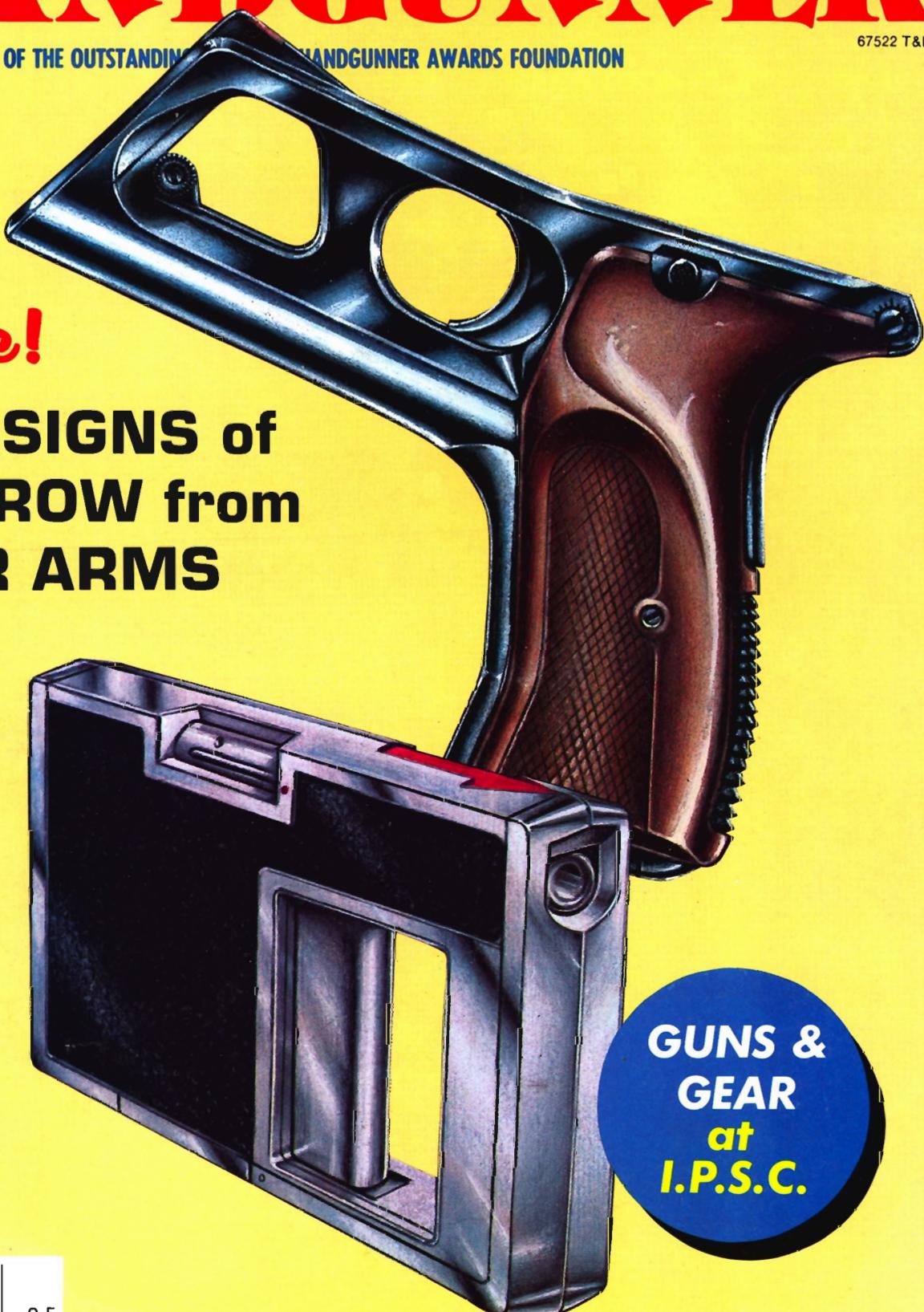


THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

MAY/JUNE 1979 \$2.00

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE OUTSTANDING HANDGUNNER AWARDS FOUNDATION

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MAY/JUNE, 1979

Vol. 4 No. 3-16

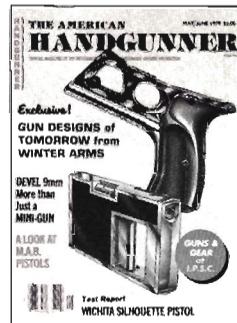
GEORGE E. VON ROSEN
Publisher

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This month's cover shows the excellent designs from Handguns of Tomorrow by Winter Arms. Story on page 36.

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Industry Insider

JEROME RAKUSAN

Some recent announcements have shown that in many respects, "Industry Insider's" batting average has been right up there with crystal ball predictions.

We told you that S&W's Model 25 in .45 Long Colt would, after the Com-

be known as the 439 with aluminum frame, the 539 in all steel configuration. The fifteen-shot 9mm will likewise be designated 459 for aluminum, 559 in steel frame.

As we had told you, the safety has been redesigned to prevent the gun going



Here's the new S & W Model 629 in stainless with 6" barrel.

memoratives had run their course, be introduced in a plain shootin' version. Smith & Wesson has just announced that we were right; the Model 25 in Long Colt chambering will be available in July of 1979. Price hasn't been announced but should be the same as the Model 25 in the traditional .45 ACP caliber (which, of course, will be continued).

We predicted that the Model 58 (the Military & Police fixed sight .41 Magnum) was likely to be dropped from the Smith & Wesson line. It does not appear in the 1979 catalog.

This space was where you first read about the coming "second generation" of S&W 9mms. We predicted steel frames, ambidextrous safeties, improved feeding, an improved safety, and enhanced accuracy. Smith & Wesson has just announced that 1979 will be the last year of production for the Model 39 and Model 59 pistols as we know them. Many of the features on the successor guns will be what we described as being on the Model 47 prototype. The #47 designation, incidentally, has been dropped.

Four guns will replace the two being discontinued. The eight shot version will

off when dropped, a problem that plagued the earlier Smith Parabellums. A hammer block will now lock the firing pin, preventing such mishaps. The hammer will no longer drop harmlessly via the safety, and will have to be let down manually on a live round, a la' the 1911. At the same time, this will allow those who don't care for the double-action first shot feature to carry Condition One, or cocked-and-locked. The DA function will of course be retained, and S&W will recommend this as the proper carrying mode for the new guns. Calibers other than 9mm. are not contemplated in the immediate future.

Early attempts at a fully adjustable sight were met with breakage, so S&W designed a rugged unit that offers windage and elevation corrections (present guns are adjustable for windage only). It is protected by wings that look bulkier than they really are. The prototype Model 47 had improved lockup for greater accuracy — the test guns approached the famed Model 52 target pistol, which has much better lockup than the old 39/59 — but at this writing

(Continued on page 8)

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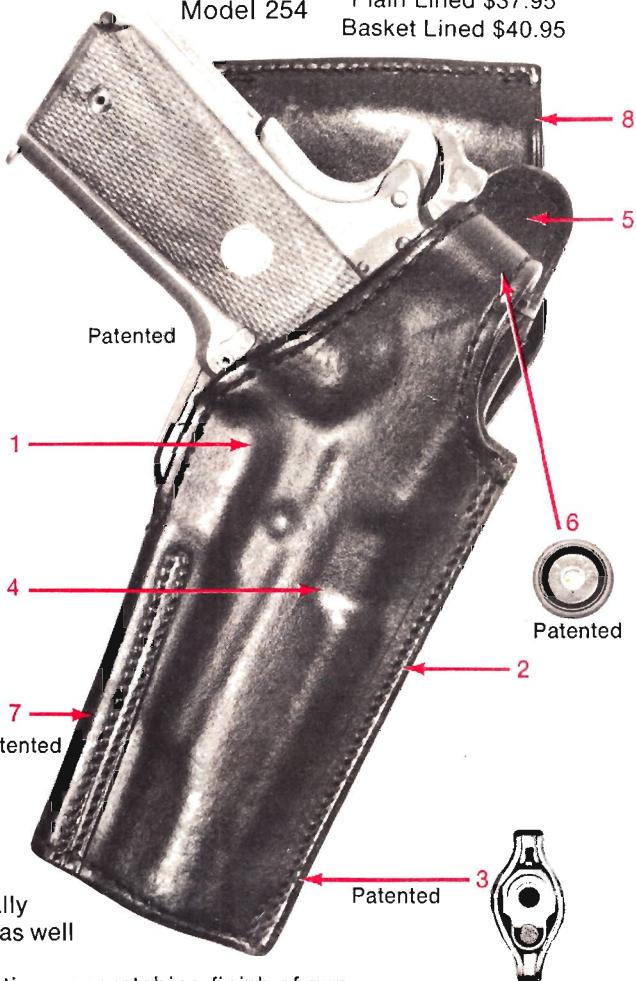
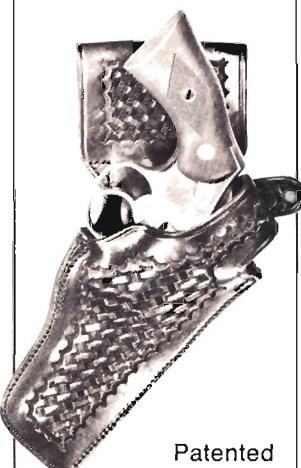
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FROM THE COMPANY THAT CARES

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

(Continued from page 6)

(January 2, 1978) the factory would not comment as to whether lockup systems would be changed on the new 9mm.s. Prices have not yet been announced, but retail availability is targeted for November, 1979.

One S&W introduction, we must admit, sneaked right by the crystal ball. It is the stainless steel .44 Magnum, scheduled for late 1979 introduction and designated the Model 629. Price is not yet fixed. Curiously, the first guns will be in six-inch barrel lengths rather than the traditional 6½". You will see an 8¾" version before you'll see a four-inch.

How did that one get by us? Well, a stainless S&W .44 Mag has been rumored since the company made their first rust-resistant wheelgun in the Sixties, and the rumor had become so perennial we finally stopped asking our "insiders" about it. A more controversial .44 Mag stainless story is that of the Ruger. In a recent issue, Massad Ayoob described Ruger's DA .44 prototype, and mentioned that a source had told him factory experiments indicated a bigger frame might be needed for a stainless Super Blackhawk, since that metal does not wear or react to pressure exactly the same as 4140 chrome-molybdenum steel.

The folks at Sturm, Ruger took exception to some of this, and in replying, gave us a better idea of what the Ruger D.A. .44 Magnum will offer. They said:

"Although our engineers have made some preliminary studies and were considering a prototype Super Blackhawk revolver in stainless steel, no prototype has actually been made and no testing has been done."

Regarding the D.A. .44 Magnum, the Ruger spokesman said: "Several prototypes of the new .44 Magnum double-action revolver have been made and tested. Even though some minor design details remain to be worked out, this project is in the tooling and production planning stage. Generally, this new revolver is based on an entirely new internal mechanism — it is not a scaled up Security-Six revolver — and a new cylinder/crane locking system. Ayoob's statement that this design may be the basis for a new generation of Security-Six revolvers is generally true — however speculative — and our engineers are considering this, although no work has been done to date.

"The big bore semi-automatic pistol suggested by Ayoob is non-existent. At present there are absolutely no plans for such a model, nor has it even been considered to my knowledge."

Ayoob also notes that Ruger guns are getting harder for dealers to acquire, due to wildfire demand. Popularity of the Se-

curity Six is soaring in the law enforcement sector, and the Super Blackhawk is almost a standard item in production class metallic silhouette shooting, a sport that is growing by leaps and bounds. What may be the best production planning in the industry has kept Ruger from

"Popularity of the Security Six is soaring in the law enforcement sector . . ."

market shortage situations in years past, he says, but consistently high quality control in an industry where that attribute is slipping has increased demand for

Ruger handguns, which have also resisted inflationary price increases more successfully than other big-name makes.

Over at Colt, meanwhile, the eight-inch Python has become a reality in the testing rooms but isn't quite ready for marketing yet. Recoil is said to be noticeably less than with a six-inch gun, and accuracy, phenomenal. On a recent African safari, a Colt executive took several head of big game with one of the long-tubed "snakes," and some members of the hunting party borrowed the revolver for a camp-food foray.

There is no word yet from Colt on the firing-pin-block safety for the 1911-pattern autopistols, and the long-promised ambidextrous safety has also been sidetracked. The only newies are the black powder revolver line (which we

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told you about in this column in the past), and the introduction of .22 Long Rifle and .22 Winchester Rimfire Magnum chamberings to the Colt Trooper Mk. III.

Some changes are here in ammo, too. Winchester announces the Silvertip line of handgun bullets. The .45 ACP version, for instance, supposedly gives expansion equal to or better than hollowpoints, but with a tough, round-nose configuration that feeds through even unthroated pistols. We'll be testing it in these pages soon.

An apology or at least an explanation is in order to Winchester from Industry Insider. A previous column stated that Winchester was not yet producing ammunition for the Wildey Magnum pistols, let alone the rumored million rounds.

This statement was quite correct at the time the item was submitted to the magazine, but by the time the publication hit the newsstand, production of the Wildey cartridges was, indeed, underway, and was perhaps close to that million-round mark. If this caused Win-

The Wildey pistol has now been formally introduced to some writers at the recent W-W seminar, where they not only shot the gun, but also a T/C Contender chambered for the .45 Magnum cartridge. Winchester spokesmen reiterated that there was no financial backing of Wildey Arms by Winchester.

Look for a most interesting development from Numrich Arms; a .22 RF conversion unit for — hold on to your hats — not only the Colt .45 auto, but the Llama, the Browning 9mm and one or more of the Smith & Wesson pistols — either the M-52 or the M-39 or both. If, as we have heard, these will sell for under \$100, they should be runaway best sellers.

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER is a bi-monthly periodical, and thus has a substantial lead-time factor. For instance, the column you are now reading was completed on January 12, 1979, and it is inevitable that during so wide a time-frame, factors in the industry will change. With that handicap to work with, we're happy that we've scooped the industry as many times as we have. That is solely attributable to connections deep in the industry and the firearms distribution network, that give us the inside info well in advance of the press releases.

Certain people in the industry have been very unhappy with this column, and more than one gun-company executive has sought for the "insiders" within his own operation with McCarthy-like zeal. One reason Ayoob bowed out of this column was that, although the identity of the "insiders" is jealously guarded and none has ever been found out or disciplined, people in various gun companies who were known to be friends of Ayoob's were taking heat from unwarranted suspicions. He told the editor, "I made a point of never soliciting information from gun company employees I knew socially or shot with in tournaments. The sources I sought were production people, well-connected distributors, stockholders, and executives who felt that the best interests of both the company and the public would be served with public knowledge of company activities that hitherto had never reached the media.

"In signing off, let me note that Browning, Dan Wesson, H&K, H&R, Colt, and some Smith & Wesson and Ruger executives, have been very up-front in discussing things that might not have reflected favorably on the company, but were of vital interest to the consumers."

Ayoob will continue to write features for AMERICAN HANDGUNNER. The "Industry Insider" column will continue to spotlight the hard-hitting truths behind the scene in the American handgun and handgun accessory field.

Most gun companies very "up-front" with news that affects the consumer.

chester any embarrassment, we apologize, and can only state that the information was correct at the time of its submission to the magazine.

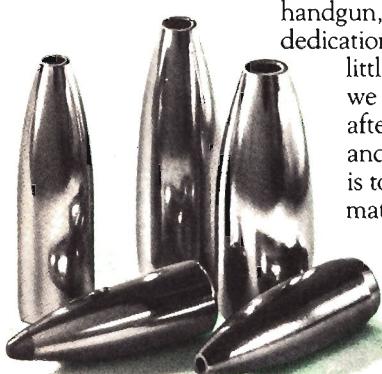
"Makes no difference at 100, 200 or 300 yards... Sierra always gives me one shot performance!"

—Allen Crithan, Middleburg, Pennsylvania

Thanks Allen, we're always glad to hear our product is doing what we design it to do. Not that we claim all the credit for one shot performance and competition wins. We're just thankful we've got some very fine shooters using our bullets. But your remarks bring up an interesting point. We design and manufacture all Sierra bullets...

handgun, target, and hunting...with the same dedication to accuracy. Hunting bullets are a little different, though, because with them we also consider how they'll perform after impact; weight retention, penetration, and expansion, and so on. Our objective is to give you one shot performance no matter what game you're hunting.

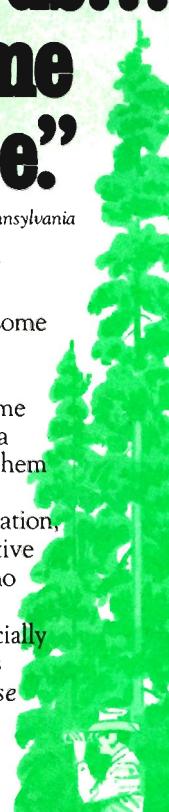
That's why we're always especially glad to hear first hand reports from hunters of all kinds. Please write us for the 1979 Sierra Catalog, Dept AH

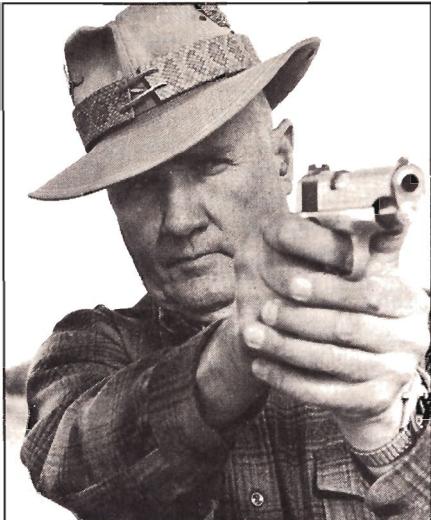


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Handloading

DAN COTTERMAN

HOW TO USE GUNPOWDER BURNING RATE LISTS

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In the case of powders, however, there is reason to doubt whether the existence of a large selection amounts to a blessing or a bane. The first is true only if we realize that too much of a good thing often leads to confusion.

A need for the development of a list of burning rates became apparent to the

the years went, new powders came along. Copyists with more zest for being scientifically wet-nursed than talent for accuracy simply wedged the newcomers in where they thought they belonged.

The original list of burning rates was, however, relative — simply because all handloading situations are relative. The adaptations subsequently became potentially dangerous because, almost without exception, they were published as a static, therefore inflexible reference that professed to show that one powder would necessarily burn more quickly than another, regardless of other influences within the load. The handloader was thus deceived into paying no attention to the synergistic — that is, the *overall* — effect of using a particular type of powder without regard to what might happen as a result of variances in ignition rate, chamber size, bullet weight, barrel length, and so on. My advice to the handloader who is inclined to view a burning rate list as a statement of absolute values is succinct: Don't. You are tangling with danger if you do.

There is hope for the usefulness of the burning rate list. The untried load can be tested within the limits of safety and with reasonably predictable results. The method for making the ladder safe is fundamental and is comfortably situated this side of considerations involving physics, chemistry or the science of pyrotechnics.

Before we progress to increasing the practical usefulness of powder lists, a brief explanation of the original and how it came into existence should be attempted. Such a list could not possibly have been put together so as to show the burning rates of 60 different powders in all loading situations. Furthermore, there had never been an attempt among the several makers to relate all the powders on a single list. For this reason it became necessary to write to the technicians employed by each separate manufacturer to enlist their cooperation in dovetailing their respective lists with those maintained by the others.

Cooperation was a thing of tongue-in-cheek magnificence. The lab men, with appropriate scientific concern, were af-

writer many years ago. Involved at that time were some 60 types of powder which, after a lot of hard work and frowning counsel with manufacturers, were fixed on a "ladder" of relative quickness. The hot numbers — Bullseye, Acapnia, Nike, and their kind — were at the top. Moving down, we passed the likes of Herco and Hodgdon's 4227. At the bottom we came to the slow stuff, the "spaghetti crumblin's," the kind you light now and burn later.

At last, for better or worse, we at least had 'em all together, the blessings of different makers, so we could suspend their names over our loading benches and glance down the list whenever we were about to work up a new load. Then, as

raid any such list would be dangerously subject to misuse. However, the need for a quick, general reference to burning rates — along with repeated assurances that it would be published with thorough instructions for safe use — outweighed conservatism.

Finally, the information was put together and circulated throughout the world. The wreath of language surrounding it bristled with caution; however, it may not have been widely known that the bulk of powders on the list were classified according to laboratory "closed-bomb" testing. That is to say the burning rate (relative combustion quickness) of the powders was compared without regard to the changes that can occur in an infinite number of handloading applications.

While we are on the subject of the closed-bomb test, it is important to note that another factor called *relative force* is

**"In the case of powders,
there is reason to doubt
whether the existence of a
large selection amounts to a
blessing or a bane."**

also determined. Relative force runs approximately parallel to how fast the powder being tested burns. That is to say the relationship is direct. Therefore, if we give Bullseye a relative quickness of 100 percent and a relative force of 100 percent so as to use it as a standard of comparison, Red Dot will perform in the closed-bomb test with a relative quickness of 95 percent and a relative force of 96 percent.

An awareness of relative force measurements is more or less academic to the handloading buff. It is, however, significant to realize that only about one third of the total complement of powders on the market can be considered suitable to the loading of handgun cartridges. Powders for these smaller chambers — used behind shorter barrels — must be relatively quick-burning and possess a relatively high force rating.

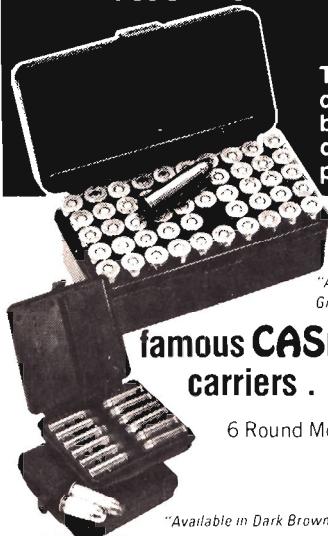
All this comes together in a practical sense when we realize that, in a given cartridge, a single powder can be made to burn more fully by an increase in bullet weight, a heavier crimp, or an increase in the intensity and duration of the ignition flame. This formula, this synergistic concept of cause-and-effect relationships can be real and workable within the least scientific of minds.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is disturbingly wondrous to view a constant dribble of letters from handloaders that complain of incomplete burning of this or

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THE DEFENSIVE USE OF THE HANDGUN: For the Novice by Mason Williams, *Firearms and Ballistic Consultant, Libby, Montana*. This text presents fundamental information on the safe, effective and defensive use of handguns by private citizens. He offers basic instructions for purchasing, loading and firing pistols and revolvers; handgun cleaning and care; evaluating the condition of the handgun; and practicing. 240 pp., 106 il., cloth-\$11.50, paper-\$6.95

Fundamentals of MODERN POLICE IMPACT WEAPONS by Massad F. Ayoob, *Police Officer and Weapons Instructor, Hooksett, New Hampshire*. The author discusses practical carrying and use techniques of such weapons as the baton and sap, the nunchaku, the palm sap, and the yawa stick. He further explores the psychology of the impact weapon, tactics to be employed during and prior to its use, and training methods. 168 pp., 72 il., \$14.00

AMERICAN POLICE HANDGUN TRAINING by Charles R. Skillen, *Yellowstone County Sheriff's Dept., Billings, Montana, and Mason Williams, Firearms and Ballistic Consultant, Libby, Montana*. The subtleties of mental conditioning in relation to handgun training and training by rote receive a comprehensive analysis. Psychology, the legality of firing, and training procedures based on modern concepts are all handled in detail. 216 pp., 77 il., \$11.75

THE SEARCH FOR AN EFFECTIVE POLICE HANDGUN by Allen P. Bristow, *California State College, Los Angeles*. This text will assist law enforcement officials in selecting the appropriate, effective weapon for their specific needs. Topics include factory ballistic test reports, the pros and cons of large caliber revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, and community relations versus officer protection. 256 pp., 11 il., \$18.25

THE IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS by Vaclav Krcma, *Consultant, Forensic Firearms Field. Foreword by William P. Brefka*. Detailed information on serial numbering systems and codes is provided. Extensive tables and photographs explain and show the location of hidden serial numbers. An alphabetical index of more than five hundred handguns is included. 200 pp. (8 1/2 x 11), 115 il., \$16.75

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that powder. The insistent implication is that something is wrong with the powder; the truth is that something is wrong with the load. Signs of unburned powder residue invariably indicate that the powder type and charge weight are not suited to the chamber size, barrel length, bullet weight, depth or constriction of crimp, and ignition intensity. There is, within this combination of factors influencing combustion, a total effect involving how well the powder is lighted, how much space is available for burning, and the amount of time provided so that complete burning can take place.

The "right" powder therefore becomes any powder type that is put to work under a set of conditions most favorable to realizing the maximum of efficiency built into its specific design and composition. Once you adopt the thought process necessary to considering all factors of influence, you will find the way to superior handloads.

Taking an extreme for purposes of illustration, you will (if you care to experiment) find that it is impossible to pack enough of a relatively slow-burning powder, such as Hodgdon's old H-5010, into a .32 S&W Long case to drive a 98-grain lead bullet from a six-inch barrel. This represents the ultimate inefficient use of a powder that would be highly efficient in a larger chamber behind a heavier bullet. The powder is, in a word or two, too slow to perform well in other than the specific set of loading situations for which it was made. In a somewhat milder example, many handloaders are puzzled and perplexed to find build-up of unburned residue cluttering chambers and barrels, spoiling accuracy and performance.

The key to getting the greatest amount of benefit from burning rate lists turns within your ability to integrate what they tell you with the information in handloading manuals. We should remember that the manuals have a primary interest in safety. I have no intention of diminishing that objective. However, it is important to realize that many of the loads listed are more or less inefficient in the matter of powder selection.

It is therefore a good idea to think of powder types for a particular load on a

three-level scale. The practice involves nothing more complex than picking the three powders that resulted in the highest velocities for the particular bullet type and weight you intend to use. It is highly important at this point to keep another consideration in mind: these three must have yielded high velocities at chamber pressures that are well within safe limits for your gun. This caution will, in most instances, eliminate those loads listed as maximum. It is well to remember here that we're seeking an optimum balance of combustion efficiency which will, in turn, render good ballistic performance.

Having the three-level idea set in your mind you'll have a fast-medium-slow trio of powders that are relative to the specific group of components you've decided to use. It will be possible, within this concept, to predict the approximate result of your efforts. We have here a shortcut to more satisfying handloads with less hit-or-miss experimentation.

As a post-script to my comments on burning rates, it seems only right to add a

"Once you adopt the thought process necessary to considering all factors of influence, you will find the way to superior handloads."

brief note on the burning issue of economy. Just as I prepared to drop this column into the Pony Express bag, my mailbox was found to contain something new from Omark, CCI-Speer Operations. It's a cardboard slide calculator. By simply "programming" the thing with the cost of components you are able to see the amount of money saved by handloading. It covers handgun, rifle, and shotgun ammunition and is designed never to become obsolete as a result of inflation. That is, as long as powder doesn't blow up to more than \$25.00 per pound. However, whatever the dollar is worth, the Reloading Cost Calculator is worth the dollar you'll spend for one. Send yours to Omark, CCI-Speer Operations, P.O. Box 856, Lewiston, Idaho 83501.



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Cooper's Column

THE ULTIMATE IRON PISTOL THE FABULOUS PEABODY SPOONBILL

Pistol Silueta shooters will be interested to hear of a new and conceptually improved handgun for the Unlimited Class. If successful it should provide the perfect technical solutions to the problems posed in this branch of the shooting sports. It is tentatively called the Peabody Spoonbill, after its inventor, James O. Peabody, of Bellevue, Arkansas.

The Spoonbill disposes its four, 14" barrels vertically, adjusted so that each barrel places its bullet exactly on the second intersection of the line of sight with the trajectory at each of the four fixed ranges. Thus no sight change nor overhand need be used. Each barrel is stamped with the appropriate silhouette, to obviate misunderstandings.

A side-break is utilized in order to reduce rotary movement between frame and barrel assembly. The butt frame is plastic for increased thermal and hydroscopic stability.

The prototype is being produced in 44 magnum caliber for testing, but production models will be chambered for the 45-75 Winchester cartridge (350 grains at 1380 f/s) which approximates the performance of the 45-70 Govt. cartridge in a shorter, fatter, bottlenecked case, more convenient for handgun use. The heavy bullet assures knockdowns on every hit. Recoil, in this 5 1/4-pound piece, should be quite acceptable, in view of the radical sighting and ignition system under development, to which flinching is not relevant.

The essence of the Spoonbill's superiority lies in its unique target-acquisition capability. Since iron silhouettes may be detected quite precisely by modern technology, a single 3.7mm laser beam is projected coaxially with the optical sight. Interruption of this beam actuates a solenoid which, in turn, actuates the electric ignition system. Thus the piece will not fire unless the laser is on target. Obviously this arrangement works just as well from offhand as from a bench rest. The only care the shooter need take is not to let his wobble stray onto the adjoining target while the trigger is depressed. The acquisition cone encom-

passes 6.7 degrees as now set up. It may be desirable to reduce this to about 5 degrees on production models.

Shooting the Spoonbill is simplicity itself. The shooter slings his power pack over one shoulder and plugs it into the butt socket. If all systems are in order a small blue light on the receiver tells him so. When any barrel is loaded (after power is on) a tiny illuminated green silhouette of the appropriate animal — chicken, pig, turkey, or ram — is displayed under the blue light. As the shooter aligns his optical sight on the target, he squeezes the trigger which actuates the laser, turning the blue light to red. When the laser acquires the target it fires the piece, and all lights go out. The shooter need not observe his strike — if the piece fires at all a miss is not possible, assuming everything is properly tuned and wind velocity is less than four knots.

Tuning the Spoonbill is fairly simple for a trained engineer who has access to the appropriate laboratory equipment. Full instructions will be packed with each piece. Naturally any variation in loading the ammunition will call for retuning. It is also desirable to tune the piece under climatic conditions exactly the same as those where the match will be shot.

Mr. Peabody, who realizes as well as anyone that in future competition you will be either a Spoonbill shooter or a dead duck, is naturally very secretive about his invention and would allow no photographs to be taken. The barrel adjustment mechanism is a marvel of ingenuity, employing Swedish differential screws, and he feels that its principles must not be revealed until the piece is ready for the market.

With any luck at all, the Peabody Spoonbill should be available early in 1980. At a price of less than \$9,500 per unit, it will be a bargain for anyone who is serious about his hobby.

NEWS FROM IPSC

The U.S. Nationals have been set for July 4-7, 1979 at Park City, Utah. The

headquarters will be the new Park City Holiday Inn, which includes a convention room, hospitality room, banquet hall, and a block of rooms reserved for the contestants and their families. There are some lower priced motels within walking distance of the Holiday, which we expect to use for the overflow. Transportation will be provided between the Salt Lake City Airport and both the range and the hotel.

The tentative schedule of events calls for a general meeting on the evening of Wednesday the fourth, with shooting to commence on the morning of Thursday the fifth. Among other festivities, a barbecue and dance are planned for the evening of the fifth in Park City. The awards banquet will be held the evening of the seventh in the banquet hall at the Holiday Inn.

* * * *

We continue to be bothered by the presence of impractical holsters in our contests throughout the world. We earnestly request that all regions give this matter serious thought, in light of the principle that a holster for use in practical competition must be *wearable* — day in, day out, on and off work, at all times. A definitive rule on the subject should be formulated and approved at the World Meeting, but it is not too soon for the various regions to prepare their thoughts on the subject.



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PHILIP C. BRIGGS

DOIN' IT: WHERE WE PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

If you've been following along with me these past few months you've picked the ideal pistol, in the right cartridge for your needs. Unless your forefinger has atrophied you've no doubt been out shooting it, but perhaps you've not yet got around to trying that first match. Well sports fans, stick close, we're going to get you physically and mentally prepared and pass along some tips on how to do it. If you have already been out after the iron animals, stick around anyhow. You can put little check marks on the margins as we go along — we'll see how well you did on your own.

Preparation for that first match begins long before that Sunday morning. There're the obvious steps of practice, load development, sighting in; plus the less obvious steps of equipment selection and coach corraling.

To elaborate.

Practice is so obvious that you've been doing it without even considering it as a separate and distinct aspect of the necessary preparation. But it is. If you haven't practiced enough to understand and master the fundamental skills of sight picture, sight alignment and trigger control you're not yet ready to compete. Those iron targets don't magnetically attract bullets, so don't expect to do better there than on the practice range.

Especially standing. Doing well here requires extra practice with the pistol in your hands, to develop the muscular strength necessary to hold and control the pistol while squeezing off the shot. Figure on lot's of dry firing (one way to utilize those idiotic TV programs).

Include in this category time spent shooting paper to develop and become familiar and comfortable in a freestyle position. Match day is no time to find out you don't bend that way, or that the pistol bites you in that hold. Practice makes perfect and it has to be a duplication of match conditions to be fully effective.

Load development is also an obvious step, and necessary to arrive at that load that has the accuracy required to connect if you do your part. Don't worry about ram busting power for those first few matches — you've got to hit them first.

And they've got a lot of air around them. Considering that the pig is only ten inches deep from back to belly, and that a good shooting wheelgun, with its favorite mag load, won't group much better than six inches at 100 meters, even from a sandbagged rest, you can see that you've got your work cut out for you. Takes time and careful work to find that golden load.

Sighting in is the key to good scores. And so often overlooked. Nothing, abso-



Do your load developing from a solid, freestyle position.

lutely nothing, is more frustrating than to squeeze off perfect shot after perfect shot with no effect. The problem is that hardly anyone with a .357 or .44 mag has an appreciation of the large amounts of hold over or sight adjustment that is necessary to hit targets at 150 and 200 meters when shifting from normal pistol ranges. Drop at 200 meters from a 50 meter zero is upwards of four feet! That's a lot of front sight. Best to learn the sight settings before match day.

Besides the bullet drop, the targets differ in heights. The center of the chicken is three inches above a six o'clock hold; the center of the sheep, 150 meters farther down range, is six inches above a belly hold.

The six o'clock hold, by the way, is the one to use. Black sights, and a little daylight under the target, give the best sight and target definition, and provide the most repeatable sight picture. If you're using Kentucky with, say an XP,

next best is to hold on the feet on the near targets, and on the belly of the rams.

The only way to learn the necessary sight settings or Kentucky (for your most accurate load) is to shoot on paper at all four ranges. The best targets are full-sized replicas of the iron animals stencilled on wrapping paper. You get a set of patterns with your IHMSA membership (send \$12.00 to IHMSA, Box 1609, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401). Leave lots of paper around the outline so you'll also be able to learn where your misses are going. Failing that, six, ten, ten, and twelve inch black circles can be used to represent the bodies of the respective animals.

Be sure to do your sighting in from your chosen freestyle or standing position. The pistol is an extension of the

another variable that can be easily eliminated by duplicating match conditions in practice.

Equipment needs are relatively simple — but shouldn't be overlooked. Besides the requisite earmuff and shooting glasses you'll need a shooting mat (for free-style), cartridge box and pistol case (or shell belt and holster), sight black, note pad with all your sight settings, a screwdriver to make them, maybe a stopwatch, and some sort of organizer for the loose stuff. Add binocs or a spotting scope for your coach — but he/she can carry them. Bring extra ammo, cleaning kit, broken case extractor if you've a T/C, and few spare parts and tools to replace them, in a tool box but leave that in the car for emergencies.

Don't forget a coach. Knowing where you are on time, and where your shots are going, will do wonders for your state of mind. The coach doesn't call just misses, but also hits, so that you can keep ahead of wind, light, mirage or heat induced changes of impact before they cause a miss. Get an experienced competitor to coach you if possible, as they can offer advice as you go. That may not be possible, but do bring a coach. It's that important.

Getting mentally prepared is easy. Just do all of the foregoing and the confidence in your pistol, ammo, equipment and abilities necessary to overcome match jitters will have been attained.

Come match day, if you've prepared as I've outlined, you're pretty well got it whipped. Still, there're a few tips to pass along that will help you out.

To keep yourself in that high state of mental readiness, get to the match early, sign up, get your gear together and be ready to go when your number is called.

Be on deck at the line so that when you're called it's just a few steps to your shooting point.

Pick a nice flat place to stand/lay out your pad. Space out as much as possible from the adjacent shooter and clear any protruding rocks or pebbles (the princess and the pea) from your chosen spot. Don't want any unnecessary distractions.

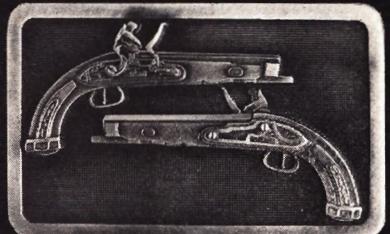
Lay out the ammo (five rounds), pistol case, stopwatch, sight black, notepad, screwdriver, muffs, and put on your shooting glasses and elbow pad (if you're using one). Put your butt down on the



The standing class takes a lot of practice to be great.

shooter's hand and responds differently to different holds. Odds are, impact points will differ significantly between a two-hand hold on the bench, and that of your leaner position. Further, you see things differently through your glasses (whether prescription or plain shooting glasses) depending on which part of the lens you sight through. The laid back view displaces the target from the straight on view of the bench. This is

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pad and be ready to go on "load." You should have made the initial sight setting for the chickens at home or in the car (so many clicks up from the bottom). Review the sight picture you've chosen.

On "load" the coach starts the watch; you do, and slip into shooting position. Coach gives a 30-second countdown so you can be ready to go on "fire." Pace your shooting to use all of the two minutes. Coach calls hits (misses) and, if you're on time, only calls a 30-second warning.

There's a few minutes break while the targets are being reset. Don't get up,

roam around, or talk to your neighbor. Rather, review the last bank in your mind and with your coach. Discuss any problem (i.e., wind, misses) with the coach and decide what to do to correct it. Be ready to go on "fire." Do it again, shooting carefully.

After you've moved to the next firing point, spread your gear out again. Review the notebook and on "load" make the next sight adjustment (up two, or whatever). Repeat this process until that last cease fire.

Shoot one target at a time. Don't think about that last miss, or how hard the



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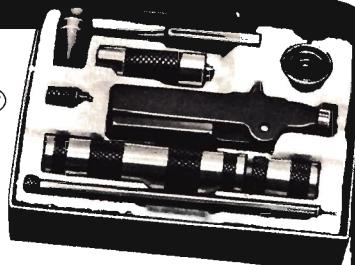
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turkeys will be, or your buddy's score, or how good/bad you're doing.

Concentrate on the front sight, sight alignment, trigger squeeze. Do this right, and the surrounding distractions will fade away.

No peeking. Don't look at the target to see if you hit it until the shot is off. You'll miss.

After you get back to the car, summarize the day in your notebook for future reference. Pistol, load, sight settings, hold, position, wind, temperature, light, range, score.

Now that wasn't so hard was it?

There's a move afoot to separate repeating pistols from single shots. The matter was considered at the annual meeting of the IHMSA directors at the 1978 Internationals, but no decision was reached. The pro's and con's seem nearly equal in number and there are other ways to solve the problem. By the time you read this the issue should be resolved, at least for 1979, but still I think a little background will be of help in understanding the rule change (or lack of change).

Bob Sullivan of Brockton Mass wasn't satisfied with the non-decision of the IHMSA directors and set about to bring the matter to the members. Bob circulated petitions to obtain the necessary signatures to initiate a referendum vote of the members.

Elgin Gates, International Executive Director, has followed suit by running a poll of the membership through the IHMSA newspaper, *The Silhouette*.

One or both of these efforts will result in a referendum. The outcome of that is not certain at this time.

Mr. Sullivan wants the separation as he feels the wheelguns aren't competitive with the single shots. Being co-holder of the wheelgun record (35), he should know whereof he speaks.

However, match directors are overwhelmingly opposed to the change as it would increase the number of classes, which means more paperwork, more trophies, and fewer entries per class.

Personally, I throw in with the match directors. Anything that increases their costs increases our costs. Besides, how impressive is a third place trophy for B revolver (standing, black people with one eye closed in December).

I agree the single shots are more accurate but it's still the shooter that counts. Good ones will win anyhow, and move on to a class where they meet competition. If it takes a single shot to win AAA, then get one. The T/C's are cheaper than any wheelgun, so you can't holler about cost. In fact, you can buy two for what the M29 costs and that pistol might be required to be competitive in top wheel gun classes. Enough of that. Next issue we'll talk about how to put on and conduct matches for those of you that don't have a place to compete.

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MASSAD F. AYOOB

GUNS ARE NOT SMITH & WESSON'S ONLY CONTRIBUTION... THERE'S TRAINING TOO

The Smith & Wesson product that is perhaps their least known to the general public, is training. This is probably because the programs are open only to law enforcement.

The Smith & Wesson Academy is located on Paige Boulevard in Springfield, Massachusetts. A ninety-second drive from the main S&W plant on Roosevelt Avenue, this facility also houses the shotgun assembly and research and development functions of Smith & Wesson.

The Academy was established in 1970. Its curriculum includes night surveillance (S&W makes the famed Startron night vision devices); Breathalyzer use and instructor certification (S&W produces the Breathalyzer); and chemical agents (S&W manufactures CN, CS, Pepper Fog, and of course, Mace, under

their own trademark and those of GOEC and Lake Erie).

Mainly, however, they teach guns. There is the basic firearms course, followed by the advanced, followed by the firearms instructor's program. There are special courses in combat match shooting, and the use of fully automatic weapons. The courses last a week each, with the exception of the three-day match school, that culminates with a fourth day spent in actual competition at a local tournament.

In basic, they start from the ground up with safety, sight picture easy-to-hit Army "L" bullseye targets. By the end of the week, the student has progressed through instinct shooting, double action control, and related aspects.

The advanced course is where the real

meat begins. If you haven't gone through basic at the Academy, you have to show that you've had the equivalent training to get into the advanced. Night shooting is on the menu, and stress courses, and combat shotgun work. The student is introduced to the sub-machine gun in both semi-auto and full-auto practice, and gets to work with a Startron-equipped rifle firing on counter sniper targets in total darkness. There is also a chemical agents workout. For the better part of a day, the usually revolver-oriented students get a workout with police autoloaders (Model 39s, of course; they, and all ammo, are furnished).

The instructor's school covers a lot of that ground again, and this time from a teacher's perspective, showing the student how to diagnose and correct bad marksmanship and safety habits, how to most efficiently structure a program and handle a line of shooters, and how to add realism to training courses. Also given is advice on the subtleties of convincing a chief to expand the training budget or approve a radical (to him) form of training or new equipment.

The match school gives the student the opportunity to study under a master competitor (men like John DeChillis and Bill O'Brien and others of nationally proven expertise). They also get to compare speedloaders model for model and brand for brand, and test their skill with custom, heavy-barreled and ribbed "PPC" guns. While initial match schools were for PPC shooting only, the next will



probably be broadened to include IPSC free-style shooting.

What you have just read is merely a quick scan of the syllabus. It doesn't tell you a whole lot. All that stuff, including the sub-machine guns and what not, can be acquired elsewhere. Damn near anywhere, in fact. What you get at Smith, and only at Smith, goes a lot deeper.

It all starts with Charlie Smith, the director. Charlie used to be in charge of firearms training for the FBI. When he took the job at S&W, it was with the understanding that he would have the latitude to go far beyond what he taught at the Bureau, and delve into the deeper and more sophisticated aspects of training cops with guns. S&W gave him carte

"The advanced course is where the real meat begins."

blanche, and the result is one of the most important police training programs in the nation.

It should be noted here that, according to Charlie, Smith & Wesson runs the Academy at a loss and always has. The tuition may seem expensive to police chiefs who are used to no-charge classes like those the FBI puts on, but it's cheap enough when you consider that the price includes a large volume of ammunition. (Except for the match and basic schools, where wadcutters are used, virtually all firing is done with factory-fresh, full-power .38 Special and 9 mm. ammo.)

The secret is Charlie Smith's philosophy. Sure, he teaches marksmanship . . . but he goes beyond that. His real concern is getting inside the student's head, teaching him how to analyze and react to real-life situations instead of bobbers and silhouettes of paper.

Charlie and his staff instructors (usually two of the latter per session, each class limited to fifteen students to assure proper teacher attention) talk about sight picture and all — but they also talk about whether an officer who has worked in the ghetto for a while may be developing racial prejudices that can warp his judgment and brew an emotional poison that may eventually migrate to the trigger finger. His is the only program I know that (in the instructor's phase) includes extensive lecturing by one or more doctors of psychology on the factors that influence judgment and performance of police officers in gunfight situations.

When a policeman kills, he may do it with his gun, but he does it first with his mind when he makes the decision to pull the trigger. That is Charlie Smith's real target. He wants to instill confidence, so his student won't leave so doubting his own ability that he shoots first in a case where he may not have to shoot at all, for fear that a pre-emptive strike will be his only chance of survival.

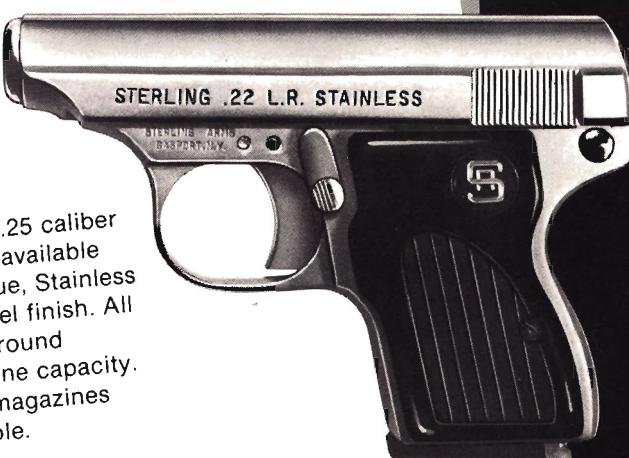


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At the same time, he knows, that same confidence and skill will make certain that if the time to shoot has come, the student won't hesitate before delivering a fast, well-placed bullet or two in his own defense.

Smith's studies of officer-involved shootings indicate that the now-prevalent "Dirty Harry" myth is totally false. A lot of police chiefs believe that an officer who is into guns and practices his shooting a lot, does so because he consciously or subconsciously wants to shoot somebody, and that the gun-buff cop is therefore more likely to be responsible for an unwarranted shooting. They seem to think that the lawman who hates to practice will also be less likely to shoot somebody and maybe involve the department in a civil suit.

On the contrary, Smith's long experience shows, it is the least-trained officer who is most likely to shoot the wrong person. He explains, "A man who is good with a gun, and knows both how and when to use it, knows he is capable of taking care of himself. Police situations aren't always black-and-white. Many begin with a sudden move in the darkness. The officer who is good with his gun because of training knows he still has the edge when that kind of thing goes down, and he'll wait the extra fraction of a second to make sure the other person really is trying to, and able to, kill him. It's the guy who knows he's a poor

marksman and clumsy on the draw, who will panic and think, 'If that guy has got something in his hand, I'm dead.' That's the undertrained officer who shoots before he knows what he's shooting at, and kills an innocent person by mistake!"

It would be hard to be critical of the S&W Academy courses. There is only so much you can do in a forty hour week. Sure, I'd like to see more rifle work, more really ripping-fast shooting a la Cooper, more work on tactical, running judgment courses. But Charlie's mix of range work, shoot/don't shoot movies (he uses the Motorola series), and common sense rap sessions, are hard to beat.

One has to bear in mind that the S&W Academy firearms courses are not aimed at the gun buff, with the possible exception of the combat match school. The basic is aimed at the law officer starting from scratch, and a healthy percentage of his enrollees there and in the advanced program are full-time policemen who have a lousy firearms program in their own department, and pay Charlie's tuition fees out of their own pockets and come on their own vacations, because they realize they don't know all they need to, to stay alive.

Also heavily represented are designated firearms instructors who may or may not be right for the job. Even today, it happens all too frequently that when a chief selects a weapons teacher, it won't be on the basis of that person's skill with

a gun, knowledge of the law in relation to lethal force, or ability to communicate in the classroom. The chief may instead say, "Officer X is getting along in years, and I'd like to get him off the street. I'll assign him to 9-to-5 duty. What's open? The range? Great, I'll send him to school for a couple of weeks and make him our firearms instructor." It is to Smith's credit that some of his students selected in this manner have returned to indeed become capable and progressive departmental weapons teachers.

It sounds like Charlie is teaching to the lowest common denominator. That may be technically true — there always seems to be one person in each class who just doesn't care about guns and is only there because his department sent him — but that doesn't hold back the progress of the rest of the class, which is usually comprised of cops who really do care. Thanks to the favorable instructor/student ratio, each officer enrolled can proceed at his own pace through the accelerated program. The guy who needs lots of work, will get lots of attention; the student who is already a superb shot and possesses a strong grasp of the legal and moral aspects of using guns in the police context, will get to talk to and practice with the instructors at an even more advanced level, one that suits and increases his own highly-developed skills.

There are other places where you can learn other things. Jeff Cooper's programs at Gunsight will doubtless give you more speed and versatility in terms of pure movement and reflex and return fire ability in gunfighting. FBI school costs less and is good. My own courses go a lot more into tactical aspects of what I call "situational dominance in armed confrontations," and will include more role-playing. But I don't know of anyplace where you'll do more actual shooting than at the Smith & Wesson Academy. And, even though I'm a little in competition with him*, I have to say that nobody has a better balanced program of police firearms training than Charlie Smith.

The credit for that goes not only to Charlie, but to Smith & Wesson itself. It would have been very easy for the company to turn the Academy into a profitable promotional venture that would have increased sales in their broad line of law enforcement equipment.

Instead, they have admirably given their approval to Charlie's eclectic teaching methods. I have seen Remington as well as S&W shotguns issued on the Academy firing line, a commendable idea since the majority of departments issue guns like the Remington with crossbolt safety rather than the easier-to-master thumb release on the S&W police shotguns. And I know for a fact that if a student shows up with a duty Colt or Ruger, and it breaks down, Charlie will go into S&W Research and Development

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30 Years of Achievement



There were few people around in 1949 who could have imagined the impact the announcement of a new gun from a new company would have on the firearms industry some thirty years later. The .22 Ruger autoloading pistol was innovative, but this inexpensive plinker did not offer any portend of what was yet to come.

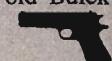
It wasn't until 1951, when Ruger first showed their Single Six Revolver, that the first hints of true greatness were evident. These hints soon grew into realities when, in 1955, Ruger announced their first center fire revolvers, the .357 Magnum Blackhawk Revolvers.

There followed new designs and modifications — from the Bearcat Revolver, .44 Carbine, Super Blackhawk Revolver, Hawkeye Pistol, 10/22 Rifle, Number One Single Shot Rifle, M-77 Bolt Action

Rifle, the line of double action revolvers, Old Army Revolver and the Mini-14 Rifle. Between came the New Model single action revolvers that brought the 100-year-old design into the 20th Century. Last year, to show its versatility in firearms design, Ruger announced the Over and Under shotgun.

That's one hell of an accomplishment for so short a time. But it's only a part of the story. The impact that Sturm, Ruger has had on the entire firearms industry, through its development and application of precision investment castings, is yet to be thoroughly explored.

This may be a rather short treatise to cover 30 years of achievement, but the story of Ruger firearms is recorded not in words but in the products themselves. To take a bit of liberty with an old Buick advertisement, "Ask the man who owns one."



and check out an identical gun from the "firearms library," rather than issue him a Model 10 or Model 19 S&W out of his own training armory.

Smith & Wesson's commitment to taking care of America's police is unsurpassed in the industry, and the Smith & Wesson Academy is a classic example of that commitment.

I have completed almost all of Charlie's firearms courses save the basic. I wouldn't have come back after the first one if I thought they weren't worth it. Each time I was there, I debriefed as many students as I could corner, and none of them ever regretted having signed up. They all learned something.

Some would tell me that what they valued most was the work on advanced shooting techniques they had heard of, but never tried. Others said it was the opportunity to become familiar with heavy tactical weapons. Still more said that it put them better in touch with the thinking that has to go with shooting. What I personally got out of it most was the emphasis on working hints for the full-time weapons instructor in that particular course.

But like I said, the Smith & Wesson Academy isn't mainly for master shooters. It is for working policemen. It is also for security guards, those notoriously undertrained sentinels who are finally, thanks to long-needed state legislation, being required to have proper instruction before strapping on sidearms.

On balance, what do I think of the Smith & Wesson Academy? Let me put it this way. A while back, I was in Springfield and Charlie made me his guest at a graduation ceremony for a class of new instructors. He asked me to say a few words to them.

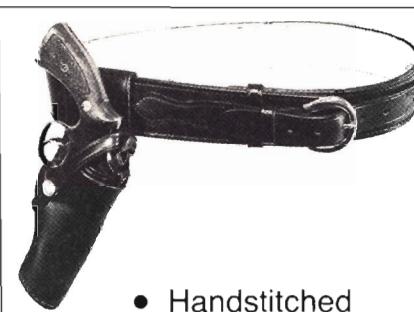
"I know a lot of you have never been into an intensive firearms training program before," I began, "and you're wondering just how what you've learned here relates to other knowledge generally available. I haven't seen it all, by any means. I have had the opportunity to shoot with FBI instructors, and sample the Secret Service training program, and shoot with men like Jeff Cooper. There are a lot of approaches to firearms training out there, and a lot of fine teachers, and a lot of valuable techniques that aren't widely known."

"Like me," I continued to the S&W Academy grads, "you haven't had it all. But for who you are, and what you are, for what you're going back to your police departments to do . . . I think you've had the best."

I'll stand by that.



*Editor's Note: The author teaches a 36-hour credit course in weapons and chemical agents, to full-time peace officers only, through the New Hampshire Advanced Police Training Program.



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A DAY AT

COLT'S

1. A Colt Automatic in .32 Auto the way it should have come off the production line . . . with the sharp edge of the "V" on the slide grooves pointing to the front of the barrel.
2. "Harry's" mistake has the slide pulling grooves pointing to the rear.



DONALD M. SIMMONS

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
MAY 1921

The first hint of spring air is in the air on this Monday morning as Harry walks to work. Harry is not that interested in the approach of spring as he is in the fact that he has one monstrous headache; he was in a speakeasy last night until two o'clock. Harry was normally a twelve o'clock bedtimer, but last night they got to talking about the Irish situation and Harry, although no Sinn Feiner, was definitely anti-the British

"black and tans." They had also talked of the happy fact that a New York jury had acquitted the Yankee's manager, John J. McGraw for a violation of the hated Volstead Act. McGraw allegedly had a bottle of booze in his possession during a visit to the Lambs Club last summer. Judge Landis, the new commissioner of baseball, would not like McGraw's publicity.

Harry shuffled along thinking of the new President of the United States and that they were making him a special bed

down in Washington, five feet wide and eight feet long. Harry had voted for the Republican ticket of Harding and Coolidge. So for that matter, had the state of Connecticut by almost a two to one majority over Cox and the Democrats. The city of Hartford had given Harding, the Ohioan, 54,000 votes over 30,000 for Cox.

Harry was well pleased with his job at Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Co. He walked each day from his boarding house to the Colt Armory on the banks of

An off day
for one Colt
employee
back in May,
1921 created a Colt
pocket automatic
rarity...

the Connecticut River. Harry had taken a job with Colt when he returned from service in the "Great War" and he had recently been promoted to machine setter at thirty five dollars a week. This was big money at a time when bread had gone back from the war's inflation to five cents a loaf and sirloin steak was forty cents a pound. The treasury of the United States had decided to mint silver dollars again after stopping in 1905. Yes,

was carelessness. He prided himself in being ever alert for any mistake and yet Harry this very day was going to go down in arms history as the perpetrator of the boner of the decade at Colt.

Harry walked upstairs to his floor in the automatic pistol machining area. He was early, but he didn't feel much better, especially after coming through the drop hammer room where the noise was deafening and the heat oppressive.

Harry went over to see what the guy wanted and found that he had a standard box of thirty Model M slides that were ready to have their slide pull grooves milled. Before Harry's time at Colt, the slide pull grooves had been machined as "U" cross-section grooves, on the popular Model M — the then .32 pocket automatic pistols. In early 1905, because of field complaints that the finger could slip on these "U" shaped grooves, a change



This factory Model M, #59436, was shipped on September 3, 1921 to Simmons Hardware Co., St. Louis, Missouri.

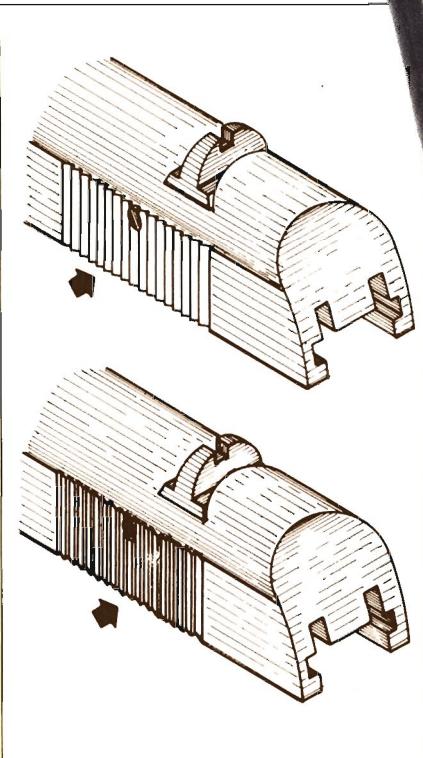
except for being hungover, Harry lived in a good world — in a land that President Harding said he would lead back to normalcy.

Harry greeted the gate guard as he entered Colt Armory. The guard, who always had a word for Harry, asked what he thought about the nine persons who had recently been burned to death in a head-on trolley collision in a nearby town. Harry told him, aided by his feverish brow, that any operator careless enough to have a collision with another trolley, ought to be in jail with all those foreign reds and anarchists.

Things had changed at Colt, too; with the end of the war, "to make the world safe for Democracy," the military market for firearms had dried up. Added to this, the U.S. was starting to be flooded with cheap pistols from overseas. The .32 and .380 pocket automatics that Colt made in Harry's department sold for \$20.50 but an imported apparent duplicate, sold for \$18 in .32 and \$19 in .380, made in Belgium and sold by Davis-Warner Arms Co. of New York City. A Spanish double sold by Paramount Trading Co., also of New York, sold for \$12 for the .32 automatic.

Colt's employment had dropped from a war time high of 8000 workers to little more than a fraction of that. Colt had promoted vice president Samuel M. Stone to its presidency and Mr. Stone was a go getter and a no nonsense boy whom Harry knew was keeping the work force on their toes. Mr. Stone had come to Colt from one of their chief distributors, Simmons Hardware Co. of St. Louis, Missouri.

If there was one thing Harry hated, it



Sketch at top shows the normal slide pulling grooves that aid in a good secure grip. Lower rendering shows reversed grooves that make pulling back the slide a little chancy.

Thank God, he was in the machine shop and not in that forging room.

Harry took off his jacket and placed it on the coat hanger that he then raised to the ceiling rack in machine shop tradition. He looked around the twenty machines that he mother henned and heard his name called by one of the operators.

to seventeen sawtooth cross-sectioned grooves was instituted. Now in 1921, both the .32 and the newer .380 had the sawtooth grooves.

The operation to machine these 17 grooves was done on a horizontal milling machine. The slide was held in a jig on the table that was driven at a predetermined speed under the spinning cutters. The cutters were 17 in number, all mounted on an arbor which rotated at a high speed. Harry slid the little beveled disc cutters onto the keyed arbor; he then placed the arbor, with the cutters on it, in the miller's spindle. Next, he mounted the jig to hold the slide onto the milling machine table and adjusted the table's height just right. Harry thought to himself — I'll show this operator how quickly a good machine setter can set up, even with a bad night behind him. Harry had everything ready in less than fifteen minutes — he even finished one slide to show the operator he knew what he was doing.

Yes, Harry, you did a great job back on that May day in 1921 — you created a rare variation in Colt pocket automatics. You made an unconscious goof that would rank with postage stamps with upside down airplanes on them. Harry, my boy, you really did it up brown!

(Continued on page 56)



BY J.D. JONES

The Devel 9MM M-39 S & M is not just another M-39 mini-gun.

The Devel is a highly refined and engineered conversion of the basic S&W M-39 to an extremely attractive and effective easily concealed firearm possess-

ing more desirable "good" features than the original 39 — with most, if not all of the "bad" ones eliminated. The Devel brochure lists 15 basic features of the gun and then lists several other "minor" accessories.

"Why all the fuss in recent years about mini-guns?"

I do not have a good answer to that one and I

question the actual *need* of such highly refined guns as the Devel. I do not question the *want* of them. It is simple fact that a tremendous number of individuals want them.

I had seen it in the late 60's. Like most, certainly not all, of the mini-guns it handled and shot well.

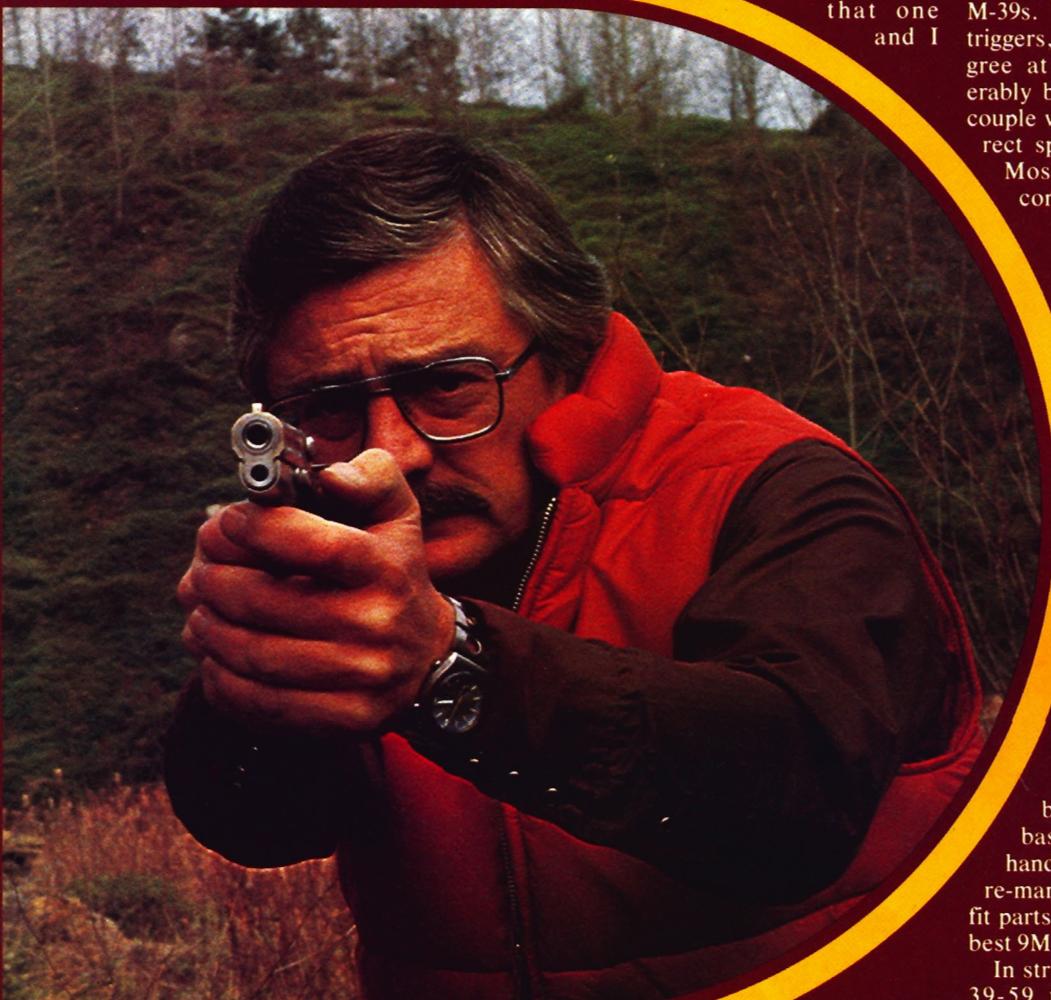
Over the years I've had the opportunity to shoot perhaps 20 highly modified M-39s. Every one of them had decent triggers, were accurized — to some degree at least, and performed considerably better than the stock version. A couple were minis that did not have correct springs and bounced quite a bit.

Most were more comfortable and controllable than the originals.

Charlie Kelsey, President of Devel, sent his first prototype down in 1975. For a #1 prototype it was decent. It looked good, shot well — even if it wasn't where the sights looked — and functioned reliably. Charlie didn't want the gun written about because he wasn't satisfied with it. Over the last couple years Charlie kept me informed of his progress and finally, when Devel became a reality, said, "Ok, I'm ready — ship your gun." I had years before specified I wanted #005 to go with several other 005s in the collection and shipped a real dog of a 39 to Devel.

While I have knocked the 39 a bit, I do have appreciation of its basic design for a combat ready handgun. Its refinement in tuning or re-manufacture to deburr, smooth and fit parts properly turns it into one of the best 9MMs available for the combat role.

In strict factory form I would rate the 39-59 third behind the Browning HiPower and H&K P9S. I don't count the Series 70 Colt G.M. as I can see little



Not just another mini-gun.

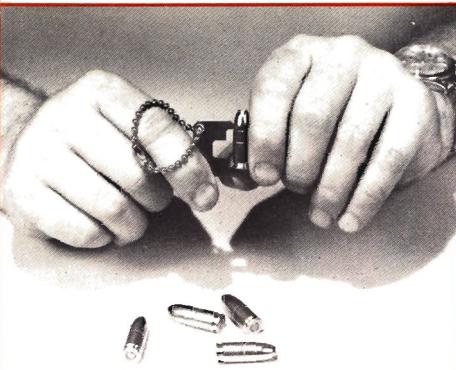
DEVEL



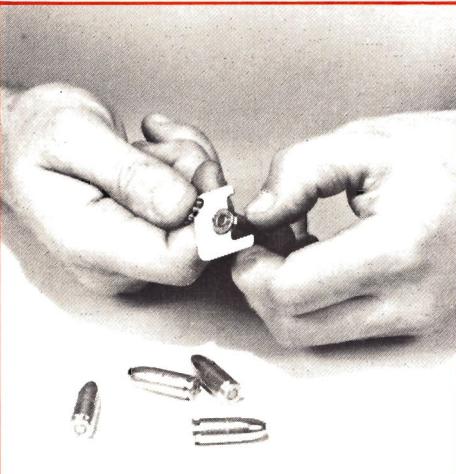
Checkered mainspring housing is a new casting; not a re-work. Trigger guard is re-shaped, finger rest is an add on.

Here's the Devel and Smith 39 for a quick comparison. These see-through Micarta grips are attractive and very strong. Note front of trigger has been reshaped and slide is fluted.

This gun is no slouch at the target. Here are the results of 15 double-action shots from 20 yards. The Devel is really a gun of superior quality.



Devel gauge determines length of case and extractor groove depth.



It is important to know whether or not extractor groove is marginal. The gauge is also a key chain.

reason for it in 9MM in this country when the .45 is available.

When three weeks after sending a battered 39 to Devel, UPS delivered a bright and highly modified Devel #005, I wasn't at all surprised. I'm quite familiar with Kelsey's manufacturing processes that allow both precision and speed. For example, the mainspring housing isn't a rework — it is an entirely new cast piece. The Devel is the most striking in appearance mini that I've seen. Running down the checklist of modifications and examining them takes awhile. This is it:

1. Grip see-through windows for visual inspection of magazine capacity.
2. Flutes in slide to reduce weight.
3. Barrel bushing redesigned as fixed part of slide to improve accuracy and reliability — the spherical configuration at muzzle facilitates removal of barrel from slide for field stripping.
4. A roll pin is mounted transversely in the frame to stop the second round in the magazine) during slide cycle. With the role pin located just ahead of the top front of magazine, the first round feeds over the top of the pin while the second round is held in place to enable the magazine to fall free from the pistol to facilitate rapid replacement of a partially spent magazine.

5. Devel custom spring package: The following springs are custom designed for the Devel conversion — they are made from the best materials available for the specific application; recoil, main, extractor, magazine, firing pin return.
6. Front sight is ramp type with sight-

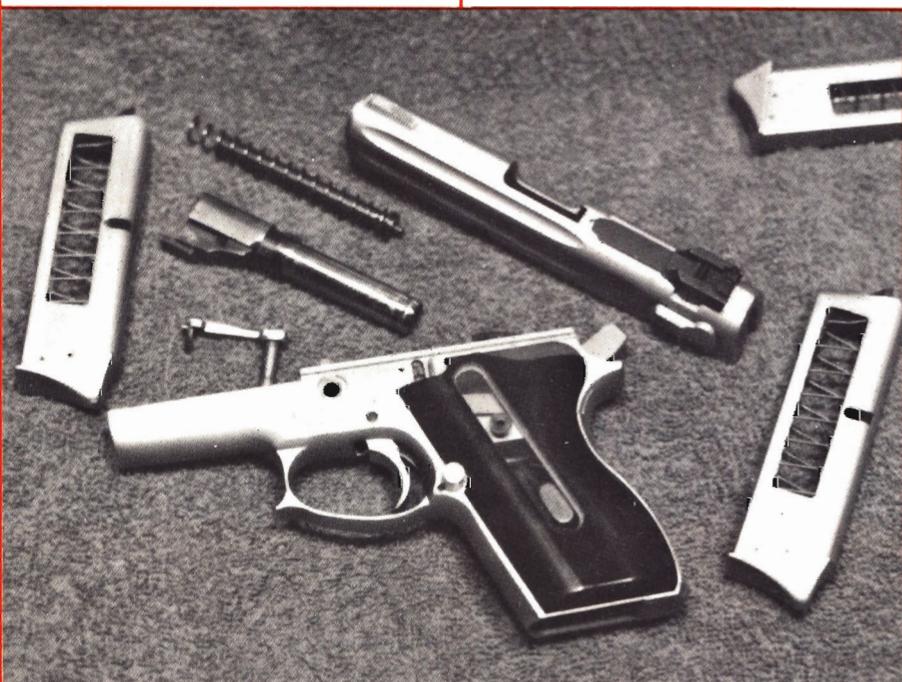
ing plane recessed to accommodate bright red insert for improved sighting picture.

7. Two types of magazine finger rest are available — one to accommodate those with large hands — the other for those with smaller hands.
8. Removal of frame spur to correspond to shooter's hand size.
9. Hammer spur removed to prevent snagging on clothing (top of hammer serrated for cocking).
10. Frame funnelled to facilitate rapid magazine insertion.
11. Custom magazine release button to aid fast removal of magazine.
12. Micarta grips provide excellent appearance with exceptional durability and dimensional stability.
13. Trigger guard modified at front and side to provide purchase for two handed hold — to speed engagement of trigger finger with trigger.
14. Additional safety lever is provided on right side of slide for ambidextrous use.
15. Custom back strap designed to provide optimum grip (lower 2/3rds of back strap checkered).
16. The magazine disconnect has been removed to enable the weapon to be fired when the magazine is removed.

In addition, a cartridge gauge is included to check case length and extractor groove depth and a lighter than normal mainspring (lighter DA pull) and MMC rear sight are options.

Included as part of the package is a very high quality hi-ride molded holster and twin magazine carrier by Gene De-

(Continued on page 52)



Here's a view of the Devel disassembled. The unusual features are: see-through windows for visual inspection of magazine capacity. Fluted slide to reduce weight. Re-designed barrel bushing for improved accuracy. Custom backstrap gives optimum grip.

WICHITA'S UNLIMITED



By JACK JASON

Wichita is the first manufacturer to get a truly Unlimited Silhouette gun in production and available in quantity. By truly Unlimited, I mean the Wichita doesn't need anything! Obviously no factory gun is going to satisfy everyone in every respect. Sights, grip, trigger pull, etc., are extremely personal things. This is even more important to AAA class shooters as the individual touch may mean the difference between winning and losing. Then again the Wichita may be perfect for many shooters as is.

Basically the Wichita is a bolt action single shot pistol capable of chambering almost any cartridge. Specifically, let's look at the specs and take the gun apart.

Action Barrel. The action itself is carved from a solid chunk of stock and ends up 1.200" in diameter and 7.100" long. Action wall thickness behind the locking lug protuberances (inside the action) is quite uniform at .165". That is thick, strong and rigid — remember the only cut-outs are for ejection port, bolt handle and trigger assembly. The maximum thickness of the front receiver ring is .265", again — plenty of steel. The receiver is drilled and tapped for Burris scope mounts. The recoil lug is massive — .375 inches — is a full one inch wide. Bolt release, on the side of the receiver, is a pivot-plunger system that is quite



convenient and positive. The receiver is made for either a right or left hand bolt. The barrel is mated to the action with such precision it is difficult to find the joint in good light. Barrel length is 14^{15/16} inches. It is 1.200" diameter at the receiver, tapers gracefully to a diameter of .555" at the muzzle. The barrel is strictly premium grade. No tool marks were vis-

ible before firing it and interior surface finish was definitely excellent. The muzzle is recessed about a .030".

Bolt. It is .875" in diameter and weighs 12 ounces on my trigger pull scale. It is a three lug bolt with its face recessed .130". The ejector plunger protrudes from its face. The extractor is a spring loaded large (Bronze?) affair that is care-

IMITED



fully machined and fitted to grasp in excess of .210" of case rim. The body of the bolt is fluted to reduce weight. The flutes appear to be ground into the bolt body and are not polished. The bolt is grooved to ride in the plunger (bolt guide) that also serves to release the bolt. The handle is flat, well proportioned and silver soldered to the body. The rear end of the

striker mechanism is enclosed inside a "gas cap" which is blued, fits flush with the end of the receiver and would prevent gasses from escaping through the rear of the bolt in line with the shooter's face in the event of a pierced primer or blown case. The bolt has three gas relief ports. The striker is massive, heavily sprung; its fall is fast and it only travels

.200 inches. (Eat your Wheaties before taking this bolt apart.) Lock time is superb. In spite of Wichita's specifications that the bolt is lapped and polished, it opened and closed without the degree of smoothness I expected for the first 100 rounds or so — then everything smoothed up and its one of the smoothest bolts I've ever lifted.

Trigger. As it came from the factory—unsatisfactory. It weighed in at 58 ounces and was creepy. A trigger pull this heavy is likely to cost a target or two. Obviously Wichita is capable of setting the trigger as desired and just as obviously if they set it right, they would have product liability problems. If you buy one — plan on setting the trigger yourself — just like on any other gun. The trigger looks as if it should be spelled "Remington." The front trigger assembly is securely bolted to the recoil lug. An adjustment is provided. The trigger itself is linked to the rear assembly by a wire link. A housing is silver soldered to the receiver and the rear assembly is pinned to it. The guard screws are relieved to provide clearance for the trigger "bar." Frankly, when I first saw this arrangement I didn't like it. It looked cheap and undependable. After having all sorts of trouble adjusting the trigger and making it work in the stock under recoil stresses, I cussed it and the guard screws more than a little bit. I was wrong — the stock was the problem — it hadn't been relieved properly to clear the trigger "bar."

Five minutes with a Dremel tool cured everything. I set the trigger at 18 ounces and it is still on 18 after 600 rounds — not bad. The guard screws are relieved on one side to provide trigger linkage clearance. Turn them too far and the trigger won't work. After a time, it will be necessary to shim under the washers to get the proper *tension* and *location* of the guard screws. My stock is about ready for shims now. Of course, the average shooter will not have the stock off and on nearly as many times as I have.

Sights. A Lyman 57 receiver rear sight with "target" knobs is standard. It is all steel and probably the best peep available now that is suitable for M/S shooting. It is not completely trouble free as sooner or later it will loosen in its grooves and must be peened tight again. The arm on the Lyman rear can be bolted to the base effectively curing the problem. I replaced the Lyman aperture with an adjustable Merit rear aperture that is quite versatile for testing in different positions and light conditions. It works like a camera lens and is well worthwhile as an accessory.

A Lyman 17A globe front sight with several inserts completes the sight system. A couple of the Lyman inserts are tolerable and some people shoot them quite well. Both posts and the amber plastic insert with the hole in it can be used successfully. Personally, I have difficulty centering the posts and a lot of difficulty seeing through the amber job. After considerable testing, I came up with an insert I can shoot more accurately with than any other — it is a crosshair. Use it by quartering the field through the rear peep for accurate centering. Hold over, under or allow for



This "unlimited" silhouette gun comes close to the maximum allowable 4.5 pound weight limit and does not exceed the maximum barrel length and sight radius of 15".



The Wichita bolt features 3 locking lugs plus an internal ejector. Spoon handle adds a touch of class.

windage as with a crosshair in a rifle scope. It is available from SSK Industries, (Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910) for only the Lyman front sight; price, \$8.50. On the debit side, some individuals can't see it, it fades in poor light and is relatively fragile although I don't know of any that have broken. Sights get a clean bill of health.

Stock. Two are available. One is

fiberglass, the other walnut. The wood looks best, the fiberglass is the more durable. The test stock is walnut, well figured and oil finished. It is well proportioned and can easily be worked to fit an individual hand.

Bench-rest techniques are quite evident in bedding. Aluminum "pillars" are used for strength. The receiver, apparently without the front or rear trigger

assemblies, is then glass-bedded from the rear of the action to around 2-2½ inches of the chamber portion of the barrel. (The rest of the barrel is free floated.) The stock is then carved to accept the trigger assembly. It is all very neat, strong and well done. Diameter of the grip is 1½ inches and it is 3½ inches long. Stock finish is oil. The combination of oil finish and satin or matte non-reflective bluing of metal parts is indeed good looking.

The gun is 21¾" long with the long barrel and weighs about 4.5 pounds. Shorter barrel lengths are optional. Initial calibers are .308 Winchester, .308 X 1.5" (a shortened .308) and the new 7MM P.P.C. (Other chamberings on request) Suggested list price is \$595.00. Suggested use is for Metallic Silhouette and hunting. You may have noticed I did not mention a safety. It doesn't have one. That is

the bottom of the flutes in the bolt, fit and finish of the gun is superb; as it should be in this price range.

Good looking doesn't always mean good shooting. The Wichita didn't seem to fit into that category and the company's reputation for making fine, accurate rifles doesn't fit the image either. In short — the gun shoots. More on accuracy later.

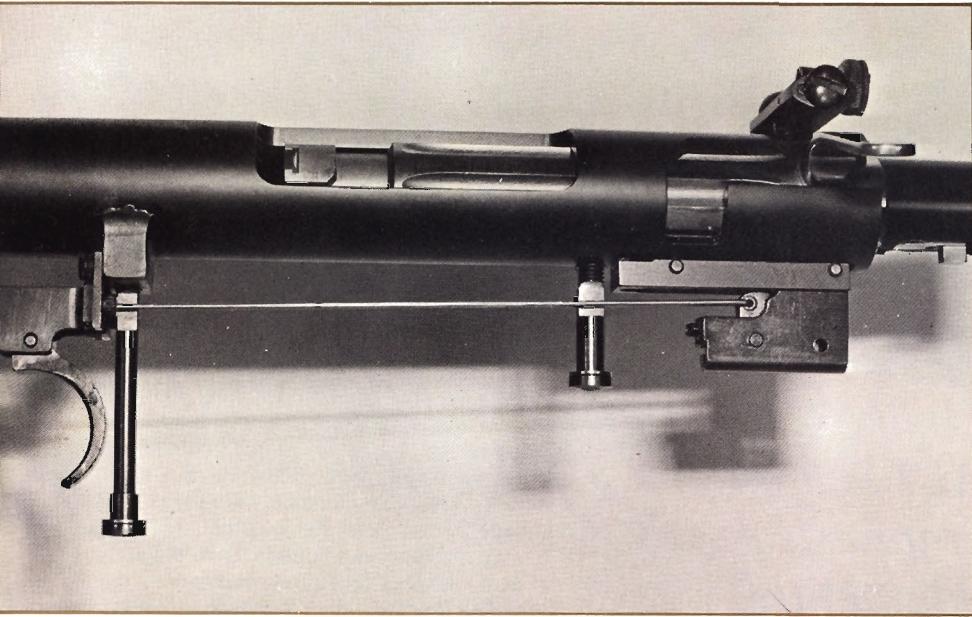
Federal factory ammo and re-loaded GI cases with factory equivalent loads were tried first. I roughed it in at 150 meters and burned a couple hundred rounds busting whatever was visible as far as I could see it. When I held and squeezed it right hits resulted. Spray paint cans at 200 meters can be tossed high with quite good regularity from any number of positions once you get the range. Chicken targets at 200 meters — ditto the cans. If you have a steady posi-

steel targets falling into the soft or dead soft ranges. Hard steel targets will take any velocity any unlimited gun will dish out. In that event, I think you'll find it wise to stay in the same 21-2300 f.p.s. range to avoid the additional recoil of heavier loads.

I've had good success in this velocity range with .308 diameter bullets weighing from 130 through 170 grains. Heavier bullets may do well too, but I haven't used them enough to form an opinion other than recoil gets rough for competition. Obviously the 130 grain bullets traveling at the same velocity as heavier bullets produce less recoil. Less recoil means less fatigue and tendency to flinch. It is something to give serious consideration. With recoil equal to the 150 grainers the 130 will shoot faster and consequently flatter. The 150s and heavier bullets hit harder and are defi-



How about a gun that will shoot under 2" at 200 meters. That's with iron sights, mind you.



Stock bolts have been machined with cut-outs. This gives good trigger bar clearance.

perfectly OK and desirable for competition, but without a safety I simply cannot recommend this gun for hunting.

As far as construction of the gun, I've no complaints with the possible exception of the wire trigger linkage and the someday necessity of shimming the stock bolts. Actually, I have more of a "wait and see" attitude toward these two items. With the single exception of

tion and can get crosswires located right and see a couple of bullet strikes, you can hit it if you can see it. Believe it or not, rocks 12-20 inches in diameter at 500 yards are not difficult to hit once the range is found.

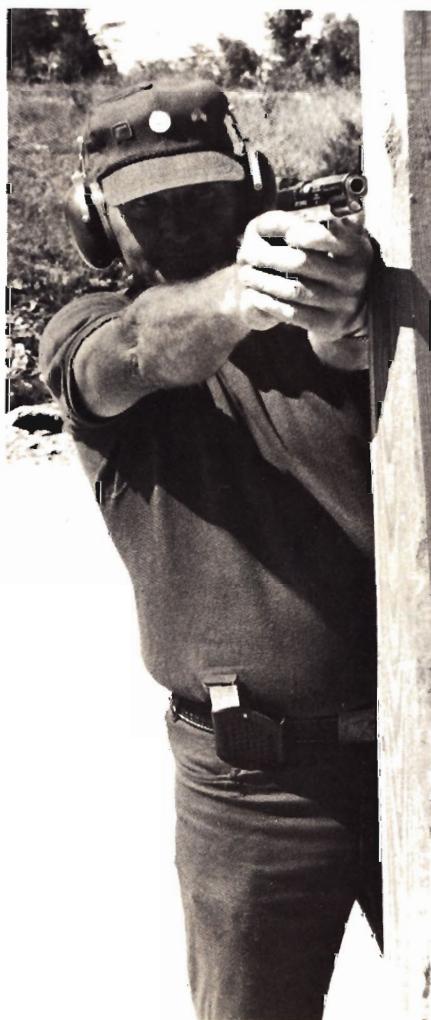
I've found 21-2300 f.p.s. to be about the optimum velocity range for Metallic Silhouette shooting when mild steel targets are used. It is way too hot for

nately more positive on knockdown. Some ram targets require them, others don't and some require more. Wide variations in what it takes to knockdown a ram exist in spite of the IHMSA rule on setting rams. 165-68 grain hunting and match bullets are also very accurate and positive. Match bullets aren't really necessary and some of them tend to damage soft targets excessively. The 150 grain Hornady FMJ military type bullet doesn't damage our rams at 2150 f.p.s. muzzle velocity. In terms of penetration, I can completely penetrate ¾ inch mild steel rams at 200 meters with this .308 with any bullet weight.

Target loads and full charge hunting loads are properly stabilized by the Wichita and are accurate. How does the gun shoot when it's hot? Sighted in on the 150 meter turkeys with a cold barrel I heated it up by firing until I thought it hot enough to test. With the same hold I shot 10 consecutive turkeys. With the exception of one shot I pulled, 9 of the 10 shots, if shot on one target would have grouped in three inches. Dropping a cold, wet towel on the barrel it sputtered

(Continued on page 50)

The **CHAPMAN ACADEMY**



Unlike Cooper's API School, the emphasis is on competitive free style, rather than a life and death combat-type training . . . However, there are similarities

By RICK MILLER

Now that the International Practical Shooting Confederation is a working reality, freestyle combat pistol shooting is gaining new devotees at a rapid rate. As a consequence, there is at this time a real need for qualified teaching and instruction methods that properly deal with this demanding technique.

The Ray Chapman Academy of Practical Shooting has been set up to meet this demand. At the present time instructional courses are offered in four separate packages. The first is a two day weekend familiarization course of about sixteen hours, and is oriented towards the person totally unfamiliar with firearms. A three day basic course, about twenty-four hours of instruction, is offered for the person who is familiar with weapons, but not too proficient.

The intermediate course is slanted towards the individual who has been shoot-

Opposite page: Ray Chapman overlooks the main pistol range of the new academy. "Running man" track and two moving targets are clearly visible; Below: Raul Walters, a top competitor in IPSC world competition and his Pachmayr .45 ACP.



class schedules, course content, or any other details, should write directly to: The Ray Chapman Academy of Practical Shooting, 609 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201, or call 314-443-3101.

In the near future facilities for rifle and shotgun training will be available. There are also plans in the works to offer a course in advanced revolver technique, specifically oriented towards the law enforcement officer who must use a wheelgun in his daily work. Future plans also call for an indoor reaction range where specific and varied tactical problems may be set up. This type of surprise course makes for very stimulating and challenging training.

Very few people in the world today are as qualified to teach the modern technique of defense or competitive pistol-craft as Ray Chapman. Ray is one of the inventive pioneers that helped create the concept of free-style practical pistol shooting. He also is one of the original Combat Masters, and the first World Champion of the Combat Pistol, a title he won at Glattfelden, Switzerland, back in 1975. Ray also played an important role in the creation of the International Practical Shooting Confederation in 1976. Over the years, Ray Chapman has been an important innovator and competitor who has helped the sport of freestyle practical pistol shooting expand, mature, and grow into what it is today, the most relevant of all the shooting sports.

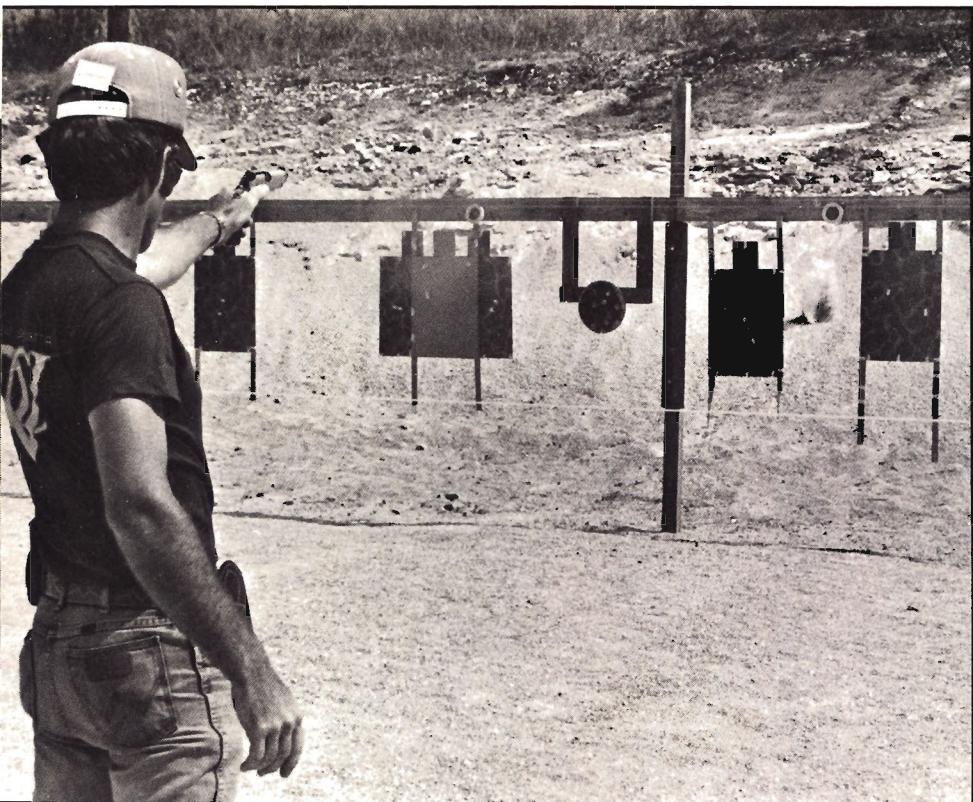
With all this in mind, I was quite pleased to be invited to attend the first

ing a handgun for quite awhile, but needs to sharpen up the basic fundamentals. About forty hours of instruction over a five day period is the format for the intermediate class. For the really expert handgunner, the advanced class is designed to polish and refine already existing skill, and to provide additional insight into mental preparation for competition. The advanced course is forty hours and five days long.

For the 1979 season the projected cost

of the various courses is as follows. The two day familiarization course will be \$95.00, the basic course \$145.00, the intermediate class will cost \$235.00, and the advanced school will run \$250.00. This sounds like a lot of money, but considering what is offered in the way of technique and the experience of the staff, I consider the cost quite a bargain.

Anyone wishing more information on



Author Miller firing the "weak-hand" phase of the "Quick and Dirty" match.

five hundred rounds of ammunition is required, although in our advanced class most of the shooters burned up about seven or eight hundred rounds.

Aside from training activities, several open matches are proposed, with a cash prize of \$1,000.00 for first place. These shoots will be open to any qualified pistolero, and will follow IPSC guidelines. The first of these is planned for sometime in May of 1979.

The main thrust of the Ray Chapman Academy will be to prepare the shooter both mentally and physically for high level competition in the sport of freestyle practical pistol shooting. Although not the primary objective, it is obvious that this sort of training and preparation will also hone defensive pistol skills to a fine edge. Really, that is as it should be, because the sport is unalterably tied to the practical realism of defensive shooting.

Since comparison is inevitable, I think we should at this point mention the American Pistol Institute, run by Jeff

advanced class of the newly opened school. Only three classes were scheduled for the fall of 1978, to test the facilities and work out any bugs in the program, this in preparation for the 1979 season.

The Academy's range facility is located north of Columbia, Missouri on thirty-five acres of gently rolling hill country. Situated in a small valley, the main range consists of a level area covered with crushed limestone that is square and approximately forty yards on each side. Twenty shooters can be easily accommodated at one time, spaced evenly across the range for basic work. For more complicated multiple situations and advanced problems, that number is reduced and the shooters rotated for convenience and safeties sake. Eventually a second range complex will be constructed on the property. It will be similar to the first, only larger, with a sixty yard capability.

The range is equipped with a very efficient moving target set up. This consists of two targets that move either right or left, either singly or in combination. Most shooters do not have access to a moving target layout on their home range, so this proved to be a stimulating and interesting part of the program.

Further down the little valley from where the main range is located, conditions are ideal for a field reaction course. A small stream bed meanders along one side of the valley, and the trees, brush, and tall grass provide perfect conditions for a realistic "jungle lane" or assault course.

It is planned that each class will be



Chappie Gennett turned out to be the top shooter of the week and receives his certificate from Chapman and congratulations on his shooting skill.

limited to from fifteen to twenty students. That way it will be possible to give each person the individual attention he or she may require. The intermediate and advanced training format calls for a five day program of instruction (Monday through Friday) with half of the first day spent in the classroom. The rest of the week is spent on the range in morning and afternoon sessions. A minimum of

Cooper, and located near Paulden, Arizona. Both the Chapman Academy and the American Pistol Institute are set up to teach the modern concept of practical pistolcraft. The main thrust of their operations is slightly different, however, Jeff Cooper stresses the defensive use of the sidearm, while Ray Chapman concentrates on the competitive angle. Since

(Continued on page 54)

CustomShop

EVAN P. MARSHALL

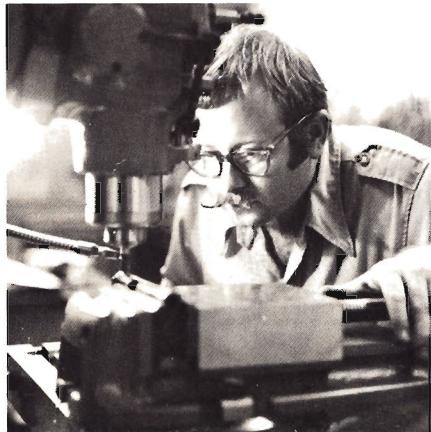
THE CYLINDER AND SLIDE SHOP

Fremont, Nebraska, is a city with approximately 22,000 residents on the banks of the Platte River in the eastern part of the state. Such a setting is in stark contrast to the large urban centers where custom pistolsmiths such as Swenson, Hogue, and Pachmayr practice their craft. In spite of this unlikely setting, I recently discovered a pistolsmith there producing work the equal of such well-known individuals.

Bill Laughridge is a man young in years, but long on experience. He customized his first gun at age ten. When he was 12, he shot his first .45 Auto and a long-lasting fascination with the big auto developed. While still in college and newly-married, he took out a loan on his car so he could own a .45 Auto. Extremely limited funds confined his shooting to ten rounds a week, but he gradually mastered the weapon.

A tour of duty in a Special Forces Reserve Unit provided him with the opportunity to shoot and repair a wide variety of weapons. His formal gunsmithing career started on a part time basis for a local firm. He repaired their customers' guns in exchange for guns and ammunition. When this outfit went out of business, he approached another sporting goods shop in town and started a gun department and repair service that was soon grossing \$200,000 a year!

Demands for custom handgun work gradually increased until Bill found himself doing these sorts of modifications to the exclusion of all others. Bill's shop is



the equal of any I've seen with lathes, grinders, and mills everywhere. Unlike many others, his is strictly a one man operation. His return may be little longer because of this, but Bill never has any worries about the quality of the work that leaves his shop.

Bill can and does work on virtually any handgun, but specializes in four areas: target .45 autos, combat .45 autos, combat Browning Hi Powers, and big-bore conversions for S&W N frame revolvers.

Bill produces a top notch .45 target gun. He has tried all kinds of barrel and bushing setups, but has found the Micro bushing produced excellent results when fitted properly. Fitting of slide and frame along with tight lockup at the back of the barrel produce outstanding accuracy in his target .45s. The number of satisfied target .45 users is shown by the fact that the bulk of his business in this area is generated by referrals from satisfied customers.

Bill's combat .45 work is not too unusual or different. He believes in close fit coupled with total reliability. This requires a bit more work but it produces an accurate, combat reliable weapon. Bill

likes the S&W revolver sight installation favored by many custom pistolsmiths, but installs them in a different manner than most. He mills out the original dovetail a bit deeper and installs the S&W rear sight in what he refers to as a "protected" installation. This is an ideal approach for a combat weapon, as the recessed sight is protected from damage.

He also offers a number of the more commonly encountered modifications such as: squared and checkered trigger guards, checkered frames and back straps, beveled magazine wells, match triggers, lowered ejection ports, extended slide releases and ambidextrous safeties. He also offers a variety of finishes ranging from a highly practical sandblast blue to master blue or Armology.

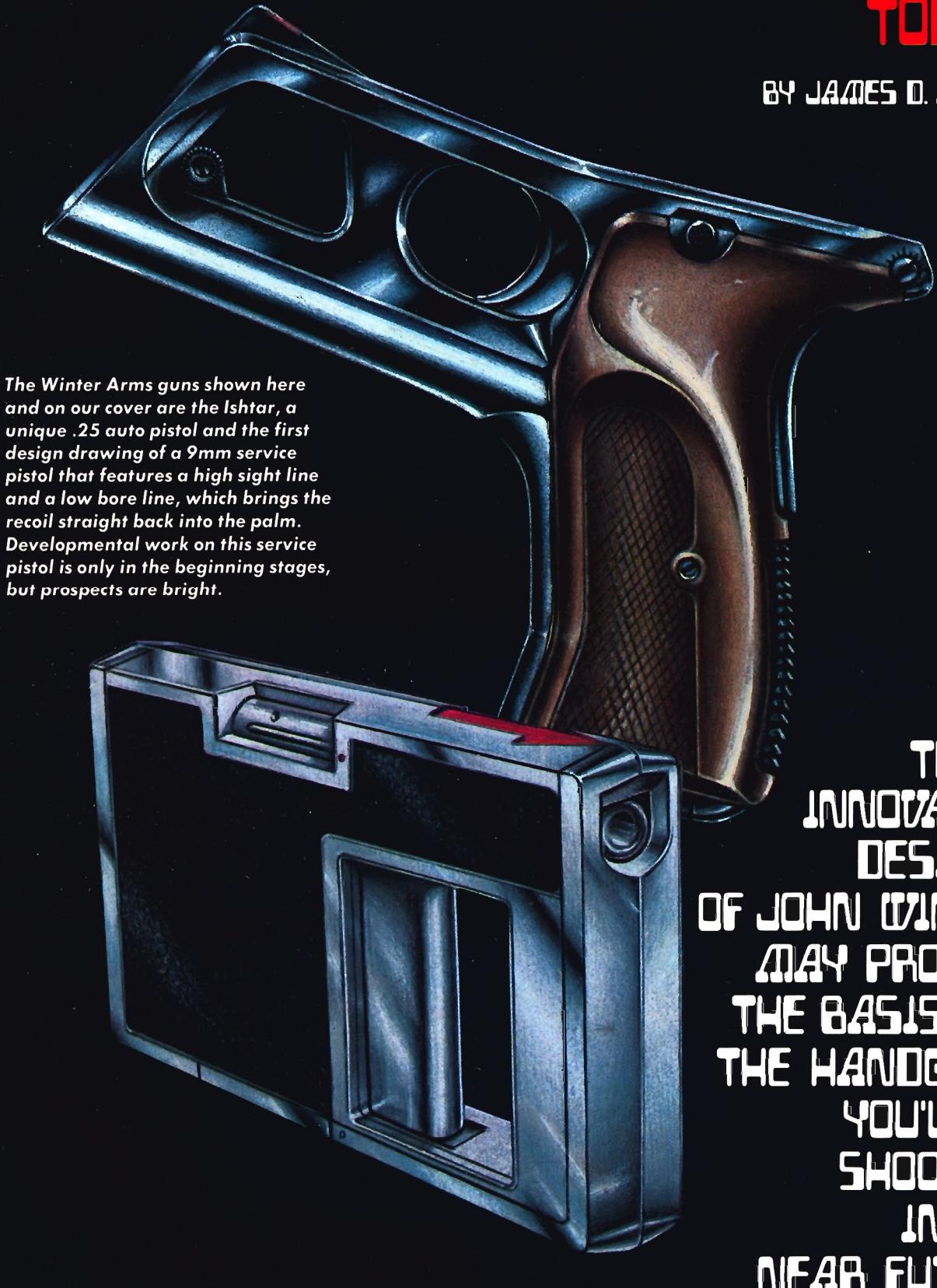
The custom combat .45 Bill built for me is based on a light weight Commander. I've carried this gun in basically unaltered form for almost eight years as an off-duty and plain clothes weapon.

Bill performed the following modifications on my .45: S&W revolver sights in protected style with white outline rear

(Continued on page 66)

TOMORROW'S HANDGUN DESIGNS TODAY

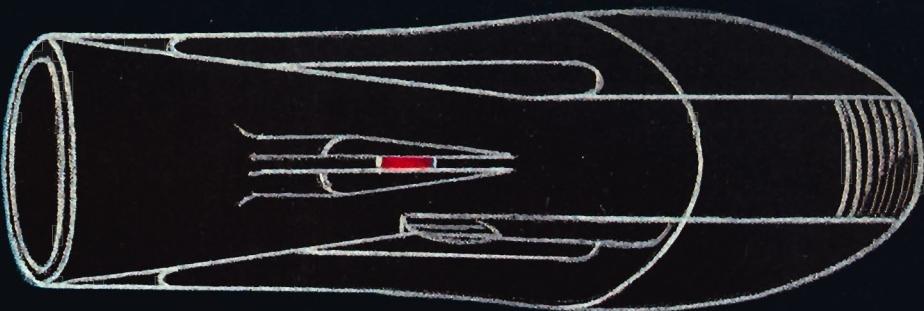
BY JAMES D. MASON



The Winter Arms guns shown here and on our cover are the Ishtar, a unique .25 auto pistol and the first design drawing of a 9mm service pistol that features a high sight line and a low bore line, which brings the recoil straight back into the palm. Developmental work on this service pistol is only in the beginning stages, but prospects are bright.

THESE
INNOVATIVE
DESIGNS
OF JOHN WINTER
MAY PROVIDE
THE BASIS FOR
THE HANDGUNS
YOU'LL BE
SHOOTING
IN THE
NEAR FUTURE

A most unique derringer design by Winter Arms shows the continuing interest in straight-back recoil. The twin barrels are side by side, and pass between the forefinger and middle finger when gun is held in firing position.

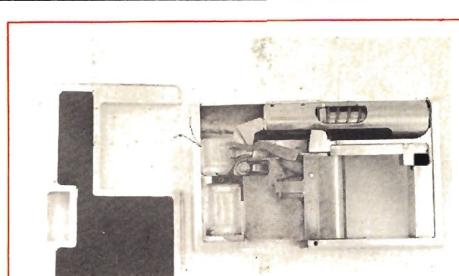


Few things interest gun buffs more than new firearms. Inventors come and go on the gunning scene, creating a stir of interest and perhaps leaving some indelible mark.

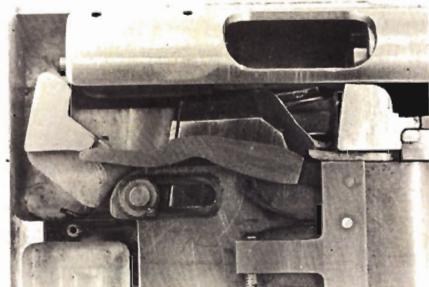
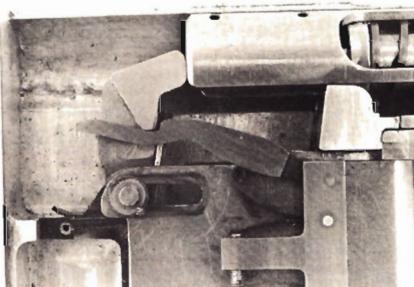
A good many arms inventors have colorful backgrounds, being creative people of multiple talents and varied aptitudes. One such person is John Winter, whose work is represented herein. Among his many inventions is a unique 25 ACP purse gun that has commercial potential.

John Winter is a lifetime shooter and arms collector. A mechanical engineering graduate of Illinois University (1941), he served as an ordnance officer in the European Theater of Operation in WW II. His earlier war experience was with design prototyping and testing at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. After the war, he pursued a fine arts degree at Marquette University. His professional background includes work as a designer/illustrator for Brooks Stevens, industrial design firm, General Electric, and as a professional design consultant.

During the mid-1960's, Winter became



Left: The Ishtar's side cover slides upward off the frame to expose the functional internal parts. The compact design combines double action trigger functions with a blowback actuating means. Disassembly requires no tools.



Left: The trigger bar connects trigger to hammer. The fork shape engages the hammer step; back pressure on the trigger causes rotation of the hammer. Cam shapes displace the bar and releases the hammer. **Right:** After firing, the blowback operated slide actuates the gun, taking it through the self-loading cycle. The hammer does not remain cocked but returns to battery with the breechblock. Each trigger pull and recovery is double action.

concerned with street crime, and especially with the rising rate of crimes against women. He was aware of the special needs for safety and ease of operation for women's defensive weaponry.

ISHTAR .25 ACP

The result of his research and development is an intriguing and deadly piece of hand ordnance called Ishtar. The name derives from a 9,000-year old archaeology; Ishtar, according to Winter's

ing pin and extractor in its rear section; the forward section surrounds the barrel. The coil operating spring, fabricated from square section spring steel, surrounds the barrel and is compressed inside the forward portion of the breechblock by a shoulder bushing on the breechblock.

The hammer does not cock on the rearward movement of the slide. Each shot requires a separate pull of the DA trigger. Each shot cycles the blowback

The whole piece is quite thoroughly and totally designed. Winter's Ishtar shows him to be a capable professional, knowledgeable in the many facets of design that impact the production/marketing phases of product development.

A few small details will be added to Ishtar before production. Winter wants



This is a test bed (working model) for Winter's recoil control device. The gun is chambered for .45 ACP and its weight duplicates that of a loaded Gold Cup. Tests indicate significantly reduced muzzle rise.

research, was the first woman in recorded history to defend her honor and select her lovers by force of arms. She was a fertility goddess in a pre-Egyptian mid-East civilization.

The Ishtar handgun configuration does not resemble a conventional firearm. This fact makes it appear less like a firearm, thus not creating a stir when it is seen. Its unique action combines a straight-line DA trigger pull with a compact, telescoping blowback self-loading actuating means. The DA lock is operated by three fingers of the shooting hand. The over-sized trigger allows for this three-finger pull. The arrangement minimizes trigger resistance and also guarantees no accidental discharge; there is no need for a manual safety.

The action is made thin and compact by designing the actuating means as a simple, telescoping blowback system. The breechblock is a hollow cylinder of steel of appropriate weight to provide ample inertial delay and enough momentum transfer to assure positive blowback action. The breechblock houses the fir-

actuating means, extracting and ejecting the spent case, and feeding a new round from the detachable box magazine as the action closes to battery. The magazine holds six 25 ACP rounds. All this comes in a boxy little package not much bigger than a packet of 100 mm cigarettes. The gun appears to be a small camera or vanity box having an aluminum frame with recessed panels of black Morroco-like vinyl material inset. Its rectangular shape will not tilt in a woman's purse and can be slipped in and out of a coat pocket easily. There are no external protrusions to catch on clothing.

After prototyping the gun (pictures herein show the preproduction model), financial support for production aborted and the project has laid fallow since then. The excellence of design and the ease of production of Ishtar makes it seem likely that commercial support would be forthcoming. The gun frame is a simple aluminum die casting, the side cover a sheet metal stamping. Internal parts are simple stampings, powdered metal fabrications, or screw machine productions.



A pre-prototype model of the Winter SWAT pistol, made of wood. Further details on this pistol on the following pages.

to redesign the retractor handle to better suit weak hands. This will eliminate the thumb/forefinger opposition necessary to manually retract conventional autopistol slides. He will adapt the Negator® spring system to the magazine in order to provide a constant spring tension for the final as well as first rounds. This feature will further increase operating reliability.

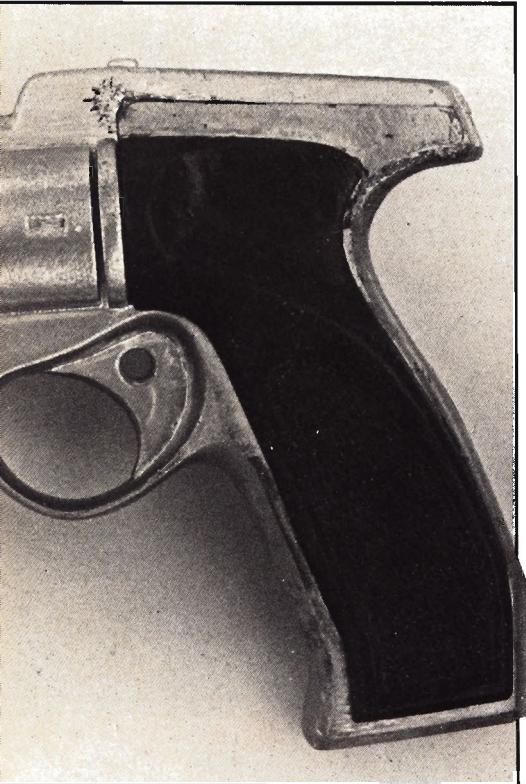
Some thought has been given to adapting Ishtar for 22 LR, but Winter feels the feeding reliability problem of such a conversion should be worked out first. Long, thin 22 LR rounds are more difficult to feed and the rim-fire ignition system requires more primer indentation than small, round pistol primers. Ishtar's Kennertium® (dense tungsten alloy) inertial firing pin carries plenty of momentum for positive ignition. And, a Negator® magazine spring with appropriate feed ramp angles might produce a super-reliable 22 LR version.

SWAT HANDGUN

As with most other arms inventors, John Winter has more than one claim to fame. Among his many ideas is a SWAT

pistol especially designed to meet the multiple needs of these elite police units. Most SWAT people I have known go "ape" over new equipment, and their mouths will be wet for weeks over Winter's design.

The frame configuration utilizes the Pederson grip shape used on the M51



Remington and the M54 Government Model pistol. Trigger control is DA/SA selective, with a 5-shot cylinder capacity. The ammunition is designed for police use only and includes a family of rounds made for specialized police applications. The calibre is .408-inch; weight 40 ounces, with a 4-inch barrel. Standard ammunition is the ballistic equivalent to but not interchangeable with the .41 Magnum.

The barrel is configured low on the frame to keep the recoil thrust near the shooting hand. This arrangement minimizes muzzle rise in recoil. All manual controls (safety, magazine release, slide stop) are ambidexterous. The space above the barrel houses a xenon pulsing tube capable of projecting a 1.5 million candle power (150 lumen/seconds) sunlight circle 12 inches in diameter at 110 feet distance. Since the light is collimated to the bore, centering the light circle on a target guarantees hits at night. The source of the light spot is so small that it is hardly detectable at night. Pacemaker batteries in the handle power all the electronics of the pistol.

Winter envisions a special purpose police ammunition for the SWAT gun. These rounds include a sandbag "stun" round, hypodermic low velocity projectiles, and a special capacitor bullet

with a 45,000 volt negative charge to relax adductor muscles and make a subject go "limp." In addition, a powdered fuel/air mixture round (FAM) using a grenade launcher principle, could completely disable an automobile or defeat a substantial physical barrier.

The SWAT revolver configuration maintains sideways, cam actuated ejection and extraction all in a solid frame design. The forward frame element pivots to allow the cylinder to swing sideways on a vertical axis. In a similar manner to older breaktop revolvers, a cam actuates and automatically ejects the spent cases. Winter is working on a special loading device for standard service ball rounds. The projected cost for one of these guns would be \$800, complete with a redesigned Audley clamshell holster. There is no projected date on delivery, since the gun is not yet in the prototype development stage.

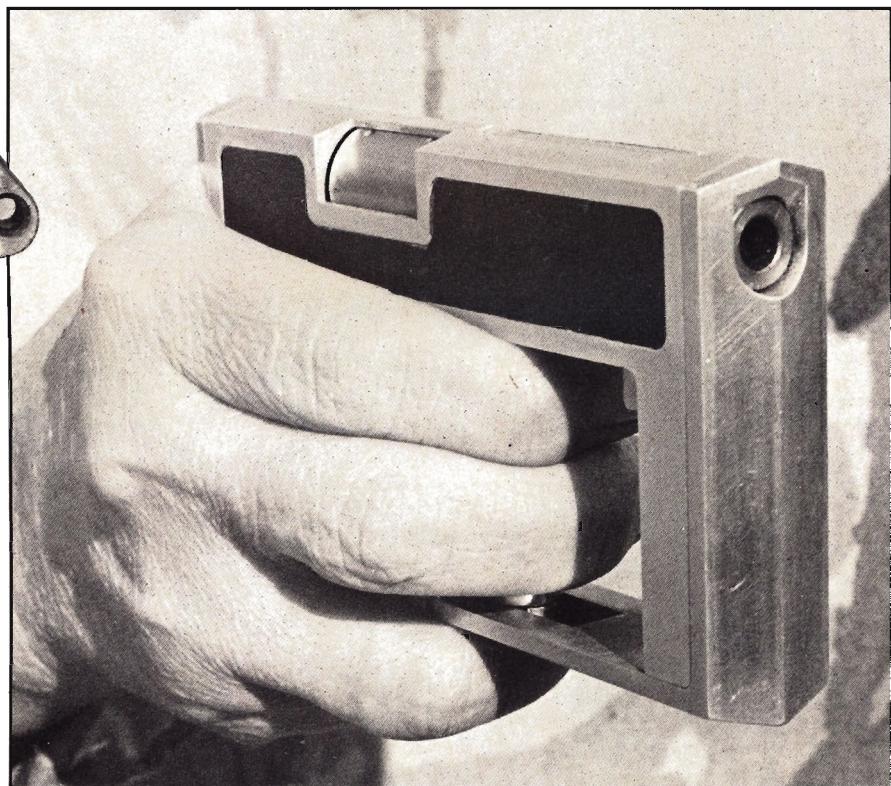
Other devices worked on by John Winter include a kinetic recoil reducer

illustration and full-scale models is important to idea development; the making of prototypes and reduction to practice of the idea must be done to approach production possibilities. While there are many people who can prepare specification lists for new firearms, very few are skilled and determined enough to reduce the ideas to practice.

The works of John Winter merit a close look to see what value lies therein for shooters and the marketplace.



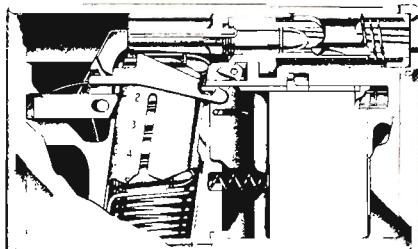
Be advised that none of these guns are in production. Firms or individuals interested in participating in the further development or production should contact John Winter, SP 252, 815 N. 52nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85008 (602) 244-1107.

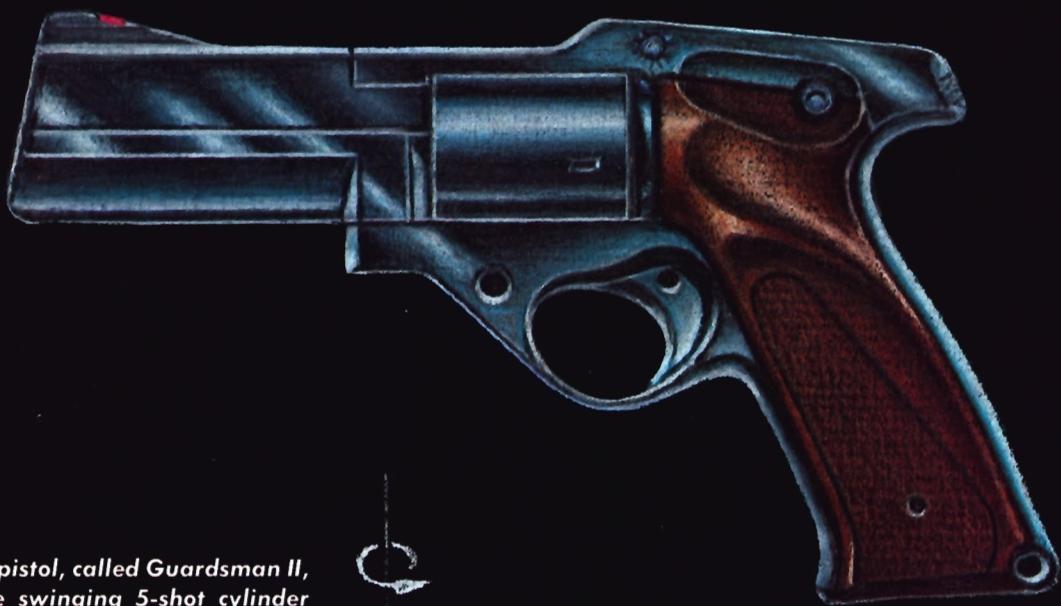


This photo of the Ishtar shows how the little gun lacks the traditional "gun" look. Designed for hide-out/purse purposes, this gun should have a lot of commercial potential.

and an automatic cylinder indexing device that works off of the ejector rod, making the ejecting of spent cases from single-action revolvers fast and simple. Winter also has a DA auto version of Pederson's M54 45 ACP autopistol.

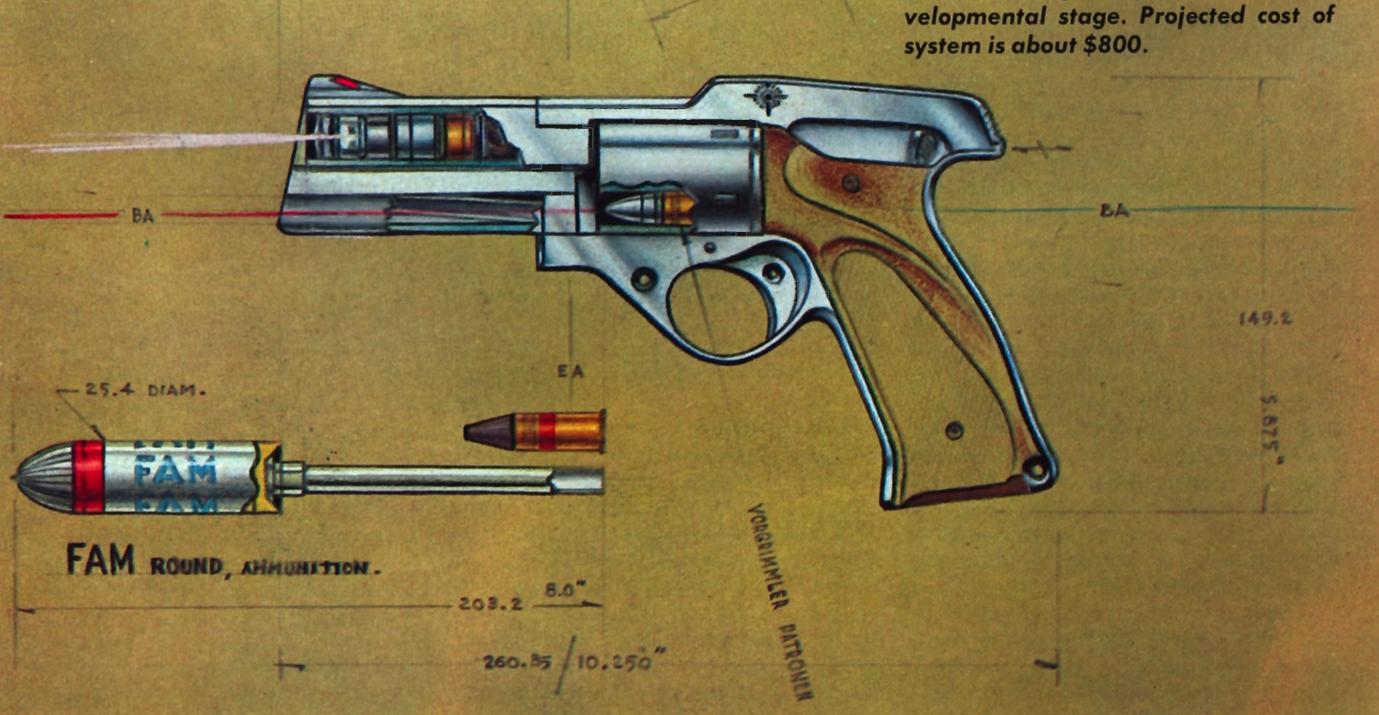
Whether or not any or all of these devices will ever reach the market is a matter for future speculation. These are the products of a skilled and talented man who has gone many steps beyond merely spawning ideas. The documenting by il-

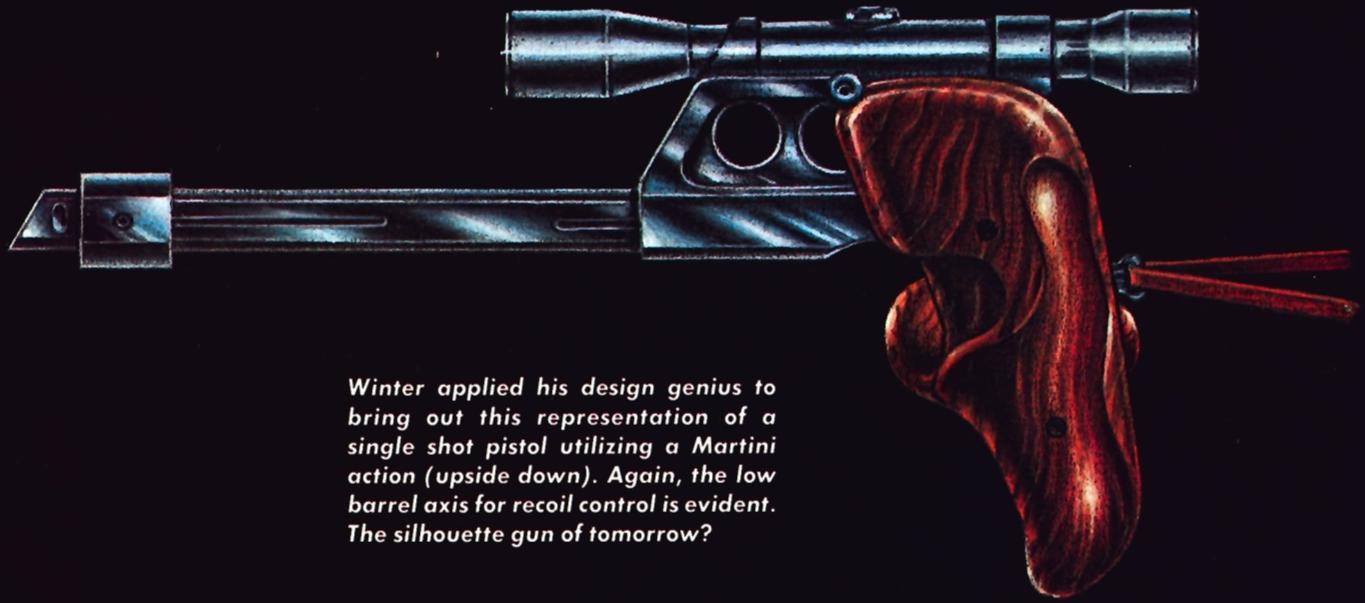




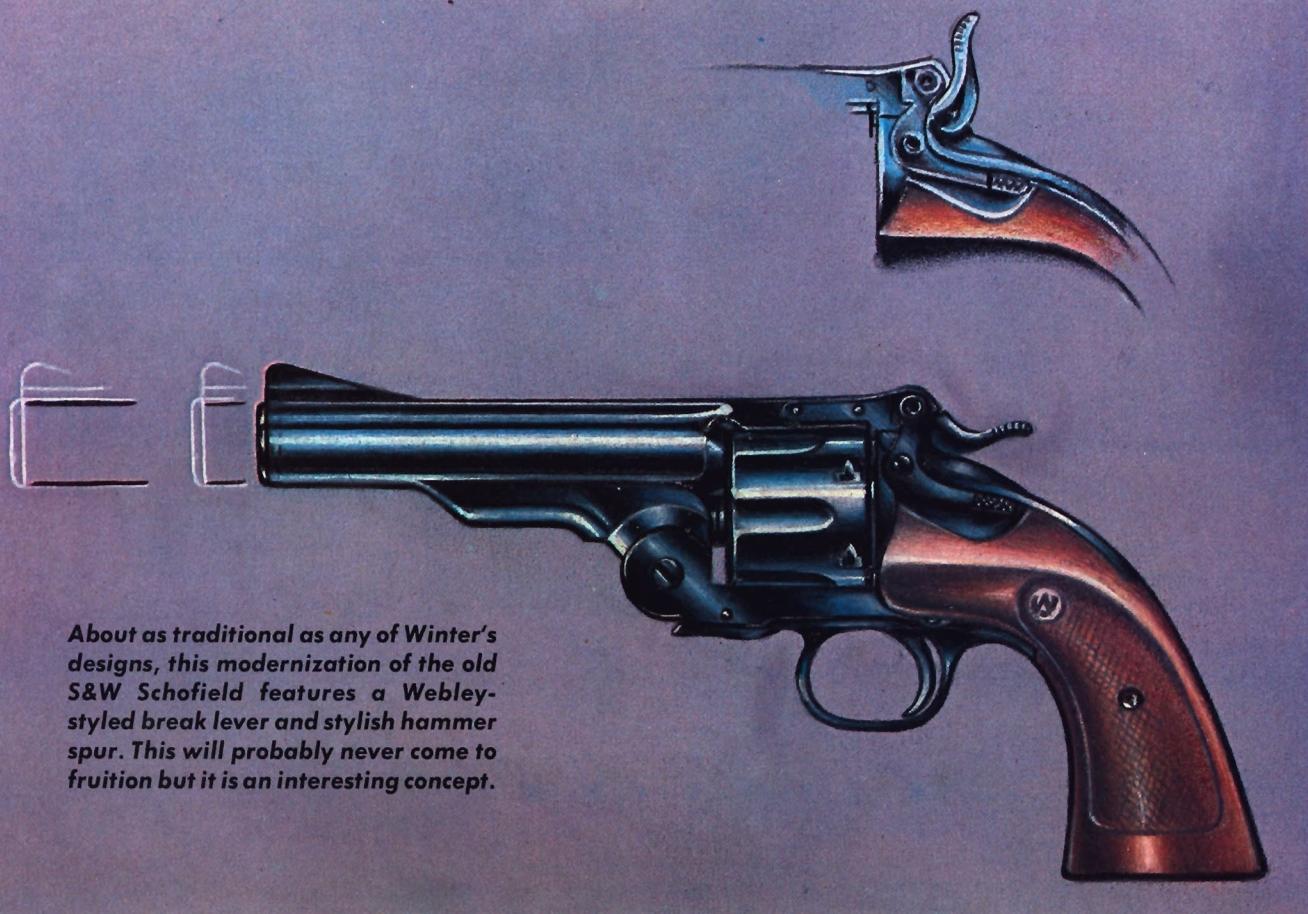
The SWAT pistol, called Guardsman II, has a side swinging 5-shot cylinder and selective DA/SA trigger control. An integral cam causes empties to extract and eject automatically.

The SWAT pistol is really a complete system in one. Different specialized rounds of ammo are planned. The FAM (fuel/air mixture) round and collimated Xenon pulsing beam are in developmental stage. Projected cost of system is about \$800.





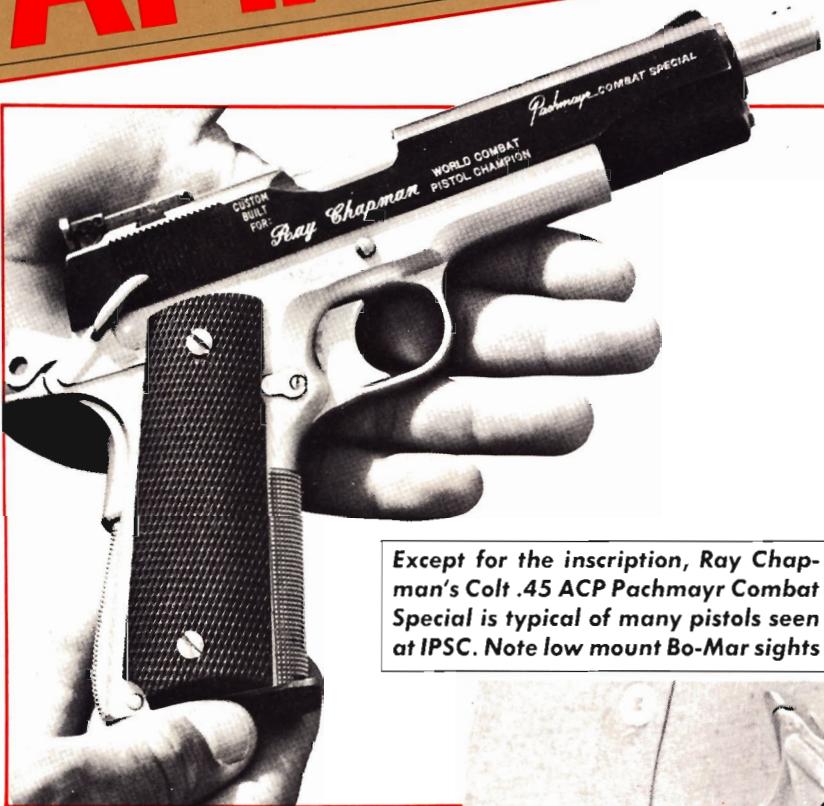
Winter applied his design genius to bring out this representation of a single shot pistol utilizing a Martini action (upside down). Again, the low barrel axis for recoil control is evident. The silhouette gun of tomorrow?



About as traditional as any of Winter's designs, this modernization of the old S&W Schofield features a Webley-styled break lever and stylish hammer spur. This will probably never come to fruition but it is an interesting concept.

GUNS & GEAR AT IPSC

By RICK MILLER



Except for the inscription, Ray Chapman's Colt .45 ACP Pachmayr Combat Special is typical of many pistols seen at IPSC. Note low mount Bo-Mar sights

A LOOK AT THE EQUIPMENT USED IN THE '78 NATIONALS

Leather craftsman, Gordon Davis' personal outfit. A Pachmayr/Colt pistol in an Usher International crossdraw rig.

Silver initials added personal touch.



The sport of freestyle practical pistol shooting has spawned its own unique and distinctive equipment to meet the varied requirements it embodies. This is true of all the other serious shooting sports, but in combat pistol competition the emphasis is a bit different. Rather than refining equipment within narrow and limited guidelines to meet one specific test, freestyle shooting tends to develop gear that is versatile in nature, and capable of meeting a wide range of challenges.

This versatile equipment is a direct result of the varied and diversified nature of the sport. In free-style practical shooting we strive to achieve a balanced program that will, during the course of a season, provide a wide ranging test of a shooter's skills and equipment. Conditions are set up that will, as nearly as

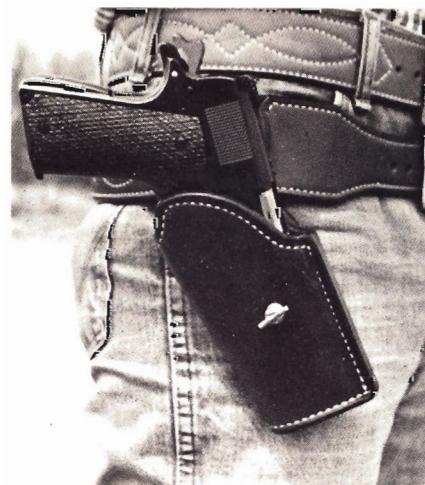


possible, stimulate those found in actual defensive shooting situations. Anything from fifty yard slow-fire to five yard speed-shooting, multiple targets at varying ranges, weak hand shooting, reloading, to man against man bouts may be the order of the day.

In any given match a variety of very different problems will be presented to the shooter. Since he must use the same pistol, sights, holster, and ammunition throughout, it cannot be over-specialized, or it will be next to worthless for one or more of the stages in an individual match. Thus, the equipment seen in IPSC contests today represents the most efficient compromise yet developed for all around practical defensive use.

There are those who will disagree with this viewpoint, and that is their privilege. However, in all cases that have come to my attention, any equipment or technique that is widely at variance with those seen in current IPSC competition tend to come off decidedly second best when put to the test. The essence of freestyle shooting is just that, it is freestyle. As long as you act safely, you may use any technique or equipment available. If you think you have a better way, give it a try, and see how it pans out. You can rest assured that if it does indeed work, the rest of us will adopt it wholeheartedly!

To illustrate the equipment that has been developed through freestyle combat pistol shooting, a look at the gear used in the 1978 U.S. IPSC National Match might prove interesting. The 1978 match was held near Saugus, California, at Wes Thompson's Juniper Tree Range,



The Gordon Davis holster is closely patterned after the Anderson Thunderbolt. Front weld construction eliminates sight drag and tension screw provides friction to pistol while moving. Forward rake permits locked wrist on maximum speed draw.

and was hosted by the Southern California Section of IPSC. A total of one hundred forty-nine shooters participated, with a number of shooters from Canada, England, and Austria taking part in the affair.

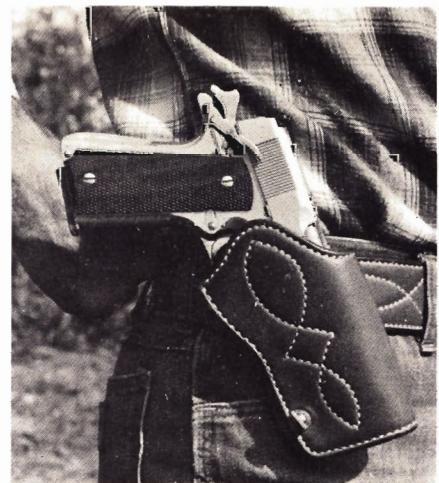
As might be expected, with this many individual contestants, a varied selection of gear was present. This wealth of equipment represented each owner's ideas and personal tastes, yet overall, each conformed within rather loose limits to a basic pattern.

Ross Seyfried, of Colorado, winner of the 1978 National Championship, used a .45 Colt Auto that had been tuned by Pachmayr. His leather gear consisted of a Hackathorn Special with a rear rake instead of the usual forward slant. This rig is a very practical outfit by Milt Sparks that includes a heavy pants belt, holster, and double magazine pouch. Ross turned in a third, fifth, and two first place finishes in the four match program, quite an excellent showing!

Raul Walters of Columbia, Missouri, came in second overall, with one second place finish, two sixths, and one eighth. Raul also used a Colt .45 Auto tuned and modified by Pachmayr. For leather gear he relied upon a #120 Combat Rig by Milt Sparks.

The standard handgun in use at the IPSC Nationals, not surprisingly, was the Colt .45 Auto. Originally introduced back in 1911, this old and highly refined

Tom Campbell, who came in third, firing the "Quick and Dirty" match. He shot a highly modified Smith & Wesson Model 59 in 9mm. Unique chest holster is Tom's own design.



Author's rig for practical shooting the Colt .45 Auto customized by Armand Swenson and a holster called the Hackathorn Special by Milt Sparks.

design is the overwhelming choice of most top freestyle shooters. Tom Campbell, of Smith and Wesson's Research and Development Department, did turn in a fine performance with a highly modified version of the S&W Model 59 in 9mm to take third place. However, this example proved to be an exception to the general trend.

Interestingly enough, another Browning designed pistol is the only other handgun to give the old Colt self-loader serious competition in IPSC style shooting. The Browning P-35 is quite popular in Europe and Africa, where the 9mm

(Continued on page 47)

THE M.A.P.



B. PISTOLS

BY MICHEL H. JOSSEURAND

Bayonne, a port town in the extreme south of France was already famous before the Manufacture d'Armes de Bayonne was ever thought of. Though the origin of the *bayonet* is obscure, tradition claims that it was first designed in Bayonne in the early 17th century and derived its name from the Town's. This tradition is supported by circumstantial evidence, since the earliest references to the use of the bayonet is connected with Bayonne.

These references date back to the 1650's, but the gun-making factory has a shorter history: it was founded by a civil engineer, Léon Barthe, in 1920; later on he was succeeded by his son Jean, and the factory became known as the Manufacture d'Armes de Bayonne:

M.A.B. for short. This firm,

from the word go, has been only concerned with the production of automatic pistols.

Until the early fifties

the firm produced no greatly original weapon. The whole range of .25, .32, .380 was closely reminiscent of the 1906 and 1910 Belgian F.N. Browning models. Users did not mind this in the least, but generally approved of careful production, good finish and safe mechanism. This was no mere chauvinism, though European standard may have been lower in those days.

MODEL A

The firm's first model was reasonably enough, Model A; it was chambered for the .25 ACP round. Production began in 1921 and ceased in 1964. Some variations of this model A appeared: the grip safety which appeared later was missing on early specimens. As time wore on this

Model A came to resemble more and more the .25 Browning 1906 and, as a matter of course, the .25 Colt M. 1908. It differed though in one detail from the above-mentioned pistols: the safety catch on the Browning design is to be found at the back of the grip, in front on the MAB, which, after all, users find handy enough. Other minor details must be noted, such as the grooves on the slide: there were 10 curved ones on the original model, much in the Spanish Ruby style,

.380 version of this C model, though it did not sell as well as the .32 ACP version; according to French Firearms Regulations the former was regarded as War Material (which made for restricted sales) and the latter as a "defensive weapon."

MODEL D

At this stage, the firm decided to take another leaf out of a well-thumbed Browning book. In

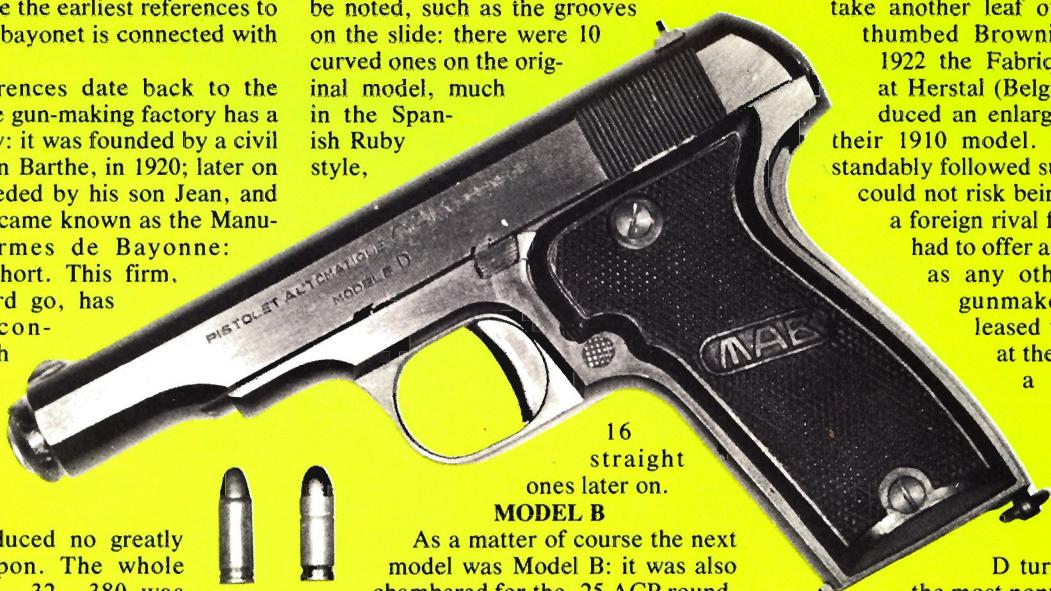
1922 the Fabrique Nationale at Herstal (Belgium) had produced an enlarged version of their 1910 model. MAB understandably followed suit, since they could not risk being outdone by a foreign rival firm.

The firm had to offer as wide a range as any other European gunmaker. They released their C model at the same time as a model D, which was of course an enlarged version of the C.

This model

D turned out to be the most popular MAB pistol until the late sixties.

Not only did it sell like hot cakes to the general public, but the Paris Police proved to be a more important buyer, before and just after World War II (it is still in production, and issued to several police forces and government bodies, though gradually replaced by Manurhin, Smith & Wesson model 10 and 19, and Ruger revolvers). Most unfortunately other people appeared, namely the German Occupation forces, who approving of our wines and women, potatoes and pigs, also took a fancy to this pistol. The Manufacture d'Armes de Bayonne produced between 51160 and 54000 model D, .32

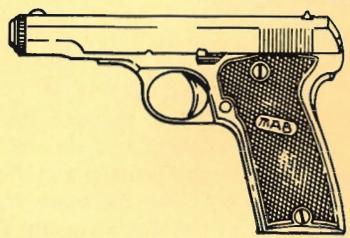
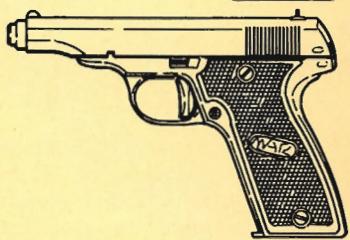
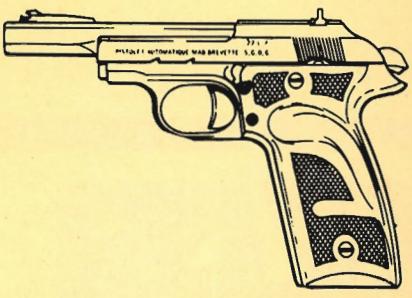


MODEL B

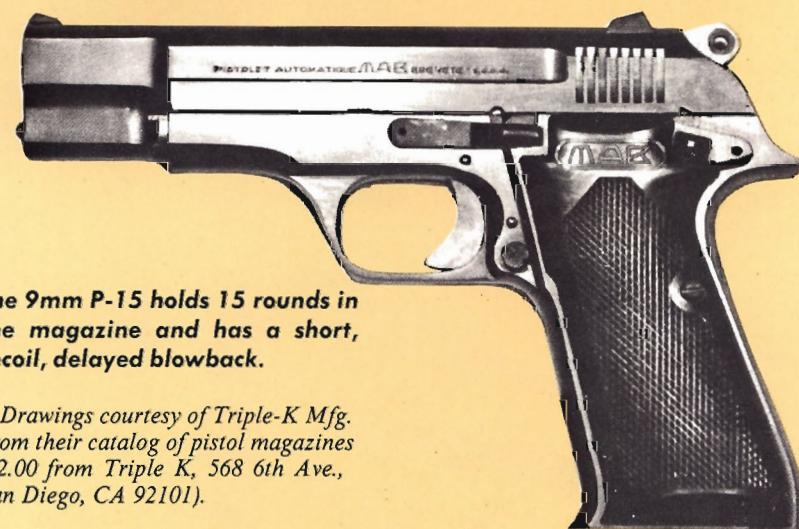
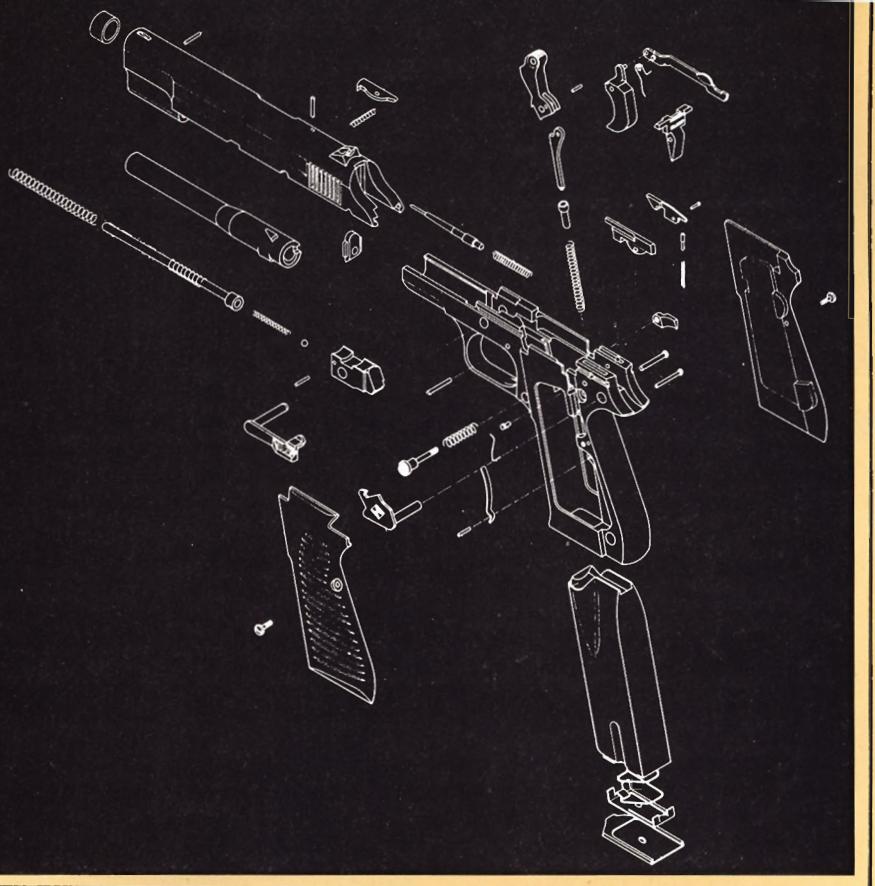
As a matter of course the next model was Model B: it was also chambered for the .25 ACP round, and first appeared in 1932, to be discontinued in 1964. It looks very much like a Browning "Baby" with a grip safety catch thrown in.

MODEL C

The first .32 ACP MAB was Model C which was produced from 1933 to the late sixties. Though it does remind us of a 1910 Browning, its general outline is more comfortable. Readers who are familiar with German automatic pistols may agree with me when I consider that MAB's C model can be compared with the 1910 Belgian Browning just as the M.34 Sauer & Sohn may be compared with the 1913 S&S model. There was a



From top to bottom. Top — Model F-Le Chasseur, Caliber is .22 LR. Weight 28 ounces, O.A.L. measures 7.5; Model C comes in .32 and .380 ACP. It weighs 23 ounces. Overall length is 6.1; the Model E comes in .25 ACP only. Weight is 25 ounces with an O.A.L. of 6.9; Model D is in .32 and .380 ACP. It weighs 25 ounces and overall length is 6.9; Model A weighs in at 14 oz. Caliber 25 ACP and length measures 4.5; the Model P-15 has large magazine capacity and the weight is a hefty 38 ounces. O.A.L. measures 8.



The 9mm P-15 holds 15 rounds in the magazine and has a short, recoil, delayed blowback.

Drawings courtesy of Triple-K Mfg. From their catalog of pistol magazines (\$2.00 from Triple K, 568 6th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101).

ACP caliber, from the summer of 1940 to mid November 1942. This Model D is available with a .32 ACP barrel or a .380 caliber barrel; it has a 9 round magazine (8 for the .380), percussion is obtained by internal firing pin (hammerless). The .380 version of this D pistol was primarily meant for export.

MODEL C/D

We now come to Post WWII years when the firm gave birth to a sort of hybrid, namely the C/D model with the same frame and magazine capacity as the D, slide and barrel being borrowed from C. There again we find two versions: a .32 ACP and a .380. Production ceased in 1964.

MODEL E

From 1949 to 1964, the firm manufactured a large capacity pistol, chambered

for the .25 ACP round. The pistol's size is that of a small standard .32 ACP pistol though it is to be regarded as a large .25, with a 9 round magazine and a 3 1/8" barrel (80 cm).

As late as the early Fifties, the then 30-year-old firm had contemplated the production of one type of handgun only: variations on the self-defence automatic pistol. From then on a new policy was decided upon: the firm was now to manufacture target pistols as well, and, which is more remarkable, combat pistols. This was to have a surprising outcome, since somebody at MAB's thought it would be a brilliant idea to combine the features of combat and target pistols and bring out a match version of a 9mm Luger combat pistol . . . But all in good time!

(Continued on page 57)

GUNS AT IPSC

(Continued from page 43)

Parabellum cartridge is highly regarded. This excellent pistol is quite satisfactory for freestyle shooting, and lends itself well to custom tuning. It has not caught on in this country, mainly because U.S. shooters favor the .45 ACP over 9mm.

While some aficionados lavish large sums of money on their pet 1911's, adding many cosmetic touches, this is not really necessary to achieve good performance and handling qualities. The two most basic requirements are a good trigger and good sights. Beyond that, an accuracy job, speed safety, and beveled magazine well for rapid reloading will round out a good basic pistol.

Although an accuracy job is not always necessary, it usually is advantageous over the long run. A stock pistol that shows acceptable grouping (say four or five inches at fifty yards) won't hold that accuracy through ten thousand rounds in competition and practice. That sounds like a lot of shooting, and it is, but a serious shootist will burn up between two and five hundred rounds of ammo per week, all year long, just for practice!

An accurized gun will stand up to this hard service for a much longer period of time than the stock pistol, and hold its accuracy in the bargain. My old Swenson-tuned Colt, originally worked over in 1972, still shoots closer than I can hold, six years and many thousands of rounds later. When new it would shoot into about two inches at fifty yards. Both frame and slide are cracked now from hard use, but it will still group around four inches at fifty yards from a solid rest. It is now back in Swenson's shop for repairs, but when it went back it was still both accurate and reliable.

One of the most important modifications, from an efficiency standpoint, has to be improved sighting equipment. I would estimate that nearly every serious competitor using an autopistol in the 1978 Nationals had taken care of this important detail. The issue sights on most autoloaders are just too small and poorly shaped for quick pick up and precise alignment when using modern speed shooting techniques.

Smith and Wesson revolver sights and the sturdy Bo-Mar sight recessed into the slide top were the most popular adjustable sights in use. Some pistols were equipped with low mount Micro adjustable sights, another neat but effective approach. These three sights, when properly mounted, are sturdy, streamlined, and fully adjustable for elevation and windage.

Quite a few shooters were seen using pistols equipped with high visibility fixed sights. Once properly zeroed for a given

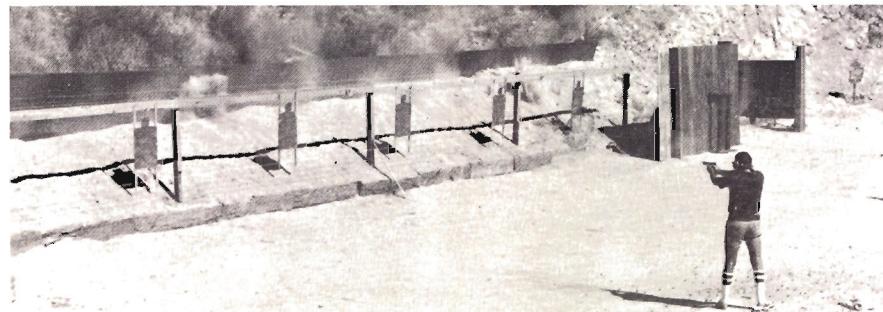
match load, these sights are quite satisfactory for competition. They are cheaper than adjustables, easier to install, and can take more abuse and hard use. The Micro high fixed sights and the King-Tappan combat sights are the two most widely seen examples.

For combat shooting most people like to equip their pistols with some sort of speed safety. This may be a home brewed job that simply has an enlarged thumbpiece shaped to the owner's taste. An increasingly popular approach is to have one of Armand Swenson's stainless ambidextrous speed safeties installed. A large number of .45 Colt autos were seen so equipped at the '78 Nationals. This device works equally well in either hand, and so, is very advantageous in matches calling for weak hand shooting. It is also quite a blessing for the southpaw shooter

This neat little holster was suggested by senior competitor Ray Chapman and incorporates full metal lining and the moulded-in Bianchi sight track.

As has been the case for the past few years, the majority of the top shooters were sporting leather gear that was handcrafted by one of two custom makers. G. Wm. Davis and Milt Sparks are both well known for their excellent designs and fine workmanship. Although their products are expensive, once you have used them, you will understand why they are favored by many shooters.

Another holster, used by some of the West Coast shooters, is the Snik Mark 5. This is an improved version of the original black plastic breakfront design that offers greater security for strenuous activity. It is very fast, and in the Mark 5 version offers adequate retention. The



who favors the old Colt autoloader.

There are many other custom modifications for the 1911 that could be covered in an article of this nature, some of them quite beneficial, and some merely cosmetic. Some of the more useful ones (but not absolutely essential) are squared and checkered trigger guards and checkered or stippled frames for better holding, blocked grip safeties for fast handling, beveled magazine wells for speed loading, and hard satin chrome finish for long wear.

While many of the handguns used this year were modified by their owners, a large number were also tuned by some of our top pistolsmiths. Swenson, Hoag, Kings, and Pachmayr were all very well represented. The work of Chuck Ries (Box 205, Culver City, Calif. 90230) was much in evidence, as was that of Bill Wilson, 101-103 Public Square, Berryville, Ark. 72616. Both Chuck and Bill participated in the match as contestants, while Armand Swenson looked on as an interested spectator.

Holsters for practical shooting fall into several categories, and include strong side speed rigs, cross draw, and general purpose utility holsters. Custom holster makers have the lion's share of the business here, but Bianchi Leather Products is making a strong bid for a good share of the market.

The Bianchi Model 45 Pistoler outfit is a full race speed rig that is being used by some competitors. Their best, is the Chapman Hi-Ride cross draw holster.

Snik is marketed by WHM Enterprises, 6535 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90048.

Along with holsters tailored to the favored .45 Autopistol, another essential piece of leather gear is the fast grab magazine pouch. This piece of equipment is a must if you want to take full advantage of the autoloading pistol's quick reloading potential. All of the important holster makers catering to the combat competition market offer their own versions of this carrier.

Designs of magazine carriers vary, but the general configuration consists of a double pouch that exposes approximately one third of the magazine. This abbreviated form allows ready access, so that the magazine may be quickly grasped and jerked free. The two magazines are held in place by simple friction, and in the better examples when one is removed, the other is still held firmly in place.

In discussing guns and gear for IPSC competition we could go on to much greater length, however, space is limited. There are many other designs, concepts, and theories on practical equipment that haven't been covered here. In large measure though, the pistols, modifications, holsters, and other items that I've singled out for description in this article work very well. This is the gear that is used by the winners, and any aspiring pistoleros reading this would do well to emulate these competition tested champions.



**PERSONAL
SECURITY**

TRAINING FOR PRIVATE POLICE

Combat Pistol Expert Jerry Usher Appointed To Train CCSI Patrolmen

MASSAD F. AYOOB

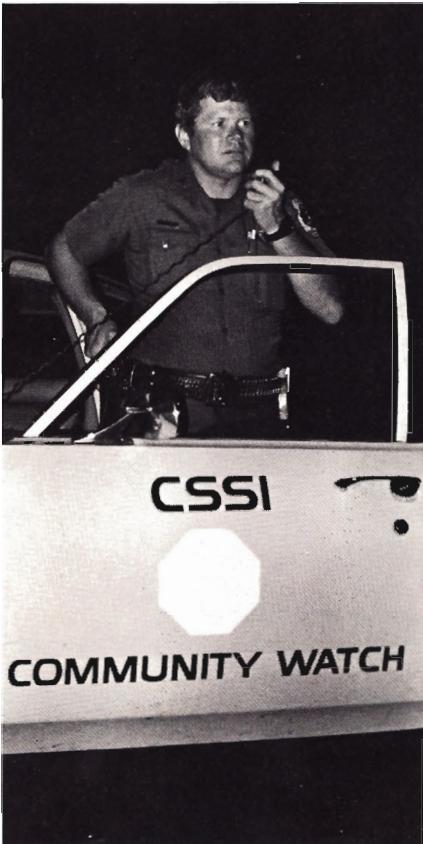
Private security police, as a whole, have never had much of a reputation for professionalism. They tend to be underqualified, underpaid, and under-trained. There are some notable exceptions, however. You'll often find a private guard, or more rarely a whole security agency, with an outstanding level of expertise. One of the latter is CCSI in Los Angeles.

For many years, Consolidated Security Systems, Inc. has been one of Southern California's most successful dealers in Westinghouse alarms and related security hardware. Not long ago, they decided to supplement that product line with private security covering the homes of clients.

Quality had always been the watchword with the corporation, and knowing the shortcomings in many private security forces, they wanted to assure a first class operation. Their solution was to hire one of the best police instructors in the business, giving him carte blanche budget and control, with only one requirement: that he develop a patrol force as well-manned and -trained as the best public law enforcement agencies.

The man CCSI chose to head the Community Watch patrol system was Jerry Usher. In the several days I spent in the L.A. area riding with the patrolmen, observing in-service training techniques, sitting in on hiring interviews, and generally de-briefing top CCSI people, I came away with the distinct impression that they had chosen one of the few people who could fill that tall order.

Well-known throughout California as a



CCSI patrolmen are taught to keep a low profile when responding to 459 call; their role complements that of the police officers who will also be called.

police instructor at both in-service and college levels, the soft-spoken ex-cop is better known to our readers as one of the nation's top-ranked freestyle combat shooters, having come in seventh in the world at the last IPSC Internationals in Rhodesia. The training Usher gives to CCSI's patrolmen goes far beyond weaponry, but does include some unique and practical firearms work.

"A security patrolman's tactical needs are different from those of a police officer," Jerry explains. "He has little more authority than the average citizen to make arrests. While an LAPD patrolman will normally respond to a 459* call with his gun drawn, our security patrolmen have to keep a lower profile. In that situation, they'll keep the gun in the holster until they see danger, and even then

they're trained to dive for cover before they bring out their revolver.

"This has several advantages for them," he explains. "First, it keeps them more alert for danger when they make their approach. Second, taking cover first is a very sound tactic for survival. Third, it gives them an extra second to safely identify their target; a lot of our clients have their own guns."

Every CCSI patrolman must have minimum California security guard training before he even applies for the job; after selection, training begins in earnest. As far as firearms, that means three six-hour sessions in which Usher works with two students at a time. Unlike many instructors, he begins with instinct shooting, and then goes into the principles of aimed fire. Proper use of cover is emphasized, as is night shooting, and virtually all firing is double action.

Because private security forces in Los Angeles are under the purview of the LA Police Commissioners, standard cartridge is the .38 Special in a plus-P softnose (*not* hollowpoint) loading. The guns, however, are four-inch, fixed-sight .357s. The issue service gun when Jerry took over was the Colt Lawman Mk.III, but CCSI is changing to S&W's model 13 M&P .357, principally for its easier double action trigger. The holster is specially designed and produced by famed IPSC leathermaker G. William Davis, and consists of a high-riding thumb-break with a plastic roller that contacts the gun at the front of the frame. This feature allows the officer to run without fear of his unsnapped revolver falling out, yet yields the weapon to an instantaneous draw. Because of the required low-profile approach to possible danger situations, Usher places great emphasis on a quick draw, and all the patrolmen I saw in practice were lightning fast.

Security patrolmen are allowed no shotguns; the only other weapon they study is the 26" hickory stick (they are taught the Koga baton method).

Each patrolman must have 12 spare rounds on his belt, and Usher prefers them to have six rounds in loops, and six in a speedloader (he favors the HKS brand). "It's seldom that any patrolman gets into a drawn-out firefight where he needs to reload," Jerry comments, but if

(Continued on page 54)



COMMUNITY WATCH



Top: Officer arriving at scene will hold the status quo until LAPD arrives, unless suspect is escaping with stolen goods, or endangering the client; Left: Usher locks patrolman's elbows into triangular position for point shooting. Though he uses the bent-arm Weaver stance himself, Usher favors Isosceles position and instinct technique for street work; Above: Patrolmen are not allowed to draw their guns unless facing known danger.

WICHITA

(Continued from page 31)

and steamed. That's good — no, excellent performance for a barrel that hot.

Handloading the .308 Wichita is exactly the same as loading for a rifle. Pistol powders must *not* be used. Rifle data should be used as a guide. Generally speaking, a 15 inch handgun in a rifle caliber chambering will produce 2-300 f.p.s. less than the same load fired in a rifle. This generalization is just that — it isn't 100% true.

The Wichita will safely digest any .308 Winchester load that is safe in rifles. Heavy loads would be quite effective hunting rounds as would factory ammo. I particularly like the looks of the WW 180 grain P.P. It should be a dandy for positive expansion and deep penetration on large animals. White tails, Muleys and Black bear do not require heavy bullets and the 130 Hornady would be a good bet for small deer. Round nose 150 grain .30-30 bullets perform very well on deer. They expand somewhat more easily than most of the 150 grain Spitzers that are designed to be effective at higher velocities. The Spitzer 150s and heavier bullets would definitely be recommended for animals in the Elk or Moose class.

For varmints, I prefer the 130 Hornady spire point loaded to around 2850 f.p.s. It blows up readily, recoil is on the mild side and it is accurate.

Factory loads are fine for hunting. The Federal 150 does 2545 f.p.s. 165-2430, 180-2408 and the WW-180PP-2331 f.p.s. Any factory .308 load will be an effective, efficient deer killer at 200-250 yards if the shooter does his part.

In actual shooting of the Wichita, I've used every variety of position I can physically achieve. The Wichita holds and performs comfortably from all of them. Point of impact changes somewhat from one position to another but handling characteristics from prone, variations of the Creedmore positions and offhand are excellent. From a personal viewpoint, I like muzzle heavy guns and would prefer just a tad more weight on the muzzle.

I'm right handed and after using a considerable number of the XP-100 conversions I really appreciate a bolt that works with the left hand. It is not necessary to remove the shooting hand from the stock to operate the bolt. This gives considerably more time for sight alignment and trigger squeeze during those 2 minute firing periods. That is a very important advantage in competition.

Accuracy. I hesitate to get into this area due to the fact few people are aware just how well unlimited silhouette guns will shoot. When things are right, I can count on staying under 5 inches at 200 meters from a variety of positions with iron sights. A fairly high percentage of

groups will be under 3 inches. The best I've shot was slightly under 1.5 inches — 200 meters prone — peep rear — cross-hair front sight. I don't know; but I think the Wichita and XP-100 conversions with new match-grade barrels are capable of one half minute of angle accuracy if given enough glass to see well enough to shoot those kind of groups. I've seen too many 1" — 100 yard iron sight groups to think differently.

After having about 800 rounds through the Wichita, the barrel has shown no tendency to foul. On the debit side, during the last 50 or so rounds the extractor has failed to extract three times. Its spring appears to have weakened. While chronographing at 600 rounds the grip broke off of the stock below the trigger guard. Luckily, it was only a 150 grain load that the Oehler M-33 said was doing 2717 f.p.s. I didn't lose the gun, but it was close. Cause of break — a knot in the stock was in actuality a hole about as big around as a kitchen match all the way through. Combined with a drilled out grip (very skillfully capped) the seasoned walnut simply broke. I figure it is quite unusual and don't expect it to happen again. The stock was put back together

with glass and has not given further problems. Frankly, of all the stocks I've seen, I prefer those fiberglass ones by Jim Gilman (Ranger Canoe Co. P.O. Box 426 Route 25, Plymouth, NH 03264 A/C 603-536-2401). They are available in one hand style or with vertical foregrip.

Most production shooters are overawed by the thought of a .308 in a pistol. Until they shoot it with the 27.0-4759-130 load. They generally hit what they aim at and become very enthusiastic about the cartridge and gun. I would estimate a .44 Magnum wheel gun shooter who scores consistently 23-25 would break 30 the first time out with the Wichita and 35 by his third match, assuming he shoots it a little between matches.

Considering everything, I'm satisfied with the gun except for its lack of a safety. I shoot silhouette competition and am classified triple A in both production and unlimited but I am not really a competition shooter. As a handgun hunter I miss the lack of a safety more than most competition shooters would.

I believe the Wichita to be an excellent piece of equipment for silhouette competition and priced reasonably for the excellent competition gun that it is.

.308 WICHITA

CHRONOGRAPH OEHLER M-33 VELOCITIES AT: 15' TEMP. 63-70°

PRIMER	CASE	CHARGE	POWDER	BULLET	VELOCITY	VARIATION
CCI	Rem	42.6	4198	110 Horn	3027	11
CCI	Rem	49.0	3031	110 Horn	2976	—
CCI	Rem	41.4	4198	130 Horn	2848	33
Federal	WRA-67	48.7	BLC2	130 HSP	2795	17
Federal	WRA-67	50.2	BLC2	130 HSP	2842	42
Federal	WRA-67	25.0	4759	130 Horn	2086*	102
Federal	WRA-67	25.0	4759	130 Horn	2166*	45
Federal	WRA-67	27.0	4759	130 Horn	2248*	30
Federal	Rem	27.0	4759	130 Horn	2238*	40
Federal	WRA-67	27.0	4759	130 Horn	2173*	37
Federal	WRA-67	25.0	4759	150 HFMJ	2070	27
Federal	Rem	27.0	4759	150 HFMJ	2167	14
CCI	5-Different	27.0	4759	150 HSP	2113	95
CCI	Fed	48.5	4064	150 HRN	2708	36
Federal	Rem	35.0	H-4895	150 HFMJ	2057	48
Federal	Rem	37.0	H-4895	150 HFMJ	2206	60
Federal	Rem	39.0	H-4895	150 HFMJ	2313	45
Federal	Rem	41.0	H-4895	150 HFMJ	2420	24
Federal	RA-60	39.2	4320	150 HFMJ	2293	42
Federal	Rem	33.8	4198	150 HFMJ	2406	22
Federal	Rem	36.0	4198	150 HFMJ	2504	22
Federal	Rem	38.0	4198	150 HFMJ	2641	38
Federal	RA-59	39.2	4320	165 HSP	2252	59
Federal	WRA-67	25.0	4759	165 HSP	1987	25
Federal	WRA-67	27.0	4759	165 HSP	2097	29
CCI	Fed	45.5	WW-748	190 WW Match	2461	18
CCI	Fed	43.7	WW-748	190 WW Match	2370	33
Military	WRA-67			Ball	2572	44
Federal				150 SP	2545	30
Federal Premium				165 BT	2430	63
Federal				180 SP	2408	60
				180 RNPP	2331	41

*Different days, humidity, temperature — seating depth variations.



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AH

DEVEL

(Continued from page 27)

Santis (307 Hempstead Ave., W. Hempstead, Long Island, NY 11552). Other DeSantis carrying rigs are optional.

Initial development of the Devel began in 1974. It became a reality in November '78. I'm aware of the developmental problems; cured through the building and rebuilding of over half a dozen prototypes. Unlikely problems occurred — such as pounding the barrel bushing off the slide. Thousands of rounds were expended eliminating "bugs."

The Devel shows a loaded weight reduction over a standard M-39 of 3.9 ounces. It is an eight shooter versus the original 9 shooter. Overall length is shortened from 7-19/32" to 6-3/4 inches. Barrel length drops .5 inches. The standard 39 is 5-9/16 inches high; the Devel is 5-1/16.

It is going to be largely a matter of personal opinion, but the heft, feel and pointability of the Devel is far superior to that of the original M-39. The slide works harder than the original due to the shorter, heavier recoil spring. (Five springs were developed for the Devel — magazine, recoil, firing pin return, extractor and main).

The Devel has been productive. The

first time out was pure pleasure. Almost sunny, temperature in the low 50s and no wind. I put a bullet mark on a rock about 25 yards away and adjusted the MMC so the 112 grain Super Vel soft points were hitting just at the top of where the front sight was looking. I tried a variety of ammo without a malfunction and was quite surprised the point of impact was relatively constant at 25 yards or so. As distances lengthened various bullet weights and velocities made themselves known and noticeable impact variations were very apparent at 100-150 yards. Under 50 yards having to switch ammo without the opportunity to sight in wouldn't bother me much. The Devel is plain and simple a combat gun. Extreme accuracy and versatility in the field is the least of concern. Surprisingly though — accuracy at 100-150 yards was certainly good enough to keep a man under cover and worrying about his future. It is not just an across-the-room gun, although that is what it's designed for. Particularly impressive was a handload using Norma R-1 powder and the 90 grain Hornady H.P. Let's just leave out the charge weight and say it is fast and accurate. My gun has the light mainspring in it and the DA pull was particularly impressive. Experimenting with the "point & shoot with the gun half raised" confirmed its effectiveness is quite limited even at short range and rudimentary use of the sights is a must with any gun for con-

sistent, good hits. The old yank it out and start tapping the trigger as soon as it clears your toes may have its place; but good shooting practices will lead to greater effectiveness even then.

Most mini-combat guns are sold to police engaged in work where they feel they may need the ultimate in concealability, power and controllability. Face it — the small revolvers only hold 5 rounds; in the usual "panic" action in a shooting they can be gone in a couple of heartbeats. The Devel conceals just as easily, is easier to shoot, holds eight and is very quick to reload. While on reloading; magazines come out of the gun forcefully. The well is funneled and fresh ones are fast to insert. The grip is short. Unless the magazine is slapped in with the heel of the hand and checked with thumb pressure as the loading hand finishes its movement a magazine is easily only partially inserted. The full size guns should be checked the same way.

The balance of my shooting with the Devel has been under rotten conditions of wind and cold. Nothing more than practical type shooting was possible. (That is poking it out of the truck window.) Thirty-five rounds of seven different loads at 20 yards grouped in 7-7/8 inches included flyers, flinches and yanks. Shots were spaced around one second apart. Fifteen double action shots with 112 Super Vel fired the same way grouped 4-9/16 inches. Draw, fire one magazine, reload and empty it into another target at just about maximum speed resulted in 100% hits at 12 yards.

9MM rims, extractor grooves and case lengths vary a lot in the 9MMs. The little gadget for checking them is worthwhile for someone who uses a gun seriously. Today I had a malfunction. The first round of a fully loaded magazine failed to feed. It nosedived, effectively jamming the gun. Tried again with the same result. Round two fed and fired normally. I replaced the first round in the magazine. Jammed again. On the third try of dropping it in the chamber and dropping the slide on it, the slide went into battery. The round fired normally. Its rim was too large in diameter to allow normal passage through the magazine or for the extractor to easily snap over it.

I really don't know how Kelsey can do the conversion of a M-39 to a Devel for \$357.00 including belt, holster and magazine carrier. My guess is that the price isn't going to last long. The going price for a mini conversion usually starts at about \$500 with some of them doubling that figure. I don't believe any of them I've seen are a bit better; most not as good and none that look as good as a Devel. The Devel color brochure is really well put together and lists all of the specs and options. It is available for two bucks. (Devel Corporation, 28749 Chagrin Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44122 A/C216-292-7723).



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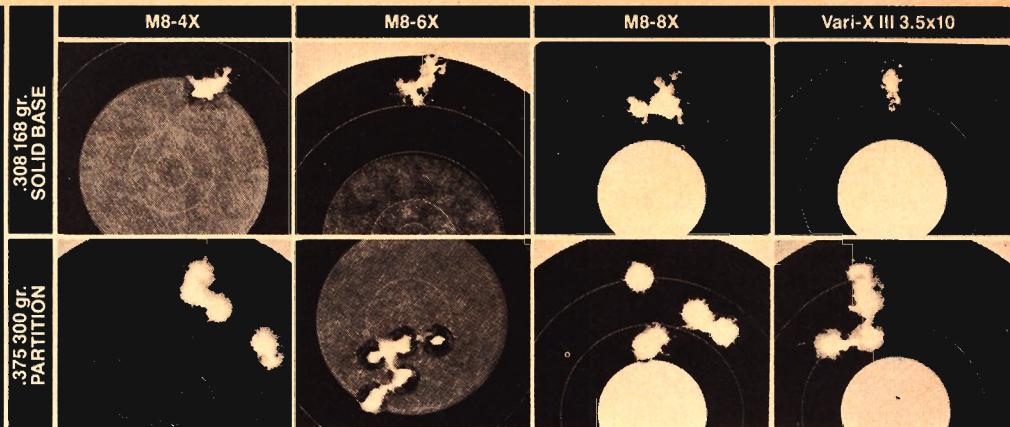


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Leupold & Nosler Team Up to Prove Performance Pays in Scopes and Bullets

Which comes first in accuracy—the rifle, the bullet, the scope or the shooter himself? At Leupold Sights and its sister company, Nosler Bullets, the Factory Service Department turned up the perfect opportunity to find out. And, while we didn't resolve the old chicken-or-the-egg debate, the results are mighty interesting.

When Leupold scopes are returned by customers for suspected mechanical or optical defects, the Service Department routinely checks windage and elevation on a collimator and checks for tracking and parallax. On occasion, when normal procedures don't identify the reason for the customer's complaint, the scope is mounted on one of two factory target rifles, either a .308 Win. or a 30-06. Three 3-shot groups are fired at a single bench rest target. One group is fired at near center, then an adjustment of 3 minutes of right windage and 3 minutes of elevation is

added, and finally 6 minutes of left windage is applied, giving the owner a good picture of his scope's performance.

Here's where bullet performance helped prove scope performance, and vice versa. For several years, surplus match ammunition manufactured by the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant was used to fire groups for scope testing, since this ammo had a long-standing reputation for accuracy at Camp Perry and other matches. The ammunition, 7.62mm (.308 Win.) with full metal jacket 173-gr. bullets, eventually ran out, so it was decided to reload the accumulated brass.

To get the same kind of accuracy, the cases were reloaded with Nosler Solid Base 168-grain H.P. Match Bullets. It seemed incredible, but group sizes shrank by 30 to 40 percent! Remember, this means 30 to 40 percent smaller than heretofore very acceptable accuracy!

In one instance, a dealer sent four scopes in for suspected deficiencies, a 4X, 6X, 8X and a 3.5x10. He demanded at least 1/2-inch 3-shot groups. On the .308, the scopes and reloaded Nosler bullets delivered 5-shot groups, all considerably less than 1/2 inch, with one group at .232"! The dealer in-

sisted the .308 didn't have sufficient recoil to fully test the scopes, so all four scopes were mounted in turn on a pre-'64 Model 70 .375 caliber standard hunting rifle.

Nosler 300-grain Partition bullets were loaded and fired. Every 5-shot group was less than 1 inch. Since the groups were 1/2 to 3/4 inch smaller than what are considered "good groups" for this cartridge in a hunting weight rifle, all four scopes were returned with no repairs or adjustments necessary.

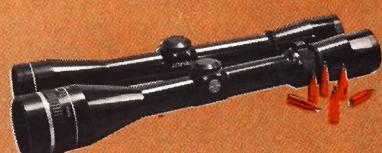
As these tests demonstrate, we go to a lot of trouble to make sure Leupold and Nosler products deliver the kind of performance that pays off in tighter groups and more hunting successes. But as to whether it all starts with the scope or the bullet, it's back to the old chicken-or-the-egg discussion.



Target is typical of three 3-shot groups occasionally fired to demonstrate that Leupold scopes returned for suspected deficiencies are not actually defective.

Only a very few scopes returned are found to need repair or adjustment. First group is fired near target center, second group 3 minutes right windage and 3 minutes elevation, third group moved 6 minutes left windage.

The Chicken-or-the-Egg Theory of Shooting Accuracy



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PRIVATE POLICE

(Continued from page 49)

they need it, this way they have the option of one fast reload, or a system I teach where the embattled patrolman will shoot two, load two from behind cover. That method was proven on the street when I was an officer in Indio, California.

"When the patrolman is in a firefight and behind cover," he adds, "it's foolhardy to step out in the open and try to make an apprehension. Instead, he should stay behind cover, keep his opponent pinned down with a couple of shots now and again, and wait for reinforcements."

Usher is very strong on instinct shooting. He feels that the human brain is a very functional little computer, and can easily handle the task of sending a bullet to where the eyes are looking without using the sights. He teaches his men to clear leather quick, punch the gun forward, and fire without using the sights. This, however, demands two things from the equipment. "The revolver must have a smooth double action," Jerry warns, "so the officer can learn to fire rapidly without pulling the instinctively-aimed gun off target. Also, the fit of gun to hand has to be perfect if instinct shooting is to work. The revolver is easier to adapt to the individual's hand than is the semi-auto, since you have so much more latitude for changing grip shape."

Usher goes very heavy on night-firing, with and without flashlights since this is where the majority of dangerous encounters his men may have with burglars are likely to occur. He reports that the instinct shooting techniques the men begin with help tremendously when shooting in darkness.

There are some other unique things in Usher's teaching. Instead of the conventional belly-down position, Jerry teaches IPSC's "rollover prone." This would normally expose more of your body to an opponent's gunfire, but since CSSI pa-

trolmen are trained to dive for cover anyway it doesn't matter as much, and the rollover is quicker and much more accurate.

A very welcome training adjunct will be firearms classes for clients. Says Usher, "While many homeowners exercise their right to keep guns, not many have been properly trained in firearms safety, and fewer still understand self-defense law and tactics. We hope to rectify this with an optional program. In addition to safety and marksmanship, we'll teach things like keeping the gun at least two steps from the bed to eliminate those



situations where someone has a nightmare and shoots a loved one with his bedside pistol before realizing what he has done."

He adds, "Our men aren't police, and we make sure that they don't get their roles confused. I saw that happen with security patrolmen often enough when I was a fulltime policeman in Indio. A se-

curity officer who doesn't stay within the parameters of his job can get in the police department's way."

"When our man arrives on a 458 scene, he will take action only if the client or his family is in danger, or if a suspect is escaping the premises with the client's property. Otherwise, he is instructed to come in quietly, without lights, and observe until LAPD arrives. He will then brief the incoming policemen on the layout of the grounds, which he will know intimately, and on the nature of the situation. Naturally, when an alarm comes in to our communications center, we will call the police at the same time we dispatch our patrolman.

"In this way," he concludes, "the police officer and the CSSI patrolman complement each other, rather than getting in each other's way."

In addition to alarm response, CSSI offers Community Watch, an intensive neighborhood patrol service available to many communities in the greater LA area. Patrolmen are also available for escorts, and if desired can be on the scene when a client or his wife comes home alone. A popular M.O. for California burglars is to grab the resident in the driveway as he comes home, forcing him to open the house and by-pass the alarms.

CSSI is growing daily. In California, says Usher, "Police aren't required to answer burglar alarms at private residences, and though they often try, they just have too much else to do to be able to respond quickly. This is why intensive private patrols are the coming thing."

Having spent the better part of two weeks watching Usher and his people at work, I can see his point. Hal Linden, who plays the title role in TV's "Barney Miller," subscribes to Community Watch coverage, and if I lived out there, I would too. Security guards don't always inspire confidence, but when you know they're deeply trained by a professional — and a firearms professional as that — their presence can be very comforting.



CHAPMAN

(Continued from page 34)

free-style practical competition, of the IPSC type, is essentially geared to simulate as closely as possible the realistic defensive use of the handgun, the two different approaches tend to complement one another quite nicely. Anyone really interested in this type of shooting might want to consider attending both schools to take advantage of the vast amount of experience that both these men possess.

The morning of the first day is spent in the classroom discussing such details as

proper equipment, clothing, and mental attitude. Modifications of guns and holsters, and the merits of such alterations are covered. In the classroom, and later on the range, Ray stressed the need for a positive mental attitude. Concentrate on what you are doing, plan your match strategy, don't dwell on mistakes, don't shoot too fast, and remember what you did right. Properly executed, this approach will help to prevent costly errors in a match, and will also provide the basis for sound training and practice.

The first range session is devoted to basic practice exercises and drills to get everyone warmed up and to provide an insight into all the student's skill levels.

Various techniques are checked, from seven yard one-hand point shooting, to fifty yard free-style.

Without going into too much detail, the shooting program includes teaching the basic two hand or Weaver technique, speed re-loading of both the revolver and auto-pistol, strong hand and weak hand shooting, how to use a barricade, and the rollover prone position. Other subjects covered are concealed carry, night firing exercises, proper lead on moving targets at various ranges, and firing accurately while moving yourself.

In our advanced class the latter part of the week proved to be the most interesting. (Continued on page 56)

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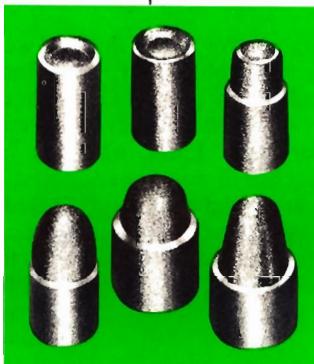
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.38 CAL.	158 GR.	ROUND NOSE
.41 CAL.	210 GR.	SEMI-WAD CUTTER
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(Continued from page 54)

ing. On Wednesday the better part of the day was spent in getting down the proper lead on moving targets at ranges from seven, fifteen, and twenty-five yards. Everyone enjoyed this exercise, and even at the end of a long hot day the "running man" was kept hopping.

That same afternoon, while the class was practicing their moving target technique, Ray set up a surprise field reaction course down along the little creek bed that wound through the valley. This course we each ran twice, once slowly in an attempt to spot all targets hidden in grass, brush, and trees, and a second time at full speed against the clock.

On each run I think we all learned

something. We found that we were not really very observant. The first time through, each person failed to spot at least one target, and several overlooked two or three. Later, when we ran the same course for speed, most of us thought we had done a pretty good job of mapping out our course strategy.

After we were all finished, the old master showed us how to do it right! Ray fired at the first targets, jumped over the four foot wall and raced down the course. When he got into the brush along the creek he stopped and engaged three targets from one location, reloaded and moved about twelve paces where he again took out three targets from one position, reloaded again as he raced on, and hit the last two targets at about

thirty-five and forty yards from the finish line. His score on the Comstock Count was the highest of the day by a wide margin.

Most of us stopped to fire at each target individually, or possibly two at the most, which cost valuable time. On the other hand, Ray only stopped three times after he crossed the starting line, to hit a total of eight targets! He ran a little slower than some of the younger men, but his superior game plan made it easy for him to turn in the high score. We had some really good practical pistoleros in the class, but this one illustration is a perfect example of how we all benefited by Ray Chapman's many years of competition experience.

A number of the shooters in the class were planning to attend the 1978 IPSC National Match the following month, so the last two days were spent in going over the four courses that made up the combined event. The Modified Advanced Military, the Quick and Dirty, the Unique Mover, and the Modified Cooper Assault were all practiced, analyzed, and shot for score.

During this part of the program points were awarded and then totaled at the end of the last day. Chappie Gennett of Asheville, North Carolina proved to be the top pistolero at the end of the week. In recognition of his outstanding performance Chappie was presented a special certificate attesting to his accomplishment.

All in all, our week long stay at the Ray Chapman Academy of Practical Shooting proved to be entertaining and very educational. I think every shooter came away feeling that he or she had sharpened their skills and gained some valuable insights on how to properly prepare for competitive participation in freestyle practical pistol shooting.



A DAY AT COLT'S

(Continued from page 23)

The slide pulling grooves traditionally have the sharp edge of their "V" pointing toward the front. The back of the tooth then tapers off to the base of the next tooth. What Harry had done was set-up so that these grooves were reversed and the sharp edge was to the rear of the slide. The user of the pistol would find his fingers slipped off the grooves just as badly if not worse, than they had with the old "U" section grooves. While all this seems basic, much like running your finger over a saw in both directions; the reverse groove is not easy to spot. Harry didn't notice it; the operator didn't either. The other machine operators who finished the slide, adding the rear sight dovetail and the front sight cut, didn't

notice it. The bench filer didn't spot it, the final assembler still put the slides on frames and stamped them each with a serial number, thus uniting each frame to a faulty slide. Even the highly trained polisher passed Harry's mistake on to the bluing department. The test firing was done without the tester noticing that the slide slipped a little through his fingers. Surely final inspection will catch the goof. Let's see what Colt has to say about inspection at its plant. Quoting from Colt's "A Century of Achievement — 1836-1936"

"Well the gun has been built, assembled, tested. Only one more thing is necessary and then the gun is ready to go to the shipping room and be a full fledged Colt. That one thing is inspection, inspection with a capital I. And so from the Shooting Gallery, their signed targets accompanying them, Colt firearms go to the inspection room where a veteran of

long years goes over them with a fine tooth comb. He looks them over thoroughly, gauges certain fittings, ranges them again, checks action, trigger pull and literally mothers them like they were lost orphans. If they pass final inspection, and 9/10ths of them will, they are put into stock in the shipping room, wrapped in soft tissue and boxed. A Colt has to earn its V.P. — "the verified proof" mark. It is truly a badge of perfection with the final inspectors strike on after they have given an arm a clean bill and a license to go out into the world and uphold the Colt reputation for building the world's finest handguns. But a Colt has to earn it. It must pass every test, each inspection by a good margin or else the V.P. does not go on. The V.P. mark is held in high honor by Colt workmen. They know better than anyone else, that when a firearm finally gets its V.P. it is a true Colt — a thoroughbred."

Well, this article is about two of Harry's thoroughbreds that got their coveted V.P. but they had their slide pulls reversed.

The Colt pocket automatic pistol, factory Model M, Caliber .32 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol), serial number 393850 was shipped on July 29, 1921 to J.L. Galef Co. New York, New York.

The Colt pocket automatic pistol, factory Model M, Caliber .380 ACP, serial number 59436 was shipped on September 3, 1921 to Simmons Hardware Co. St. Louis, Missouri. (It is ironic that Colt's new president Stone had been a salesman for this same Simmons Hardware.)

My mythical Harry may never have known that he made a real rarity that long ago day in May; but if he did, I would like to tell him that the two pistols shoot fine and are safe, and except for their slide pulls, are examples of Colt's beautiful workmanship of yesteryear. Thanks, Harry. Everybody has a bad day now and then; certainly nobody's perfect. In fact, in proof of the above, I can see from where I'm sitting, two automatics with little V.P.s on their trigger guards that fooled all of you fifty some years ago.



MAB PISTOLS

(Continued from page 46)

MODEL F

To resume: back in the 1950's there appeared a new MAB pistol: the .22 LR known, as readers may have guessed, as model F. Production of this first .22 LR Mab pistol was to last until 1963. It was available in 4 different barrel lengths: 4", 4½", 6" and 7". The rear sight is laterally adjustable, the front sight vertically adjustable. The shape of the stock is not unlike that of the Colt Woodsman.

THE R SERIES

Roughly at the same time there appeared an R series of pistols, available in different calibers: .22 short, .22 LR, .32 ACP, 7.65 long MAS, .380 auto, 9mm Luger. Not unwisely at the time, the manufacturer switched on to two military calibers: the 9mm Luger (the first 9mm French made submachine gun was first issued in 1949) and the 7.65 long. The latter remained a typically French caliber, used by the French expeditionary Forces in Indo-China (the 1st Viet-Nam war!). Incidentally, this caliber had been chosen not for reasons of accuracy etc. . . . but simply because the French MAS 38 submachine gun was chambered for this (poor) round.

An interesting feature on the R pistols is the exposed hammer, replacing the internal striker of previous models. Another is a new device: after the last round has been fired the slide remains open, and cannot slide forward again unless a

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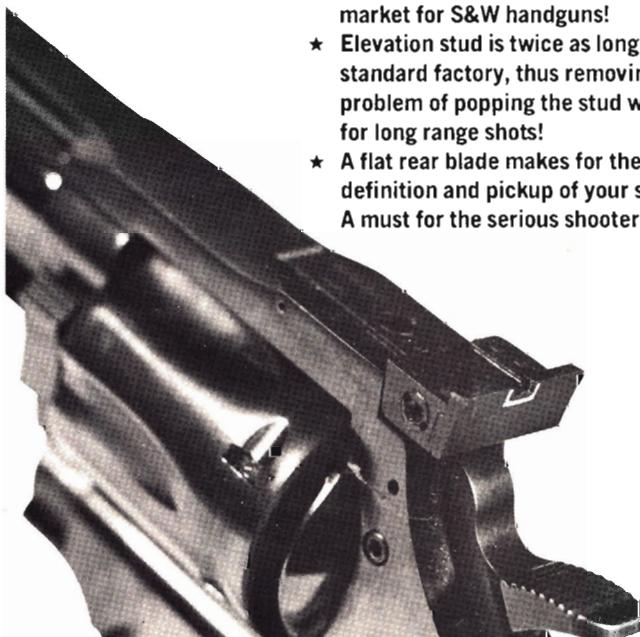
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A black and white photograph of a brass key gun kit. It includes a key-shaped handle, a hammer, and a trigger mechanism. The price is listed as \$24.00 plus 5% tax in CA. The company name is Fernwood Gun Supply, Inc., located in Danville, CA 94526. The text also mentions it's a 18 Caliber Assembly-Shoots.

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new magazine (loaded or unloaded) is snapped in place. This is more clever than the device on the Beretta M.934 whose slide moves stupidly forward when the magazine is removed. On these R models, there is a magazine safety: unless a magazine has been positioned, the hammer cannot be cocked, percussion cannot take place, the slide cannot be operated (not that if hammer has been cocked BEFORE magazine has been removed, the slide CAN slide back). The usual safety catch is of course to be found in the front part of the front of left grip; lots of users get rid of this catch, as they consider an external hammer far superior to any other type of safety device.

Production lasted for twelve years.

Each of these military or police calibers R pistols (.32 auto, 7.65 long, .380 and 9 mm) comes in a different barrel length, with fixed sights; the .22 short or LR R pistols were available in three different barrel lengths: 4½", 6¾" and 7¾" (114, 173 and 186 mm). The 4½ bbl R pistol was marketed in the U.S.A. by the Winfield Arms Corp. of Los Angeles under the name of "le Chasseur" (the Hunter). On the grips of these pistols, the well-known trade-mark has been transformed into W.A.C. It did not sell well in a country that was already well supplied with excellent .22 autoloaders.

THE G.Z. MODEL

Contemporary with the R series is the GZ model: this is a pocket model with a 3½" barrel, external hammer and a light-alloy frame. It differs from the C model in having a take-down catch on the left side for disassembly. The GZ comes in three different calibers: .22 LR, .25 auto and .32 ACP. It was mainly meant for export; since 1962 it has been made under contract by Echave Y Arizmendi, in Spain. The trade mark on the slide is *Echasa Eibar (Espana)*.

THE P.15 STANDARD MODEL

Though a few MAB pistols had so far been marketed both in the U.S.A. and Europe, the MAB P.15 was to make the firm famous. In 1966 the firm began to hatch a large 9mm Luger 15 round pistol with a 4.6" barrel (unloaded weight, without magaine, 1110 grammes, i.e., 39 oz.), known as the MAB P15, later as the MAB P.15 Standard. All metal parts are steel; the checkered grips, much to my regret are hard plastic, not walnut. The pistol closely resembles the Browning HP, which was practically impossible to avoid. The P.15 differs from small caliber pistols in some mechanical details: the barrel does not remain locked to the slide until the bullet has left the barrel as it does on other large caliber pistols. On the P.15 as the bullet forces its way out of the barrel, it creates a twisting action opposite to the twist in the barrel. This causes the barrel locking lugs to engage the locking shoulder in the slide. Resulting pressure is partly kept up while the

bullet is still in the barrel. After this locking action is over, pressure from the cartridge case against the slide forces it back; the barrel is rotated and thus unlocked from the slide. The slide then moves back, which causes case ejection. This type of action has been aptly termed *delayed blowback*; this system is to be found on the old 1912 Steyr-Hahn pistol and .380 auto Czech pistols, and is generally considered as unusual in pistols shooting such cartridges (involving high pressure) as the 9mm Luger. (1)

THE P.15 P.A.P.

At the time this could be considered as a good combat weapon. The problem now was to modify it into a match model. The resulting pistol was the P.15 F1 ou P.A.P. (pistolet automatique de précision). The barrel length is now almost 6", not 4.6", the small ramp front sight is replaced by a partridge type front sight; a windage and elevation adjustable micrometer rear-sight is added. Some users have found this rear sight a trifle too high, a fault the makers should easily correct.

The modified version of the standard P.15 has an adjustable trigger. In conclusion I may say that this P.A.P. is a real match pistol, designed for well-trained shooters. Where the standard version is perfectly accurate at 15 yards, good at 25/30 yds and has an effective range of 50/60 yds, with the P.15 F1 very good precision goes up to 50/60 yards. Just as Colt's Gold Cup National Match pistol is designed for competition ammo with lighter bullets and a lighter load of powder than the old M.1911 .45 round (230 grs), the P.15 F1 is designed to shoot the French F1 match ammo: this is a fully jacketed semi-wad cutter bullet, data: 115 grs and 1080 ft/sec instead of 126 grs and 1240 ft/sec of the regular cartridge in the P.15's Standard's 4½ barrel). Accuracy of course decreases with the regular military round just as it does when used in the *Gold Cup*. But, mercifully, careful shooters may resort to handloading (or reloading) in order to obtain the best possible round. Both the Standard and F1 version of this pistol are in production; only the latter is now in service with the French Army, State Police and Air Force.

As a conclusion I may point out that though this small firm in Bayonne started with very ordinary pistols for the French domestic trade, sixty years ago, the firm has now started on what might well be an international career, with 

'In 1966 MAB produced and sold an 8 round pistol, the P.8, almost identical with the P.15, though the grip is .23" shorter and, of course, flatter: 1.28" instead 1.44". This P.8 was quickly discarded, and is just mentioned here for the sake of accuracy.'

OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER AWARDS

NEWSLETTER

★ O.A.H.A. FOUNDATION, INC. 30016 S. RIVER ROAD • MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN 48045 ★

The growth of the handgunning sports over the past couple of years has been nothing short of phenomenal. The increasing numbers of participants in practical pistol or combat shooting has surprised even the founders of this sport. And who would have believed that handgunners would take to shooting at steel rams, chickens and sheep; well they have, by the thousands. Target shooting still draws thousands of handgunners to ranges from coast to coast, and nobody has yet been able to estimate the number of handgun plinkers.

The rapid growth of all of these handgun shooting sports should be reflected in the membership of the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation. The reflection is there, but it is still rather dim. I suspect, however, that it will grow brighter shortly before and right after the Annual Awards Banquet in San Antonio this May 19th.

There were some who were not about to join because their particular handgun interest was not given recognition. Well, if you'll take a look at the 1979 nominees, you'll see not only every handgun sport represented, but a definite move away from the clique image that past lists of nominees presented.

The growing number of members who attend the annual banquet is also an indication that the Foundation is meeting the needs of its

members. The door and raffle prizes awarded at these annual affairs not only provide much enjoyment, they also reflect the increased support given the foundation by the firearms industry.

All of this is leading to one thought; the Foundation must grow in order to meet the growing needs of its members. We have generated a damn fine membership list over the past several years, but some of the annual members either forgot to renew or they have what they feel is a legitimate reason for not maintaining their membership. I hope this newsletter will act as a gentle reminder to those who have forgotten — let's get back on the roles now, before we forget once again.

To those who left the fold for some reason or another, we'd like to hear from you. We can't change to meet your needs if we don't know what's eating at you.

If you are a member, you can help by clipping the coupon on this page and keeping it in your wallet; then the next time one of your shooting buddies asks what he can do to help give the handgun sports the recognition they deserve, just hand him the coupon. And if you need more membership applications, just ask us. We'll be happy to send as many as you require.

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Handgun Hunting

GEORGE BREDSTEN

PRE-HUNT PREPARATION — PART II WOODCRAFT, FIELD CRAFT OR BUSHCRAFT IT CAN MEAN MORE GAME

Depending upon the geographical location and according to whom you are listening, woodcraft is also or otherwise referred to as bushcraft or fieldcraft. Regardless of the noun used, it (woodcraft) is generally understood to include the entire gamut of human skills necessary for successful recreational existence or emergency survival while voluntarily or involuntarily restricted to more or less remote and uninhabited areas. Even though a person's woodcraft will normally be tested/used during a recreational existence situation; it should not be forgotten that during an emergency, woodcraft excellence can mean and has meant the difference between life and death. Some of the more useful skills are: making cord, rope, and tying appropriate knots; building shelter; starting and maintaining a fire; finding water; determining time and direction; fishing, hunting, trapping and other methods of locating and obtaining food.

While all of the foregoing skills are important, the present concern is with that aspect of woodcraft dealing with the handgunner's sport hunting strategy and tactics. One should first remember that the species hunted and the method or manner of hunting will often impose certain limitations as to the type and degree of woodcraft that can be used. If this basic precept is both understood and accepted, many so-called 'difficulties and/or frustrations of the hunt' can be neatly avoided. Using deer hunting as the example, what are the sport hunting methods that can be used and what factors of game habits and habitat need be known and considered?

Although hunters in other localities may use different names to denote the methods herein discussed, there are but three basic methods (driving, still/stand hunting, and stalking) used in the sport hunting of deer. Due to situational convenience or tactical necessity, many sophisticated and some not so sophisticated variations of these methods are used. Each method and the myriad variations can be used to successfully hunt deer, but fortunately no single method or variation thereof is always successful.

Driving. This is primarily a hunting method used in the Southern States — it is used elsewhere — and while group success is generally moderate to high, a given hunter's success is often the result of chance and position. This is due to the fact that once a hunter is posted, it is a rule — written or not — that he remains on and about the assigned position until the drive is completed. It follows that deer may or may not be driven to or by any given position.

What with the number of hunters (both those posted and those functioning as drivers), the density of the flora, and the general direction of the drive (towards the posted hunters), it is not surprising to note that the most popular hunting arm is the shotgun. Many hunters use the shotgun as a matter of choice, but in certain areas it is the only type of deer hunting firearm permitted by law. Incidentally, in some States dogs can be used to course deer, and this is but a variation on a theme wherein dogs, instead of people, are used to make the drive. Of course, there is the added benefit of the canine musicale for those who appreciate the voice of the hound!

During typical drive hunting conditions, many — if not most — opportunities for a shot will be at a moving deer with the vital area intermittently screened by intervening media. Under such conditions very few handgunningers have the skill to make a first shot vital hit and fewer still can muster the self-restraint needed to forgo a safe but questionable shot opportunity. Consequently, even where and when a handgun can be legally used, this is one method of hunting where the handgun should not be chosen/used as a preferred hunting arm.

Stand/Still Hunting. Whether in or behind a blind, at ground level or ten to sixty feet above ground, the effort to effectively remain silent and motionless is something many hunters find physically and/or mentally difficult. Any hunter who, by choice or inclination, prefers to hunt this way should be able to exercise a great amount of patience and he ought to have his powers of observation highly

developed. Without patience and accurate observation, it matters not that the hunter's knowledge of game habits and habitat is excellent, the hunt is apt to still prove unsuccessful.

Poor patience causes many hunters to do one or two things, either of which is a mistake and likely to insure the game animal a safe passage or retreat. The first mistake, and probably the one most often made, involves unnecessary hunter movement. Such movement can produce a sound or sounds that the game animal will detect, react to as if dangerous and then leave the area. Not all sounds cause game to react adversely, but rest assured the clicking of cartridge cases, the rasping of synthetic material or the striking of a match can and will serve to warn any game animal of potential danger.

If an incorrect/careless approach to a blind is made, the best blind in the world and the ability to sit as if one had gazed upon the face of Medusa is all for naught. Many hunters are ignorant of or choose to disregard the factor of human scent left on/near the ground as they walk to their blind. Should this scent drift or otherwise be in close proximity to game trails, the stand hunter might as well play a game of solitaire. Awareness of the human scent will cause most game to use great care and *not* continue on as originally started. This means game animals will go anywhere but in the direction of the blind.

The second mistake stand hunters quite often make is to see nothing. This hunter malady manifests itself in two forms. The first being where the hunter is unable to recognize or identify an animal unless the animal is visible in its entirety. The inability to spot an animal, when only a small part of the animal is visible, causes many hunters to think there is no game in the immediate vicinity. This sets the stage for the epitome of hunter inattention! Because the hunter sees nothing, he concludes no game is or will be in the area and he then puts his mind in neutral and 'day dreams.' The stand hunter in such a condition will not even be able to see moving game, unless such game makes abrupt and/or erratic moves. It is not unusual for this type of hunter to be taken by surprise — becoming aware of a game animal only after it has moved almost completely across the observation cone of the blind. Other hunters, after leaving a blind, are sometimes shocked to discover sign where game has moved past the blind while the hunters were off on cloud nine.

The other form of hunter malady is unfortunately one which on occasion results in hunter injury/death. In this situation the person is so intent on seeing game that he will hallucinate the animal. How is this possible? It can happen as a result of different catalytic or precipitative natural occurring events; e.g., one hunter pauses to wipe his brow with a

handkerchief, another person mentally views the motion as that of a deer whisking its tail and without further ado shoots. Apparently, the desire/wish to see a deer is so great that a 'deer' is visualized (image formed on the retina) while actually looking at a human.

The foregoing type persons are rare and not to be confused with those who are, plain and simply, irresponsible. The irresponsible person does not intend to shoot people, nor does he hallucinate a deer when looking at a person. However, the irresponsible person causes much grief because he thinks nothing of shooting signs, locks, abandoned buildings, and even livestock. As a matter of routine, he practices the inexcusable ac-

tivity of 'sound' shooting; i.e., he hears a noise — the originator of which cannot be determined — and almost without pause he shoots hoping it will be hit and that it will be legal game! Such hunting incompetents would do everyone a favor if, instead of hunting, they would take up a discipline/study like Confucianism. You will note that nowhere have these persons been referred to as hunters. They may hunt, but they do not deserve to be called hunters.

Stalking. Incorrectly but often called 'still' hunting — due to the usual requirement for relatively silent movement — stalking is actually deliberate but slow hunter movement intended to bring about an opportunity for a reasonable

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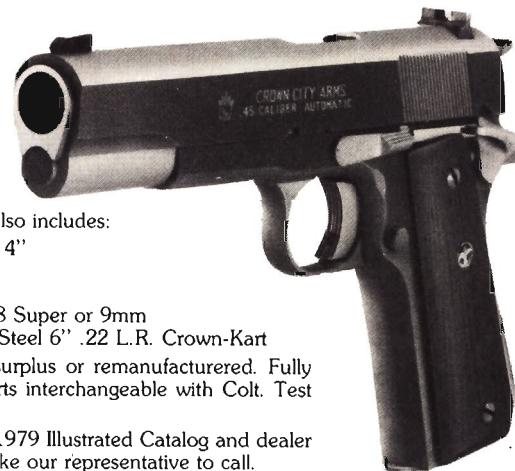
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Such things as hunting into or across the wind, moving with the sun either directly behind or at least obliquely behind the hunter, moving parallel to a game trail or game foraging area while at the same time remaining inside the peripheral areas that allow concealment, and periodically checking one's back trail can all help in making the hunt a success. There are other factors which can also be considered by the hunter, but as is the case with the stand hunter, the key to successful stalking also requires patience and accurate observation.

Yet, when all is said and done, the single most crucial factor is handgunner marksmanship, and this topic will be discussed in the next issue of *The American Handgunner*.



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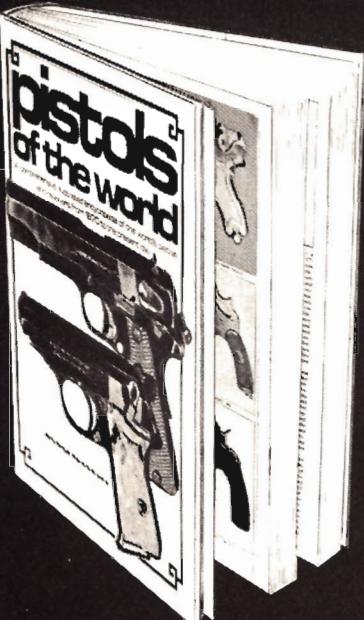
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Sight Settings

LUCY CHAMBLISS

PPC VERSUS NRA COURSES CONTROVERSY AND WHAT'S NEW AT NRA

During the NRA Pistol Committee meetings in Orlando last October, several "Practical" Pistol Courses were submitted to us for NRA sanction. The courses seemed complex, and since four were submitted without full details and needed information, the committee asked that additional information, and preferably one standard course be submitted at the committee's meeting in 1979. About 4 years ago I corresponded with Jeff Cooper on his new courses and ever since then I have sincerely tried to understand and perhaps interest myself in shooting these courses. However, looking over the Denver Assault Course, the Los Alamitos Pistol Match Course, the Flying M Course, and others, one thought keeps coming to me. What are we trying to accomplish with these? Develop a sport or teach guerrilla warfare? We cannot do both with the general public participating, without losing the little ground the recognized sport of shooting has gained. Some argue the assault courses are more challenging; I'm not so sure. The fact that law enforcement-target shooting champions such as Harry Reeves, Bill Toney, Frank May and others lived through REAL LIFE assault courses in their careers and survived to enjoy retirement, speaks well for "just old target shooting." I know the other implications, I have done my political homework, and also, I am not just a city dweller. I could both ride a horse and shoot before I was 10. I was raised in the country, near a lake, where daily when we pushed our rowboat out, we killed either a cottonmouth moccasin, a coral snake, or a rattlesnake, but I don't want to shoot snakes in competition! I want the respect, the challenge and the standardization of shooting the same course of fire that someone else is shooting, in Seattle, Seoul, or Canton. Perhaps it's pride of uniformity, like wanting to drive a Chevrolet, or a Jeep, rather than a car made out of junk yard parts. Evidently others feel the same, or they would not be seeking NRA sanction for their courses.

The complaints that NRA courses are fired to "perfection and boredom" are

legitimate. I am the first to agree, it takes too long to change things in the NRA. I worked for and voted for changing the time limits in Match 1 of the combat course, to at least 20 seconds, or 15 seconds, from the present 25. Seventy perfect national records scores in this event were too many, I thought, and others told me. But no one took the time to write me, or the committee chairman, so the motion in Jackson to update Match 1, was defeated by 14-2. Reasoning being that the committee had not written or live testimony that the shooters wanted it changed, except two of us. Stagnation of some NRA competition has caused other

"Some argue the assault courses are more challenging; I'm not so sure."

organizations and new courses to be started. I still think for safety, public credibility, enjoyment, and fairness, NRA courses are the best. However, when guns, ammo, and equipment are improved, if the NRA is to be the leader, they must listen quickly to competitors, and you competitors must "write it up." Sometimes we'll still lose, but I'll keep trying if you'll help me.

Pistol competitors at Perry asked the Pistol Committee to improve on the long waits between relays at the nationals, so the committee adopted the idea for 1979, of shooting one 900 aggregate before leaving the line. I can't see any disadvantage to this system as far as Perry weather is concerned, I have seen a 20 degree drop in temperature and 20 mph wind increase before a rapid fire relay could get through. Many places shoot a 2700 in one day with few breaks and I personally like shooting a full 150 shot combat aggregate before leaving the line. I like the same weather conditions, same level of physical reserve and mental out-

look that comes with beginning and finishing an aggregate without interruption.

NRA pistol and range committees are studying ways to improve toxic gas control and noise in indoor ranges, two hazards closing some ranges around the country. I wish Florida had more indoor ranges, I think we have 3, but there are many cold, windy, rainy days when shooting outdoors in Florida is a farce . . . ask the Mid-Winter Matches shooter. Indoor ranges could attract families shooting at night also. I fired on one of the Quantico indoor ranges last fall and it is beautiful, good lighting, excellent ventilation and electric target carriers to bring the targets back where the spectators can enjoy the sport. Earlier in May, I fired a combat regional at the indoor Secret Service range in Beltsville, Maryland, and thought what a shame that such ranges are not made available to we taxpayers more often. More public use of these ranges built with our tax dollars should be looked into higher up in the government structure. No one is more cooperative than military or government agency shooters, but their authority on range use is limited.

NRA's Education and Training Committee is working on Security Firearms Training and arrangements may be made for use of more range facilities to train these guards. I am glad the NRA is not overlooking this growing big business. I think it will continue to grow and have need for more experienced firearms experts. There are just not enough public law enforcement officers to be everywhere people want them, so private security is booming. I recently received certification from Virginia to teach firearms training to security guards while I spend my vacations there. The amount of training for these guards still may be not adequate but is improving and will get better with NRA know-how. However, and I voted for it, the LEA Committee wants security training kept separate from the current NRA Police Training Section and has asked that the staff in that section not be used for security guard training. The committee thinks NRA's first duty with that staff is to public law enforcement. There will be 16 NRA Police Firearms Instructors Schools in 1979. Seattle, Pocatello, Donelson, Tenn., and Petersburg, Va. will have schools in May and June.

I will be attending two committee meetings before the next column, Women's Policies and the LEA, the latter to discuss rules for automatics in NRA matches, should have some news after that for you. Meanwhile, let your representative in NRA know what you want and what you think. You make a difference. Hope to see many of you in San Antonio, May 18-22 for the Annual Meetings.

Lucy

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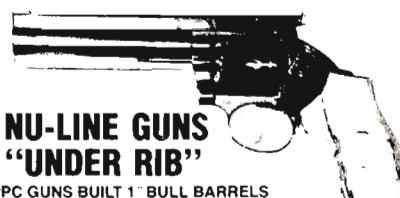
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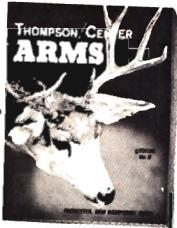
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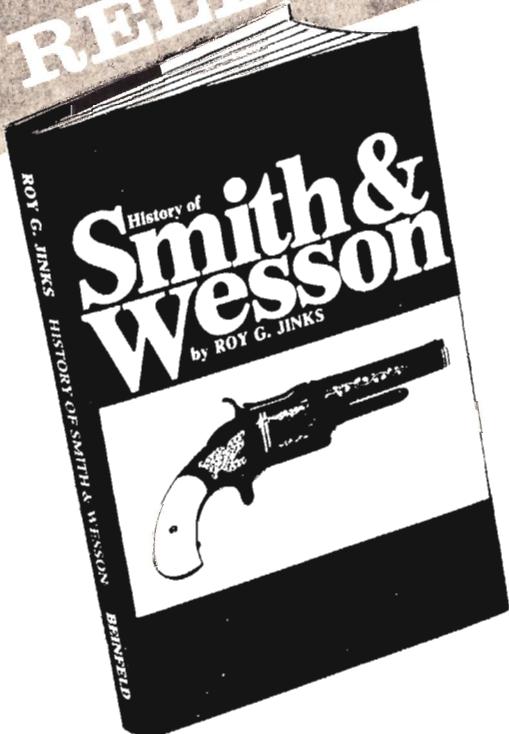
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1. Although many are still in use, we discontinued our old model single-action revolvers in 1973 when we introduced our history-making, patented "New Model" revolvers. The internal mechanism of our New Model single-action revolvers is entirely new and is not subject to the limitations on use listed above for the old model. Both models look alike, but the New Model has the words "NEW MODEL" marked on the frame and has only two visible pins in the side of the frame instead of three screws as in the old model.
2. Some of the other brands of old style single-action revolvers, particularly those of foreign manufacture, have added various manual "safeties" which may or may not be reliable. Even if it functions properly, a manual safety device is no safer than the person using it. It is useless if it is not used, or if it is used improperly by mistake.

Why Are We Telling You This?

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