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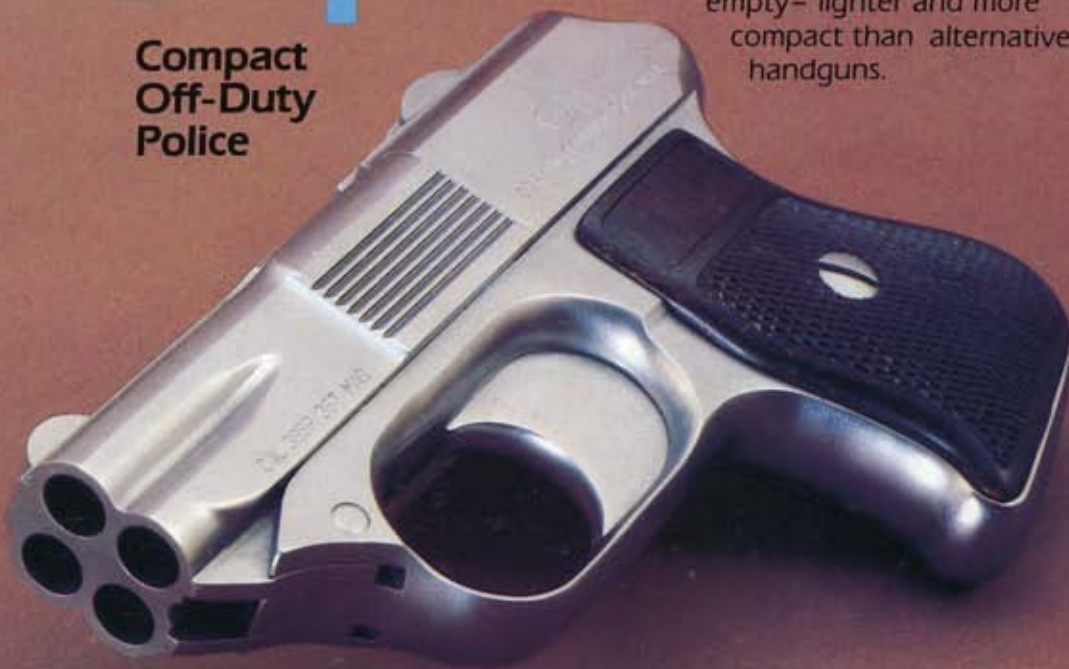
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CENTER SPREAD: American Handgunner Print For Framing ... S&W Model 29, Colt Gold Cup .45 and Knife By Loveless; all Stocked With Matched Ivory. Photo by John Kleinman.

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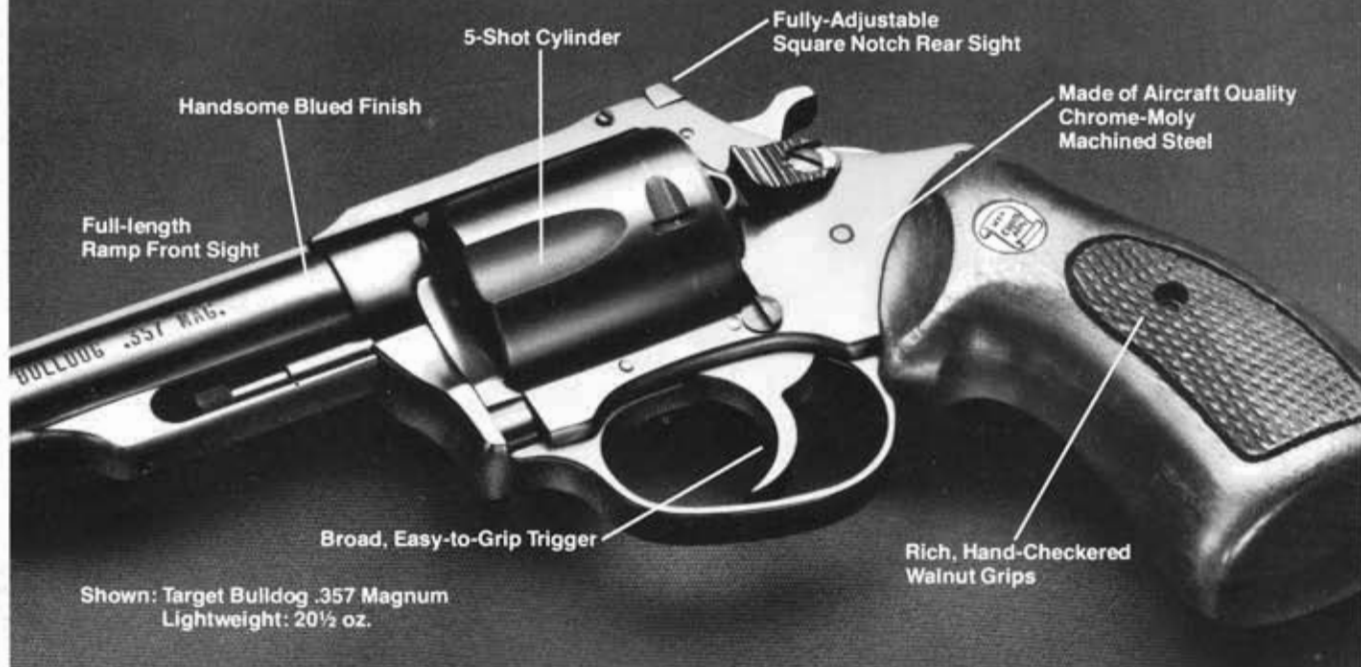
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

A NEW HANDGUN FOR THE MILITARY... THE PLOT THICKENS

This is the worst time to be writing a column about gun industry gossip, because the lid on all the newbies is clamped down tight pending announcements at the SHOT Show for dealers only in January.

Still, there's always dribs and drabs... and the occasional scoop that comes out of season. Stop the presses: a domestic gun company that doesn't make pistols (yet) has a prototype of a new ultra-compact, high-capacity 9mm parabolium. More than one prototype, in fact.

What brings a rifle maker into the combat pistol business? Well, it's no secret that the market for such firearms has never been bigger, but that's only a part of the

P-35s, Smith & Wesson has offered steel frame Model 59s, and Colt has reportedly tossed in some of the supposedly non-existent stainless double action autos. Beretta has produced a modified 9mm that has scored extraordinarily well in the tests

The new military auto will probably be double action, compact, in 9mm and will have multiple firepower.

"This rifle/shotgun maker figures the military market is in pistols this season and that's where they're going."

reason. The real explanation may be found at a certain Air Force base in Florida, where tests are being conducted on a tri-service basis to select the new U.S. Military sidearm.

This, apparently, isn't a flash in the pan type thing like the turn-of-the-fifties test that, though results were dumped by the military, resulted in the development of Smith & Wesson's Model 39 and Colt's Commander. Back then, the army figured there were too many 1911A1 .45s stock piled to make a new pistol economically sensible.

That argument no longer works. The services haven't bought new .45s in decades, insiders say, and the existing guns are getting pretty decrepit. The word from the Pentagon, supposedly, is not that the military will buy new guns if they find one they like; but that the decision has already been made. The United States WILL have a new service pistol, and it WILL be a 9mm! Insiders report that almost certainly it will also be double action with an ambidextrous safety and high magazine capacity.

Browning has submitted specially made

thus far, and Heckler & Koch has submitted at least two of their guns (the VP70Z 18-shot, and the P9S, which is said to be standing up better than its high capacity sister pistol), and will doubtless offer the P7 (formerly PSP) as well.

Into this arena comes our long-gun maker, because we are talking about fat, fat contracts here. There is little or no money to be made designing and hoping to sell military rifles. Heaven knows. Colt has the M-16 market locked right up. One branch of the service is yelling for a return to the 7.62mm assault rifle and has had the request tentatively OK'd. It will begin with adoption of a full power battle rifle for "special purposes," and, the generals hope, will soon escalate to the point where the .308 machine gun is standard equipment and the M-16 is relegated to special assignments. It is no secret that Pentagons with combat experience don't think much of a .223 for fighting a European land war. Indeed, there are reliable reports that several thousand European-made 7.62mm assault rifles have already been ordered, and that they will be evaluated by this branch of the service and, very likely, be used to actually equip certain American combat forces in Europe. This gun is undoubtedly either the Belgian FN/FAL or the West German G-3. We honestly can't tell you which. It may be significant that H&K, producer of the G-3, is breaking ground for a U.S. factory, but company executives insist that the Virginia facility will be for semi-auto sporting guns only.

That's neither here nor there. This rifle/shotgun maker figures the military market

is in pistols this season, and that's where they're going. The new gun may not be ready by the time the tests are completed, though, since they're getting a late start... and if that happens, the Model 39 and Commander stories may repeat themselves and give the American shooting public a fine new handgun.

This new little item is nice. From the side, it looks like nothing else on the market. From the front, it resembles nothing so much as a slightly upscaled Raven .25 auto. From the bottom, the semi-staggered magazine is reminiscent of a Behlert Mini-Combat conversion of a Browning P-35 or Smith 59.

It looks and feels like a .380 pocket auto with a thick butt. Despite the shortened grip, the staggered magazine holds 10 Luger rounds. The "proto" we saw was single action, but DA will probably be mandatory for service adoption. It has a moving barrel—we can't go into detail without jeopardizing their patents—but accuracy is expected to be phenomenal, due to other novelties in the design.

Accurate and easy to shoot, it will duplicate service pistol performance in a pocket pistol-size package, and everyone knows how much today's military prizes compactness. Its short barrel won't be a handicap with military ammo, since the minor difference in velocity between it and a four- or five-inch only matters if you're shooting hollowpoints that have to expand. With 9mm hardball, the reduced velocity may even be an advantage, making it likelier that the jacketed slug will stop inside an enemy soldier's body, thus transmitting more energy than a faster bullet would if it zipped all the way through.

That's all we can divulge on this one for now, but we'll keep you posted.

It's probably in order to explain a bit about the SHOT Show. As you may or may not know, it was organized last year by a dedicated group of gun-industry people who figured out that the standard, big trade gun show of the year... NSGA (National Sporting Goods Association) wasn't paying enough attention to the firearms world. The fine NSGA bash, some felt was losing the gunmakers in a midst of skis, tennis balls and golf clubs. Maybe they're right. Besides, only dealers got to show their wares at the NSGA.

SHOT, the Shooting and Hunting Outdoor Trade Show, was an instant success in its 1978 St. Louis debut, and will be 1979 history in San Francisco by the time you read this. Many gunmakers and accessory producers have already written off NSGA (who needs the standard "Chicago in February" scheduling anyway?) and committed themselves exclusively to the SHOT event. We'll publish info about next year's in plenty of time for those able to attend. It's a tour-de-force of the modern firearms world. Of course, NSGA is still a most worthwhile take-in.



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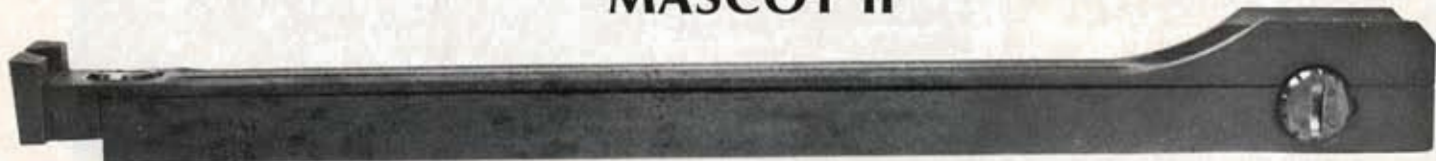
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JEFF COOPER

THE WORLD PRACTICAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SOUTH AFRICA 1979

Pistol competition is highly variegated. If one were to ask "Who is the world's best pistol shot?", he would get several answers, depending upon whom he questioned. The many different kinds of pistol competition are such that each man would tend to put forward his own candidate, depending upon what kind of pistol competition he enjoys.

There is, however, an answer to this. The practical pistol competition program developed over the past ten years throughout

general practioner in the specialist's own discipline, but the general practitioner is the champion of many disciplines and thus occupies the position senior to that of the specialist. If you were asked, "Who is the world's best driver?" you might respond with, "What sort of driving do you mean?"—but that would be the wrong answer. The world's best driver is the current Formula One champion of the world, just as the world's best pistol shot is the current I.P.S.C. champion.



the free world, and now organized by the International Practical Shooting Confederation, affords an insight into what might be called "general pistolcraft" as opposed to slowfire, I.S.U., P.P.C., or what have you. Practical pistol competition includes all of the other disciplines, just as Formula One driving includes all the skills necessary for success in the various forms of motor racing, from the dragstrip to the banked oval. The specialist may defeat the

There may be 300 really good general pistol shots in the entire world—depending, of course, upon one's standards. I would estimate that over 100 of those showed up at the World Practical Pistol Championships held in Roodepoort, R.S.A., on 10-19 September 1979. The entry list comprised 185 contestants from fifteen nations, but some of those may not be considered in the top category; and unfortunately there were a few who found

the trip to South Africa just too much of an enterprise for their exchequer. Still, the very best practitioners—with a few exceptions—were present. They were able to meet each other in thirteen different types of contests in order to qualify for a main event in which they met each other shoulder-to-shoulder in a man-against-man shoot-off. This was the greatest single pistol marksmanship event ever held, and those of us who were there can be sure that we saw heights of pistolcraft never before developed in the history of weapons.

Of the 185 contestants competing at Roodepoort, some 30 may be considered to be "International AA Practical Pistol Masters." From among those 30 we now can point out three who stand as the double-distilled, five-star, gold-plated, masters of the pistol. Not surprisingly they placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the World Championships, and they are so good as to constitute a small class unto themselves. They are Jimmy von Sorgenfrei of South Africa, Raul Walters of the United States, and Ross Seyfried of the United States.

Pistolcraft is afflicted with what might be called "big frogism." Anyone who is pretty good is so much better than the people in his immediate circle of acquaintance as to be thought magical by them. What is important is to bring these big frogs together in a big puddle and see which one is really the world's "top toad." This was done in South Africa in September, and we now do have the answer.

The imposing thing about the 1979 World Championships—apart from the fantastic skill levels demonstrated—was the luxurious layout furnished by the South African hosts. The South African Practical Shooting Association (SAPSA) was the official organizer of the occasion. In addition there was lavish support from the South African Ministry of Sport and Recreation, and from the City of Roodepoort itself. A previously local facility was expanded, developed, and polished into a huge complex of shooting ranges suitable for a major international competition. Administration was on an order never before seen in this kind of activity and its magnitude may be understood when one realizes that there were 55 uniformed range officers on duty. (In the past we have been lucky to muster a dozen for any given contest.) The problem is that people who know enough about practical shooting to officiate are almost always enthusiastic competitors, and it becomes very difficult to insist that they do not compete in a match held on their own bailiwick. SAPSA, however, wields sufficient authority to conduct a complex and efficient seeding process which insured that the best South Africans would be competing, and most of the rest would be officiating. This paid off because the South African team won, whereas the U.S. team selection system simply did not choose the five best Americans as the U.S. team. That is an important weakness of the U.S. Region of I.P.S.C. at this time, and

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must be given attention in months to come. Unfortunately Americans do not tend to work together well as a team, and there is more factionalism and conflict between American shooters than cooperation.

The essence of practical shooting is diversity, and certainly there was a great deal of that in the World Championships. Ranges varied from five to 60 meters, and every phase of skill—from blinding speed to extreme precision—was tested. The courses were so many and so varied that no one can claim that he was subjected to any one sort of shooting challenge. It is annoying to hear people refer to "I.P.S.C.-style shooting" when what I.P.S.C. attempts to do is to test *all* styles, and not to become committed to any one. We had school exercises, we had maximum speed tests, we had walk-and-draw, we had obstacle courses, we had night shooting, we had house clearing, we had jungle shooting, and to top it off we had a man-against-man match run on a J-Ladder never before seen in international competition. There were those who felt that the shoot-off was just another course and therefore should not have been weighted as heavily as it was. In my opinion it should have been weighted *more* heavily, because conceptually the other thirteen courses were qualification for the main event. People who have not seen a man-against-man shoot-off may feel that marksmanship is just not a spectator sport. Let them reserve judgment until they have seen such a contest.

Two sorts of objections to the Championships were advanced, and should be considered. The first is that practical shooting competition has become such an athletic endeavor that it actually challenges one's track and field skills more than it does one's marksmanship. This is an exaggeration. It is true that one has to be strong, fast, and agile to compete in a major contest of this type. It's hard to consider this a valid objection to the program, however, since the practical pistol is used under very vigorous conditions, and these conditions should be simulated in the contest. Some of us old-timers must simply admit that we are not 25 years old anymore and that we're not about to win a war. On the other hand we should have the judgment to admit that if a man shoots as well as we do, under more difficult conditions than we can command, he is indeed the better shot.

The second objection is advanced by many Europeans who claim that the restricted nature of the European culture is such that such contests as this simply cannot be practiced for on their ranges, and that thus they will be bearing a permanent handicap against the Americans, the Africans, and the Australians. If this is true it is indeed regrettable, but I don't think it should constitute a reason for changing our format back to that of a sedentary, inactive, restricted sort of sport. The Europeans also have voiced the complaint that they can conveniently use only the 9mm

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cartridge, and that I.P.S.C. regulations giving a slight advantage to the major-caliber pistol are unfair to them. It is possible that the I.P.S.C. power-factoring system is "unfair." On the other hand personal combat—which is what practical shooting endeavors to simulate—is not fair either, if one shooter used a considerably more powerful weapon than his opponent. If we do not maintain power standards in I.P.S.C. we will degenerate to the level of the P.P.C.

The top sixteen qualifiers in the World Championships all used Colt 45 automatic pistols, the top 9mm placing eighteenth. Lest some rise up and declaim that the deck is stacked in favor of the large bore, we can on the one hand admit that indeed it is (to a certain extent) but on the other point out that anyone who places all his hits in the center of the target obtains exactly the same score with large or small caliber. It is the peripheral hits which favor the larger bore, and that is as it should be.

Most shooters in the Championships wore their pistols in holsters which will have to be characterized as unrealistic. To

"Most shooters in the Championships wore their pistols in holsters which will have to be characterized as unrealistic."

the extent that there can be anything such as a "competition holster" in existence the organizers of competition have erred. Practical shooting attempts to duplicate reality, and if a man enters a contest with a holster that he would not use on the street or on his farm, then something is wrong.

The glowing exception to the foregoing was the great American champion Ross Seyfried, who shot the entire course from a duty holster such as he wears upon his cattle ranch in Colorado. Later on in Rhodesia I had the privilege of hunting with Ross, and I was delighted to note that up there in the terrorist zone he was carrying the same pistol in the same holster he used in the match. When you recall that Ross won overall in the speed shoot, and won overall in the shoot-off, this achievement can be seen in its proper perspective. What it means is that practical holsters are not only the equivalent but can be the superior, of the unrealistic and overly specialized rigs that have become commonplace in recent years. Ross's triumph stands therefore in a very special category.

In the speed shoot the contestant was required to draw and place one shot on each of four targets, at a range of five meters, in two seconds. When the course was finished there were four contestants who had perfect scores, and they were

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required to compete again at greater distance. The four perfect scores were logged by Seyfried and Campbell of the United States, and Sorgenfrei and Ellingford of South Africa. Ross—*shooting from his duty rig*—won this match in the replay with a score of 59 by 60, one point off a possible. This was a spectacular achievement, and I hope it will serve as an example for many years to come.

To no one's great surprise the standard shooting position of practically all of the important people was some variation of the Weaver Stance. Those who believe that one hand is faster at short range should note that the four champions of the speed shoot shot every shot from Weaver. Very few shooters elected the kneeling stance in any but the field courses, and for distance the majority preferred the prone position. At intermediate distance—25 meters—it was about three to one in favor of Weaver, the others using a little extra time to get into a prone position. Thus one may conclude that the champions all used the Weaver stance at short range, and all used the prone position at long range. The majority will use Weaver at middle range, but a notable minority will pick prone even at midrange if the terrain permits.

After considerable discussion (much of which was unproductive), the International Council decided to hold the next World Championship in 1981 at the same

site. The overriding considerations here were that the range is there, the money has been spent, and the South Africans have not only the support but the experience needed to put on an event of this magnitude. Those who feel that the 1981 event should be held in the United States should remember that a contest of this sort will call for a budget of something over \$150,000, and that at this time we have no promise of that sort of money in the United States. For 1983 the site chosen by the council was the United Kingdom. The British feel that they will have their financial picture sorted out by that time, and we all wish them the very best. This will be facilitated by the fact that the new presi-

NOTES FROM IPSC

During the World Championship Matches in South Africa, the world body met for Confederation business. At the meeting, a new President was elected. Named was Steve Jahme-Smith, Flat 3, 10 Greenbank Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool IAW, England. IPSC will be headquartered in Liverpool. Jeff Cooper was named as an honorary lifetime Chairman.

The next World Championship will be held in 1981, again in South Africa. The 1983 event will be held in the United Kingdom.

dent of I.P.S.C., succeeding me in that office, is Steve Jahme-Smith of Liverpool. Steve is a good man of wide experience, and we hope that he will be able to solve the thorny problems of the world organization in a way that I have not been able to in the past. I wish him all possible success in his tenure of office, and I hope that all members of I.P.S.C. throughout the world will render him their full support.

It now falls upon those of us who are interested in practical shooting to develop a program of practical rifle to accompany what we have done with pistolcraft. Practical competition has taught us things about handguns that were unsuspected a generation ago. A similar program for the rifle will teach us fully as much and possibly more. The two disciplines should proceed side by side, and we are now regularly holding man-against-man rifle competition at Gunsite. Several practical rifle courses have become semistandard throughout the world, and the future of the sport looks very promising.

For the present let us all congratulate Jimmy von Sorgenfrei of Durban, Natal, R.S.A. as the fitting and proper Champion of The World. He was the first recipient of the Presidential Cup, on which are inscribed the names of Ray Chapman, Jan Foss, and David Westerhout. Jimmy now adds his name to that historic list.



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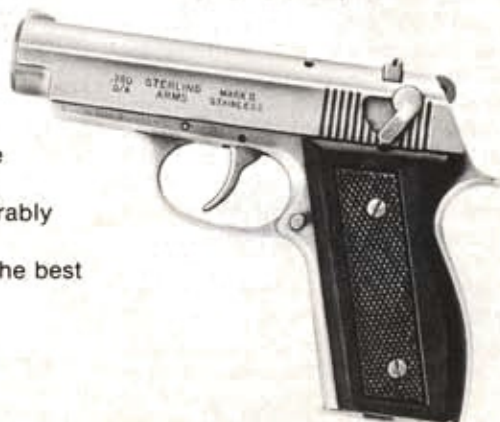
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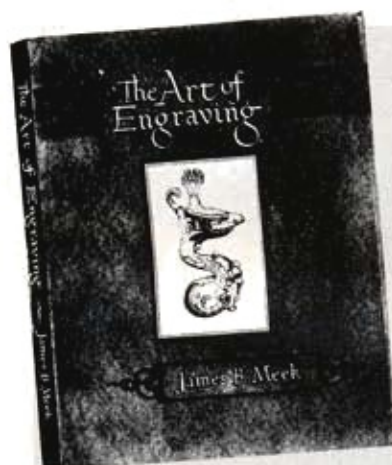
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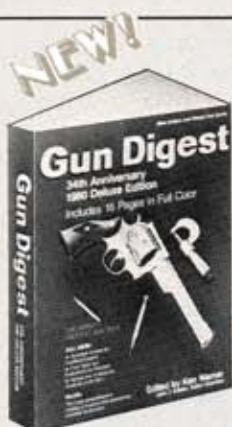
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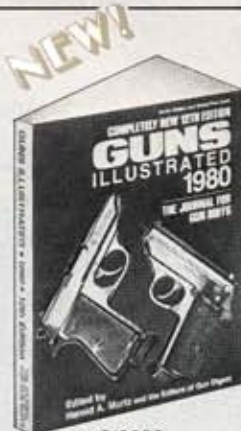
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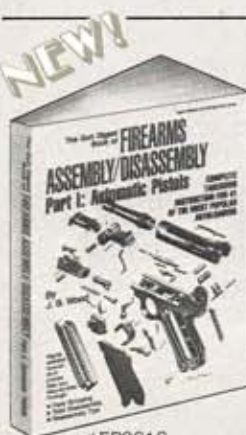
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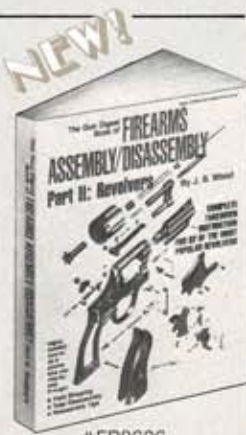
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JUST FOR THE RECORD... LET'S CLEAR UP THE RULES

The new NRA Police Combat Pistol Rule Book clears up questions that before had to be judgement calls by match officials or referees, or the Protest Committee. It updates some procedures and establishes entirely new ones. For examples:

Revolvers setting or equalling national records shall immediately have triggers weighed for verification of 2½ pound pull. I have wondered why we had trigger weight rules, for since I began shooting police combat in 1965, I have never had a trigger weighed except in Distinguished Matches. It was worse in Bullseye; I shot that for 25 years and never had a trigger weighed. At U.S. International Championships in Phoenix, gun specs and triggers are correctly checked... should be done in all preliminary tryouts leading up to Phoenix. I have meticulously kept my triggers legal throughout the years, as most shooters do, but either check a few at every match, or take it out of the rule books. Checking after a record score is a step forward, should also be done after anyone wins a national championship.

Semi-automatics will be required to have a minimum of 3½ pound trigger pull. Again, unless we at least spot check regularly, it's wasted ink and paper. That much pull may make the semi-automatic less popular in the NRA matches than the revolver with its 2½ pound minimum. It will depend if they're checked, and a few illegal ones disqualified then and retroactively. I think semi-automatic use will be scarce in NRA Police Matches as we know the matches now. Some gunsmiths may develop a custom gun for the event, and if scores are high, a few will try it. The main reason I think there won't be many, is many revolver shooters object due to the safety aspects, and match sponsors won't want to risk the boycott of all those revolver entries by allowing semi-automatics. Furthermore, scores fired with semi-automatics won't be recognized for national records and prestigious Distinguished Match will stay revolver.

Sponsors must say in match program if revolvers or pistols may be used and semi-automatics will be placed on separate relays, or squadded to the far right side of the firing line.

Match officials must keep fired targets in "findable" order until match challenge time expires. A little extra trouble, but how nice

to go back and check your hits on the target rather than having to take whatever error may be on that scorecard. True, you signed it as correct, but in the hurry and melee of wind, rain, sun, or rushing to the next relay and the scorecard being inherently more complicated than bullseye, it's easy to make a costly mistake.

Misfired cartridges may be replaced by competitors. Very practical. One would not want to keep snapping a dead round in combat if he had other cartridges on him.

"Ready on the right... left... ready on the firing line," replaced with "Is the line ready?" Commands have been shortened; the practice of reading the match description, "This will be 18 rounds, fired 6 rounds..." should be abolished. Particularly reading the rule book like this at Regional or Nationals is absurd. If a police officer-shooter has gotten that far and doesn't know what he's standing there ready to fire, he's in a bad way. The less that comes over that mike, the more likely competitors are to listen to what IS said.

Author wonders why they had trigger weight rules because no one ever weighed her trigger

Would a "Quick Shot" match to climax our lengthy national pistol championships nullify the media's somewhat legitimate excuse of too long, no visible winner acclaimed excuse for not covering our shooting events? Maybe, it's worth a try and I am sure a better name can be found, but for instance. The owners of the largest target company in the U.S. or a gun manufacturer, donate beautiful, traditional styled cups-trophies, in each of the main events at our U.S. International Shooting Championships. The 1,2,3, place winners in the Free Pistol match (selected as now, through 4 days of shooting,) fire one shot, each in 1 minute at their 50 meter target. High scoring shot wins trophy, immediately. Use a three way split television screen, all three shots can be seen at once. Camera time, maybe 3 minutes. Move right to Rapid Fire, 1,2,3, place winners get one 4 second string, probably could be fired and scored for all three shooters in 5

minutes. Men's center fire, Ladies Pistol, 1,2,3, men and ladies get 1 shot in 3 second facing of 25 meter target. Again, all men at once on split screen, all ladies at once. Standard Pistol, 1, 10 second rapid fire string. Position rifle, one shot standing by 1,2,3, places in 1½ minutes each. All of this could probably be shot, scored, winners given awards in 15 minutes of TV time, OR covered by reporter or sports writer in 30 minutes . . . as compared to now wandering around a range all day, or 4 days with no conclusion, no climax, and if a winner's found no visual shared excitement of how he or she got to be one. All of this extra event, in no would affect standing for teams places, etc., it would be just an added event and award for shooters and way to publicize our international participation.

CBS's brief (7 minutes) coverage of the last Pan-American Games is proof that interest is building. Anti-gun feeling may, or may not be what keeps media away. It could be we're not giving them something

"CBS's brief (7 minute) coverage of the last Pan-American Games is proof that interest is building."

exciting to film. Kick-boxing is more violent, it's televised now, arm wrestling has less money, influence and participants than we have, so I've never been convinced we're left out because we use guns. We don't explain, help, and provide the great excitement and climax that we know as participants, to spectators. I'd be very interested to know your ideas on this subject.

Incidentally if you missed the mention in the *American Rifleman*, be sure and write CBS Sports, 51 W. 52nd Street, New York, N.Y., 10019 and encourage them after their start in the Pan Am Games. They'll probably get letters from the other side, so let them hear from us. Lucy



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COP TALK

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THE SECOND CHANCE SHOOT... 5 YEARS LATER

Five years ago, a bright young inventor—cum-gun buff decided to throw a pistol match for cops. Nothing fancy, just knocking some bowling pins off a table a few yards away and seeing who could do it quickest. Thirty-two people showed up.

In June, 1979, some 350 shooters lined up to quick plink at that guy's bowling pins, now purchased by the truckload for the annual occasion. 250 of those people walked away with nice merchandise

sounds like something any reasonably fast pistolero should be able to accomplish with more alacrity. After all, at the IPSC Nationals in LA last year, didn't half a dozen people clean five falling plates at the same distance, out of the leather no less, in 2.7 seconds?

The key is in the pins. Second Chance honcho Richard Davis didn't select that target for nothing. To clear the three foot wide table, these targets have to be hit hard, and hit center; otherwise, they'll spin



A pin topples to the .45 of California ace Ray Neal, a top competitor in both IPSC and IHMSA. Ray placed 4th at the Second Chance shoot.

prizes, including more than 50 firearms, and some handsome stacks of green stuff. I was one of 'em, and I'm here to tell you, you can get your share in 1980.

The game sounds deceptively simple. You face five bowling pins on a table 25 feet away. Your loaded pistol is in your hand. Over the loudspeaker comes: "Timers ready ... guns on the rail ... shooters ready ..." Then the sharp report of a blank .38 signals you to bring the gun up and blaze away, as three calibrated stopwatches click into play behind you. They'll stop when the last tenpin hits the ground.

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and fall and roll and you have to keep firing at a target that's even trickier than it was standing up. It's DVC to the ultimate degree, the perfect balance of speed, power, and accuracy.

Second Chance has matured into one of the Big Three "action" pistol matches on the circuit, the others being the "Shoot for Loot" at Laramie, and the new Bianchi Invitational. Second Chance is the largest of these by far, in terms of number of entries and volume of prizes. Davis gives out more awards per match than any other handgun tournament in the history of the world. This year, the prize pot was estimated at \$15,000-18,000 in value.

It's a hell of a spectator event, and the

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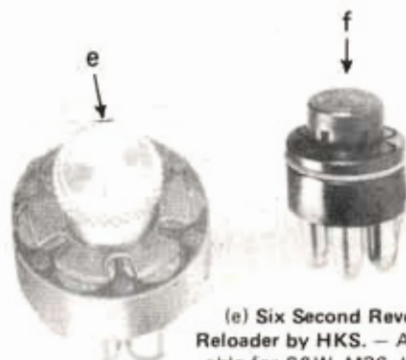
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bleachers are always full of excited and vocal observers. Many now bring their own stopwatches, which creates a problem. This was the first of my four years at the shoot where I heard serious bitching about the quality of the timekeeping. I was told that several shooters, myself included, were getting shortchanged a quarter of a second or more. This is serious in a match where a *tenth* of a second often separates first and second place.

It's a complaint Davis answers instantly. He told this magazine, "Our timekeepers are trained and experienced. Several of them have been working here for years, which means they've timed more shooters than probably any other living person. They're trained to be braced for the signal shot, and when it goes, their start buttons go immediately. Somebody in the audience is going to have a reaction time maybe three tenths of a second longer, so *their* time will be proportionately shorter.



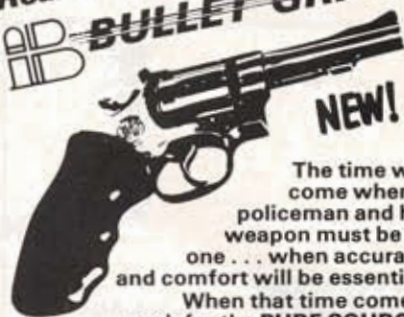
Pin gun extraordinaire is this Colt New Service rebuilt and chambered to .45 Long Colt by D. Davis, shown. Gun was smooth and decisive on Second Chance targets. (Ayoob photo)

Also, while our timekeepers are trained to stop the clock when the last pin hits the ground, a lot of the spectators automatically hit the button when the last pin starts to go off the table. I don't think anyone can match our timekeepers for precision."

Rich has a point. Still, there did seem to be one or two of the new girls who were a bit sloppy this year—even the veteran timekeepers were complaining about them—and enough complaints were voiced that I'm certain Rich will have *all* veterans running the watches in '80.

Apart from the three main events—the bread-and-butter five pin shooting, the Unlimited Match, and the Team match, which we'll come back to in a minute—Davis throws in some newbies each year. In '78, it was a two-gun event, in which you

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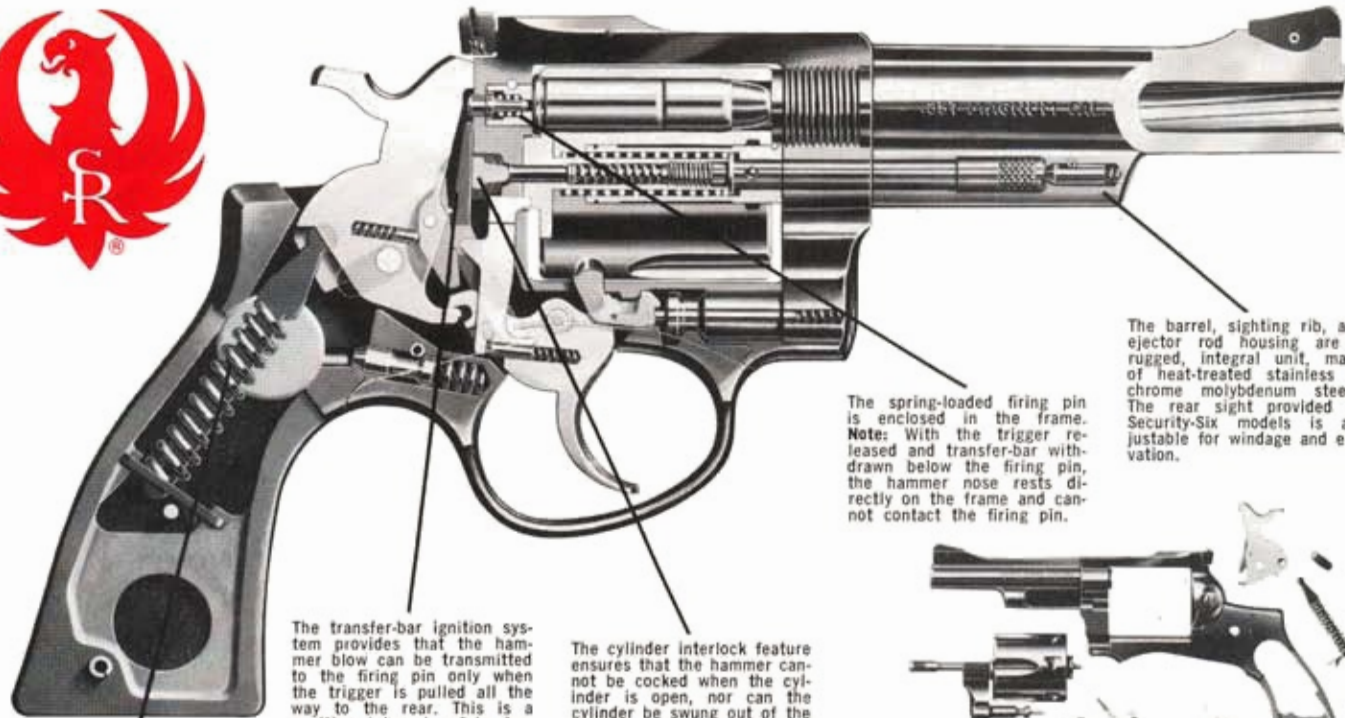
trigger pull.



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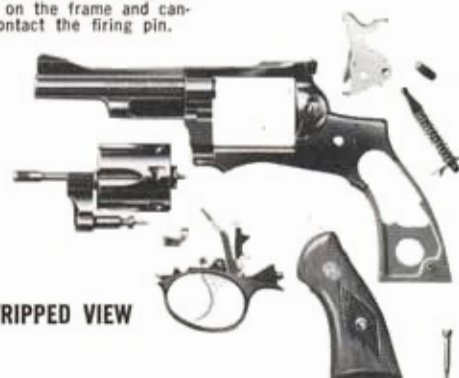
Music wire or stainless steel coil springs are used throughout the Ruger double action revolvers.

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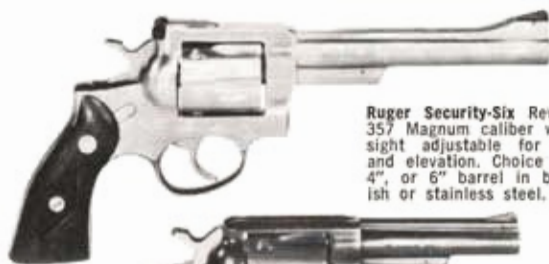
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had 2.5 seconds to empty 2 Chief Specials at a Duelatron target. This year, Duelatron expert John Farnum ran a nightmare course in which, for 30 seconds, you faced 18 different shoot/no shoot targets that were flipping madly at ranges from ten to nearly 100 yards. The possible score was 45 (a 5-point hit on each of the 9 bad guys in the bunch), and only two of maybe 200 runners cleaned it. Four guns, starting with an H&K P9S and a Colt Commander, were given away in this side event. This in turn created some complaining, because all scoring wasn't done by the range officers. Other competitors were often dragged to run to the far-apart targets to score and paste, and there were dark hints that some of the winners had their buddies and relatives "score 'em up." I was not one of the winners so accused, and can state objectively that the charge was bull. Those were top-rank shooters who didn't need to cheat, and wouldn't if they did.

John had set up the Duelatron as a demonstration, something he does superbly. Rich tossed in four guns and some cash to make it interesting. A handful of the competitors, stunned by the fact that this "fun" side event was bigger and richer than most of their major tournaments back home, went out for blood and started whining. That ain't the sponsor's fault. Next year, Rich will probably thin out the side match prizes a bit.

The Unlimited and Team events are always a big part of Second Chance. In each, you face 8 pins at 25 feet. Unlimited is any firearm in the world; team is two of you with pistols. You have any number of tries, at \$5 a throw until it gets dark. Remington 1100 auto shotguns with 12-ga. 00 Magnum buckshot shells and extended magazines dominate this event; sub-machineguns are allowed, but never won.

Team rules have changed back and forth. This year, you could shoot with anybody and change teams if you wanted, unless you were already "in the money" at the event. Next year, Rich will have an "honor roll" of the top 20 or 30 performers at Second Chance, and will allow only one such man on each team to prevent the top two individual shooters from ganging up on everyone else. The wisdom of this is evident when you compare the top individuals on this year's results sheet with the names of the winning team members.

These are the richest stages of the match. Entries pile up, and are turned back 100% in prize money. While first place individual wins \$500 cash, you get well over a grand for the same standing in Unlimited, and can figure on close to \$600 after you and your partner have split the first place team pot. It was a grand and a trophy for the winner last year, but Davis, like Doc Burgess at Laramie, is trending toward smaller prizes to more winners. The part of me that hopes to win mutters, "Damn Communist!" but the realistic side of me understands that this is really the fairest way of doing it. (Continued on page 26)

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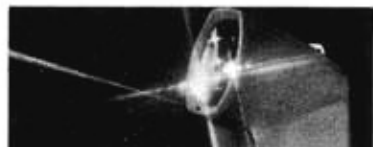
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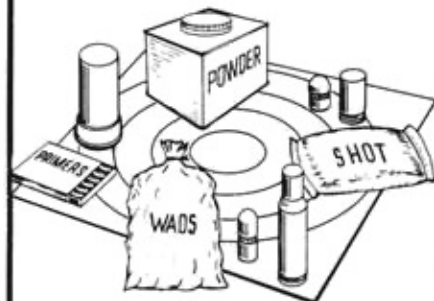
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DISCOVER RELOADING

1979 was also the first year Second Chance had to turn away shooters. Rich doesn't want it to happen again. He's cutting the number of runs in the individual match from nine to six times. Your first is a tie-breaker, your next five, for aggregate record. Of course, each time you go also counts for side money in "fastest individual time." He also took me up on my suggestion to run weekend to weekend; next year will be the longest Second Chance match yet, and may accommodate up to 500 shooters.

Plan on some good "spectating" while you're there. This year's match had exciting moments aplenty. My own early lead fell on the third day of the shoot, when Nick Pruitt of California cleaned 7 tables in a superb 32 seconds. A protege of the famed Jerry Usher, this young shooter has been firing in competition for less than a year. All tallies in, he left with the biggest share of the total pot.

But Nick wasn't destined to leave with the open. That remained for Bill Wilson, the 26-year-old Arkansas pistol tuner who also tops that region in IPSC shooting. Bill shattered average time records by accumulating a 30 total, during which he also tied the 3.9 second individual record set two years ago by Johnny "The Kid" Robbins, then thirteen. Though most shooters favor hollow-points or semi-wadcutters for a good bite into the pins, Bill used round nose lead handloads in his .45 auto. Wayne Umberger, the straight-shooting Memphis cop who took the shoot last year, captured third with a hot 33 second aggregate, fending off a challenge from IPSC and IHMSA ace Ray Neal of California.

No matter how big it's getting, no matter whether the "choir practice" aspect has disappeared, the Second Chance shoot is still the most fun match I've ever been to, which is why I go every year. You owe yourself a piece of it.

Registration is \$60 for cops, \$80 for civilians, and includes all the chicken and roast beef you can eat every day, and all the beer you can scarf, once you're done shooting. It includes some rollicking good times with a spectrum of shooters, and you can even feed your family for a buck a head per day. It's held at Central Lake, Michigan, a resort area, the week prior to the regular "vacation season," and cabins and camping areas are a steal. There are guys who go for a vacation and don't even bother to shoot. But with that prize list—guns to 55th place this year, including an Auto Mag, two custom sporter rifles, 30 Mini-14s, and ten Mossberg shotguns, among other fine prizes—you'd be a turkey not to put your entry fee to use on the pin tables. I won a vacation for two to Las Vegas at the '78 Second Chance shoot, and the casinos never gave me anywhere near the winning odds the shoot itself does.

Sign up early. Bring a jam-free .45 auto; that's what 90% of the contestants, and the winners, use. I switched to Super Vel

(Continued on page 76)

You only get one chance a year— to aim for the best!

from GUNS magazine

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LET'S COMPARE THE 29 WITH THE SUPER BLACKHAWK

How do the big .44 Magnum
'Super Jocks' stack up under
author's objective scrutiny?

By David Bradshaw

In contrast to almost all other commercial revolver cartridges, the .44 Remington Magnum was developed for hunting and as a defense against big game. In the past this was enough to limit its usage among handgunners. Today, shooters want the performance that Magnum handguns alone can supply. Competition in the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA) has a tremendous following. Old standbys like the .45 Colt and .45 ACP have high trajectories and are not intended to compete with Magnums in long range performance. In IHMSA Silhouette, the .44 Magnum is the premier revolver round.

The success of the mighty .44 was dependent upon its being chambered in a handgun of markedly superior construction. Smith & Wesson produced a number of .44 Hand Ejector, Model of 1950, revolvers, utilizing a special heat treatment, and chambered them for the new .44 Magnum ammunition, which was supplied by Remington. Subsequent to tests, barrel diameter and frame size were increased. The revolver thus put into production became the Model 29.

William B. Ruger got wind of these developments and produced his .44 Magnum Blackhawk within an extremely short time. The primary drawback of the .44

Blackhawk was its aluminum grip-frame which, under the recoil of factory loads, was brutal on the flesh. 1956 saw only a limited production of .44 Magnum revolvers from both Smith & Wesson and Sturm, Ruger & Company.

Ruger updated his .44 program and commenced distribution of his heavy duty creation, the Ruger Super Blackhawk, in 1962. At the time, the Ruger retailed for \$116.00, as opposed to the S&W's retail price of \$140.00. For many shooters the dollar difference was considerable.

Once the public caught on, demand took a big jump. Now both Smith & Wesson and Ruger have expanded production many times.

A .44 Magnum revolver must be strong, yet be of dimensions reasonable for a handgun. Contemporary handgun competitors subject their arms to the firing of more ammunition than ever before. A quality .44 Magnum revolver should be expected to serve reliably for thousands of firings. It is wise to understand, however, that maximum loads are much harder on a gun than moderate loadings.

The Ruger Super Blackhawk and the Smith & Wesson Model 29 stand as the models by which all other Magnum handguns may be compared. An examination of their essential characteristics is in order.



RUGER SUPER BLACKHAWK

The Ruger Super Blackhawk exists in two distinct versions, the New Model and what shooters refer to as the "Old Model." It behooves the gun hand to carefully learn the procedure for handling each. The old model is loaded by backing hammer to half cock and opening loading gate. The new model all you do is open the loading gate.

The Old Model features Peacemaker-style lockwork and it is *never* correct to



carry it with all six charge holes loaded.

The New Model was specifically designed to be "drop safe" with all six charge holes loaded. Ruger incorporated the improved design of the New Model into all of their single-action revolvers in 1973.

The Old Model Super has a fine cocking rhythm that endears the piece to fast holster use. Folks who grew up on the old rhythm-cocker are reluctant to endorse the New Model.

Factory trigger pulls tend to be smoother and lighter on the Old Models.

Against this, a safe, clean-breaking trigger is easier to achieve on a New Model. In loading mode, the chambers align more easily with the loading notch in the frame on the Old Model revolvers. The Old Model is simpler to strip and reassemble, an advantage, particularly in the field.

With the Old Model Super, the shooter must gently lower the hammer, ease it back to half-cock, and rotate the cylinder around until he can lower the hammer on the empty chamber. The melodious clicks that accompany may easily alarm game.

There are faults shared by both Old and New Model Supers. The extractor rod is too short to completely clear Magnum cases from the cylinder.

The Dragoon-style of the Super Blackhawk is a classic for cushioning .44 Magnum recoil. It rolls against the palm instead of punching it. Steve Herrett produces readily available oversize stocks for the Super, as does Don Schiermeier.

Having logged some criticism of the big Ruger, it is time to review aspects of its character which form the fountainhead of

29 VS RUGER

its reputation. As we know, it borrows heavily of the simple and durable Colt Single Action Army.

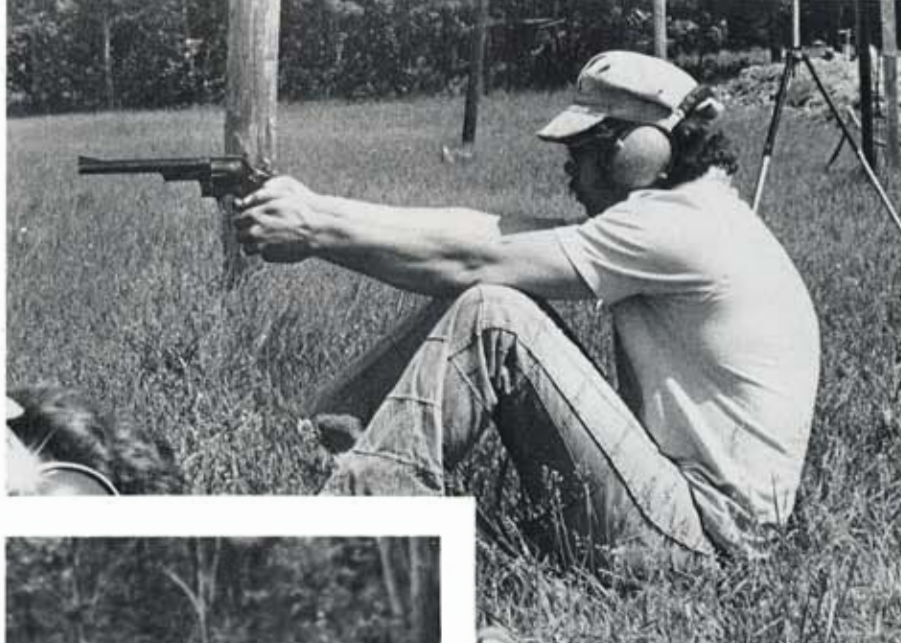
The Ruger Super Blackhawk was designed specifically for the .44 Remington Magnum. It weighs 48-ounces with 7½-inch barrel. It is not too light and not too heavy. Solid frame construction contributes greatly to its low maintenance and long life.

The Super will stand up to incredible amounts of dry-firing because of the floating firing pin.

The barrel is broached 1-turn in 20-inches and handles cast the jacketed bullets equally well. Outstanding accuracy is the rule. The front sight blade rises high off its base, allowing welcome visibility to the side and permitting it to be raised high over the rear sight notch for shooting at long range. Elevation adjustment is ample for most shooting, a necessity in IHMSA Silhouette competition.

The long lock time and heavy hammer fall of the Ruger Super is supposed to make for difficult firing control. Discipline is a requisite of let-off and follow-through on wheelguns. That includes double-action revolvers as well. At the same time, a decisive blow to the primer is necessary for consistent ignition and accuracy. Sure ignition is a strong point of the single action design.

Rugged dependability is always impor-



TOP: Here's the long tube S&W Model 29 working on the steel turkeys by a Vermont Silhouetter. **MIDDLE:** Another competitor is trying for the 50 meter chickens. **BELOW:** Kneeling position is steady and offers greater visibility than sitting or prone. Author Bradshaw from Vermont looks to be dead serious.

tant and, for this, the Super Blackhawk is legendary. Within the ranks of the IHMSA, it is one of the very most popular guns.

SMITH & WESSON M-29

Perhaps no handgun in the world basks in mystique so much as the Smith & Wesson Model 29. Once the .44 Magnum caught on, it became virtually impossible for Smith & Wesson to keep pace with demand. This is not entirely a good thing. Rumors and caustic speculations abound. It is impossible to criticize the availability of Smith & Wesson .44 Magnums without demanding grave shortcuts in manufacturing at the same time. And every critic I know wants all the quality he can get.

Mechanically, there are some shortcomings. Tremendous stresses are imposed on a .44 Magnum revolver at firing. As if the initial punt and lift of recoil isn't enough, the piece torques as the bullet slams through the rifling. A weak cylinder stop spring will permit these events to blend into what Magnum shooters call "cylinder float." Two symptoms of this occurrence are a secondary dent on the left side of the fired primer and/or dry firing on the fired chamber at the next shot. The cure is simple but not as accessible as it once was. A greater spring tension must be imposed on the cylinder stop.

The cylinder stop is that part which protrudes and recedes through a hole inside the frame, to the rear of the trigger, locking the cylinder for firing and releasing it so that the next loaded chamber may be rotated into battery.

Beginning with serial number S227,149 of the N-frame series revolvers, the screw and plunger were eliminated, and a new cylinder stop spring was incorporated that butted against a groove milled inside the frame.

There are shooters who think that the way to reduce double-action pull is to lighten the mainspring by backing out the

(Continued on page 55)

THE SAGA OF FOUR .45's

By Claud S. Hamilton

Friends of mine know me as a .45 lover, and I suppose that there is some merit in the charge. I admit that I was fascinated by the big old Government Model 'way back during my pre WW II ROTC days, when I saw one for the first time at a display of Army equipment. Looking back, I remember with a twinge of "old age shock" that the display also included the Livens Projector . . . who else remembers ever seeing one of those? It just serves to remind me that, with the exception of the Army blanket, the M1911A1 pistol is today

Models/M1911s that were just alike, and some have been real "characters."

You don't believe me, huh? Well, here's an example. Back in the early 1960s I bought a second-hand commercial Government Model in like-new condition that had obviously had no more than a magazine fired through, it if that much. Before I could enjoy the gun, I was ordered overseas and had to put it into temporary storage. I got interested in shotgunning and birds about then, too, and so it was that the fine .45 didn't get much attention

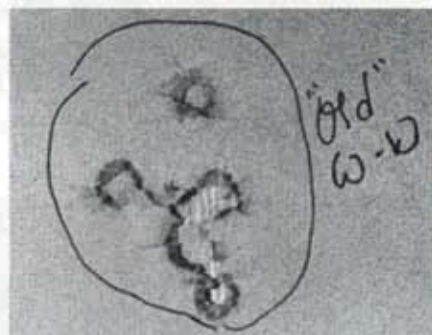
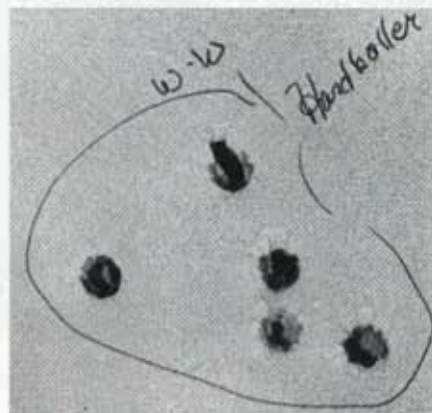
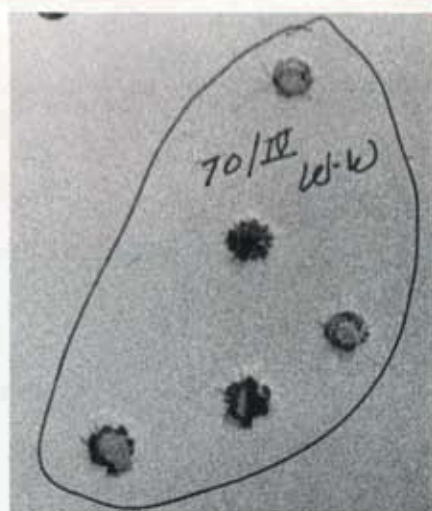
They may look alike but how do they shoot?

the oldest item of issue equipment we have.

I wish I had today all of the .45 Government Model pistols that have passed through my hands at one time or another. I believe that I could write a book about them and their individual characteristics. Yeah. If anyone tells you that only shotguns have personality, he's full of bunk. I've never handled two Government

until the early 1970s when Bar-Sto came out with their stainless barrels and bushings, which were much like the new components in the Series 70/Mk IV Colts.

About this time I had made the acquaintance of a very fine young gunsmith in Clifton, Virginia, Haywood Nelms. I was very much impressed by the quality of Haywood's work and managed to get him to agree to install a Bar-Sto barrel and



Top: Here's a group shot with Colt Mark IV-Series 70. WW group at top and Federal below. Center: The AMT Hardballer put them thus. WW group at left. Bottom: This is what the old Colt did that Haywood Nelms worked on. This one took the prize.

bushing in my gun and to tighten the slide, do a little smoothing on the trigger and install target sights. This was a real imposition, for Haywood was about the only smith left in our area who did real repair work and he had a long waiting list.

After about three months working my way to the head of his waiting list, my gun was done. And then the fun began. I could not get that thing to fire seven shots out of a magazine, no matter what. I changed magazines. I tried every brand of ammunition I could lay my hands on. It didn't

(Continued on page 56)

GUN W-W FEDERAL AVERAGE

Colt Gold Cup National Match	3.25	3.75	3.50
Colt Series 70 Mk IV	3.75	3.00	3.25
AMT Hardballer	2.75	2.20	2.47
Haywood Nelms' Colt (Bar-Sto bbl and bushing)	1.62	2.75	2.18

NOTES: 1. The Hardballer, I have found, is generally "rough" in finish throughout. It absolutely refused to feed the Federal JHPs, but did work reliably with the FMJ loads.

Personal Notes on the: 1979 IPSC WORLD



TOP SIXTEEN

		TOTAL	STANDARD	MOVING	OBSTACLE	NIGHT	MAN/MAN	FIELD
1.	Jim Von Sorgenfrei (S.A.)	485.709	8th	10th	3rd	*	2nd	2nd
2.	Raul Walters (U.S.)	480.001	*	5th	(1st)	9th	(1st)	4th
3.	Ross Seyfried (U.S.)	470.814	4th	2nd	2nd	*	*	(1st)
4.	Gavin Carson (S.A.)	454.348	2nd	(1st)	*	8th	*	3rd
5.	Bill Wilson (U.S.)	453.446	7th	15th	*	6th	5th	5th
6.	Mike Dalton (U.S.)	446.331	6th	7th	*	2nd	14th	6th
7.	V. Nakling (N)	425.435	*	11th	6th	15th	*	7th
8.	Craig Gifford (U.S.)	424.108	*	*	*	(1st)	6th	9th
9.	R. Dunkley (U.K.)	423.632	9th	*	9th	*	13th	8th
10.	Mickey Fowler (U.S.)	409.251	5th	3rd	*	*	*	11th
11.	Dale Guthrie (S.A.)	404.714	(1st)	16th	*	10th	*	12th
12.	Jerry Usher (U.S.)	403.017	12th	*	14th	4th	*	10th
13.	P. Maunder (Z/R)	397.629	*	8th	11th	*	*	13th
14.	A. Botes (S.A.)	393.461	*	*	*	*	4th	14th
15.	P. Boniface (Z/R)	392.905	*	*	8th	*	15th	15th
16.	A. Dumeé (S.A.)	386.271	*	*	*	13th	10th	16th

* Indicates a finish below top sixteen

PLACING OF OTHER U.S. SHOOTERS

18. Tom Campbell	46. J. Davis	99. Lynn Schoening
22. Nick Pruitt	48. Ray Neal	107. C. Bingham
24. Ray Chapman	55. Leonard Knight	110. Dick Thomas
25. Mick Fichman	68. Wayne Umberger	120. Mike La Plante
33. Steve Blankenbiller	80. Paul Walker	156. J. Havas
41. Chuck Taylor	90. B. Dailey	179. John Shaw

CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 1979 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IPSC MATCHES are now history, and the story of the matches follows. AMERICAN HANDGUNNER Magazine wishes to congratulate the winning team from South Africa, and Jim Von Sorgenfrei for his #1 placement. We would also like to congratulate all of the U.S. team members for their performance. That the shooter we sponsored, Jerry Usher, placed 12th does not diminish the pride we had which caused us to sponsor him. We asked of him only that he compete to the best of his ability, that he represent the magazine and all of its readers with sportsmanship and integrity—and that he did!

'79 IPSC WORLD

By Jerry Usher

The South Africans proved that they certainly know how to stage a match. The City of Roodepoort built a new grassed range just for this championship. Upon our arrival a complete program was placed in our hands; included were tickets and invitations to social events and award presentations. The schedule for each shooter was listed, enabling an individual to plan other activities.

The match was officially opened with Olympic-style ceremonies. The South African Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr. Janson, welcomed us as members of one of the few sports that does not participate in political leverage.

U.S. and South African teams, on the other hand, had the pressure of large crowds and started nearly every match with only a two minute introductory walk through the course.

The U.S. and S.A. teams started with the "Speed Shoot" of the Standard Exercises. This involved standing alone in front of a large crowd, firing at four targets in just two seconds. This was then repeated three times. Perfect scores were shot by Ross Seyfried and Tom Campbell of our team and Ellingford and Von Sorgenfrei of S.A. In all, seven Americans placed in the top nine of this match. U.S. Team member Chuck Taylor had just arrived the night before. In addition to jet lag, which is a very real thing, his gun fired once and jammed, costing him points that he had to work hard to regain later.

This first match set the stage for a problem that continued throughout the match. There were a large number of hard working, red shirted, range officials who, in their efforts toward being fair, usually gave the shooter the benefit of any doubt when



American star Ross Seyfried leaping the 8' wall during the grueling "Cover Course."

The match itself began the next day with a surprisingly light schedule. The match was, in fact, spread over ten days and could easily have been handled in three or four. Four Americans (not on the team) that finished in the top sixteen had only fired twelve rounds by the third day of the match. This gave them an opportunity to watch others make mistakes and to adjust accordingly. This proved to be one of the most important factors of the match. The

it came to scoring the targets. Consequently, shooters that challenged missing shots as "doubles" usually received points not deserved. This, of course, has been a problem unsolved in IPSC for over three years. I hasten to add that the administration of the match by South Africa was marvelous. There is no way we could have done as well in the U.S. under our present rules.

On Monday afternoon we shot the "Car Assault," which was one of the "Obstacle" matches. After shooting the match we realized that our strategy had been wrong. Shooters that followed us made good use of our mistakes. This course was not a



good example of the "practical" nature of our sport. No one took advantage of cover and nearly all shooters fired at some targets while standing exposed upon the hood of a car. This course was potentially dangerous to the crowd, but the officials worked very hard to minimize the danger by staying close to each shooter. A full 5 percent of the total competitors were disqualified in this match for pointing their gun toward the crowd, and others should have been. Several factors were responsible, I think. Unlike our National Championships where you must qualify to shoot, anyone can enter the World Match, providing the regional director will sign the entry form. It would have been easy to identify quite a few that would not qualify as "C" shooters in California. The second was the the course was simply not laid out correctly. This placed the entire responsibility on the shooters, who had other things on their minds when they ran the course. I noticed in 1977 in Rhodesia, and to a lesser extent this time in Africa, that



safety does not seem as important as it is in the U.S. In all fairness, however, over half a million rounds were fired in this match without a shooting injury.

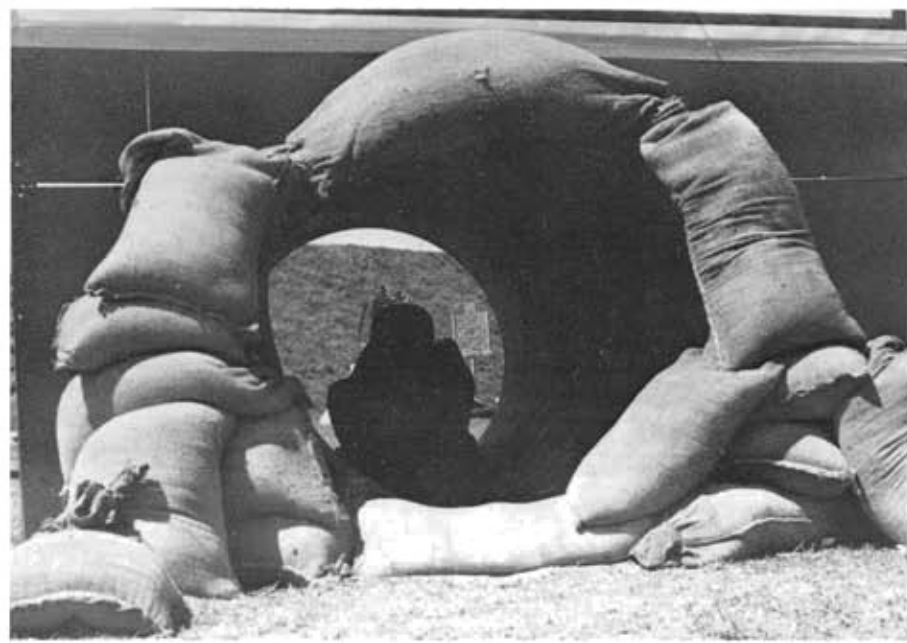
The second day again found our team among the first to try a course. This one, the "Cover Course," was one I had been dreading. The one time I had attempted to vault the 2.5 meter high wall in practice I had injured myself. Fortunately, the braces I put on both knees protected me this time. Tom Campbell was not so lucky; he tore a ligament in his foot. This cost him time and points in later matches. This type of barrier can change the results of a match and is forcing older shooters out of the game. Only Seyfried of the U.S. Team finished in the top sixteen in this match. Most good scores were made by those that learned from our mistakes. Smith of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia won the gold in this one.

Tuesday afternoon we shot the "House Clearing" stage of the "Field" exercises. This was potentially the best course of the entire match. Jeff Cooper set this one up. An old building was used as a setting for some of the best equipment I have seen yet in a match. Pop-up, bobbing, and swing-out targets were used, creating a very realistic and demanding course. If the time had not been divided into the score, it would also have been very practical. As it was, however, shooters had to run through the course as fast as possible, ignoring cover and good tactics, and using "gamesmanship" where possible. Seyfried and I were the only U.S. Team members in the top sixteen. I received one lucky hit that ricocheted off a wall into the target. Another target had only one hit where there should have been two. I should have challenged it, as no challenge that went to arbitration ever went against a "known" shooter. Von Sorgenfrei of the S.A. team won this one with a very good score.

Tuesday night saw us standing by for the night shoot and wishing we had worn thermal underwear. It's hard to believe how cold it can get at night in Africa. In the first match my instinct shooting paid off with the top score. Two nights later Mike Dalton beat me out by X count. He had discovered a special way to paint his sights that worked. Of the top six places, five were taken by members of the California S.W.P.L. In the second night match there was enough light to aim, and all of the top sixteen dropped less than five points. Again, the later shooters controlled the match, with only Seyfried of our team in

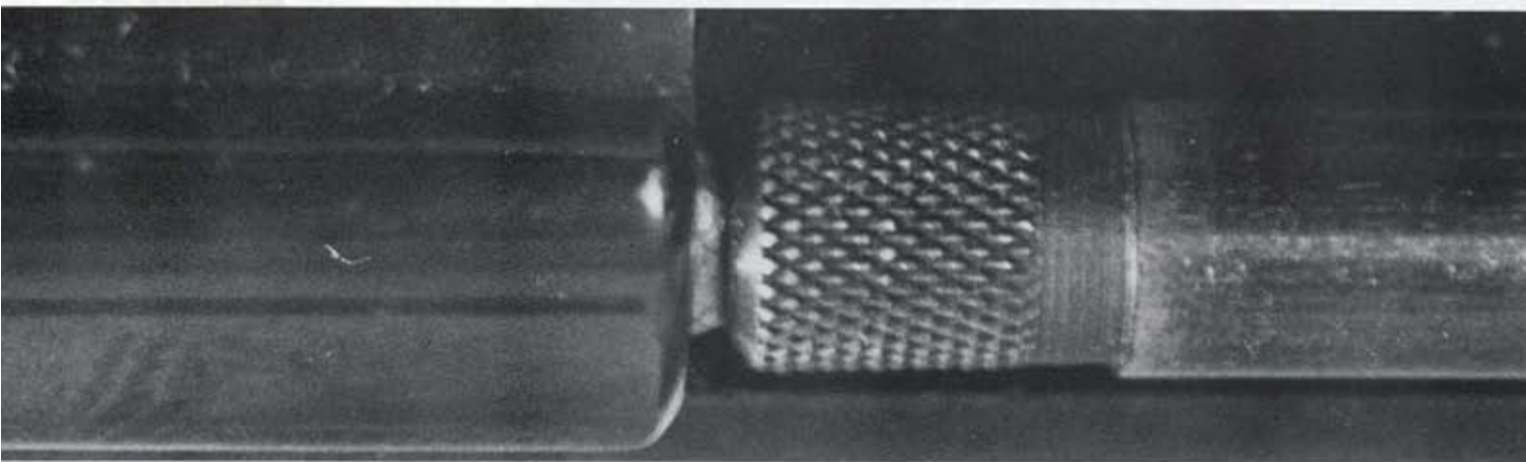
(Continued on page 58)

ABOVE: Seyfried, who came in 2nd, gets off to a flying start on this set. Athletic ability went together with accurate shooting to give him an over-all 339.563. LEFT: Author Usher explains the difficulties, like insidiously hidden targets shrouded by shadows like this toughie.



**PART
THREE**

More About **Ron Power** and His PPC Guns



Cylinder Fit and Rib Installation

By Ron Power As told to Massad F. Ayoob

In the *AMERICAN HANDGUNNER* of May/June '78, we began one of the magazine's most unusual features to date, an extensive discourse by Ron Power on the making of the ultimate PPC target revolver.

For those who missed it, Ron Power is the man who built the gun that carried Jimmy Collins to his first national championship, and a host of other guns that top-ranked combat revolver people throughout the country swear by. The article began some time ago, when handgun editor Massad F. Ayoob was dispatched to Power's workshop in Independence, Missouri. He stayed several days, watched Power build several prime PPC guns, and picked the master gunsmith's brain for hours on end.

Almost to his horror, Ayoob returned home to realize that the pile of cassette tapes and the rolls of film were a bit much for a single article: transcribed, without repetition, Power had given enough step-by-step information on building a PPC Smith & Wesson from the blue box up, that the total transcription would have filled an entire magazine, with some words and pictures left over. There was literally enough material for a book.

An assiduous editing process followed. We knew from the beginning that it would

The proper fit of front lug is described in test. This specimen, Power #500, is author's PPC gun and a well-worn veteran of many matches.

not be a basic how-to series; we would touch only on the most unique and important points. Only excellent machinists and experienced gunsmiths would be able to apply these subtleties...but at the same time, we knew, surveys show *HANDGUNNER* subscribers to be the most technically knowledgeable of all gun mag readers, and they would understand and appreciate inside views from the top man in the field.

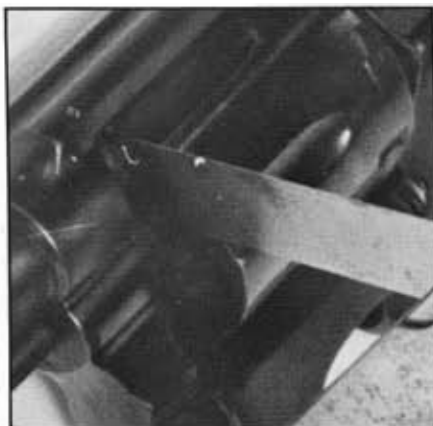
The article has been slated to run in four parts, the first to kick off with the bonus feature on S&W's Combat Magnums some time back. It was moved up instead to accommodate one of Jimmy Collins' own Power Customs for a cover, and parts one and two appeared in the May/June issue.

Part three, on perfecting cylinder fit and installing the BoMar rib, follows, in Power's own words as before. With the next issue, we will conclude the series with still more fine points of making the Smith & Wesson revolver into an unbeatable PPC gun or a dynamite general purpose piece, irrespective of heavy barrels or super-sight ribs. The authors and *HANDGUNNER* staff apologize for the delay between segments.

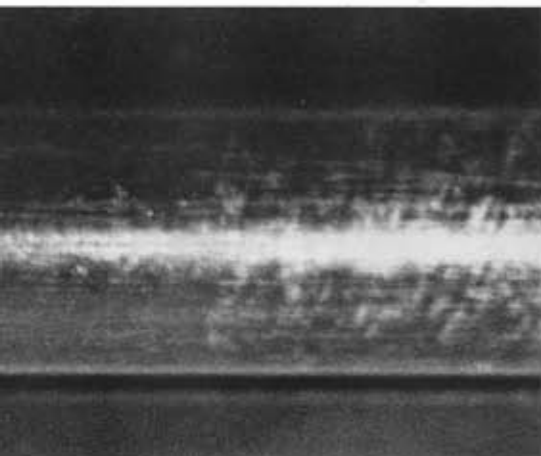
POWER ON CYLINDER GAP

Proper barrel-cylinder gap is important to a customized revolver, for obvious reasons. In a K-frame Smith & Wesson .38 Special or .357 Magnum, the guns I specialize in, factory specs are supposed to be three to six thousandths. I think, on a gun that is going to be seeing target use, three or four thousandths is too tight. You may be firing 250 rounds without a chance to strip and clean it, and any closer than five thousandths, your lead begins to accumulate and your cylinder starts hanging up. On the opposite end, I've never found a way to keep a gun with much over eight thousandths cylinder gap from spitting lead...and I've seen them from the factory with as much as twenty-five thousandths gap.

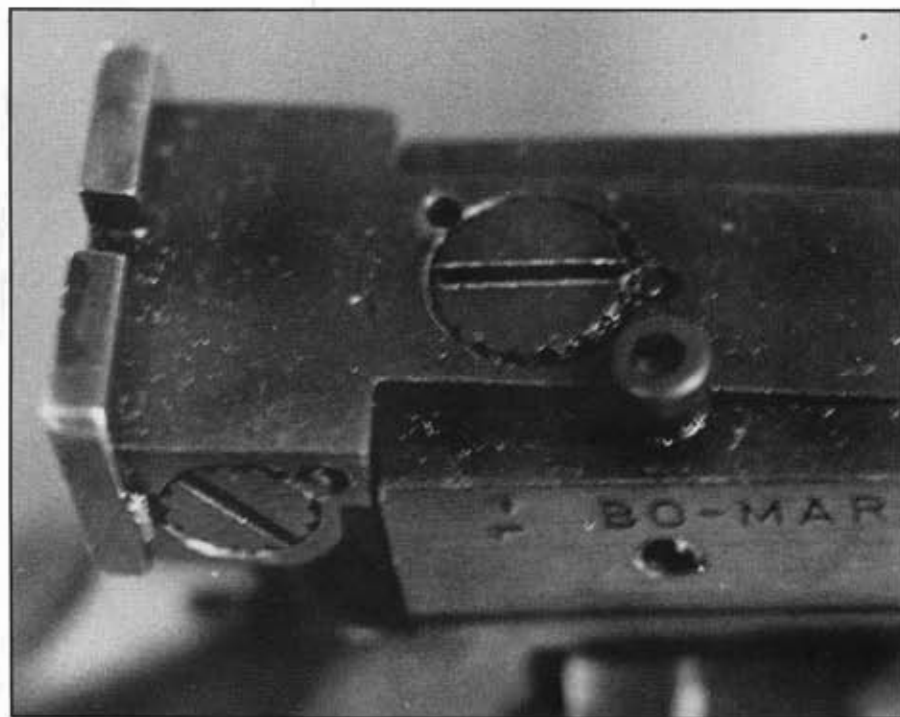
I try to hit right on six thousandths, and five to seven is all right. If it's a service gun instead of a target revolver, those dimensions are still ideal. If yours isn't right, you set the cylinder gap back by lengthening the yoke and setting the cylinder back,



Author feels that barrel to cylinder gap and in a K-frame factory thinks three to six thousandths is ok. He tries to hit right on six thousandths on target gun. For space between cylinder and recoil plate a "go gauge" is an .062 measurement.



Note the unusual plunger on top of the Bo Mar sights. This is a Power original and was first effective quick-change sight setting (it saves counting screw-driver clicks), and is popular.



preferably using washers as I described in the last installment.

Headspace is also a critical measurement. That is the measurement between the back of the cartridge head and the recoil plate. A "go gauge" would be an .062" measurement. I'll reject .064 for excessive headspace, though that's probably an adequate limit. If I need to correct headspace, I do it with the barrel removed. Headspace, of course, depends on the length of the extractor. To tighten headspace, remove a little off the extractor. I use a reamer, with a guide that goes in the hole where your center pin lies. This can be done with a regular lathe, of course. I like the ratchet lugs on the extractor to be about five-thousandths of an inch lower than what the center of the extractor is, the part that your headspace bears on; you don't want your ratchet lugs rubbing on the recoil plate as your cylinder turns.

Sometimes I'll take a little emery paper and polish the end of the extractor. That's often my final step toward getting minimum headspace. This is a desirable feature in a target gun, because the less headspace

you have, the less hard you have to slam the hammer down, which gives you all sorts of leeway in lightening the action and hammer fall.

One thing a lot of shooters don't realize is that a really tight PPC gun like mine has something in common with a bullseye target .45 auto that has been critically fitted: after you shoot it enough, you're going to want to send it back for an overhaul. I figure a man ought to shoot ten or fifteen thousand .38 wadcutters through one of my full house guns before he has any problems with it, though occasionally, they'll go 30,000 rounds. I like to warn my customers, though, that around 14,000 rounds the cylinder may start touching the barrel, and that's time to send it back.

POWER ON EJECTOR ROD SUBTLETIES

When you're putting a Douglas barrel with a fitted underlug on a Smith & Wesson, there are times when the ejector rod will mate with it just perfect, and there are times when it'll be a bit over-long. I like

to allow about twenty thousandths clearance between the back of the lug bolt housing and the end of the extractor rod. I might mention also that if you get too long a bevel on the end of the extractor rod, it'll make it a little harder to cam on the bolt. You want the edge of the bolt camming on the outside edge of the bevel on the extractor rod; put a light bevel on it and then chamfer the inside of it, and then polish it smooth a little bit with a piece of emery paper.

You want the center pin to stick out five to eight thousandths from the tip of the extractor rod, when you press it flush in back to simulate actuating the cylinder latch. This gives you plenty of room to push the underlug bolt completely clear of the front of the extractor rod when you go to open the cylinder. That's something the majority of gunsmiths overlook, but it can make a lot of difference when you have to reload fast and maybe you're fumbling a little like in a big match...or in a gunfight. I like to shorten the opening where the centerpin protrudes from the tip of the

(Continued on page 65)

**PART
ONE**

**Just
How
Accurate**



**Is Your
Accuracy
Job?**

In part one of a two part series author shows what's needed for IPSC, IHMSA and PPC accuracy.

PARAMETERS OF ACCURACY ON THE RANGE FOR LARGE REVOLVERS, NRA BORE PISTOLS AND TARGET PISTOLS

Often, a low-scoring competitor questions his shooting technique when he should be investigating the level of accuracy his handgun is capable of delivering. This first section will establish range accuracy standards for several classifications of handgun competition while the second will show how you can determine in advance, within close limits, how a weapon will perform on the range.

A few "Pistolsmiths" will be unhappy when we blow their cover by removing the facade of mystery associated with handgun accuracy. There are, really, no trade secrets; only different levels of competence. Accuracy, in any firearm, is the end result of engineering proficiency and a high level of gunsmithing craftsmanship.

Nothing in the firearms field is as blatantly obvious as a lack of craftsmanship. Though over thirty years have passed, I can still hear the voice of my first teacher admonishing me: "Take your time and do the job thoroughly. Years from now, when a shooter looks at the weapon you're working on today, he won't see that you saved a few hours on the job; he'll see sloppy craftsmanship."

A Gunsmith's reputation is a fragile thing because it is always balanced on the knife edge of every piece of finished work he sends out the door.

Author Lawson on a typical field test of accurized pistols using machine rest and chronograph to record data. An experimenter can duplicate groups fired.



An accurate pistol and carefully-tailored loads are necessary to clean a bank of rams at 100 yards. New sport of silhouette shooting has created a new demand for accurized pistols and it's being fulfilled.

The accurized 1911 pistols that are used most often are required to group under 1/4" at 25 yards and 2 1/2" at 50 yards to be classified *COMPETITIVELY ACCURATE*; under 1" at 25 yards and 2" at 50 yards to be classified *VERY ACCURATE*; and under 3/8" at 25 yards and 1 1/4" at 50 yards to be classified *EXTREMELY ACCURATE*. The classifications are based on machine rest groups from a shooting bench, with the extreme spread of shot-holes in a test group (not center to center) measured by an accurate Vernier caliper.

A new Gold Cup pistol right out of the box would be an example of a Competitively Accurate pistol. Although some individual specimens have been encountered lately with poorly fitted rear sights allowing lateral play that translates into several minutes of angle error, the condition is easily corrected by shimming. The Gold

Cup is an excellent choice for a first-competition pistol. A 1911 service or commercial pistol with a shooter installed Bar Sto barrel and bushing is another good first choice. When this first pistol's shortcomings become evident, it is time for the shooter to move into the realm of accuracy modifications made by a professional gunsmith.

An accuracy job of average competence would probably fall under the Very Accurate classification. For a good many shooters, using their first accurate pistol is an important milestone in their competi-

(Continued on page 67)







DIRECTORY OF CUSTOM PISTOLSMITHS

For the first time, a comprehensive directory of custom pistolsmiths, and please note that title "Custom Pistolsmiths." While every effort has been made to make this listing as complete as possible, note that all of the 'smiths listed here do custom work of some kind, not merely repair work. If we have missed you or any of our reader's favorite custom 'smiths, we want to be notified, and we will update this list in a future issue.

This listing mentions only the highlights of each 'smith's work; most of them handle the normal throating, beveling, stippling, metal checkering, etc. in addition to their specialties as listed. The prices quoted here are generalizations only; do not hold any of the 'smiths to them, their costs will undoubtedly increase and so will their prices. Phone numbers are listed as a convenience where available; remember that many of these craftsmen work part-time only, and if not available during the day, they may be during evening hours.

In the past several months we have received letters from our readers concerning work done (or not done properly) by some pistolsmiths. If we received more than two complaints about a certain 'smith we did not list him in this directory. We are not recommending any of the people or firms listed here; the best recommendation you can get is to see some of his work and talk to shooters who have had their guns worked on by a particular 'smith. Only you can judge if the quality meets your standards, if the delay is acceptable and if the price is right.—Editor

A,B

ABENE, JACK—See *Jack's Guns & Reloading*

ACCURACY UNLIMITED—See *Frank Glenn*

ACTIONWORKS (Charles Lowden)
P.O. Box 23028, Richfield, MN 55423

Specializes in hand-fitted action work on S&W, Colt, and Ruger revolvers; accomplished by matching, polishing, and hand fitting all action parts, not adding gadgets or cutting springs.

Fits stainless interior action parts on Model 19's. Premium grade blueing,



Armoloy, fused Teflon finish. Complete hand fit action job, \$45; polish and contour trigger, \$30; polish and contour hammer, \$12.00.

ALEXIOU, LIN—See *Trapper Gun, Inc.*

ARBES, JIM—See *Joe K's Inc.*

BAIN & DAVIS (W. H. Little, gunsmith)
559 W. Las Tunas Dr.

San Gabriel, CA 91776 (213) 284-2264

Does accurizing and action work on almost all auto pistols and revolvers. Specialty is their .357/.44 Bain & Davis conversion which can be done to S&W 27 and 28's, T/C Contenders, and Ruger Blackhawks. Conversion costs run from \$25 for the T/C to \$55 for the Ruger.

B&D has facilities for blueing, rib installation using Bo-Mar, and all popular brands of auto safeties.

BEHLERT CUSTOM GUNS

(Austin & Frank Behlert)

725 Lehigh Ave.

Union, NJ 07083 (201) 687-3438

Claiming to be the most complete pistolsmith shop in the world, there are now 10 gunsmiths and store employees. Some of their specialties are: Mini-combat .45's, Hi-Powers, S&W 39's and 59's. Full-blown combat and PPC guns and

specialty guns for Silhouette and NRA bullseye. Soon to have a long slide Hi-Power.

Popular Behlert Sight now available for S&W, Ruger, and Dan Wesson. New ambidextrous safety for Hi-Power. Some examples of work and prices: Mini-combats from \$325 (your gun); Cooper-style IPSC .45 from \$385; Python super-tune \$110; standard action job on revolver from \$35. Likes to "Micro-Finish" action parts for ultimate smoothness and durability, cost, \$50. A 10-page brochure covers all of their work. (Featured in our January/February 1978 issue.)

BULLSEYE GUN SHOP

5091-F Buford Hwy.
Doraville, GA 30340

Offers accurizing on Colt .45's and Commanders; action work on S&W K-frame revolvers. Facilities for blueing and Parkerizing; installation of all popular stocks, ribs, safeties, and sights.

C

CAKE-DAVIS COMPANY

(Bill & Gil Davis)
2793 Del Monte St.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 372-6789

All types of action and accurizing work, with a specialty of full house PPC guns; the newest is the Grade IV barrel assembly with a heavy accu-lock crane lock (your gun plus \$250).

Fast sellers include the "Smolt" (Python barrel on S&W K or N frame) and the "Cougar" Python barrel on Ruger frame). The Davis Custom Sight Rib with front adjustable sight sells for \$69.95.

ANDY CANNON

Box 632
Center Harbor, NH 03226
(603) 476-8837

Specializing in police combat revolvers, Cannon tunes Smiths, Colts, Rugers, and Dan Wessons for, as he says: "... the street cop or rural officer who needs a silent partner with proven reliability."

His "Complete" Police Special runs \$100.00 on your gun. An IPSC custom .45 auto will run about \$200 and a PPC custom about \$275. Andy has a "Cannon Plate" finish that he claims is "like Armoloy, only stronger." He also claims a 2-4 week turnaround time on pre-paid orders. (Featured in January/February 1978 and November/December 1978 issues.)

CENTAUR SYSTEMS

1653 S. Magnolia Ave.
Monrovia, CA 91016 (213) 357-2645

CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH PROFILE:



Bill Wilson

Evan Marshall

Bill Wilson

Along with the growth of IPSC shooting has come an explosion of people claiming to be pistolsmiths. I say claim, because I've received several complaints over the last year or so regarding inept or dishonest pistolsmiths from American Handgunner readers.

There's nothing more discouraging than to ship your favorite gun half way across the country for several months, only to have it returned all buggered up. A common problem for IPSC shooters, is that their .45 Auto has had all the looseness taken out of it, so that it will no longer function under the trying circumstances commonly found in IPSC matches.

If you're an IPSC competitor then it's essential that you find a pistolsmith who understands the rigors of this specialized competition. Even more essential is that the pistolsmith himself be a competitor so that the complexities of such competition is something gained first hand.

Bill Wilson (101 Public Square, Berryville, Arkansas 72616) may be young in years, but he's long on experience and ability. Trained as a watchmaker, he soon discovered that .45s were more fun to work on than watches. Bill does almost all of his own work, farming out only the Metalloy finish work.

While Bill will build a gun to the customer's specifications he offers sev-

eral package deals that he feels are ideal for their intended purpose. They are as follows:

#110 Basic Combat Pistol on a new Colt Government MKIV. \$402.00 complete, or \$125.00 for work on customer's gun.

#120 Competition Grade Combat Pistol (new Colt Government MKIV). \$522.00 complete, or \$245.00 for work on customer's gun.

#130 Master Grade Combat Pistol (new Colt Government MKIV). \$700.00 complete, or \$423.00 for work on customer's gun.

#140 Commander Special (new Colt Combat Commander). \$546.00 complete (blue), nickel—\$557.00 or \$269.00 on customer's gun.

#150 Champion Grade Combat Pistol (new Colt Government MKIV). \$847.00 complete, or \$570.00 for work on customer's gun.

As stated earlier, Bill will build a gun to a customer's specifications, but he feels the above mentioned packages cover every type of need. Each gun is test fired a minimum of fifty rounds before being shipped. Bill guarantees his work, and it's a guarantee you can count on.

Bill Wilson is not just an IPSC competitor, but a winner in this highly competitive field. Some of his recent accomplishments are listed below:

(Continued on page 76)

HANDGUNNER CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY



Cake-Davis Co.

Specializing in "Quick-Kit" interchangeable calibers system for Ruger S.A. revolvers. Calibers available run from .357 Magnum, .41, .44, .45 and include the new .45 and 9mm Winchester Magnums. Typical cost: new .45 Win. Mag cylinder for .45 Blackhawk, \$59.95.

Centaur also does action work on Rugers, makes their own barrels from Douglas blanks, and has facilities for blueing and chrome plating. Full house PPC guns and action work on S&W revolvers.

CHESHIRE & PEREZ DISTRIBUTORS

136 E. Walnut Ave.
Monrovia, CA 91016

Offering action and accurizing work on revolvers, the specialty of the house is their custom PPC revolvers. Also offered are custom conversions on S&W 29, 27, and 20 for hunting and silhouette. C&P are exclusive distributors of Aristocrat poly-set ribs; they make their own barrels and custom stocks, and manufacture and install left-hand safeties on S&W M-39's and 59's.

F. BOB CHOW'S, INC.

3185 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94110

Long known for his excellent Chow

accuracy jobs on .45 autos, Bob also offers precision services on combat, PPC, and NRA bullseye guns. Custom .22 autos made up for NRA matches. Bob has facilities for custom blueing. He uses Bo-Mar and Micro sights, Douglas barrels, and his own design safeties and slide stops.

CIAMILLO, LOUIS—See Maryland Gun Works

JAMES E. CLARK

Rt. 2, Box 22-A
Keithville, LA 71047 (318) 925-0836

Specializing in custom guns for bullseye shooters, Jim Clark also turns out some fine PPC guns and .45's, .38's, and 9mm pistols for the combat shooter. His custom .22 Ruger autos are favorites of rimfire shooters. Long slide .45's and .38's are popular at matches throughout the country. Jim has a new adjustable rear sight for Ruger revolvers at \$16.50. Shown is the new Grand Master (in concert with Ron Power) fitted to a S&W Model 10, priced at \$518.50; the Grand Master kits are \$325.

CLEMENS, CHARLES—See North Valley Gun Shop

CLEVELAND BLUEING CO.

1024 East 185th St.
Cleveland, OH 44119 (216) 481-2104

This firm does a tremendous volume of custom work on autos and revolvers. Besides the .45 autos, they also will accurize and tune Browning 9mm's and Colt Pythons. They do full house jobs and furnish S&W, Omega, King, MMC, Bo-Mar, Micro, and Behlert sights. Blueing and plating can be had as well as Ma-Na-Porting. Custom barrels and action smoothing is a specialty.

COLT CUSTOM GUN SHOP

150 Huyshope Avenue
Hartford, CT 06102

This venerable and famous firm has fairly recently re-opened their custom shop, and the variety of custom touches you can add to your Colt is almost endless. Custom engraving, tuning, grips (including ivory and silver and gold inlays), sights . . . you name it. Less exotic but very practical is their tuning of the Colt Python .357 Magnum. (Featured in January/February 1977 issue.)

CRAWFORD'S GUNSMITHING

Swain Drive
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
(914) 635-3210

This New York firm does accurizing on autos and accurizing and action work on revolvers. They can also work on your NRA Target handgun. Their IPSC accurizing job is guaranteed to shoot 2½" groups at 50 yards with full reliability. An unusual extra they specialize in is a .38 Super conversion to .38 Special, and they will shoot 2½" groups or less at 50 yards. They'll also take care of your blueing or plating needs, too.

CYLINDER AND SLIDE SHOP

(Bill Laughridge)
523 No. Main St.
Fremont, NE 68025 (402) 721-4277

Specializing in auto and revolver accurizing, they work on all major names including Diamondback and Troopers. They claim that "if it's safe, we'll build it." They will follow customer specs. Accessories like Swenson safeties and slide stops by Hoag. Other accessories by King. Will reblue and are setting up to Parkerize. (Featured in our May/June 1979 issue.)



Devel Corp.

D, E, F

DARLINGTON GUN WORKS (Jim Kelly)

Box 698—516 S. 52 By-pass
Darlington, SC 29532

Accurizing and action work on combat autos and specializing in PPC revolvers. Facilities for blueing, plating, and Armoloy, all with optional bead blasting. Can furnish and install most popular brands of sights, ribs, and accessories.

DAVIS, BILL & GIL (See Cake-Davis)

DEVEL CORP. (Chas. Kelsey, Jr.)

3441 W. Brainard Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44122 (216) 292-7723

Conversions of Model 39 S&W's (soon to come Model 59's) into a compact, lightweight pistol with innovative features such as see-through grip window, am-

bidextrous safety, bobbed hammer, and a complete set of leather accessories including holster, belt and clip holders. Conversion cost with customer's M-39, from \$395. (Featured in our May/June 1979 issue.)

DOMINIC DI STEFANO

4303 Friar Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Offers action and accurizing work plus full house combat autos and NRA bulls-eye guns. Specialty is accurizing, shortening .45 ACP. Has his own make extended safety for the .45 or can install any commercial makes.

KEN EVERSULL GUNSMITH INC.

P.O. Box 1766
Alexandria, LA 71301 (318) 442-0569

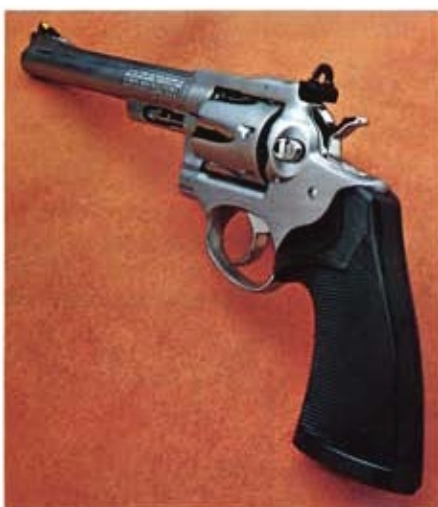
Ken's custom PPC revolvers have been used by the 1978 National Champion and the 1978 2-man Team. His full house PPC revolvers run from \$420 made up on a S&W M-10. Ken also offers .45 long slide combat autos, his own custom barrels, and can handle blueing, plating, and engraving. Ken also has a line of custom tools for pistolsmiths and can make up custom drill and tap jigs.

FISHER CUSTOM FIREARMS

(Don Fisher)
2199 S. Kittredge Way
Aurora, CO 80013 (303) 755-3710

Don's specialty is accuracy, m with 2" groups at 50 yds. with a .45 the rule. He offers two packages for the Colt .45 auto; the Competition Package at \$200 and the Accuracy Package at \$330.

Don's regular pistol smithing services run the gamut from bevel magazine wells to beavertail grip safeties, and his metal checkering is superb. Don offers his own custom 5" Commander barrels and his own custom-made ribs.



Mag-na-port Arms

FRED'S GUN SHOP

5904 Signal Hill Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
(804) 746-9269

Building PPC revolvers and accurizing .45 Autos is Fred's thing. He has a patent

CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH PROFILE:



Bud Price

Greg Moats

Bud Price

As a practical shooting competitor, it was with a discerning eye for value that I stopped at the Western Gun Exchange booth at a local gunshow. A display board had on exhibit a .45 Auto with the more celebrated combat custom features such as adjustable sights, a squared and checkered trigger guard, checkered front strap and main-spring housing. When the individual running the booth quoted prices which were, in some cases, less than half of what the "big name" customizers get, I wanted to know more.

Bud Price is an amiable person; in fact, he's the epitome of the "good ole boy." He's a craftsman operating the Western Gun Exchange near Miami, Oklahoma. It's a one man operation and Bud prefers it that way. Price doesn't suffer from the idiosyncrasies that seem to plague most artisans, other than a healthy regard for privacy. He likes his remote location in that it keeps the retail traffic down and gives him time to concentrate on what he loves most, building exceptional custom handguns. Bud started his gunsmithing in California under the training of Bill Washburn in the early 1960's.

Deciding to "test the water" before diving in, I had Bud square and checker a trigger guard on an old-model Essex frame (an alteration that many feel is superfluous). Three weeks after handing the frame to him, I received the

package containing my altered frame. There was no thinning of the metal at the apex of the "square" of the trigger guard, the checkering was clean, crisp and distinct with no run-overs or hidden errors. Deciding to "dive in," I sent Bud a new Colt Mk. IV to be totally worked over. The result is a gun that is as aesthetically pleasing as it is functionally competent.

Possibly the single most important alteration that can be done to the Colt auto is to polish the feed ramp to insure proper functioning. To date the Price altered pistol has digested everything I've fed it. The only malfunctions I've experienced have been directly attributed to a bad magazine. The second mandatory modification is a proper trigger job. I had Price install a long trigger with an over travel stop. This particular one "breaks" cleanly at a little over three pounds, admittedly somewhat light for a "combat" gun, but done to my specification. The third necessary refinement is a set of high visibility sights. Bud prefers the S&W but was happy to install a set of Bo-Mars at my request. In the almost twenty years that he has been installing custom sights, he has never had a set come loose. The Bo-Mars that Bud installed on my .45 were milled into the slide providing an extremely low profile; this may be more vogue than func-

(Continued on page 63)

HANDGUNNER CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY

pending on a new short cylinder PPC gun that has been fired 7,000 rounds before cleaning. Fred likes Micro, King Tappan, Bo-Mar and S & W sights. His short cylinder PPC conversion, for instance, runs \$250 (your gun).

G,H

GATEWAY SHOOTER'S SUPPLY—See SDR Custom Handguns

FRANK GLENN

Accuracy Unlimited
5425 W. Thomas Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85031 (602) 269-8986

Frank specializes in full house PPC and Distinguished Class revolvers, using S&W K and N frames and the Python. An Open Class PPC gun on a S&W frame will run about \$225 plus customer's gun; the Distinguished Class Python runs about \$110 on your gun. A full line of other services available.

JACK GUTRIDGE

5332 14th St.
Dyer, IN 46311 (219) 865-8617

His Qwik Line sight has the industry talking. Here's a sight you can pick up fast in combat shooting. He does .45 auto and PPC accurizing and tuning. You can get your blueing and plating here, too. Drop him a line about how his Qwik Line sight can help your combat scores.

KEITH HAMILTON

P.O. Box 871
Gridley, CA 95948 (916) 846-3968

Here's a great shooter on the combat competitive circuit who also is an expert gunsmith. He does actions and accurizing on autos and revolvers. He does his own blueing and sand and bead blasting. He builds for duty, competition, and sport. 4-6 weeks on full-house jobs. His complete reblue (includes vapor blast edges and polishing flats) runs only \$35.

RICHARD HEINIE

821 E. Adams
Havana, IL 62644 (309) 543-4535

Dick was one of the first pistolsmiths profiled in our magazine. His specialty is .45 combat autos and, unlike many others, he will work on AMT Hardballers and other stainless guns. His .45 Combat Conversion runs about \$130 which in-



cludes a new Bar-Sto barrel and bushing, slide tightening, polishing of throat and feed ramp, etc. All other normal pistolsmith services are also available. Has a waiting list. (Featured in September/October 1977 issue.)

JAMES W. HOAG

8523 Canoga Ave., Suite C
Canoga Park, CA 91304
(213) 998-1510

Jim's name comes up when you talk of Long Slide .45 Competition autos. His 8" and 6" Master Class Competition Grade guns are legend. Available also are the 6" Competition Browning, the Grade A and B standard length .45's, a Police Special, and a Competition Browning. Hoag offers all of the usual pistolsmithing jobs from basic accuracy jobs to hammer bobbing, installation of H&D combat safeties, and extended slide stops. Revolver work runs from full house jobs on S&W's to conversions from .41 to .44 Mag. (Featured in our September/October 1979 issue.)

DUANE HOBBIE

2412 Pattie
Wichita, KS 67216

Duane does both PPC and .45 auto accurizing and tuning. He does all his own blueing and is an experienced shooter as well. He installs ribs and cuts down barrels, too.

LADDIE V. HOUCK

P.O. Box 1071
Monticello, UT

They specialize in custom tuning PPC revolvers and .45 Autos. They like to use S & W and Bo-Mar sights. Bo-Mar too is preferred in ribs along with the Arist-O-Crat. With your gun furnished, the basic charge for revolvers on a K or N framed S & W is \$40.00. That is the action job only. On Colts and Rugers it's \$55.00 and \$50.00 respectively. You can write for all the rest of the refinements and they'll send you a detailed price list.

J,K

JACK'S GUNS & RELOADING

(Jack Abene)
1607 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33606 (813) 251-6914

Offering accuracy and action jobs on autos and revolvers, Jack's specialty is the Douglas barrel PPC revolver; a complete gun runs about \$387. Heat Bath blueing and hard chrome finishing are offered. Jack's latest innovation is a floating firing pin on S&W K-frames (using a K-22 hammer) which runs about \$72.

JJL CUSTOMS

1333 Highland Pkwy.
St. Paul, MN 55116 (612) 690-1333

Specializing in full house .45 combat autos, JJL also offers custom finishes and tuning of Ruger revolvers. Can install all popular accessories for .45's. Carries all name brand stocks but features Eagle grips from Art Jewel Enterprises.

REEVES JUNGKIND

Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773

If double action's your game, Jungkind is the name. Working with the Colt Python, Reeves offers a complete rework. For individual competition, he makes the Python strictly D.A.; for Distinguished Matches, he leaves the S.A.



action in to abide by the rules. He also works up a D.A. Service revolver from the Python. Any of these conversions run about \$100 on your gun, and the wait is from 8-12 months. (Featured in our January/February 1977 issue.)

LEE JURRAS

cso J&G Sales, Inc.
442 Miller Valley Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86301 (602) 445-9650

Specializing in hunting guns, Lee makes up custom Wildcats on special T/C actions. Lee still does Auto-Mag custom tune-ups. Latest project is custom T/C handguns and carbine combos with matching wood & consecutive serial.

JOE K'S INC.

(Joe Kassay & Jim Arbes)

500 High Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
(201) 442-4114

Joe K's place is a mecca for civilian and law enforcement handgunners. One reason is the 50-yard indoor range, and the other is the quality of the work turned out. Joe's work runs from full house combat, PPC, and NRA guns to installation of his own Master Rib. In addition to the Rib, Joe has also developed the PPC Competitor holster, a PPC ammo tray, and the Strike Force barrels that give a full length ejection rod on a 3" bbl.

Joe's full house revolvers with new M-10 frame run from \$367. A .45 accuracy job goes about \$100. Joe uses Douglas barrels. Services of all kinds offered for Colt .45's, Brownings, and S&W autos; revolver work also offered on S&W K and N frames, Ruger Blackhawks. Blueing done on premises.

KELLY, JIM—See *Darlington Gun Works*

KELLY, LARRY—See *Mag-Na-Port Arms*

KELSEY, CHARLES—See *Devel Corp.*

KING'S GUN WORKS

1837 W. Glenoaks Road
Glendale, CA 91201 (213) 244-6811

This old line gun shop does accurizing on both N and K frame S&W's as well as all types of sporting firearms. They manufacture King-Tappan fixed sights and white outline blades. They also build King speed safeties and extended slide stops. They work on tuning autos like Colt and Browning, too. Finally, they offer blueing, hard chrome, and Parkerizing.

REED KNIGHT

1306 29th
Vero Beach, FL 32960

A very good combat revolver man himself, Reed loves the challenge of custom conversions. He takes on unusual jobs, and one of his conversions involved a Model 53 .22 Jet to .32 caliber. (See *American Handgunner* article—January/February 1979 *Custom Shop*.) His front sight shrouds are excellent, and as for accuracy, he got under 1" groups at 50 yards off the bench.

L,M

LAUGHRIDGE, BILL—See *Cylinder & Slide Shop*

LAWSON, JOHN—See *the Sight Shop*

LENZ FIREARMS CO.

1480 Elkay Drive
Eugene, OR 97404

CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH PROFILE:



Jack Abene

J. K. Osgood

Jack Abene

Jack Abene is a trained tool and die maker, and master machinist. He became interested in bullseye shooting in the early 1970's. By 1974 he was customizing handguns for local shooters and today builds for shooters nationwide. Jack builds half a dozen progressive reloaders a year, and custom loads ammunition as well.

Combat pistols, and more recently, silhouette guns, are his stock in trade. His basic PPC gun starts as a Smith & Wesson Model 10, to which he adds a 1" Douglas barrel with a 1/14 twist, cut to an overall length of 5-7/8". A Bo-Mar West Coast winged rib is milled to match the barrel contour. He adds a special rear sight blade and does some alchemy to the front blade as well. The cylinder is chambered, action honed to give a velvety 4 pull, and Roger's Combat Grips mounted. At today's prices this will set you back \$375. Provide your own Model 10, or 13, 14, 15, 16 or 19, and the same work costs about \$225. Add \$15 to either if you want the hammer bobbed and polished. For those who like a floating firing pin on a Smith, add \$72.50 for Jack's modification, which includes the K-22 hammer required. Gas porting goes for \$60 on a round barrel, \$72 on a slabbed, and add \$20 to either if stainless.

Don't expect to find a stock gun on Jack's shelf, though, for he doesn't work that way. Each gun is built to

order after discussing with the shooter what is expected and desired.

Before the order is complete, Jack may suggest a lighter action work, depending upon the shooter's build, experience, or other factors. Each finished gun is an individual piece made to complement the buyer.

In addition to PPC guns, Jack does a great deal of rechambering suitable .357's of various makes to .44 Special and .45 Long Colt. He also rechambers certain .44 Magnums to .45 Long Colt for those who wish what amounts to a .45 Magnum. Prices for these conversions vary considerably, depending upon barrel and/or cylinder availability or exchange.

.45 ACP buffs can also get Jack to work on their Government Models. A full rib costs \$50 and for \$45, take your pick of having front and backstrap stippled, tightening the slide and frame, or have a barrel lug welded and fitted. A custom barrel bushing turned on a lathe to your barrel o.d. costs \$15.

Hard Chroming is one of Jack's specialties. He uses the same type of material developed to finish industrial engine crankshafts. In a high polish, this hard chroming goes for \$58. A brush finish, which looks exactly like stainless, is \$52. I declined his offer to try to mar a brand new Highway Patrolman

(Continued on page 71)

HANDGUNNER

CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY

This gunsmith is an authorized service center for Colt, Dan Wesson, and Mossberg. They will make custom-made parts and do conversion work and even Single Action revolver tune-ups. Their metal refinishing starts from \$45 and up. Custom-made sights by Lenz, MMC, and Elliason. They even have a Lenz night sight.

LITTLE, W. H.—See Bain & Davis

KENT LOMONT

4421 South Wayne
Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 (219) 694-6792

Complete tuning and custom barrels for the big .44 Auto Mag. Offers shooters custom ammo, pressure and velocity work. Accessories include: holsters, clip depressor and laminated grips.

LOWDEN, CHARLES—See Actionworks.

MAG-NA-PORT ARMS (Larry Kelly)

30016 S. River Road
Mt. Clemens, MI 48045
(313) 469-6727

You have probably already read about the way Mag-Na-Port reduces felt handgun recoil and reduces muzzle jump. A No. 1 Ma-Na-Port Job . . . Cut and Crown barrel, mount sight and finish with a deluxe blue job. Charge is \$140. They also do refinishing only at \$55. Miscellaneous services run from \$1.50 for a blade installation to \$25 to jewel and polish trigger and hammer. Ruger single action jobs on the action run about \$35 at this writing. (Featured in September/October 1978 issue.)

RUDOLF MARENT

9711 Tiltree St.
Houston, Texas 77075 (713) 946-7028

This Texas smith specializes in Hammerli-made guns. He is the official Hammerli gunsmith in the U.S.A. You can also use him for barrels, slide stops and blueing.

ALAN MARVEL

3922 Madonna Road
Jarrettsville, MD (301) 557-7270

Also known as Chesapeake Gun Service, Alan is a member of the American Pistolsmith's Guild. He does accurizing for autos and revolvers even including the Hi Standard and S&W Model 41 autos. His specialty is Colt .45 auto and .38 Super conversions in standard and long-slide

models. He will do blueing, Armoloy, Satin Nickel and other plating according to customer specs.

MARYLAND GUN WORKS

(Lou Ciamillo)
26200 Frederick Road
Hyattstown, Maryland 20734
(301) 874-2661

Besides being a top-notch shot, Lou is noted for his custom PPC conversions. He does accurizing on Colts, S&W



revolvers and autos. He is also known for his Ruger Security Six revolver work. Finally, Lou will do blueing. A complete chop job on a .45 auto is \$375. (Featured in our July/August 1979 issue.)

FRED R. MILLER

2620 E. 32nd St.
Davenport, IA 52807 (319) 356-6165

Fred likes to do match-grade .45 autos with long slides for ball or semi-wadcutter bullets. He can make a shorter version of the 1911, too. They make their own match barrels using Douglas tubes in any length the customer asks for. His rib is custom-designed. He has a standard, deluxe, and supreme blueing finish. He guarantees under 3 inches at 50 yards for the Government Model Colt.

MORAN CUSTOM GUNS

2275 E. Farrand Rd.
Clio, MI 48420

Jerry specializes in Browning autos and Auto-Mag. He will do accurizing and action work on revolvers too. He is especially good with Colt Pythons and makes sight protectors for Colt and S&W K frames. He makes his own custom ribs or you can specify Bo-Mar. He also does Ruger Single Actions.



NORTH VALLEY GUN SHOP

(Charles Clemens)
179 East Avenue
Chico, CA 95926 (916) 345-9364

Some of the options on PPC accurizing revolvers are: Douglas or Apex barrel, ejector rod lock, Bo-Mar or Aristocrat rib

and sights, target, combat or polished trigger, action lightening, crisp trigger pull, chambered cylinders, cylinder reworking for speed loaders, stippled backstrap, thinned trigger guard, and grips adapted for speed loaders. Here's a good place to get an N frame converted to .44 Special or .45 Long Colt. (Featured in March/April 1977 issue.)

NU-LINE GUNS (Jerry Stevens)

1053 Caulks Hill Rd.
Harvester, MO 63301 (314) 441-4500

Jerry's forte is accurizing and action work on both autos and revolvers as well as single action Rugers. He likes to convert .357 Magnum to .44 special or .45 long Colt. You can choose from Nu-Line or Douglas barrels. Nu-Line can blue, Nickel, or Chrome plate and even Gold plate, if you prefer.

PACHMAYR GUN WORKS

1220 S. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 748-7271

Complete facilities for all types of custom pistolsmithing. Although they're not into PPC guns, when it comes to combat and NRA autos, you have to look up to a gun with the Pachmayr signature, and why not, with more than 42 years of experience behind each one.

Facilities are available for all types of finishes, from custom blues to dense



hard chrome, and, of course, you'll want your custom .45 to come back fitted with the now-famous Pachmayr Signature grips.

PATTON'S CUSTOM GUNS

(Leroy W. Patton)
612 Chenevert
Houston, TX 77003 (713) 236-9350

Profiled in this issue, Patton does accuracy and action work on revolvers and autos for combat, PPC, and NRA bulls-eye. His accuracy jobs run from a semi-job at about \$60 to a complete job at \$125. Also offered are most popular ribs and sights installed and facilities for blueing and Armoloy finish.

POWER CUSTOM, INC. (Ron Power)

Box 1604
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 833-3102

Offering premier double action PPC revolver work on S&W and Ruger guns. The latest, in concert with Jim Clark, is

the Grand Master PPC kit (a 6" Douglas in a shrouded rib assembly) and the soon-to-be-announced Grand Master Deluxe.

Ron is also involved in XP-100 work. Having problems with S&W cylinder end shake and yoke fitting? Ron has special bearings that will solve the problems. Lots of other goodies, but let's not forget Ron's main occupation, building fine PPC guns. (Featured in May/June 1978 and January/February 1979 issues.)

ROBERT A. RICHTER

5792 Vista De Oro
Riverside, CA 92509

Evan Marshall checks out the Richter Mini-.45 in this issue. Bob also offers Bobkat conversions on the Commander or standard frame Colts at about \$295. Bobkat conversion units for your gun run from \$180 to \$210. Action work on revolvers and accuracy jobs on autos are also available.

CHUCK RIES

P.O. Box 205
Culver City, CA 90230 (213) 837-6858

This very good Single Action fast draw competitor is also a very knowledgeable man when it comes to automatics. For around \$150, you can get a lot of major improvements. His list of the things he will do for your auto is extensive, but for that amount you can get a lot done. All finishes are available with hard chrome going at \$80 and blueing only \$35.

GREG ROBERTS

2145 Delaware Ave., Suite 21
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 426-7630

As much at home in the winner's circle as he is at the bench or lathe, Greg specializes in revolver work, though he will work on autos as time permits. Using Douglas and Atkinson barrels, he puts together a complete competition gun on a S&W M-10 frame for about \$359. Action work on Smiths or Colts runs about \$30. Greg has developed a yoke lock system for bull barrel guns that assures better accuracy and reliability. (Featured in January/February 1978 issue.)

S

SADOWSKI, FRED—(See "300"
Gunsmith Service)

SCHNEIDER GUNSMITHING

404 W. Garbry Road
Piqua, OH 45356 (513) 773-1417

Schneider will accurize PPC revolvers and .45 Colt Governments. S&W and Colt Pythons are included. They list their specialty as custom blueing. Gold and silver are available.

CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH PROFILE:



Leroy W. Patton

J. K. Osgood

Leroy W. Patton

Leroy W. Patton's credentials as a gunsmith start with barrel making for P. O. Ackley. Add to that, service in the U.S. Border Patrol where he served as gunsmith and firearm instructor for 25 of his 30 years' experience. Top it off with factory training at High Standard, Colt, Remington, S & W and Ruger!

His shop in downtown Houston reflects a mix of rifles, shotguns and handguns in for various repairs and modifications. But Patton's interest is predominately in handguns and custom combat pistols. As expected, the majority of his combat pistols are on S & W and Colt frames. But more and more shooters are asking for Ruger conversions. Patton considers the Ruger a fine pistol, with perhaps the best overall quality control of any factory gun.

Patton regularly uses Shilen and Douglas barrels, and Bo-Mar and Day ribs. He finds shooters asking for specific components and has recently added Davis ribs as a result. Davis has developed a quick-adjustable front sight which has proven popular with West Coast shooters.

Two Patton touches on combat pistols are the use of Armoloy and elimination of the front latch on the cylinder ejector rod. Armoloy is applied by electrolysis and gives a dull satin chrome-like finish. It reduces the

possibility of rusting to an absolute minimum and virtually eliminates fouling problems.

If even the slightest bit off center or out of alignment, the ejector rod can throw off a shooter's feel and timing during double action firing. Patton eliminates the front latch entirely, leaving the rod end free. He then adds a spring and plunger to the cylinder crane for front lock-up.

A complete combat conversion includes barrel, rib, sights, trigger stop and action tuning, and currently costs \$210.00. Add \$10.00 for a stainless conversion. Workmanship is absolutely guaranteed, as are 2½" groups at 50 yards.

For .45 auto users Patton offers two basic packages. A partial accuracy job, for service pistols only, costs \$60.00. This includes a trigger stop, smoothing the action, and some tightening. The complete job is \$125.00 plus sights, and is intended for serious target work. 2½" groups at 50 yards are guaranteed for the complete accuracy job.

In addition to building combat and target pistols, Patton finds himself converting significant amounts of factory .357s to .45 Long Colt. He bores out the factory cylinder and adds a new barrel for this conversion.

Patton's favorite personal pistols include the Smith & Wesson Model 1926

(Continued on page 64)

HANDGUNNER CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY

SCHONE TOOL & MODEL CO.

(Don Schone)

309 13th Avenue West
West Fargo, ND 58078

Don specializes in heavy barrel PPC revolvers. He also rebarrels S&W revolvers with 6" to 10" tubes for hunting. Prices go just under \$300. You can get more or less work, of course, but the basic modifications run about that.

SDR CUSTOM HANDGUNS

Gateway Shooter's Supply
10145 103rd St.

Jacksonville, FL 32210 (904) 778-2277

Offers a variety of services on the .45 Colt and the Browning Hi-Power. His full



accuracy job on the .45 runs about \$100. A full line of sights, safeties, and ribs. Handles trigger jobs on revolvers and blueing. Armoloy, or nickel on all handguns.

L. W. SEECAMP CO. (Larry Seecamp)

Box 255
New Haven, CT 06502

Long known for their double action conversions of 1911 Colt .45 autos, Seecamp offers a shortened version dubbed the "Rolls Cat." They also feature safeties and slides by Swenson and Hoag. They will restore blue or satin nickel finishes to converted guns.

SHERMAN'S CUSTOM GUNS

(Walt Sherman)

9621 Rose Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Although he specializes in Colt Python actions, Walt will do S&W K and N frames. In sights, he prefers to use Bo-Mar and Bill Davis. In barrels, they offer round or slab-sided numbers. When it comes to ribs, once again he likes to use Bo-Mar and Bill Davis custom ribs. (Featured in our May/June 1978 issue.)

THE SHO GUN SHOP

(Richard Nott)

26646 Five Mile Road
Redford, MI 48239 (313) 534-3272

PPC revolvers .45 and Browning Hi-Power Autos and NRA Target accurizing work, they do it all. Their range is wide because they also handle Pythons, Dan Wessons, Rugers in addition to S&W. They do general repairs too. They'll take care of your blueing and plating needs as well.

HAROLD SHOCKLEY

Box 116

Hanna City, IL 61536 (309) 565-4524

Here's a firm that's been into gun refinishing since 1948. All types of blueing and plating are what they do best. They deal in Bo-Mar, S&W, and Micro sights. They also are a parts and warranty station for Colt and Browning. For blueing or satin nickel, the prices start at \$30.

THE SIGHT SHOP (John G. Lawson)

1802 E. Columbia Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98404

Their specialty is restoring Lugers and Nambus. Sights include Bo-Mar, MMC, and Micro, among others. They will accurize revolvers or autos, including Browning. They have a special slow-rust blueing available. This is the kind used on the very early Lugers.

SILVER DOLLAR GUNS

(George E. Sheldon)

10 Frances St.
Franklin, NH 03235

Combat customizing .45 autos, square trigger guards, and shortened slides and barrels are George's specialty. He emphasizes that the trigger work is all his own design.

SNAPP'S GUNSHOP

6911 E. Washington Road
Clare, MI 48617

Bob does more of his work with hunting-type revolvers and some metallic silhouette guns. He has a large volume of rebarreling jobs. Mostly, it is converting smaller caliber N frame S&W's to .44 Special or .45 Long Colt. He can custom fit new cylinders on the Ruger Blackhawks. You probably recognize the name Snapp from his fine custom rifle barrel efforts.

SPOKHANDGUNS, INC.

East 1911 Sprague Ave.
Spokane, WA 99202 (509) 534-4112



These customizers do both auto and revolver tuning and accuracy jobs. In addition to the Colt they will do PP and PPKs, Brownings, Pythons and S&W K and N frames. They manufacture their own ribs or furnish Bo-Mar and Poly-Choke. Blueing, Hard Chrome and even Black Chrome can be furnished. They do anodizing of aluminum and nickel plating too. Ask to speak to Vern Ewer.

SPORTS WEST, INC. (Ikey Starks)

2200 W. Alameda Ave.
Denver, CO 80223 (303) 934-4466

Combatizing the .45 auto is this fine company's thing. They will do NRA target types, too, but the combat models are their real specialty. Douglas barrels are used on their PPC guns. Sights they prefer working with are Micro, Bo-Mar, King-Tappan, and MMC.

STEVENS, JERRY—(See Nu-Line Guns)

TRAVIS R. STRAHAN

Route #7

Ringgold, GA 30736 (404) 937-4495

This firm does complete accurizing of pistols and revolvers. They use the new Mascot sight. They also have a deluxe coil spring for PPC revolvers. The company also just blues their own work and does not take other blueing jobs. In addition to S&W's and Colts, Strahan does work on Colt's Python. Jim Collins shot a 1500-126X in PPC competition with a Strahan job.

EARL R. STROUP

30506 Flossmoor Way
Hayward, CA 94544 (415) 471-1549

Offering 30 years' experience in .45 auto accuracy work and rebarreling of Smith, K and N frames, and Pythons. Full house combat, PPC and NRA bullseye guns, custom sight work and rebarreling using Atkinson stainless match grade barrels. Does his own custom blueing, high polish or matte finish.

SWENSON'S .45 SHOP

(Armand Swenson)
3839 Ladera Vista, Box 606
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Don't let the cosmetically handsome Swenson .45's fool you; they are accurate! Pioneering innovative custom parts, Swenson has patented ambidextrous safeties, slide stops, etc. Has his own custom .45 rib and his own formula for chrome satin finish. Just about any customizing and accuracy work on .45's are handled with expertise. (Featured in our May/June 1978 issue.)

T,U,V



"300" GUNSMITH SERVICE

(Fred Sadowski, Sr.)
4655 Washington St.
Denver, CO 80216 (303) 893-2158

Accuracy and action work on autos and revolvers for combat and PPC are under Fred personally. His D.A. revolver action work is done on both Smiths and Colts; he does work on stainless guns, and as can be seen on the bottom gun—note main-spring—his modifications are more than just smoothing and polishing. A complete gunsmith service, "300" will quote prices on request. (Featured in January/February 1977 issue.)

TRAPPER GUN, INC.

(Lin [Trapper] Alexiou)
28019 Harper
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
(313) 779-8750

The specialties of the house are custom combat autos and Ruger S.A. revolvers. Famous for their Scorpion combat conversions, Trapper also has his own custom blueing and nickel facilities. Manufactures Bullseye spring kits for instant trigger jobs on revolvers. Most any type of accuracy job on autos and action job on revolvers can be handled by Trapper. (Featured in our July/August 1978 issue.)

DENNIS ULRICH

2511 S. 57th Ave.
Cicero, IL 60650

Duc Ulrich specializes in accurizing autos and revolvers for NRA bullseye and International Pistol Competition firearms. Prefers working with Colt .45's and S&W K-frame guns.

STEVE VANIADIS

4657 E. 57th Place
Tulsa, OK 74135 (918) 496-2074

Steve has done a lot of shooting, but business is too busy to get out as much as he wants to. He accurizes and tunes .45 autos and PPC guns. He likes to use Bo-Mar ribs and does his own blueing and plating.

VIC'S GUN REFINISHING

(Victor Strawbridge)
6 Pineview Dr., Dover Point
Dover, NH 03820

Vic is a S&W factory-trained pistolsmith and offers action work on Smiths, Colts, and Rugers for about \$30. One of his

(Continued on page 70)

CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH PROFILE:



Bob Richter

Evan Marshall

Bob Richter

There was a time, when if you wanted a small .45 Auto, you carried a lightweight Commander and hoped for the best. Today, of course, there is a wide variety of selections for the shooter interested in owning a sub-compact .45. They all are very expensive! At least they were until Bob Richter of Riverside, California, took a look at the situation. Bob decided that there was no logical reason for all the custom (and expensive) options usually found on chopped and channeled .45s. After all, what sense does it really make to put adjustable sights, tight accuracy jobs, and fancy finishes on what is simply a close-range concealment weapon?

What Bob offers then is a cutdown Colt .45 Auto with either steel or aluminum frame for \$305. No, gentle reader, that is not a typographical error. That's the price for the whole gun including the customizing. Bob is able to offer this package simply because of a lack of questionable customizing options. In spite of a recent price hike by Colt, Bob still offers this price if you'll mention American Handgunner in your inquiry.

The gun that Bob sent me for evaluation was the first .45 he ever cut down. It's a pre-MKIV Government Model that has obviously seen a lot of use over the years. He currently, however, uses either a lightweight or Combat Commander as the basis for his conversion.

A short stint at the Star loader produced 1,000 rounds of my favorite IPSC load; a 200gr SWC on top of 4.8 grains of Bullseye. The gun produced excellent combat accuracy at fifteen yards with this load. Furthermore, it fed this load without failure. The gun also fed hollow point loads from Speer, Federal, and Super Vel flawlessly. Frankly, I doubt if any of these loads would expand out of the abbreviated barrel. On the other hand, I've always been more concerned with bullet shape than expansion capabilities with a big bore handgun.

In spite of its relatively light weight and shortened grip, the gun is easily controlled in recoil. Recognizing that I'm not especially sensitive to recoil, I had a couple of female officers that work for me shoot the gun. Their biggest complaint was not recoil, but the heavy muzzle flash and blast created by the Federal hollow points. The aluminum frame gun, of course, would offer a substantial increase in recoil. Recoil, however, is a highly overrated factor, and I'd prefer the aluminum frame gun for ease of carry.

I know that fellow American Handgunner staffer Jeff Cooper feels that the lightweight Commander is sufficiently compact enough for concealment purposes, but I can't completely agree. Most non-cops I know are somewhat

(Continued on page 71)

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PISTOLSMITHING

LOU CIAMILLO

THE AMERICAN PISTOLSMITHS GUILD

With the current unprecedented popularity of handgunning of all types and description there has been a market created for custom pistolsmithing, which is being pursued by more gunsmiths than ever before. Many of these are excellent mechanics who produce fine quality work. Unfortunately, there are many more who advertise quality workmanship and achieve little more than a good try. With this in mind, several of the top pistolsmiths in this country met at the NRA Police Revolver Championships at Jackson, Mississippi in 1977 and formed The American Pistolsmiths Guild. The motivating force behind those who formed the Guild was a common desire to promote quality workmanship and also have the opportunity to exchange information and ideas. Additionally, the Guild stands ready to provide the shooter with answers regarding some particular type of work that he or she might want done and also which Guild member specializes in that type of work. The requirements for membership to The American Pistolsmiths Guild are very strict and only experienced and talented pistolsmiths are considered. This insures the shooter who chooses a Guild member to work on his or her gun that the workmanship produced by this smith is recognized by the best pistolsmiths in the country as being of excellent quality. The Guild was organized by gunsmiths who specialize in custom pistolsmithing and has essentially been limited to this type of person since the gunsmith who is not involved in pistolsmithing to this extent would not meet the requirements. Pistolsmiths who apply to the Guild for membership are screened by the current members of the Guild as to reputation, quality of workmanship, experience and the manner in which the applicant conducts business. Each member is required by the Guild By-laws to give an unconditional guarantee on all of his work. Failure to comply with this or any other Guild By-law could result in a vote by the membership to expell the delinquent member from the organization. Since we realize that there are many reputable gunsmiths who are not members of the Guild, it should be pointed out that nothing in this article should be construed to imply that, if a person is not a Guild member that his or her work is not satisfactory. Applications for membership to the Guild

may be obtained by writing to The American Pistolsmiths Guild c/o Alan C. Marvel, Pistolsmith and current Secretary of the Guild, 3922 Madonna Road, Jarrettsville, Maryland 21084.

The following is a complete list of all current Guild members and their addresses:

Joe Kassay
500 High Street
Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861
Ken Eversull
P.O. Box 1766
Alexandria, LA 71301
James E. Clark
Rt. 2 Box 22A
Keithville, LA 71047
Bill Davis
2793 Del Monte St.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Travis R. Strahan
Rt. 7 Townsend Circle
Ringgold, GA 30736
Ron Power
P.O. Box 1604
Independence, MO 64055
Greg Roberts
2145 Delaware St.
Suite 21
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Jerry Moran
2275 E. Farrand Road
Clio, MI 48420
Royce O. Weddle
4111 24th Ave.
Norman, OK 73069
Walter A. Sherman
9621 Rose Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Alan C. Marvel
3922 Madonna Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
Louis P. Ciamillo
c/o Maryland Gun Works, LTD.
26200 Frederick Rd.
Hyattstown, MD 20734
Ken Leonard
3353 Southeast 13th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97202
James Arbes
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Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861



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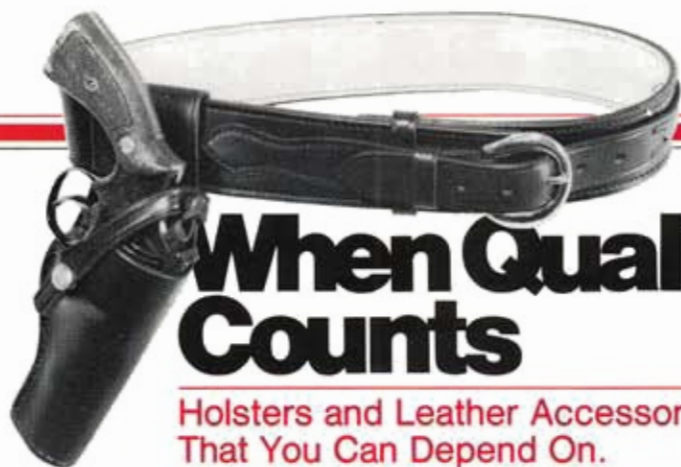


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SPEAK OUT

.45 SECOND BEST?

Regardless of propaganda to the contrary, the negative "myths" of the .45 Auto are, by and large, true as experienced by the majority. At this point, I would like to make clear—despite what was reported in the Cop Talk column of the Sept./Oct. 1979 Handgunner, that I do NOT consider the .45 Auto as the best combat/defense handgun. I do consider the .45 Auto to be the best combat/defense automatic pistol, but that makes it only second best to the sixgun.

George Bredsten
Wrangell, Alaska

LIKED AYOOB'S IPSC COVERAGE

First, let me explain that in all probability, I am prejudiced. Nonetheless, a recent editorial in the South West Pistol League's newsletter has demanded a response.

To clarify my prejudice a bit, I belong to a group of Idaho natives who believe that there are three good types of Californians, (1) Those who still live there (2) Dead ones (3) Those who have moved anywhere but here. We have proposed a bounty on them when they cross our borders but so far to no avail. There has also been a movement to have our Governor declare one week a month as "Give A Californian The Duff Week." If it was good enough for Nelson Rockefeller, it should be good enough for us.

Anyway, back to my original purpose for this letter. The aforementioned copy of Combat took you to task for pointing out the shortcomings of the 1978 I.P.S.C. Nationals. It urged all members of S.W.P.L. to write a protest to you informing you of how wrong you were. Having also participated in the 1978 Nationals, I must say that I agreed wholeheartedly with your observations. It was a pleasure to see so many of our feelings expressed in print. There is no doubt that a match of this magnitude would entail a few problems, but good grief!

Donald G. Hamilton
Nampa, Idaho

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M 29 / BLACKHAWK

(Continued from page 30)

strain screw. This is a bad practice, as it reduces the blow of the firing pin to the primer. And, since the hammer describes a shorter arc in double-action than single action mode, ignition consistency is sacrificed. While a light double-action pull is desirable, a smooth stroke and sure ignition are more important.

Spitting and backblast is a potential problem with all revolvers and the M-29 has known its share. At the safe maximum working pressures, the .44 Magnum will spit every chance it gets. The powder gets very excited behind that bullet. Therefore, chamber-to-bore alignment and an adequate forcing cone are critical.

The elevation screw must have a good 3 or 4 turns of thread in its nut, lest it go airborne upon recoil. The installation of a rear sight assembly with the optional high slide, and/or having the front sight carefully filed down, will permit long range shooting with an acceptable degree of adjustment. My rule of thumb is not to exceed 20 to 24 clicks of elevation above zero (bottom detent). The exact same count applies to Super Blackhawks.

The target stocks supplied with the M-29 are too bulky for most hands. They need slimming, particularly at the front. The clearance-cut in the left stock panel for loading/unloading needs further relief. Judicious carving will turn the factory stocks into a pleasant grip. The new owner is, however, strongly advised to leave the factory stocks alone and to purchase a set of commercial stocks.

Carry-up, the act of the cylinder being rotated by the hand, is critical to timing. Timing is a measure in sequence of the cylinder rotating and locking into battery and, of the hammer pivoting back to its break point, whether cocked manually or by the trigger. The chamber to be fired should be locked in alignment with the barrel before the hammer reaches its break point. This is especially important to double-action accuracy and also in hunting situations, when it is prudent to cock the revolver slowly. In most normal and fast usage, momentum of the turning cylinder will compensate for poor carry-up. Poor carry-up on a new gun is unacceptable.

Should the extractor rod be loose, it will back out under recoil and bind the cylinder or prevent it from opening. Extractors on M-29-1 and M-29-2 revolvers have a left-hand thread. A loose rod may be tightened.

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try each. Personal preference is a real consideration in the selection of firearms. The Ruger is the correct tool for the shooter with limited gun-money. The Smith & Wesson is for the shooter who insists on double-action. Trigger-cocking is far from a priority requirement in most .44 Magnum shooting, yet it involves a skill I value.

Both arms are very accurate, equally so, in my experience: whether using cast or jacketed bullets.

One way to enjoy your .44 Magnum is to join the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA), and enter IHMSA Sanctioned matches. Membership is \$12.00 annually, and entitles the member to enter the State, Regional and International Championships, as well as receiving a patch, scale templates of the chicken, pig, turkey, and ram targets, and the monthly publication, *The Silhouette*. The address is: IHMSA, Box 1609, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401.

I do not know one Magnum handgunner whose skill has not improved from shooting in IHMSA Silhouette Matches. There is no faster way to learn what Magnum revolvers are all about than to take on the steel critters at 50, 100, 150 and 200 meters. This is a great pre-training for hunting.

There are many shooters who love the challenge of shooting .44 Magnum revolvers well. For action in the hunting fields or at the Silhouette range, no handguns adapt so easily, and with less trouble than do the Model 29's and the Super Blackhawks.

SAGA / FOUR .45'S

(Continued from page 31)

matter... inevitably, before all seven were loaded, the pistol would jam with a round half in and half out of the chamber. Over the course of the first year, I teased Haywood unmercifully about this and brought the gun back to him at least three times. At first it would jam for him, too, when test fired in the shop. (By this time I had been granted behind the counter privileges, and was able to watch the testing...) Finally, after much searching, a tiny radial cut was discovered in the top surface of the chamber, and Haywood polished that out. For him, the gun fed flawlessly and we thought all was well.

Ah, but not for ME. My very next time out with the .45, it started the same old story all over again. I, in desperation, decided that the problem must be in the recoil spring, and replaced it with a new one. No change. I took the gun back to Haywood. This time in the shop it performed like a champ for the first magazine but then the slide latched opened

in mid magazine when a second was fired! This was a new quirk. Looking into it we found that the slide latch had worked loose somehow and moved to the left just enough as the gun fired so that it caught in the dismounting cut as the slide attempted to return to the closed position.

I've heard of this happening with Smith Model 39s, and I have seen it happen to a Model 59 because a bullet of the wrong shape tripped the slide latch while working its way up in the magazine, but I had never seen it happen with a .45. Haywood solved the problem this time by filing a small cut in the face of the slide latch at the rear in which the spring loaded plunger could ride up and down but which would cause it to resist movement to the side. Now, as I remember, the old guns I've seen of pre WW II manufacture all had a little cut there to serve just that purpose... but I've found that none of the newer ones seem to. Must have been one of the tiny economies forced upon the makers by the quality and cost of available labor over the years.

Well, anyway, we finally got the gun so it would feed reliably and now it has shown that it will handle bullets of most any shape quite well.

The one thing I have never done with this old gun, and have long wanted to do, was to shoot it for groups and compare it to others to get an idea of the results of Haywood's work. Recently I became the proud owner of a fine Ransom Rest, and the long awaited opportunity was just too much to resist.

I have four fairly different and representative .45s on hand right now, and they seemed to beg to be compared off the rest. One was one of the early stainless steel Hardballers. Another was a fine old Gold Cup National Match that I bought in the late 1960s. The third gun was a relatively new Series 70 Mk IV never touched by a smith and in right-out-of-the-box condition. Finally, of course, was "Haywood's masterpiece."

For the shoot I used two brands of commercial ammunition: Federal 185 grain JHPs and Winchester-Western 230 grain ball. Not being very experienced with the Ransom Rest, there was quite a bit of fiddling before the shooting got started... (for example, I managed to get the first gun all set up in the mount before I realized I'd forgotten to depress the grip safety... and so it wouldn't fire. Had to take it all down and get that taken care of.)

I must say that the result came as a surprise. It happens that I had, about a month ago, tested the Gold Cup against a Smith Model 25 revolver, and the Gold Cup gave two magnificent groups in the 1 plus inch range using mid range match ammunition. That was off a sand bag rest, of course. I've always known that the Gold Cup was made to use mid range ammunition, but I had never fired it very much and did not know that accuracy (as well as longevity) were not good with full power ammunition.

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Much as it galls me to have to admit it, I had to report to Haywood Nelms how well his handiwork performed. No matter; I got him into a good enough mood to agree to work over my Hardballer so that it will feed reliably... since he's now gone out of the gunsmithing business, that is no small accomplishment!

"The Livens Projector" was a sort of small mortar used to fire mustard gas shells. Great "batteries" of 25 of these small mortars were wired together in a row and aimed to saturate an area which friendly troops planned to evacuate. When the area had been cleared, the battery of mortars was fired electrically from some distance.

IPSC 1979

(Continued from page 35)

the top sixteen. Tom Campbell shot well, but his minor caliber hurt his score.

On Wednesday we had only one match, the "Roodepoort Runner" stage of the "Moving" course. This was an interesting and unforgiving match. It involved running down a hallway and engaging six stationary targets, three of which were partially covered by "no shoot" figures, and a moving target. The maximum range was only about eight yards, but you had to do it in less than five seconds to win. While not very practical, it was very interesting. Seven Americans (not team members) placed in the top sixteen, with Nick Pruitt winning. Nick will be one to watch in the future. Beside being a good shot, he is a gifted young athlete. Had he not goofed in the "Bush Run," he would have finished in the top ten over-all.

Thursday found us looking forward to the "Standard Exercises" and the "Walk and Draw" stages. We expected to do well in these, and we did. Seyfried, Campbell, Fowler, Taylor, and I all placed in the top sixteen. Dale Guthrie of the S.A. Team showed us his heels, however, when he won the match shooting the smallest group I have ever seen in the "Walk and Draw." You could cover his ten shots with one hand. It was pleasant to note that most of the shooters that had been outscoring us in the procedure matches were conspicuously absent in the skill courses.

Friday was a bad day for both the U.S. team and Ross Seyfried, as it cost us the team championship and Ross the individual title. In the morning we fired the last "Obstacle" Course. This one was started by the shooter knocking down a steel plate. A fast moving target at a difficult angle then took off. Few shooters were able to hit it with both shots. One then had to shoot two more targets twice each before they turned away. At this point the problems were just beginning, for next we had to run to a flight of stairs and up to a platform two meters high. From the platform we had to shoot once at five different targets and then

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OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

J.D. Jones, current Chairman of the OAHAF announced the selection of the following as the nominees for the 1980 Outstanding American Handgunner Award.

Ashbrook, John ... This U.S. Congressman from Ohio's 17th District has been at the forefront legislatively defending our right to keep and bear arms. The impact of his contribution is immeasurable, but with enough like this man, we can win legislative battles time and again.

Bianchi, John ... John's trend-setting holster designs are known internationally. He's also a major contributor to our 2nd Amendment rights, an advocate of sportsmanship and a generous supporter of pistol shooting events. An avid handgun hunter, John's Old West knowledge has literally inspired thousands.

Bowman, Joe ... His fancy gun handling, speed and accuracy has brought excitement to the sport of handgunning that has had international consequences. Besides the continental U.S., his exhibitions have created interest in the sport all over the world. He has created favorable impressions to non-shooters too.

Center, Warren ... An outstanding handgun hunter in his own right, Warren was the designer of the famous Thompson/Center pistol as well as numerous other arms. His designs have placed some really great, high-quality arms at minimum cost in the hands of sportsmen all over the world. Silhouette shooting too owes him a great debt.

Davis, Bill ... Holder of 6 National Pistol Shooting Championships, Bill has spent 14 years with the California Highway Patrol. A staunch supporter and promoter of our rights to keep and bear arms, he is a highly-skilled pistolsmith with the well-known firm of Cake-Davis. He can shoot as well as he can put 'em

together ... that's Bill Davis.

Pachmayr, Frank ... Frank's been in on the handgun scene a long time ... over thirty years to be exact. He has made significant contributions to handgun accuracy. Always innovative and imaginative, his work is known throughout the shooting world.

Peterson, Robert E. ... As Chairman of the Board of Peterson Publishing, he has devoted much effort to our right to keep and bear arms. An avid handgun hunter, his publishing activities have educated and inspired thousands to pursue handgun sporting activities.

Pfizmayer, Al ... Policeman, exhibition shooter and big game hunter, Al has done it all. He didn't limit his shooting to the U.S. but took in Africa as well. It's his kind of dedication and interest that has sparked many to perceive handgun shooting in such a good light.

Rowe, C. Edward ... Ted is President and General Manager of Harrington and Richardson in private life. He also is President of Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers and active in the National Shooting Sport's Foundation. Holder of design patents, he has contributed generously to legislative pro-gun activity.

Yaciano, Michael ... Massachusetts G.O.A.L. is Mike's bailiwick. His herculean efforts on the legislative front could literally serve as a model for fighting anti-gun legislation. His stand has not gone unheard and the benefits are being reaped by all of us.

The presentation of the prestigious OAHAF award will be held in Kansas City in conjunction with the NRA Annual meeting in April of 1980. The awards presentation consists of a dinner, the presentation and the distribution of thousands of dollars of door prizes. For reservations contact the foundation.

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decide whether or not to chance a shot at a small bonus plate. Of those that tried, very few hit it. Jim Von Sorgenfrei came closer to winning the match right there. On one of his shots at the five regular targets, one round ricocheted off the ground and knocked down the bonus plate, taking five valuable seconds off his total time. The platform was a special problem to those of us wearing a cross draw holster. Due to the layout of the course, upon holstering our weapon, it would point at the crowd. To keep from disqualification we had to remember to stop, make a one-half turn before holstering, and then exit the platform. This cost time and concentration. Then came the problem of getting off the platform. The only fast way was to jump. Again, the females and brittle males had to go much slower. Ross Seyfried shot very well and came in third. Von Sorgenfrei came in ninth, helped by his fortunate bullet bounce. All of the other top scorers were to shoot later.

The real disaster came in the afternoon "Bush Run." This match best illustrates the difference between the use of the pistol in Africa and America. We have no practical use of the pistol that parallels this course of fire. Except for a chance to "play soldier," this one has no value to us. The course was laid out in heavy brush along a ravine. The targets were camouflaged and cleverly placed. If proper tactics could have been used, it would have been reasonable. Unfortunately, time was again divided into the score. This made "gamesmanship" the rule again. Two West Coast and one Mid West shooter that shot two days later, when for some reason there were fewer officials, followed the shooters down the course several times and even marked where they were to stop and shoot. Obviously they were among the winners.

When we shot, there was a delay of over an hour and it was rapidly growing dark when it finally became our turn to walk the course. We got one rushed walk through the course. The ample judges on hand kept us all away from the course until our turn to shoot. To make matters worse, the course designer had decided it was permissible to stand in full view of the "hostile" target, but a disqualification would result if more than two steps were taken in the wrong direction from an unmarked point. Jim Von Sorgenfrei was disqualified for this foot fault. He challenged it and rightfully won a reshoot. The delay during the resulting discussion allowed it to get darker and worried us about foot faults. The result was that each of us on the U.S. Team ran it very conservatively and not one of us placed in the top sixteen. This and the aforementioned tactics of those that followed placed their score so high that ours were driven down. This, more than anything else, cost Ross the title. When I ran the course I had to take my glasses off in hopes of finding the targets. Since I am farsighted, I could not see my sights and still had a hard time finding

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camouflaged targets in the shadows. The winning time was a full thirty seconds faster than mine.

On Friday night we all attended a banquet furnished by Jeff Cooper and his lovely wife. I'm sure all of the over four hundred people there appreciated it. The next two days are the ones I'll remember the longest. My wife and I flew to the Mottswari Game Lodge near Kruger Park. We rode in an open Land Rover day and night over much of the 45,000 acres of the preserve. We saw all kinds of game and were treated like royalty.

Monday found us with only two courses left and little chance to catch the S.A. Team. We started with the "Running Reload" of the "Moving" stage and finished with the "Running Man."

The "Running Reload" was a fairly straightforward course involving mostly shooting skill. There were five firing points, from fifty to seven meters, with a rough time limit. Eight Americans finished in the top sixteen, with Ross Seyfried winning it by dropping only one point. I was the only team member that didn't make the top group. I had fired before I was ready at one position and missed the target completely. I didn't argue when they found only five holes.

Another shooter with only five holes worth mentioning was Lynn Schoening of Nebraska. When scoring one of his targets the officials found only five holes instead of six. One was, however, a little ragged. They proceeded to give him credit for one of the many "perfect doubles" that this match produced. Lynn, however, is different than some in this competition. He stopped them and explained that since he had fired only five shots there should be only five holes. If you've been to our matches in the past, you'll remember this sportsman as the tall shooter with the 8" Browning built by Austin Behlert.

Our last chance was the "Running Man." It slipped away on the curse of most movers, erratic movement. It defied a consistent lead unless you got a lucky run. Ross was unlucky and missed his chance to catch Jim Von Sorgenfrei. Only Fowler, on the U.S. Team, finished in the top sixteen.

This ended the team competition, with the South African team beating us by only fifteen points, which is approximately 7/100 of one percent. The top sixteen individuals overall were then listed for the final "Man vs. Man" shoot-off for the individual title.

The Man vs. Man competition was exciting and hotly contested, with many of the same problems experienced at the U.S. Nationals in this match. Instead of using steel plates to shoot at, as had been advertised, they used clay tiles that did not always indicate a hit. Many shooters lost points because of this. Ross Seyfried was above all of these problems, however. He established himself as the best all around shooter any of us had ever seen.

The final results placed Jim Von

Sorgenfrei of S.A. as the World Champion. There is no doubt but that he is very, very good. Raul Walters combined his excellent shooting ability and athletic powers with the advantage of shooting after the U.S. Team to come in a strong second. Ross Seyfried placed third.

The next world match will again be in South Africa. The opportunity to visit this wonderful country will sustain IPSC at least until 1981. Those who plan to stay with the sport should take a long look at its structure. A visit to The Bianchi match run by Ray Chapman will give you a good idea of how a match should be run.

IPSC, on the club level, is the most interesting, valuable and exciting shooting sport now in existence. As a competitive sport, however, it needs policy revision through the participation of all of its members. One thing you can count on: South Africa will once again be a fine host; they'll stage a great show, and if the rules are changed and enforced, it will also be a great match.



BUD PRICE

(Continued from page 45)

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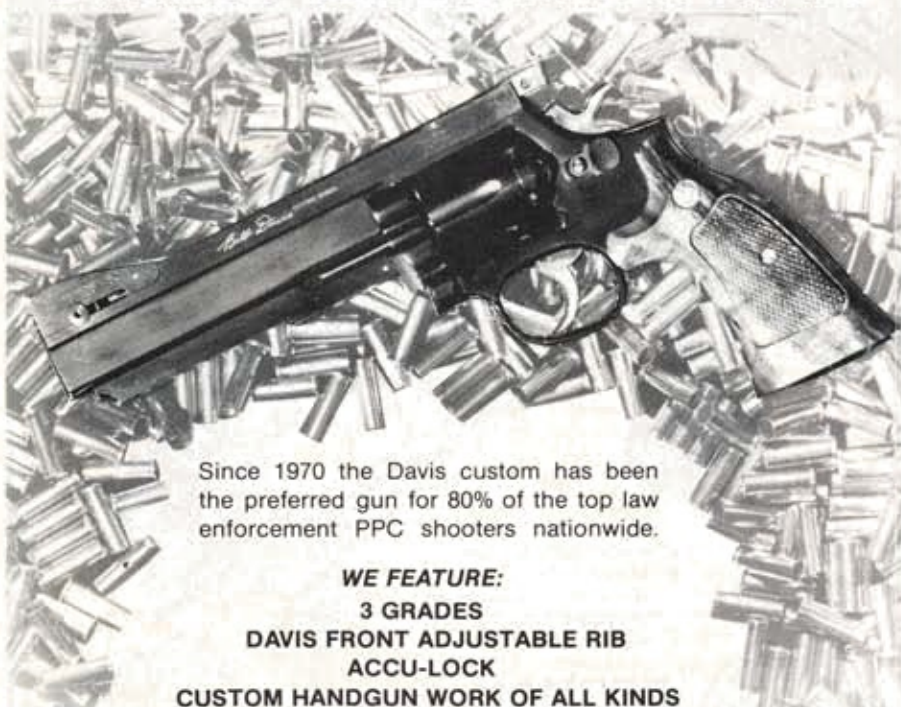
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PATTON

(Continued from page 49)

in .44 Special he carried during his
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RON POWER

(Continued from page 37)

extractor rod. That part is constantly pushing against the bolt when the gun is closed, and if you leave that sharp edge there at the rod opening, why it can eventually get bent out of shape and mushroom on you, and that means that eventually it'll be so out of shape that the underlug bolt won't lock back into the frame, which in turn means that the gun won't fire. Just knocking a little of that sharp corner off with a slight bevel solves a lot of problems that could develop in the future.

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There are some new companies out with sight ribs that offer gimmicks, and some of them have good workmanship, but I won't put them on my guns. I know of too many that have broken because they're weak in places where they have lots of little screws, instead of one big one like Bo Mar. You know the ones I mean.

The reason I just use the West Coast style is that it has all three attachment screws going into the barrel, instead of two on the barrel and one on the frame like some of the other models. I don't want any tension or any unnecessary pressure from the rib pushing on the frame, or vice versa. When your gun gets hot, there is a minuscule amount of metal expansion. I know that we're talking about a superfine measurement, and I know I'm splitting hairs, but I'm proud of my reputation for ultra

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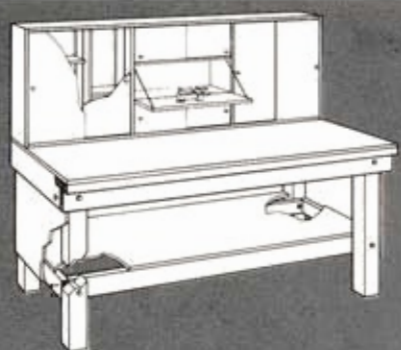
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Your holes are now located center on the barrel, so you can remove the rib and finish up with a number 31 drill, and then tap it to size 6-40 and go ahead and screw your Bo Mar rib on. I make a point of

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having the front of the rib exactly flush with the outside bevel of the crown on the front of my Douglas barrel. This makes for a real nice-looking job. If you're using an adjustable-sight Smith & Wesson, like a Masterpiece or Combat Magnum, the notch in the back of your topstrap where you removed the factory sight is a good guideline to follow. If the end of the Bo Mar rib is exactly flush with that, you've got it right; I bevel my barrels to line up according to that guideline for the Bo Mar ribs, which are exactly 7/4" long in 6" barrel size.

I leave a little bit of clearance between the topstrap of the frame, but the ribs should be screwed down *solid* to the barrel. I have a special sight option for quick changes between the 25-yard and 50-yard setting. A lot of the guys like this because it eliminates having to count clicks, which can be tedious and easy to screw up if somebody bumps into you while you're turning the screwdriver or something. It's a patented process, so all I'd like to say at this time is that it requires machining a recess into the top of the frame to accommodate a longer screw. I've got some really new stuff coming up in the way of sight ribs, but I can't talk about that until the patents clear. I'm excited about it, though.

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LAWSON

(Continued from page 39)

tion, because it signals an awareness of the advantages provided by a more accurate handgun and the desire to improve their chances in competition. Most pistol competitors level off here and it would be overkill to seek more accuracy potential in their handguns.

Pistol accuracy modifications should be regarded as highly specialized work. Parts must be fitted to tolerance levels more associated with Tool and Die Makers than with General Machinists. And, since there are so many approaches to pistol modifications...almost as many as the number of men doing the work...it is advisable to consider the gunsmith's qualifications. A general smith who tunes up an outboard in the morning, installs a trailer hitch before lunch, solders a rib on a shotgun in the afternoon and offers to accurize your pistol at 4 PM may do an adequate job. More often, though, the jack-of-all-trades type fits a creeping trigger to a light hammer that mysteriously changes an autoloader into a single action when a dangerously shallow engagement fails and the hammer begins to follow the slide after a few shots. If the over-tightened slide goes forward at all, that is! This kind of butchery is all too common and it would be a rare pistol shooter who has not seen at least one such horrible example.

These days, X's win matches, so top level shooters often look for a winning edge over their competition. In the proper hands, an Extremely Accurate pistol stands at the very apex and pinnacle of the Gunsmith's art. The Extremely Accurate pistol will have a custom barrel with special tight chambering, throating for a specific semi-wadcutter bullet set at a specific depth in a case of uniform overall dimensions, close headspacing and it may be fed an exclusive diet of special cases altered by lathe turning loaded with carefully altered bullets.

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finished pistol won't show a dramatic change in looks. All of the differences are small but important and must be measured in ten thousandths of an inch!

THE MACHINE REST

The function of a machine rest is to determine extreme spread of shot groups that a pistol or revolver is capable of delivering consistently, when the barrel aligns at precisely the same point of aim from shot to shot. It is also useful to determine the accuracy of a bullet and load combination.

Accuracy groups should be fired from a solid bench-mounted Ransom windage base machine rest after five fouler shots are fired over the target. The wind flag must be down, and there should be no body contact with the rest or the bench except the finger on the trip lever.

While we realize that bench mounting is not as steady as a granite dike set below the frost line, this condition is more easily duplicated by an average experimenter and no allowances in group size have to be made for mounting differences. We have elected to use extreme spread of shot groups rather than center to center of shotholes because this is more easily measured accurately by merely caliper from outside to outside of the shotholes with an accurate vernier or dial caliper. As will be shown in part 2, this is a more realistic measurement than the usual center to center group sizing.

To further standardize conditions, we have used an Oehler 33 Chronotach to record velocity of test loads. Thus, all of the test equipment we have used is readily available to any shooter at modest cost if it can't be borrowed for an afternoon, and all of our results can be readily duplicated.

IHMSA SILHOUETTE PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

A wide spectrum of handguns is used. If a match is not IHMSA sanctioned, classifications and requirements may vary considerably.

Production Class handguns are required to group under 3" at 50 meters (54.68 yards) and 12" at 200 meters (218.70 yds.) to be classified Competitively Accurate. No major alterations are allowed. This is the usual average accuracy level in out-of-the-box quality revolvers and single shot pistols when commercially loaded ammunition is used. Most competitors tighten these groups considerably by using hand-loaded ammunition.

Modified Production Class Handguns will not be considered here because none of the allowable modifications, (i.e., sights, custom grips, Mag-Na-Porting, action modifications, etc.) have any effect on machine rest groups, though they can shrink competition groups dramatically.

Unlimited Class Handguns are required to group under 1" at 50 meters and 4" at 200 meters to be classified Competitively

Accurate; 1/2" at 50 meters (one ragged hole for most large calibers) and 2" at 200 meters to be classified Very Accurate; some custom Unlimited Pistols deliver Extreme Accuracy, and while this may give a shooter a psychological advantage of extreme confidence in his weapon, target size does not warrant that degree of accuracy, in light of the fact that matches are consistently won with weapons below this classification.

PPC REVOLVERS

A wide spectrum of revolvers are used, but the S&W K and N frame weapons seem to be the most popular favorites. There is great variation in local Departmental rules and courses of fire; averages have been taken from random samples. Usually no restrictions are placed on modifications. The specified caliber is usually .38 special, but handloads within the .357 magnum range are commonly loaded in .38 special cases for these matches. Some departments insist that competitors use issue wadcutter ammunition handloaded at their facility. These revolvers are therefore expected to digest a wide spectrum of fodder accurately.

PPC revolvers are required to group under 1" at 25 yards and 2" at 50 yards to be classified Competitively Accurate; under 3/4" at 25 yards and 1 1/4" at 50 yards to be classified Very Accurate; under 1/2" at 25 yards and 1" at 50 yards to be classified Extremely Accurate. These standards are to be arrived at by firing m.r. groups with every type of ammunition that will be used and using the largest group fired as a standard.

Most quality revolvers can be expected to be competitive out of the box, while ranging, timing and custom sights will be the basis for a tightened group. Extreme accuracy can usually only be attained in special custom-built revolvers that have slabbed bull barrels with special rifling and twist, flat crown, reworked lock, rib designed to prevent frame flex, adjustable rear and front sights, grips carefully fitted to the hand and many other custom features not found in production specimens.

IPSC PISTOLS

This class of shooter favors Browning designed pistols with extensive modifications, in some cases. 1911 and 1935 pistols are the popular choices. Parameters of accuracy are identical with those for NRA target pistols, but there are several important differences to consider: Reliable functioning is paramount in these weapons. Adequately large, easily aligned sights with the longest possible base and various custom features may be required by individual competitors. Accuracy work must focus on barrel/bushing/lockup only. Rapid cycling is necessary, so heavy 22 and 24# recoil springs and slides moderately loose on raceways are utilized. Commercial ammunition is often used, so barrels are oriented toward jacketed fodder.

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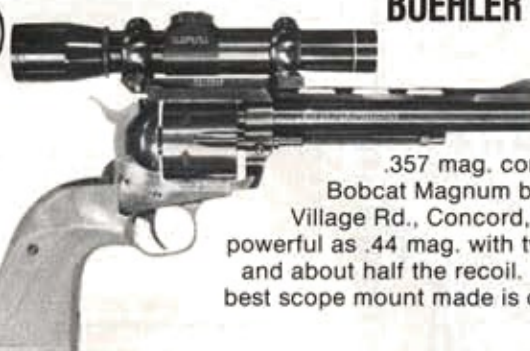
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(Continued from page 51)

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THE SPORTING USE OF THE HANDGUN by Mason Williams, *Firearms and Ballistic Consultant, Libby, Montana*. This in-depth examination of the sporting use of the handgun outlines the legal use of pistols and revolvers for recreation, competition, and hunting. All data required for competition in handgun shooting — courses of fire, targets, accuracy requirements, mental and physical conditioning — are thoroughly reviewed. The author also offers suggestions concerning ammunition, ammunition testing, handgun selection, and ways to match handguns to specific ammunition lots and types. '79, 288 pp., 119 il., \$14.75

BALLISTIC SCIENCE FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER by Charles G. Wilber, *Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins*. This book clearly and understandably explains the physics and chemistry involved when bullet meets target, the types of wounds or holes produced by various firearms, criteria for selecting firearms and cartridges for special and routine purposes, and pertinent performance data. '77, 324 pp. (6 3/4 x 9 3/4), 86 il., 26 tables, \$30.00

AMERICAN POLICE HANDGUN TRAINING by Charles R. Skillen, *Yellowstone County Sheriff's Dept., Billings, Montana, and Mason Williams, Firearms and Ballistic Consultant, Libby, Montana*. Offering factual, constructively critical evaluations of police handgun training, this text explores such issues as mental conditioning in relation to handgun training, training by rote, psychological factors, the legality of firing, private combat training schools, the police officer in relation to society, and training procedures based on modern concepts. '77, 216 pp., 77 il., \$13.00

COMBAT HANDGUN SHOOTING by James D. Mason, *Consultant, San Diego County Sheriff's Dept., San Diego, California*. Foreword by Bill McMillan. A broad scope of handgunning interests is covered in this handsomely illustrated book, including handloading ammunition, the conditioning and maintenance of handguns, handgun selections, terminal ballistics, criteria for developing effective defense combat shooting skills, and basic mental and bodily processes that result in effective combat marksmanship. '76, 272 pp. (6 3/4 x 9 3/4), 594 il. (26 in color), 8 tables, \$27.25

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JACK ABENE

(Continued from page 47)

he'd just chromed, but Jack attacked it himself with a steel letter opener to show just how durable a finish is provided. Nary a scratch. Remember, all prices quoted are current in early 1979 and may change.

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RICHTER

(Continued from page 51)

paranoid about concealability, and carry the inadequate .38 snub. Besides Jeff, a lightweight Commander won't fit in the right front pocket of my uniform pants. I carry a lightweight Commander under my uniform jacket in the winter as a backup to my .41 Mag, but until I got a Richter Mini-Combat .45 I

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2. Title of Publication: American Handgunner.
3. Frequency of issue: Bi-Monthly.
4. Location of known office of publication (Street, city, county, state, zip code): 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108.
5. Location of the headquarters of general business offices of the publishers (Not printers): 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108.
6. Names and addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor:
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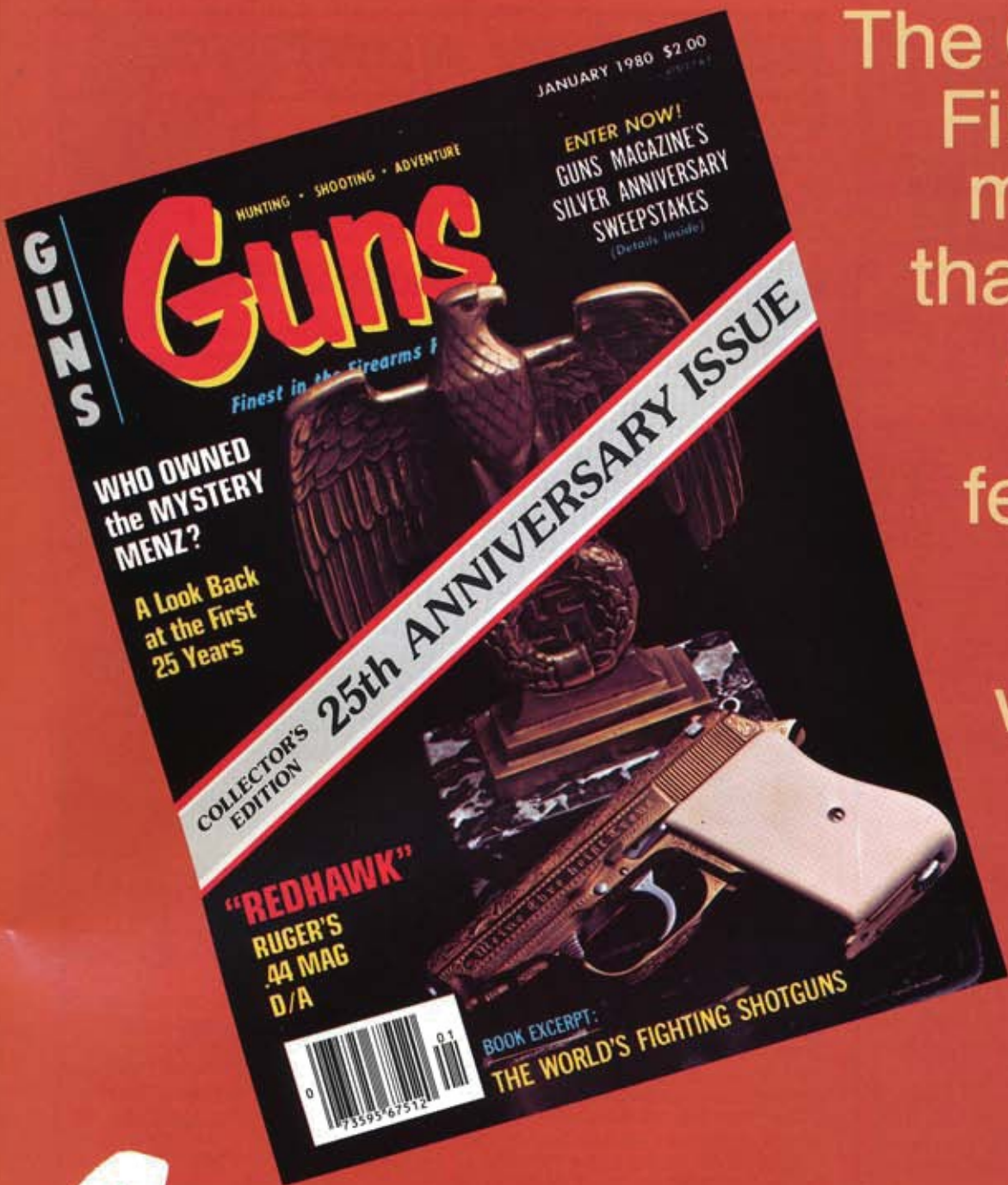
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

WHAT'S GOING ON IN HUNTING BULLETS

Let's talk about ammo. Anyone seen anything new and different lately? The now old hat, jacketed hollow point handgun bullets are obsolete. Remember twenty years ago they didn't exist. It wasn't until '66 when Super Vel fired up that they became available in any quantity.

It's probably not very well known, but the very first commercial high performance ammo loaded by what was to become Super Vel utilized home swaged half-jacket bullets.

The transition to jacketed H.P. and S.P. bullets was quite painful. Accuracy wasn't a problem, expansion was. I still have one of the original .357 160 grain S.P.s that I penetrated a railroad tie with. The jacket was kinda thick. Eventually thinner jackets became available and now it seems like Hornady, Speer, Sierra and a number of other companies have always had good, dependable bullets. That's a shame because the guys that did the original significant development work received little in the way of recognition or reward for what we all casually now buy over the counter.

If you are experimentally minded, Corbin (P.O. Box 758, Phoenix, OR 97535) publishes Ted Smith's book on bullet swaging as well as handling a complete line of bullet swaging equipment.

So far nothing new or different (that's readily available) has appeared except WW's Silvertip in 9MM and .45 ACP. Take the thin aluminum alloy cap from the nose of a Silvertip rifle bullet—cap pure or almost pure lead and you get a dandy pistol bullet that is less expensive to make, is very accurate, expands very readily, doesn't drag on feed ramps and has the added advantage of an additional 5% velocity at identical pressure for conventional jacketed bullets of the same weight.

Yep. That's new and different. Sure as hell wish I had been smart enough to think of it. The best part of the whole thing is that it works. At reasonable ranges even the .45 opens up very well. I mean in meat—not in sand or Duxseal. The very light aluminum alloy ruptures and falls away from the core but that is of absolutely no consequence. Right now I'll go out on a limb and say it's the fastest opening H.P. bullet available for handguns. If you want penetration, forget the Silvertip. Early in 1980 the Silvertip will be available in all the calibers you would think WW would

market a successful design in, plus a bunch of others that are real sleepers for this adaptation. Time and testing will tell just what they will be suitable for, but my guess is that in .41, .44 and .45 Win. Mag they will turn out to be among the best for use on up to 200 pound animals. I'll predict they will expand a lot quicker than their conventionally jacketed counterparts and make a significant improvement in ammunition in a lot of calibers.

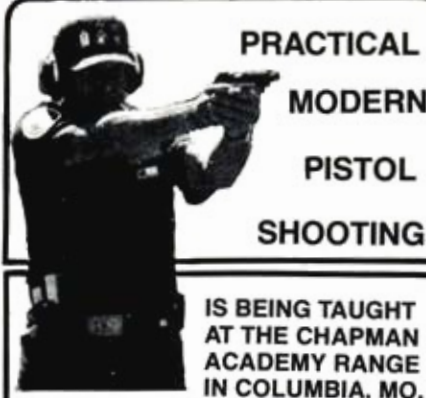
As I've said before, handgun ammuni-



tion development has been dead for 10 years. Maybe, just maybe, the Silvertip will provide a little incentive to someone to spend a few R & D bucks in bullet development.

As of now the Silvertip will not be offered as a component item. In fact, WW is essentially out of the bullet business for reloaders. If you want some of those good big game bullets in the white boxes you better stock up while you still can. Obviously the Silvertip is new, different and significant. It will not replace the conventionally jacketed bullets for large game.

"Trick" bullets have made their appearance from time to time and usually proved unsuccessful over the long haul. There is useful application for capped, liquid filled hollow points and some of the other trick bullets that have come and gone. The problem with special purpose bullets is a limited market that is not profitable for a manufacturer to stay in. In the past, "explosive" bullets fired with a primer and containing a black powder charge have not proven to attain larger "wound" cavities in Duxseal than conventional hollow point bullets ahead of the same powder charge. (At least in my tests.) Primer ignition of such misnamed "explosive" bullets is quite "iffy" on a variety of substances. Propellant powders used in this fashion simply are propellant powders contained for a few milliseconds at impact



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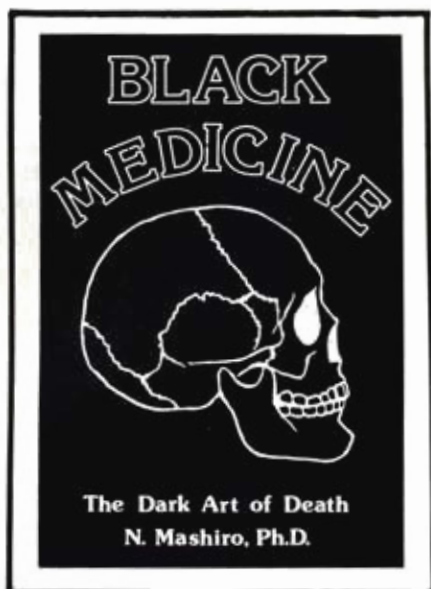
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and vastly inferior in effect to any true explosive chemical combination. "Explosive" bullets are illegal for hunting everywhere I know of and have been for more years than I've been alive.

Handgun Hunters International is rolling right along. The membership is growing daily and some of the "projects" underway are quite detailed. Terminal ballistics—what happens when the bullet hits—is of interest to a large number of members. The "Sixgunner" was very well received. For additional information—or to join—simply send \$12.50 to HH, P.O. Box 357 Mag, Bloomingdale, OH 43910.



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2nd CHANCE

(Continued from page 26)

ammo this year in the team match, and
wish I'd done so in the individuals. I'll use
it next time.

Davis is giving out even more guns next
year. He'll also have a ten pin knockover
event for 9mm autos and .38s, with the
pins set on the back edge of the table so
they go off easy. One of '78s special runs
was a single 5-pin match for 6 MagNa-
Ported Charter .44 Backpackers. Davis
gives out guns like lollipops. Hell, 250th
place got a Second Chance groin protector.
(It retails for \$35, and Davis says, "Its real
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When you get there, focus on the front
sight and make every shot count for a
blown off pin, no matter how long it takes,
and you'll win something nice. Believe me.
When you practice, put your scores against
the winning tally sheet that appears in
these pages.

MAIN AGGREGATE

(total of 7 runs, 5 pins each)

- 1st: Bill Wilson, 30.7
- 2nd: Nick Pruitt, 32.5
- 3rd: Wayne Umberger, 34.9
- 4th: Ray Neal, 35.7
- 5th: Massad Ayoob, 40.3
- 6th: Darrell Early, 40.7
- 7th: Lowell Wells, 41.9
- 8th: Tom Blizzard, 43.0
- 9th: Fred Levan, 43.3
- 10th: Leonard Knight, 44.0

BEST INDIVIDUAL

- 5-pin run:
- 1st: Bill Wilson, 3.9
- 2nd: Nick Pruitt, 4.0
- 3rd: John Shaw, 4.2
- Lowell Wells, 4.2



WILSON

(Continued from page 43)

1977—IPSC Nationals (Denver)—14th
Place

1978—Midwest Practical Pistol
League—4th place Master class for the
season

1978—Arkansas Combat Pistol
League—Champion for season

1978—Arkansas Combat Pistol
League—first "Combat Master"

1978—Second Chance Bowling Pin
Match—Third place

1978—IPSC Midwest Championship—
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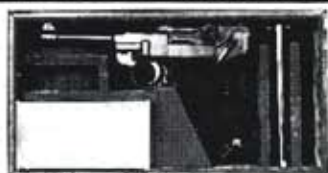
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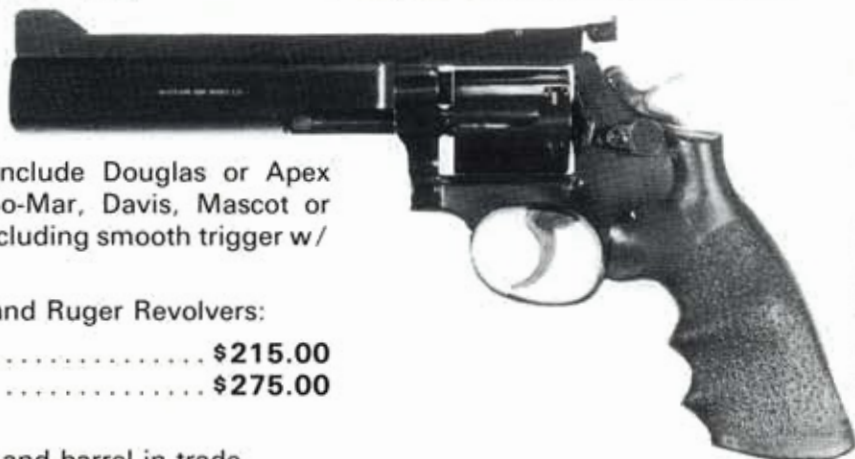


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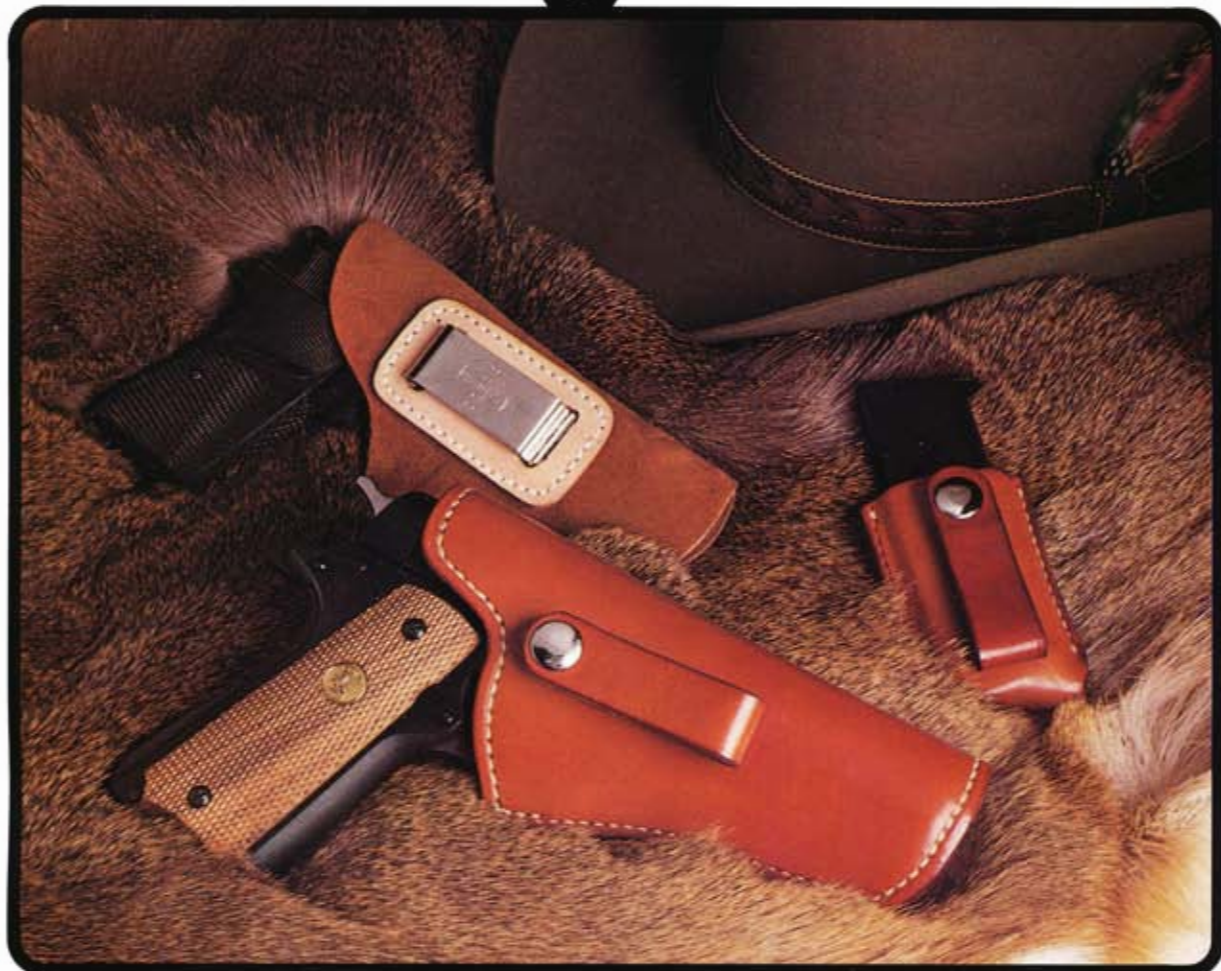
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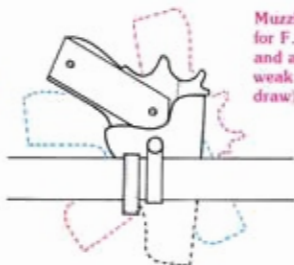
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