continued from page 24)

Arms by Crittenden & Tibbals of South Coventry, Conn., later doing business as Phoenix Cartridge Co. among other firms.

Planning for production, Spencer went into partnership with F. Cheney, a silk mill owner. Some sample rifles were made up using Sharps .52 caliber barrels. In company with Warren Fisher, Jr., another partner who served as agent in negotiations with the U.S. government, Spencer leased premises in the Chickering Piano Company building, Tremont & Camden Streets, Boston. The Spencer Repeating Arms Co. was under way!

Christopher Spencer at the age of 20 years found the Washington rat-race a tough competition for a young arms merchant. The old columned brick War Office building, ancestor of the Pentagon, was thronged with merchants promising arms in quantity if only Uncle Sugar would dole out money and financing and advances on contracts and tools and materials and everything under the sun. Ripley, forced by the exigencies of war, and the advice of the Secretary, contracted for many arms of every description. But his heart was not in it for the unusual types—his standard contracts were for the Springfield-pattern Rifle Muskets, and each contract included termination and forfeiture clauses which he was frequently overly-eager to invoke. With Spencer, he was not too impressed. In the summer of 1861, while men clustered about Washington hotel lobbies selling each other Rifle-Musket contracts which hardly one had the capacity to fulfil, Christopher Spencer, whom history proved was a genius and who at the time at least had a genuine factory, capital, and manpower, went begging.

He turned to the Navy, a separate branch so far as arms procurement was concerned, and found some encouragement. A test board in June, 1861, under Captain John A. Dahlgren, described the Spencer's capabilities:

"The mechanism is compact and strong. The piece was fired five hundred times in succession; partly divided between two mornings. There was but one failure to fire, supposed to be due to the absence of fulminate. In every other instance the operation was complete. The mechanism was not cleaned and yet worked throughout as at first. Not the least foulness on the outside (ordinary muskets became caked with primer dirt at the vent or cone), and very little within. The least time of firing seven rounds was ten seconds."

The Navy ordered 700 Spencer 30" barrel rifles, with sword bayonets, for Marines and landing party use, as a result of this test. In November of the same year, the Army at last tested the gun; the officers reported that "The rifle is simple and compact in construction, and less liable to get out of order than any other breech-loading arm now in use." On December 26, 1861, agent Warren Fisher sold the Army 10,000 rifles, and Spencer was well on the way to business and military success.

Field commanders clamored for the Spencers: its firepower lent courage to the faintest heart. The fast-shooting Spencer aided dashing Union General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, ace cavalry leader, in turning defeat into victory with swift charges.

"Fighting Joe" Hooker, youthful battle leader, reported many units under his com-

mand were anxious to trade in their Springfield muzzle loaders for Spencer repeaters. Indiana General John T. Wilder's "Lightning Brigade" of mounted infantry wanted repeaters and could not get Henry rifles; Wilder's later enthusiastic reports of the Spencer gun, which his troops bought out of their own money, proved the success of the gun. Wilson's Cavalry Brigade adopted a gold Spencer Carbine as their regimental insignia, over a red guidon bearing gold crossed sabers. In chronicling a skirmish with Confederate sharpshooters holding the south bank of the Tennessee river, six miles below Chattanooga, Captain G. M. Barber of the 1st Battery, Ohio Vol. Sharpshooters, spoke in high praise of the Spencer. Allied with the 16th Kentucky, whose men carried Enfield M/1 cap-lock rifles, somewhat like the .58 Springfield in design and shooting power, Captain Barber reported that the Kentuckians had fired for three days with no effect on the Confederates, and losing three men of their own. Said Barber, "The first day we opened on them we killed two, wounded several, and drove them from all their positions along the river. We found by actual trial that our guns had longer range and greater accuracy. We seldom missed at 700 yards. I had 125 men with me and for two weeks kept 600 Rebels at bay and, as I afterward learned, killed and wounded over 30, with our loss of only one man wounded. It was a genuine trial of arms, and resulted in proving the superiority of the Spencer Repeating arm over every other gun in the service."

Capable of long range accuracy for sniping, the volley firepower of the Spencer adapted it to yet another kind of fighting. Wilder's Lightning Brigade unbossed a bullet barrage against Longstreet's Confederates who attacked Union positions along the Chickamauga river in north Georgia, in 1864. The Indians named the stream "river of death," and it amounted to just that for the charging Rebels. As the grey lines advanced from the timber toward Wilder's Brigade, a steady roar from the Spencers "melted the advance lines into the ground," as Wilder wrote in his report. Charge after charge faded away in the hail of lead, until, said Wilder, "you couldn't walk five feet over that ground without stepping over a dead or wounded rebel." Firepower gave morale: troops using the Spencer expected to win. Rebel prisoners remarked to their captors, "It's no use to fight you'uns with that kind of gun."

By the end of the War, the Spencer killer-carbines had shot out a death-dealing reputation. Many of them went west to the frontier where the Army was waging a 20-year Indian war for possession of the plains. The second chapter in the Spencer saga was written in blood on the war trails of the Old West.

The frontier fighters who used them were always Spencer men, like Colonel H. B. Carrington, commander of Ft. Phil Kearny, on the Bozeman Trail to Montana. In December, 1866, a battalion of eighty officers and men under Lt.-Colonel W. J. Fetterman had been massacred in a Sioux ambush outside the fort. Thousands of hostile Sioux roamed the Big Horns, and they regarded this fort in the heart of their hunting lands as a violation of treaty rights. Attack was im-

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minent, now that the frontier post was weakened by the loss of many of its best men.

Carrington sent a message by courier to Ft. Laramie, pleading for reinforcements immediately to avert a possible massacre. "Give me officers and men," he wrote in the dispatch; "Only the new Spencer guns should be sent. The Indians are desperate and they spare no one." Spencers would have evened the odds a lot for the imperiled fort, Carrington knew.

He got the troops, but not the Spencers. In time, Ft. Phil Kearny and two others on the Bozeman Trail were burnt to the ground by Red Cloud and his fighting Sioux.

The Sioux war went on and, in 1868, the Southwestern plains were bathed in blood by raiding Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Arapahoe hostiles, and a scattering of renegade "dog soldiers." Destruction and pillage of settlements was worst in Kansas. To protect his state, Governor S. J. Crawford, a former Civil War colonel, recruited a regiment of militia to fight the warring Indian tribes.

Like Carrington, he knew that the Spencer would be the ideal Indian fighting weapon. He requested 500 Spencer carbines from General Phil Sheridan, commanding the Department of the Southwest, Sheridan, commander of Union Cavalry in the Civil War,



Carried by John Wilkes Booth, this Spencer is now in Lincoln Museum.

knew all about the Spencer. He wasted no time in issuing the required number for Colonel Crawford's Nineteenth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry.

The Spencer rifle has been called the "Indian Model" because it is claimed Custer equipped a company of sharpshooters with them for his campaign ending with his victory in the Washita battle over Black Kettle, but this we have not been able to verify. He did have a sharpshooter battalion under Lieut. Cooke.

The Spencer was justly popular on the Kansas frontier in the late 60's. The 7-shot lever rifles were chosen by Colonel George A. Forsyth at Ft. Harker, Kansas, when he recruited fifty plainsmen into a hard-hitting unit to combat hostile raiding parties of the southwestern tribes. "Sandy" Forsyth's "Original Rough Riders," with Spencer carbines, stood off 800 (some say 2,000) Sioux and Cheyennes for nine days in the most heroic battle of all the Indian wars: at Beecher's Island.

Col. Forsyth and his scouts on September 16, 1868, camped on the shallow Arickaree fork of the Republican river near the Colorado line. They were surprised by Chief Roman Nose and a following of the best red cavalry in the southwest.

Leading a rear-guard action, Forsyth kept the Indians in check by a continuous fire. The soldiers retired to a small island in the middle of the shallow river. They soon had a small breastwork and some shallow rifle pits scooped out of the sandy soil. Night passed and, with the dawn, came the first Indian attack—hundreds of mounted warriors

filled the shallow river from bank to bank. Wave after wave of plumed and bonneted savages, led by the giant chief Roman Nose, swooped down on the grim little band, straight into a bitter blast of hot lead. Seven deadly volleys tore great holes in their ranks, and the charge was split, though some warriors rode within a few feet of the defenders. Roman Nose rallied his braves and tried again.

Firing as fast as they could work the levers of their Spencers, Forsyth's men held grimly to blistering hot gun barrels. With parched throats gasping, and choked from the dense black powder smoke, they fought as the plainsmen always did. Once more the red men almost gained the island, but they had never before faced such a fire.

Volley after volley turned the Indians ranks, until the water ran red with blood. The great Roman Nose toppled into the water, dead, and the warriors broke and rode out of range.

Seven times in the next nine days, the Indians charged the island, and each time the fast-shooting Spencers turned them back.

But all was not well with the scouts. Forsyth had his leg broken by an Indian bullet. Four were dead; 18 others wounded. Water was procured in small quantities at great risk, only at night, and they were subsisting on dead horse meat. The suffering of the wounded was terrible, with festering wounds, and no surgical care.

Cap. Stilwell, one of the scouts, made his way through Indian infested country to Ft. Wallace, 110 miles away, and brought the troops to their rescue. The Indians had seen them coming and left the day before. With Roman Nose dead, when General Custer fell on Black Kettle's camp of 1000 warriors, in November of that year, he inflicted a crushing defeat and the power of the southwestern tribes was broken.

No officer was better equipped by experience and training than Major Frank North to command a body of scouts in Indian campaigning. His battalion of Pawnee scouts was the most efficient combat team on the plains, in fighting their hereditary enemies, the Sioux. From 1865 to 1877, they were in the field (though not continuously), patrolled the right of way and guarded the construction camps of the Union Pacific railroad. They were sent on expeditions in western Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, and northward.

In 1867, the four companies were equipped with Spencer carbines, whether by orders of Gen. Augur or request of Maj. North, is not clear. That one of the officers had chosen well, is evidenced by the fact that the Pawnees never lost an engagement.

His brother, Captain L. H. North, commanding one company of the Scouts, told me before his death in 1935, that:

"We thought at the time the Spencer was a very good gun for our purpose, and I can't recall one that would have been any better. Anyway, we were never defeated in fifty five general engagements; but my own preference for hunting was a Ballard."

The success of these independent units, added to the Civil War record, is indication the Spencer carbines would have been ideal equipment for the Army of the West in Indian fighting campaigns. A total of 40,051 Spencers was in government arsenal inventories at the end of the war. A few special

(Continued on page 44)

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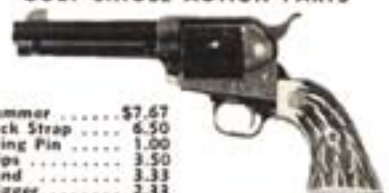
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(Continued from page 42)
troops used them and with good results, but the Government preferred to experiment with single shot rifles in the hands of our soldiers.

The Burnside Rifle Co., of Providence, Rhode Island, which had built some of the Spencer guns on contract, relied about 7,000 to .50 caliber for private sale on the buffalo plains. But the Spencer action, long enough for a man-killing cartridge, could not be adapted to the big, long buffalo cartridges. Custom gunsmiths fitted heavy octagon barrels to some carbines, but the venture was not profitable. Many Spencer "buffalo" rifles were sold to eastern hunters going west, but when they arrived to shoot buffalo, the tenderfeet discovered the frontiersmen preferred the Sharps single shot shooting heavier calibers. With no wartime demand, the Spencer business folded about 1868-9. The assets of the company were taken over by the growing firm owned by New Haven shirt-maker Oliver Winchester. Ironically, the next year saw an unprecedented stimulation to the sale of Spencer guns, but Christopher Spencer, older and wiser now, did not profit. War between France and Germany created a great demand in the U.S. surplus arms market. Of the Spencers owned by Uncle Sam, 35,028 carbines and 1,300 rifles were sold at public auction at prices ranging from \$3.50 for un-serviceable guns up to \$25 for good guns. Buyers included Remington Arms Co., O. F. Winchester who took 5,000 Carbines, Hartley Schuyler & Graham, big New York military goods house which bought thousands for shipment to France, and other firms. Even Caleb Huse, who as Confederate purchasing agent in Europe in 1861-5 had sought for arms to give the Confederacy firepower to combat the Yankee Spencers, now bought 800 rifles which he presumably shipped to some friend in France. But Spencer's plant was out of business.

The young inventor continued to create. He had been associated with Colt, and also aided in producing the Roper revolving chamber shotgun. A "Spencer hammerless" short-barrel revolver is listed by L. D. Satterlee, which may relate to the Roper enterprise. He invented a machine for rolling silk thread, widely used in the textile industry and, in 1882, sought once again to get into the arms field. He patented in April of that year a pump-action repeating shotgun, 12 gauge, made on contract by machinery associates of his, in Windsor, Vermont. Annie Oakley used one; the Army & Navy Journal (now Army-Navy-Air Force Journal) described the shotgun in their March 13, 1886 issue. In the 1890's Spencer collaborated with James Paris Lee in experimental U.S. army test designs, producing pump-action high powered rifles using the Lee bolt magazine system. But success in the arms field did not return to Spencer. His shotgun factory was offered for many years by Francis Bannerman, another New York surplus and scrap arms dealer, with no takers. Spencer did not lack for employment and profits—his enduring "monument" is the internationally known machine tool enterprise, the Billings & Spencer Company of Hartford.

But Christopher Spencer, the man, will be remembered for building a gun that was good to have around, when men were fighting for their lives. In the War, and in the West, the Spencer did change the course of history.

ELMER KEITH SAYS . . .

(Continued from page 9)

small game which the old .22 L.R. High Speed lacked. Dealers will have a hard time keeping a stock of the new K-22 W.R.F. Magnum on hand. Ammunition, we hear, will retail at about \$2.60 per box. This is expensive, but the load will eliminate the need for a great many second and third shots required where the .22 L.R. cartridge was used on game.

Ruger is bringing out his famous Single Six for the new round, and we would expect Colt's to adapt their Officers Model Frontier Scout single actions for this new cartridge. High Standard may also be able to adapt a variation of their Double Nine for the .22 Magnum.

The new cartridge will be just what the doctor ordered for the small game hunter. We always hoped for a modern .25 Stevens rim fire for both rifles and sixguns, but it has not been forthcoming. The new .22 W.R.F. Magnum may well fill the need. The old so-called .22 Special (officially the .22 W.R.F.) with its 45 grain bullet enclosed in the cartridge case, was always a much better small game load than any .22 L.R., which is a match cartridge pure and simple. The .22 W.R.F., while about one-eighth inch shorter than the new load, can also be fired in the new .22 W.R.F. Magnum guns in a pinch. The new .2245" boring, however, prohibits rechambering old guns for the new round. The beauty of the old .22 W.R.F. and also the new .22 W.R.F. Magnum is the fact they can be carried loose in pockets without picking up sand grit and dirt as is always the case with greased .22 L.R. ammunition.

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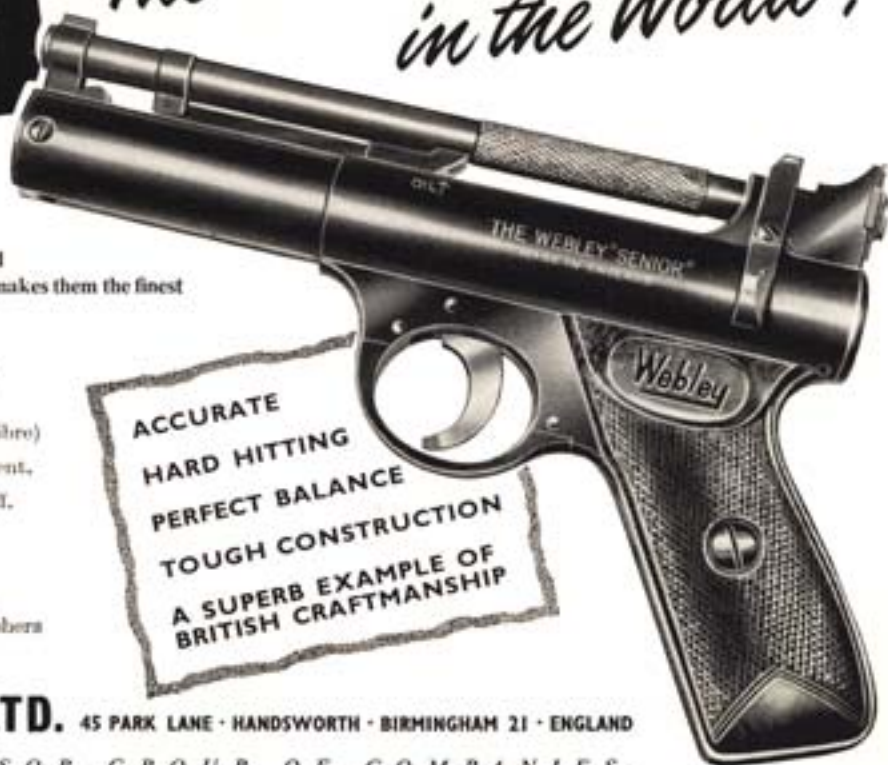
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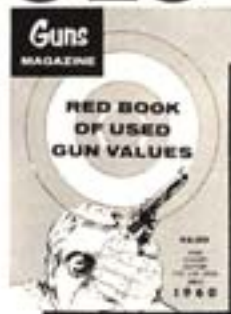
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long for the chamber and need trimming.

It is an almost indispensable little tool for the careful reloader. In resizing all big bottle-neck rifle cartridges with rimless heads that headspace from the front shoulder to the head of the case, it is of utmost importance that the resizing die be correctly adjusted and locked so it will not over-resize the case; that is, move the shoulder back and thus create dangerous excessive headspace. To be safe, if you do not have a Wilson case gauge it is best to leave a bit of margin and adjust your resizing die so that it does not completely resize the case neck, leaving a one sixty-fourth inch of the base of the case neck unresized. In this way, you are certain to leave your case correctly headspaced for the next reload. If you have such a gauge, however, you can adjust your dies in the press and lock them to give exact correct headspace and also check them to see if the necks need trimming or not.

Excessive headspace can be very dangerous with a hard or brittle case that may separate in front of the head and let escaping gas loose to wreck your rifle and probably your eye as well.

Excessively long cases whose necks have stretched (and all very large cases necked to small bore, are prone to do this with resizing), will crimp the front end of the neck on the bullet when forced into the rifle chamber. This ruins accuracy and also greatly increases pressures, so it is imperative that high velocity rifle cases be kept trimmed to correct length, as well as being resized to correct headspace for your rifle.

New Hornady Bullets

J. W. Hornady of Grand Island, Neb., is now out with a new .45-70 bullet with very blunt round nose in soft point persuasion, weighing just 350 grains. This is a most excellent bullet for all timber deer shooting. It is more accurate than the old Winchester 300 grain high velocity .45-70 load, and will give almost as good velocities. With high-side Winchester single shot rifles or the Model '86 Winchester, you can load up to 56 grains of 3031 for a velocity around 2000 feet and pressures of around 30,000 pounds or less; a good, safe, accurate load that is flatter over 200 yard ranges than the 405 grain soft point with 54 grains 3031 that I have so long recommended. For elk or heavy game, I would prefer the 405 grain soft point; but for deer shooting, the new Hornady bullet would be better, giving more expansion and flatter trajectory. You could safely sight the rifle for either 100 or 150

yards, 125 yards being a good compromise for timber shooting with this load.

Hornady Spire Point 100 Grain 6 mm

Hornady also offers a new 100 grain spire point for the various 6 mm rifles. Its long bearing surface is especially useful in rifles with worn throats, and will bring back their original accuracy in most cases. The best load for .243 Winchester and .244 Remington on rifles seems to be 45 grains of 4350 Dupont. With this load, the new bullet groups superbly and I believe will deliver half-inch 100 yard groups from super accurate rifles. It did this for Hornady, and it also did it here for us with Hank Bensons' super-accurate ten-inch-twist .243 Winchester, shooting from bench rest with target scope. Owing to its weight and sectional density, it is also one of the finest long range bullets for the 6 mm cartridges. It would make the best of loads for them when used on the lighter big game as well as for long range coyote and vermin shooting.

Cold Rust Bluing

For those who want the finest in custom cold-rust blue jobs on pet rifles or shotguns, write to Iver P. Henriksen, 1211 So. 2nd St., Missoula, Montana. He is also one of the country's finest gun stockers, and an expert gunsmith as well.

Solid Rubber Recoil Pads

For those like myself who do not like the trestle-work rubber recoil pads and prefer the solid pads with no holes into which mud and snow will pack, the "Noshoc" pad made by the Seamless Rubber Company, New Haven, Conn., should fill the bill. These fine pads come in red with black spacer, and have an inside hidden sponge-rubber pad. The outside is smooth red rubber. I have them on some of my finest rifles, and they have stood up very well over the years. They make up into a neat job, and the solid type does not deteriorate nearly as fast as do pads with open work in their construction. These Noshoc pads look very similar to those fitted to the Winchester Model 70 in .375 Magnum calibre.

Case Sizing Lub

We have just finished testing some Anderol resizing lubricant. We resized .44 Magnums in the R.C.B. press and dies, 333 O.K.H. in the Super Pacific press with R.C.B.S. dies, and .450-400, .450 Nitro Express, .476 Westley Richards, and the 3" .577 in Hollywood dies in the big Hollywood Super press, and this lub worked perfectly in all cases. Merely smear a little of it on your finger tips and

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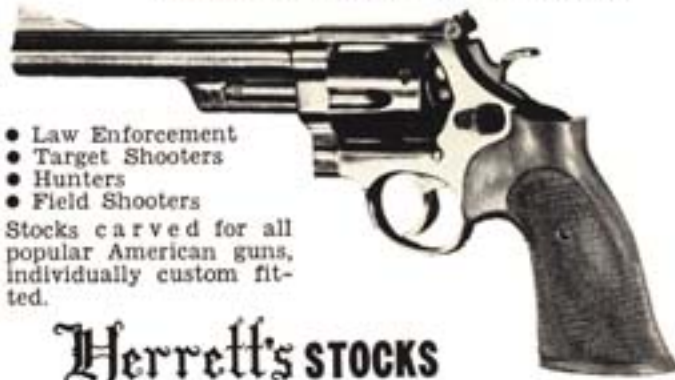
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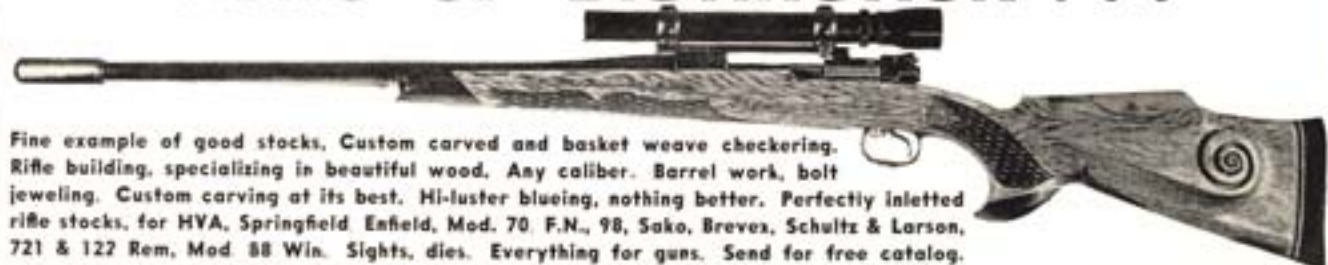
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rub the case with it. They then full-length resize perfectly with no indents or wrinkles, and the cases go into the extract from the resizing die with ease, even the great .577 elephant cartridge. We can heartily recommend this Anderol Lubricant for any case resizing.

Ladies' Elk Rifle

For ladies wishing a light handy rifle for elk hunting, two excellent choices are the light-weight Model 70 Winchester and the excellent lever-action Model '99 Savage, both in .358 Winchester caliber. The girls have the choice of lever or bolt action, and in either case get a nice, light, fast-handling rifle with excellent accuracy and a cartridge that, with 250 grain bullet, will do the work. Except in some parts of Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana, elk hunting is usually at close range, in timber, and the 250 grain Winchester .358 does an excellent job on elk if placed anywhere near right. The rifles are best fitted with Redfield Sourdough front sights and Williams fool-proof rear receiver sights, zeroed for 150 yards with this load.

This is also an excellent deer load for timber shooting. It bucks brush well, penetrates well, and is a good killer. It's the best cartridge I know of for such shooting for a person desiring a light, handy rifle. Most ladies do not like a heavy rifle, and while many of them will shoot anything, they will be able to do better work with a rifle that does not tax their strength to lug around all day in rough country.

New Smith & Wessons Coming

Carl Hellstrom of Smith & Wesson writes me that they have developed a plainer model of their wonderful Model 41 .22 target pistol, to be used as a training weapon for the military. They are designing the gun to give the soldier a gun in .22 caliber with about the same 17° stock angle as the Colt .45 automatic.

The new gun will retail at \$85.00, will be the same as the fine expensive Model 41 with these changes: It will be made without the cock indicator and compensator; the interchangeable weight plug will be eliminated and a sliding weight will be used that will fit the grooves provided for the Olympic weights. The new gun will be equipped with Nylon plastic stocks of same design as the expensive walnut stocks on the Model 41, and metal parts will have a brush finish instead of the high bright blue finish of the higher priced model.

Custom Pistol Grips

Herrett's Stocks, Twin Falls, Idaho, can furnish any type of plain or fancy checkered pistol and revolver stocks to fit the individual hand. Merely draw an outline of your hand and fingers, and tell them what you want. They furnish everything from plain clothes, rounded-corner, combat grips to big, flaring, Free-pistol types where each finger has a separate groove and both thumb- and butt-rests for the hand. Anything desired in fancy shaped or checkered walnut grips for any gun is available from Herrett's.

I spent an evening going through their shop and they have files on every man they have stocked guns for, so that, once they have your hand drawings and measurements, they can make any type stock to fit that individual hand.

CUSTOM-STOCKING THE BIG-BORE RIFLE

(Continued from page 38)

lars are much better for woods spotting.

Checking on rifle stocks is regarded by some shooters as more decorative than functional. On light weight sporter stocks, while the checkering does have a function, it is not overly important. With a big bore rifle custom stock, the function of the checkering is important. For this reason, it should not be too fine lined. Sixteen lines to the inch are not too few; even 18 or 20 will not materially impair the function of the checkering, which is to give the shooter a better hold on the forearm, particularly with a gloved or sweaty hand.

Rubber recoil pads, of which there are many excellent ones available, are advisable (almost a necessity) on big bore rifle stocks. These rifles with their heavy recoil can be fired with a steel, hard rubber, or horn butt plate but, except for the exceptionally insensitive shooter, firing any appreciable number of shots in a short period of time will cause considerable discomfort.

One definitely needs sling swivels and a 1 to 1 1/4 inch sling strap on a big bore rifle, because of the weight. The swivels can either be permanent or detachable, but it is imperative that the front one be mounted on the barrel, not on the stock forearm. Mounting the front swivel on the stock forearm brings it too close to the hand in firing the gun, particularly from a sitting or prone position. I do not recommend firing big bore rifles prone, but on occasion it has to be done.

Trigger placement in a big bore rifle is important. The trigger should be in the rear quarter of the trigger guard, as it is on the Model 70 Winchester. Triggers such as the standard Mauser two-pull trigger, which is in about the middle of the trigger guard, force the shooter to place his middle finger against back of trigger guard where it is subjected to a bruising blow on recoil. These triggers should be either modified by reshaping as the English gunsmiths do, or replaced with one of the many excellent single-pull triggers available at a reasonable price today. No

stocker, no matter how skilled, can overcome the handicap that a wrongly placed trigger creates.

How good in actual practice is a custom stock for a big bore rifle such as the one described? I can state without reservation that a custom stock such as advocated for big bore rifles is very good; we have made quite a few of them. Several of these stocks were for a customer who is a man of average size and build; that is, about 5'8" tall, 160 pounds in weight, and well along in years. He consistently shoots big bore rifles from a bench rest. He does this for weekend recreation, firing a substantial number of rounds at one sitting from a number of different rifles, such as .375 H & H, .404 Jeffery, .416 Rigby, .425 Westley Richards, .458 Winchester, and .505 Gibbs. He does most of this shooting in his shirt sleeves, without any apparent discomfort or unpleasant after effects. Such a performance is only possible with a well designed, properly fitted custom stock when shooting big bore rifles. This rifleman is not an isolated case. There are a number of other enthusiasts in Albuquerque who fairly consistently shoot big bores on the local range, off-hand and from a bench rest. I have yet to see one of them physically punished by any properly stocked big bore rifle.

After looking at the stocks on quite a few big bores, I believe that many of the tales one hears of black and blue shoulders and beat up cheeks from firing "big bore" rifles are true. But I don't think they necessarily need to be true. The average sportsman with a properly stocked big bore rifle can target it and use it to bring down big game without being physically punished. When you are going to buy or make a big bore rifle—.375 caliber and up—check the stock design and shape according to what experience has shown is most successful. Your own shooting comfort will be greater if the big bore stock is designed correctly and put together well.

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TEACH THE GAL TO SHOOT

(Continued from page 19)

where lithe, entirely feminine little ladies bowled over really big-game, with adequate ordnance, and simply loved it. Our friend, Opal Yoder, rolled her first buck after only eight field shots with a .30-06. Another, Gladys Ellis, missed one deer two years ago, at 150 yards, then cleanly killed one at over 300 yards—with an '06.

Evelyn Vissing, wife of the scope-cover maker, once lay prone in Idaho's Primitive Area, and shot a mountain billy goat three times through the chest, with a Springfield, before he'd topple. I've watched that tiny lady bust crows regularly at 200 yards with an old .22 Niedner Magnum. . . . Two of my friends' wives are going to Africa soon to hunt the really big ones; and another man writes me that his wife, too, is Africa-bound, and with a .375 H&H Magnum, no less! . . . Another friend's wife busted a Boone & Crockett mule deer buck last fall, with her pet .35 Whelen!

How then does one go about helping the little lady to get off to a good start? I think it begins in the .22 rim-fire stage. Start your target-shooting, plinking, and ground-squirrel shooting with her. If you're already a hot-shot and come up with a gal innocent of powder (the burning kind), then get her a personal and suitable rifle right off. Choose good, pleasant days, weather-wise, and then go into the outdoors where considerable safe shooting may be done.

Show her the fundamentals, and let her do at least half the actual shooting. Brag up her hits; minimize her misses. After all, you didn't hit every time at first, either. Make a few "inexplicable misses" yourself—especially if the total score seems to be getting top-heavy. In short, make memorable occasions out of those first actual shooting sessions . . . From there on, she's apt to take the initiative about suggesting hunts, and more than likely to black your hunting eye.

From there, it's only a single (but every important) step from this successful .22 rim-fire stage to the Big Event, big-game hunting. From my own experience and observation, this vital bridge in a lady's interest in shooting is best covered by dry-firing. In short, this provides an easy step from .22's to deer-sized rifles, for the lady shooter.

The whole trick is to get the gal entirely familiar with the bigger rifle, with sessions at targets and simulated game, and with no live shooting. There's one other thing: never let the gal shooter stand anywhere near the muzzle of any big rifles, while they're being shot. The noise, the "scarer-factor" is far more exaggerated while listening to others shoot than when you are behind the rifle and doing the shooting yourself. Women are more apt to be allergic to muzzle blast when the gun goes off beside them than when they pull the trigger. This is true also of men. There's something about the thrill of the shot itself that dulls one's sensitivity to other things. This is particularly true when the shot is fired at a game target. Shooters who complain bitterly about blast or kick when shooting at paper targets never notice them when the target is alive and moving.

With the dry-firing sessions made as interesting as possible, the next step is to live ammunition. Make this transition as casual

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as possible. Since she already knows that she can hit what she shoots at, and since she is already familiar with the rifle, and because she has no preconceived fear of the noise or the recoil, the lady is usually off to an eager start.

As mentioned before, this beginning can either be encouraged by a suitable rifle or shot gun, or it can be nipped in the beginning by an awkward outfit, not built with the needs and dimensions of the fairer sex. And this brings us to the basic considera-

tion: what are suitable guns and calibers and gauges for women?

First, in the matter of rifles, is the matter of caliber. If the jump is from the .22 to deer-sized game, then let the needs of that species dictate the caliber or cartridge. An adequate deer-cartridge won't be too much for the lady; and getting such a cartridge-and-rifle is a far more effective procedure than allowing her to use an intermediate caliber. Many a starting career for the lady shooter has been ruined by a single

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sour experience of wounding a big-game animal with an inadequate cartridge. Women are more squeamish about such matters than men; and no man should want such an experience, either.

Good cartridges for the gal deer hunter include the .243 Winchester and .244 Remington, .250 Savage, .257, 7mm, and the .308—with suitable bullets for deer. If the intended game is to include elk or moose or caribou, then the .270 or even the .30-06 aren't too much.

Next is the matter of fit. Ladies need shorter stocks, stocks that pitch recoil away from the face instead of into it as most factory stocks do, and better fitting cheek-pieces than are essential on the man's rifle. Too, the stock should invariably be fitted with a recoil-pad. A well-fitting stock not only appeals to a lady's yen for things attractive, but it actually diminishes the recoil of the larger calibers.

When having such a stock made up, it's wise to have the grip made smaller in circumference, to fit better and "feel" better in the lady's hand. Again, where many a man likes the bruises, field-scratches, and other noble battle-scars on his rifle-stock as mementos of the chase, a stock that is nicely-finished and kept that way, seldom fails to add to a lady's interest in shooting. Canny husbands, too, can find some personal little way, such as a monogram, of making the gal's rifle entirely "her'n", not like "his'n".

As to sights, I believe that the lady's rifle should be equipped only with a good scope, low-mounted, and of only reasonable power. A detailed explanation of why one should, with open sights, align three planes—the notch, the front bead, and the target—usually leaves a woman shooter "convinced, but of the same opinion still." They see no need of anything so complex, and blurred, too. They want a sight with which they can see something, a single point to aim with and at. Lastly, the beginning lady shooter sees absolutely no wisdom in a scope of too-high power which "wobbles around" too much while she, herself, aims "perfectly still." A good scope, of medium power, accomplishes all the above. The glass should have a reasonably long eye relief, too.

The lady's rifle should be reasonably short of barrel length—not over 22 inches—and the combined weight of rifle-and-scope should not exceed around 7 pounds. I know, that's a large order, especially if adequate power in the cartridge is maintained. But it's being accomplished, even in men's rifles. And such trim compactness is far more necessary in a woman's rifle.

Another factor not often considered in that rifle the gal will use, is the trigger-pull. My

wife brought that to my attention *fast*, after a hunt near the Wyoming border. She was in the tent at the time, while the rest of us hunted in a snow-storm. As she stepped outside once, to see if the weather was clearing any, she spotted three deer moseying along the mountainside. The only rifle left in the tent was a .300 H&H Magnum I had brought along—for what purpose I still don't recall. Seeing an opportunity to do things the easy, sensible way, my wife grabbed the Magnum, sat in the snow before the tent-flaps, and rolled her annual deer. But it took three shots. She missed twice, hit him the third shot.

I asked her about the kick of that old cannon. She said, "The kick didn't bother me. But what's wrong with that trigger? I couldn't make the danged thing go off while I was still pointed at that deer. I wasted two shells!" . . . She was right; the pull on that old Magnum was hard and rough.

The pull on the lady's rifle should not exceed 3 to 3½ pounds. And it should be worked down to a crisp let-go, like the snapping of a tiny icicle.

Lastly, I think any rifle with which the little lady is encouraged to use and to like, should be kept a thing of beauty. This can be done, both in the making up, and in the subsequent polishing and finishing. Gals like pretty things, even that go bang and kick back.

The problem is similar with shotguns. It's always a mistake to start a girl out on birds with a .410, a .28-gauge, or any similar "light gun that they can handle." It's far better to build up the shooting experience first with .22's, then with cartridges of medium power,—and then, when kick and noise are no longer feared, to go to a shotgun of adequate efficiency. Don't begin the shotgun field-experience with experiences of missing. The tiny .410's and .28-gauges, although feminine looking, are really guns for the expert shotgunner.

When a gal is ready for a shotgun, then a trim .20-gauge, or a 16, or even a light .12-gauge shooting medium or low-powered shells, should be chosen. Such gauges do the job well because of their greater shot charges and wider patterns, yet are not beyond the lady gunner. Of greatest importance, they give the beginner a "success formula" right off the bat—something vital to any endeavor. What is true of the lady's rifle (as to correct fit, design, attractiveness, and performance) is equally true of the shotgun meant for the woman or girl.

Pistols are comparable. Any girl or woman of normal health and physique can begin with a good .22 rim-fire, shoot it until a larger handgun appeals, then comfortably use a .38 Special, or even a .45.

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NEW SHOTGUN TARGET

(Continued from page 25)

U. S. Wildlife Service in Washington, D. C., Steen met a British officer who loved to hunt around the world.

"By the way," said the Britisher, "don't you hunt the Coturnix quail in this country?"

Steen explained that this bird was unknown to most Western Hemisphere hunters. "How big is he?" he asked.

"Oh, about the size of your mourning dove," said the hunter.

"Not much of a quail," mused Steen, "when we can hunt Bobwhites."

"But the Coturnix will live and multiply where the Bobwhite starves to death," insisted the army officer. "And, in the Orient, his flesh is a delicacy. In fact, in China and Japan, he is sometimes reared in cages for meat and eggs. In Europe, we consider him a challenge and a thrill to any man who loves to hunt either quail, partridge, or grouse."

These were challenging words to a game technician. "I began investigating the Coturnix," says Steen, "because habitat and breeding conditions for the Bobwhite and some other quails are becoming increasingly unfavorable, due to more intensive farming. And I found out what the traveled huntsman told me proved generally to be true about the Coturnix."

Like any other bird with almost worldwide distribution, the Coturnix has developed "strains." American game authorities apparently favor the Japanese strain as most likely to succeed here. The bird is slightly smaller than our Bobwhite quail but in hunting and eating thrills compares well with any quail.

"Our studies and experiments lead us to believe," says Steen, "that the Coturnix will live and thrive on those great grassy acres where presently no game bird can hold out. This will open up hunting of quail to people who may not even have tasted the bird heretofore."

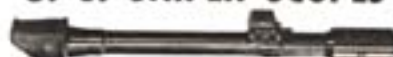
"This rugged little bird needs no more cover than a meadowlark. Unlike most quail, he does not covey. He gets by on weed seeds and insects, and loves the Army and cutworm. Most important to the hunter, he outbreeds most quail."

Since the Bobwhite is perhaps our most familiar quail, a comparison between the two will show why game technicians have high hopes for the success of the newest quail-importer.

"The Bobwhite," explains Steen, "matures in four or five months. It takes 23 days to hatch the eggs, and only one family per year is raised. Only about three per cent of the diet, normally, is animal matter. Hence, wooded and well vegetated cover is necessary for Bobwhites, especially under covey living. In severe weather, survival is not possible without these conditions."

"But the Coturnix matures in about eight weeks. The busy little hen lays from 8 to 15

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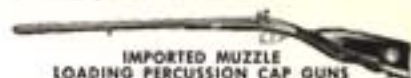
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eggs, and hatches them in 16 days. Thus a chick hatched in spring becomes a parent that same fall. And, unlike the Bobwhite, the Coturnix diet consists of more than 40 per cent animal matter in the form of destructive insects.

"As for survival in severe weather, the Coturnix has one card up his sleeve. He'll shelter in sparse cover and 'take' bitter storms; but when conditions become impossible, he migrates. In fact, he's capable of flying tremendous migratory trails."

It is this unique migratory characteristic that has made the Coturnix so well known in so many places, except in this hemisphere. He will make the long hop from Britain, Scandinavia, and northern Europe, over the lofty mountains to the Africa-Middle East shores of the balmy Mediterranean. Sometimes he is so fatigued that literally acres of weakened quail are harvested by Israelites and Moslems who eagerly await this change in their diet. Accounts of these masses of quail are to be found in the Bible, Exodus XV, 13 and Numbers XI, 31-32. The Isle of Capri and the Bay of Naples are also the scenes of "quail harvests."

"Enormous numbers," says one writer, are harvested during the spring migration on the north islands and on the Continent, sometimes by netting. Coturnix are found in Africa, too, except in high mountains and deep forests. They're in Asia also, flying the high humps of the Pakistan mountains in their migrations.

The strain of Coturnix we're soon to see here has been propagated for centuries in the Far East, especially by the Chinese and Japanese. Asiatics breed them in small bamboo cages less than a foot square, with hundreds of birds to a room. A high-protein diet of fish and grain enables the birds to

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lay from 150 to 200 eggs per year under controlled conditions of light, temperature, and hygiene. Several generations are thus produced each year, to turn out eggs and meat.

In the central United States breeding farms, Coturnix quail are mated in pairs, but some effort is being made to have one male serve a colony of hens, to step up production of "seed stock." In the Missouri latitudes (36 to 38 degrees) where night temperatures may drop to 32 to 45 degrees in early March, the males are then beginning their "spring" calling. The mated hens (often only 70 days old) begin laying the clutch of 8 to 15 mottled-blue-or-brown eggs. In 16 to 17 days, the first chicks are born. Incidentally, newly-born chicks appear to be sick because they spend their first few days lying on their side. But the parents bring them no food, and soon they're foraging about in lively, independent fashion.

Within a single year, under ideal breeding conditions, the Coturnix has produced four generations of quail.

How can you identify this new addition to America's game bird?

The Coturnix is about the size of a dove and appears somewhat like our meadowlark in color. The saddle and wings are a darker buff than the belly. The fully matured male has a dark throat patch; there is some flecking about the neck, but no crest on the

head. The beak is longer and thinner than a Bobwhite's. The tail is relatively short, misleading the observer to believe the bird is a "lightweight." Actually, mature hens weigh about 130 grams; males, 110 grams.

In walking and squatting, this quail moves like a lark, in a more horizontal plane than other quail. Remember, it never coveys; in coldest weather, it sits alone or sometimes in pairs.

To the shotgun sports-man the important part is, how does the Coturnix hunt? "This quail lies well to the dog," says expert Steen, assuring hunters of that Bobwhite thrill that springs from a trigger-fast flush from "under your nose." "It has a good flight pattern, and calls for the same gun and the same techniques, generally, used for Bobwhite. Use your same 'quail' dog, too."

Right now, 14 states are stocking the birds. Missouri made an initial stocking of 2,000 birds on state-owned land, then released 20 thousand more birds on a state-wide basis. Alabama also released thousands of Missouri-bred birds.

It is the quail-whistle of all those thousands of wings over a great section of America that Melvin Steen has been dreaming about for many years. An old pro in the game conservation and propagation field, he hopes, in the name of the upland game hunter, that the big experiment pays off big!

RACKS FOR RECORDS

(Continued from page 16)

moose of Wyoming and Montana. Each subspecies has its own range and its own record score for trophy evaluation.

The Kenai peninsula of Alaska ranks all records for *Alces gigus*, in size and numbers. The Talkeetna mountain, Rainy Pass, and Hewitt lake localities in Alaska, and the Mayo and Hart river regions of Yukon Territory are also excellent bets, but the Kenai Peninsula is tops.

The more southern-ranging Canadian moose, *Alces americana*, occupies a tremendous range. The eastern half of southern Canada, and Maine, used to be the traditional record-producing areas, with Silas Witherbee's 1914 kill at Bear Lake, Quebec, still topping all known heads. But during the last decade, the better heads have come largely from an east-to-west strip across central Canada—from Hudson Bay clear across Alberta and British Columbia. Smaller localities—like The Pas, Manitoba, and the Cassiar region of British Columbia—are not far off the record pace of recent years.

The *Shirasi* brand of moose was strictly a Wyoming product for many years. It still is to a large degree, but its Wyoming range has steadily expanded, especially to the south of Yellowstone Park along the Atlantic creek and Buffalo river areas. Madison and Missoula counties of Montana have also recently broken into the ranking records and are fine bets for the dedicated seeker of trophy representatives of this smallest of the moose family. Topped by John Oakley's 1952 kill on Green River lake of Wyoming, the limited distribution of this species is reflected by the fact that less than 25 heads are presently listed among the records.

The whitetailed deer records have taken a terrific beating of late years simply because this is, numerically, the Number One big-game critter on the Continent. Over 30 sub-

species of the clan range from Central America through Canada. One of these is a little fellow, often locally known as the Arizona or Mexican whitetail, but specifically designated as the Coues (pronounced "cows") deer. A separate award class has been set up for this wee guy.

Coues heads are comparatively rare in trophy collections, though a lot of them are killed in their major strip of range on both sides of the Mexican border. They're small deer—one of 125 pounds in live weight is a whopper—but carry heads that are somewhat larger in proportion to the body size than those of their larger and more famous cousins. Ed Stockwell's record Coues buck, taken in Pima county, Arizona, in 1953 is nearly a dozen big scoring points better than any other that has been presented for record measurement. The provinces of Sonora and Chihuahua in Mexico, and the Rincon, Santa Rita, and Chiricahua mountain areas of Arizona are the best bets for Coues head hunters at present, though the Glass, Chisos, and Davis mountains of Texas' Big Bend country also hold some herds. It is quite conceivable that a Texas head may shortly break the present Arizona and Mexico monopoly of the Coues trophy list.

The standard whitetail, *Odocoileus virginianus* and its sundry related sub-species, has been divided into the typical and non-typical, or freak, heads in two separate classes. The latter class thus provides for the recording of those odd heads that have a great amount of irregular antler growth, often with ten points or more to the side. Regardless of whether they are of the typical or freak conformation, the bulk of whitetail trophies are chiefly found on either side of the Canadian border, as far west as eastern Montana. There are a few startling exceptions in mineral-rich areas in such widely-separated localities as

Texas, New York, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, and even Washington. But these localities aren't as consistent producers as the states and provinces bordering the United States-Canadian boundary. A world's record head was taken in Webb county, Texas, in 1949, but this trophy has already been beaten five times, by splendid bucks from Iowa, Minnesota, Saskatchewan, and South Dakota; and then all were topped by a late entered head taken by Roosevelt Lucky in Allegheny county, New York, back in 1939. That head is the reigning champ.

In the non-typical or freak whitetailed classification, the top-ranked head for some 45 years was the famous James Brewster trophy. Oddly enough, it came from the Elk river region of British Columbia, an area where top-ranking whitetails are now somewhat uncommon. But it was shot back in 1905, and has now been shoved back into Number Three ranking by two freak Texas heads on which hunter and kill data is unknown. Both of these are owned by the Lone Star Brewing concern of Texas. The next dozen-odd high-ranking non-typical whitetail heads have all come from States and Provinces adjacent to the United States-Canada boundary previously mentioned.

Whitetailed deer are found in 43 States and all of the southern Canadian provinces. They're easily the most widely hunted of all of the widespread deer clan. Wisconsin, Michigan, Texas, Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania have herds ranging from 600,000 to 300,000 head apiece, with 18 other States having native herds ranging upward from 30,000 head.

Like the whitetails, mule-eared deer heads are also broken down into typical and non-typical or freak head classes. For many years, the Kaibab Forest area of Arizona was considered the place to go for the best of these whopping stags. But too small a hunting take for several seasons, leading to an over-abundance of deer and a subsequent depletion of browse, led to a horrible die-off there. This range has since been restored and it is quite possible the Kaibab will again become a producer of trophy mule deer heads.

When the Kaibab failed them, the nation's muley hunters turned mostly northward. There they had 11 States with population inventories in excess of 100,000 head each. Seven of those (California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah) had herds that exceeded 230,000 head, with each annual harvests of over 35,000. Nevada, Washington, and Wyoming also harvested over 35,000, but they took their kill off much smaller parent herds. The total annual kill of some 650,000 produced some outstanding trophies.

Two areas came into great prominence for trophy heads. One was the Elko county, Nevada, locality; the other was the inter-state area of southern Wyoming and northern Colorado. A smattering of big heads came also from British Columbia, California, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Washington. The present record-holder, taken in 1930 by Horace Fowler in the Arizona Kaibab, was crowded hard by a Jackson county, Colorado, head taken in 1949 by Edison Pillmore. Only a meager handful of scoring points separates the excellence of these two heads.

In the non-typical competitions, Arizona's Kaibab Forest is away out in front. Some non-typical muley heads come from Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, and eastern Washington,

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and a few from Saskatchewan and British Columbia provinces of Canada, but they can't compete with the Kaibab in annual production.

The Columbian blacktailed deer is confined in its range to the coastal strip of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and a few northern California counties. Since the officially approved blacktail records number under 50 in all, the best bet for the trophy hunter of this species is to hunt the most isolated areas he can find of the coastal range mentioned above. Trinity County of California is the best producer of them all, crowded closely by Siskiyou, Yamhill, Shasta, and Humboldt counties in the same State. Blacktail ranges in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia run a poor second in total fine heads.

The pronghorn antelope has been coming along like a house afire during the last ten years and now offers hunting to both residents and visitors in Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Texas, and Wyoming. Seven additional States restrict antelope for their resident hunters. Some 65,000 are harvested annually, with Montana and Wyoming hunters accounting for 60 per cent of that national total.

But the oldest known record still stands; a head taken by some unknown hunter in Antelope Valley of Arizona back in 1878. No other head ever officially measured has come within ten big points of equaling it. Wyoming presently owns well over 50 per cent of all the pronghorn records listed and, with an average annual kill of over 25,000 head over the past decade, will likely continue to gain more spots for its top trophies.

Local spots that are good bets for trophy antelope bucks are the Anderson Mesa of Arizona, the Red Desert of southern Wyoming.

(Continued on page 58)

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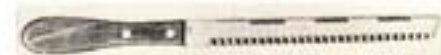
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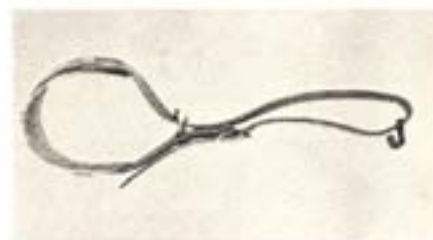
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(Continued from page 55)

ing, the Oregon area in proximity to the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, and Pahsimeroi valley of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming have so many choice areas that the pronghorn trophy hunter literally has to find his prize needle in a lot of haystacks. The best bet is to get a license in the largest possible area and then spend a lot of time with a spotting scope in searching out the one best buck of many. A pre-season survey of that sort is especially valuable, in that the pronghorns are not quite as spooky as they get when shooting actually starts. However, since pronghorns often travel a considerable distance when hunter-hounded, the general area of a big buck's range may extend over a 10 to 15 mile diameter.

If I were to trophy hunt all of the big game listed here—moose, the various species of deer, the wapiti, and the pronghorn antelope—I would use two rifles for the job. One rifle could serve, but it would be a compromise at one end of the scale or the other. If it had ample power and bullet weight for moose, elk, and muleys, it would be shy of flat trajectory for mountain hunting of elk and muleys in country where across-canyon shots would have to be used, and it would also fall somewhat short of being the ideal antelope rifle.

For the bigger species, I would choose the .300 H&H, loaded with 180 to 220 grain bullets for deep and certain penetration, even if heavy bones were hit. The .300 Weatherly

Magnum, 180-grain, would also be fine.

For most of the deer, and for antelope, I would like something like the .243, using 100 grain loads for the deer and 80-grain loads for antelope. If local game laws required a .25 caliber-or-larger rifle, I would probably go to the .270, with 130-grain loads for deer and 100-grain ammo for antelope.

If a compromise rifle was my only solution, it would probably be the .30-06, using a range of bullets from 220-grain for moose, 180 for elk and muleys, and 130 for the Coues deer and antelope. However, the .270, using the new Speer 170-grain for the heavier beasts, the very fine 130-grain for the middle-sized ones, and some fast-expanding bullet like the Hornady or Speer 100-grains for Coues deer and antelope, would be another fine compromise choice.

Although the trophy hunter should definitely have a rifle that is inherently accurate, and should be able to use it with skill and precision, the bucks and bulls that wear trophy headgear are often slippery with accumulated wisdom and wariness. They didn't grow to prize proportions by being foolish. Thus a trophy hunter must always be prepared to take the shots as he gets them, with little regard to neat, meat-saving kills. A smart old bull elk, or an elderly mossy-horn muley, will not wait to offer any picture shots. And the slippery little Coues deer, or a binocular-eyed pronghorn, both force the hunter's hand, often to shots not of his own choosing.

CHUKAR CHALLENGE TO MOUNTAIN GUNNERS

(Continued from page 21)

the reason for this import's rapid rise was undoubtedly due to the bonus-sized clutches they rear. A number of fellows reported seeing 16 or 18 and even 20 chicks from one hatch.

So how do you hunt them? Well, I've revised my early hunting tactics. It seldom pays to try overtaking these fleeting ghosts as they head for the muscle-straining peaks. But if you can work around and above them, sometimes you can stop them. You have to be pretty lucky to spook out any birds once they are put on the defensive. Some scattergunners swear that chukars hide in the cracks and crevices of the bigger boulders, that this is why they choose such rugged hangouts. Or maybe their love for the rock-

ribbed ranges dates back to their original habitat among the rocky slopes of the Himalayas. Whatever the reason, they like rough country and know how to make the most of it.

Retrievers can be quite an aid in chukar hunting. Winged birds are often hard to overtake and, as I've already mentioned, even stone dead ones may be tough to find. Occasionally, the "mountaineers" will set well for pointers. More often, they run like mountain quail or scared ringnecks. When in this mood, they'll leave your pouch dashing around in circles. And most chukar country is mean on a dog's feet unless he is in good condition.

If there are any loopholes in the chukar's defense, it's their habit or need of watering once or twice daily—usually in areas where water is scarce. Also, they have a weakness for frequent snacks of green grass. That, plus weed seeds and insects, just about completes their menu. I hope the Fish and Game Commission of our western states keep the open seasons late enough to prevent massacres while the birds are still concentrated in great numbers at the scattered water holes or springs. In southern California they gang up at the man-created watering places.

After the first rains, chukars spread out rapidly. Then you must hunt around the

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creeks and waterholes and kill a few birds, but you definitely earn them. That's my revised method of chukar action. You can walk or drive along the creeks and intercept more lurches than you ever will trying to run 'em down among the cliffs. And it's a lot easier on the leg muscles.

I discovered this fact accidentally while hunting in Malheur County, not far from Juntura, Oregon. I climbed most of a day, finding only one flock of chukars; and I never got a shot at them. Coming in late that afternoon, I spotted two of the black-masked exotics streaking across the road in front of me. I piled out, fumbled loads into my Model 12. Just as I left the road, about 30 of the big devils zoomed up, a little out of range. A tail-ender ducked around a spire of rocks and I missed him cleanly.

I never caught up with the rest, but three or four miles farther down the road I saw another lurch legging it for cover. A creek angled alongside the road, and some of this covey were drinking there; others had been feeding on the verdant grass pushed up by recent rains. Before I could bail out, the partridges again beat me across the road, heading for the steep country.

However, this time I was in for a lucky break. The birds had to cross a deep, narrow canyon scarred with heaps of black lava. I caught them stringing across the bottom of the gorge. Knowing the jig was up, some of the chukars took to the air. I knocked a big fellow kicking with my first shot, but I fired too fast the second try and my sixes rattled against the lava.

Gasping for air, I raced across the canyon after my downed quarry. A chukar rocketed up from the brush only 20 yards ahead of me. I dumped him. A half dozen scattered birds took off from the canyon wall. It took two more shots for me to tally the third and final chukar for my day's limit.

I didn't hunt chukar partridges any more that season, but I continued driving down the same road, searching for a concentration of the declining Hungarian partridges. Every day, I saw more chukars than I did the day I hunted for them with plain old leg work. They apparently didn't come down to water or feed at any particular time. I'd see them early, late, or around mid-day. One thing I learned for sure: I doubt that we in America ever hunt a less predictable bird.

If rains have been scarce enough that only the ravines and draws hold sufficient moisture to sprout new grass, these low sections can be real hotspots. Chukars rank green stuff just about at the top of the menu, and they'll visit grassy dining rooms every morning. Some hunters locate their quarry by whistling to them, then waiting for answering talk. Chukars answer to a reasonable imitation of their call, just as valley or mountain quail do. If you know somebody who raises chukars, you might sit out by their pens some day and practice mimicking them.

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the zebra-striped birds are apparently harmless to farm crops. For one thing, seldom is any farming done in the terrain chukars like best. I met one rancher who had tacked a family garden far back in a narrow mountain valley. Chukars loafed around the garden frequently, and this rancher believed they were the culprits pecking holes in his ripening tomatoes. But when I looked it over, I noticed that pheasants were dusting freely in the plot. In fact, I jumped five long-tailed roosters just by walking through the patch. I know pheasants won't turn up their beaks at juicy, red tomatoes, and I have an idea they were doing the dirty work, while the chukars were merely watering from the irrigation ditches.

Any scattergun would conceivably be okay to plaster chukars. They may flush anywhere from under your feet to infinity. However, in most of the chukar areas I've hunted, the coveys have generally jumped a bit on the wild side. Chukars are good sized birds—a little smaller than hen pheasants. For this reason, I like full choke barrels—just in case I want to reach out there 40 or 50 yards.


Another revision I made since my first partridge junkets was a switch from No. 6 pellets to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ s. For targets their size, the 6s seemed ideal before I actually hunted these birds. But 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ s throw over an additional 100 pellets in the pattern compared to the 6s; and, frankly, I often need that additional lead to score telling hits. Most scattergunners know that variously-sized shot throw the same size pattern. Smaller shot simply pours more lead in that deadly circle, increasing your chances for anchoring hits.

The size of your gauge doesn't control the spread of your pattern. The degree of choke handles that end of the business. Modified or improved cylinder chokes spray out larger patterns, and are quite effective on chukars if you don't try to strain the barrel on birds out of range. Your chukar chances will be somewhat similar to busting spooky quail that refuse to set.

If you own one of those neat feather-weights common on the market today, take it on your chukar partridge trip. After clamoring over cliffs and crumbling slides for a couple hours, you'll appreciate even a pound knocked off from the weight of old Betsy. And the birds are heavy, too... if you get 'em.

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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 12)

tion shot, I received the loading dies from Fred Huntington of R.C.B.S., and a new supply of 160 gr. Sierra BT bullets from Sierra Bullet Company. I went to work on handloads. I had slugged the barrels on both guns, pulled and measured some of the factory bullets, and checked case sizes against .270 cases. I found both barrels to be very uniform, no tight or loose spots, and groove diameter ran about .2835 on our mike. I found Remington factory bullets to be what I would term "two diameter"; that is, smaller ahead of the canulure than behind it. Also, the factory bullets I miked ran .2825, which is somewhat undersize for .284 caliber. I wondered how .284 Sierra bullets would work in these guns. Evidently Remington have made their factory ammunition that way to get a better pressure-velocity ratio for use in the three model guns that take this new .280 ammunition: the bolt, the pump, and the auto-loading rifles.

I first used once-fired factory .280 cases on my handloads and, due to the excellent results I had previously had with Hodgdon's 4831 powder in .270 loads, I used this powder exclusively. Starting at 53 grains, I worked up and then back two grains, finally settling on 57.5 grains of 4831 with the 160 gr. Sierra BT. Pressures seemed well within limits; primers were normal and ejection was very soft.

I now loaded a number of cases and tried first for groups, finding both rifles exceptionally accurate, grouping repeatedly $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches with many groups as low as $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch.

I next fired groups of 165 gr. factory bullets, at one, two, and three hundred yards. Then, after marking, I fired the 160 gr. Sierra handloads on the same target. I had previously noticed an increase of apparent recoil on the handloads over the factory loads and now, with my test, could understand why. The handloads printed $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher than factory loads at 100 yards, and at 300 yards were $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher.

I then sighted in both rifles to print $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches high at 100 yards, and found both on at 200 yards. This distance is my favorite sight-in range for actual mountain and ridge-to-ridge shooting with the .270 or the .275 H & H rifles that I use so much. It gives a reasonable point blank game range of around 325 yards.

I next made tests to find the necessary hold at 400 and 500 yards. I loaded a few 160 gr. Nosler partition bullets with the same powder load used with the Sierras, and found these printed into the same patterns

as the Sierras. I had found this also to be true with both the .275 H & H and the 7 mm Weatherby. This is a nice point to know.

During the fall hunting season, we loaned these rifles and our handloads to any hunter who wanted to use them, and I found plenty who did; they were kept busy. Altogether, the two rifles accounted for twelve elk, three sheep, one moose, two grizzly bears, and seven deer. All the deer and sheep were one shot kills; seven elk were one shot kills and five took extra shots due to poor shot placement. On the grizzlies, the bullets went right on through, killing them in their tracks and leaving a good exit hole. In all cases, the bullet function was excellent.

The actual kills were hard to evaluate over 150 gr., .270 handload kills. If anything, I would give them a slight edge. The recoil and resultant "kick" seemed no different than the .270. No cases of flinch developed, and all who used the rifles seemed to shoot them well and easily.

I had these guns on four different sheep hunts, the hunts, lasting from six to ten days, in rough, high, mountain country. This type of hunting produces a lot of slips and falls, and a rifle really takes a beating as to the stock finish. This seems to be the only real point of desired improvement in both guns. The gun I carried had the stock so badly marred that I took the liberty of removing all the original finish from it. I found the wood to be of excellent grade and, after cleaning, resanding, etc., I gave it a few coats of Linseed which put it back in "like new" condition, with the assurance of no further flaking and chipping.

Both scopes stayed put exceptionally well and took a lot of rough handling. The Bushnell Command Post scope proved it's usefulness on two late evening kills. Actually, I like cross hairs in preference to any other type reticule; but on these two occasions the post proved it's worth. It should be very good when a hunter switches from hunting Alaska sheep, caribou, etc., to coast bear or other game at short ranges and in brush.

I really think this rifle is the equal of any standard factory rifle of comparative price as to finish, smoothness, reliability, and definitely in accuracy. In addition, it has the added safety of one of the most rugged of actions. Remington has really pioneered something worthwhile when they brought out this recessed bolt idea. Shultz & Larson and Weatherby have both gone to it since it's appearance.

It is my personal opinion that this .280 Remington, especially in the model 725 bolt action, and also where handloading is a factor, will give the Winchester .270 a real run for the money. As with the .270 Win-

(Continued on page 62)

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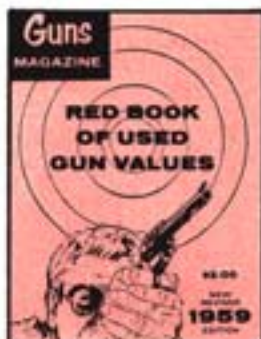
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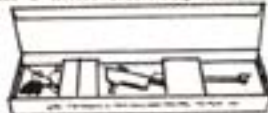
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(Continued from page 62)
.280 must include lengthening the case. If some means of helping hold the case back against the bolt when the firing pin hits the primer is not used, then wrong headspace will result and case failure will occur. While I found that first expanding the .270 cases to .30 caliber, then necking down to .280, allows me to make cases reasonably well, I would like to suggest that .280 cases be used entirely. This also gives you proper marking and easy sorting of loads and cases, if you own both the .280 and .270 caliber guns.

In ordering dies, be sure to specify whether for bolt action or pump or autoloader. Do not try to use the dies made for the bolt action for the pump or autoloader. Cases made with these dies will function very hard with the pump, and may fall altogether in the autoloader.

I am not, by any means, through using these two fine rifles, I am keeping them over for spring bear hunting, and as our average of ten to twelve bear each spring usually includes two to five grizzly, I feel I will have more data on them by the end of next hunting season. I would also like to add that these two fine rifles will undoubtedly go in our gun rack as regular using guns, in our business.

THE OLD MAN'S GUN

(Continued from page 33)

crisp night air was shattered by the report of the old gun. Grandma wasn't fooling! The intruder began to run the way he had come, and grandma cut loose three more times, not to hit him but to emphasize her order. The man, whoever he was, didn't even bother to open the gate. He hit the gate, did a sort of sprawling somersault over it, and was on his way.

We never did find out who he was. In the years since, we've often laughed about "Grandma's burglar," and argued pro and con about whether Grandma would have shot him if he hadn't scampered. But there is one thing for sure: that night, the old man's gun paid for itself again.

It hung there many years on its pegs in that house, taken down only for hunting and cleaning. Then one day, ten years ago, the gun was mine. And it started right over again—protecting a new generation. As it happens, I have used it for protection more than dad ever did.

Take, for instance, up in Maine. It was a Park Ranger for the National Park Service. We had some deer poachers in the area, and I spent many nights alone in the Red Spruce,

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 7784 Foothill — Tujunga, Calif.

trying to locate the "jackers." The old rifle was a comfort, those nights; it gave me courage. I do not know when or if it may have saved my life by just being in my hand, but I'm sure its presence would have concerned anyone who thought of assaulting me. I do know that I passed one night within a few feet of a poacher who had already been in and out of prison a few times. I didn't catch him, but he was caught the next day, with an illegal deer, by the District Ranger, and he told us how close we had been to him.

We moved later to a mountain top in Boone County, West Virginia. I taught school there and was also Explorer Advisor for the local Boy Scout Troop. I spent many nights camping, while my wife stayed alone except for two youngsters. It may have been safe enough, but loneliness seemed to creep up at night from the "hollers" 600 feet below our cabin. The wind always blew up there, and every crack and creak of the house seemed to be auditioning for Metropolitan Opera. Almost every week, we'd hear the "Runners" (moonshiners) screeching around the horseshoe bends as they made their runs to the towns on the other side of the mountain; and if it wasn't them, you could hear the hounds running a fox, or a bobcat, or possibly a bear. One night, I frightened off a bear that was trying to get into the henhouse . . . the old rifle was a comfort to my wife—and to me—on this mountain top.

I don't suppose the old rifle ever was needed as much as it is now. I am Superintendent of a State Park and Game Refuge of 1396 acres, surrounded by thousands of acres of forests and deserted farms. We have some poaching going on all year, most of it outside the Refuge area. Never-the-less, I spend many nights on a ridge top, looking for "Spotlighters." During the winter months, I spend the greater part of every week in the forests, patrolling, checking tips, studying my deer herd and its enemies.

We have many wild dogs in this country.

Many are once-tame animals that have been left at the abandoned farms. They are no longer tame. In the last 12 months, at least five does have been killed by dogs. Many does have twins, so that means ten or more deer lost, counting the mothers along with the fawns they would have borne.

I found a doe last week with her side torn out. She was dead, young, and fat with young. I trailed the "sign"—dog tracks alongside the tracks the doe had made; tracks of a hound with one toe missing on his front foot. A few days later, a young buck bounded across in front of my pickup truck, pursued by two large hounds. I checker their prints. One of them was missing a toe on his right front foot. After three hours of tracking, I called on the old man's gun again. It did the job; did it well.

What other adventures I will have with the old man's gun, I can't foresee; but I'm barely 34 years old, and the gun, as guns go, is younger.

I was watching television the other night. The station interrupted with a "Conelrad" signal for 30 seconds. Something was said about "in case of attack." I looked up at the old man's gun on the wall. It's comforting. It hangs there—ready, always ready to serve its master—and its master's son. That's the way I hope it will always be, with me—and with the Old Man's Gun.

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