

AUGUST 1956 50c

Guns

CONVERTING A PISTOL
INTO A RIFLE

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH
PIGEON SHOOTING?

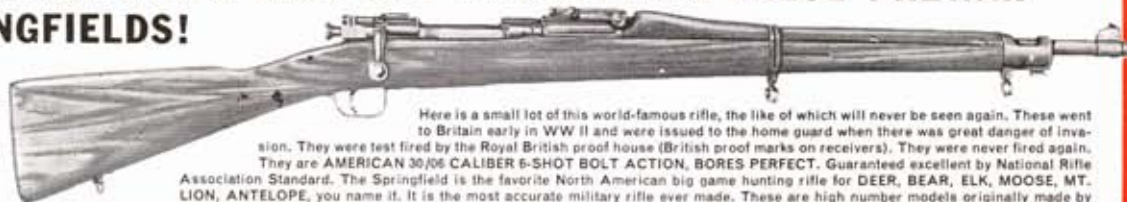


THE MAN WHO
CAN OUTSHOOT
THE RUSSIANS

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\$49⁹⁵



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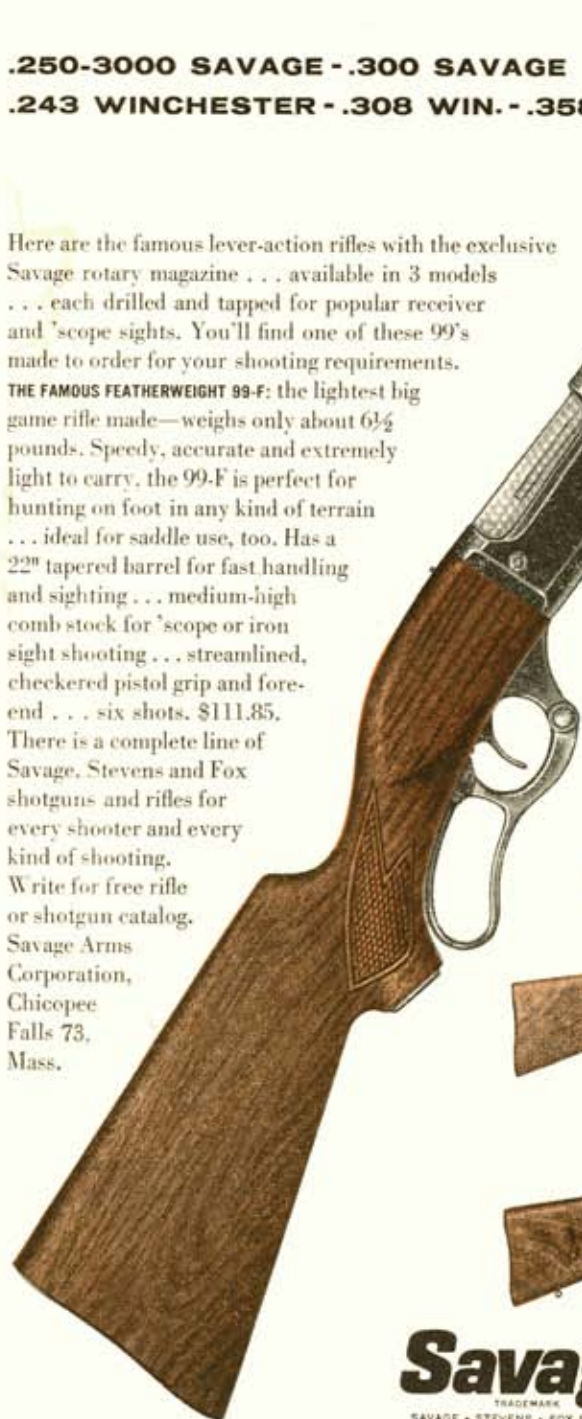
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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Why Bullets Kill"

The article in the June issue of GUNS Magazine, "Why Bullets Kill," is one of the best articles on this subject appearing in popular guns and sporting magazines. I think the article has appeal to a wide range of shooters from the casual once-a-year hunter to the hard-bitten gun nut.

From my own personal standpoint I was very pleased that the author left out the usual hocus-pocus about "nerve shock" which the pseudoscientific writer frequently inserts with no understanding of what he is talking about.

My only criticism, and this is with tongue in cheek, is that the title does not describe the contents of the article. Actually the article is on the physical aspect of wound ballistics rather than the physiologic effects. One, of course, accounts for the other, but to put it simply, bullets do not kill because they make a hole through something but because the effect of this hole is the disruption of vital processes. I realize this sounds like saying that "a bullet kills because it stops you from living," but in a sense this is the case.

A bullet that enters vital regions of the brain, for example, produces death by paralysis of respiration and subsequently of heart action, or both rather close together. A high spinal cord injury initially produces only paralysis of respiration with death due to lack of oxygen to the brain and subsequently to the heart.

These are rather crudely described wounds that are immediately or rapidly fatal. Less rapidly fatal wounds are generally related to blood loss with the later development of impairment of brain and heart function by loss of oxygen, carrying capacity of the decreased blood volume.

GUNS Magazine is to be complimented for a wound ballistics article that sticks to the facts in a most lucid and readable manner.

Dr. Alexander C. Johnson
Great Falls, Mont.

Hollywood Stories

Reading through the June issue, I found your selection of the articles excellent; with ones on handloading, hunting, and target shooting you had very good variety. But I think what pleased me the most was the lack of the Hollywood type story. I can't understand whom you are trying to appeal to by putting in the stories such as "The Guns of", or using such idiotic photographs as the ones at the bottom of page 40. Most gun owners take their shooting and hunting quite seriously and don't give two cents for the opinion of an entertainer or someone in politics.

You have a large reading audience in the

shooters of America but with only one thing in common: an interest in guns. Along with the pleasure of reading about guns, one usually likes to acquire some useful information. I am happy that most of the material in GUNS is of this nature, but why waste your paper on something that isn't? Even including this fault though, you have a very fine magazine, and I hope to be a subscriber for many years to come.

West Frazier
Lafayette, Indiana

Buffalo Hunters

Enjoyed your article on the buffalo hunt. My sentiments though are with Charles Russel's last paragraph about the buffalo. It is too bad that some of those guns didn't blow back and blow the heads off some of those who hunted the buffalo to practical extinction and wasted meat by the millions of tons, leaving nothing for those people following who could have used the meat. We could have had some buffalo now to hunt and use and enjoy. Curses on the stupid fools.

Erwin H. Slavens
Aurora, Colo.

Target Rifle Shooting

This letter is in reference to the article written by Colonel Charles Askins in the March Issue of GUNS on "What's Wrong With Target Rifle Shooting?" Col. Askins singled the hair of my tail when he said: "The target shooting game among civilians is about as moribund as a Sunday afternoon in Topeka." Sure, but why? I'll tell you why. Name one public large bore rifle range in New York City. Why if we want to shoot large bore do we have to go to Middlefield, Conn., 100 miles or so away? Thanks to the Lyman Gun Sight Corp., there are facilities available including immaculate rest rooms, shower stall and a snack bar. That's Connecticut. What about New York City? New York State? If you belong to the National Guard, there are facilities and some of these facilities are available to certain clubs, only certain clubs. What about the individual shooter? Where does he stand?

Then the colonel goes on to say: "We used to be a nation of riflemen." I got news for him. We still are if given a place to shoot within traveling distance. Let me give you an example of what takes place when we go to a match in Middlefield, Conn. It usually starts at 9:00 AM, so we get up about 5:30 AM, leave the club or meeting place at 6:00 AM and arrive in plenty of time. We are just a bit weary after a three-hour drive and the prone position feels pretty good after that.

Harry F. Corradi
Brooklyn, N. Y.

SHOOTING NEWS

Dallas, Texas. Site of skeetdom's traditional Pan-American classic was the plush Dallas Gun Club, where 120 top gunners including a visiting 8-man Puerto Rican police team battled for silver trophies in all gauges and classes. High gun in the pop-gun .410 event - which is a tricky thing at best with the light shotload of the .410 shell - was Mississippian Fred LaRue. Charley Boardman of Philadelphia chalked up the 28 gauge win and Bob Rath of Winnetka, Illinois, took honors in the 20 gauge shoot. The gruelling 200 bird 12 gauge event was tied by Jaime Loyola of Puerto Rico, Carola Mandel of Chicago, Fred LaRue and Titus Harris, Jr. of Galveston, all deadlocked at 199. In the shoot-off, Titus Harris blazed to win...The efficient layout of the Dallas clubhouse contributed much to the success of the match. When shoots are in progress, the squad hustler and announcers can comfortably direct activities by loudspeaker from the second floor.

Akron, Ohio. The blond gal who is building a top name for herself in the small-bore world, Mrs. Viola Pollum of Brookville, Pa., won the coveted Litchfield Trophy at the Goodyear Zeppelin Rifle Club's .22 match. First woman to win the Litchfield bronze plaque, she fired 3194 x 3200 with 239 X-ring bullseyes to lead a field of 96 top competitors from the east. Charles C. Whipple of Somerset, Pa., was runner-up scoring 3193 with 249X's. Whipple's near miss had a rough edge to it - he had won the Litchfield in 1954. Viola will have a chance to defend another of her titles at the July 21st Zeppelin open smallbore tourney...Midwestern Regionals which are important in the annual .22 competition set-up are scheduled for August 4 and 5 at the Zeppelin range. The club plans to expand soon to 80-position firing line with pistol, skeet and trap added.

Montreal, Canada. RCAF Sgt. Barney Hartman of Ottawa knocked the birdies out of the wild blue yonder for a clean sweep of four titles in the first Canadian Skeet Shoot championships at Montreal's skeet club. Hartman led the way in both Canadian open and closed championships in .410 and 20 gauge classes...American invaders from New Jersey kept their Remington 11-48's smoking with John Oldenburg of Paterson, and Mrs. Victoria Wood and F. C. Wood, Jr. of Fort Lee scoring high.

Chicago, Ill. One of skeet shooting's biggest events, the Great Western Regionals, was fired at the beautiful lake-shore Lincoln Park Gun Club. About 170 gunners turned out for the 12 gauge event with the hot competition lasting almost 12 hours. A little confusion during the three-day shoot was brought on by a hail storm with stones 3/4" in diameter battering down for a few minutes. They say none of the stones were scored as "birds"...Fred LaRue repeated his regional victory in Dallas by winning the .410 event. Bob Rath from Winnetka took the 28 gauge event and Carola Mandel set a new record by becoming the first woman ever to win an event in this shoot, not only taking the 20 gauge but winning the 12 gauge as well and the all-around championship in four guns. Just shows that little girls can shoot big guns if they try...Both Chet Crites from Detroit and Marion Shields of Grand Rapids went straight to knock down 100 without a miss. Marion won the shoot-off...In the 20 gauge event the gunners were so uniformly matched that the shoot-off took as long as the event itself! W. G. Tomlinson of Royal Oak, Michigan, tied with Carola, both cracking 98 over the wind-swept field. First round ended and both fired 25; next two rounds ran 24 apiece and not only shooters but the spectators were tensing up. In the fourth and final round "Tommy" dropped one bird while Carola went straight to win the crown...Bob Rath won the 28 gauge after a close run by Harry Altice, one of the Middle West's outstanding guns for many years.

Coral Gables, Florida. On the Police Pistol Club range some fine scores were turned in. Lew Frederick kept his handgun battery hot, winning in the .22 open, centerfire expert and .45 expert classes with remarkably uniform figures of 197, 196 and 193 in timed fire course...Grand aggy winners in the open class were Frederick with a high 1695, Harvey Dunn scoring 1684, and D. C. Olive nudged into third place with 1664 over Ken Cowan's fourth, a close 1663...Expert class high pistoleer was Lassae Alexander, 1627; Jesse Francis, Jr. fired all three guns for a sharpshooter high of 1578; and Ira C. Merick scored highest marksman with 1438.

Middlefield, Conn. The 12th annual Shoulder-to-Shoulder junior .22 tournament conducted by the Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Association attracted over 100 juniors to the Winchester Clubhouse range . . . The 79 eager, excited and nervous marksmen cooled down with Bill Kerr of New London High School scoring 190 for first place . . . Barbara Winton of Stratford, Conn.'s, Police Athletic League earned double honors, second place and high girl scorer.

La Grange, Illinois. At the Electromotive Division (General Motors) Rod & Gun club range, nine top trap gunners fired to wins in all three classes . . . Class A winner was Walt Stenzl of Westmont, Ill.; second place to G. Nation, retired from active employment at EMD but an honorary life member of the club; third to Vern Gunsallus who blasted through to uphold the honor of the Engine Division . . . Industrial engineer Syl Bezjak busted the birdies for first in class B; second was F. Smiar; third to Dave Johnson of Winchester, Ill. . . . Class C saw hot shooting between C. Morris, Roy Mickow of Hinsdale, and George Elsey for 1-2-3 in that order. . . Ken Skibbe won a handsome gold finished travelling trophy as high gun of the season. This is a new thing with the EMD club—three wins and it is permanent with Skibbe but there should be some interest in getting it away from him during the next shooting season. A "traveling trophy" ought to travel.

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Fifty-three Marine Corps sharpshooters kept a steady barrage of .30M2's barreling down-range to win medals and honors in the Eastern Division individual rifle competition attended by some 400 shooters from east coast posts and the Mediterranean area . . . Six gold medal winners were headed by Sgt. D. S. Wagner. The youthful leatherneck topped all other shooters for a grand aggregate win of 570 x 600. Wagner fired his M1 for 283 the first day, 287 the second. Course of fire was 20 shots off-hand 200 yards, 20 minutes; then 10 rounds rapid fire from sitting in 50 seconds; third is 10 rounds rapid fire from prone at 300 yards, and last 20 shots prone at 600 yards. Same course is shot the following day. Wagner tightened up a little and shot four points better the second time around . . . S/Sgt. W. A. Herrington of Camp Lejeune took a firm grip on his .45, stuck his feet as far apart as he could reach for a rock-solid shooting stance, jammed his left hand into his pocket and triggered off his shots for a silver medal in the Edson Trophy match and 527 x 600 . . . PFCs showed they could shoot and well. Private First Class J. E. Schneider, 2nd Marine Division, placed 25th in a field of 250 top Marine shooters for a score of 525 x 600 and a bronze medal.

Libertyville, Ill. The day dawned hot and clear but a little rain later did not dampen the spirits and aim of 78 registered shooters at the Libertyville Gun Club smallbore shoot....The 100 yard dual course was fired over, first two matches "any sights" with the usual line-up of 20X Feckers, Unertls and Lymans a-top .22 M52's and Remington 37's. One of Al Freeland's BSA single shots turned up in the hands of one shooter... John Moscakau of Waterloo, Iowa, found the grassy meadow of Libertyville's 100 yard range was anything but his "Waterloo," for he drilled the bullseye neatly for a "possible" 400 x 400 and 30 X's to win first, scoring 20 shots at 50 yards and 20 shots at 100 in the Dewar course. Second was Joe Webster of Rockford, Ill., with a possible and 31 X's. Third was Harry Tevis of Park Ridge, "possible" and 27 X's.

TRIGGER TALK

HOTTEST TOPIC among shotgunners is live pigeon shooting. It is so hot that shooters do not openly discuss it, except under the euphemism of "flyer shooting." For the first time anywhere, one of the world's leading flyer shooters, Bob Allen, who is a gun author and expert and twice Champion of the World, frankly discusses the facts and the problems of shotgunning's most fascinating and difficult target game. His article asking "What's Wrong with Pigeon Shooting" is an eye-opener on a very controversial sport.

The nation's leading handgun shooter for some eight or ten years past also makes his debut in this issue of GUNS. We are proud to welcome Sgt. Joe Benner to our pages. America's foremost Olympic hope, Joe writes of his methods in training for handgun matches—information worthwhile to everyone in the gun game from beginner to expert. Benner is currently stationed at the Military Academy at West Point as shooting instructor.

Colonel Ward O. Betz brings up from the old dope bag a wildcat story which at first glance seems ordinary—until you read on and learn the implications. By working up special loads for a unique handgun cartridge, Colonel Betz has just about brought the pistol up into the rifle class for long range varmint shooting. His remodeling of a New Service Colt into a high-powered .30 bottle-neck wildcat will start a lot of case resizing in basement workshops, we predict. The colonel is in Newfoundland on a bear hunt now and we expect to have a story from him soon on "Hunting the biggest varmints," which he shoots with, naturally, a .240 wildcat of his own devising.

"What Ammo for Match Shooting" by ordnance technician Larry Moore will make some shooters wake up and read the statistics again. The table showing accuracy of various lots and brands of .22's in three different rifles reveals the great importance of teaming your ammo with your gun through testing to determine which .22's give top results in your particular rifle. Moore is employed in one of the nation's largest research and testing laboratories and writes with full knowledge of his subject.

MODEL KV
SERIES 60

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ONE Scope...TWO Magnifications



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Scope shown with Weaver Split-Ring Detachable Mounts. Scope \$57.50; Mount \$9.75.

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Weaver Detachable Split-Ring Top Mount—\$9.75

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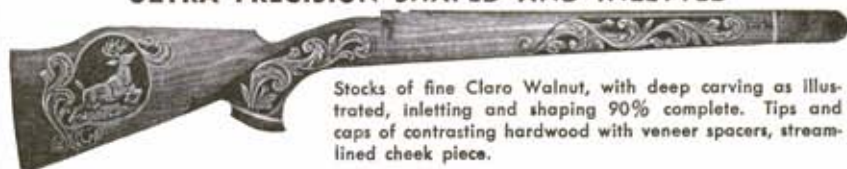
Weaver Pivot Mount shown in open position—\$12.50

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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ Honeymooning in India, Lady Amabel Linday, 20-year-old British noblewoman, killed a crocodile with the first shot she ever fired in her life.

□ Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito has a weakness for practical jokes. On a recent hunting trip, he tied a pair of deer antlers on a cow and turned it loose in the brush. Then he excitedly pointed out the animal to a companion and courteously allowed him to take the first shot. For days after the incident, Tito would phone his hunting friend and when the latter answered, Tito would just say "Mooooo."

□ A wild duck that somehow had managed to escape hunters' guns for 13 years finally had his luck run out at the Munuscong marshes in Michigan. The bagged bird had a federal leg band that had been attached in the same marshes in 1943.

Maine deer hunters who drop a buck weighing 200 pounds or more become eligible to the Biggest Bucks In Maine Club. Last year some 1000 hunters shot a buck over the 200-pound mark.

□ Ed Lindsay of Knoxville, Tennessee, hunted two years to catch one particular squirrel. He sighted an albino squirrel one day and stalked the same animal 24 months before getting a shot at him while walking the banks of Little River hunting for ducks.

□ A western stage-coach holdup, modern style, was foiled in Los Angeles by gas station operator Milton Gerber. He had drawn \$7,000 from the bank and was getting into his car when a man approached with drawn gun. "This is a holdup," the robber said, "You're covered." Drawing his own gun, Gerber said to the bandit, "You're covered, too." The gunman looked at Gerber's pistol, muttered "Let's call it quits," and fled.



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8MM, Caliber—.323 Diameter	
150-Gr. Rnd. Nose (can)	5.00
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348 Caliber—.348 Diameter	
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AUGUST
1956
Vol. 2
No. 8-20

Guns



MAGAZINE

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COVER

Shoulder stocks fitted to regular caliber revolvers, such as M1861 Navy Colt .36 and special long range sights on "Buntline Special" Frontier .45 have been tried to adapt a handgun to rifle use. Modern trend is typified by re-barreled New Service Colt which uses wildcat cartridge of rifle type with long range and power, yet is fired with one hand.

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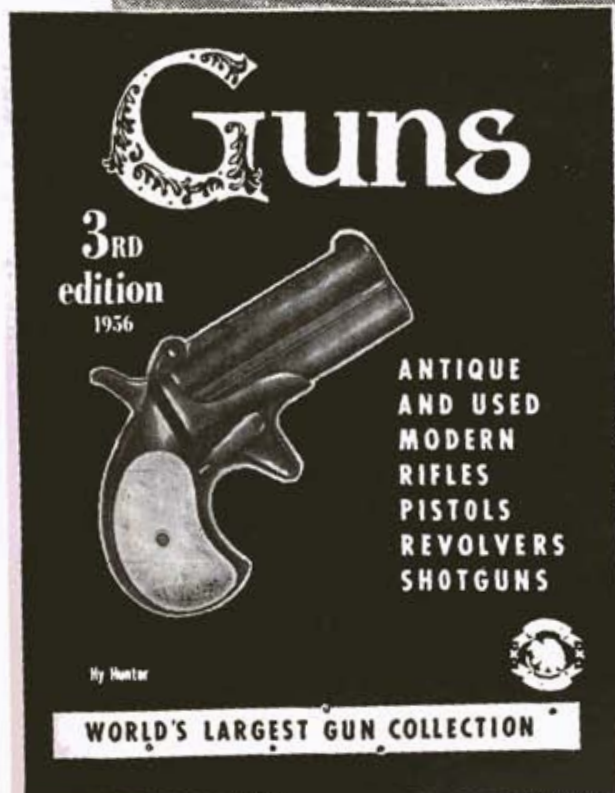
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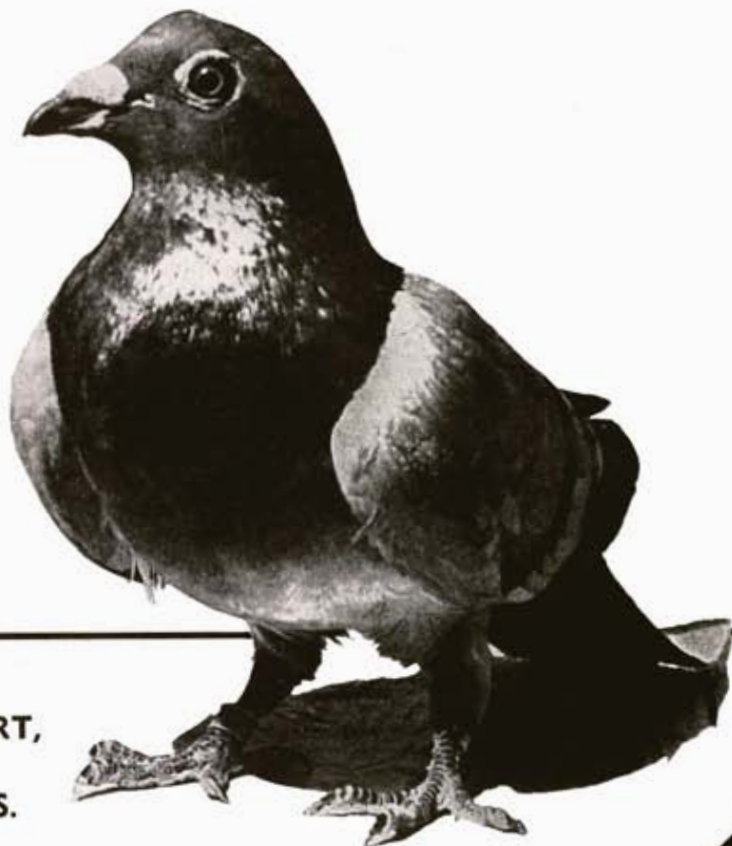
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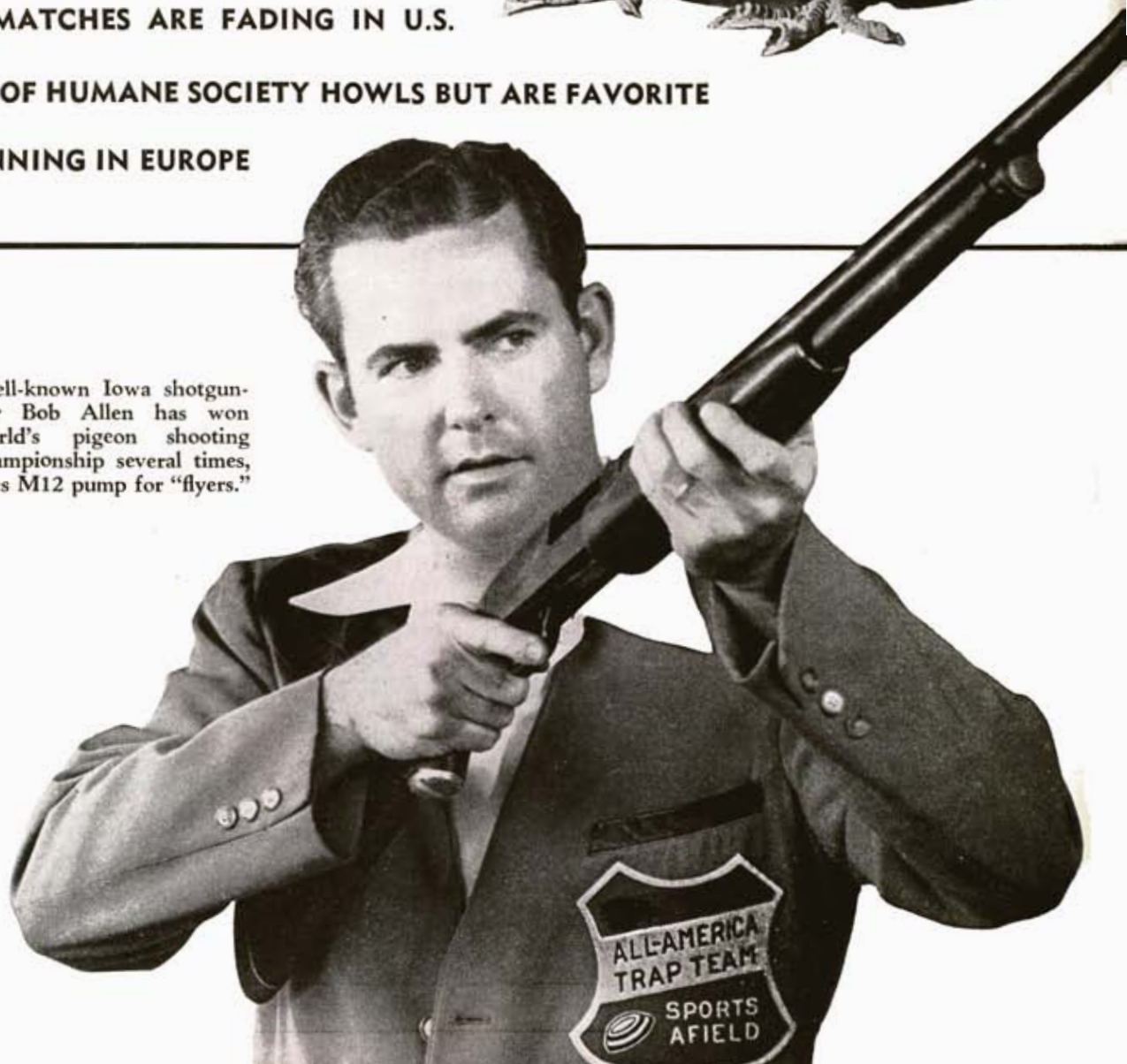
WHAT'S WRONG WITH PIGEON SHOOTING



CONSIDERED MOST COMPETITIVE SPORT,
PIGEON MATCHES ARE FADING IN U.S.

BECAUSE OF HUMANE SOCIETY HOWLS BUT ARE FAVORITE
SHOTGUNNING IN EUROPE

Well-known Iowa shotgunner Bob Allen has won world's pigeon shooting championship several times, uses M12 pump for "flyers."



By BOB ALLEN

FLYER SHOOTING they call it, a non-committal name which live pigeon shooters have applied to their game. Their sport is a bigger public controversy and has been more loudly damned than even bullfighting. Yet throughout the rest of the world this sport is accepted as nothing out of the ordinary and is the most popular form of shooting in European countries. During this summer live pigeon shoots will be held in all the civilized capitals of Europe, including Grace Kelly's new home of Monte Carlo. On a strand jutting into the blue waters of the Mediterranean, live pigeons will be the target at one of the season's important international shoots.

But here in the U.S., humane societies and do-good-for-animals groups have raised such a howl that you'd think it was pedigreed dogs and cats that were being destroyed instead of a known pest, the pigeon.

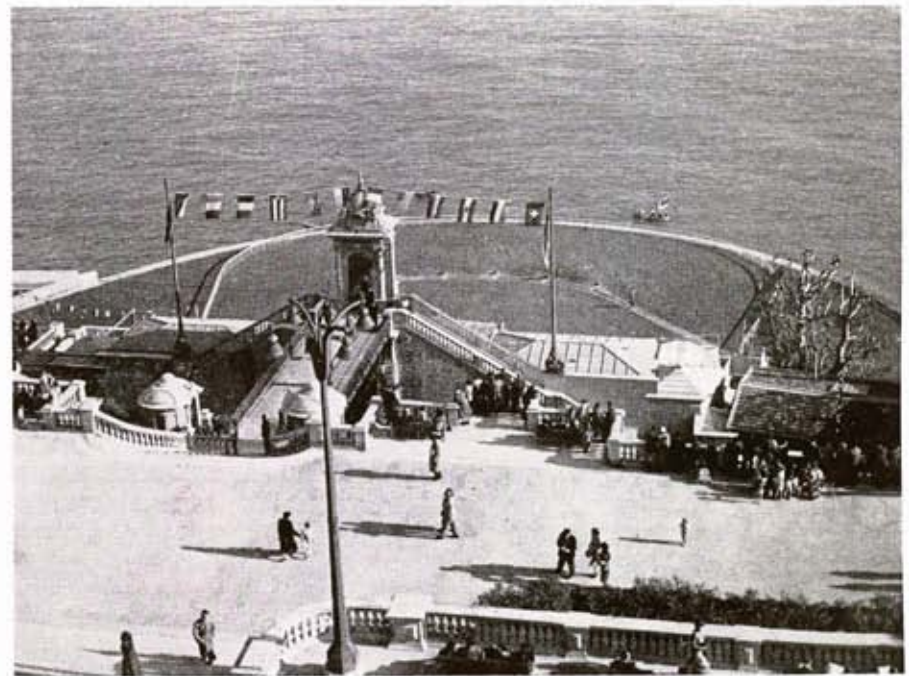
What's so wrong with live pigeon shooting? Why the outcry anyway? Most cities and many building owners spend thousands of dollars trying to get rid of pigeons by having pest control firms trap them, but when shooters make a sport out of it, there is always a big howl.

Certainly pigeon shooting on a wholesale scale would provide a good way to control the birds that mark up our buildings, carry contagious livestock diseases, and make themselves generally disliked—especially as they make their customary deposit on your new coat or hat as you walk down the street. Most people consider pigeons nuisances and pests, but there are enough pigeon fanciers and those who oppose the killing of anything (this includes hunting in the field as well, though the objectors usually eat meat with a clear conscience) to make wholesale pigeon shooting by gun clubs a fading sport.

About the turn of the century pigeons were the favorite targets at gun clubs but gradually disappeared in favor of the clay target which is so com-



At Grand Prix de Monte Carlo, gunner gets set to call "Pull" and swing when pigeon is released in popular international shoot at Riviera spa.



Famous locale of international pigeon shooting sport is ring at Monte Carlo on the water below gambling casino. Sport started in Monte Carlo back in 1872.

mon now in trapshooting and skeet. For many years previously experimenters attempted to design a target with flying characteristics like a pigeon. Metal targets were made with sections that would collapse when struck by shot; glass and clay balls as well as ceramic targets in various other shapes were tried. Finally our modern clay targets and standardized traps to throw them were developed.

Shooters all admit that the clay pigeon is no substitute for the live bird when it comes to shooting thrills. The live pigeon with its darting, twisting, turning, unpredictable fashion of flight is unexcelled as a target and has long been the delight of all those who love guns and shooting.

But currently there is no organized pigeon shooting in the U.S., although no laws are on the books to prevent it.



At the "Carabine de Monte Carlo" live pigeon ring, concrete walk is marked off for handicap distances by paint stripes. Fence extends around shooting area and the bird must be brought down inside this fence in order to score points.

Kenosha top gun Bill Isetts (right) won Champion of the World cup presented by Egypt at Cairo meet in 1955.

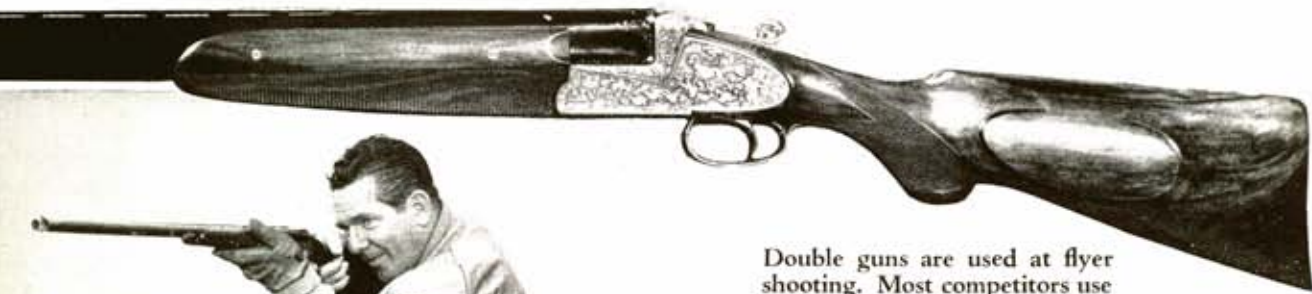


in most states. A few individuals operate pigeon rings for training in preparation for overseas shooting matches and thus, many Americans have become very proficient in this type of shooting.

Birds are readily available to these club operators as pest control firms, which operate in just about every major city, trap pigeons on public buildings. The pigeon ring operators buy their birds from such firms and I'm sure that the end awaiting the birds is far more humane than that which they receive at the hands of those who trap them.

In Europe and South America, where such shooting flourishes, a special type of pigeon has been developed by cross breeding wild mountain pigeons with domestic birds. This breeding has been going on over a long period of years and the end result is a bird with longer wings and smaller body. Much greater speed and mobility result. These birds twist and dive in flight much as do the doves we are so familiar with here. They are the most difficult target imaginable to the gun pointer—I speak from experience when I say this for I have shot many of them in Cuba, Monte Carlo, Italy and France.

While clay target shooting is intensely interesting, I'm sure it will never have the fascination for shooters and spectators that the old live bird matches held. The sur-



Double guns are used at flyer shooting. Most competitors use over-under guns in 12-gauge.



Famous pitcher Paul Derringer of Cincinnati Reds has good eye which makes him top gun at many flyer shoots.



Metal pigeon traps are set by putting live birds inside and closing the halves. Some traps are filled from pit beneath.



Traps are opened by pulling wires which release halves. Hose carries air blast that scares pigeon into flying away.

prise element in shooting live targets makes it a form of gunning that is always intriguing and exciting. Curiously, one of the traditional championship pigeon shooting places seems likely soon to stop the sport. Prince Ranier of Monaco has asked that the sport, introduced by his gun-enthusiast ancestor, Prince Charles III, be halted as a "wedding present" from Greek financier Aristoteles Socrates Onassis who controls the casino of Monte Carlo.

Prince Charles began live-bird shooting at Monte Carlo in 1872, noting that it was a "privileged pastime" and would attract wealthy sportsmen to the Monaco Riviera. Today the sport upholds the ideas of Prince Charles. In a recent small match the entry fee was more than \$500. Sixty guns were present, all shooters of more than average wealth. But the prize was typical—a new Cadillac Eldorado. In the shoot-off, the results hinged on one bird which brought breathless anxiety to even those who were no longer in the running. Touched by shot, the bird settled on the fence ridging the arena, and gently swayed back and forth for a minute. He finally fell inside the ring, and the winning shooter was one Cadillac richer!

Money has been one of the appeals to flyer shooting for years. The gentle Annie Oakley was an active live bird enthusiast. Firing at the Lyons, France, gun club in 1889, she shot from the 31-yard mark—and scored high, although



Elaborate flyer ring at some clubs have concrete tunnels with traps in roof. Pit boys keep traps filled with birds.



Young Skip Williams of Chicago, an up-and-coming pigeon shooter, gets a few points on flyers from Homer Clark (right), who was twice world champion.



Dave Willey of Cincinnati, where live pigeon shooting was popular shotgun target sport years ago in days of Annie Oakley, is still pigeon shooter at 82.

not in the money. One week later at Marseilles she brought down 96 out of 100, winning \$1100 in gold and the championship medal. From the 1880's to today, live bird shooting is definitely the greatest challenge in the shooting world, and yearly groups of 15 to 50 Americans journey overseas to participate in pigeon shooting events, such as the championship of the world.

Some folks wonder why other birds in this same pest category as pigeons are not used for this shooting, such birds as starlings and crows. The answer is that no other bird makes as challenging a target as a pigeon. Crows have been tried and good shots rarely missed one. Starlings are hard to raise or keep in captivity and are also easily killed. A pigeon is one of the few birds that makes an initial start that is almost as fast as its cruising speed. This, plus the fact that a pigeon customarily flies in a darting, twisting fashion, makes it supreme as a gunner's target.

Just as clay target shooting gained in popularity with the decline of our game population, so did pigeon shooting get its start in England in the early 19th century when game became less plentiful. Sportsmen there accidentally found that pigeons placed under a top hat and released when the hat was jerked away with a cord made difficult flying targets. The sport was then developed further and various types of mechanical traps were designed to release the birds.

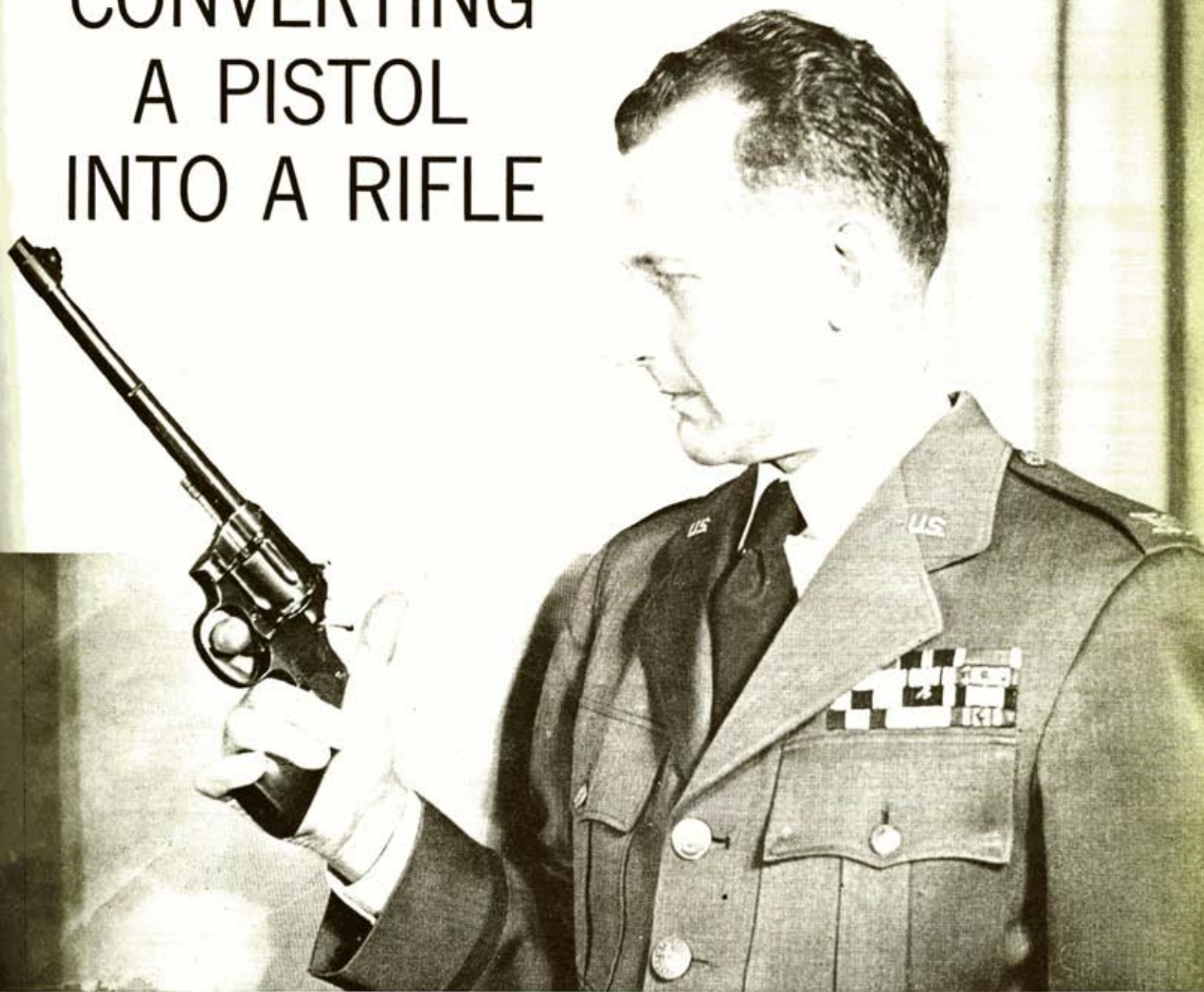
To the beginner, pigeon shooting doesn't look too difficult. But once he

has picked up his gun and gone to work on them, he soon finds that it is considerably harder than any other form of shooting he has tried including shooting game in the field.

The average pigeon ring is a semi-circular arena with five traps arranged in a line and spaced five yards apart. The shooter stands on a walk, graduated in yards so that handicaps can be assigned. Distances range from 28 to 35 yards from the line of traps. Back of the traps is a fence about 30 inches high and completely surrounding the arena but never put up closer to the traps than 16 yards.

To score a kill, the shooter is allowed two shots to drop his bird inside the fence. A clean kill is not necessary—any (Continued on page 62)

CONVERTING A PISTOL INTO A RIFLE



Colonel Ward Betz fitted piece of .30-30 rifle barrel to his old New Service Colt in wildcat revolver cartridge experiment which resulted in .30/357 bottleneck handgun pill having many shooting qualities of a rifle load.

WILDCAT .30/357 HANDGUN CARTRIDGE WITH MODERATE RECOIL AND FLAT TRAJECTORY PROVES ADAPTABLE FOR LONG RANGE SHOOTING OF VARMINTS

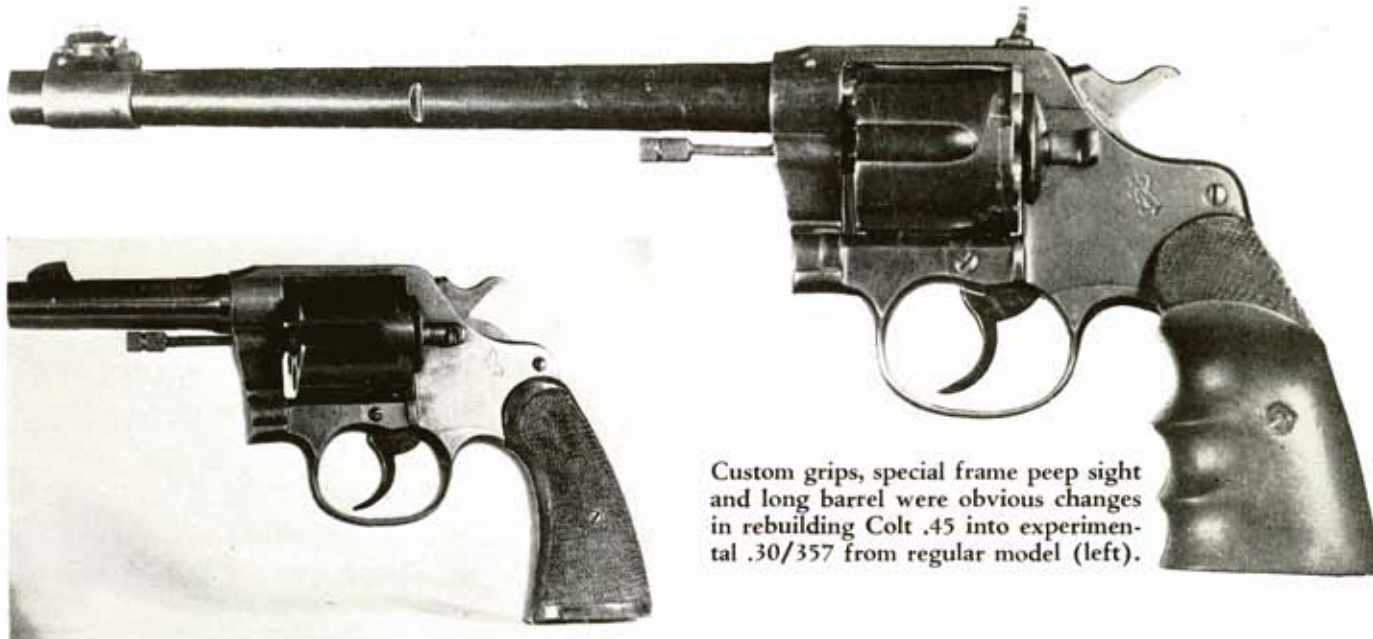
By COLONEL WARD O. BETZ

MAKING A PISTOL shoot like a rifle is good sense, even though it sounds far-fetched. The trick lies not with modifying the gun, such as was done years ago with Civil War Colts which had rifle butts stuck on their hind ends, but in cartridge development.

Giving a pistol power like a rifle can be done by wildcatting a new cartridge. And it really takes a new cartridge, not just a new load for an old case, to step up handgun power to more nearly equal the rifle.

While varmint rifles have been pretty well worked over and "improved" or "magnum" wildcats are so common that some have even been made as factory standards, the field of long-range handgun shooting is wide open for the experimenter.

I got my first taste of trying to use a pistol like a rifle in the gang I used to shoot with out around Lincoln, Nebraska, a few years ago. Our favorite calibre was .30 in our rifles—Krag, Springfields and Enfield—and it was natural enough



Custom grips, special frame peep sight and long barrel were obvious changes in rebuilding Colt .45 into experimental .30/357 from regular model (left).

that when we turned to pistols for hunting, we turned to a .30 calibre load.

We shot up hundreds of all sorts of .30 caliber bullets, from salvaged 150 grain military slugs hollow-pointed on a lathe to .32/20 gas checks cast hard and pushed out at scandalous velocities from our rifles. But when several of the group tried shooting in the field with revolvers, they used .38 Specials for prairie dogs and jack rabbits. But the .38's did not have the power nor the flat-shooting trajectories needed to reach out a hundred yards away.

Talking over the faults of the .38 for long-range shooting one night while we were cleaning guns, somebody popped up with the idea that what we really needed was a long range handgun, more powerful and faster than anything on the market. The .357 Magnum was powerful enough at close range, but mighty uncomfortable to shoot all day.

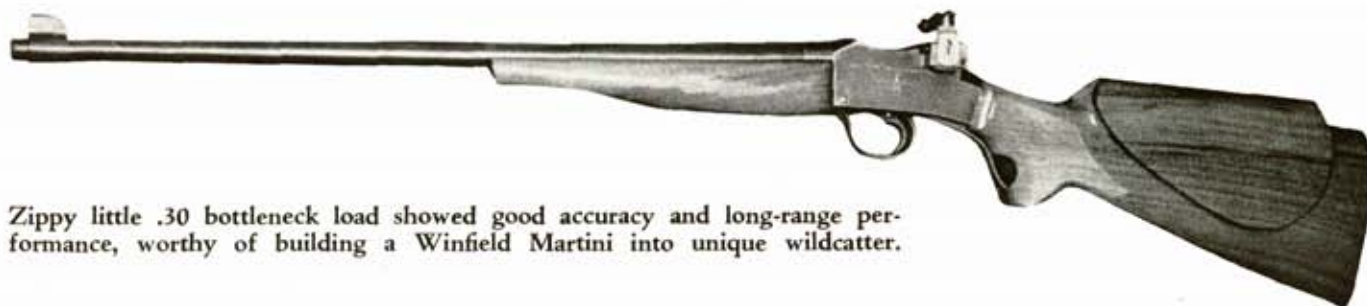
While the conversation went on, I idly picked up an empty .357 case and inverting a .30-'06 neck die in the loading tool, put a short 30-caliber neck on it. The shouldered case looked right pretty, sort of like an enlarged Mauser pistol shell with a rim. Now if we could cook up a safe, fast load for it, and had a gun to shoot it in, we might have the answer for those long shots we'd been missing with the .38's.

The next Saturday I took my old 1917 Army Colt .45, Serial No. 49, and the sample cartridge case up to Les Lindahl, who operated a combined sales store and gunsmithy in Central City, Nebraska. Les was a crackerjack

machinist and a real gun bug who did all the work on his own designs, from tool making to chambering barrels and assembling complete rifles. As usual there was a crowd in his place that day, buying powder and caps and shooting the breeze, an art at which all shooters are adept. It took me several visits to Central City before Les found the time to sit down with me and get to work on the Colt.

He ground a reamer to cut a chamber with the same base and body dimensions as the .357 S&W, but with a 1/4" neck, .330" in diameter. Using self-tempering tool steel, he then made up the bushings to reduce the .45 ACP cylinder to the new cartridge size. The steel had a bad habit of hardening itself from the heat of turning in the lathe, making it necessary to practically hone each bushing to a press fit. The new chambers were rough drilled, and then carefully hand reamed to finish. Les made a bullet-seating die for me with the reamer before grinding it down a trifle to cut a case-sizing die.

The next step was to rebarrel the pistol to .30 caliber. I hadn't budgeted much cash for the project, but fortunately Les had an old .30/30 barrel standing in the corner which proved to be useable. It was badly pitted at the muzzle and breech, but the midsection was still in fair shape. Sawing it down to 8¹⁵/₁₆" to stay within the law, we soon had it threaded and pinned into the frame. I shrank a Springfield front sight band on the barrel and fitted a King red bead reflector sight into the dovetail. A Marble folding leaf rear sight was then inlet into the frame and she was ready to check out. With that chunk of .30/30



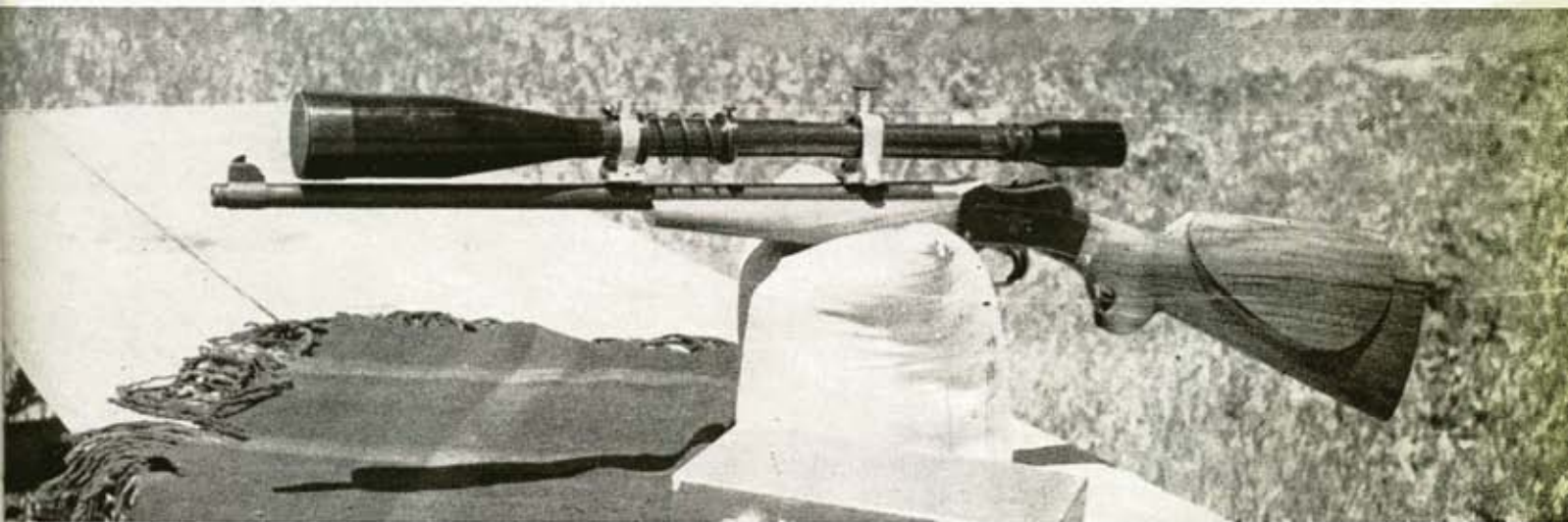
Zippy little .30 bottleneck load showed good accuracy and long-range performance, worthy of building a Winfield Martini into unique wildcatter.



Betz-Lindahl .30/357 wildcat was made by necking .357 revolver cases to "rifle cartridge" shape and loading with 150 grain, 110, 93 and 86 grain cast bullets.



Chambers of .45 revolver were lined with tool steel bushings counterbored to recess case heads and then pressed in, which adapted gun to smaller cartridge.



Springfield barrel on small Martini action did not stabilize longer bullets at moderate velocities obtained, but 150 grain M2 slug did fairly well, 3" at 100 yards. Unertl 12X scope was employed during testing from sand bag rest.

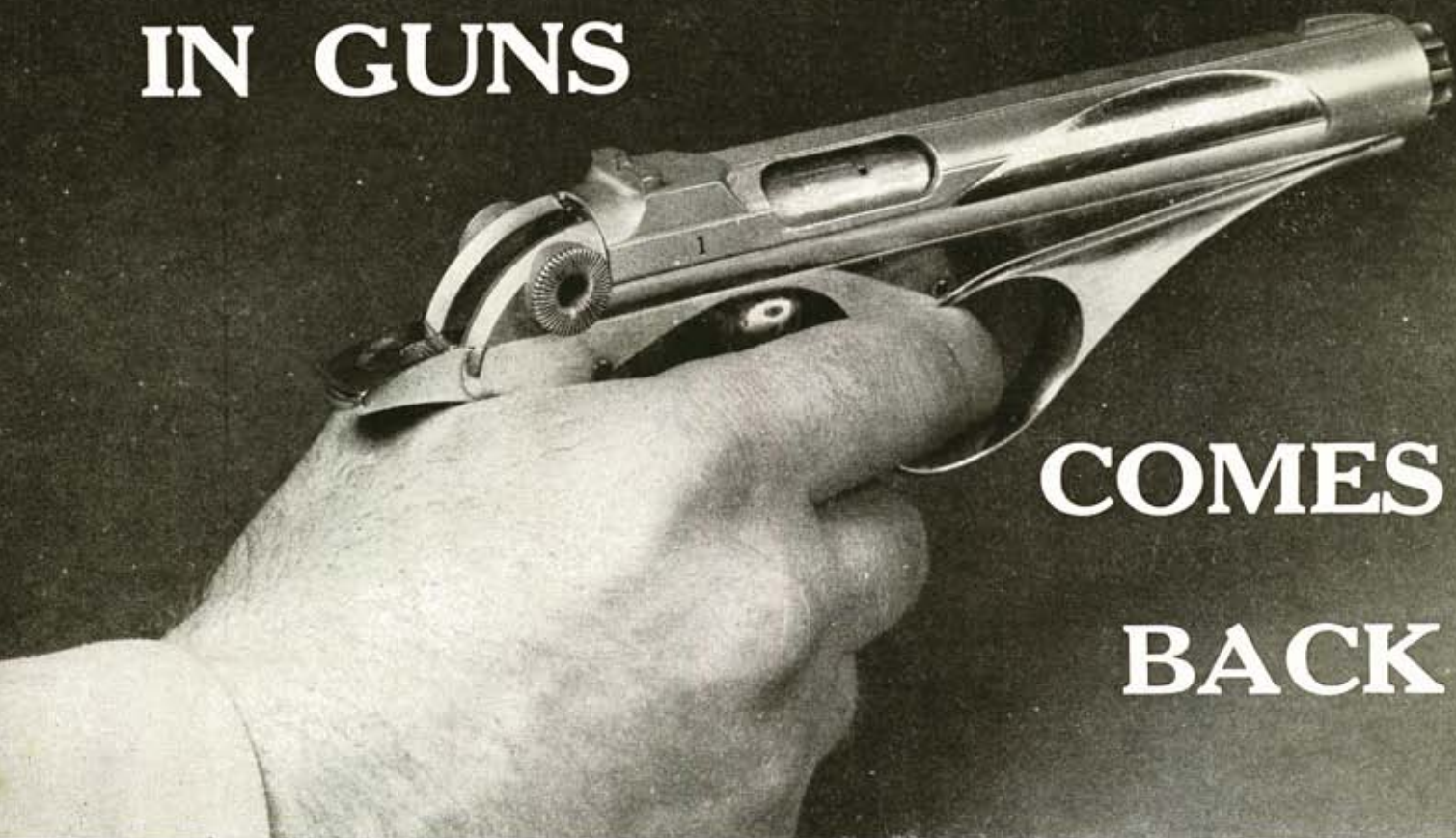
barrel on it, I guess I've got the only Colt marked "Winchester" in existence.

Over the next several weeks I experimented with light, medium and heavy charges of a number of powders, using 93 grain Luger SP and 86 grain Mauser HP bullets, but without producing any noticeable improvements over the range or accuracy of the .38 Special. Dupont Pistol No. 6 powder got pretty noisy at 4.5 grains, and cases were hard to extract. Sporting Rifle No. 80 was a favorite squib load in the big .30 caliber rifles. Used in the Colt, it burned clean in the .30/357 case and was comfortable to shoot, but even 13 grains didn't give much velocity. I checked out No. 2400 and 4227 powders, also. Unfortunately, with 13

grains of either one I was getting lots of blast and unburned powder at the muzzle, indicating a rifle powder that was not fast-burning enough for use in short-barreled pistols.

Many reloaders were trying at the time to achieve high velocities safely, started probably by the magic 4100 feet per second attained by the Swift. A number of experimenters had turned to multiple charge loading. This is not a new idea at all, to boost speed without raising pressures. The idea is to start combustion at the primer with a small charge of fast burning powder, and finish pushing the bullet down the bore with a heavier charge of a powder with a slower rate of burning, but *(Continued on page 53)*

THE OLDEST NAME IN GUNS



COMES BACK

First model of the streamlined .22 sport automatic pistol which evolved into the current Whitney gun had slight styling differences in frame curves but same alloy aluminum construction and low-lying grip for fast pointing.

IN THE SHADOW of the brownstone ruins of Eli Whitney's old mill near New Haven, Conn., is rising today a gun factory dedicated to the highest principles of modern design, translating into the field of firearms the swept-back, streamlined styling of the newest jet planes. The Whitney company, organized this year to manufacture a series of lightweight handguns, has no corporate relationship with the old, long-defunct Whitney company, but they both are related in terms of visionary outlook and common location. The new Whitney company is out to make a name for itself, starting with its .22 automatic pistol, and the firm is well aware of the rich tradition it is carrying forward in the oldest name in guns.

The Whitney pistol's monobloc cast-aluminum frame is a startling departure from conventional gun-making ideas and would have gladdened the heart of Eli Whitney, who stirred up some talk almost two centuries ago with his cotton gin. All the parts of the new Whitney gun are assembled into it. The high-strength dural precision cast frame allows design never before possible at a reasonable cost. The shape and weight result in a very handy, fast-shooting pistol.

I have triggered the new gun so rapidly it fired like a .22 machine gun, so fast in fact that other shooters thought it had malfunctioned.

Yet the recoil was light and by squeezing them off a little lighter, excellent groups were made. No one shot a "possible," but by superimposing the 50-foot indoor bull over the various groups shot by three different marksmen, one of them in the "expert" class, the inherent accuracy of the pistol was obvious. Since barrel and sights are in a fixed relationship to one another when assembled, the new Whitney has an advantage in accuracy over some other designs.

The rear sight on the Whitney is a thin piece of sheet metal, adjustable for windage zeroing only, and sprung in a curve into two cuts across the top of the frame. The sight base is heavy enough to be milled for a target sight. The long, deep curve to the grip allows easy recovery in shooting. With ordinary .22 regular velocity cartridges, the muzzle did not rise out of the black from kick, and getting the sight picture again quickly was easy. The gun lies low in the hand.

Muzzle rise is minimized because of the extremely natural pointing and the long spur which lies over the back of the hand like a "free pistol" grip. The grooved trigger has some slack but let-off is very good for a "sport" pistol. It is adjusted at the factory between $2\frac{3}{4}$ and 4 pounds. Three sample guns handled had good trigger pulls, crisp and regular.

NEW WHITNEY FIREARMS FIRM ADOPTS HISTORIC NAME TO BUCK CONSERVATISM

IN GUN BUSINESS WITH STREAMLINED, INEXPENSIVE ONE-PIECE .22 PISTOL

BY WILLIAM B. EDWARDS



First pistol with name of "Whitney" was percussion revolver made in factory of Eli Whitney (right), whose son continued gun business until 1880's. Weapon coincidentally had cast metal frame for low-cost construction, like modern Whitney.



Section view of Whitney reveals parallel .22 cartridges which feed in straight-line manner with minimum friction and freedom from jams.



Futuristic styling of production Whitney automatic is enhanced by two-tone black anodizing finish. Thumb safety is fast, snaps off by thumb pressure upwards.



With racy appeal of Buck Rogers ray gun, artist's study of target model styling incorporated muzzle brake for rapid fire with front take-down bushing.



Name first applied to Whitney was "Trimatic," taken from 3-in-1 pocket pistol with hinged barrel designed by Hillberg several years ago. Chamber could be loaded without pulling back slide, and gun could be used in .22, .32 and .380 by changing the barrels and clips.



Military 9mm pistol was made by Hillberg for Army tests. Gun has fixed barrel, double action trigger, holds 13 shots.

The "expert" at the range trying out the Whitney persistently astonished himself by his good shooting, although the gun was not zeroed for him to strike the black. All shots on several 10-shot groups he fired would have been within the 9-ring and some inside the 10-ring at 50 feet. The Whitney finish is black-gray anodizing with a sand-blast and polished surface contrast. Length over-all is 9" with $4\frac{5}{8}$ " barrel. Price is \$39.95.

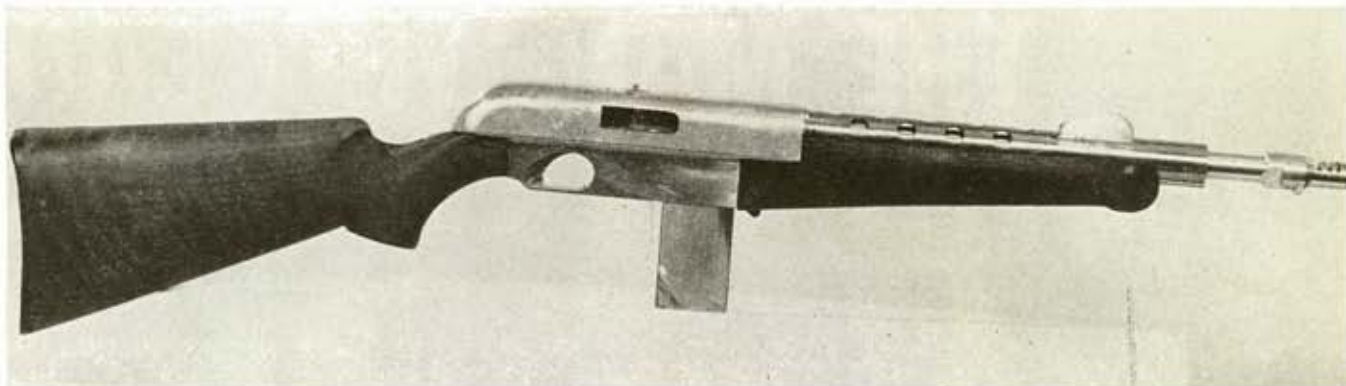
This light, 23-ounce contender for a place in the front rank of American handguns is having its way shouldered open by the husky frame of burly, embarrassingly-modest Bob Hillberg, the Whitney's designer. Son of a Minneapolis banker who used to spend much time hunting and fishing, Iowa-born Hillberg is a novice manufacturer, yet anything but a novice about guns. He is quietly humble about the role his friends have played in his career, but behind the strikingly radical shape of the Whitney automatic lies quite a story. Part of it is the story of Bob Hillberg.

To one of Hillberg's friends some years ago is due his introduction to guns and gun design. The friend, middle-western marksman Bill Schutte, had a gun collection. Young Bob studied the ideas and mechanical principles of the many pistols. The ideas, good and bad, stuck with him. Bob still collects unusual automatic pistols, rifles and submachine guns as a hobby.

Bob studied several years of engineering at the University of Minnesota, and his first job in the gun field with Colt's polished off a few of the rough edges. He had designed a .38 Super caliber tommy gun, and sent it in to Colt in 1937. They weren't interested in the tommy gun, but they were interested in the would-be gun designer and he went east to work. In various department at Colt's, engineering, inspection, assembly, he became familiar with gun design and manufacture. As

Oddly tapered Whitney clip is easy to insert and uses .22 cartridge stuck through magazine follower hole to depress it for easy loading.





Locked-breech blow forward military carbine (with barrel in "unlocked" position) was made by Hillberg when ordnance engineer with aircraft firm in World War II, used style curves which were later dominant in Whitney pistol.

an assembler he learned the fine points of putting a gun together. From Colt's in 1938 he went to the development section of Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford. During the war his firearms experience came in useful when he was project engineer in Bell Aircraft's ordnance division.

He then moved on to Republic Aviation in charge of their armament group. Each move was a step upward. At Republic he coordinated the efforts of several designers in preparing guns for planes, adapting .50 caliber machine guns and 20 mm cannon to combat aircraft.

"Working at Republic was one of the most important jobs I have ever held," says Hillberg. "We learned that ground weapons don't necessarily work when carried up into the air. Feed problems had to be corrected. In one project the muzzle blast ripped off the cowling and we had to do some extensive redesigning." Work at Republic seems to have been something like going back to school for Hillberg. It prevented his ideas from getting solid and set and, like a prize fighter, he learned to think on his feet.

Airplane companies during the war were interested in small arms. At Bell, Hillberg made a blow-forward semi- and full-automatic .30 caliber shoulder rifle with the barrel as the only moving part. Bob is very positive in his slow, methodical way, that the gun was not a "blow forward," so much as a lock-breech type with a gas-operated forward moving barrel.

At Republic, Hillberg designed a series of automatic pistols, at once revolutionary and yet traditional. With the flair for streamlining and shape which characterizes Hillberg's work, one of the pistols was a successful solution for a design problem which has been studied since at least 1908. The White-Merrill experimental pistols, patented in that year, had one feature of lasting importance. They were designed to have interchangeable barrels for several calibers on the same frame. Hillberg's double action pistol, the "Tri-Matic," had interchangeable barrels, clips and ejectors for .22, .32 and

.380. The substitution from one caliber to another could be made in 30 seconds.

Bob's choice of the .380 reflects one idea he had and may yet get a chance to put over. "All the companies underload the .380 miserably," he argues. "The .380 with a 90-grain bullet could, considering improved powders we have developed since John Browning designed the little pill fifty years ago, be boosted along to give darn near the muzzle energy of a .45."

Tri-Matic never got off the ground, but the name was borrowed later. Applied to the more conservative sport-target .22 that has evolved into the Whitney, it served to keep competitors guessing or at *(Continued on page 66)*



By assembling tubular and lathe-turned parts into precision die-cast frame unit, New Haven-built Whitney pistol is inexpensive yet sturdy and accurate.

THE MAN WHO CAN



Sergeant Joe Benner, whose solid grip on Model 1911 .45 keeps bullets in the black during instruction session at West Point where he teaches cadets fundamentals of marksmanship, is main hope of U. S. pistol team in Olympics.

For rapid fire .38 matches, Benner uses completely re-built Super Colt changed by Berdon to shoot wadcutters.

Custom grip shaped to put Joe's trigger finger tip in right place on trigger shoe is factor in his many wins.



OUTSHOOT THE RUSSIANS

**PUDGY WEST POINT POWERHOUSE JOE BENNER MAY BE
WORLD'S GREATEST PISTOL SHOT AND HE'LL GET CHANCE
TO PROVE IT WHEN HE FACES SOVIETS IN OLYMPICS**

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

IT MAY BE that Joe Benner is the greatest pistol shot in the world. This is his year of decision. He is our national champ and has been over and over again but world's best is something else again. Joe is journeying to the Olympics in Australia this Fall and down under will be our best hope to stop the Russians. In some ways he is our last hope since our handgunners are the strongest section of our shooting team for the Olympiad.

In 1952, he came away from the Helsinki Olympics—and short weeks before the world's championships at Oslo—with more than the lion's share of the loot. But in another little jousting, staged around Thanksgiving, 1954, he bumped up against a new breed of Commie gun pointer. This was at Caracas, Venezuela, and he didn't look so hot. As a matter of cold, unadorned fact, he had a rough time to garner anything at all.

This is to be the crucial year. Benner has improved. That is evident from his king-size take at the important Florida spring matches at the Coral Gables shootfest, where single-handed he copped 12 firsts from a 23-match program and set a new world record with a perfect 300.

But how much better are the little Ivanovitches?

A regal-dimension advantage held by Bulganin's boys is that they practice all the time on the target they will face in the big games. Benner doesn't do this. He shoots at the standard American target, a mark peculiar only to Yankees. This is considerably larger, easier, and closer than the International. This puts our hero behind the eight ball as it were.

It is Joe Benner who must carry our colors. The shooting fate of the nation, so to speak. Olympics-wise, depends on this Ozark hillbilly. Neither from the ranks of the rifle clan nor yet from his own fraternity, the pistoleers, can we muster anyone of his formidable stature. We have a baker's dozen of smoking hot handgunners in these our 48 states but none who can touch the Arkansas traveler.

We have had a full two score and ten of championship pistol marksmen over the past half-century. Benner so brilliantly surpasses all the others as to relegate them, verily, to the ignominy of water boys.

There was Chevalier Ira Payne as a beginning, and of the same vintage, practically, Walter Winans and A. L. A. Himmelwright, and Chase, Doats, T. K. Lee and Karl Fredrick. And there was E. E. Patridge, who wasn't much shakes as a shooter but did develop the sights that bear his name.

Later there was Doc Calkins, from up Springfield way,

a sterling gunner and a stalwart in the U. S. Revolver Association. And after Doc Calkins there was Doc Snook, a pistol swinger of champion-like proportions who banged his lady friend with a ballpeen hammer and was duly hanged. More recently there has been a modern crop like Al Hemming, the Detroit copper; Jake Engbrecht, the City of Los Angeles hot rock; and Bill Tony, the Texas border guard; and last but not best, Harry Reeves. Harry, a sometimes policeman from Detroit and a sometimes Marine reserve officer, is the fly in Joe Benner's soup.

This pair—the Benner-Reeves duo—have since World War II, completely dominated the American handgunning scene.

Reeves, veritably a patriarch beside the youthful Joe (49 as against 38), has this year bowed gracefully out of the shooting picture. Benner poured on the coal so unmercifully this past brace of seasons that the pudgy Harry has tossed in the sponge. Before that, however, Reeves managed to garner more national championships than did Benner.



Friendly rivals and nation's top handgunners Joe Benner and Harry Reeves of Detroit talk over shooting techniques.



Wearing enlisted men's dress blues, Army Sergeant Joe Benner smiles as he receives trophy plaque in recent Tampa mid-winter pistol tournament.

JOE BENNER'S RECORDS

All U.S. National Records:

893 x 900 in .22 caliber

885 x 900 in centerfire .38

882 x 900 in .45 caliber

All-gun aggregate 2644 x 2700

How does a man get so good? What makes a champion of the proportions of Reeves and Benner? What makes them so outstanding as to dominate a highly competitive game for more than a decade. Reeves I know only casually; Joe I know very well indeed. And since our ridge-runner must carry on alone hereafter and is in fact our white hope against our mortal enemy, the Communists, I propose to explain what makes him click.

Some believe that Huelet Benner, master sergeant of the U.S. Army, country boy from Arkansas, may prove to be the greatest pistol shot the world has ever known and may before the year is done prove to the world that we are not decadent in the face of the Communist threat but possess in fact the gunning skill to trounce the best that Bulganin and Kruschew can throw against us.

Benner stands 5' 7" with his shoes off—a general condition—and is 40 pounds overweight. He likes nothing quite so much as two pounds of KC tenderloin washed down with a couple of bottles of Blue Ribbon. This is standard fare for supper but if available is also cheerfully appreciated for lunch. For breakfast Joe sticks to light, dainty things like a double order of ham and eggs, grits and gravy, hot biscuits and hash brown potatoes.

Faced at a tender age with going to work or going to the Army, he chose the latter. He has never regretted his choice. He can retire this year but the military has made things so undeniably pleasant our hero will probably remain another decade at West Point where he teaches fledgling generals the fine points of pistol pointing.

Before that, our hillbilly had put in all his time on precisely two Army posts: Fort Benning, deep in Georgia, and at Fort Knox, hard by the Kentucky derby grounds. During the two recent blood-lettings, the champion taught small arms marksmanship to countless thousands of tankers whipped through the accelerated Armored School, and thence to distant battlefields.

Joe has never fired his sixguns in anger, has never seen a battle. He has never killed a head of game, not even so much as an Ozark fox squirrel. He has never done anything more lethal with his spectacular skill than punch holes in paper.

Benner developed slowly as a pistol man. I remember him as a fledgling member of the Infantry pistol team before World War II. He was anything save a threat, but rather a veritable tyro who labored mightily and sometimes took a dobie or two down around 10th money. The Infantry squad in

Benner's wife and son have good reason to be proud of his shooting trophies, look forward to his Olympic shooting.



those days had Sgt. James Tumlin, a clown who could consume a case of beer before the noonday whistle and two afterward, and might not only make a clean sweep of all the 45 events but tell off all the match officials and Captain Charley Rau, team pilot and coach, in the doing.

And they had, too, Garfield Huddleston who was so hot the Kansas City police brought him out of the Army and thought that teamed with their Francis O'Connor, they would see their outfit sweep the country. At last reports Huddleston was herding a street car in the city of his choice, he having had a slight disagreement with the flatfeet.

Of Benner there was little to indicate his latent greatness.

The war came as a blessing in disguise for our Arkansas ridge-hopper. It gave him opportunity to shoot, study, experiment and perfect a winning gunning style. While his contemporaries strode off to distant battlefields, and the pistol-shot game fell into the doldrums, Joe worked in the shooting gallery. It is claimed he pitched his pup tent hard by the butts and like Dr. Pepper had a shot at 10, 2 and 4 but this ain't so. Joe wears his underwear inside out so the seams won't scratch him. Anyone so mindful of his comfort as that sure isn't going to do anything as disagreeable as live in a tent.

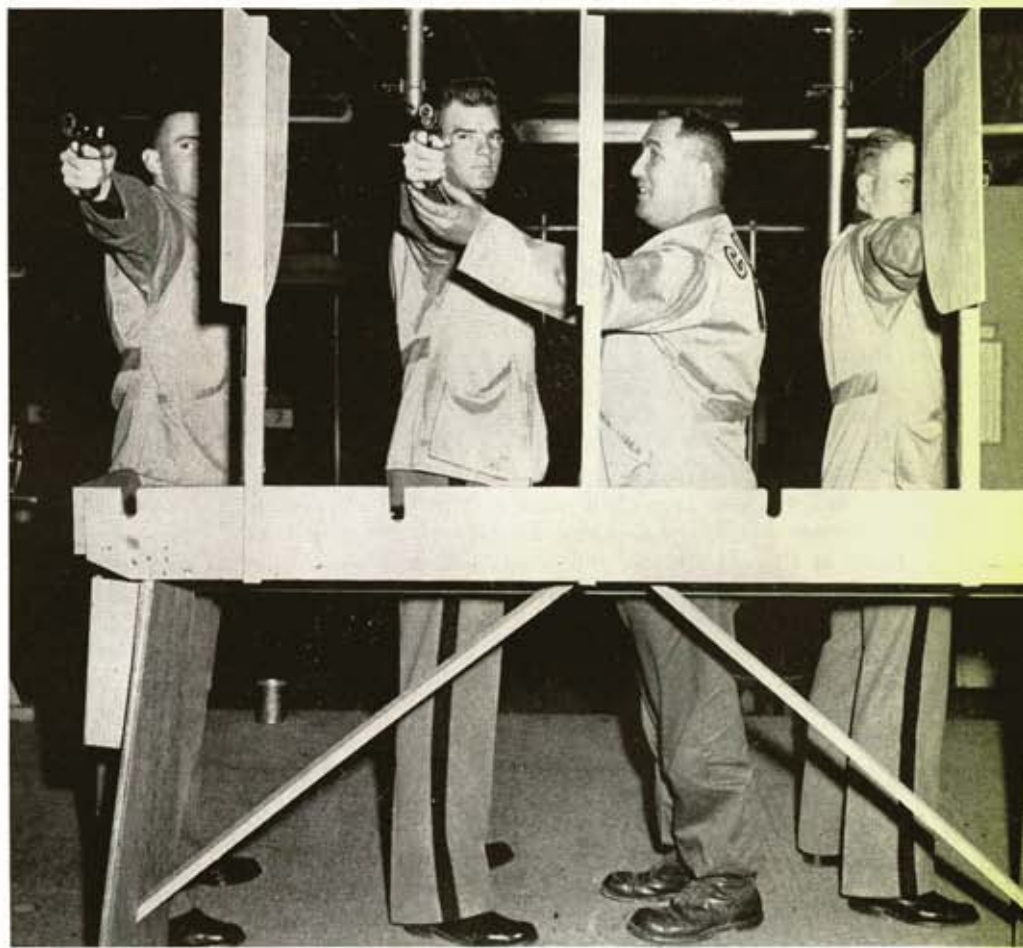
He did burn up a full 100,000 hulls—22,38 and 45—every twelfth month beginning in 1942. When Nagasaki disintegrated atomically speaking, the pride of the Ozarks was ready, ready to clobber any and all opposition—and did! Well, almost everyone. There still was Harry Reeves, the Marine, who remained an exceedingly durable nut to crack. And it has been so ever since.

Benner is a perfectionist. He demands shooting irons that are inherently super accurate and once specially selected from the manufacturer, he turns them over to Berdon, his Florida pistolsmith, and sees them modified and adjusted, tuned and readied, until each produces the maximum of points.

He laboriously tests his ammunition until he is completely satisfied it is the best loaded. Thereafter he remains eternally suspicious of every new lot though it be from the same company. Should a new batch throw a single flier, the bellyaching in that plaintive Arkansas treble is clearly audible from Bridgeport to East Alton.



As an instructor at West Point, Benner is called on to explain fine points of all kinds of weapons to cadets, using training aids like lucite Browning rifle.



Benner's careful coaching of West Point team since he took over in 1952 has improved team's standing. They have lost but one match since then.



On the trigger-finger skill of Benner's hand clamped snugly in custom-fitted Hammerli free pistol grip rests American hopes for victory in 1956 Olympics. Free pistol shooting, uncommon in U.S., is one of Benner's strong points.

It is the same with physical conditioning. Benner is a roly-poly. He willed in that way. A wide-eyed country recruit at Camp Perry, 20 years ago, he saw the winners were shaped like beer barrels and tipped the beam at two hundred and above. A bit shy himself, he scaled 126 bedside. Our little man immediately commenced to gorge himself. He has been at it ever since. Now he looks like a Jap wrestler just before the annual Nipponese bonebending. He believes that is what it takes to win pistol tourneys.

Benner has shoulders like a King ranch breed bull, no neck at all, and arms so unbelievably short it is a wonder he can reach anything that itches. He wears a shirt size 16 neck but the tailor must whack the sleeves down to 29-30 inch length. If you don't believe this is an advantage, you have never shot in the wind, buster! The less lengthy the shooting arm, the less havoc the wind works on hand and gun. If we could just somehow shoot from the hip accurately, the weapon pressed against the body, we'd all be champs!

The Benner hand is notable for a palm that is gigantic. Not only is it wide but it is long and bulges with sheath upon sheath of muscle. The fingers are stubby but this is no disadvantage because of the extraordinary dimensions of that palm. The 45 auto, ordnance notable for a grip over-fatted for two ordinary hands, is swallowed in the Benner fist. Therein lies one of the secrets of his control

of this belting, hard-kicking, contrary self-loader.

The wrist behind the over-beefed paw is as large as the forearm. The entire arm is muscular but with a sheathing that is smooth and deceptive. The biceps is not bulging and knotty but the point of the shoulder is extraordinarily over-developed. The Benner shooting arm looks more properly the property of a European peasant girl accustomed to handling a No. 7 manure fork.

When Joe levels on the target, there is less perceptible movement in arm and gun than any shooter the game has ever known. This is very probably a result of the extreme shortness of the arm, the strength inherent in hand and wrist, and the fact that *he has lifted and pointed the shooting hardware not less than ten million times* during a rather intensive shooting lifetime.

The ability to stand motionless goes a bit deeper than the hand and arm. It reaches the feet. These are a mite unusual. While only size 8, the width spreads to a mere triple E! A proper foundation to keep the stocky body in plumb. Benner, when taking up a shooting position, spreads his legs very widely, facing west while firing north, a full 90-degree turn. This stance provides the best possible recovery from recoil although ordinarily it tends to set up a swaying motion from front to rear. The EEE underpinning of our barefoot boy from Arkansaw most effectively dampens that!

(Continued on page 57)

HOW I AM TRAINING FOR THE OLYMPICS

By MASTER SERGEANT HUELET BENNER

THE shooting competition during the coming Olympic Games will, I think, be the most spirited of all the modern Olympiads. This will be true not only for the various "spectator sports" but for free pistol shooting as well. None of us are going to be able to settle for the scores we made in Helsinki in 1952, and we will all be out to better them. In my opinion, the toughest nations to beat will be Sweden and Russia, and to best them I am starting the most intensive training program I have ever tried.

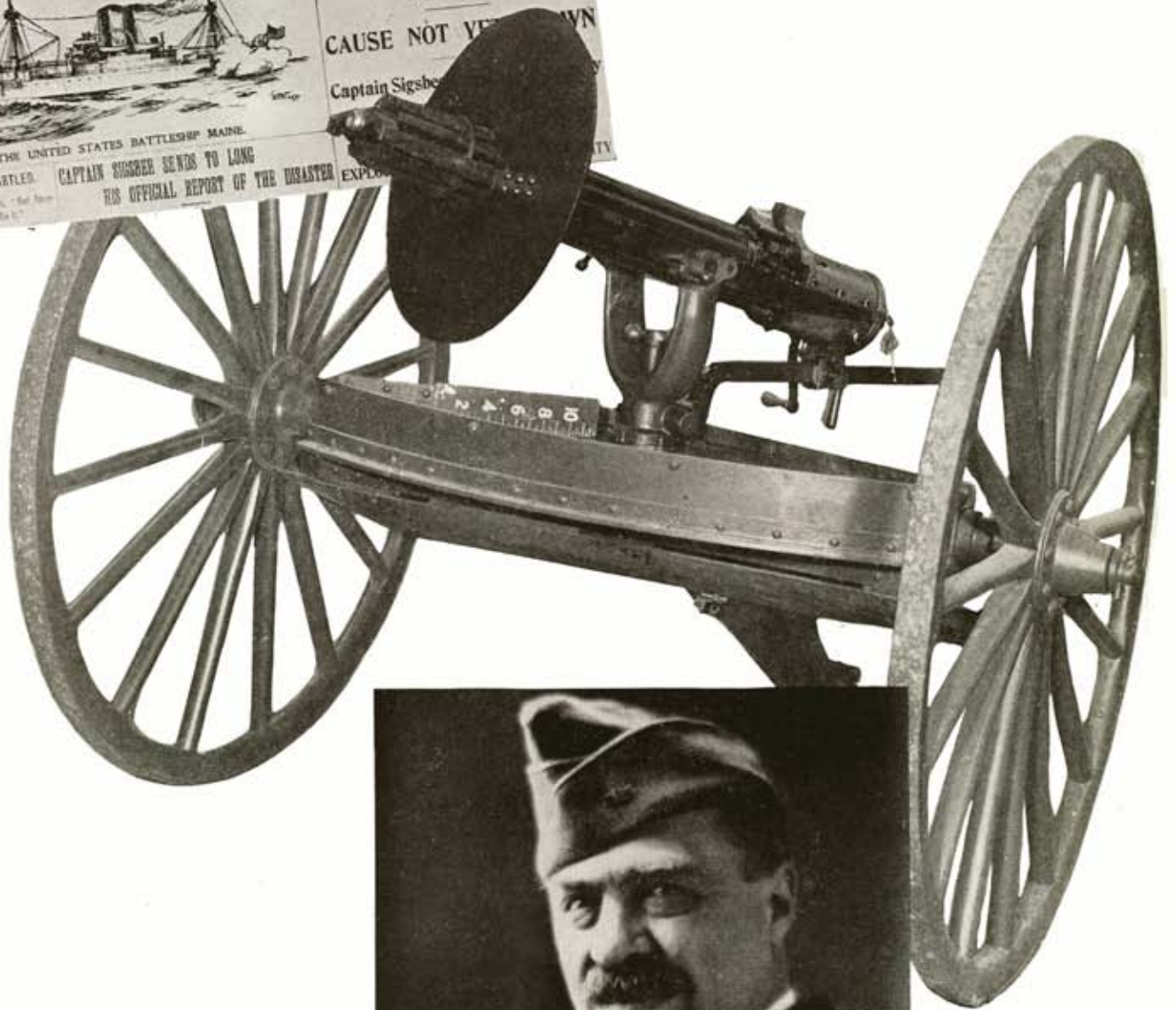
There are several factors that play big roles in free pistol shooting that a lot of people are not aware of. To me one of the most important is weather and climate. For example, my score in Oslo, Norway, was about the same as in Helsinki—but in Caracas, Venezuela, it was only fair. Caracas is more than a mile above sea level and the air is much thinner—something to which I wasn't accustomed. I think this might be a reason why the Russians tied Thorsten Ullman of Sweden, who, in my opinion is the best free pistol shooter in the world today. After Caracas, I've decided to try and duplicate what I expect to find climate-wise, in Melbourne. *(Continued on page 60)*



Benner and Army coach Col. Perry Swindler study Joe's 98 score shot with Hammerli .22 on Olympic 50-meter card.

Solid stance with feet well apart is adopted by Benner while aiming free pistol he will use in Australian Olympics.

THE MACHINE GUN'S BAPTISM OF FIRE



Lt. John Henry Parker, self-styled as an "artist with the machine gun," used Gatlings at San Juan first time in modern war.

BIGGEST CHANGE IN FIELD TACTICS IN THIS CENTURY WAS WROUGHT BY THE MACHINE GUN, FIRST USED BY U.S. OFFICER IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

By EVARTS ERICKSON

GATLING GUNS in the Spanish-American War were as closely watched by foreign military observers as Stuka dive bombers and fast tanks in the Spanish Civil War of 1936. The Cuban fighting was a proving ground for World War I just as the Spanish hassle served to test Axis and Soviet arms for the conflict of 1939. And it was in Cuba that the machine gun as a basic weapon of war got its first real baptism of fire although rapid-fire guns had been issued nearly 50 years before San Juan Hill became a familiar name in history.

Out of the Cuban fighting came the doctrine of mobile machine gun fire as infantry support, covering fire for troops on the move.

Even in World War II, military tactics owed a debt to the American boys in blue who, sick with malaria, learned to use machine guns in the hot, stinking jungles of Cuba. It was here that the secret of infantry's role in the blitzkrieg was first formulated.

It was a mule driver fresh out of West Point and as stubborn as his animals who showed the experts something about how machine guns could be used in the field. He was John Henry Parker, whose ideas were ridiculed in the

Spanish-American War but who later proved in World War I to be the boy wonder of machine gun fighting. It was Parker who wrote the official machine gun manual and became General John J. Pershing's rapid fire expert.

Up until Parker came up with a new concept for the machine gun's use, the weapon was employed chiefly for indirect fire. Parker had tremendous opposition from high officers in getting his ideas across and his mule-drawn Gatlings were jokingly called the "jackass battery" when he first tried to use them in the Cuban war.

Earlier the primitive Gatlings had been considered of little use in the Civil War when first tested in the field by General Benjamin Butler. U.S. officers later read that the French machine gun, the "Montigny Mitrailleuse," was used only to shoot at extreme ranges like artillery. Even sales promotion brochures for the Gatling spoke of the guns only in terms of opposing grape shot at 800 or 1,000 yards.

Indirect fire from fixed positions was the principle with no attempt to take advantage of the mobility of the Gatlings and keep up with movement of troops. Conservative officers would not fool with the Gatling because of its

Colt-Browning gas-operated machine guns were bought by Teddy Roosevelt and used in attack on San Juan and Kettle Hills by Rough Riders during battle which saw first use of machine guns against "modern" army, Spanish forces in Cuba.





Model 1895 Gatling guns on steel field carriages with double-row Bruce feeds were unloaded at Daiquiri in Cuba ready to follow troops in combat under command of Lt. Parker who foresaw the value of machine gun tactics in combat.

association with General Butler, who was looked upon as an impractical visionary.

But Parker was not a conservative.

Parker realized in 1898 that military knowledge of the uses of machine guns had lagged far behind their technical development. Convinced that machine guns could not profitably be used against a "civilized" enemy armed with artillery, most armies issued the weapons to troops fighting savages. General Custer had four Gatlings available for his command, but didn't think they would be useful and did not have them for his famous "last stand."

One clear-cut example of what a machine gun could do against a European army was needed. Each nation awaited field proof that the things were worth fooling with before going ahead on full-scale rearmament.

The man who showed them that proof was from Missouri. Obstinate, argumentative J. H. Parker was graduated from West Point in 1892 at 25. Six years later when William Randolph Hearst's war began with Spain, he was still a second lieutenant. Working on machine guns did nothing to help his career. His sketches of a lightweight Gatling carriage were sent to the ordnance office in Washington but the bureau did not even bother to reply. It had resisted such innovation as percussion caps, revolvers, rifles, breech loaders, and there was no reason to get all steamed up over Gatlings.

When the battleship "Maine" blew up and Congress

declared war on Spain in April, 1898, Parker got ready for the fight. The U.S. Fifth Corps, which was practically all there was of the regular army, gathered on the sun-baked flats around Tampa, Florida, to embark for Cuba.

Against his commanding officer's wishes, Parker planned a machine gun battery. In his prospectus he forecast most of the tactical functions of the machine gun as an infantry support weapon. Passed around among officers at Tampa, Parker's plan got action when he showed it to Lt. John T. Thompson, head of the Tampa ordnance district. Thompson, 20 years later to become known as "Tommy Gun" Thompson, took Parker to the commanding general. As a result, Lt. Parker, two sergeants, and ten privates were detached from the 13th Infantry for duty with the "Gatling Gun Battery."

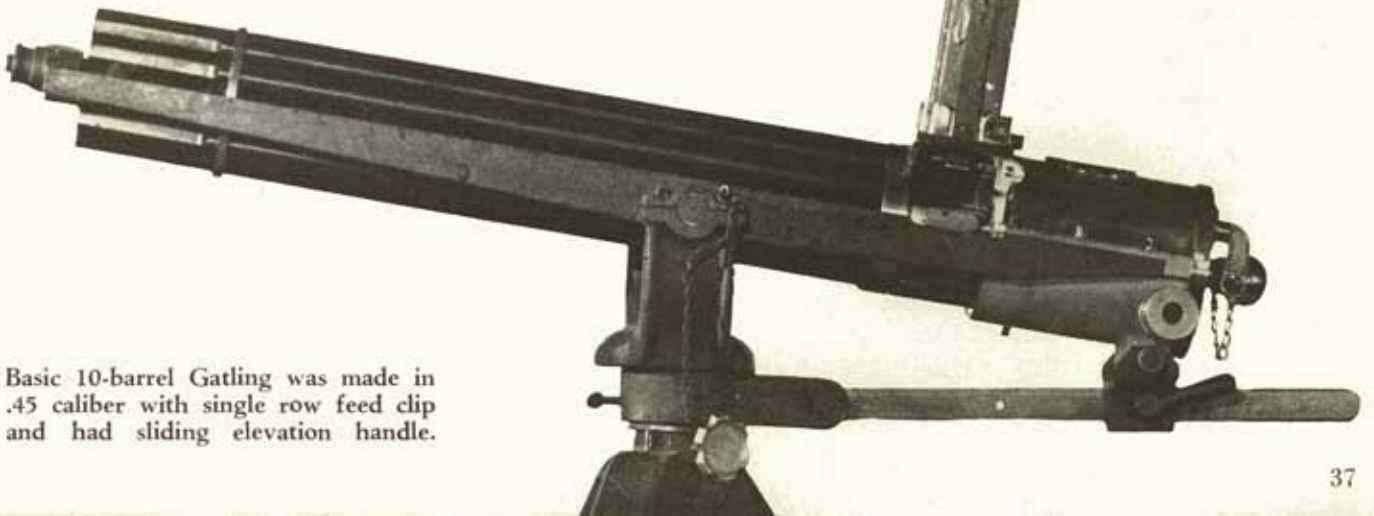
Parker had a leg up—nothing could stop him now. When sailing orders for the Fifth Corps omitted mention of Parker and the Gatlings, he bluffed his whole outfit on board a Cuba-bound transport. When a couple of senior officers tried to buck him, he went straight to the Corps Commander, Major General Wm. R. Shafter.

"Bull" Shafter—he weighed 320 pounds—gave the fanatical Parker 15 minutes of his time. It was enough. Parker came out of his office with carte blanche to tote his Gatlings on. Across the water at Daiquiri, Shafter personally supervised their landing.

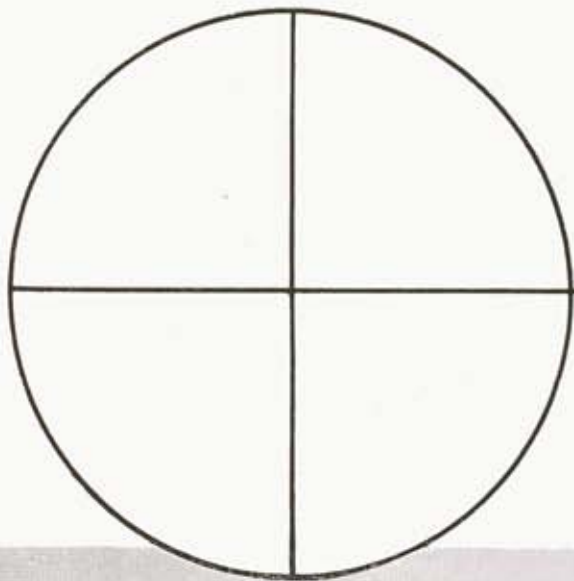
Instead of four horses for each *(Continued on page 73)*



In battle at Santiago, Cuba, guns covered advance of U.S. troops. Pile of white ammo boxes illustrates great firepower of the gun. Gatlings have been used in movies such as "Siege at Red River" starring Van Johnson.



Basic 10-barrel Gatling was made in .45 caliber with single row feed clip and had sliding elevation handle.



RABBITS



Rifles for jackrabbits range from .22 at left through medium powers to heavy .30 Enfield and .270 Model 70 (right).



← Jacks are hunted in prairie country which affords many long shots (left), good training for bigger game like antelope.

CAN SHARPEN UP YOUR SHOOTING

FOR BIG-GAME HUNTER WHO WANTS TO TEST HIS RIFLE
AT ALL RANGES, JACKRABBIT MAKES EXCELLENT TARGET

By ROBERT KINDLEY

THE LONG-EARED, long-legged jackass rabbit is one of the best targets in the world for the big-game hunter who wants to sharpen up his shooting eye prior to the big game season. Using his hunting rifle on these running jacks will teach any hunter the proper lead and swing for his particular weapon. When a rifleman gets to the stage where he can knock running blacktails kicking at 100 yards, and do it consistently, he need not worry about accurately pin-pointing his shots on running big-game. And when he can bowl this relatively small summer target over at 150 yards while in full flight, he's almost sure come winter of venison in the freezer.

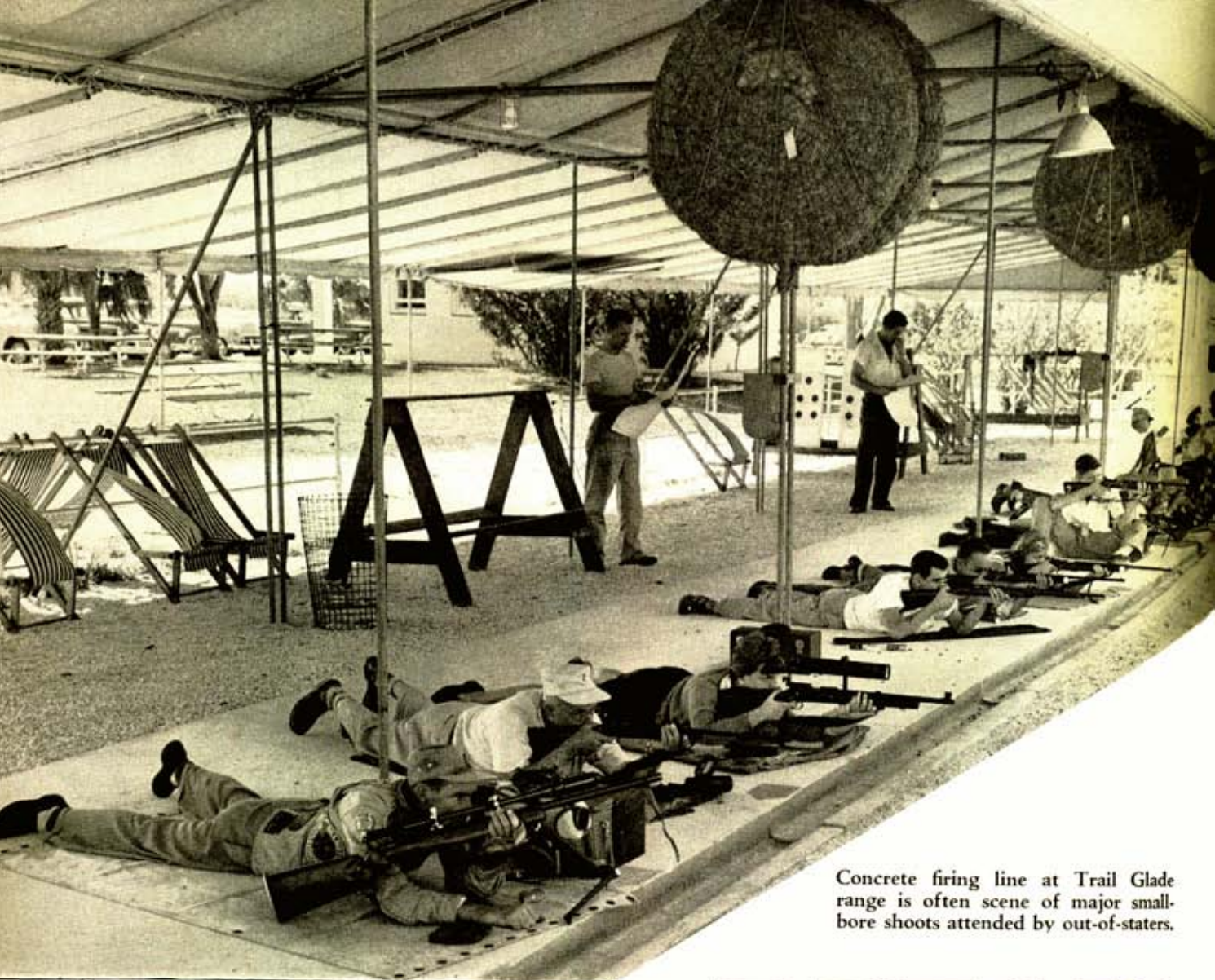
The big, Western black-tailed jack rabbit is a custom-tailored target for the rifleman. He'll sit as still as a woodchuck or prairie dog. He'll lope along like a lazy, ground feeding squirrel, or burst from cover like a hot-rod. Miss him as he streaks across the open prairie and the crack when the shot passes will shift him into a high gear that would do credit to a scared antelope. Kick him out of the sagebrush and he'll dart and

(Continued on page 70)

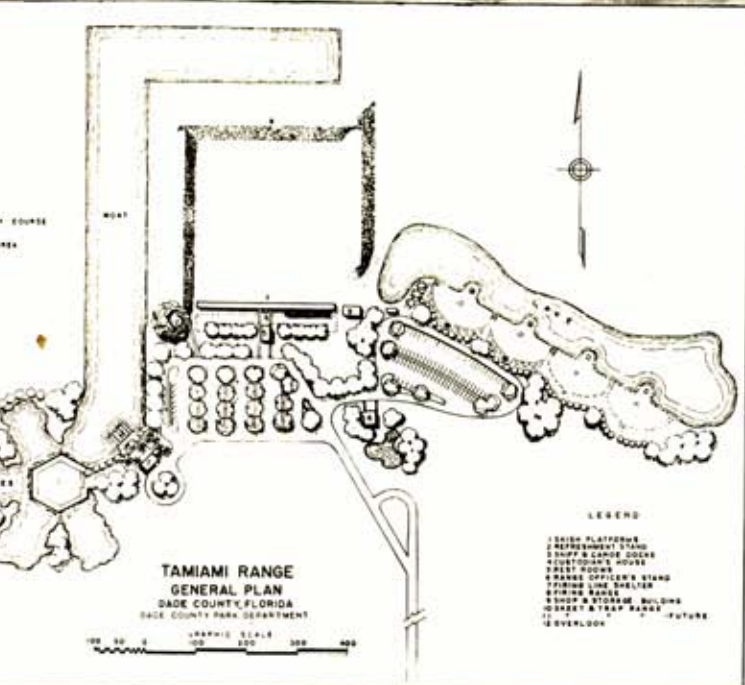


Because meat spoilage is incidental to destruction of rabbit pests, any caliber from .22 up is okay for hunting.

Author's son proudly holds up blacktail popped in long shot with .222 Remington 722 using Weaver scope.



Concrete firing line at Trail Glade range is often scene of major small-bore shoots attended by out-of-staters.



Plan of dream layout affords range facilities for all shooters—shotgunners, riflemen and handgunners—and at the same time has water sport lagoons and archery.

DREAM TARGET RANGE

BY LONG, CAREFUL PLANNING AND POLITICAL ALERTNESS, SHOOTERS IN MIAMI WON IDEAL FACILITIES THAT DRAW 60,000 PEOPLE IN YEAR

BY CLEMENT L. THEED

FLORIDA'S TRAIL GLADE range is a dream come true—the dream and ambition of dozens of shooters and just plain civic-minded people who created the beautiful Miami target range out of the Everglades swampland. The range is symbolic of the new spirit in the shooting game these days, a positive feeling that clubs can no longer limp along with half-way measures, settling for abandoned dumps to use as ranges. Miami shooters determined to do better and followed it up double-quick by forming the Dade County Sports Park Association with a dividend: the Trail Glade Ranges.

While most shooting ranges are usually dreary places—sand pits, abandoned quarries, the ends of the earth that nobody else could successfully use—Trail Glade is different. Landscaping began with draining the area and is still going on. Soft breezes sway the palms gently against the bright blue sky, and from the top of the range observation tower the visitor can see out over 30 miles of Everglades. The tower is made of huge boulders. Even in the swamp land there were stones to be moved in grading and draining, and there was no place to dump them. So the work crew built them into a tower.

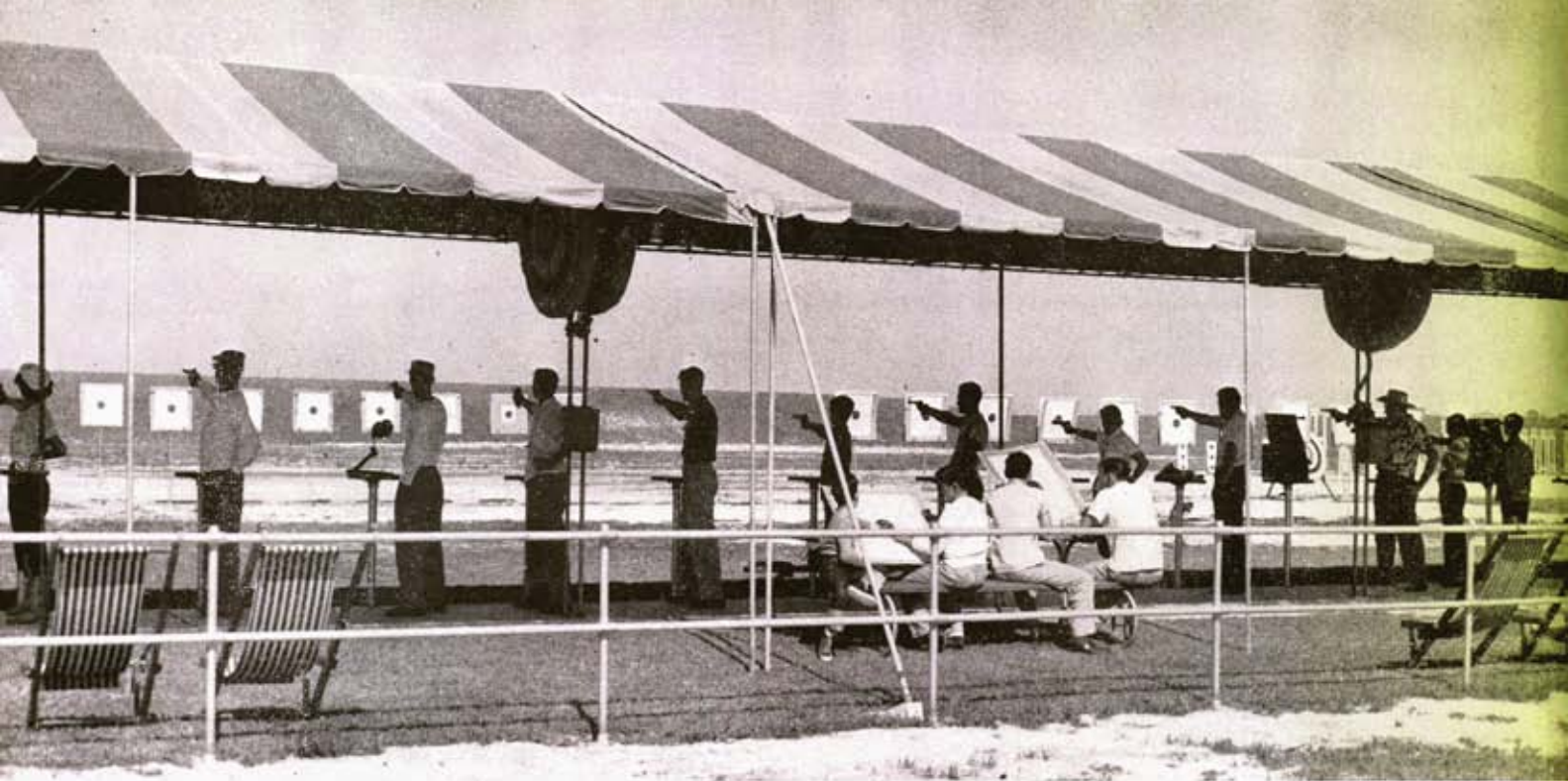
The shooting spread is among the country's finest. Seventy firing positions for small bore rifle and pistol



Informal plinkers trying out new rifles are large part of Trail Glade's use where youngsters outnumber adults two to one.

Staggered target holders allow several pistol ranges to be fired on at once so matches do not take too much time.





Cool cloth awning over firing points shades shooters from sun's glare which often interferes with good aiming in pistol match. Convenient tables hold ammo, shooting kits and scopes for spotting shots on target in slow fire.



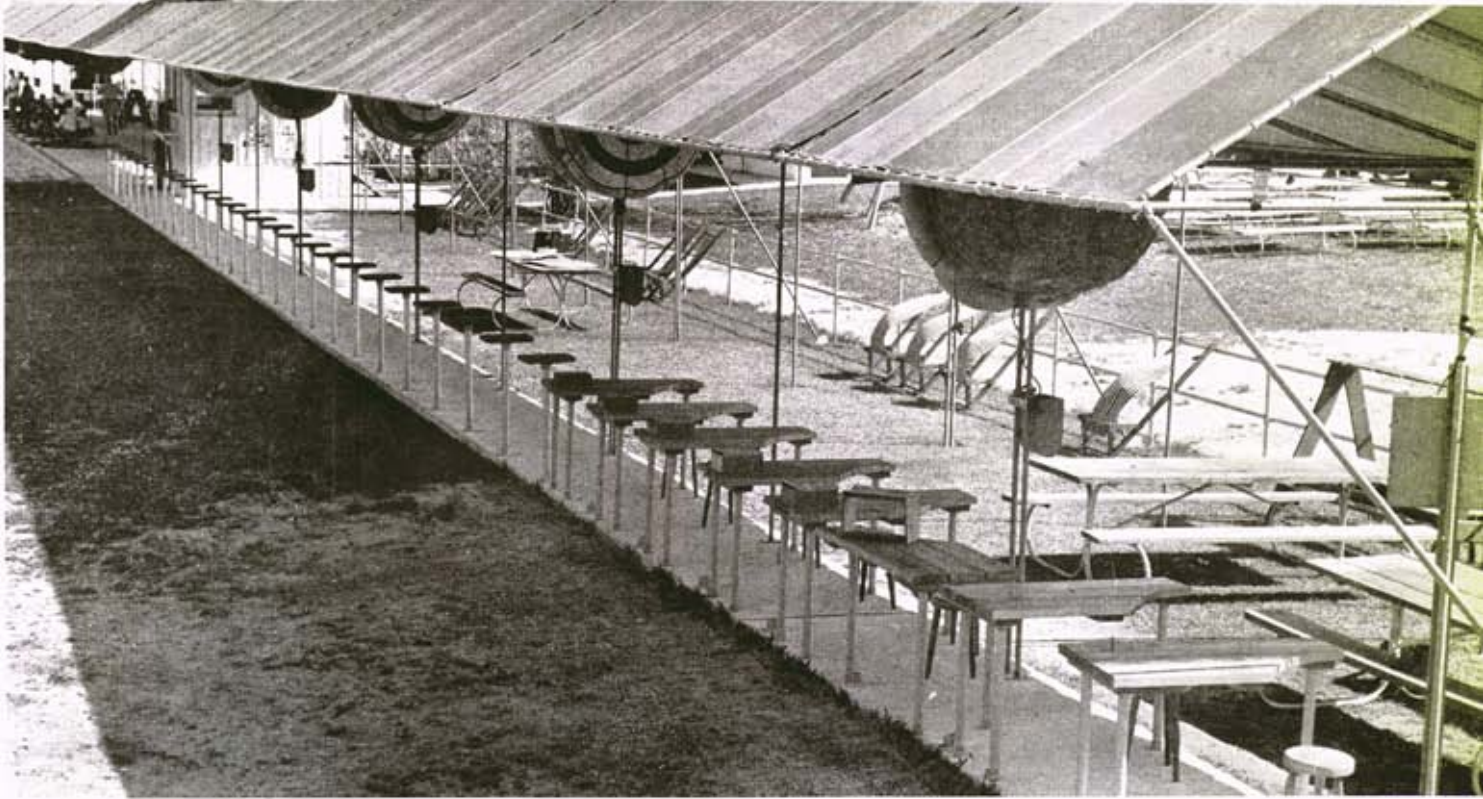
From control box on the firing line range, superintendent Maurice LaLonde conducts match through loudspeaker.

shooting make a line beneath the gaily canopied sun roof. Racks to hold competitors' rifles vertically stand conveniently behind the line, with beach chairs for the comfort of spectators nearby. Electric target holders stretch away to 100 yards, ready to flip the bullseye on "Commence firing." Whenever any new equipment appears on the market, the Dade County Park Department is eager to try it, and if suitable for the Trail Glade ranges, the devices are installed. A row of electric temporary carriers can be set up in two hours to extend Trail Glade facilities for the largest shooting meets, and can quickly be shifted from the 25 yard butt to the 50 yard butt as needed.

The rifle and pistol range is backed by a high earth wall, part of the dike project. On each side of the range extending to near the firing line are other earth ridges which prevent anyone from straying into the shooting zone. These ridges can catch bullets as a backstop.

Shotgunners are catered to with four combination skeet and trap rings. Hydraulic autoloading skeet traps in high and low towers keep the air buzzing with birds. The traps are the latest on the market. Manning the ranges are skilled instructors, each an expert in one of the sports: skeet, rifle, pistol. All of them are well known in the sports world, and all are registered as Class A instructors. Maurice LaLonde, formerly a Detroit police officer and an expert shooter, is the superintendent and lives at the range. He has a staff of park tenders to help with maintenance and range operation. As business demands it, during the tourist season or for important matches, extra help is hired.

Use of the range has exceeded all reasonable hopes. Nine separate new clubs register the range as "home plate." Many who use the park are plinkers, people who want to try out new guns, but Trail Glade plays host to a good schedule of matches and tournaments. There is regular pistol competition every Thursday evening. On weekends there may be waiting lines for positions on the



Solid shooting benches for super-accurate shooting or sighting-in were part of equipment on well-thought out range. Picnic lunch benches and beach chairs are used by visitors while matches are in progress.

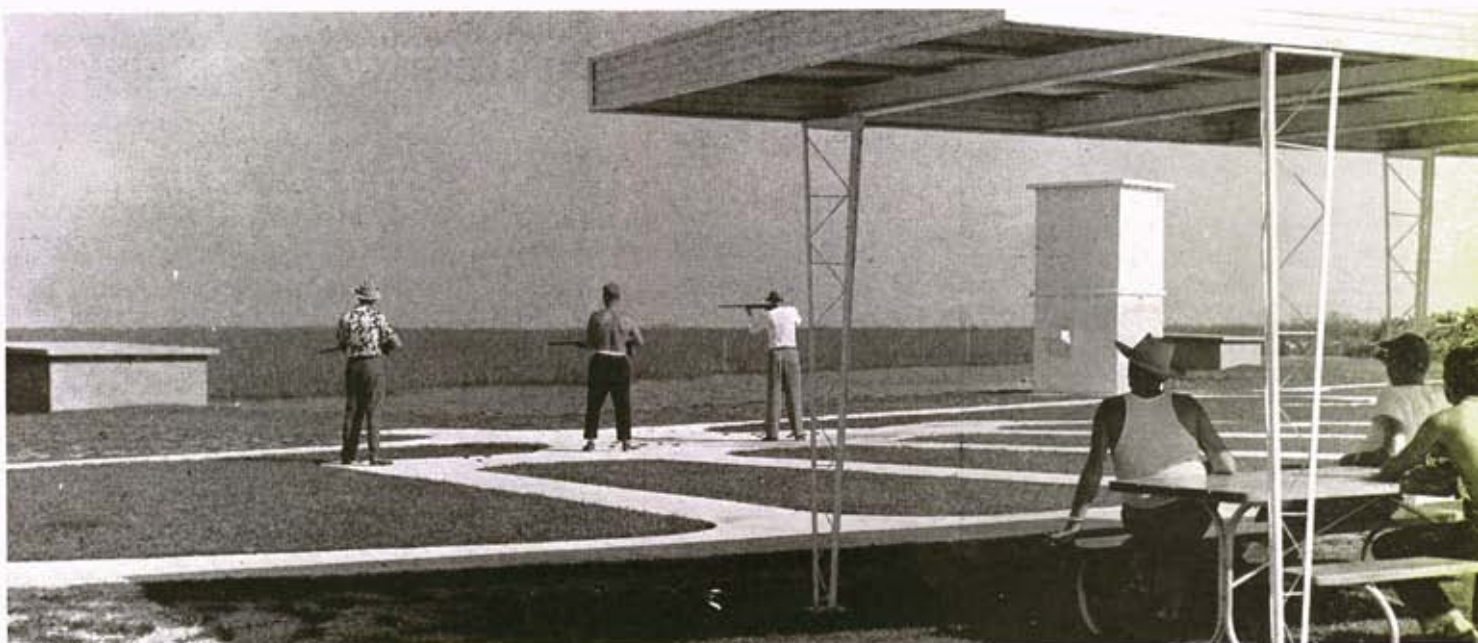
several ranges because of the heavy attendance.

The new park is the site of the Flamingo Open Pistol Tournament, now considered No. 3 in the nation after the Mid-Winter matches and the Perry Nationals. The Annual Sawgrass Smallbore Rifle Championships is fired on the balmy Trail Glade range. Shooters come from all over the nation for this match, out-of-staters outnumbering the local riflemen. The Florida state rifle and pistol championships and Southeastern Regional smallbore rifle championships will be fired at Trail Glade.

Any range should pay its own way. Trail Glade does

just this. Within three years after it was opened, the range became self-supporting. While the county does not operate its parks for profit, each park is managed to be as much self-supporting as possible. Trail Glade reflected how important the citizens of Miami thought the range was, for it has become self-supporting more quickly than any other known park establishment.

From October 1954 to October 1955, more than 22,000 range fees of 25 cents per shooter tinkled into the cash register. Exact count of attendance was difficult but expert estimates based on two spectators (*Continued on page 81*)



New, permanent skeet houses and trap pits on shotgun ranges have modern electric and hydraulic target throwing machines installed. Entire range not used by buildings or concrete walks is heavily sodded, free from dust.

WHAT AMMO FOR MATCH SHOOTING?



Fifteen different brands and lots of ammunition including Western, Winchester, Monark, Remington and Peters regular, match, shorts, longs and long rifle cartridges were studied in scientific accuracy tests.

PRECISE TESTS OF DIFFERENT .22 LOADS REVEAL ACCURACY OFTEN DEPENDS ON MATCHING CARTRIDGE BRANDS AND LOADS CAREFULLY WITH PARTICULAR RIFLE

By LARRY F. MOORE

THE QUESTION every smallbore shooter is asked sooner or later is a tough one, "What brand, Mister?" Too many match shooters answer it hastily. They shouldn't, for there is a lot more to choosing the right .22 ammo for your rifle than taking the prettiest package or the most-advertised brand. Not only brand, but the particular lot of ammunition has much to do with the kind of groups your rifle will shoot. And too many shooters are not hitting as well as they should, because they are careless in this important detail, their choice of the ammunition that shoots best in their rifle.

One novice shooter asked for "match ammunition," and the clerk in a big Philadelphia sports store saw he was a novice. He took advantage of the shooter's ignorance to

sell him several boxes of an obsolete, discontinued .22 long rifle cartridge placed on the market a few years before especially for 200-yard competition. The novice not only placed last in the competition but he was pretty embarrassed, for the round was loaded with Lesmok powder which gave a bright muzzle flash, a cloud of smoke, and a foul odor. The poor accuracy was not as objectionable as the flash, smoke and smell, since these were very annoying to other competitors. The novice who didn't know how to answer "what brand?" rightly was a very unpopular guy.

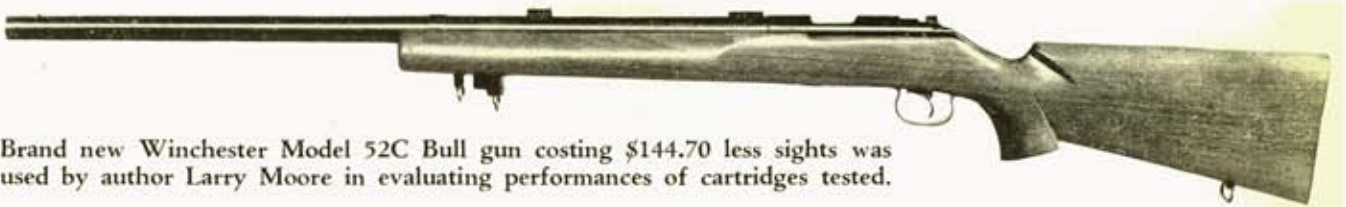
Another young shooter who didn't know the answer bought ammo from a dealer in Commercial Row at the Camp Perry national matches before 1940. Fortunately



Mossberg Model 35A costing less than \$15 new pre-war and similar to current M144-LS at \$39.95 grouped equal to Winchester 52 with some ammo.



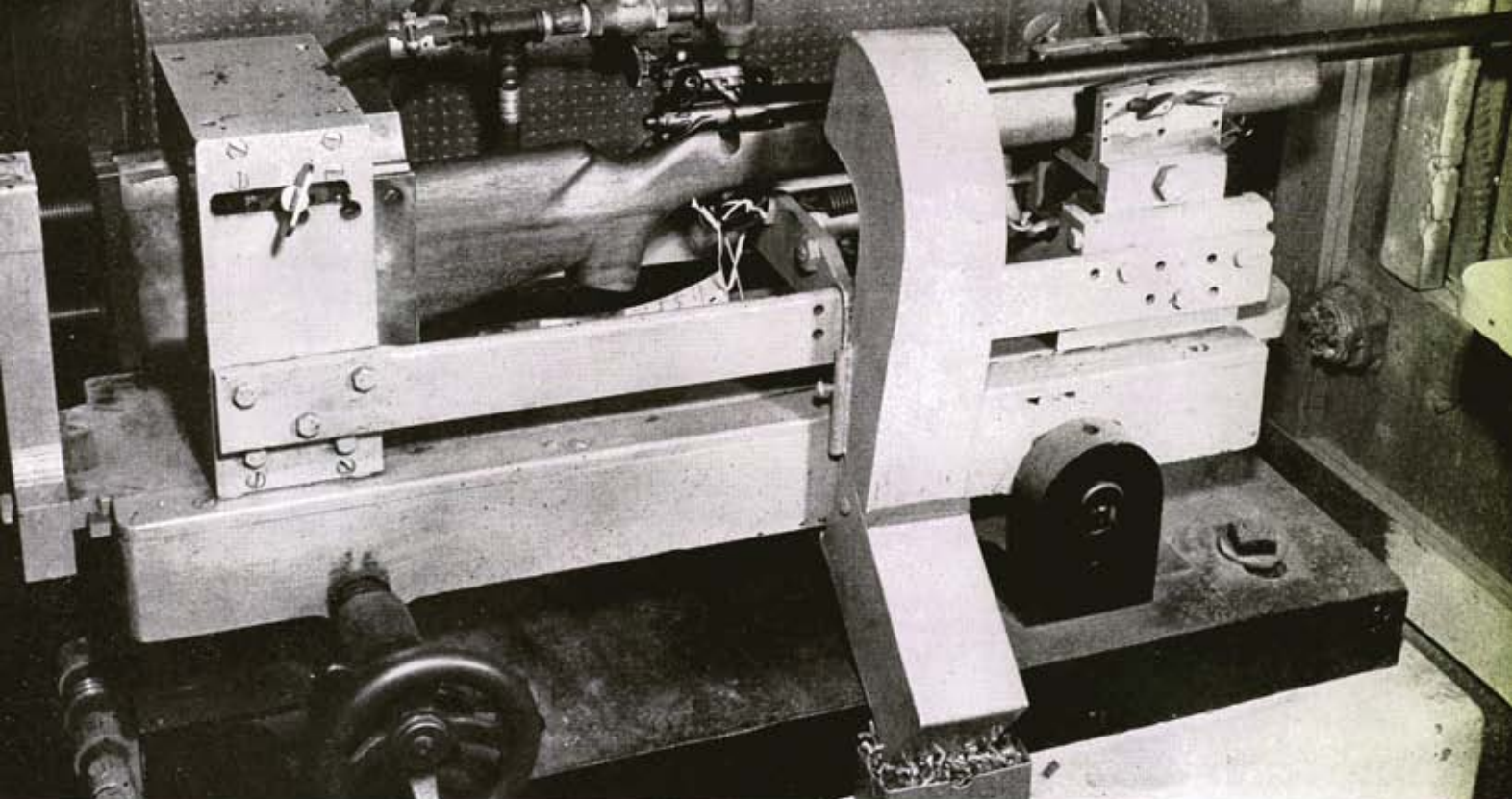
Remington's newest 40X .22 match rifle listing at \$119.95 with heavy barrel less sights gave accuracy from excellent to poor according to cartridges.



Brand new Winchester Model 52C Bull gun costing \$144.70 less sights was used by author Larry Moore in evaluating performances of cartridges tested.



Because basic design of Mossberg .22 single shot was not adapted to reliable machine rest testing, accuracy firing was done with 20X scope fitted, and under careful range conditions to insure maximum, reliable performance of gun.



To prevent human error from entering into accuracy tests and invalidating results, machine rest was used to rigidly hold Winchester (above) and Remington rifles during thorough study of .22 cartridges on windless indoor 100-yard range.

the results were different. The novice shooter, Harm Sheldon, had been persuaded to enter his first national competition with his M2 Springfield .22 rifle. The M2 is a good training rifle but even in the hey-day of the big .30 caliber Springfield, its .22 little brother was not considered a first-class match rifle.

Arriving at Camp Perry, Harm learned that there was such a thing as a .22 long rifle match-grade cartridge. Since he wanted the advantage of the more accurate match load, he walked into a shop on Commercial Row and asked for "match ammunition." The dealer took advantage of his inability to specify which brand, and peddled him an obsolete lot that had been kicking around the dealer's shelves for three years.

Harm used the outmoded ammo and turned in excellent scores throughout the match. He made a record score of 400 with 34 X's in a 50-yard restricted event. Later Harm learned that Lady Luck had been sitting on his ammo chest. The particular brand he unwittingly bought was the only one available which would give him

match-winning scores in that particular rifle. His success was sheer accident. There was no deliberate planning in the ammo he bought: he just took what was available.

An experienced shooter may choose one type or brand recommended by another shooter, by an advertisement, or may have found from experience that a certain type or brand gives satisfactory results. Associating with other shooters, he is likely to get suggestions on the choice of ammunition. He hears, "Use only greased bullets if you want good accuracy," or "Don't use high speeds because they give flyers."

The old-time competitor, now probably retired from active shooting, will talk about the Lesmok powder brands of match ammunition which he used in the old days to win matches, and which, in his opinion, were the best cartridges ever made. Although these cartridges have not been manufactured for 17 or 18 years, some who do a limited amount of shooting, still have a supply of them.

Many individuals who have had success with a certain brand are reluctant to change brands, al-

(Continued on page 48)

TEST DATA

The average extreme spread at 100 yards of four ten-shot groups from each lot of ammunition (unless otherwise noted) is given in inches.

AMMUNITION	RIFLE		
	WINCHESTER M52C	REMINGTON M40-X	MOSSBERG M35A
LONG RIFLE MATCH CARTRIDGES			
Western Super Match Mark III	1.07	1.12	1.53
Remington Match	1.12	1.40	1.65
Remington Palma Match LESMOK		1.94	
LONG RIFLE REGULAR GRADE STANDARD VELOCITY			
Remington Kleanbore	1.67	2.10	2.34
Western Xpert	1.87	2.17	1.90
Winchester Leader	1.64	3.32	2.32
Federal Monark	1.72	1.39	2.68
LONG RIFLE HIGH SPEED			
Western Super-X	1.80	2.20	2.46
Winchester Super Speed		2.03	2.01
Winchester Super Speed Hollow Point		2.52	2.25
LONG HIGH SPEED			
Winchester Super Speed		4.48*	8.82*
SHORT STANDARD VELOCITY			
Winchester Leader		6.40*	4.86*
SHORT HIGH SPEED			
Winchester Super Speed		7.14*	5.55*
Remington Rocket		6.49**	12.45**

*Two ten-shot groups were fired.

**One ten-shot group was fired.

A 20X Lyman Super Targetspot telescopic sight was used on the Mossberg rifle for sighting.



By **STUART MILLER**

Variations of the .44-40

THE .44-40 got off to a roaring start when the Winchester Model 1873 rifle was teamed up with the Single Action Colt revolver as the perfect combination of rifle and sidearm in the same caliber. It was a popular cartridge and many types were loaded through the years.

The original black powder round with a 200 grain solid lead bullet remained the standard load for many years. When smokeless powders became popular, Winchester brought out a smokeless load in this cartridge which gave similar pressures and veloc-

44-40 truly an all-purpose cartridge. Not content with a combination rifle and revolver cartridge, they also wanted it to replace the shotgun, and produced a long bulletless case unofficially called the "long case shot cartridge." This has an extra long shell which has been drawn to duplicate the regular loaded ball cartridge profile. There were two other types of shot cartridges used, one with the shot enclosed in a hollow wooden container, the other with the shot in a paper container. This long case type was usually favored because it was less likely to be damaged by working through the magazine and action of the rifle.



Caliber .44/40 loads are (l to r) 44 Winchester High Velocity, 44 Game Getter, long case shot load, old black powder load, with standard headstamp, odd "44 CFW" and 44 revolver cartridge made in Canada and mis-stamped "CLOT."

ities to the black powder load. Next, Winchester brought out a stronger rifle than the '73 in this caliber, the Model 1892. For the '92 they introduced a more powerful cartridge the .44 Winchester High Velocity. Early lots of this cartridge were marked "WRACo 44 W.H.V. M 92." These were the same dimensions as the old black powder shells, but much more powerful and were not intended for use in either the Winchester '73, or in revolvers. Discomfort from kicks and some accidents resulted from using the wrong ammunition in the right gun.

It wasn't so bad when the cartridges themselves were headstamped to show their high velocity, but soon the companies dropped the special headstamp and contented themselves with warnings and directions on the box label. The idea was all right when you could take the cartridges out of the original box, but when you just had a handful of mixed cartridges to burn up. There might be danger.

Winchester attempted to make the

Not too successful as shotgun loads, these still accounted for their share of small game at close range. The shot shells were more popular with the Wild West Shows of the period. One of the favorite acts was for the star to gallop around the ring breaking glass balls which were thrown by his assistant. The use of these shot cartridges in a smooth bored rifle gave the illusion of crack rifle shooting, while minimizing the chances of perforating the tent.

An odd yet practical .44-40 light load had a round lead ball of around 120 grains. This was most used in the Marble Game Getter gun, a hunter's Ratchet rifle, and is sometimes found with the headstamp "WRACo 44 G.G." It was also popular with handgun shooters who liked a light revolver load. It wasn't very accurate in handguns, but some liked it. When I first started collecting cartridges, I saw this listed as "44-40 Round Ball for Pieper's Shotgun." But whether the shotgun mentioned was one of the double barreled shotgun (Continued on page 56)

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WHAT AMMO FOR MATCH SHOOTING

(Continued from page 46)

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though the ballistics of any brand vary with the lot and may change greatly over a period of years. Several manufacturers take advantage of this and market the same cartridge under several brand names. The ammunition is made on the same machines using the same components. The only difference is the head stamp on the case, and the package label. One may buy a certain brand of cartridges with a distinctive brand head stamp and find in the box a cartridge case having the head stamp of a different brand. This occurs because both brands are loaded on the same machine and a case from the previous loading gets into the next run by accident. No difference in the performance

of this round would probably be observed.

While manufacturers have advertised the merits of their respective brands, there has been little unbiased test information available to the shooter to make a really intelligent choice of type or brand to find out more about proper choice of ammo. I conducted some tests to investigate the characteristics of some of the many brands of .22 rimfire cartridge.

Three rifles were used in the test: the model 52C Winchester with a bull weight barrel, the model 40-X Remington, which both represent the latest factory models of expensive target rifles made in the U. S., and a model 35A Mossberg, which is a low-cost bolt-action class of rifle. A 20-power Lyman Super Targetspot telescopic sight was used on the Mossberg rifle for sighting. All firing was conducted on a 100-yard indoor range. The match rifles were fired from a machine rest and the Mossberg rifle was fired from a bench rest because the insecure method of attaching the stock on this model does not permit normal performance in a machine rest.

A total of 14 different brands and types of cartridges were tested. These included long rifle, long, and short cartridges as well as the high speed and regular velocity, and greased and waxed bullets, which are being manufactured currently. A box of obsolete Remington Palma Match rounds loaded with Lesmok powder was also included in the test. The center to center distance of the two extreme shots in each ten-shot group was recorded. Four ten-shot groups were fired with all but the Winchester Super Speed longs, Winchester Super Speed and Leader shorts, and the Remington Rocket shorts. With the first three, two ten-shot groups were made; with the Remington Rockets, only one. The average of the extreme spreads were noted for each lot and type of ammunition.

The test results show that for accuracy, selecting the ammunition is fully as important as selecting the rifle. Certainly few shooters would select the Mossberg rifle, which sold for \$11.25 about 1937, for competition against rifles in the class of the \$140 Remington Model 40-X, yet the Mossberg gave better average accuracy than the 40-X with six of 13 lots of ammunition.

The importance of ammunition selection is best demonstrated with the lot of Winchester Leader .22 cartridges. This lot gave the best accuracy of the regular priced lots in the M52 Winchester rifle, with an average extreme spread of 1.64 inches. On the contrary, this lot gave the poorest accuracy in the M40-X Remington rifle, an average extreme spread of 3.32 inches. The Winchester Leader gave average accuracy in the Mossberg.

The Federal Monark gave similar results with best accuracy in the M40-X Remington rifle, an average extreme spread of 1.39 inches. This is a better average than that obtained with the Remington Match cartridge in this rifle. However, in the M52 Winchester rifle the accuracy with Monark was average and in the Mossberg it was below average.

There is a difference in the average accuracy of the various types of cartridges.

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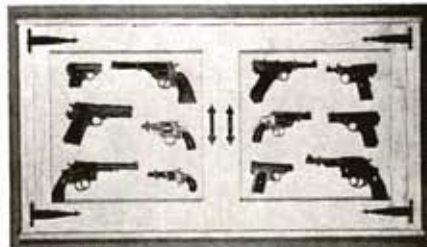
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For example, the match cartridges gave superior accuracy when compared with that of the other types. The standard priced long rifle rounds were in another group, and the longs and shorts were inferior to the others.

Considerable variation in point of impact of the various lots, when fired in a single rifle, was observed. The two lots of match ammunition of recent manufacture struck at approximately the same point in each rifle. However, the point of impact of each regular brand, with relation to that of the match cartridges, varied considerably with the individual rifle. Generally, the standard brands of long rifle cartridge struck higher than the match brands. The Monark ammunition gave the highest impact of the regular brands. The average impact with Monark was 2.1 inches above that of the match lots. The average impact of the high speed cartridges was 2.8 inches above that of the match lots. The long cartridge (not the long rifle) impacted an average of 0.6 inch above the match cartridges, and the shorts, excluding the Remington Rocket cartridge, impacted an average of 3.2 inches below. The average impact of the Rocket cartridges was 3.3 inches above that of the match lots.

Only one split case occurred during firing of the Remington Kleanbore ammunition in the Mossberg rifle. There was no damage to the rifle or shooter. This type of casualty could be serious in some rifles since the case fails to obturate—seal the breech—in a normal manner and the gas may escape into the gun mechanism. On some rifles the gas may blow back into the shooter's face. This type of casualty indicates a low quality case.

Since there is a wide variation in performance of the various types and brands of cartridge, it would be best in selecting the type to consider the purpose for which it will be used.

For accuracy in top-level rifle competitions the match cartridge is a must. The X-ring on the 100-yard smallbore rifle target has a diameter of one inch and the ten ring has a diameter of two inches. Only two groups obtained with the regular-priced brands were small enough to make 10-X possibles. Yet each of the four groups made with the more expensive Super Match ammunition in the M52 Winchester rifle would make a 10-X possible if properly placed. Accuracy of the Remington Palma Match loaded with Lesmok powder was comparable with that obtained from the regular brands sold today.

Ammunition selection is especially important to the target shooter since the game is highly competitive and "400 possible" scores are common when wind conditions are good. In large matches the winning score generally has close to 40 Xs for the 40 record shots.

If the target practice is informal, or indoors at close range, investigate the regular-priced brands if cost must be considered. The match grade cartridges sell at \$1.10 per box, compared with 75c for the regular grade.

While there is little difference in the accuracy between the regular velocity and high speed rounds, the noise level of the high speeds may be objectionable on indoor ranges. The slightly shorter bore time with high speed rounds might be an advantage, especially when firing from the standing position. Although bore wear might be greater with the high speed rounds, caliber .22 rim fire barrel life is measured in the tens of



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For plinking and snap shooting at comparatively large targets at close range the short cartridges have an advantage in cost. The standard short lists at 50c per box. The longs, which list at 68c, are only slightly cheaper than the long rifle cartridges. While the accuracy obtained with the long and short cartridges was definitely inferior to that obtained with the long rifle rounds, it compares with large caliber slide, lever and semiautomatic hunting rifles at 100 yards or less.

The cause of poor accuracy with long and short cartridges is largely because the guns used were rifled and chambered for the long rifle cartridge, which uses a bullet weighing 40 grains. The twist is too fast for the short bullet which weighs only 29 grains. Also, when a short is fired in a long rifle chamber, it has to jump through the forward portion of the chamber to reach the rifling and the bullet is probably mutilated to some extent. For using shorts exclusively, it would probably be worth while to obtain a barrel rifled and chambered especially for the short cartridge. This would give an improvement in accuracy.

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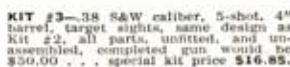
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PISTOL INTO RIFLE

(Continued from Page 23)

which would develop dangerous pressures if used alone. The trick is to prevent mixing them and to balance the amount of fast-burning powder with the slow-burning stuff properly. It is almost impossible to do this correctly without the extensive facilities of a well-equipped ballistic laboratory. Lighting the wrong kind of fire in a cartridge can result in detonation, when the charge explodes like a hand grenade instead of burning progressively as it should.

Knowing the dangers of mixed powders, I started my attempts to find a fast load for the .30/357 with a cautious prime charge of 2 grains of Pistol No. 6 topped with 5 grains of SR No. 80, packed down tightly with Kleenex to prevent mixing. From this very light load I worked up to 3 grains of Pistol No. 6 and 5.5 grains of SR No. 80, which was still a mild charge. Then I tried topping this duplex load with No. 2400, ending up with a multiple charge consisting of 3 grs Pistol No. 6, 3.4 grs SR No. 80 and 6 grs No. 2400. This load didn't show any signs of excessive pressure and gave practically no recoil, but it did go off with an awful boom and shot the 93 grain Luger bullet faster than any handgun we knew of. As near as we could determine, using rather primitive means, muzzle velocity was in the neighborhood of 1700-1800 feet per second.

Just for the hell of it, Ken Stohl and I took the hybrid Colt out on the Platte River to a spot where we had often potted at a stump with our .38's. We knew the stump to be right at 700 yards away, and had never been able to do any damage to it with our hunting loads. After a couple of bracket rounds with the .30/357 we found we could whack the target consistently without holding very far over.

I never did get a chance to try the new .30/357 Magnum out on game as I was called into active service with my regiment that fall, but while I was off learning to dig foxholes, Ken took it out on the plains and clobbered some jackrabbits. He reported that his longest shot was 220 paces, and even at that range the jack froze and keeled over like he'd been hit with a varmint rifle.

The .30/357 looked so good that I made up a set of detailed drawings of the cartridge and submitted them to the chief of ordnance "through channels." By this time the war was on, and the M1 carbine had been developed to the point where there was no apparent need in the service for a high speed handgun cartridge, and I never even got a rejection slip for my trouble.

Many years passed before I ran across old No. 49 among the stuff I'd left in storage during the war. A flood of memories came out into the sun with the long-barreled revolver, but there weren't any jackrabbits or coyotes in Ohio, so back she went into the bottom drawer of the gun cabinet.

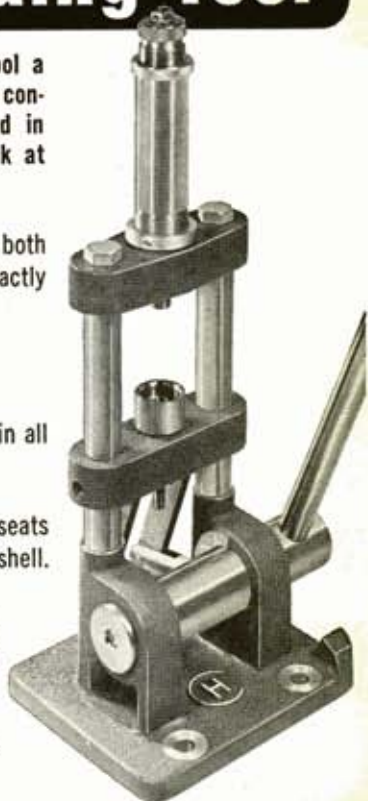
One day I dropped in to see Paul Renick at the showrooms of Winfield Arms in Los Angeles, and found him all steamed up about some Australian Martini rifles that had just come in. He'd had one of the actions rebarreled to take the .357 S&W

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case, and had proof-tested it with a 90,000 pound charge. This action was used for a number of small rifle cartridges, but I was surprised to learn that it would handle successfully anything as stout as the .357.

I picked up a couple of the actions with the notion that they'd make fine platforms for a lightweight K-Hornet for my growing boy. Before I got around to doing anything with them I happened to find Les Lindahl's .30/357 reamer in my toolbox one day and the bug bit again.

It has been pretty conclusively proven that there's no such thing as a good dual-purpose rifle and pistol cartridge (except, of course the .22 rimfire), and there is very little real need for one today, as the small sales of .32/20 and .44/40 ammunition demonstrate. We'd had a real objective in the development of the .30/357 for the handgun. There wasn't a single reason I could think of to justify putting a rifle together for it except dumb curiosity, but that was enough.

I knew the action would handle the case without any mechanical difficulties, and I thought I knew where I could find the other necessary pieces and help to make a gun of it. Sure enough, Charley Johnson, the Lawrenceville, Ohio gunsmith, had the answer for me. He cut the back end off an old Springfield barrel, chambered it for the .30/357 and fitted it to the Martini action. The chamber was a bit too tight, of course, as the reamer had been reduced in size for use to cut a case-sizing die, so it was necessary to polish it out by hand. This produced a somewhat abrupt shoulder of the double radius shape characteristic of the Weatherby line of magnums, and a glass-smooth wall, tapered just enough to prevent sticking cases.

It didn't take me long to whittle out a stock and forearm and after Charley had mounted scope blocks and a Lyman 57 rear sight I was ready to start shooting.

From late March through July 1955 I shot

a number of different loads in the .30/357 Martini, with bullets ranging from the 86 grain fullpatch Mauser pistol slugs to 150 grain jacketed service bullets. Powder charges varied from 2.5 grains of Bullseye to 15 grains of No. 2400. Several loads were made up using salvaged ball powder from M1 carbine shells, and I also shot up a lot of No. 4759, DuPont's replacement for the old bulky SR No. 80. However, I'd got over my fondness for multiple charges, and shot 'em straight this time.

Naturally the Springfield barrel with its 1-in-10 twist didn't stabilize the shorter bullets at the low velocities obtained. Some groups fired with M1 carbine bullets and 9 grains of No. 2400 spread out to 10" at 100 yards. But the longer bullets fired with heavier charges did fairly well. The 150 grain army slug shot into 3", using 10 grains of No. 2400. The cast .32/20 Lyman bullet, No. 311316, did just as well with 12 grains of No. 4759. None of them justified the use of the Unertl 12x Ultra Varmint scope, as this was certainly no woodchuck gun.

Cases began to stick when I had worked up to 15 grains of No. 2400 with 110 grain and heavier bullets, but the extractor-ejector system on the little Martini handled lighter charges without trouble, snapping the empties out like a high-class scatter-gun.

I still haven't finished all the work I want to do with the .30/357. In a barrel with a 12" or even 14" twist, I'm sure its accuracy as a rifle cartridge would be greatly improved with the lighter bullets such as Joyce Hornady's 110 grain spire point. The little Martini shows considerable promise as an inexpensive, lightweight rifle for the cartridge.

But the .30/357 was designed specifically for use in handguns, and even the limited experience I've had with it has convinced me that it's worth working on. There is a definite trend today toward high performance short guns, started by the .357 Atomic and the new .44 S&W Magnum. The J. Kimball Arms Company is producing an automatic pistol to shoot GI carbine ammunition, and it is logical to assume that they'll be looking at other potent cartridges to add to their line. After further refinement, particularly with the new ball powders, the .30/357 wildcat may be a natural for such a handgun as the Kimball.

The search goes on by independent experimenters for the flatter, hotter, more efficient cartridges demanded by target shooter, varmint bug and big game hunter alike. In thousands of basement workshops all over the country, handloaders who are doctors, lawyers, farmers, students and retired businessmen by day are still busily spending their evenings reshaping brass, weighing and recording powder charges and putting together new wildcats.

The odds are that none of them will come up real soon with a cartridge cheaper to reload than the Hornet, more powerful than Weatherby's new .378 Magnum, more accurate than the Donaldson Wasp and made from brass easier to get than .30-'06, but don't be too darned sure of it. Many of yesterday's wild ideas are today's standards. The "pocket rifles" and "pistol carbines" of long ago may yet be practical guns for the modern handgunner. And a pistol that shoots like a rifle can be a lot of fun to shoot.

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CARTRIDGES

(Continued from Page 47)

and rifle combinations, or some sort of an early .410 gauge, the dealer could not tell me.

The most common caliber headstamp of these was either "44-40" or "44 WCF" for Winchester Center Fire. One early English cartridge company merely marked them "N.A. Winchester" showing the popular identification of the makes with the caliber. The middle headstamp is interesting for two reasons. It was the type employed by other companies who apparently thought they were giving Winchester too much advertising by calling it "W.C.F.," so reversed the procedure to put Winchester last. Also this cartridge is by a little known company, the

Creedmoor Cartridge Co. of Barbertown, Ohio. This company did not operate long, and is better known for their C.C.C. Mandan brand of shotgun shells.

This "C.F.W." is often thought to be a misprint or an error in the headstamp dies, but it was employed by several different companies. The headstamp at the right, while not a .44-40, is my most interesting example of a misprint. This cartridge was made by Dominion Cartridge Co. of Canada, and should read "D.C.Co 44 Colt." Such mistakes sometimes happen in the factories, but it is seldom that any slip by the inspectors and appear on the market. ●

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OUTSHOOT THE RUSSIANS

(Continued from Page 32)

Joe is a critter of moderate habits. Besides a penchant for 32-ounce steaks and French fries washed down by a schooner or two of suds, he is given to the early-to-bed and late-to-rise routine. And not forgetting a two-hour siesta in mid-day. The night life is not for our boy and although he is an old Army gambler and can do things with coin or card that would baffle a working sleight-of-hand sharpie, he cannot be inveigled to poker or other lightsome pursuits when there is powder to be burned.

He is the most popular gunner on the field when tournament play commences. This is attributable to a philosophy of good will and cheerful enthusiasm for his fellow man. "You've got to have a happy heart to win," says our Arkansan. Joe gives with a hearty interest of his time and advice if it is asked. Probably no one knows more about pistol pointing than he. I have yet to see him register impatience over the dumb questions and requests fired by the hordes of recruit gunners who engulf him at every bigtime bangfest.

Benner practices a lot. He says he does not but that's for the birds. He shoots four or five times weekly and maintains this pace yearlong. He goes to the range and it matters not whether he is with fellow team members or is alone. He commences with the 22 pistol and works through this pipsqueak to the 38 revolver, winding up with his No. 1 love, the 45 Auto.

He first bangs out his 50-yard slow fire with the 22. Ordinarily his 50-yard work is topnotch so he fires no more than 20 shots. Then he goes forward and wrings out 20 rounds timed fire, 25 yards. This is followed by some 30-40 shots rapid fire. The 22 is then put aside and pretty much the

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same routine follows with the center-fire 38. Again 20 shots are slowly and carefully squeezed off at 50 yards. Maybe a third 10 shots will be added. Then he comes up to 25 and the timed and rapid get about the same treatment as did the 22. This done he trudges back for the third time to 50 and goes over the course as many as three times with the big 45.

After that—Joe keeps no written scores—he ponders his weak ranges and offbeat totals. Maybe his 22 is down a point or two at 50 yards. This means a repeat of 10 or 20 shots. Or possibly the 38 was not as hot as he thinks it should be. More shooting is in order.

But more than any of his guns, Benner scrutinizes his across-the-board performance with the Model of 1911. If the big 45 shows any sourness anywhere along the route, whether at 50 yards slow, or at 25 yards timed, or rapid, he immediately retraces his steps and works on that particular stage until it shows improvement.

Benner is the soul of deliberation on the match range. He cannot be hurried; neither is he ever tardy. A firing line is yet to await on him. He fires every shot at 50 yards with extreme care, using up all his allowable time without fail. It is common

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to see him aim for a very long period, take the gun down, resting it on the bench before him without ever changing the grip, and after what seem to be minutes again lift the piece and recommence his aim. He fires his 20-second timed fire in the same manner. It is easy to pop off the string in 15 seconds but Joe doesn't do that. He accepts the rule book literally; it says the gunner has a full 20 seconds so Joe uses it all.

The 10-second rapid fire puts ants in the pants of every coach who endeavors to follow little Rollo through this bang-'em-out stage. He does not finish in 8½ or even 9½ seconds; he uses 'em all. With the fate of a national championship depending on wringing every last point out of anchor-man Benner—and black failure riding his muzzle should he get a hair's breath too slow and thus not get his 10th round out—he will loop in the final bullseye just as the target is disappearing.

Our champ suffers from buck ague on rare occasions. When he does, he may take a single bottle of beer although it has been my feeling he does this more to fill the vast recesses of that puncheon that passes for his upper gut. When the butterflies commence to flutter, Benner simply works a sort of self-hypnosis on himself. He looks down at the target and is mesmerized. He glances at that blob of black so neatly centered on the square of white and his one-track mind is shunted onto the shooting mainline. It doesn't swerve or miss a curve until the tenth and last shot has been pitched.

He never lets the final score enter his head, never calculates what the other champions are doing to either flank, never works on anything save the immediate shot. He has a self-concentration that permits him to put everything out of his brain save the mechanics of how to pour each bullet into the center ring. Working his way, as he does, shot by shot, the final total takes care of itself.

Of course, the fact that he has vanquished

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every leading handgunner in the country literally scores of time doesn't do his confidence any harm either.

The Benner battery is notable of inspection. The 22 is a venerable Colt Match Target of the vintage of 1938. It was company property, not Colt Company, don't misunderstand, but the equipment of a company of soldiers of whom Joe was a member. Just how he acquired the weapon is lost in antiquity but probably some friendly supply sergeant made him a present of it. The pistol went out to the late D. W. King, when he was jefe of the King Gunsight Co. (now the Rickey Co.), and the old man affixed a tubular barrel weight and replaced a King-raised ventilated rib and click-adjusting rear sight. The front patridge is $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch and undercut. Joe equipped this Woodsman as he does all his shooting irons with a Lew Sanderson stock.

A year or so ago he wrote Col. Milt Hicks, then sales manager for Colt, and complained that after a couple of hundred thousand shots he thought the venerable Match Target was beginning to slip and would Colt put on a new barrel. Milt got the Benner prize and had the chamber and barrel very painstakingly miked. It was found to be perfect as to standard dimensions. He sent the weapon back to Joe with a full account of the micrometer reading and other tests done by Colt to be sure the pistol had lost none of its wizardry. It hasn't been back since.

Joe yearly wins a dozen or more new handguns. These he never fires. He has a spare 22 auto but he packs it along solely as an emergency number should old Bacon-

Gitter fold up. It never has. Annually the gun makes a trek to Berdon, the Florida pistol-whiz, and is completely tuned.

The Benner 38 is a far-from-new Colt Officers Model. It has a King raised ventilated rib but a Micro sight instead of the King adjustable. The front sight is $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch, undercut. It has a short action installed by Berdon and a set of Sanderson grips. There is a wide trigger shoe and a rather heavy trigger pull. Joe keeps his triggers on the hard side. He runs no risk of a trigger going soft and failing to stand during the weighing-in ceremonies. There is always a second 38 OM in the baggage just in case the old favorite might throw a rod.

The 45 is a straight Berdon work-over. It has the so-called "Berdon mouse trap" in it. This is a device which is spring actuated and forces the barrel into the top of the slide, thus very firmly seating barrel lugs into slide grooves. This rather simple device assures a most superior degree of accuracy. The 45 has a set of Micro sights, $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch, and the inevitable Sanderson grips. So amazing is the skill of our boy wonder, he shoots this Model 1911 just like the 22 Woodsman. During the Coral Gables championships, he averaged 293 out of 300 some nine times over the National course, this with 22, 38 and 45.

Benner shoots Western Super Match in the 22, the same brand in the 38. With the 45 Auto he may either fire reloads across the board or a combination of reload at 50 yards and Remington wadcutters at the timed and rapid fire, 25 yards. ●

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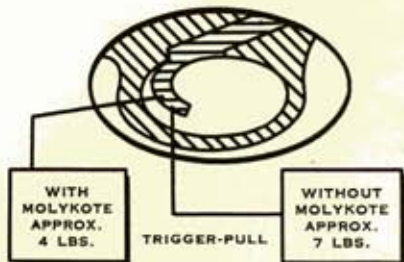
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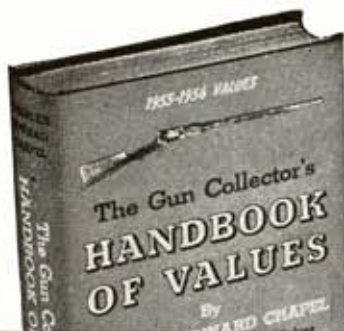
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HOW I'M TRAINING FOR THE OLYMPICS

(Continued from Page 33)



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I used to think that age was one of the most important things in shooting and, after I reached my "prime," I could see myself in my mind's eye slowly declining in scores the older I got. But after I saw Ullman, who is about 60, I realized that training, fitness, and self-control are just as important, if not more so than the age factor alone. Because of this, my training will be as rigorous as a boxer who is getting ready for a championship bout, and I intend to be as physically fit as possible.

To allow every individual the greatest possible margin in the meet, each man will be allowed to fire 60 rounds in three hours—plenty of time to make your best showing in precision firing. If you have ever held your hand outstretched for a few minutes, you can realize some of the muscular strain a shooter goes through. You must accustom yourself to it and it is necessary to train to do this.

Another point that I find important is my mental attitude. I know, for instance, that since I have won before, I will actually add another hurdle for me to cross, for more will be expected of me. I don't mean this to sound like bragging, but it is a cold fact. I am aware that it is humanly impossible to shoot a perfect score on the range (fifty meters—that is, 54 yards and one foot—at a bullseye a bit larger than a half dollar) but I've still got to better my previous scores.

One thing in my favor is the wonderful cooperation from the spectators at the Olym-

pics. They, like the competitors, are the best in the world. For example, when the going gets really tight and a shooter needs nothing to distract him, you can hear a pin drop—until the shot is fired. Then you've got to shout to make yourself heard. With that sort of sportsmanship a man can do nothing but shoot his best.

I think too, that a man must be aware of his capabilities and have confidence in himself. At the free pistol meets, the best score will probably range about 560-565. At times some people can do better than they are really capable, but in the Olympics, you can't count on this kind of thing. I must train myself to maintain a consistently good average every time I go out, and the only way I can accomplish this is through training.

This match will not be between teams but individuals—two from each of the 32 nations participating. It is hard on the nerves and demands great self-control. Every shot is going to count. I will use a .22 caliber Hammerli pistol—a gun I have great confidence in and one with which I am very familiar. If I don't make top showing, it won't be the gun's fault.

All service contestants are scheduled to go down to Fort Benning for eliminations this summer. Here, at West Point, where I am stationed, I am going to work up on the outdoor range out of a little booth I am building to shut off the wind. At first, I will maintain a three-day schedule and try and duplicate what I expect to find in

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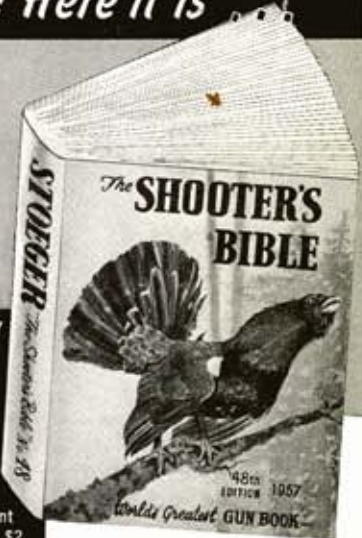
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Australia. I'm not going to jump in feet first and try to do the full three-hour stint at the start. Instead, I plan on working out for half the time in the earlier part. As I shape up, I will increase my pace to four, then five days a week until I can practice every day. As I improve, I will work up to the full three-hour, sixty-shot course.

After the Benning workouts where we will eliminate all but a few, there will be the final elimination at Camp Perry on August 15. After that—Melbourne. I am looking forward to the Benning All-Army meet, for it does me good to practice with GI competition. On the West Point range I will more or less be shooting against myself, but no matter how hard I work, I won't be completely satisfied. At Benning, with the best shooters in the service, I will be able to compete with others and determine how well I have done.

Pistol shooting is hard work like anything else that demands a certain amount of perfection. A man can't live to excess while training. I make sure I get my relaxation and rest so that I am steady. Too little sleep or too much training can be bad. A man must set his own program to suit his needs. There is no set rule, for everyone requires a different setup.

For some reason, many people think that pistol shooting is fairly simple to come by. Sure, some fellows can go up on a range and shoot a really good score without much training, but its pretty certain he can't do it consistently. You've got to train, train, train, regularly. When I joined the Army back in the 30's, I hadn't shot more than the average recruit—shooting cans off a wall and the like. In those days when you went out on the range, you aimed for your qualification and worked at it hard until you made it. There was a lot of competition between units and we really gave it all we had.

I was lucky enough to come under the eye of Sergeant James A. Tumlin in the 4th Tank Company. It was he that started me off shooting by taking me to my first meet, the South Atlantic Matches, in 1938. To my great surprise, I won one of them. Little by little, I trained and shot in competition. I lost many times, but every time you go up against good shooters, you learn something and you work harder for the next time—at least I did. The better my opponent, the better I tried to be.

I've won a lot of prizes since then—about a thousand medals, loving cups, pistols, a gold-plated typewriter, silver service, and the like, but I think I value above all, the Free Pistol World's Championship and the Olympic Medal, for these weren't just for me, but for the nation. A man is proud to be his country's representative at these meetings and it means more than words can say to win them.

One thing is sure. The Russians are going to be out to win in 1956. They can smell victory and it is mighty sweet. It is going to take very good scores to beat them and we won't be able to pull any punches. They are well-trained, well-disciplined, and confident. But there is one thing they can't ignore, no matter how hard they work: the rest of us are out to win too. It will be man against man—and each person's ability and training will be the deciding factor. ☉

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH PIGEON SHOOTING

(Continued from Page 20)



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bird which can be retrieved is considered a "dead" bird on the score sheet. The average contest on live pigeons is a 25 bird "race" and a typical winning score is 23 or 24 out of 25. Twenty-five "straights" are rare under modern handicapping systems and an average of 90 percent is considered very good.

Sometimes "miss-and-out" races are held and in this type of a match, contestants are eliminated as they miss. The winner is the last one still shooting without a lost bird.

From a pressure standpoint, this type of contest is the most difficult. To give you an idea of how difficult it sometimes becomes, once I won such a "miss-and-out" race in San Remo, Italy, over a field of about 150 shooters by killing only five birds. It was a terrifically windy day and almost half of the entry lost their first bird. By the end of the second bird, the entry list had shrunk down to about 35, was down to 11 on the fourth bird and I was the only one able to kill the fifth and thus was the winner.

Luck plays a big part in winning a pigeon match. I'd guess that luck in the draw is about 10 to 20 per cent of it to the topflight shooters, and the balance is shooting ability. There are some birds which any shooter can kill consistently but there are others that no shooter can kill. The bird that twists and dives, outguessing both barrels of the shooter, is an impossible bird to kill unless the shooter were to mis-point or lose his timing. This is what makes a live pigeon shoot such an exciting form of shooting. This, plus the fact that the pigeon has a natural will to live, and will exert every effort to make it over the boundary fence, even while dying, makes it even more difficult.

To score a "dead bird" in skeet or trap, all you have to do is knock a chip off a target—not so in the pigeon ring, as here you have to literally load and break the pigeon down with a concentration of shot

heavy enough to either kill it or break its wings so that it cannot fly out. A pigeon can carry a lot of lead and still fly.

I'll cite as an example one which cost me a lot of money in a Cuban tournament many years ago. I drew a "driver" (fast-flying bird, low to the ground, and heading straight away from the shooter) from the center trap. Although I centered him in both patterns shot from my super full-choke 12 gauge, this bird, hit so hard that both loads tumbled him on the ground, was able to fly up and over the fence to fall dead on the outside.

I had the bird retrieved and picked it off all feathers to see where it was hit and how many pieces of shot had struck it. Examination revealed that 18 pieces of #7½ shot had found their way into the bird, most of them striking it around the tail, while one piece had cut a groove in the top of the head almost to the skull. Despite all of this, the bird was able to make it over the fence. Had even one piece of shot broken a wing bone, it would have been a score on the score sheet and would have saved me several hundred dollars in prize money. Shoot your shotgun at a piece of paper at 40 yards and you'll see why such "drivers" can escape. The wing bone of a pigeon is pretty small, and shooting at a bird flying straight away from you is like trying to hit a flying razor blade.

Normal procedure in pigeon shooting is for the shooter to take his place at his assigned yardage on the walk facing the traps. Then he loads his gun with two shells (usually 1¼ oz. of shot is used and in size 7½ or 8), asks the puller if he is ready, places gun at shoulder and calls "pull" when the bird is wanted. The puller springs one of five traps to release the bird. The particular trap is selected by rolling dice, by an electrical selector, or sometimes by a mechanical wheel—the shooter never knows

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which trap is going to open.

To make sure birds fly immediately, modern gun clubs have compressed air jets installed in the traps directly below where the bird stands. When the trap opens, the blast of air is released simultaneously so that if the bird has not flown, the air will literally blast it into flight. In addition, a rubber hose about 18 inches long and attached to the compressed air line, is mounted in front of the trap. When the air pressure hits this hose, it writhes like a snake and scares the bird into immediate flight.

The shooter then attempts to kill the bird as swiftly as he can, before the bird can achieve full speed or get so high in the air that even if killed stone dead, it will fall outside the boundary fence. Double-barreled guns are most popular, with superposed guns being the most common type.

Several factors make live pigeon shooting difficult. One is the unknown trap factor. Another is the spacing of the traps. They are so far apart that they defy the average person's spread of vision to encompass them all at one time. The two end traps are almost always slightly out of focus so that birds starting from them are always a blur. Toughest and most feared birds are "drivers" from any trap or birds from the two end traps that cut in towards the center of the ring and then turn out away from the shooter. The latter type feints the shooter out of position for both shots. The first shot is usually wild because the shooter is swinging his gun in the opposite direction from the flight of the bird and when he attempts to move his gun back to the proper direction of



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swing, the bird changes course just in time to louse up the point again. I've seen more birds of this type lost than any other kind and it affects the champion as well as the beginner.

I've watched many fine field shots and top tournament trap and skeet shots make their first attempt at live pigeon shooting. It is always a shock to them that they are not shooting so hot on the first round.

I can remember my own first experience at this type of shooting. I was sure I'd murder them all but when I called "Pull" for the first time, all I saw was a blur of thrashing wings zig-zagging away from the ivory bead on my gun barrel. I never once was able to put the bead where I wanted to or set up any kind of a smooth swing. I had a lot of trouble learning how much lead they took, too. The lead used on trap and skeet targets was far too short. The longer I shot, the more confused I became until I suddenly realized that there was no particular pattern to follow in shooting pigeons. Shooting had to be instinctive. From then on my scores got better. Now I find that the best way to go at pigeon shooting is to walk out on the yardage mark, shoulder my gun, make sure my vision is spread as wide as it will go and my concentration is on the first moving object. Then I call "Pull" without giving any consideration to what I might draw. My shooting then becomes instinctive and I let my reflexes do the swinging and trigger pulling.

Any time I try to kill a bird in any set way, I get into trouble. You cannot arbitrarily say you'll point out the next bird; it may be a driver that you have to snap two shots at. Worse yet, you can't say you'll snap at the next bird for it may be a sitter or an "incomer" that floats lazily in towards you and requires accurate pointing. It is a nerve-wracking sport and no cinch to be sure.

Many consider live pigeon shooting the toughest competitive sport in the world.

When you consider that one slight mistake takes you out of the competition in most big events, this becomes understandable. Pressure grows and grows as the matches progress and the pigeon doesn't help you. He is always a variable that you cannot predict. In a golf tournament the golfer has only to make his reflexes and coordination work properly and he can drive the ball wherever he wishes. In pigeon shooting, his reflexes and coordination must be perfect, too, but in addition, he has wind and an unpredictable live thing to shoot at—a thing which, even if shot perfectly, may carry the load outside the ring to ruin a score.

Nothing but years of practice will season a pigeon shooter. Practice outside of competition does not help for there is no pressure. Pigeon shooters who consistently do well are those who follow the tournaments and do their practicing under pressure in matches. What makes it toughest is that there is no way for the shooter to correct himself as he goes along, just as there is no way to practice a shot over again—no two pigeons fly alike.

There is a certain kind of shot I have drawn at live pigeon shoots which I have never been able to kill. Even drawing this same type of shot several times, I have almost always missed it. This one is the bird that cuts in towards the center of the ring from an end trap, flying just above the ground, but turning up and out just a few feet from the trap.

My first barrel usually misses because I'm swinging too fast to stop when I get to this bird moving towards my gun. My second barrel is wasted usually because the bird climbs out of my pattern. All the thinking and practice in the world cannot prepare me for this particular bird. It is rather like practicing for a parachute jump. The chute has to open the first time or all is lost.

We faced the same unpredictable problem in the Air Force gunnery schools where I

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instructed during the war. Our gunners were filled with theory and practice on everything but an attacking enemy airplane. We had nothing to show our students that would give them this experience. Some experimentation was done near the end of the war using frangible plastic bullets shot against armored attacking planes but even with armor and destructible bullets, we shot down some of our target planes and the plan never became too feasible.

The pigeon shooter, too, just has to develop a shooting style out of experience, developing confidence in his own reflexes, leading to an ability to cope with any bird he draws.

If you think a pitcher on the mound at a World series game is under pressure, you ought to shoot in a match like the championship of the world where every shot can mean elimination. There is nobody around to help you and you are facing a pigeon that wants to live and will do everything in its power to elude your shot string. Couple all this with the prize money at stake, the esprit de corps of your team mates, and the pressure placed on your shoulders by the betting spectators, and you have a sport unexcelled for thrills.

The bigtime championship of the world competition goes something like this. You pick up your gun in the armory, located in the basement of the club and walk up and out into the arena. The clubhouse is several stories high and is curved to surround the back of the pigeon ring. Hundreds of spectators line the railing around the ring and watch through the windows above.

The grass is like a golf green and the boundary fence edging the arena is stark white staring you in the face with the five small traps mid-distance between. The handicap walk you stand upon is carpeted. As you wait for the traps to be loaded, the clubhouse is buzzing with the chatter of the bettors and spectators. When the traps are loaded and the pigeon boys run back, you slip two shells into your gun and call out "trapper ready?" Instantly, just as though a huge switch had been pulled, all sound ceases in the clubhouse. You raise your gun to your shoulder and call "pull."

The metal trap explodes open with a "clang" that can be heard for blocks and out of the corner of your eye, you see a blurred, feathery object streaking downwind towards the fence. You literally throw the gun after it, jerk the trigger once, and then again through the smoke of the first shot. It is not until then that you know for sure if you have put the gun in the right place. If you did, your bird will be lying up against the fence and the crowd will be applauding. If you didn't, don't be downhearted as maybe it wasn't your shooting that caused you to miss. You'll never know for sure though—that's pigeon shooting. ©

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THE OLDEST NAME IN GUNS COMES BACK

(Continued from Page 27)

least confused. But during the war there was no chance to prepare more than models and drawings of new pistols.

When Hillberg went to High Standard at the end of the war, he plunged into the thick of small arms designing. As head of research and development, he had much to do coordinating the ideas of the engineers, Sears representatives and High Standard sales people. Along with the regular High Standard pistols which came out in the post-war years were many new designs especially for the J. C. Higgins line of Sears, Roebuck guns. Leaving H-S for the Bellmore Johnson Tool Co. was the next step for Bob, who eventually arrived at a point which any idea man reaches sooner or later—sink or swim he was pretty much on his own.

Bellmore Johnson is a name unknown outside the gun industry. Within the business, B-J makes tools for production and builds experimental firearms from pocket pistols to aircraft cannon for private firms, inventors and government agencies. At Bellmore Johnson, Bob finally had a chance to work on some of his pet ideas. The sleek, racy, modern-styled Whitney emerged at Bellmore Johnson, of which Whitney is a subsidiary.

The Whitney is a truly new design, developed in the late spring of 1954 at Bellmore Johnson, but behind it are principles as old as the original guns of Eli Whitney. "Low tooling and manufacturing costs aimed at a greatly reduced price sales potential..." proclaimed a Bellmore Johnson promotion

booklet on the gun. Whitney would have paraphrased it, "I find I must get up my tools to make all the gun locks alike, else I cannot complete my contract."

There is a surprising kinship between the latest pistol to bear the name, and the first Whitney handgun. Constructed about 1849, the first Whitney revolver was designed for low manufacturing cost, yet for serviceability. Casting the frame of the first Whitney permitted the graceful handle shape of the "pepperbox" style of gun, instead of the angular, expensive methods of fabricating the regular Colt pistol handle.

Casting has proved good for today's needs, too. "This type of (cast aluminum frame) construction," explains the Bellmore Johnson booklet, "enabled the Trimatic-Whitney to have the bulk and solidness of a gun so absent with the sheet metal construction and at a considerable cost saving. It also enabled many noteworthy style variances hitherto impossible with practical machining methods on solid forgings, thus enhancing the graceful contour lines." The Trimatic-Whitney is "modern as tomorrow," but it reflects Hillberg's studies of yesterday.

Like other imaginative firms, Whitney feels that American pistols have been built to obsolescent patterns. "Progress in pistol design and styling has just about stood still. We have new dishwashers, refrigerators, cars, even railroads, but many guns built today are 30 years behind the times," explains Hillberg.

There is nothing original in this idea, but Hillberg is in the enviable position of finally being able to do something about it. Starting from scratch, without factory, machines, sales or work force or materials, their high standing in the industry enabled Bellmore Johnson to raise the capital necessary. This was the start of Whitney Firearms Co., makers of a pistol which is at once serviceable in its category of sport .22, competitively priced, and eye-catching. In fact, it looks like nothing else in this world.

"I know of designs which have been turned down by gun companies today solely on the basis of their appearance," said Hillberg. This is understandable, for the firearms industry is so traditional that many have accused it of stagnation. Whitney is out to see if something new can be done about conservatism in firearms styling.

The Whitney's graceful moulded contours make it seem to fly while standing still. By using a die-cast receiver, tricky shapes can be made without costly machining.

One leading handgun maker used to widely publicize the fact that their guns were literally "carved from solid steel." The frame forging weighed 40 ounces; after drilling, turning and milling, the frame weighed 13. The Whitney's new design avoids such a fundamental absurdity. Except for slight trimming the Whitney receiver is almost as it comes from the mould. It encloses barrel, bolt, moving slide, and all firing parts.

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The tiny .22 rimfire is one of the worst offenders as far as feed goes, jamming on the rims and battering the soft bullets. Yet a jamproof .22 clip is well-nigh impossible, but the Whitney approaches the impossible. On chambering the first shot the slick breech operation of the Whitney is so free from any resistance that I opened the bolt to see if it had picked up a cartridge. It had, but the feed seems frictionless. The case bodies rest parallel, with the clip wider at the back than front and the rims staggered, making the feed as easy as with a rimless round. Since 1908 designers have tried to solve the problem of a rimmed case in an automatic; the new Whitney is the solution.

There is no bullet guide ramp, source of much .22 difficulty, on the barrel. Instead, the barrel is faced off and the bullet guide is built into the clip. Proving the "reliability with economy" idea, this design is cheaper yet better than usual designs. Unlike most other .22's, the Whitney clip can easily be disassembled for cleaning.

Aluminum frame pistols like the Whitney have an inherent problem of battering. The harder steel parts slamming against the softer alloy will hammer and damage it. But the Whitney is a little different. When the shell is fired, the bolt throws back. Cross-wise through the bolt is a large pin, which fastens it to the tubular slide. The slide surrounds the barrel and is narrowed at the front end. Between slide construction and a flange around the rear of the barrel is the recoil spring. All these parts assemble from the back inside the tubular-topped receiver, and the barrel muzzle is fastened to the receiver by a plunger-locked sleeve or bushing. The stresses of firing are carried through the recoil spring to the barrel flange, up the flange to the muzzle bushing, and from the muzzle bushing to the entire frame structure. What started out as a slam-bang battering ends up as a force applied to the aluminum frame in compression.

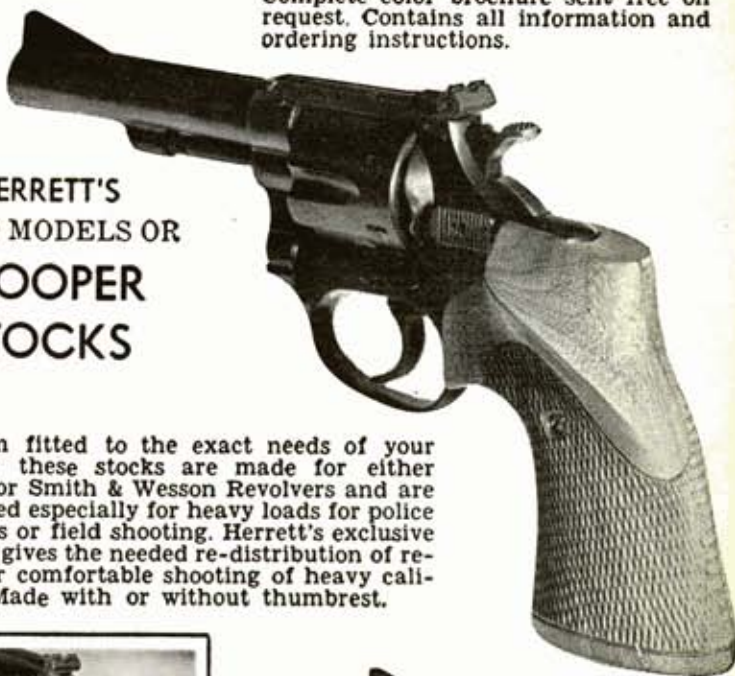
The practical strength of the Whitney frame with the artistic ribs and curves is enormous, more than enough for higher-powered cartridges. The early Trimatic-Whitney fired 200 proof loads and 40,000 regular shots without any damage or significant wear.

Asked if the Whitney would be made in larger calibers, Hillberg replied: "No comment." Expanding on his inability to say yes or no, Bob acknowledged that there were Whitney experimental models in other calibers, some of them locked breech types. A target model .22 "will definitely be available." Although there is no model yet established, Hillberg's first thoughts on target pistols were set forth in the Trimatic promotional booklet. The basic pistol was shown with target sights and a zoot-suit muzzle brake which did double duty as a muzzle bushing.

The basic Whitney model has a wide rear sight pad and Micro or other conventional target sights could easily be mounted. But "conventional" is a four-letter word around the Whitney shop. "A brand new target gun, and many new ideas" are in the works at Whitney. Hillberg has always liked the double action system, especially for pocket defense autos and large military pistols. As for a bigger caliber on the Whitney, it is easy to see a .38 Special, maybe a wad-

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cutter, on that frame. The peculiar Whitney design would allow a rotating barrel lock to be built into the sleek, overall styling.

The innovations introduced by Hillberg may make later generations of arms designers and sportsmen look back on this year as of equal significance to the day so long ago in 1798 when Eli Whitney, founder of the original Whitney Arms company, pioneered interchangeable assemblies in firearms production. Whitney had invented and built many cotton cleaning engines as well as his famous cotton gin, but patent infringers had damaged his business. Owning a factory with skilled workmen, but no product, Whitney offered his services to the government. He secured a contract for U. S. muskets after the French Charleville pattern and set up his shop to make guns.

In those days of laborious hand filing and individual fitting of parts into a whole gun, Whitney found himself up against a deadline of delivery to the ordnance department. He could not meet it by old-fashioned ways of manufacturing and still make a profit. Under these conditions, begging delay and deferment from the ordnance officers, Whitney hit upon the interchangeable parts idea.

In those days basic cause of disabling a musket in the field was failure of the lock to work. A spring might break, the cock face crack against the battery, or some damage occur to the sear inside. Repair was impossible in the field. Parts were so individual that they required hand fitting with a file and only a skilled armorer could restore the gun to service. In 1717 and again in 1765 French ordnance officers had experimented with interchangeable parts, but with little success because they did not have the machines to turn them out uniformly.

When Eli Whitney came upon the scene, his solution to the problem was so fundamental that it changed the whole course of the industrial revolution. Whitney's use of interchangeable parts and assemblies

amounted in his day to a philosophical principle, a way of thinking which no one before him had ever followed successfully. Whitney not only designed interchangeable parts for his gun locks and made the lock plates interchangeable from musket to musket, but he designed and built the machines to produce these parts to close tolerances.

Whitney's invention of the milling machine and other tools basic to modern manufacturing production have earned him a permanent place in America's hall of fame. Small wonder, then, that when several enterprising young men of New Haven decided to make guns in 1956, they took as the name of their firm the oldest name in guns. By assuming the name "Whitney Firearms, Inc.," the newest gunmaker is out to lay claim to the most significant industrial trademark which has ever appeared on a gun.

The old Whitney firm was a prime supplier of contract muskets and rifles to the government from its beginning to the Civil War. In the post-Civil War era, Whitney introduced lever-action repeating rifles and single shot target rifles of fine quality. Lever action rifles were the downfall of the firm, because Winchester bought the company in 1887 and the mark of Whitney disappeared from guns for 70 years. Today the new Whitney company is out to make a name for itself with a basic philosophy which is as radical now as Whitney's interchangeable parts was in 1798.

Behind Whitney are some good ideas, but Bob Hillburg disclaims the credit. "Remember this," he points out. "We are a new company, but Whitney is right in the heart of the gunmaking industry. We wanted to build the factory on the exact site of the old Whitney works, but the water company which owns the property wouldn't sell what we needed. So we contented ourselves by setting up along the road not far away.

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ing. If the Whitney pistols gain the acceptance we feel they will get, it is because of these men that it will be possible."

That seems to be a good formula for success—progressive ideas; quality product in its field; a factory unhampered by traditional methods; and a first-class sales outfit. With the ideas of Hillberg, guns made by Whitney Firearms, the manufacturing know-how of Bellmore Johnson, and the sales outlet of J. L. Galef, wholesalers, the new gun company should score a "possible" on the shooting scene. Its pistols may be from "tomorrow," but Whitney is here today.

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RABBITS CAN SHARPEN UP YOUR SHOOTING

(Continued from Page 39)

dodge like a cottontail in a briar patch. In short, he's the rifleman's target par excellence, a target with enough variety to interest the most discriminating shooter.

For the big-game hunter who wants to know exactly what his favorite rifle will do at all ranges, the jackrabbit affords an excellent target. Since the jack's usual baliwick is open country, uninhabited sand and sage, the hunter can use his heavy rifle without danger to livestock or humans. Here he can pick off jackrabbits with his favorite big-game load, selecting his targets to simulate shots he might get while hunting.

On bunnies at long range he can shoot prone from a knoll or a haystack to learn the trajectory of his rifle with any particular load. This type of shooting affords excellent practice in estimating both range and hold-over. The normal sitting position can be used to take jacks at medium ranges. And kicking jackrabbits out of the sage will give the hunter the practice he needs on running targets, teaching him to lead and swing with them to score consistently.

Hunting woodchucks, prairie dogs, and ground squirrels makes a shooter a dead shot on still game, but it takes the lanky, long-legged jack rabbit to develop a good all-around shot. In my opinion the jack heads the long list of our varmints when it comes to offering the biggest variety of interesting targets.

Jackrabbits can be hunted successfully with any rifle from the .22 rimfire to the big Magnums. Rifle choice is a matter of personal preference. Whether a shooter plinks with a .22, hunts with an iron-sighted .30-30, or uses a scope-sighted .300 Weatherby Magnum, each will be found adequate within its own range when hunting jacks. Remember, however, that the .22 long rifle and the bigger calibers with heavy bullets are more apt to ricochet and these rifles should be used in the more sparsely settled districts.

For the hunter who wants an economical rifle for jackrabbits, an accurate, scope-sighted .22 will fill the bill. The 37 grain high speed hollow point is a potent load up to 125-150 yards. Placed in the head or

chest cavity it will anchor jacks in their tracks. And only head or chest shots should be taken with the .22, for a gut-shot jack-rabbit will run out of sight. Using a .22 in this manner will teach any big-game hunter enough about anatomy so that he will be able to pin-point his shots accurately in vital areas on any big-game he may be after.

The .22 should be sighted-in to hit point of aim at 75 yards. With this particular sight setting the bullet will be 5" high at 25 yards, 1" high at 50 yards, 3" below point of aim at 100 yards, 7" low at 125 yards, and about 14" below point of aim at 150 yards. The vital area of a sitting jackrabbit from head to rib cage offers a target about 7" high by 2½" wide. This means that a hunter armed with a .22 sighted-in as above could hold dead-on at ranges up to 75 yards. At 100 yards a hold on the head would drop the hollow point into the chest cavity. At 150 yards, the extreme accurate range of the .22, it would be necessary to hold over about 8".

On a recent hunt using a .22, my 11 year-old son and I were perched on the bank of a ranch water tank overlooking a 75 acre stand of alfalfa. On hunts like this we have a practice of taking turns as the targets present themselves, hit or miss. I happened to be in the shooter's spot with the scope-sighted .22 Model 75 Winchester.

"There's one, Dad!" Jimmie whispered, pointing excitedly.

A big black-tailed jack was sitting upright on the edge of the alfalfa perhaps 150 yards away. I looked him over through the scope and even at that distance he looked big. From a solid sitting position I put the crosshairs a good 8" above his head and squeezed off the shot. The big jack took a long, loose-legged jump and piled up, kicking. Upon examination we found that the hollow point had taken him right between the front legs as he sat facing us.

That jack rabbit "training" shot compares with a long shot at a big mule deer across a canyon or high up in a mountain meadow. Using a scope-sighted .30-06 and 150 grain handloads at about 2950 feet per

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second, sighted to put the bullet on point of aim at 200 yards, the bullet will be 1.8" high at 100 yards, 2" low at 300 yards, and about 14" low at 333 yards. A mule deer's chest area is a target about 16" deep. To put a 150 grain '06 bullet where it would do the most good would require the crosshairs to be level with a deer's back at 300 yards and about 8" above that point at 333. So my long shot with the .22 compares favorably with many situations one can expect while hunting big-game.

For areas where a ricochet would endanger people or livestock, and where the heavy report of a .30-06 or a .270 might be objectionable, one of the popular varmint calibers is a better choice. A light flat trajectory, high-velocity bullet that will go to pieces on contact with the ground is hard to beat for such shooting. The .22 Hornet, .218 Bee, .222 Remington, .219 Zipper or Improved Zipper, .22-250, and .220 Swift are among the more popular loads. Any one of these calibers driving a .22 soft point at velocities from 2800 to 4000 feet per second will flatten a jack-rabbit like a bomb. And the flat trajectory of these calibers makes it possible to score at longer ranges with minimum hold-over to compensate for bullet drop.

Take the .222 Remington for example. With a handload of 20.5 grains of 4198 and 50 grain bullet, my particular rifle will group inside an inch at 100 yards and around 2" at 200. Sighted in to put the bullet an inch high at 100 yards, I find that I can hold dead on a jackrabbit up to 200 yards and not worry about bullet drop. Out at 300 yards the 50 grain slug is about 3" below point of aim. At this range I put the crosshairs on the head of a bunny facing me, knowing that the bullet will drop into the chest cavity. On broad-side shots a hold about an inch over the rabbit's shoulders will put the slug right through the boiler room.

The jackrabbit is a mangy caricature of a kangaroo wearing a pair of full-fledged mule ears. His scrawny neck supports a long, unattractive head that sports a pair of large bug eyes which can see all around him at once. His wariness is one thing that makes him a prime rifle target, and unlike the lovable cottontail, he hasn't a friend in the world.

Extremely destructive to alfalfa, other grains, and vegetables, the jackrabbit is a pest. A couple of hungry jacks in a day will consume as much forage as a good beef steer. Ranchers and farmers welcome careful, well-behaved riflemen bent on reducing the jackrabbit population.

"Hell, yes," said one irrigation farmer, when I first asked permission to hunt, "shoot all the damn things. Right now they're knocking the daylight out of my alfalfa. I figure those jacks cost me about 10 tons a year. And with the price of baled alfalfa as high as it is right now that's more than a prime steer would bring."

The best times to hunt jackrabbits are during the last two hours of daylight and the first two after dawn. Being a night forager, the jack leaves his scooped-out hollow beneath some sage brush late in the afternoon and heads for his feeding grounds. This is the time of day when a good position near a handy alfalfa patch really pays off.

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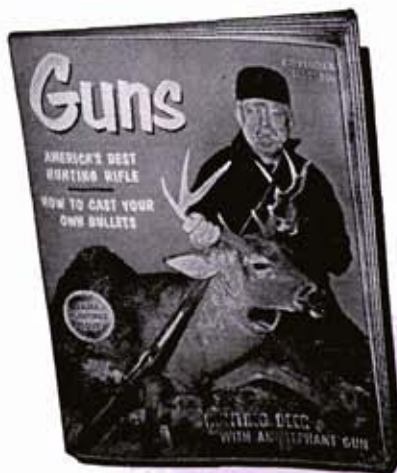
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THE MACHINE GUN'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

(Continued from Page 36)

of his four guns, Missourian Parker used a pair of mules. "Parker's Jackass Battery" most of the troops called them as Parker's men hacked a way for two days through guerilla-infested Cuban jungles. They hoped to lure the Spaniards into a Gatling ambush. But no Spaniards appeared. Parker and his men fretted with forced inactivity, and the Gatlings stood abreast in a gun park, silent, waiting.

Parker's Gatlings were Model 1895 weapons. With ten exposed barrels, they were mounted on high thin artillery wheels and fairly heavy riveted iron carriages. Chambered for the rimmed .30-40 Krag cartridge, the new Bruce feed was used. In rapid firing—and that was close to 1200 rounds per minute, though 600 to 900 was most practical—the older single column feed clips did not supply cartridges fast enough to the barrels. The new feed permitted continuous firing if enough ammunition was packed in the arsenal issue 20-shot boxes. With the tops torn off and the rims exposed, the cartridges could be stripped in a single motion into the Bruce feed. Farther down the gravity-moved column of cartridges became a single row, on into the gun. Almost jamproof, the Bruce feed made Parker's Gatlings fast-firing and sure.

The gunners had good weapons, and cour-

age to match. And it sure took guts to stand up with these high-silhouette baby artillery pieces against the swift smokeless fire of hidden 7mm Mauser-armed Spanish snipers.

General "Fighting Joe" Wheeler had not permitted Parker to mount his Gatlings to cover Santiago, although the American army held the town under siege. Scouts reported that Spanish General Pando was marching on Santiago with additional troops to reinforce 15,000 Spanish regulars already in the city. General Shafter's corps had only 15,000 men and he decided to strike while the odds were even.

From the American artillery position on El Pozo, observers had a clear view of the town roughly 3,000 yards distant. A mile from the city, San Juan Heights commanded the approach, the steep grassy slopes slashed with the cuts of Spanish trenches. A big red-and-yellow Spanish flag flapped lazily from the roof of the pagoda-like blockhouse on San Juan Hill.

At 6:30 on a hot July 1st morning in 1898, the 2nd Infantry, right wing of Shafter's army, attacked Spanish outposts at El Caney. The division had orders to capture the town by mid-morning, drive the "garlics" down the road toward Santiago, and join the 1st Infantry and 1st Cavalry (dismounted) di-

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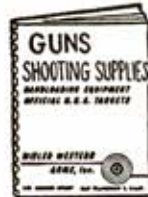
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visions. All would then advance to the foot of San Juan Heights. Confidently Shafter at 8 am wired Washington: "Will keep you continually advised of progress." From that moment everything seemed to go wrong.

Our artillery, shrouded in clouds of black-powder smoke, was quickly spotted and silenced by the invisible smokeless-powder Spanish guns. Parker's Gatlings, instead of going forward, were ordered to withdraw half a mile. Parked along the road, Parker's crew took plenty of guff from passing infantrymen. "What are you going to do back here, grow bananas?" disgusted soldiers asked.

Suddenly the smiles were wiped from their faces. Entering the narrow jungle trail which led from El Pozo to the foot of San Juan Heights, they were raked by an artillery barrage. Then small-arms fire cut them from their flanks and rear. Concealed in trees overlooking their line of march, Spanish sharpshooters picked them off at leisure. When the sweating, cursing columns reached the edge of the jungle, they were fish in a barrel to the Spanish infantry on the ridge above. Volley after volley of Mauser fire poured down on them. It was a Roman holiday for the Spaniards.

As regulars and volunteers reached San Juan river, they deployed along it right and left. Commanding the volunteer regiment of his old cowboy buddies was Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Sweating it out with his Rough Riders, Roosevelt was grimly satisfied; all he wanted was permission to attack. Yet he was held back. Finally came word to call up the Gatlings.

At the foot of the hill, the desperate attack which has lived in history as the "charge at San Juan Hill" got under way at a quarter past one. Parker kicked up his mules and the four guns raced from the jungle out into the open meadowland at the base of the Heights. Hardly had the mules been unhooked and the trails dropped than the gunners were astride the guns cranking. The Gatlings opened fire on the blockhouse, strong-point of Spanish defenses at the crest of the hill.

Parker's guns were in the center, the iron fist. At the left white-haired General Hawkins formed his troops to storm the ridge, and ordered his bugler to sound the "Charge." Roosevelt on the right, bucking up and down the line on "Little Texas," shouted to his dismounted troops, "Follow me!" and turned to attack the Spaniards on adjoining Kettle Hill. Rebel yells, shouts of "Remember the Maine!" and Indian war whoops mingled with the ominous, steady drumming of the Gatlings.

Six hundred yards from the Spanish blockhouse Parker's guns covered our troops with a singing apron of cupro-nickel bullets. When the first Spanish fusillade killed the feeder and wounded another crew member of Gun No. 3, Gunner Corporal Doyle straddled the trail and fired the Gatling himself. He worked the elevating lever with his left hand and cranked with his right till help came. From the panting, laboring infantry who had climbed up the hill, hardly a shot was fired except in haste, more for the noise and encouragement than for killing.

But from the little plain below the bark of the Gatlings continued as the guns automatically traversed the crest of the slope, the .30/40 slugs driving the opposition under

cover. Eight minutes after Parker opened fire, the regulars were almost to the crest of San Juan Hill. Demoralized by the hail of bullets, the Spaniards were jumping from their trenches and falling back. By 1:30 pm the blockhouse, cornerstone to Spanish resistance, had fallen. Fifteen minutes had passed.

A mile and a half safely at the rear, the foreign military attaches stared incredulously through high powered field glasses as the first blue-shirted regulars reached the crest of San Juan Hill. They were reduced to a pitiful handful, far too few to have stormed such a strong position under ordinary circumstances. But the circumstances had not been ordinary. The charge had every reason to fail, except for the concentrated firepower of the Gatlings.

As Spanish organization at the top of the hill ceased, Parker's men got their mules hitched up and drove the battery for the hilltop at a dead run. Reaching the top, they saw the Spaniards counter-attacking. The drivers swung the Gatlings about in a left turn and, still moving, the gunners began their fire at point blank range.

The wild-eyed Spaniards concentrated their shots on the Gatlings. Rifleman could at least lie prone. Parker's crews did not even have the protection of a shield. They had to serve their guns erect. For the rest of the afternoon, Parker's Gatlings ranged the line, beating the Spaniards back when they showed themselves. The raucous mule-bray and the drumming fire from the white-hot Gatlings was some of the sweetest music the troops had ever heard.

"It was the only sound I ever heard my men cheer in battle," said Colonel Roosevelt.

Toward sundown a Spanish 6-incher threw a couple of shells at the Gatlings. Picking up the flash in the dusk, the Gatlings returned the fire at an estimated 2,000 yards. No more shells came their way. Later Parker found the 6-incher, still loaded. A Spanish officer told him that the Gatlings had made things so hot they had not been able to fire it again.

Roosevelt strolled over to meet Parker in the lull after the battle. One Gatling was out of action. It had become overheated. In a momentary cease-fire several cartridges were cooked-off, one with the breech partly open. Parker pulled out the damaged breech bolt and it fired thereafter with nine of its ten barrels. Of the gun crews, one third were casualties, many killed. Yet the troops hung on at San Juan. When some junior officers of the Cavalry Division came down off the hill to urge a "strategic withdrawal" of several miles, the general sent them back up with entrenching tools. All the available troops were in the line. The Gatlings were the only reserve.

On Sunday Admiral Sampson engaged the Spaniards in a brisk sea battle. Soon he was able to telegraph to President McKinley: "The fleet under my command offers the nation as a Fourth of July present the whole of Cervera's fleet. It attempted to escape at 9:30 this morning . . ." Meanwhile, Parker took the wheels off his Gatlings and bedded them in sandbags, to the extreme front of the line. Added to the Gatlings were the Rough Riders' two Colt "potato digger" automatic Browning guns, Model 1895, and one dynamite gun.

With the dynamite gun, Parker evolved a

novel machine gun tactic. The dynamite gun sent an 11½ pound Whitehead torpedo filled with blasting gelatin a maximum distance of about 3,600 yards. Compressed air was the "charge," compressed in a secondary tube by motion of a piston driven by a gunpowder charge. The Rough Riders fired the gun by striking the firing mechanism with a hatchet; they then ran like hell. As often as not, the shell dropped a short distance in front of the piece. Parker thought the dynamite gun might be good for a scare.

He would aim the dynamite gun in the general direction of a Spanish trench or battery. If the projectile ever got that far, the terrified enemy soldiers would run from their trenches and Parker's guns would cut them down, like flushed quail.

On July 17 the Spaniards decided they had enough. Santiago surrendered. Shortly afterwards, the malaria-ridden Fifth Corps was sent home. Home, too, went the many foreign military attaches, to report on what they had seen.

Imagination made their reports enthusiastic, but there was no imagination about the direct result. Germany in 1899 organized her first regular machine-gun detachment, the 10th Battalion, Hanoverian Chasseurs. Japan and Russia worked out machine gun tactics in their war of 1905. Most of the major powers, revising their military textbooks, followed Germany on the band wagon. The published writings of Parker were liberally plagiarized in the years that followed by machine gun "experts" of every army.

Friendship with Teddy Roosevelt served Parker well. When Colonel Roosevelt succeeded to the White House after McKinley's death, he sent Gatling Gun Parker to Fort Leavenworth. The battle before Santiago had made Colonel Roosevelt a firm convert to the idea that American infantry should have adequate machine gun support. Parker's task was to organize the first model machine gun detachment in the U.S. Army, appointed under General Order No. 16, January 22, 1902. That date marks the start of modern American tactical firepower.

When World War I came, the gradual introduction of the German Heavy Maxim guns changed battle tactics of the British and French from charges with bayonets across open land, to hiding in holes. The machine gun dominated the scene in World War I and created a stalemate in the trenches which lasted four long years.

Pershing had Parker as his personal adviser on machine gun warfare. Right in line with Parker's philosophy was the "Pedersen device," an automatic breech for converting the Springfield rifle into a submachine gun. Pershing ordered 500,000 of them for use in the great Spring offensive of 1919, firepower such as Parker would have wanted had he dared dream of it. But the British tanks, movable machine-gun platforms protected by armor, capable of crossing the trenches and attacking machine gun posts up close, broke the back of German might. Armistice came too soon for Pershing's scheme to be tested. Yet the tanks themselves were like old friends to Parker. Gun crews completely protected from enemy fire: what his boys in blue couldn't have done with Gatlings like that at San Juan! Even so, he still had his claim to fame, as the man who made Teddy Roosevelt's charge at San Juan hill possible.

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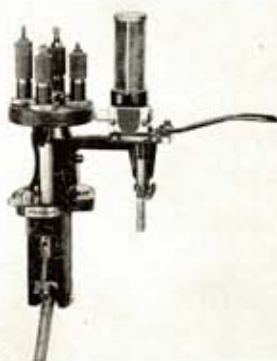
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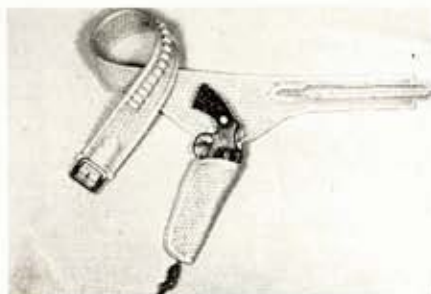


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DREAM TARGET RANGE

(Continued from page 43)

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for each paying shooter bring the total up to over 60,000 people who enjoyed the cool comfort and shooting facilities of the range.

And yet of over \$2,059,000 set aside for further development and construction in some 18 county parks and recreation areas, only \$42,340 was marked for Trail Glade. This sum paid for the automatic skeet machines on the No. 1 field, concrete towers and walks, and 5¼ acres of lawns over the entire Trail Glade area. A former Army Engineer barracks was remodeled into the coffee shop, with attractive pine panelling and old guns decorating the walls. Coffee shop business will supplement Trail Glade's income.

The sports park is a new concept in civic affairs, especially when the main promoters of the idea happen to be shooters. Miami's Sports Park Association, formed by the leading shooter-sportsmen of the city, was a non-profit organization tentatively set up to express public support for a public range program. The association had two important aims. First was to strive for county approval, instead of just the city's okay. Second was to help run the range.

Working at the county level was a key-stone of the Sports Park Association's successful operation. Miami shooters recalled the days before Pearl Harbor when there had been 15 fine outdoor ranges. Some of the ranges had permanent clubhouses, frame, brick or cement block buildings which served as social centers as well as places to keep rifles under cover. As much as 100 yards for smallbore and even longer big bore and pistol ranges were parts of these attractive layouts in the expanding Miami area. But the shooters learned with the booming growth of the city that ranges were only as permanent as the approval of the county commissioners, the local political forces.

Too often adverse politics has entered into closing some ranges. Too often building contractors, with their eyes on grassy expanses of flat range land, have worked to get small-bore ranges adjudged public nuisances. Such pressure is impossible to buck, as the small, unorganized clubs found to their distress. But the Sports Park Association planned to work with the county commissioners, helping them to expand recreation facilities for everybody through the sports park idea. Paramount in the shooters' proposal to get a range was their idea of a unified sports park which included recreation like water sports and archery as well as shooting.

And to clinch the deal, the Sports Park Association shooters offered to help run the whole show, and relieve the county of the need for working out tedious details. The Miami crowd were quite different from most shooting clubs which operate in starchy-eyed indifference to the political and social needs of some of the other citizens.

Luck, horse sense, and enthusiasm tempered with careful planning built the Trail

Glade range. A member of the board of governors of the Everglades Drainage District was one of the ten shooters who got the ball rolling for the range project. This was important, for the sports park group intended to obtain the use of land under control of the district. One slight drawback held them up: most of this land was under two to four feet of water at different times of the year!

Such land could not economically be filled without draining. Draining would have involved a tremendous cost, so great that if it had been done the county would have been obliged to use the dry land for something far more important than a playground. Then luck came up smiling. The Army Engineers, planning to build some dikes for flood control study, asked the county commissioners where they might have some waste land on which to build their dikes.

The Drainage Commission offered the engineers a piece of underwater Florida real estate which they obligingly diked and drained. Having completed their study, the Army Engineers struck camp and pulled out, leaving behind several barrack sheds and their dikes. Again lady luck, wearing a "10-X" shooting coat instead of a flowing robe, smiled on the shooters. An active Miami marksman was appointed by the governor as a member of the flood control commission.

From this post he was able to encourage the Everglades Drainage District (of which he was a member, also,) to convey to Dade County for park purposes 160 acres of the very land on which the test dike had been built.

Next, the county commissioners were persuaded to accept the land for the purpose intended. There was one way to accomplish this, and that was by showing the commissioners the sad plight of the Dade County sportsmen in the shooting game, and convince them that all the sportsmen in the county were in favor of the project.

Many important citizens of Miami helped. With their endorsement a membership drive to increase the association got under way. The swelling membership rolls proved the project was a genuine community affair, not just a special interest deal involving a few. Original range layouts were presented by the Sports Park Association. With the approval of the county commissioners, the Sports Park Association finally triumphed, had finally achieved the goal set so long before.

It took great courage on the part of the park department and the county commissioners to make the unusual move of recommending and building a shooting range. Yet early fears that they might be condemned for providing shooting facilities have proved entirely without cause.

"The pleased reaction of parents who come out here with their youngsters for the first time make us feel that we are just beginning," reports shooting superintendent Maury LaLonde. "So long as we can give preliminary instruction in shooting and instill the basic principles of safety and range conduct, we have no fear for the future." The future of Trail Glade is integrated with the community. As long as there are parks for people to play, shooters will fire at Trail Glade. ●

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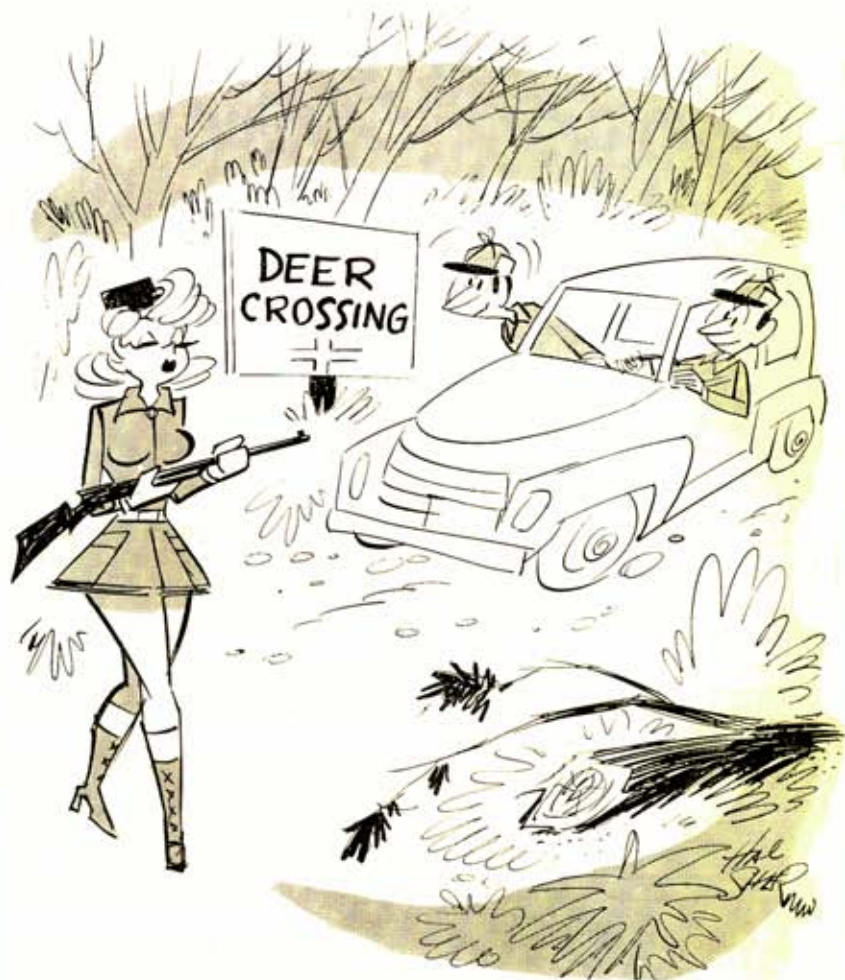
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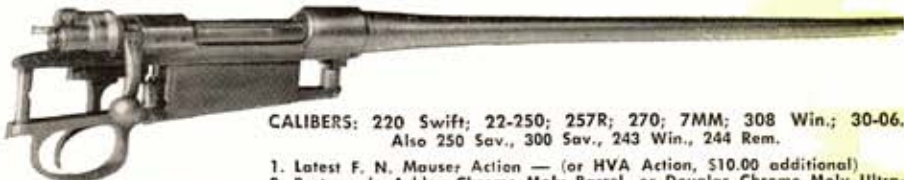
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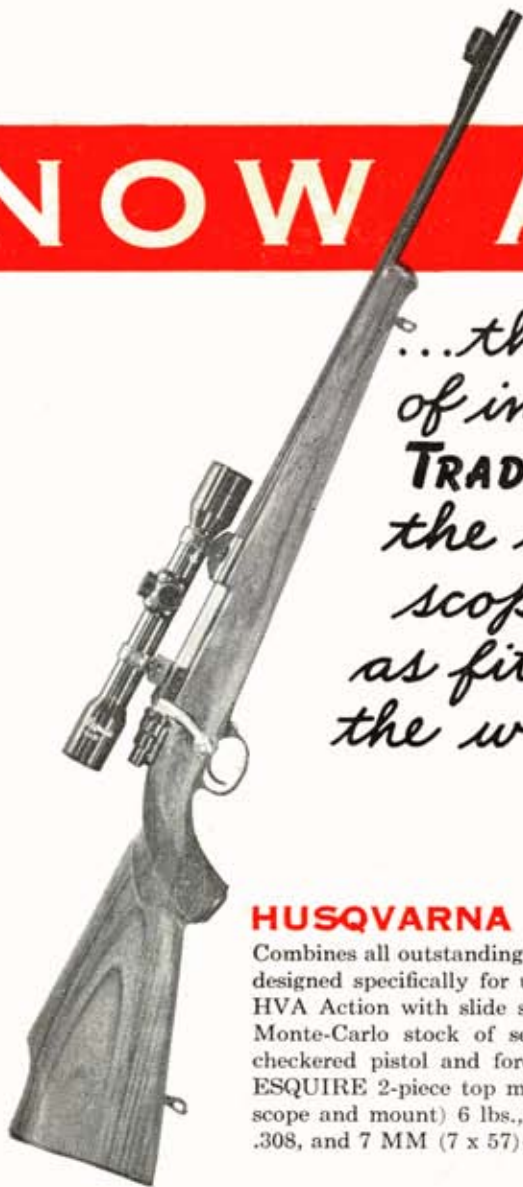
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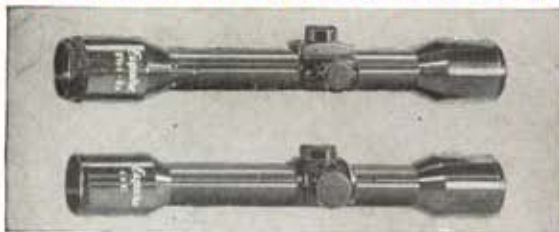


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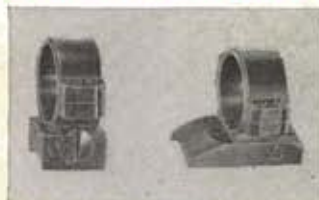


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