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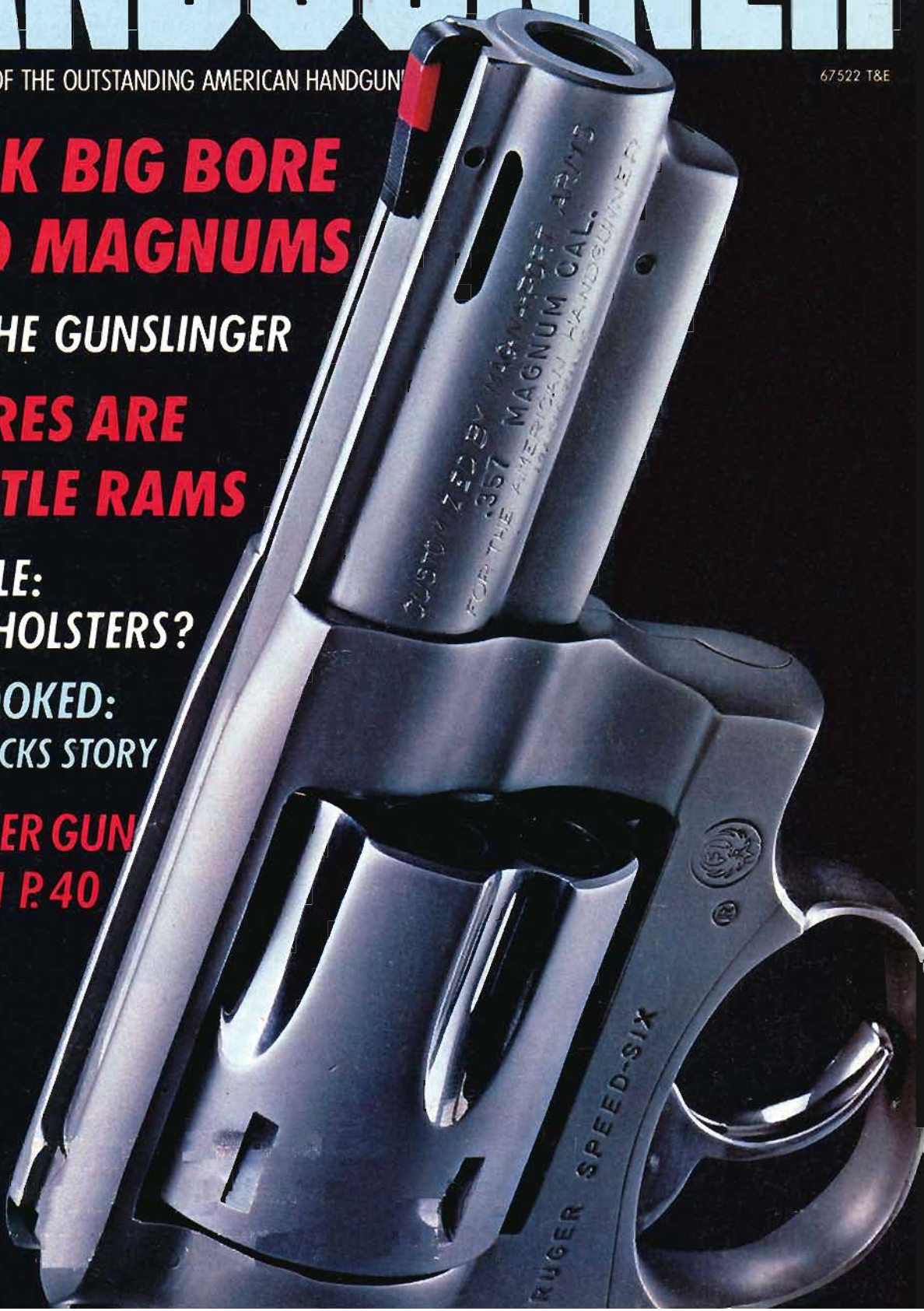
**RIMFIRES ARE
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**IPSC'S NEW RULE:
CONCEALABLE HOLSTERS?**

**SHOOTING CROOKED:
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**THIS COVER GUN
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A Father's Advice

If a sportsman true you'd be
Listen carefully to me . . .

Never, never let your gun
Pointed be at anyone.
That it may unloaded be
Matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross
Though of time it cause a loss
From your gun the cartridge take
For the greater safety's sake.

If twixt you and neighboring gun-
Bird shall fly or beast may run
Let this maxim ere be thine
"Follow not across the line."

Stops and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be
"Never shoot where you can't see."


You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think of this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead."

Written by Mark Beaufoy of Coombe House, Shaftsbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on presenting his eldest son, Henry Mark, with his first gun. Reproduced here by permission of the author's granddaughter, Mrs. P. M. Guild.



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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

MAY/JUNE 1981, Vol. 6, No. 28

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

MILITARY 9MM TESTS TO RE-RUN; SHOT SHOW OUTLOOK OPTIMISTIC

The scene was a meeting, in early November, with top brass from F.N. looking ahead for the 80's. Sources there claim that a rather momentous decision was made. The new F.N. 9mm pistols—the double action and the "Fast Action"—will begin full production in 1982. The DA pistol is still in the running in the U.S. military tests to adopt a new 9mm, the Fast Action model having bit the dust. This news will be hailed by many, but the after effects will cause consternation by some—when production of the DA and FA pistols is established, the single action Hi-Power will be discontinued! Given the normal problems that are attendant with new manufacture.

One of the custom gunsmiths featured in our magazine has developed a sub-trigger assembly for the .45 auto that will, in effect, give the shooter a 2-shot burst. To get BATF approval, it will have to work on a staggered hesitation mode. A selector will be furnished for time when the 2nd quick shot is not needed. As soon as BATF approval is received, we'll run a test on the system in this magazine.

There has been a lot of news lately about Seecamp. His .25 DA is about to hit the market, and bigger caliber guns are in the wings. The latest, however, comes from Omega Defensive Industries of Midland Park, New Jersey. This outfit bought the rights to Seecamp's DA conversion system, and is now offering their own .45 in stainless, and in both full and Commander size. As this is written in January, production is still a month or so away. We'll have a test gun soon and will bring it out.

A usually reliable source tells us that although the Beretta 92 won the tests for the new military pistol, there has been a snag in its adoption. Evidently the big brass said that they did not like the way the tests were conducted, and they have supposedly asked for more samples from each of five manufacturers, and will re-run the entire test program.

Not mentioned before, the military is also looking for a smaller 9mm for special purpose use, and Beretta offered their shortened version, the 92-S.

Sworn to secrecy until after May 1, we won't tell you now about the two new revolver models from the handgun maker

in Springfield. We will have a full report in our July/August issue. The guns will be shown at the NRA Meetings in Denver.

Two guns that were announced a year or so ago have not yet hit the stores, and both seem to be having trouble, not with the design or manufacture, but with financing. The small .25 auto pistol from CB Arms, a look-alike of the Walther TP, is still stalled, although it looks promising. The Coonan Arms .357 Magnum auto pistol is not yet in production. Here, we understand, it was an error in the type of financial solicitation that prevented an earlier start.

From the SHOT Show:

Charles Daly products, available from Outdoor Sports Headquarters of Dayton, Ohio, include some interesting handgun products. Custom Crafted stocks for autos and revolvers are made of Blong-Ita, a Philippine hardwood. The holster line, again for autos and revolvers, are made of a leather composition, lined with "buck suede," a synthetic.

P.M.C., ammunition in military calibers, is already making a name for itself. By mid-1981 a line of sporting calibers will be available. Handgun calibers will run from 9mm to .357 including .38 Spec. and .45 ACP.

Detonics showed their Combat Master pistol in 9mm caliber.

American Derringer Corp. of Waco, Texas, had not only their line of .25 auto pistols, but also their stainless steel derringer, which they offer in just about any handgun caliber plus, according to their catalog, .30-30 or .223!

FIE Corp. has a new Super Titan II auto pistol in .32 or .380 with staggered magazines holding 11 rounds in the .380 and 12 in the .32.

The attention drawn by the Bren Ten at the show showed that the interest is there. This .40 caliber, Cooper-designed auto pistol will be made by Dornaus & Dixon of California. At least at their booth, they emphasized that production was still at least a year away. We did not inquire into their financial status.

Generally, the entire SHOT Show was well attended, and just about every exhibitor was optimistic about business the coming year. The handgun people, especially, were upbeat and none of them lacked dealers examining their wares.



New combat school taught by top shots

A new combat pistol school is opening in southern California headed by international competitors Mickey Fowler and Mike Dalton. International Shootists, Inc., dedicated to teaching the art of pistolcraft in a simplified method, will teach all levels of shooters from those who have never fired a handgun to experienced combat competitors. Classes are now forming.

The range as well as the classroom instructions will be handled entirely by international-class competitors. For further information on this unique school write directly to Mickey Fowler or Mike Dalton at International Shootists, Inc., Box 5254, Mission Hills, CA 91345.

Midwest shooters form up coalition

Midwest combat pistol clubs have formed a coalition, the Midwest Shooters' Coalition (MSC) to hold joint matches and other activities.

For further information on the match or on how your club can participate in MSC, contact Larry Goldberg, Midwest Shooters' Coalition, 7500 Elmhurst Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016 or call (312) 680-8080.

New reloader guide from Hercules Inc.

Hercules smokeless powders has come out with a new Reloader's Guide that includes much new information in an expanded handgun section. Seven new calibers have been added to total 16, including .25 auto, .32 S&W Long, 9mm, and .38 Super. There is also more data on magnum loads and a change in recommended .45 ACP loads.

For a copy of the guide, write Hercules, Inc., 910 Market St., Wilmington, DE 19899.

All tables give the *maximum* safe load for each type of powder, caliber, and bullet design. Lesser loadings may give the shooter more ideal results, depending on purpose, but greater loads should not be attempted.

Remington 7mm recalled for defect

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY INC. has recalled all 7mm Express cartridges manufactured in August, 1979 because of potential problems with excess pressure and defective cases.

Company officials report that some cartridges may produce higher than normal pressures that could damage firearms, and fired cases from the ammunition could be adversely affected and should not be reloaded.

Cartridges affected include the 7mm Remington Express; the 150-grain pointed soft point "Core-Lokt" with index numbers R7M061 on the outside of the end flap, lot numbers: M021, M031, M061, M071, M081, M091, and M131.

Consumers are asked to ship both fired cases and unused cartridges to:

Remington Arms Company Inc., Attention: J. H. Chisnall, 939 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06602. Replacement of the potentially defective ammunition will be prompt and at no charge, company officials say. Shipment can be made collect using United Parcel Service.

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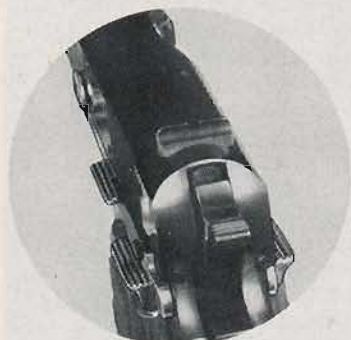
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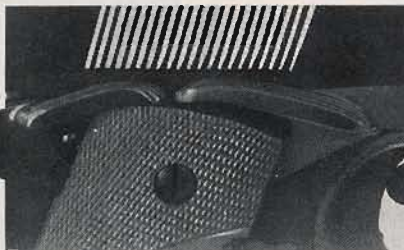
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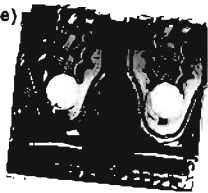
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SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

VOTING FOR NRA PPC MATCH 1 WHERE CONTROVERSY ABOUNDS

Once upon a time in the '60's, there was a Match 1—fired in NRA Combat Matches at 7 yards, one hand, crouch position, loading from the pocket. Pythons, K-38's, and other service guns were used. Slowly, but what seems smoothly now, this event allowed 2 hands, loop loaders, sighting and the custom slab-side sporting revolver.

In 1968, aiming and sighting, or point shoulder shooting was made legal, it was being done by 90 percent of the competitors anyway. I marvel at any rule changes, but had some insight into how this one was accomplished. The rule read, "The gun must be below shoulder level and elbows visibly bent." Two-on-one block officers wouldn't have been able to enforce it. I argued that immediate disqualification for sighting would stop it, but nobody listened. So this 90 percent slightly bent the elbows but brought the gun to eye level and shot 240x240. The other 10 percent of us were down there "feeling" around for the 10 ring in the legal crouch position and definitely not shooting 240's.

LEGAL SIGHTING

To make this practical change, shooters and referees had to convince NRA rule-makers that legal sighting was necessary to keep disgusted and disillusioned new shooters, (usually the most rule abiding,) from leaving the PPC. A Rapid Fire non-aggregate match we held two consecutive years at our Florida Regional prior to 1968, and witnessed and shot by influential shooters and referees, helped us prove sighting could be fast, accurate, and speed did *not* make for unsafe conditions. Our Rapid Fire Match was 2 stages of 12 shots each, fired in 15 seconds from 7 yards, loading then, from loop loaders. Sharpshooters won their class with 237x240, some firing their first 5 rounds in four seconds. The match winner only dropped one or two points. The point was proven, if sighting could be done at that speed, then certainly Match 1, with 25 seconds for 12 shots, should be point shoulder sighting.

POINT SHOULDER

The point shoulder went into effect in January 1968. I remember because at the Mid-Winter Combat Match in Miami that same month, I saved a round in Match 1. My mistake had been that now I could sight and so close to the target, it looked easy to make them all X's. While admiring

the X's and taking my time, the targets turned and I lost 10 points.

In the '70's, Stage 2 of Match 1 was moved back to 15 yards, both stages remained 25 seconds, but now we were using speed loaders, probably the greatest invention for revolvers since double action. The heavy barrel custom guns were cutting down recoil and recovery time. In 1978, hundreds of shooters thought it was time to modernize this 24 round match, still considered training, by having realistic time limits. I took these shooters verbal requests, ("Why do you need letters, Lucy?") to the NRA Law Enforcement Assistance Committee meeting in Jackson, Mississippi in October 1978. This committee has the authority to make rule changes and if they do not affect other shooting disciplines, such rule changes can be adopted without going before the NRA Competition Rules and Programs Committee for its approval. Through the first two nights of meetings, I presented these shooters' opinions for a time reduction in both stages of the match to 15 seconds, or at least 20. I began with some support on the committee and one or two shooters who attended the meetings. At the final vote on the 3rd night, my support had dwindled to no shooters in attendance and only one other committee member voting with me. Match 1 failed to get updated by a 12-2 vote. At no time did I advocate shooting Match 1, with one hand. It never entered my mind, or the committee's discussion.

RECORD SCORES

National record 240-24X scores continued and climbed past the 80 mark in Match 1. Shooters told me they were disappointed and discouraged that time had not been reduced, or that both stages were not moved to 15 yards. Not enough requests in writing, or them appearing before the committee, I told them. We could try again I said. I would stick with my belief that most shooters wanted the change. I put thought and consideration and 32 years of competition into my decisions and then vote my convictions, as do others on the committee. Incidentally, NRA committee work is hard and time consuming, just attend the meetings and you'll see.

The makeup of the LEA Committee had not changed basically, though reduced in size, when it met in Washington on March

(Continued on page 22)

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SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

NEW RECORDS SET AT NATIONALS OVERSHADOW INITIAL PROBLEMS

Progress in equipment and shooter skill is a continuous process in the still young sport of handgun silhouette shooting, but it's most readily observed at national championship matches. The 1980 IHMSA Championships were no exception; scores in this—the sixth annual—meeting for the organization continued their upward climb.

The championship was precedent setting in another way too—it was held deep in the heart of anti-gun country, at Camp Curtis Guild, twenty miles north of Boston, Massachusetts. Land of strict ownership restrictions and mandatory sentences for violations. Not a good place to visit with a pistol in the trunk. But match director, Ron Ricci, with a lot of help from GOAL (Gun Owners Action League) and a bunch of solid citizens within the business community, law enforcement, and legislature managed to create a broad base of support for, and successfully pass into law, a special piece of legislation that authorized temporary pistol permits for registered competitors at the Championships.

LAW PROBLEMS

Getting the pistol to the Baystate still presented problems—New York's law is just as tough, and even though the odds of being caught while traveling innocently are slim, the consequences are severe. Those that flew into Boston passed over the problem, but for the others Ron arranged for an IHMSA FFL holder to take delivery of firearms and ammo shipped by shooters from their home dealer via common carrier. Persistent fellow that Ricci.

Ron by the way is no stranger to the handgun silhouette sport, having promoted the first match in the east at Camp Curtis Guild in September 1976, and he currently holds the post of Director for IHMSA's eastern activities in Region One. With this knowledge, experience and the special legislation in hand, the remaining tasks of promoting the Championships were easy.

All it took was a 100 or so volunteers, tons of steel, yards of concrete, gallons of paint, piles of earth, sheaves of paperwork and buckets of sweat. The result? A ten bank range that Ron says is "... the largest and finest east of the Rockies."

The match program called for 80 long range targets to be shot straight through. Due to the strong local interest in revolvers

in the production classes, and the growing feeling among many that revolvers can't compete with single shots, both production classes were split in two: revolver and single shot. Production shooters were required to choose and shoot just one set of classes. As the match spanned four days, every shooter that scored 75 or above had to shoot ten 200 meter chickens before leaving to aid in breaking ties.

554 EVENTS SHOT

Final count showed 554 events were shot by those present, which was down a couple hundred from the 1979 Championships in Arizona, but not bad considering the extra effort necessary to stay legal. Shooter participation from outside of the region was limited but about the same as for the previous Championships in the Southwest. The out-of-region participation was the greatest in the higher classes, reaching 30 percent or so in International Unlimited, and falling off fast to zero for some of the lower classes.

The major manufacturers were on hand with top representatives and help for the competitors—from answering questions to rebuilding guns. Two prominent supporters of the sport, Bill Ruger Sr. and Warren Center, spectated and spoke with some of the shooters. Ruger, Smith and Wesson and Dan Wesson had their new .44 mag pistols on hand, and gave interested competitors the chance to test fire the Redhawks, 629's and test-production Dan Wessons. Marine marksmen from Quantico ran a shooting clinic using guns and ammo supplied by S&W. Nolan Jackson of Wichita was on hand shooting and had the



The firing line at Camp Curtis Guild, with forty shooters lined up in a row.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS
1980 IHMSA International Championships

Standing Single Shot				
Class	Shooter	State	Pistol	Score
AAA	Tom Calasanto	CT	Mer 30H	65
AA	Robert Thomas	TX	T/C 7 T/CU	54
A	Gary Rounds	VT	T/C 30-30	39
Freestyle Single Shot				
Int.	Allen Kirchner	SC	T/C 7 T/CU	79
AAA	Richard Wilander	MA	T/C 30H	77
AA	Tom Calasanto	CT	T/C 7 T/CU	75
A	Dennis Kerns	IN	T/C 30-30	55
Standing Revolver				
AAA	Ron Hopkinson	MA	S&W 41	51
AA	Lee Piasecki	CT	S&W 44	46
A	Ronald Scott	MA	S&W 44	34
B	Leon Cook	MA	Rug 44	27
Freestyle Revolver				
Int.	David Bradshaw	VT	Rug 44	73
AAA	Richard Best	MA	Rug 44	69
AA	David Modica	VT	Rug 44	69
A	Norman Lavallee	MA	S&W 357	54
B	Jeffery Kolok	CT	Rug 44	44
Unlimited*				
Int.	Jim Jonasen	CA	Wic 7 Int	80
AAA	Stanley Paul	PA	Wic 308	80
AA	David Lemieux	MA	XP-C 7 Int	77
A	Donald Eisenhart	MD	Wic 308	69

*XP-C refers to a custom XP-100 in the indicated chambering.

CHAMPIONSHIP LOADS

Shooter	Pistol	Cartridge	Bullet	Powder	
				Type	Charge
Jim Jonasen	Wichita	7mm Int.	150 Nos.	H4895	30.0
				748	39.3*
David Bradshaw	Ruger	44 Mag.	240 Sie.	2400	21.0
Tom Calasanto	Merrill	30 Her.	150 Sie.	4198	22.0
Jo Bartlett	Merrill	30 Her.	165 Sie.	RL-7	24.5
Steve Morse	S&W 29	44 Mag.	cast swc.	BDot	15.0
			265 Hor.	H110	21.0*
Ron Hopkinson	S&W 57	41 Mag.	210 Sie.	296	21.0

*Rams

pleasure of seeing the top unlimited place taken with one of his guns. Remington was well represented and Jim Stekl, major force behind their new 7mm BR Silhouette, no doubt enjoyed seeing one of the new guns go straight, and end the unlimited shootoff in second.

There were trophies and merchandise awards through fifth place in each class, with elaborate perpetual trophies from S&W for the champions in each class. Their names are inscribed and the trophies reside at IHMSA headquarters. The first two places got pistols and the remaining got their choice from a groaning table piled high with goodies.

The scores which I've summarized for each class are, almost without exception the highest yet for a championship, and three competitors set records. There were ten 80 x 80's in International Unlimited, and eighteen 79 x 80's. Three of the 80's took 9 x 10 200 meter chickens, necessitating a shootoff, at turkeys, at the normal distance. But the stands held not the usual tough targets, but the .22 version. Now that's tough.

The mass of straights in unlimited show

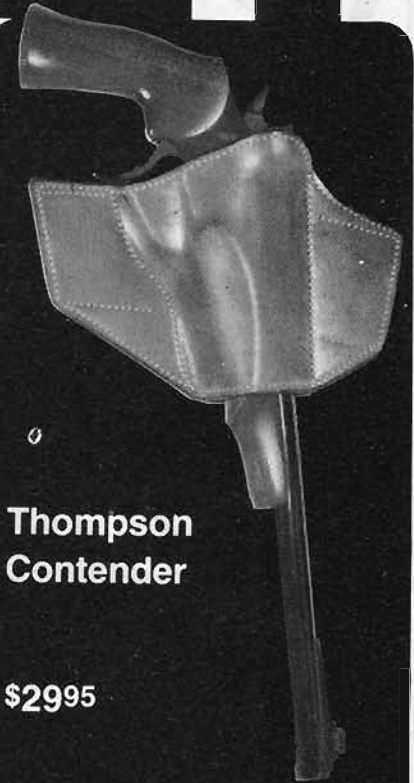
the shooters are getting more skillful, as the pistols have been capable of the feat for a couple of years. The availability of a new low cost factory unlimited can only be expected to accelerate the attainment of this level of competence by evermore shooters. Unlimited is a tough class, especially at the top, where the blink of an eye, or a moment's loss of concentration, can drop you to an also ran. It'll get tougher.

In the production classes the high scores in single shot show the T/C has finally become as good as the gun writers have been telling us it was for the past few years. Their newly introduced 7mm T/C U chambering just blanketed some classes. The winning score in the AAA class, a new record, was shot with one. Still, there's nothing magic about the cartridge—a good 30 Herrett should do as well. But didn't. Maybe next year.

The top standing single show score is also a new record and up 10 targets from the winning score last year, which was shot with a revolver.

The scores in the revolver production
(Continued on page 23)

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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

BARREL LENGTH OF HUNTING GUN COULD DETERMINE HUNT OUTCOME

Barrel length in hunting handguns is an often overlooked factor that can possibly decide the outcome of the hunt.

I certainly don't mean to imply that a couple of inches in barrel length will alter ballistics enough to make a great deal of difference in power, although using something like a 2.5" barreled M-19 S&W is somewhat on the ridiculous side of things. Balance, weight, sight radius, visual and physical ability of the individual user also enters the picture—sometimes causing a drastic necessity for particular equipment.

First, let's stick to revolvers for awhile. We have only three calibers well suited to hunting medium to big game: the .41 magnum, .44 magnum and .45 Colt. The .41 and .44 are adequate with factory loads. The .45 Colt in the excellent Ruger revolver can be pepped up with handloads to be suitable. The .357 magnum, although a marginal hunting round, does see a lot of use in the woods and a great deal of data is readily available for it. We will use it as our primary example of barrel length and ballistics.

SPEER MANUAL USED

The Speer Reloading Manual #9 contains a great deal of accurate and useful information. A majority of our data will come from that reliable source.

In an excellent section titled "Why Ballisticians Get Gray!," it explains that in a 10" test barrel made to tight ammunition industry specifications, the extreme velocity variations were 48 fps for the 125 grain hollow point, 26 fps for a 140 grain, and 38 fps for the 158 grain soft point load. Using what six inch barreled revolvers were on hand, the revolvers delivered an extreme spread of 376 fps with the 125 grain, 275 fps for the 140 and 282 fps for the 158 grain load.

In effect, the velocity spreads between 6" barreled revolvers covered the entire spread of velocities to be expected from 2.5 inch through 8 3/8 inch guns. Generally, my personal chronograph results with various guns verify and even intensify this great variation between guns. In addition to the minor but ballistically important changes from gun to gun, changes in components of handloads also change ballistics dramatically. It boils down to simply this: if you do not have a good, properly set up and calibrated chronograph, you simply don't know what you are getting from a particular gun, particularly revolvers, as

they are by far the worst offenders in velocity variations.

For the above reason, it is unwise to have much concern over the supposed difference in velocity delivered between a 6.5" and an 8 3/8" barreled revolver. As a matter of interest; I have never chronographed an 8 3/8" .357 S&W in .357 or .44 Magnum that exceeded the velocity of a couple of my personal 6 to 6.5 inch revolvers. I'm sure that "all factors being identical" the 8 3/8" will deliver slightly more velocity, but achieving identical guns in every way is an impossibility.

Typically, let's take a "middle of the road" 6 inch and compare it with other "middle of the road" barrel lengths with the same ammo—as well as a T/C single shot and the test barrel.

Length	125 JHP	140 JHP	158 JSP
2.5"	1205	1118	989
4.0"	1368	1227	1153
6.0"	1400	1282	1179
10.0" T/C	1944	1726	1587
10.0" Test	1866	1732	1591
8 3/8" S&W	1501	1342	1221*

*Only one 8 3/8" gun shown—could be fast, slow or average. Included for possible interest only. 3 of the 9 six inch Speer guns gave higher velocity with 158 grain loads than this particular 8 3/8". Ballistics taken from Speer Manual.

Obviously, there are two areas where substantial velocity variations exist. Velocity increases substantially as barrel length increases from 2.5 to 4.0 inches, becomes of little consequence between 4.0 and 8 3/8 inches and again increases dramatically when the unvented 10" T/C barrel is used with the same ammo. We can then only conclude that the velocity differential between a 4" and 8 3/8" hunting handgun is of little consequence in the field. In the case of the 158 JSP the difference is in the range of 75 fps, which is *less than the shot to shot* variation delivered by many revolvers with a great many loads!

Pistol bullets have lousy sectional density and ballistic co-efficients. The Hornady Handbook shows a .357 158 grain HP with a muzzle velocity of 1250 fps traveling at 1088 fps at 50 yards—a loss of 162 fps. So essentially, our "example" 8 3/8" gun becomes a 6 inch at 20-25

(Continued on page 24)



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KEN HACKATHORN

SIMPLE ADDITION TO .45 AUTO STOPS STRESS CRACKS IN FRAME

Now that the sport of practical pistol shooting has become so popular, a great many innovative ideas in gun modifications have come along. Sadly, only a few of the gadgets sold on the market are really worth the money. For this reason, I tend to remain skeptical of most new gadgets that hit the market.

Recently, I have been testing a simple device that seems to work extremely well. Called the "Shok-buff," it is really a small poly-fibre washer that fits over the recoil spring guide of the 1911 auto. This moulded piece of space age material is highly resistant to shock and recoil, and is marketed by Wilson's Gun Shop, Rt. 3, Box 211-D, Berryville, Arkansas 72616.

MILITARY BREAK-DOWNS

In the last half of a century, the only Colt .45 auto to really get shot a lot were those service automatics used in military training units. While the new troops were given a chance to fire the issue pistols for familiarizing, the issue guns in the training battalions were fired thousands of rounds each month, month after month, year after year. The result is that after 10,000 to 15,000 rounds of full power hard ball ammo, these pistols start to break down. Cracks in the slides and frames become common. Interestingly enough, the guns go right on shooting even after they become cracked in many places.

In contrast, the civilian use of the .45 auto has been rather limited until the popularity of combat shooting and the writings of Jeff Cooper. Those that did use the .45 Colt auto were the ranks of target shooters who used highly tuned target grade .45 autos that are designed to fire very light loaded, light weight bullet, mid-range target ammo. With this light recoiling target ammo, wear to the gun is minimal, and recoil caused damage to the pistol is rarely a problem.

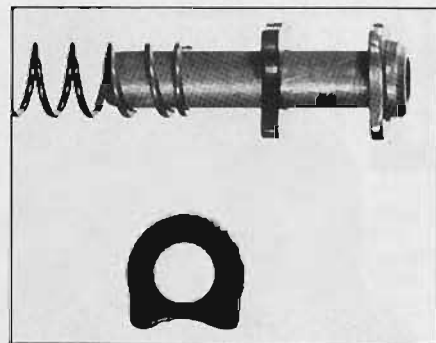
If you compete in an IPSC shooting program, you will use full power ball ammo duplication loads. If you plan to become successful at the art of the practical pistol, you are going to shoot lots of ammo. The top guns shoot at least 1,000 rounds per month, and sometimes more. The average combat shooter will fire about half that amount. The end result is that in a couple of years, the pistol will see a lot of use.

It should be noted that the average handgun owner will not fire over 1,000

rounds of ammo through his weapon in a lifetime, so the long range effect of heavy shooting is not known to many of hand-gunning fraternity.

The thing that disturbs me and other active .45 shooters is the fact that after spending hard earned cash to have your favorite blaster tuned for top performance, the life of the gun may be shortened by the heavy loads that must be used in IPSC shooting. Smart contestants train and practice with the ammo they must compete with.

For this reason, the Wilson Shok-Buff is a welcome sight. What the Shok-Buff does is soften the blow of the slide hitting the recoil spring guide, and transferring the inertia to the frame. This can be noted by picking up a stock 1911 pistol, making sure that it is clear and safe, then smartly pulling the slide to the rear. The solid



Shok-Buff poly-fibre buffer goes on spring guide to prevent slide cracks.

metal to metal contact you feel at the end of the recoil stroke is the source of wear that causes cracked frames, slides, and damage to the internal parts.

This is also one of the problems that causes the Gold Cup to flip the sights off, or shoot loose. On some .45 autos, especially the Commander series of autos, the slide stop latch will bounce up in recoil and engage the slide to lock it open.

By installing the Shok-Buff, most of these problems will be solved. The beauty of this concept is that for \$5.50, you get a package with two Wilson Shok-Buffs, and a Wolff 18½ pound recoil spring. It is recommended that after a thousand rounds of heavy loads, the Shok-Buff be replaced.

Some readers may question the practice of using the other popular .45 auto recoil buffer devices offered for sale by various

firms. These recoil buffers are recoil spring guides with a spring loaded plunger in the front that replaces the stock guide.

In theory, these spring-loaded devices are supposed to slow down the rearward stroke of the slide and prevent damage from the sudden blow of each round fired. Like most .45 users, I have tried them over the past few years. I am not convinced that they indeed work as intended. If the spring-loaded plunger is to work as the buffer effect as intended, then the spring tension must be extremely heavy. This in turn causes malfunctions. On the other hand, if the spring loaded buffer is light enough to insure positive functioning, then little reduction of recoil exists. Also, the increase in forward travel when the slide returns from this thrust will often cause problems with a .45 that has had a fine-tuned trigger pull.

After all the gadgets marketed over the years, I think the Wilson Shok-Buff is the answer. The idea of the fibre washer is not new. Armand Swenson recommended this route years ago. Upon Swenson's idea and experience, Bill Wilson went to Bill Rogers of the Rogers Holsters fame, and asked him to locate a plastic material that would be suited for the use in this application.

I have tested the Wilson Shok-Buff in two of my .45 combat autos. The first was installed in early August, 1980 when Bill Wilson sent me one for testing. It has had



Shok-Buff kit with Wilson Combat .45. Kit has Wolff 18½ pound recoil spring.

nearly 2000 rounds pounded against it, and while still functional, it should be replaced. I notice that after a couple hundred rounds fired in a pistol with the Shok-Buff installed, an impact impression is made on the surface of the Shok-Buff, with little noticeable change in the appearance from then on.

The second Shok-Buff that I have tested is in my Wilson 130 Master Grade .45 which has had over 1200 rounds shot through it. For testing purposes, the Wilson 130 Master Grade has not been cleaned in the period of these 1200 rounds of combat loads. All that was done was the application of a small amount of Break Free lubricant after every couple of hundred rounds. Neither solvents, nor oils seem to damage the poly fibre washer.

Of key importance is the quality of the recoil spring in your pistol. If this spring is strong and not fatigued, the Shok-Buff will last easily for the intended 1000 round period. However, if your stock spring is well used and has lost much of its power, the impact at which the slide hits the Shok-Buff will be greater, and wear will accelerate damage to the Shok-Buff.

Firing a .45 auto with the Shok-Buff installed gives a slightly different sensation. The pistol still has the common snap-like recoil, but with a less sharp flip to the gun in the hand. This softer recoil is a definite aid to rapid combat shooting strings. Recovery is quicker; and overall, most users of the Wilson Shok-Buff kit agree that the change is for the better.

As of now, all my regularly used .45 autos have the Shok-Buff kits installed. For the recommended price of \$5.50, this package is one of the few good buys on the market. Anyone concerned about the life and wear of their favorite .45 auto should look into this concept. Those owners of the Colt Gold Cup would be wise to install the Shok-Buff kit, for both the stronger 18½ pound recoil spring, and poly Shok-Buff will reduce the danger of sight damage or loss.

One of the best merits of the 1911 Colt is its simplicity, and the Wilson Gun Shop Shok-Buff has followed this theme.



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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

HANDLOADING THE .45 ACP ROUND: WHEN & HOW TO USE THE ROLL CRIMP

It's about time we put wheels on this column. We can mobilize it so that it can become a vehicle for the free exchange of information on handgun handloading as well as helpful tools and accessories. You, the reader, thereby will have an opportunity to become involved in a more practical way and, ideally, everyone will enjoy greater benefits.

Data will of course be subject to a certain amount of what we might call "judicious filtration"; no favorite loads or pet practices that are obviously unsafe or unsound will be presented. A part of this necessarily involves repetition of the now-threadbare disclaimer about not being responsible for damage or injury that might occur as a result of using said loading data. However, I feel that it is just as important to state that never, in over twenty years as a writer on the subject of guns and handloading, have I been witness to an instance wherein a fellow handloader attempted to pass along information on a load he knew to be dangerous.

INFORMATION HELPFUL

The greatest peril we must avoid is that of allowing good, helpful information to remain unpublished. That, to be sure, is a disservice to the reader. Furthermore, it renders this or any column of its kind a one-sided affair wherein the writer poses as a guru. The scope and perspective of such sessions is often somewhat limited.

Much information on handloading for the .45 ACP is sent to me by readers. Ron Benjamin, a firearms instructor in Salem, New Hampshire, offers the following: "Since 1958, I have reloaded both cast and jacketed bullets for the .45 ACP. I cast my own now and find the Lyman 452374 and 452460, sized .452, all the bullet I need for any purpose. I disagree that a roll crimp should not be used on this cartridge. I was disappointed with the performance of taper crimp dies. Also, what happens to the carefully sized bullets that are forced into such devices? To get 100 percent reliable feeding, I have used a moderate roll crimp for years. In the past nine years I cannot recall a failure to feed because of the roll crimp. Without a crimp, the cast bullets 'telescope' into the case on feeding..."

"My guns are throated and will feed the round-nose or semi-wadcutter mixed randomly in the same magazine. This roll-crimp ammunition has been used in police

combat matches without a hitch on numerous occasions. The no-roll-crimp taboo is unfortunate as I believe it confuses new reloaders who have reloading problems with cast bullets.

"The NRA reprint shows a .020-inch roll crimp. The right amount is enough to hold the bullet on its trip up the feed ramp, and no more. I am sure it can be overdone. We all know of the horror stories where a too-forceful roll crimp was applied and a case was destroyed. I have seen revolver cases so flared by novices that they looked like funnels. I have seen bullets crimped so hard they would not chamber in revolvers. As I said, it is a matter of degree. However, I feel it is wrong to say a roll crimp should never be used on the .45 ACP round... I crimp all pistol and revolver ammo I handload.

"My favorite and most accurate .45 ACP reloads are as shown in the table.

.45 ACP RELOADS

Bullet	Powder	Charge gr. wt.	
200-gr. SWC, cast	HP-38	4.8	
	Red Dot	5.2	
	630	10.5	
	231	5.5	
	Bullseye	4.3	
	Unique	6.8	
700X		5.0	
	225-gr. RN, cast	630	10.0
		700X	4.5
Unique		6.7	

"When you are having feeding problems with the .45 ACP, a careful inspection of the magazine is definitely in order. I always keep mine in web pouches since tossing them in the old shooting box is just asking for feed problems."

Mr. Benjamin's remarks, especially on the subject of crimping .45 ACP handloads, are appreciated. The spice of the matter is found in the fact that the "Good Ol' Boys" at Speer say that, "Since the .45 ACP headspaces on the case mouth, only a slight taper crimp can be used." And the Sierra folks, speaking of the .45 ACP, state that, "As with other autoloading calibers, a tight grip of the case mouth is necessary to keep the bullet from being forced back into the case under stresses of feeding through the action." Then, with emphasis, "This condition cannot be corrected by

(Continued on page 20)

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HANDLOADING

(Continued from page 18)



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crimping and must be controlled by matching case neck thickness with dimensions of the reloading dies and, in particular, the diameter of the expanding plug."

Referring again to Speer's recommendations: "For maximum case tension on jacketed bullets, a tight sizing die should be used and the expander ball should not exceed .450-inch in diameter."

But the foregoing represents an ideal condition wherein all aspects of brass case wall thickness and elasticity are uniform. It does not necessarily apply to circumstances wherein cartridges are handloaded on a more or less mass-production basis with the use of brass that may have been fired and worked through dies several times. In such instances, the use of a slight amount of roll crimp is obviously less arduous and time consuming than striving to control component uniformity.

CASE LENGTH LESS CRITICAL

Case length is less critical since, with the roll crimp, headspace is not established at the mouth of the case, as is stressed by Edward V. Cleary of San Jose, California. "A hard roll crimp does not harm the headspace as long as there is about .020-inch of lead protruding above the case mouth. The exposed touches the beginning of the lands and grooves, thus providing the necessary stopping point or 'headspace.' It in no way affects chamber pressure or accuracy. As a matter of fact, while testing loads at 50 yards from a Ransom Rest, the roll crimp proved to be the most accurate load. Taper-crimp and no-crimp loads were tried, but in all tests the roll crimp proved to be the most accurate. Some of the no-crimp loads malfunctioned because the bullet was pushed into the case during transport. All testing was done using both the H&G 130 and H&G 78 case bullets, but the techniques can also be applied to jacketed bullets.

NEVER CHAMFER A .45

"Never inside or outside-chamfer a .45 ACP case. This thins out the brass at the case mouth and eventually causes cracking or splitting. When handloading, it also tends to catch and cause bullets to hang up during the seating operation. Expanding the case mouth slightly to accept the bullet smoothly without shaving lead should be preferred. This also works well with jacketed bullets and prevents the case mouth from being crushed. A slight touch with a taper crimp is necessary after seating."

On the subject of propellants, Mr. Cleary states, "We have tried many different powders and have found that with bullet weight being the primary consideration the powder must be carefully chosen in order to get the optimum results. . . . Of all the powders we have tried Bullseye was

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inconsistent lot to lot, and was easily double-charged. We did not, however, have any blow-ups or mysterious explosions—just inconsistent results."

Communications from readers continue to provide a storehouse of useful information on working with the .45 ACP as well as other handgun cartridges. The volume of mail is great; therefore, it will not be practical to attempt to pass along everything that I receive. Neither does time permit the writing of individual replies. It is, however, important to acknowledge the contribution of every handloader who is willing to share the benefit of his knowledge and experience with others. If you have developed loads and techniques you'd enjoy sharing with readers of this column, or if you've had honestly positive, or negative, experiences with certain handloading products, I'd like to hear from you. Meanwhile, my input will continue, for, after all, even gurus have a right to be heard.



SIGHT SETTINGS

(Continued from page 10)

1980. The committee thinking seemed unchanged from my defeat in 1978, and I still did not have the written support. So I was very surprised at the end of the two day meeting when discussion was introduced by another committee member to change Match 1. Statistics from one of the best and largest police departments, engaged in almost daily gunfights, were in an elaborate study from this department and relayed, in part, to the committee. The report emphasized the second hand was almost never used at close distance gunfights and that speed close up, was imperative. After discussion, and my reminding them I had tried to get the time shortened 2 years before, a motion was made and passed, with only 1 vote (not mine) against. Match 1 would be only one hand at seven yards and both 7 and 15 yards would be fired in 20 seconds. I assumed finally enough shooters had persuaded other committee members to change.

Several months before the 1980 Combat Nationals in Jackson, reports began coming to the LEA Committee that our changing of Match 1 was very unpopular. The committee prepared for some 100 competitors to appear at its meeting after the championships. One shooter appeared and spoke against the change. However, about one-third of the classified NRA Combat Competitors expressed themselves by letter or petition, against firing with one hand.

Opposition against the time reduction seemed to be because it was linked with the one hand requirement. After discussion where each committee member was

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urged to speak his views (and hers), and reading of a sampling of letters and petitions, the vote was taken and all changes to Match 1, made in March and *never* even tried by the competitors in competition, were abolished. I still voted for the time being reduced to 20 seconds, if only at 7 yards, but that was defeated.

I believe a realistic time is still wanted by the silent majority out there that we did not hear from. The loud minority put their objections in writing. Since I am the "she" on the committee, referred to in the petitions as "imposing her will on others," let me emphasize that I did vote for and talk for the rule changes; however, these particular *attempted* changes did *not* originate with me.

Probably the most respected police firearms instructor in the country seemed puzzled at my struggle to get a time reduction. "Lucy," he said, "this PPC is simply a game, a sport, not training, let them play it the way they want to."

So much for Match 1 and police combat competition. It is neither a nationally or internationally recognized shooting sport and many do not think it a practical training event for police working conditions. If that's what the shooters wanted, they have got it.

Next column—Security Guards, a growing business with a need for good firearms training.

LUCY

SILUETAS

(Continued from page 13)

classes, to the contrary, show the growth in shooter skill—this year's revolvers aren't any different, save for the 10½ inch-barreled Ruger, and that of course is more of a re-introduction of the old flat top 10 incher than it is a new development.

An example of this growth in shooter skill can be found by reviewing David Bradshaw's record at the last three Championships. David is from Vermont and has been shooting handgun silhouettes for at least three years, as I first met him at our 1977 Arizona State Championships. David brought a much used S&W .44 mag to Salina in 1978, and managed a 56 x 80 in freestyle with it. One of the new long tubed Rugers accompanied him to Phoenix in 1979, and stood by him for a 66 x 80, good for high revolver, but no money in the single shot dominated freestyle class. Come 1980, and the same Ruger, refurbished by now, was up to a 73 x 80, a new record, and top freestyle revolver. How'd he do it? Well, he's shot tens of thousands of carefully developed .44 mag loads, and is an intense competitor.

Jo Bartlett has been high lady in production single shot for two years now. She

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shoots a Merrill, and added six targets to her 1979 score for a 71 x 80 in Boston. She shoots a bunch too, taking in two to three matches a month, and what with practice, she fires 800-1000 rounds a month.

Tom Calasanto, who set a standing single shot record of 65 x 80, is new to the sport, having been at it just over a year, but he shoots practice once a week and a match every weekend if he can.

Jim Jonasen, the top unlimited shooter is also new to the game, but he shoots a couple of matches a month.

Steve Morse, the revolver junior champ shoots practice three times a week if he can, and he says, "I have my lucky days."

The IHMSA reliance on the shooter, rather than the depth of his pocketbook, is unique in shooting sports, is refreshing, and is quite probably the key to the success and rapid growth of the sport. Better hardware can get you more targets—but with the birth of the Remington Silhouette and the rebirth of the T/C and the long barreled Ruger, the advantage is within the reach of anybody. But if you want even more targets, the key is to start sorting through your loads, select a good one and shoot. A lot.

And if all that shooting and practice sounds like too much work for you, rest easy. All of the champions I contacted said that what they liked best about the sport was the friendly people, the camaraderie, and—the fun.

Next month I'll cover the 1980 NRA Championships.



HANDGUN HUNTING

(Continued from page 14)

yards and a 4" by 50. The larger caliber, more powerful guns exhibit the same general characteristics. Handloads do not generally alter the figures between barrel lengths significantly. It is usually found in revolvers that slow burning powders that deliver top velocities in long barrels also deliver top velocities in short barrels *as long as pressures are held at the same level*. Increasing the barrel length of a revolver to 10-12 inches often results in either no or a very slight increase in velocity. If fast burning powders or a large cylinder-barrel gap exists gas pressure *may not* remain high enough to overcome bore friction and a slight velocity *loss* will occur.

In addition, the various different bullet designs available more than cancel out the differences in velocity found in revolvers of various barrel lengths.

The single shot T/C Contender is usually found in 10" length. The introduction of 14" barrel length in some calibers may warrant a second look. Essentially, the 10" .357 Magnum T/C does about what most factory ammo claims for

velocity figures. The 10" .45 Colt, 10" and 14" .41 and .44s are not considered problems. They substantially increase the velocity over that produced by revolvers. The 10" .44 barrels will develop around 1560 fps with 240 grain jacketed bullet loads. Going to the 14 inchers picks velocities up around 7 percent. The additional velocity of the T/Cs results in a flatter trajectory and better bullet performance. Substantial increases to be sure, but not enough to give concern regarding bullet "blow up."

The .30 Herrett in 10" is marginal in bullet expansion with the great majority of bullets in the 110-130 grain weight. In the 14" version, more suitable powders are useful as are heavier bullets. The .30 Herretts I've used have never lived up to claimed velocities, but the 14" version is capable of efficiently using .30-30 flat nose 150 grain bullets with astounding accuracy



S&W .44 with 8-3/8" barrel is only about 75 fps faster than 5" Ruger.

at around 2200 fps. These bullets will expand properly at normal handgun ranges. The 14" guns will also drive the 125 Sierra, 130 Speer and 130 Hornady at 2350 fps, which gets them moving quickly enough to give adequate bullet performance at normal handgun ranges. The 14" .30-30 benefits greatly from an extra 4 inches of barrel and with careful hand-loading, will just about equal lever action .30-30 rifles, ballistically.

The .357 Herrett performs very well in 10" version with .357 diameter pistol bullets. 158 grain SP is the preferred bullet for game. The 14" version is capable of velocities high enough to disintegrate pistol bullets in mid-air. Watch this 14 incher as far as bullets are concerned. I cannot recommend any bullet of less than 158 grains in it. The 180 Speer flat point and 200 grain .35 Remington RN bullets should be about the best game bullets. Velocities of 2150 fps with high pressure loads and a 200 grain are possible from the 14" .357 Herrett and also the full length .35 Remington. These .35 Remington rifle bullets should com-



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A long sight radius theoretically increases accuracy over a short one. Some people simply do not have the visual ability to be able to shoot well with a long sight radius simply because their eyes will not enable them to clearly see sights spread far

**"If you are man
enough to handle
long barrels, they
will perform ..."**

apart, the popularity of the short barrel High Standard, S&W and Ruger .22 target autos would indicate a fairly large number of individuals fit in this category. In addition, as sight radius increases, barrel length does too—changing balance of the gun very drastically. An excellent example of the various examples exist in the T/C. A 10" skinny barrel balances very differently from a 10" bull barrel. Combine both the balance difference when going from the 10 inchers to the 14" bull barrel, the difference in design and sight radius and you really have an altogether different gun. Other guns show similar changes in characteristics but most of them are somewhat more subtle than those of the T/C.

Assuming an individual's eyes may be able to accommodate a long sight radius, he may not have the physical ability of strength and coordination required to use them effectively. Too much muzzle weight becomes very difficult to control. The 14" T/C is very muzzle heavy. Try shooting it offhand on a windy day—it's damn difficult. I seem to shoot the 10" bull barrel considerably better under those conditions. The 14" is easier to shoot from a reclining position than the 10". I have a 10" bull barrel Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 magnum that is highly tuned, very accurate and very muzzle heavy. I shoot it quite well for awhile although I have to work very hard to shoot it well. After I begin to tire, I might as well throw rocks. I much prefer a slightly heavier barrel than the Ruger about 8" long—simply because I can shoot it better—for more shots. The tremors and wiggles are much more apparent to the shooter when long barrels and

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sight spacings are used. They make you work harder and if you aren't careful will destroy your confidence, and accuracy goes down the drain. If you are man enough to handle them they will perform though. In hunting situations, where few shots are to be fired at any one time, a heavy gun can be a definite asset. I find in general long heavy barrels to be a disadvantage to me in quick alignment; being heavy they are hard to stop moving past the target. On moving targets they tend to wobble off target more than shorter ones and I have bumped them into saplings etc. that I would have cleared with a 6" gun.

Generally, the longer a gun is, the harder it is to lug around. Most people have difficulty drawing from a belt holster with barrels over 6-6½ inches in length. Shoulder or cross draw holsters work best with the long barrel guns.

I see no difference in how tired I am after a hard day's hunting between guns weighing within a pound or so of each other. I'm so beat, it simply wouldn't make any difference.

Obviously the type of hunt, animal to be hunted, terrain, cover, etc. should be taken into consideration. A scoped 14" T/C .30-30 might just be the ticket for antelope or deer in open country. It would be almost totally unsuitable for chasing hogs with dogs in a swamp. Still hunters can get by with practically anything in the way of equipment as long as they use common sense. The guy that moves around a lot learns quickly what equipment works for him and what doesn't.

I think barrel length does in many cases make a difference, but that difference, in at

"The guy that moves around a lot learns quickly what equipment works for him"

least 75 percent or more of hunts, is of little concern and will have no significant outcome on the hunt.

Equipment selection is largely a matter of personal preference and as long as common sense prevails in evaluating what is needed for a hunt no problems should arise over a couple of inches in barrel length. For those who can use a long sight radius and handle the weight and balance, there is no question that it is possible to shoot more accurately with long barreled guns. I detect little, if any, difference in the inherent accuracy of a four inch versus a six or eight inch revolver, from machine rest or scoped. The ability to shoot longer sight radius does enable most to shoot the long barrels more accurately in the field. The barrel length itself has little to do with it—the answer lies in the longer, more precise sight radius.

(Continued on page 51)

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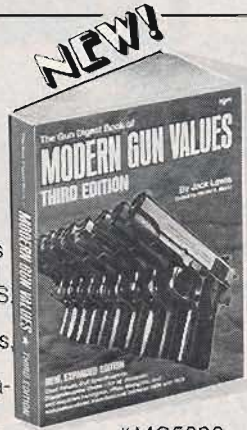
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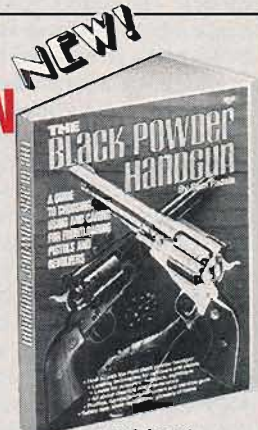
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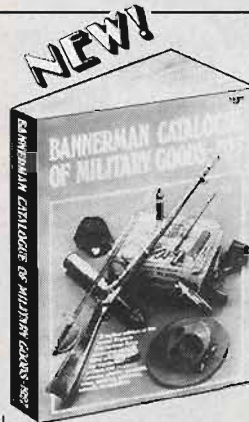
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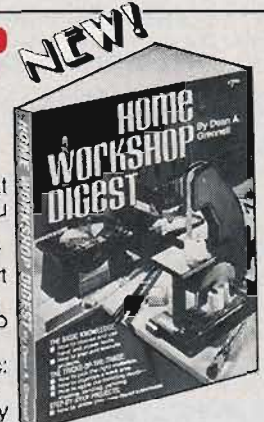
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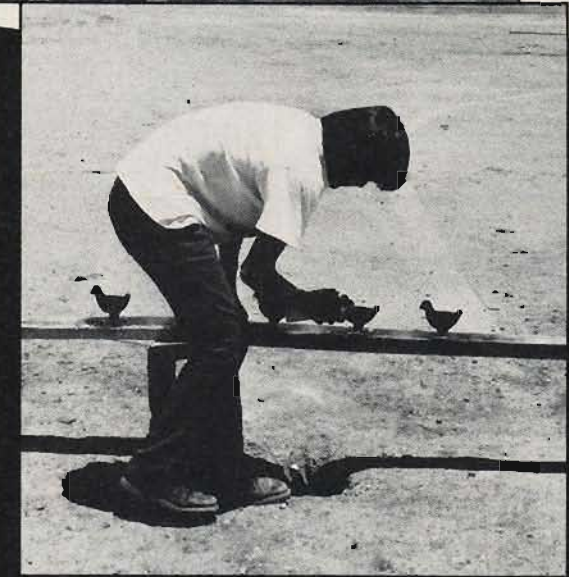
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Late in 1978 the Eastern contingent of the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association started experimenting, using their .22 pistols against the big bore steel silhouettes. This was excellent low cost practice, however, it was far too easy. The standard silhouettes were no challenge at all for the highly accurate .22 pistols produced by the manufacturers of today. Reduced targets were developed, interest grew, more and more big bore shooters started playing with their .22's. The wives and children also became interested. .22 Silhouette was developing into a full-blown family sport. A number of requests were received at IHMSA Headquarters in Idaho for .22 Silhouettes to be added to the curriculum.

The IHMSA's policy has always been to provide for the needs of its membership, so Elgin Gates, President of IHMSA, called and asked me to produce a set of .22 Silhouette competition rules for Board of Directors review and approval.

The targets were sized to provide a challenge when set up on a standard 100 yard range. Targets were cut from 3/16"

and 1/4" steel plate, and steel feet were welded to them. My wife, Shirley, and I, in the company of Mario Gonzalez, who had been involved in live chicken shooting with .22 pistols in Mexico as a boy and the Bosch brothers, who now host .22 Silhouettes at Madera, California, loaded our equipment in a couple of pickups and headed for the foothills. A test range was set up and we went about the task of determining if .22 pistol silhouettes could be a competition that might catch on with the shooters. The first few shots were misses as everyone adjusted their sights for those very small silhouettes. Then a couple of the chickens spun away from the impact of the standard velocity .22LR bullets we were using.

Shooting at these little silhouettes with a .22 pistol is like a contagious disease, after the first target fell everyone joined in shooting and setting targets. The five of us must have burned up 2000 rounds during that afternoon. We finally settled on a range setup on which we felt only a very few, if any, of the top shooters could fire a perfect score of 40 x 40. We decided that

THE .**22** PISTOL GOES **SILHOUETTE**

By Bert Stringfellow

Top photo shows unidentified shooter using Cooper or Weaver stance which works as well for silhouettes as it does for combat shoots. Left middle photo shows Stockton firing line. At right, painting after each relay is a good idea. Bottom, John Bosch with T/C in the popular Creedmoor position.

On the new .22 silhouettes: rules, match procedures, equipment, winning techniques, and tuning the .22—all you need to know.

.22 Silhouettes should emphasize accuracy and any reasonable hit with a standard velocity .22LR cartridge should drop even the elusive rams. The targets were sized accordingly.

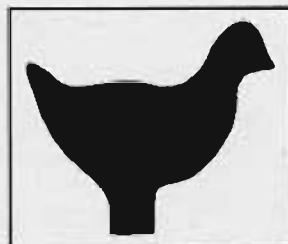
Keeping in mind the things we had learned during that very pleasurable day of shooting, the existing IHMSA philosophy and current rules of competition, I assembled the following .22 pistol silhouette range layout and rules of competition which were later approved by the IHMSA's Board of Directors.



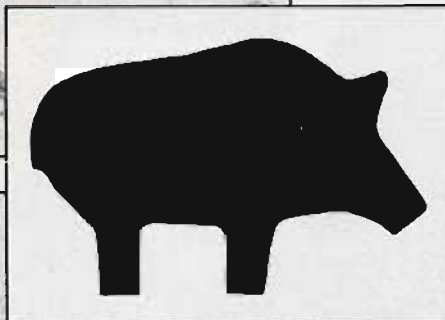
Above, ever-popular single action performs very well in the siluetas game. Ruger makes this one.



Above, the Ruger Mark I is a favorite among the silhouette competitors. It is inexpensive, accurate, and rates very high in the area of reliability.



Chicken, above, at 25 yards is smallest iron target. Javelina, left, is placed at 50 yards.



RANGE FACILITIES

A Silhouette range consists of four different target lines each having 5 silhouettes of a particular bird or animal. It will have rams at 100 yards; turkeys at 75 yards; pigs at 50 yards, and chickens at 25 yards. The range can have a very simple set up, an existing High Power range may be used. If desired, it can be put in a natural setting, such as a ravine or canyon. Trees and brush need not be moved and variation in height above or below the firing point is allowed and desirable. All targets are placed on stands off the ground. The silhouettes should be painted with flat black paint for contrast.

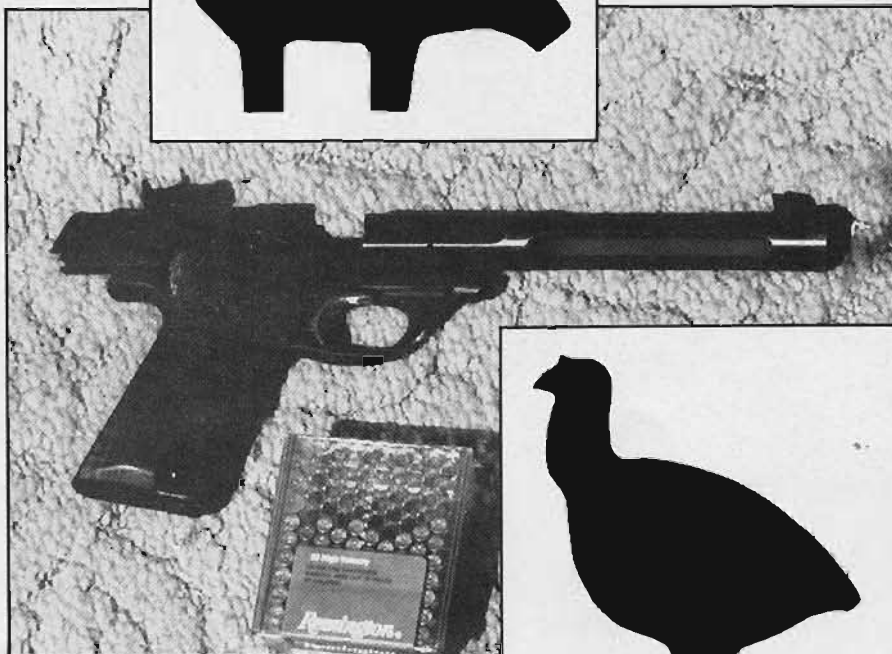
At a particular club where the background prevents adequate target identification, the sponsoring club shall have the option to use other colors to permit ready target identification.

TARGETS

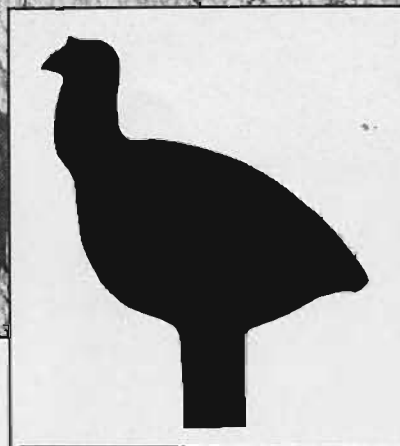
The targets shall be 3/16 or 1/4 inch thick steel cut to match the full size templates provided by the IHMSA. The feet shall be 3/16 or 1/4 inch thick steel welded in place, per the sketches. The targets shall be placed on flat stands, which are level.

MATCH PROCEDURES

A sanctioned match consists of 40



Used in the Semi-Auto category, the High Standard Trophy above is widely popular, and requires little tune-up out of the box. Right, 75 yd. turkey.



rounds. 10 chicken targets at 25 yards; 10 javelina targets at 50 yards; 10 turkey targets at 75 yards; 10 ram targets at 100 yards. Firing is in 5 round stages, 2 minutes per stage, in freestyle or standing position without artificial support.

Each competitor has a bank of 5 metal

silhouettes to fire against, one shot at each, left to right in order. Hits out of sequence are misses, i.e. second shot hitting third silhouette a miss, and in this case a double miss, as only the remaining two silhouettes may be fired on—shooter cannot fire his

(Continued on page 52)

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KIT #9 FITS ALL COLT GOVERNMENT MODELS/70 SERIES HARBALLER & CROWN CITY ARMS Reduces Trigger Pull Up To 45% & Increases Slide Power 15%	\$14.45
KIT #9-A FITS ALL COLT GOVERNMENT MODELS/70 SERIES HARBALLER & CROWN CITY ARMS—TARGET KIT Reduces Trigger Pull Up To 45% & Reduces Slide Power For Target Loads	\$14.45
KIT #10 FITS ALL COLT COMMANDER MODELS & CROWN CITY ARMS Reduces Trigger Pull Up To 45% & Increases Slide Power 15%	\$14.45
KIT #11 FITS ALL SMITH & WESSON MODELS 39 & 59 Reduces Double & Single Action Trigger Pull Up To 45% & Increases Slide Power 15%	\$13.50
KIT #12 FITS ALL DAN WESSON CENTER FIRE REVOLVERS Reduces Double & Single Action Trigger Pull Up To 45%	\$ 8.60
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IPSC

by Greg Moats

HOLSTERS, NATIONALS, & FUTURE

Author Moats takes on all the important IPSC issues: the survivability of the new holster rule, a report on the Nationals, and a comment on the future of combat shooting

“

THINK WE'RE IN for 'something' the likes of which we've never seen before," Ross said as he rolled his eyes in disbelief. When Ross Seyfried (the "fastest man in the world") voices a disheartening opinion such as that, it makes lesser accomplished shooters like myself downright nervous. This apprehensive statement about the 1980 IPSC United States Nationals, came from a man that, many believe, has had the greatest influence in changing practical shooting since Jeff Cooper held his maiden "Leatherslap."

The history of IPSC in the United States does not show its National matches to have been high points of executed brilliance. On the contrary, a smooth running U.S. National Match seems to have been IPSC's nemesis. That is, up until the 1980 IPSC Nationals held at Newport News, Virginia from October 7-11. Under the orchestration of Stan Pace, Ed Self and Bill Walsh, the LaFayette Gun Club turned in a stellar performance, fielding enough range officials and full time help to populate a small city.

Yearly, the best practical pistol shots from around the United States congregate for a "shoot out" to determine the best IPSC competitor (and every second year to select a team to represent the United States in International competition). This year's event was unique in two regards: one, a number of the "top name" shooters (including the entire 1977 U.S. team of Ray Chapman, Raul Walters, Jerry Usher, Leonard Knight and Kirk Kirkham) were conspicuously absent from the match, and two, the match





was shot under the shadow of a new holster regulation which will all but eliminate the "competition holster" as we know it today.

One of the dogmas of practical shooting has always been to avoid stipulating equipment requirements, the inducement being to find out what gear works best. The forward rake holster worn either on the strongside hip or in the cross-draw position had, therefore evolved and come to dominate the bulk of the practical shooting fraternity. The forward rake holster's assets are manifold. In the normal course of human activity the hands and arms are generally located in the front half of the torso, therefore a holster located forward of the hip would be physically closer to where the hands may be assumed to normally be, and maximize the speed with which the handgun can be brought to bear on a target. For purposes of speed, comfort and security, the holster must tilt the hand-

(Continued on page 67)

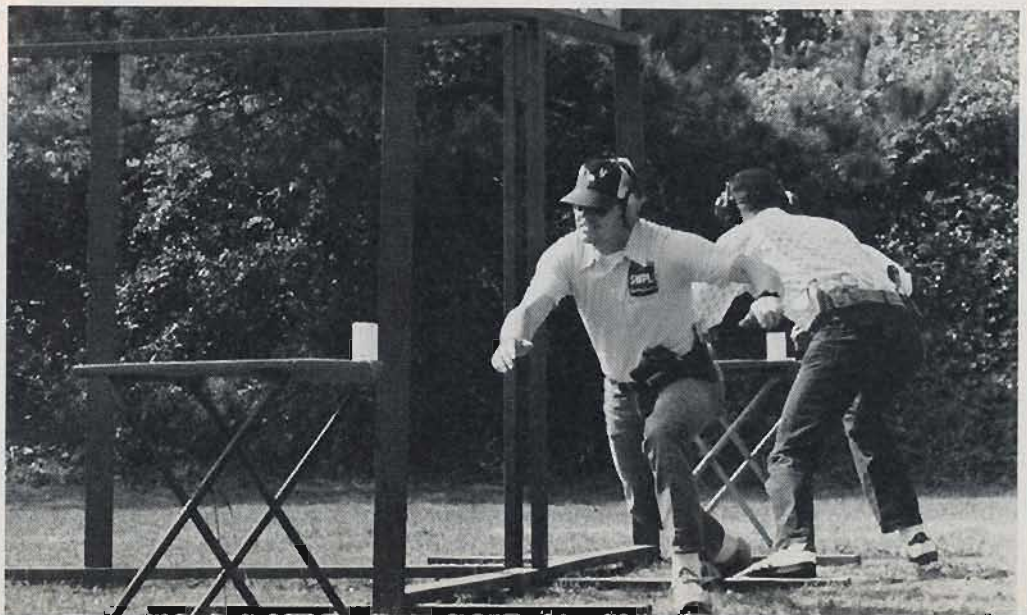


The "Scramble" required shooting on a step and over a barricade, negating advantage of any particular holster.

Above, the "Shootoff" winner, on the right, Ross Seyfried, using muzzle-to-rear holster to defeat Mike Plaxco who was using a cross-draw rig.

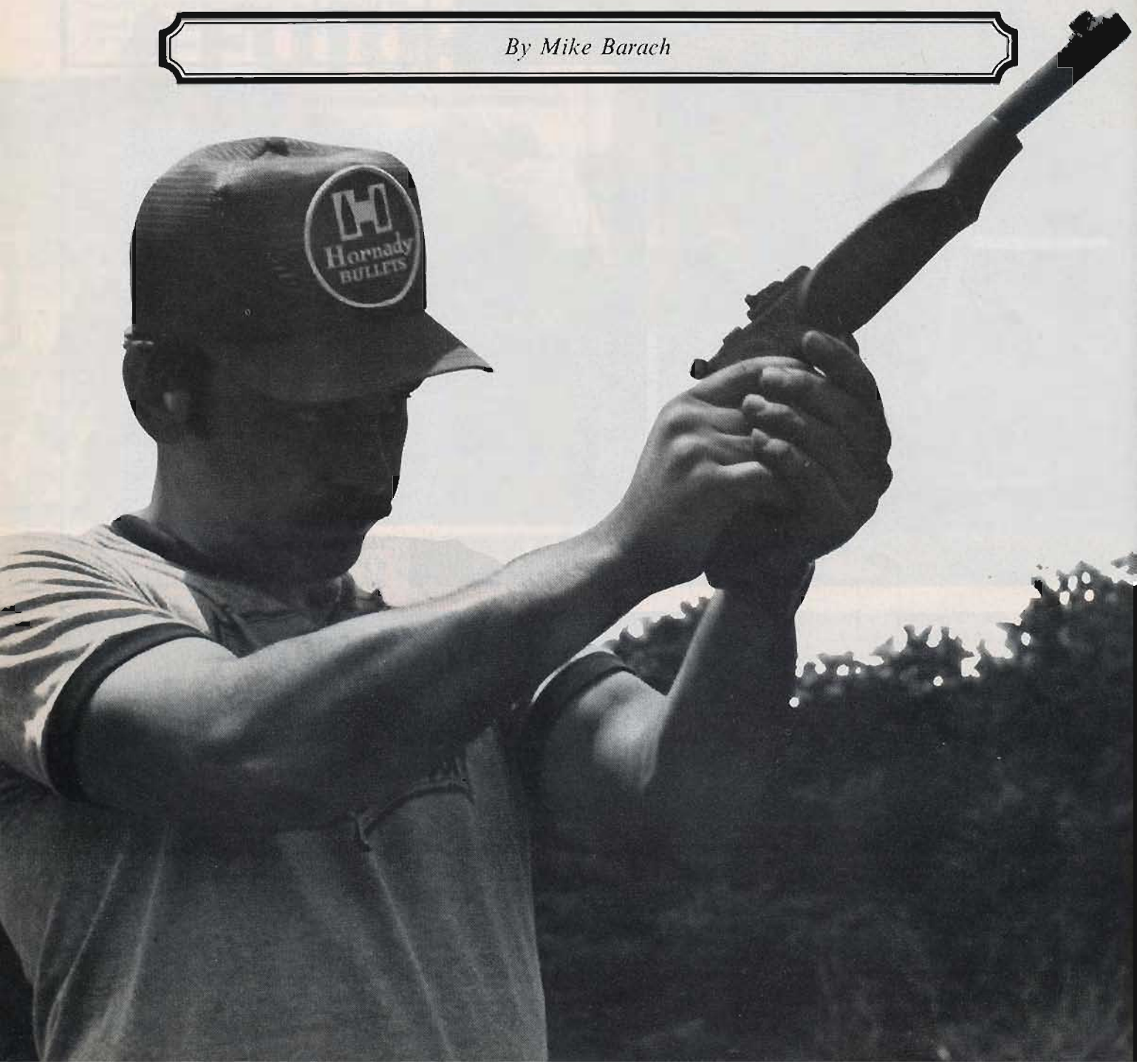
Left, unidentified contestant high-tails-it for barricade where he must pull a lanyard to open the window through which he shoots at a target.

Right, at the whistle blow, run to table, knock off the can and start shooting. The "Shootoff" was won using a muzzle-to-the-rear holster.



HAND CANNONS

By Mike Barach



The biggest boom around comes from T/C Contender barrels made by SSK Industries in .430, .375, and a whopping .45-70—not for the recoil-shy

ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO perfect cartridge performance, SSK Industries has a very impressive line of big-bore handgun hunting cartridges for the T/C Contender that offers more power than most conventional cartridges. The complete SSK line is too extensive to discuss here so I'll concentrate on four of the more versatile.

These T/Cs aren't for anyone sensitive to recoil. While they do deliver appreciably more power they also kick more than a .44 Mag. If recoil is a problem, stay away from the .430 JDJ, .357 JDJ, and don't bust a primer on the .45-70. The .30-40 Krag and .338 JDJ are more apt to be in the recoil tolerance level of the average person.

The .30-40 Krag is very well adapted to the T/C and is very accurate in a Contender. It also outperforms the .30-30, .30 and .357 Herretts, and .35 Remington by a substantial margin when all cartridges are loaded to sensible limits. Along with excellent accuracy, increases in both bullet weight and velocity can be realized with the Krag without undue strain on either the case or action. In addition, cases need not be formed or reamed and case separation that happens with some Herretts and the .30-30 is non-existent in the T/C Krag.

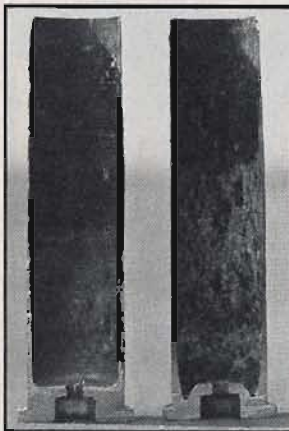
Accuracy of the T/C .30-40 Krag is outstanding. Generally speaking, it will deliver 1½" five-shot groups at one hundred yards with most bullets and suitable powders, but as can be seen in the chart there are a good many smaller groups.

Velocity levels that may be safely achieved in the T/C Krag with the various bullet weights are as follows: 125-130 grain: 2400 fps, 150 grain: 2250 fps, 165 grain: 2150 fps, 180 grain: 2100 fps, and 200-220 grain: 2000 fps. With a 14" barrel these velocities will be 50 to 75 fps higher than they were with the 12½" barrel used in the tests. For hunting, the T/C Krag should prove to be a real performer on everything up to medium-size big game.

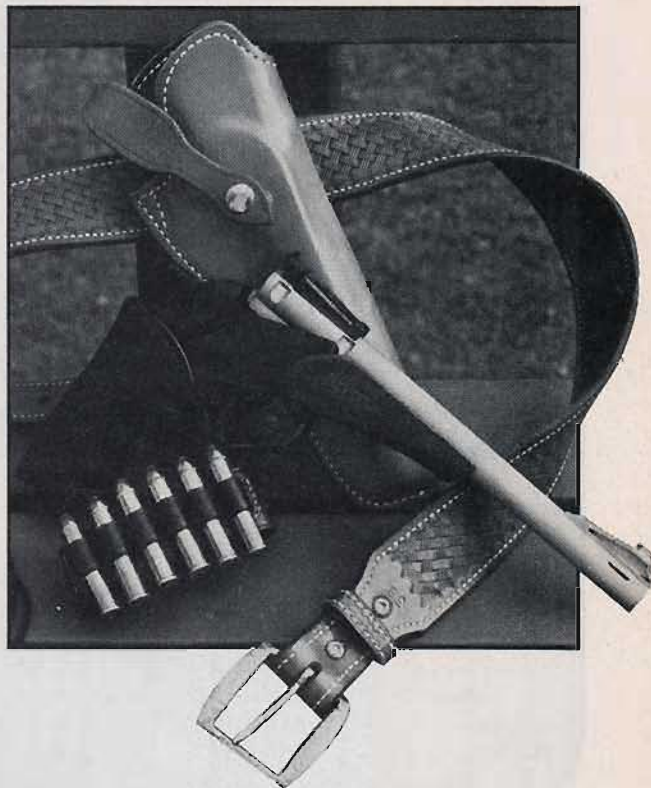
The Krag's maximum practical hunting

distance in a T/C is 200 to 225 yards, depending on the shooter. For small varmints, the 130 grain Hornady is a favorite; for deer, the Speer's 150 grain or 170 grain flat nose bullets. For bear go with Speer's 180 grain round nose.

The T/C .30-40 Krag barrel may be acquired by having a T/C .30-30 barrel rechambered to the Krag at a cost of about \$33. Rechambering has one drawback however, the .30-30 T/C uses a 1-14" twist and



New cases (left) are far stronger than old cases. Old .45-70 brass is weak.



Left, SSK muzzle brake effectively reduces muzzle jump of hand cannons. Above, ten-inch barreled SSK T/C in .430 JDJ, capable of taking any animal in North America. Holster by Roy's Custom Leather.



HAND CANNONS

WEIGHT/BULLET CHARGE/POWDER VELOCITY REMARKS

.30-40 Krag 12½" bbl. (R-P case, CCI-250 primer)

130 Hornady	47.0 H-380	2364	1½" (5 shots)
130 Hornady	41.0 H-322	2411	1½" (5 shots)
150 Speer F.N.	44.0-4064	2203	1½" (5 shots)—Max.
150 Sierra	48.0-4350	2069	1" (5 shots)—Max.
165 Hornady B.T.	39.0 H-322	2153	1¾" (5 shots)—Max.
165 Hornady B.T.	48.0-4350	2106	1¾" (4 shots) (1 pull) Max.
170 Speer F.N.	47.0-4350	2069	1¾" (5 shots)—Max.
180 Speer R.N.	49.0 H-205	2028	¾" (5 shots)—Max.
180 Sierra F.B.	49.0 H-205	2126	1¾" (5 shots)—Max.
180 Hornady F.B.	48.0 H-205	2082	1¾" (5 shots)
180 Hornady F.B.	44.0 WW-760	2075	1¾" (5 shots)—Max.

.375 J.D.J. 14" bbl. (R-P case, Fed 215 primer, except CCI-250)

220 Hornady®	38.0-4198	1944	1⅞" (4 shots), 3rd. pulled
220 Hornady®	40.0-4198	2147	2" (5 shots) Max.
220 Hornady	44.0 H-322	2015	1½" (4 shots) 5th. pulled
270 Hornady	42.0 H-322	1799	1½" (5 shots)
270 Hornady	44.0 H-322	1875	2¾" (5 shots), Max.
300 Sierra B.T.	42.0-3031	1696	
300 Sierra B.T.	44.0-3031	1839	3¼" (4 shots) 1st. pulled, Max.
300 Sierra B.T.	42.0 H-322	1793	1¾" (5 shots)
300 Sierra B.T.	44.0 H-322	1897	1¾" (5 shots), Max.

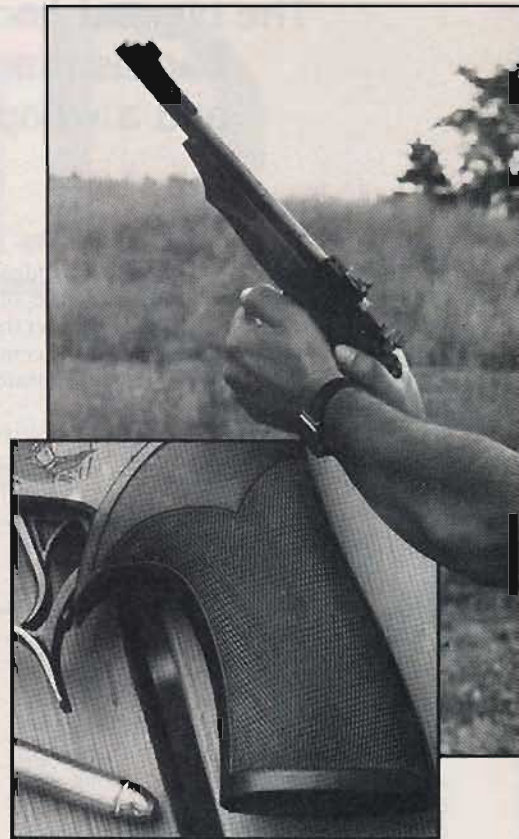
.430 J.D.J. 10" bbl. (R-P case, CCI-250 primer)

265 Hornady	49.5 H-322	1665	3¼" (5 shots)
265 Hornady	50.5 H-322	1682	3" (5 shots)
265 Hornady	41.0-4198	1614	3⅝" (5 shots)
265 Hornady	45.0-4198	1825	Max!
315 Cast	40.0 H-322	1441	3¼" (5 shots)
315 Cast	42.0 H-322	1450	1¾" (5 shots) powder peaked
315 Cast	37.5-4198	1583	Max!
350 Cast G.C.	38.0 H-322	1144	Mild load
350 Cast G.C.	41.0 H-322	1435	2⅞" (5 shots)
350 Cast G.C.	44.0 H-322	1557	Max.
350 Cast G.C.	36.0-4198	1412	Max!

.45-70 14" bbl. (Fed. case, CCI-250 primer)

405 Lyman Cast	36.0-4198	1426	Good plinking load
450 Lee Cast	28.0-4198	974	Mild recoil
450 Lee Cast	34.0-4198	1300	
450 Lee Cast	38.0-4198	1525	Heavy recoil
500 N.E.I. Cast G.C.	32.0-4198	1155	
500 N.E.I. Cast G.C.	42.0-3031	1290	Recoil is downright abusive!
300 Sierra H.P.	37.0-4198	1500	
300 Hornady H.P.	40.0-4198	1650	
300 Hornady H.P.	32.0 H-4227	1575	
400 Speer	34.0-4198	1280	4" (4 shots), open sights
400 Speer	38.0-4198	1500	2¾" (3 shots), open sights Big game hunting load only.

Temp. 85 degrees. All groups shot at 100 yards using a sandbag rest. Pulls called were not included in the group. Max. loads should be approached with caution as they may well be too hot in other barrels.



won't stabilize a bullet weighing much over 180 grains of the flat base design. The SSK .30-40 T/C barrel uses a 1-10" twist which will take care of all weights including the 220 grainer, but costs almost four times more than reambering. The test barrel used was a 14", .30-30 barrel cut back to 12½" and it wouldn't stabilize any of the 180 grain boat tails, as groups measured 3" to 4" at one hundred yards. The 200 grain Speer delivered acceptable accuracy, however there is a question about what they will do after impact as the stability must be marginal from a 1-14" twist barrel.

Cast bullets work well in the T/C Krag. When several of the Lyman moulds were used I ended up settling on #31141 173 grain gas checked (GC) bullets for plinking. Accuracy is good, 2¼" five-shot groups at one hundred yards, and velocity runs in the mid-1800s with a moderate charge of 4895. Naturally recoil is mild in this loading and comparable to the 14" .30-30 T/C with the other jacketed bullet weights.

The .375 JDJ is a very powerful hand-gun cartridge which exceeds accuracy of many big-game rifle cartridges. Utilizing a .444 Marlin case, it's necked down to accept a .375" diameter bullet with the formed case having a twenty-five degree shoulder. Custom reloading die sets are available from SSK Industries at \$40. To form the .375 JDJ case all that's necessary is to make one pass through the full-length sizing die. No trimming or reaming is

BITS & PIECES



Above, author shows effects of SSK T/C .45-70—max recoil. Left photo, one recoil remedy is Pachmayr grips.

required and firing will complete the job.

The power of the .375 JDJ is somewhat deceiving. With a muzzle brake installed, recoil and muzzle jump are quite tolerable and mask the true power of this cartridge when compared to the .430 JDJ and .45-70 T/Cs. I wouldn't sell it short though. Larry Kelly of Mag-Na-Port Arms is on safari in Africa and word is being returned that he dropped a bull elephant with one shot through the head using a 300 grain Hornady FMJ in his 14" .375 JDJ. The Hornady slug penetrated the bull's head completely.

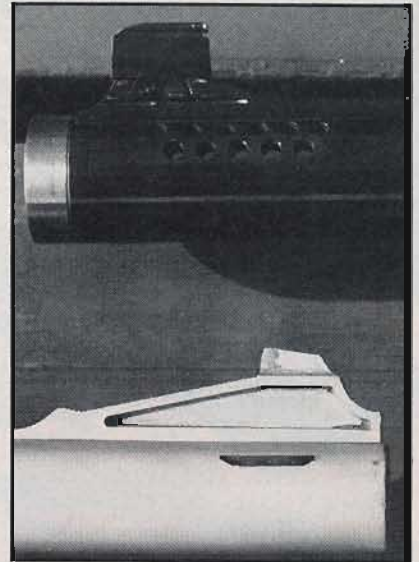
As can be seen, the .375 JDJ has more than enough killing power to anchor the largest of big game and it's accurate also. It will delivery one-hundred-yard, five-shot groups measuring 1½" or better with practically all bullet weights. The 220 grain Hornady and 235 grain Speer are super performers, breaking 2100 fps from a 14" barrel. The Hornady slug is constructed similarly to a handgun bullet (it was designed originally for the .375 Winchester rifle) so it will expand very well at T/C velocities. The 235 grain Speer has a thicker jacket than the Hornady 220, giving more penetration with a little less expansion.

The 270 grain Hornady round nose and spire point bullets are similar to the 220 grain and 235 grain slugs in expansion qualities; the round nose opens up faster and the spire penetrates more. Backed

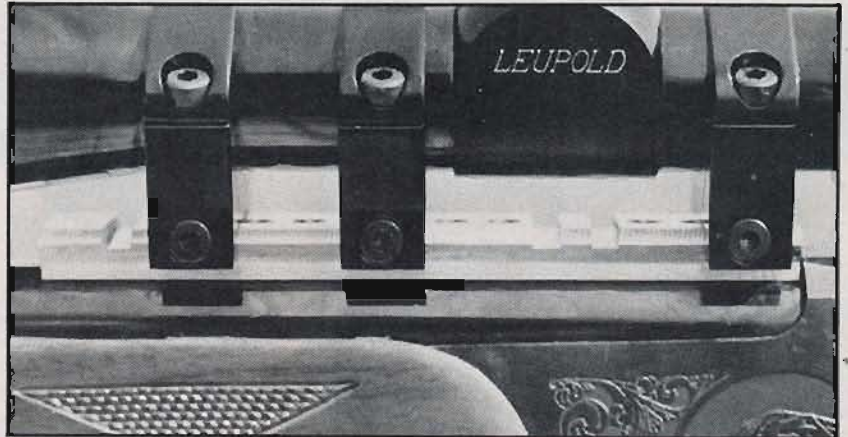
(Continued on page 65)

Some of the accessories and components the author used in his testing of T/C hand cannons are pictured below. A wide selection of both cast and jacketed bullets are available for these powerful JDJ calibers. Hornady, Speer, and Sierra provide bullet designs for the .375 JDJ (see photo and caption below). Leupold makes a rugged sight and the SSK scope base will hold it in place when some other mounts won't. The Mag-Na-Port process or an SSK muzzle brake is a must.

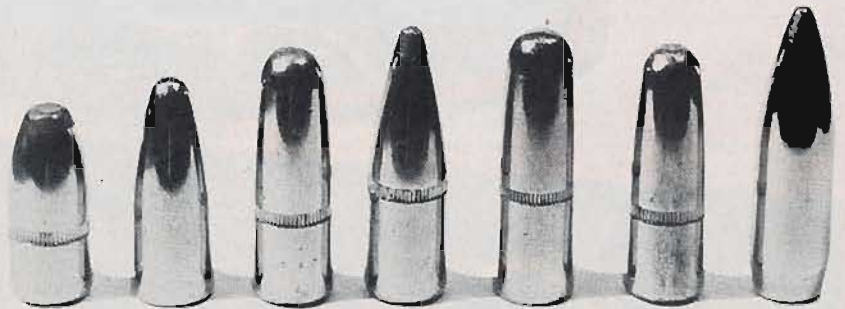
Bullets tested included .30-40 Krag, .375 JDJ, .430 JDJ, and the .45-70.



SSK muzzle brake, or Mag-na-port is a must for calming bigger bores.



Leupold scope wouldn't stay on long without the help of the SSK scope base, especially when shooting .45-70. Bushnell scope rings are used.



.375 JDJ bullets (l-r): 220 Hornady, 235 Speer, 270 Hornady RN, 270 Hornady SP, 300 Hornady FMJ, 300 Hornady RN, and 300 grain Sierra BT.



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WE HAVE A WINNER!

The first Custom Gun from the AMERICAN HANDGUNNER contest is now in the hands of Glenn Mason of New Jersey. The proud owner of the Davis custom .44, when reached by phone to tell him of his luck, said: "You've got to be kidding! When I saw the gun in the Sept/Oct issue, I wrote to Davis for information. Luckily, I never got around to ordering one."

Other winners will be announced on this page as soon as all the red tape is taken care of . . . bear with us. Editor

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HOM-MAY/JUNE

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Contest void where taxed or prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Winner must comply with all federal and local laws. Employees and agents of Publisher's Development Corp. not eligible.

M

MILT HICKS was an exhibition shooter, and a mighty good one too. He worked for the Remington Arms Company through the nineteen thirties and forties. He could throw cans of sauerkraut into the air and pulverize them with a high-powered rifle bullet, filling the air for several blocks with a pungent aroma, reminiscent of Munich during the Oktober Festival. He could also throw little washers in the air and shoot through

the hole in them with a .22 rifle, and whenever a skeptic said he wasn't shooting through the hole at all but was shooting off to one side or the other, he would throw one in the air with a white paster over it and hit the paster right in the middle.

Milt was born on his father's farm near Mackinaw, Illinois, in 1893 and bought his first .22 rifle with money he had saved from plowing for his father. He was nine years old at the time and when he saw his Uncle John do some aerial shots with it, he decided he would try it himself. He couldn't hit the small cans his uncle threw in the air. He fired and he fired, but he couldn't hit them.

"Try something bigger," his uncle told him, "and quit aiming so damn long," and he threw a milk bucket into the air.

After Milt had hit it

enough times to make a colander out of it, he began shooting at smaller and smaller targets, and soon was breaking walnuts.

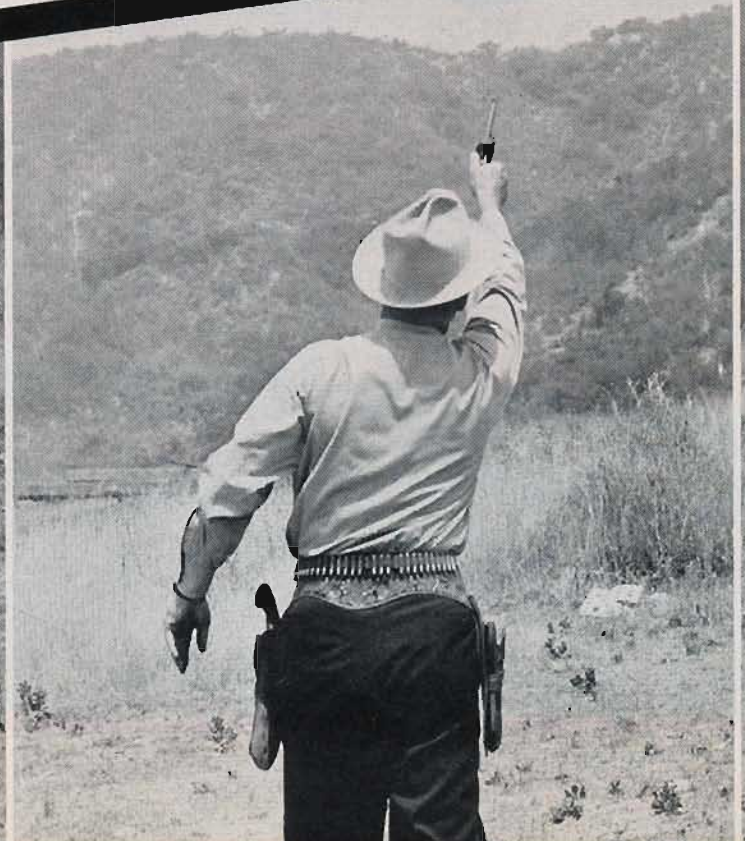
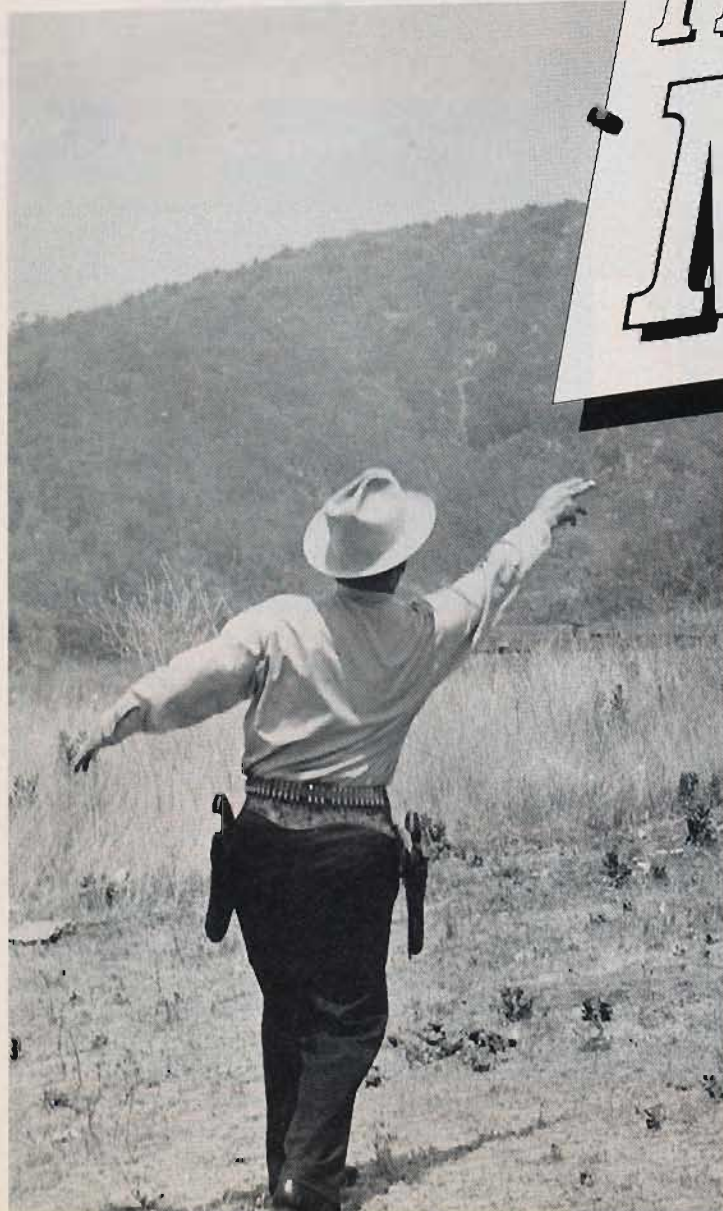
In 1915 he joined the National Guard and one month later, he was on his way to the Mexican Border with the 2nd Infantry. His first time on the rifle range, he qualified as an Expert Rifleman and when he returned from the Mexican Border in 1917, he was mustered into overseas service and transferred to the 168th Infantry. Before Christmas he was in England and was sent away to be trained as a sniper. He came out of World War I with a bayonet wound in his leg and a Croix de Guerre medal on his tunic.

After trying several occupations and businesses, he finally went to work for the Remington Arms Company as a salesman. This, of course, led to his exhibition shooting acts and he became one of the best pistol, rifle and shotgun exhibition shooters in the land. He used to tell his amazed audience, "You ought to try it. Start with a milk bucket, then a tin can, then a walnut and then a penny."

He could throw a penny in the air, hit the edge of it with a .38 pistol, knocking it higher in the air. Then he would hit it in the middle with his next shot, blowing what was left of it to smithereens.

Sometimes he would

THE AMAZING MILT



talk me into being his assistant, or shilaber, and he was a conniving and convincing man. My part in his act was to take five clay pigeons, stack them up on my fingers and hurl them in the air, practically all at once, but with the one rolling off my index finger going the highest and the rest of them in sequence until it got to the one rolling off my little finger, which would only go about ten feet above the ground. Then I would hurl myself to the turf and flatten out like a Dominican sand viper while Milt started breaking them

with a pump 20 gauge shotgun. He'd always get the fifth one about three feet above my flat, tense and shaking body. He has been timed doing this in one and three fifths seconds. Looking back in retrospect, my part in this act may have been partly accountable for some of my terrible scores shortly after Milt Hicks' exhibitions.

Milt was also a guitar player, in a manner of speaking, and a fair artist of Western scenes and he was one of the best liked men in

the shooting business. He always showed up at the big Florida pistol matches and even the hard-hitting bull's-eye men were aghast at some of his feats with pistol, rifle and shotgun.

He also was one to always be on the lookout for something he could report to the high-cockalorums at Remington Arms Company, which would improve their ammunition, which, in turn, would improve their sales. So,

when I won the .45 slow fire match at fifty yards at Camp Perry, both in 1941 and at the next National Matches after the war in 1946, he became highly interested in what sort of ammunition I had used to perform this maneuver. For he, along with most of the other field men for the various ammunition companies, was beginning to realize that semi-wadcutter reloads were winning nearly all of the .45 matches and that the ammunition companies were still only making round-nosed bullets.

I ran into him at a pistol match at El Paso and he said, "Lee, I've talked most of the top people at Remington into watching a demonstration of how accurate those .45 semi-wadcutter bullets can be. I've picked you out to furnish them to me because when you win two fifty-yard slow-fire matches with them at Camp Perry, you must really know your business in fashioning reloads!"

This was such a misstatement as to be almost libelous. I never reloaded a
(Continued on page 60)

HICKS

The funniest shooter in print tells about the shootinest exhibition shooter there ever was, who could shoot through the hole of a washer tossed in the air... really!

By Lee Echols

Clay pigeons were no problem for Milt Hicks who started with buckets as a kid and worked his way to hitting pennies tossed high.







COWBOY HOLSTERS

**The cowboy holster of yesterday is here today—
made by some of the top holster makers**

By Mike Thill

Time was when the six-shooter was very close to being not much more than a utilitarian tool. Although we single-action buffs would shudder at some of the uses the gun was subjected to, some Old West sadists actually twisted barbed wire around their Colt barrels while running the fence line or (ugh) committed the heinous act of pounding nails in with the butt of the revolver. I could go on with other atrocities, but why give you nightmares?

Of course, some men of the West took good care of their guns. (Thousands of rattlesnakes, spooked livestock, prowling cat and coyote sheep-eaters can attest to that.) They took care of their handguns, and they knew how to use them with telling effect against critters of all kinds, including variously-colored human varieties. To these men, the holster had to be practical. This all started just a little over a hundred years ago. The use of the holster isn't all that old. Before this time, they slung them over saddles or tucked them into leather-lined vest pockets.

They liked them high and out of the way, but still available. The military, flap type doesn't appear to look all that available, but for rough weather and to keep the dust out, this was the way to go. Contrary to what we've seen in the movies and on TV, speed wasn't that big a thing, but they put a lot of stock in their handguns staying put. These were

(Continued on page 63)

Top row, from left to right: G. Wm. Davis, Lawrence, Bucheimer, S.D. Myres, Interarms. Bottom row: Bianchi, Safariland, Cobra, Hunter.

AMMO SCENE RE

By Evan Marshall

All the latest in up-to-date ballistics by the author that gave us the popular Ammo Scene column that appeared in earlier issues

THE AMMO SCENE first appeared in the early part of 1978 in an attempt to provide AMERICAN HANDGUNNER readers with accurate, no nonsense ballistic information about commercially available handgun loads. The success of this effort was proven by the response of its readers. For those who missed it, here then is a condensed version of the same series.

THE .38 SPECIAL

This caliber was introduced in the early part of this century to replace the .38 Long Colt. It became a highly popular caliber, but has fallen short in one area—stopping power. The traditional .38 Special load is a marginal stopper at best.

Lee Jurras introduced the Super Vel offering in this caliber, that was the first high performance load for the .38 Special. Currently, virtually all handgun ammunition manufacturers offer similar loads. The officer or civilian can buy a box of this high performance ammunition that will go a long way to upgrading the stopping power of this once totally inadequate cartridge.

Velocity was checked on the author's Oehler chronograph with sky screens, while expansion was checked by using a twenty pound block of ductseal. While ductseal does not duplicate the resistance of flesh, it does offer a consistent medium. Furthermore, tests show that a recovered diameter of at least .50 in ductseal is required before the same load would show consistent expansion in actual field use.

.38 Snub Loads		2" Vel.	2" Exp.	4" Vel.	4" Exp.
a. S&W 95 grain	JSP	916fps	.502"	1013fps	.567"
b. R-P 95 grain	JHP	922fps	.577"	1102fps	.631"
110 grain loads		2" Vel.	2" Exp.	4" Vel.	4" Exp.
a. Norma	JHP*	1104fps	.516"	1298fps	.543"
b. Super Vel	JHP	1034fps	.534"	1107fps	.578"
c. R-P	JHP	976fps	.542"	1103fps	.569"
d. W-W	JHP	918fps	.556"	1098fps	.623"
e. Federal	JHP	932fps	.533"	1123fps	.603"
f. Speer	JHP**	856fps	.502"	945fps	.534"
g. S&W	JHP	904fps	.521"	1089fps	.587"
h. Frontier	JHP	882fps	.488"	1004fps	.536"

*In spite of Norma's earlier claims to the contrary, tests conducted by H.P. White Laboratories have shown that the Norma .38 Magnum load is in fact a + P load. **This load from Speer is not a + P load, which accounts for its relatively low velocity.

125 grain loads		2" Vel.	2" Exp.	4" Vel.	4" Exp.
a. R-P	JHP	903fps	.516"	1034fps	.601"
b. S&W	JHP	916fps	.522"	1099fps	.635"
c. S&W	SWC-HP*	889fps	.612"	1023fps	.678"
d. W-W	JHP	878fps	.534"	988fps	.629"
e. Speer	JHP	882fps	.526"	1021fps	.612"
f. Federal	JHP*	888fps	.516"	1004fps	.618"

*This new load from S&W is a Nyclad semiwadcutter all-lead hollowpoint. It has moderate muzzle flash and blast, and it's excellent choice for those who rely on the .38 Snub for self-defense.

158 grain loads		2" Vel.	2" Exp.	4" Vel.	4" Exp.
a. R-P	SWC	658fps	.357"	802fps	.358"
b. R-P	SWC-HP	768fps	.524"	987fps	.592"
c. R-P	RNL-HV	802fps	.363"	935fps	.395"
d. W-W	SWC	747fps	.367"	968fps	.423"
e. W-W	SWC-HP	816fps	.529"	1005fps	.603"
f. Federal	SWC	769fps	.372"	934fps	.518"
g. Federal	SWC-HP	803fps	.518"	992fps	.600"
h. Speer	JHP	799fps	.486"	918fps	.534"
i. S&W	JHP	787fps	.479"	945fps	.541"
j. S&W	SWC	737fps	.359"	902fps	.504"
k. S&W	SWC-HP	803fps	.534"	988fps	.623"
l. Frontier	SWC	722fps	.358"	899fps	.423"
m. R-P	RNL*	652fps	.357"	704fps	.357"

*Standard velocity .38 Special load—included only for comparison purposes.

THE .380 AUTO

The .380 Auto has been around a long time, but wasn't given serious consideration as a defensive handgun until Lee Jurras introduced a hollow point load for this caliber. It didn't always expand, but the more efficient bullet shape and higher velocity substantially improved its stopping power. Browning BDA was used for the tests.

.380 Loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Super Vel	JHP	1003fps	.463"
b. S&W	JHP	1014fps	.489"
c. Speer	JHP	1036fps	.492"
d. W-W	JHP	1042fps	.508"
e. Federal	JHP	1008fps	.465"
f. Frontier	JHP	1031fps	.471"
g. Remington	JHP	999fps	.439"

TESTED & UPDATED

THE 9MM

The 9MM did not see widespread acceptance in the defensive handgun until the S&W Model 39 was adopted by a variety of police departments. Ironically enough, the early version Model 39s would not digest high performance loads without extensive modifications. Later versions would usually handle the 115 grain jhp loads, but were finicky about the stubby 100 and 90 grain loads. The gun used in this testing was a preproduction S&W Model 439. It fed everything without a hitch.

90 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Super Vel	JHP	1386fps	.703"
95 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Winchester	JSP	1306fps	.645"
b. Federal	JSP	1403fps	.716"
100 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Winchester	JSP	1283fps	.542"
b. Winchester	JHP	1274fps	.632"
c. Speer	JHP	1269fps	.637"
115 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Winchester	JHP	1201fps	.683"
b. Federal	JHP*	1167fps	.657"
c. Remington	JHP	1199fps	.603"
d. Frontier	JHP	1154fps	.699"
e. S&W	JHP	1161fps	.632"

*Most accurate of all 9MM loads tested

125 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Speer	JSP	1102fps	.529"
b. S&W	SWC-HP*	1143fps	.682"

*New S&W Nyclad load for 9MM

THE .357 MAGNUM

Introduced in the mid-1930s, the .357 magnum did not see widespread use in law enforcement circles until 30 years later. Today, it is probably the most serious rival of the .38 Special. These loads were tested in a Ruger stainless Security Six with 4" barrel.

110 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Super Vel	JHP	1406fps	.767"
b. W-W	JHP	1342fps	.723"

c. R-P	JHP	1367fps	.704"
d. S&W	JHP	1256fps	.643"
e. Speer	JHP	1322fps	.704"
f. Federal	JHP	1344fps	.712"

125 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. W-W	JHP	1378fps	.804"
b. R-P	JHP	1412fps	.756"
c. S&W	JHP	1235fps	.633"
d. Speer	JHP	1356fps	.688"
e. Federal	JHP	1406fps	.765"

140 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Speer	JHP	1305fps	.671"

150 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Super Vel	JHP	1289fps	.675"
b. Speer	FMJ*	1283fps	.357"

*Designed for metallic silhouette use

158 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. W-W	SWC	1322fps	.623"
b. W-W	JHP	1258fps	.687"
c. W-W	JSP	1248fps	.634"
d. R-P	SWC	1146fps	.528"
e. R-P	JHP	1263fps	.645"
f. R-P	JSP	1238fps	.629"
g. Federal	JHP	1256fps	.659"
h. S&W	SWC	1106fps	.527"
i. S&W	SWC-HP*	1128fps	.702"
j. Speer	JHP	1207fps	.609"
k. Speer	JSP	1234fps	.603"
l. Norma	FMJ	1257fps	.357"

*This load from S&W is an all-lead hollow point that produces impressive expansion in spite of a moderate velocity.

THE .38 SUPER

This has to be the most unappreciated handgun cartridge of them all. The Super makes the 9MM appear anemic, and with a Bar Sto barrel produces accuracy that borders on the unbelievable. The loads tested here were shot through a Colt MKIV .38 Super with 5" barrel.

Load	Velocity	Expansion
a. R-P 130 grain FMJ	1278fps	.355"
b. R-P 115 grain JHP	1452fps	.756"
c. W-W 125 grain JHP	1288fps	.722"
d. SW 112 grain JSP*	1408fps	.766"

*Out of production Super Vel load. It produces groups under 2" at 50 yards in authors Bar Sto equipped .38 Super.

TEST REPORT:

HYDRA-SHOK S.D.L.

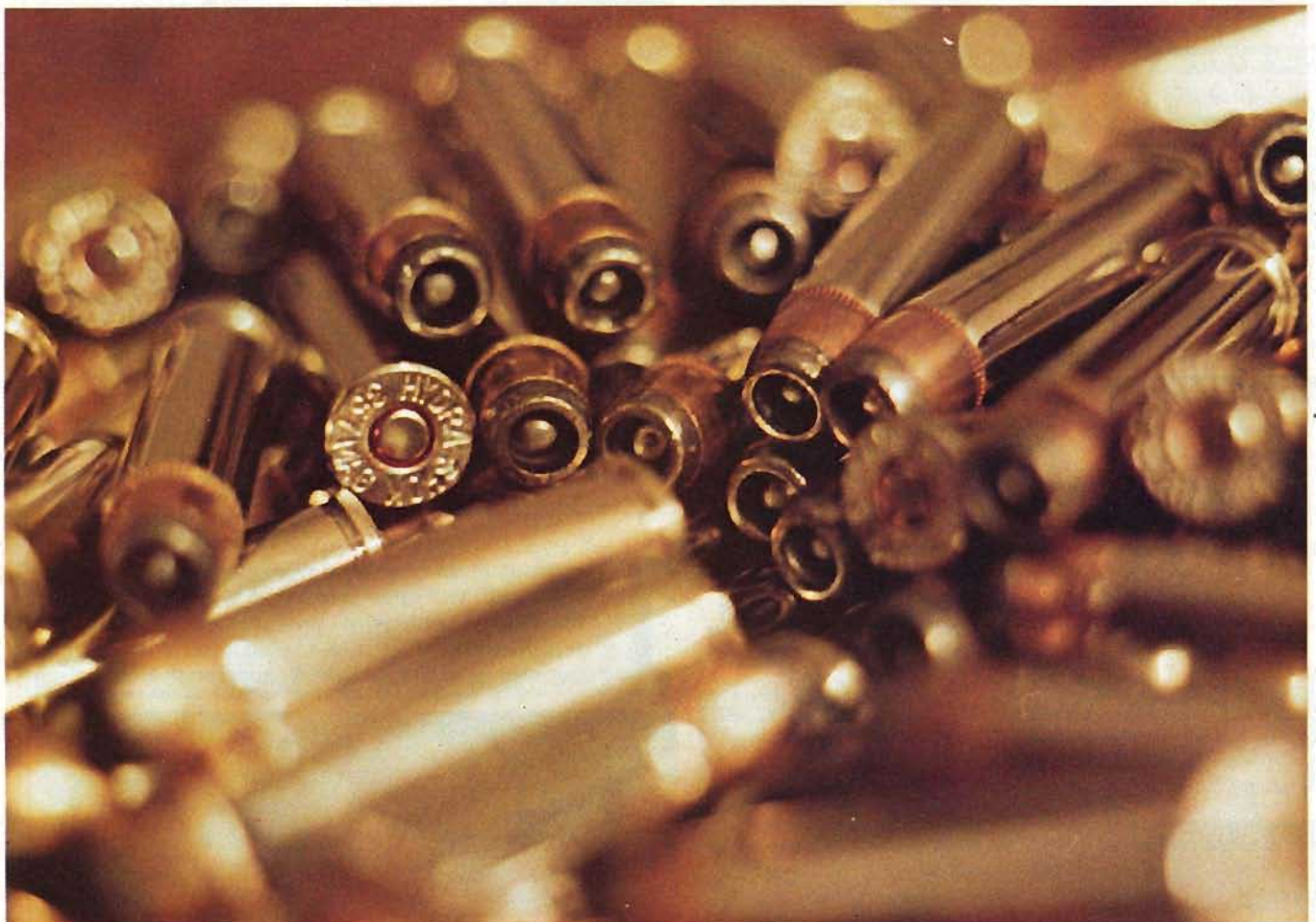
You Heard About
Their .38 Special
But How About A
.357 Magnum That
Does All Those Tricks . . .
PLUS!

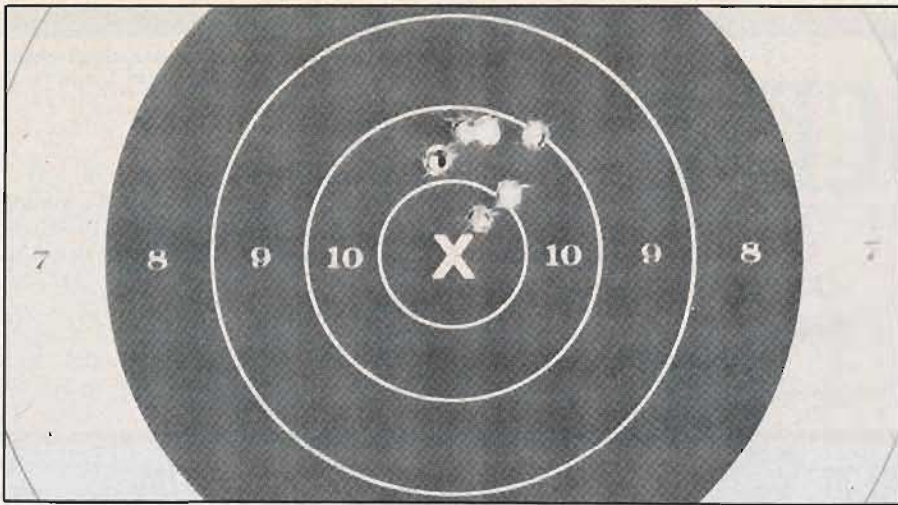
By Sheppard Kelly

A phone call from Steve Vogel, Vice-President of Sturm-Ruger, was my introduction to Hydra-Shok. "There's something new on the ammunition market that you ought to look at," he said; "I'll send a box down." That was four years ago, and I remember opening the small package and finding a red, .38 wadcutter-

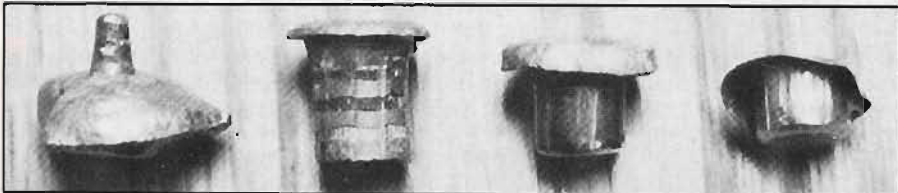
size box with the words Hydra-Shok and Scorpion in large black letters. My reaction was, "Hmmm, .38 Special hollow base wadcutter, inverted, with a post in the middle, nickel case. Interesting, but???" I reflected on an article I had read in the 60's about reloading .38 Specials with an HBWC seated backwards, and the awesome expansion and subsequent stopping power such rounds produced. I had shot some loads produced by a friend, and was not impressed, however. Accuracy was poor, and keyholing rampant, with erratic expansion. Later I found out my friend had loaded these rounds far in excess of the recommended velocities, but the memory remained. As I mused over this new ammunition, I had mixed emotions. Some literature included with the new ammunition referred to it as the "Ultimate Defense Load," and spoke of consistent .60-caliber expansion, maximum transfer of energy and limited penetration. Claims such as this were not new to me. Six months before I received this ammunition, I had been

selected to supervise weapons training and development for my department. At that time, high velocity, expanding .38 Specials had just come into vogue, and the 110-grain .38 Special reigned supreme nearly everywhere in the federal government. A great deal of very expensive and extensive testing in specially formulated gelatin and on "computer man" targets had been conducted to prove the efficiency of this load. While I had never used it in a confrontation situation, I had fired a number of rounds, and my analysis of it supported the laboratory conclusions. It was accurate, had very controllable recoil, and the bullet would expand impressively in gelatin and Ductseal. Considering this, I tried to approach the test of the then new Hydra-Shok Scorpion with as much objectivity as possible. Since Hydra-Shok Scorpion is not the subject of this article, I'll summarize the results. A Model 60 2", Model 19 2½" and Ruger Security Six 4" revolver were used. Test medium was wet pack (wet newsprint sealed in plastic) and test dis-

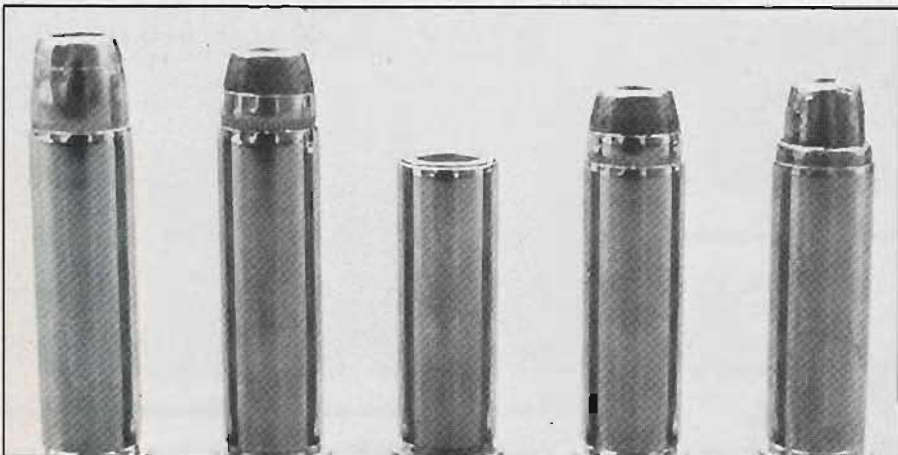




A pretty respectable 6-shot group that was fired from a sandbag rest with a 2½" Model 66 using the Hydra-Shok SDL in .357. Note the vertical stringing.



The expansion results using wet pak as a media. From left to right, Hydra-Shok S.D.L. .357, Winchester-Western .38 Special LHP +P, Federal .38 Special 125 grain JHP +P, Federal .357 Magnum JHP (shed jacket as it expanded). No two behaved exactly alike. Hydra-Shok muzzle energy calculated out to 157 ft/lbs.



From left to right, Hydra-Shok SDL, Federal .357 Magnum JHP, Hydra-Shok .38 Special Scorpion, Federal .38 Special 125 gr. JHP +P, Winchester-Western .38 Special 158 gr. LHP +P. Hydra-Shok .357 averaged 18,500 psi—remarkably low.

tance, 15 feet. Accuracy tests were also conducted. In essence, my tests supported the manufacturer's claims regarding accuracy, controllability and expansion. Penetration was minimal, 2½" as my old records indicate, and expansion averaged .58. Muzzle energy calculated out to approximately 157 foot-pounds. I was impressed, but I still had reservations. Surely a cartridge that was only delivering 157 foot-pounds of energy, less than half of the +P+ .38 Special load I was carrying, couldn't reliably stop a human? Nonetheless, I felt that the concept of the bullet warranted further investigation. I contacted the producer/designer, Dick Baughman, and began a series of "informational exchanges" on the Hydra-Shok principle. His theory on the incompressibility of fluids and the action of fluid pressure on the bullet post to influence expansion was well thought out.

About this time several things happened that caused me to view the Hydra-Shok in a different light. First, my department's armorer began to show me examples of significant wear ("accelerated wear" in his words) and weapon malfunctions caused by the steady use of our +P+ service load. Several of the older Model 19's, having seen the use of thousands of rounds of this high pressure ammunition, had to be withdrawn from use and labeled "unserviceable." His concern registered with me that the possibility existed of a weapons malfunction in a deadly force confrontation when a worn weapon and high pressure round were used. Tests of various lots of the +P+ ammunition showed startling variations in pressures, with many averages above the +P+ limits set by SAAMI. I had also begun to receive reports from several non-federal law enforcement agencies which were using +P+ ammunition, of various makes, that bullet performance was not as the laboratory tests had indicated when variables such as reduced velocity and other than contact distance impact were taken into account. Something appeared to be amiss.

Secondly, about the time the above information was being received, I was introduced to Lt. Frank McGee, commanding officer of the New York City Police Department's Firearms Training and Tactics Section. Frank provided me with studies of what had actually happened in shooting incidents involving New York City police officers over a period of years. Light conditions, number of assailants, distance, shot placement, medical examinations of individuals shot with various types of projectiles, all were discussed, explained, and when questioned were raised, answers were given by example and fact, not speculation and theory.

Considering the New York City Police Department is annually involved in more shooting confrontations than any other police agency in the country, I took to heart what Frank had said. I returned to

(Continued on page 65)

AMMUNITION

WEAPON

PENETRATION

HYDRA-SHOK .357	2½" M66	3½"
FEDERAL .38 125 JHP +P+	"	4⅞"
FEDERAL .357 125 JHP	"	5"
HYDRA-SHOK .38 SCORPION	"	2⅞"
W-W 158 LHP .38 +P	"	5¼"
HYDRA-SHOK .357	4" M66	3"
FEDERAL .38 125 JHP +P+	"	4¼"
FEDERAL .357 125 JHP	"	4⅜"

(Federal .357 JHP shed jacket in both tests. W-W .38 Special LHP penetrated the most of any rounds.) 15' Velocity—2½" M19—863 f.p.s. 15' Velocity—4" M66 —973 f.p.s.

AMMO SCENE

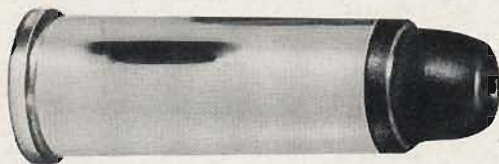
THE .41 MAGNUM

If there's another contender for the .38 Super dubious honor, it would be the .41 Magnum. It's a shame, because the .41 is simply the best police revolver cartridge we have. The all-lead semiwadcutter has proven to be a reliable one-shot stopper with none of the problems present with the .357 Magnum. I've carried one for the last eleven years in law enforcement, and it's second only to the .45 auto.

The "Magnum" loads for the .41 will do virtually everything the .44 will. If you handload, the .41's superiority becomes even clearer. Unfortunately, it has received a lot of bad press it hasn't deserved. The loads tested here were shot through a S&W Model 57 with 6" barrel.

Loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. W-W	SWC	1006fps	.602"
b. W-W	JSP	1386fps	.778"
c. W-W	JHP	1407fps	.829"
d. R-P	SWC	987fps	.612"
e. R-P	JSP	1367fps	.762"

NEW 44SA FOR SMITH & WESSON



Velocity (f.p.s.)		Energy (ft./lb.)	
Muzzle	50 yds.	Muzzle	50 yds.
960	890	410	350

Figures based on 7½" revolver barrel

FEDERAL CARTRIDGE CORPORATION announced the addition of the 44 Smith & Wesson Special cartridge to its 1981 line of pistol ammunition. For its loading Federal has chosen a 200 gr. lead, semi-wadcutter, hollow point bullet. This is the only expanding bullet load offered in this caliber by any manufacturer. Muzzle velocity of the new round is approximately 960 fps from a 7½-inch barrel revolver and 920 fps from a 5½-inch. The cartridge is designated 44SA and is packed 50 rounds per box.

THE .44 MAGNUM

The .44 is advertised as the world's most powerful handgun, but I've found the .41 to outperform it. The .44, however, does offer the shooter a much wider variety of factory loads. The loads listed below were fired from a Ruger Super Blackhawk with 7½" barrel.

180 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Super Vel	JHP	1589fps	.878"
b. Federal	JHP	1618fps	.889"
200 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. Speer	JHP	1434fps	.745"
b. Frontier	JHP	1451fps	.765"
240 grain loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. W-W	SWC	1466fps	.769"
b. W-W	JSP	1422fps	.776"
c. W-W	JHP	1473fps	.824"
d. R-P	JHP	1418fps	.801"
e. R-P	SWC	1389fps	.729"
f. R-P	JSP	1423fps	.751"
g. Speer	JSP	1408fps	.743"
h. Federal	JHP	1501fps	.838"
i. Super Vel	JHP	1518fps	.846"
j. Frontier	JHP	1434fps	.788"
k. Frontier	SWC	1394fps	.706"
l. S&W	JHP	1429fps	.783"

THE .45ACP

I don't know if it's our common Mormon heritage or not, but I've always been fascinated by the guns designed by John Moses Browning. Of all his inventions, however, none has held my interest like the .45 Auto. I consider it the finest defensive handgun available.

loads		Velocity	Expansion
a. W-W	JHP 185 grain	1004fps	.722"
b. R-P	JHP	956fps	.544"
c. Federal	JHP	1014fps	.734"
d. Super Vel	JHP	1044fps	.718"
e. Frontier	JHP	962fps	.645"
a. Speer	JHP 200 grain	923fps	.703"
a. Frontier	SWC 230 grain	934fps	.452"
b. W-W	FMJ	856fps	.452"
c. R-P	FMJ	798fps	.452"
d. Federal	FMJ	853fps	.452"
e. S&W	FMJ	822fps	.452"

HANDGUN HUNTING

(Continued from page 27)

The important consideration is that of finding a barrel length that works well for you. Most individuals would not select a 4" .44 when deer hunting in open country. A 14" T/C .30-30 would be an excellent choice in this situation for the individual who can see the sights well. Some individuals would be far better off with a 4 inch .44 if they can see the sights on it and not a 14" T/C.

Individuals with acute visual problems and those who just want to improve their ability to hit at long range may want to consider scoping something like a 10 or 14 inch T/C in one of the hot calibers. Scoping a handgun, particularly a T/C or XP-100, does for a handgun exactly what it does for rifles—enables the user to see better and therefore hit better. Scoping hard kicking handguns is a problem however. SSK Industries (Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910) can help out in scoping T/Cs that kick hard.

From the standpoint of practicality, almost any hunting handgun can be made to work in almost any hunting situation. Long barrels will work in the woods and 4 inchers will work in open country. I frequently feel we sometimes emphasize "the right equipment" for a hunt to the point of being ridiculous. No animal punched with a 240 grain .44 Hornady HP is going to know if it came from a 4 or 8 inch gun. With the same hit, I'm convinced the result will be identical from the viewpoint of the hunter too.

Higher velocities do give better bullet performance. However, in revolvers there just isn't enough velocity spread from 4 to 8 inch barrels to make much difference in bullet performance on game. The way to get better bullet performance is to use a heavy soft bullet such as the Remington .44 mag JHP or go to a lighter bullet capable of higher velocities. H&H Cartridge (Super Vel) and Federal both load 180 grain .44 magnums that perform well. The Super Vel round was about 100 fps faster from my guns but both are excellent in the accuracy and punch departments. Sierra, Speer and Hornady all sell lightweights that perform well on game.

Significant velocity-power differences exist when graduating from revolver to single shots but with the exception of the .357 Herrett and .35 Remington 14" guns pistol bullets still work well. The .357 Herrett and .35 Remington are capable of velocities that will cause 158 grain revolver bullets to come apart in flight.

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There is no magic formula to select a particular barrel length for hunting handguns. It boils down to simply this: the guy behind the gun is responsible for its use, whether it is used successfully or unsuccessfully.



.22 SILHOUETTES

(Continued from page 32)

third shot at the untouched second silhouette. Only hits and misses are recorded and a silhouette must be knocked from its rest to score a hit. "Turning" a silhouette on the stand does not count. Ricochet hits count if the target falls.

If one foot or the other of any hit javelina or ram is completely off the stand, then the hit will be scored, even if the target is still standing with the other foot still on the stand.

Otherwise, in no case shall a hit target be awarded as a scored point unless it is knocked down and/or off its stand.

SHOOTING POSITION

Standing: Any standing position will be allowed with the gun being supported by one or both hands. No part of the one or both arms or hands holding the gun shall contact any other part of the body from the shoulder out.

Freestyle: Freestyle being any *safe* position without artificial support. No part of the gun, stock or grip shall touch ground or ground cover, and the gun must be held in such a manner that the line referee and/or Range Officer can see that the gun is visibly clear of the ground at all times when in firing position. Nesting the barrel in the top of a shoe or boot or across the sole or notch of the heel constitutes artificial support and is not allowed. Handcapped competitors may fire from wheelchair with one or both elbows supported, or with braced crutches or with support from chair or stool replacing leg.

IHMSA CLASSIFICATION

The first score fired in a sanctioned match by a new shooter will establish his initial class, thereafter, any two scores, including said first score and any re-entry scores that exceed the break point of any class will move the shooter directly to that class.

FREESTYLE POSITION

Score: 0-10	Novice Class
11-17	B

18-23	A
24-29	AA
30-35	AAA
36-40	International

STANDING POSITION

Score:	0-7	B
	8-15	A
	16-21	AA
	22-40	AAA

The point spread on the classifications was established to provide a maximum number of classes and to allow the shooters to compete against only those other shooters who are at their level of shooting skill.

.22 Silhouettes make an excellent shooting sport. The range is easy to set up, the targets are challenging and there is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing your target react to your hits.

HANDGUN CLASSIFICATION

Competition is in three categories as determined by pistol action type.

Semi-Automatic Handgun: A magazine-fed blow-back operated pistol chambered for the .22 Long rifle cartridge. Barrel to have a maximum length of 7½ inches. Maximum weight to be 50 oz. unloaded with magazine.

Revolver: A multi-chambered revolving pistol chambered for the .22 Long rifle cartridge. Barrel to have a maximum length of 10 inches and the pistol is to have a maximum weight of 55 oz. unloaded.

Single Shot Handgun: A pistol capable of containing only one cartridge. Gun to be chambered for the .22 Long rifle cartridge. Barrel to have a maximum length of 10 inches and the pistol is to have a maximum weight of 55 oz. unloaded.

Any action type may be used equally in standing category.

Ammunition: The .22 Long rifle cartridge is the only cartridge allowed in this competition.

The pistol rules were written to allow the use of all current production pistols chambered for the .22 long rifle. The rules do, however, prohibit the use of target attachments, such as barrel weights, muzzle brakes and adjustable stocks. Handguns used in IHMSA .22 Silhouette competition must qualify as follows: "A gun that is, or was, a catalog item on or before January 1, 1979, and was readily available to the general public. The gun must be complete at all times in form, finish and mechanical function as manufactured, and only parts which are manufacturers catalog items for the particular model may be used for repair or replacement. A trigger job may be performed on the gun and sight-black may be used for sight definition. Stocks which are standard catalog items and which are finished by the maker to standard patterns may be used as replacement parts. The Technical Committee shall have the responsibility of determining the acceptability of any handgun or accessory



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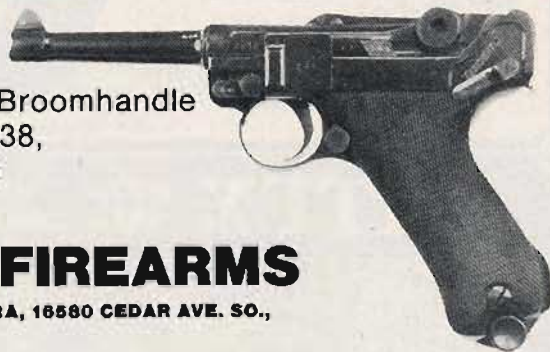


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Norma Precision Division, General Sporting Goods Corp.
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released to the public after January 1, 1979 for competition."

In October of 1978 the general membership of IHMSA voted to require that all pistols used in the production category competition should be across-the-counter pistols.

By a 97 percent vote the membership eliminated the possibility of an all-out equipment race destroying their sport as it has so many other sports. Their shooting sport is to emphasize skill instead of equipment and anyone with a pet pistol is ready for a match.

PISTOLS USED

The .22 Silhouette game is currently dominated by pistols produced in the USA by Yankee firearms manufacturers. This is a good situation for the sport.

The single shot category competitors prefer the Thompson/Center (Box 2405, Rochester, NH 03867) Contender in the bull-barreled version at the rate of about 10 to 1 over any of the other single shot pistols. The T/C regularly turns in an excellent performance with the only perfect 40 x 40, to date, being recorded with one of Warren Center's bull-barreled versions.

Revolver honors are shared by Ruger (Southport, CT 06490) and Smith & Wesson (2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01101). The Ruger .22 revolvers with factory adjustable rear sight and barrels of 6½ or 9½ inches have turned in some very presentable scores. The Smith & Wesson Model 17, or K-Model as it is popularly known among the shooters, is also very well thought of in the 6 and 8¾ inch barreled versions. An 8¾ inch Model 17 was used by Dave Whitman to win the 1979 California State Revolver Championship. My favorite, and the revolver which won, for me, the 1980 California revolver championship, is the 6-inch-barreled K-Model with Pachmayr (1220 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015) presentation stocks.

The Semi-Auto category is very popular among the competitors and three manufacturers currently share popularity in the category. The Ruger MK-I, Smith & Wesson Model 41 and the High Standard (31 Prestige Park Circle, East Hartford, CT 06108) Trophy Citation or Victor Models appear to compete equally in the Semi-Auto Category with only the ability of the shooter determining the winner of any match.

The over all Semi-Auto winner of the 1979 California State Championship was Jerry Pantaleo of Fresno, using a Smith & Wesson Model 41 and the 1980 winner was John Bosch of Madera, using a 7¼ inch barreled Military Trophy Model.

Next issue, Part II will present methods for tuning the .22 pistol, with sections on Ruger Mk I, S&W M17, Thompson/Center, and High Standard.



HAND CANNONS

(Continued from page 39)

with 42.0 grains of H-322, these slugs will average 1½" to 1¾" five-shot groups at one hundred yards and cruise along at 1799 fps out of a 14" barrel. The Sierra and Hornady 300 grainers are the heaviest bullets offered in the .375" diameter. Loaded with 44.0 grains of H-322 they move along at 1897 fps, deliver excellent accuracy, and penetrate more than any of the other bullet weights. The ability of the 300 grain Hornady FMJ to penetrate speaks for itself.

Although I didn't include cast bullets in testing the .375 JDJ, a wide variety of weights and styles are available and perform very well, especially for practice.

In the hands of a practiced handgunner, the .375 JDJ will take game out to two hundred yards, and recoil of this cartridge isn't at all abusive with the 220 grain or 270 grain slugs. With the 300 grainers, recoil is noticeably heavier. The .375 JDJ is a very good choice for big-game hunting, delivering better accuracy and more power than the .375 Winchester rifle.

.430 JDJ POWERHOUSE

The .430 JDJ is a real powerhouse. with a 350 grain cast bullet this wildcat cartridge equals the power of a .45-70 rifle. The .430 JDJ is simply a .444 Marlin case trimmed 1/10" to 2.125" and uses .429" to .430" diameter bullets. It is at its best with 265 grain and heavier slugs. The lighter .44 Magnum bullets may be used for special purpose loads, but they will not do anything the heavier slugs can't do more efficiently. The 265 grain Hornady will not stand up to the velocities achievable in the .430 JDJ, tending to break up shortly after impact with high velocity loads at short range. It's a good bullet for large varmint, but may well be excessively destructive on deer. With no heavier jacketed bullets available, custom double-cavity bullet moulds can be purchased from SSK in four styles and considerably heavier bullet weights—220 grain and 260 grain GC in one mould and 315 grain and 350 grain GC in the other. The 315 grain and 350 grain seem to be better suited to the .430 JDJ.

RECOIL CAN GET NASTY

Accuracy wise, the .430 JDJ with the 265 grain will average around 3" for five shots at one hundred yards. Velocity runs from the 1600 fps up into 1825 fps with a maximum load, however recoil gets heavy as charges are increased and can get nasty with maximum charges of 4198.

The cast slugs for the .430 JDJ generate more recoil and muzzle jump than the 265 grain Hornady, but in most cases isn't excessively abusive. Maximum hunting loads generate a good bit more recoil in a 10" barrel, but are very accurate. The 315 grain cast bullet moves out between 1440 fps to a sizzling 1583 fps in a 10" tube,

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depending on powder and charge weight. The 350 grain GC slug can be driven in the 1550 fps range, with maximum loads. Two of the most suitable powders for both bullets are H-322 and 4198, with the latter yielding more velocity and recoil. Accuracy seemed to be better as powder charges were increased.

Standard .444 Marlin dies are used for reloading the .430 JDJ, however, some seating dies must be shortened in order to crimp the bullet. Lyman's dies may be used as is.

The .430 JDJ is suited to either open sights or pistol scope. In either case they must be ruggedly constructed or they will fall apart in no time from the effects of recoil.

The best barrel length in the .430 leans towards the 12 1/2" or 14" over the shorter 10" tube because of more velocity, a better sighting radius with open sights, and extra weight helping to dampen recoil. Shots of up to two hundred yards are within the practical effective range of this cartridge.

The .430 JDJ may be rechambered from a .44 Magnum T/C barrel with excellent



Federal's new 300 grain HP performs impressively out of 14" .45-70 T/C.

results. Cost is the same as the T/C Krag—\$33. Having a 14" tube cut back to 12 1/2" will run another \$15.

Last, but not least, there is the 107-year-old "block bustin" .45-70. SSK Industries picked a real winner when this cartridge was adopted into their line of T/C barrels. The recoil can be extremely heavy, or no more than that of a skinny barrel 10" .44 Magnum T/C. As a matter of interest, the .45-70 is the most popular caliber according to sales.

Factory ammo in the T/C .45-70 is mild in both pressure and recoil. Federal has recently introduced a 300 grain hollow point round that's most impressive. A 14" barrel will kick it out at 1475 fps and it should prove to be a good performer on deer.

Reliable handloading data is abundant for both cast and jacketed slugs in the .45-70 and can be used in the T/C if pressures are kept below 28,000 c.u.p. The use of load data for the '73 Springfield is usually sufficient for hunting. It's possible to use moderate 1886 Winchester loads without harming the T/C; however, recoil starts to get very heavy as charges are increased

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and can easily be pushed to excessive limits.

There's a wide variety of both cast and jacketed bullets from which to choose and the majority work well in the T/C. Starting with cast bullets, Lee Precision, Inc. offers three moulds: 457-405 grain FN, 457-450 grain FN and 457-500 grain GCFN. The 405 grain is a good bullet, being accurate at practically all velocities and penetrating well. Weight and expansion qualities depend on hardness of the alloy used. Backed with 36.0 grains of 4198, the 405 grain Lee bullet moves out at 1426 fps and is pleasant to shoot. It's a good all-around plinking weight and also useful for hunting.

The Lyman #457193 405 grain mould is also a good choice. Its nose is slightly more flat than the Lee bullet and longer ahead of the driving bands by about 1/8".

The 450 grain Lee slug will weigh 430 grains if cast hard and 470 grains with pure lead. The variations in weight will not significantly affect the low pressure levels being dealt with in the T/C, but variations in point of impact at fifty and one hundred yards are sometimes drastic. Cast hard at



Redfield's 4x scope, base, and rings endured recoil from SSK .30-40 Krag.

430-440 grains, this bullet with 31.5-4198 is accurate, recoils closely to factory ammo, and is a good practice load. Velocity is 1136 fps from a 14" tube. Increasing the charge to 34.0 grain-4198 pushes the slug out at around 1300 fps. Adding four more grains of powder to the charge makes the load too heavy in recoil to shoot very much.

Lyman's #457125 500 grain round nose bullet can gain complete penetration in a variety of objects, but many people favor a flat nose cast bullet over a round nose for use in the field.

Northeast Industrial, Inc., 2516 Wyoming, El Paso, Texas 79903, offers a mould that casts a 550 grain gas check slug that offers the most in power and penetration, but can easily be loaded to a point where recoil is more than can be tolerated by ninety-five percent of handgunners. 32.0 grains of 4198 will drive the 500-grainer at 1155 fps with moderate recoil and is all the more I care to shoot in this bullet weight.

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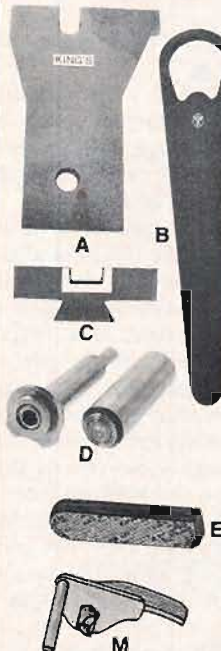
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tiful, with a weight and design for just about any type of hunting situation. The 300 grain and 400 grainers are accurate and expand very well at T/C velocities. The Hornady and Sierra 300 grain hollow pointers are both fast expanders and perform well on deer-size animals.

The 350 grain Hornady round nose bullet, designed for the .458 Winchester Magnum, has a thicker jacket and won't open up at the .45-70 T/C velocities. It would undoubtedly be a good penetrator, but so are the 500 grain and 550 grain cast slug, which are a lot cheaper to shoot.

In the 400 grain, Speer's flat nose bullet is ideal. It's accurate, expands well and stays in one piece at T/C velocities. It's suitable for anything from deer to moose. This is probably the best all-round bullet for the .45-70 T/C.

The 500 grain soft point and full metal jacket bullets are nothing but penetrators. They can't be driven fast enough to expand even in hard materials, let alone body tissue. At 1300 fps the slugs will completely penetrate a concrete block lengthwise. The 400 grain Speer is all the



SSK T/C "hand cannon" mounted with 4x Redfield scope makes an excellent, powerful and accurate hunting handgun.

heavier you can use and still obtain good expansion.

The .45-70 T/C is a very versatile hunting handgun. It has the ability to generate more than enough power to stop any animal. It may well be the best all-round hunting handgun offered.

I've worked fairly extensively with the .30 and .357 Herretts, the .30-30, and the .35 Remington over the last five or six years, and until I took on the assignment of testing and evaluating these SSK T/Cs I was pretty well satisfied with the performance of these small capacity, high pressure cartridges. Now that I've had a taste of SSK's large capacity, low pressure cartridges, I'm thoroughly convinced that they greatly surpass the performance of the smaller high pressure cases for hunting medium and big-game animals. The truth lies in the performance; and the power and accuracy of these four SSK cartridges is outstanding.

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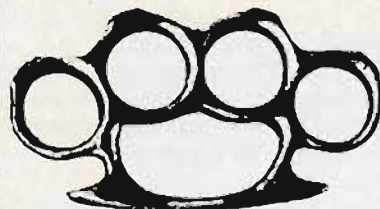
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Industries. Complete custom fitted T/Cs are also available.

There are some additional items which may be necessary for these custom T/Cs to give the handgunner trouble-free performance. First, probably the best grips to use are Pachmayr's Presentation rubber grips.

Good sights, whether iron or glass are mandatory to hit anything with a reasonable degree of accuracy, and this is especially true with the SSK T/Cs, as they deliver considerably more recoil. In light of this, SSK offers an open sight system that has been designed to take the recoil of its big bores and stay in one piece. The Micro sight is standard on the rear with a special mounting base underneath that's secured to the barrel with three hex-head screws. Up front a number of sights are available, such as a hot pink post or Lyman 17-A. Cost of the open sights is \$65 installed. SSK also markets a scope base designed to eliminate the scope sliding forward under recoil or the base ripping itself from the barrel. It's constructed so three Bushnell 1" scope rings may be used to hold just about any pistol scope made for the base. The system has had many



Handloads: 1-r, 1-3: .30-40 Krag; 3-4: .430 JDJ; 5-7: .375 JDJ; 9-11: .45-70.

thousand rounds of ammo under it and has yet to fail. Cost of the base and three rings is \$50.50 installed. A buyer of one of these T/C Hand Cannons should probably use only the SSK scope base and buy the best scope he can afford.

It's advisable to have any of the four calibers I've discussed either Mag-Na-Ported or have SSK install their muzzle brake on the barrel. Everyone has probably heard of Mag-Na-Port and its merits, but the SSK muzzle brake is new—to handguns, anyway. It's basically the same as a brake for a rifle except that at the muzzle a special cap is added. The expansion chamber reduces effective barrel length by approximately 1 1/8". It's very effective in keeping the muzzle down in recoil and retails at \$65.

Detailed information and up-to-date prices on the entire line of SSK barrels or complete guns is available for the asking by writing SSK Industries, Route 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910, or phoning (614) 264-0176. They'll be more than happy to give advice on caliber selection and suitable sights tailored to specific needs.



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MILT HICKS

(Continued from page 43)

shell in my life. In 1936, when I moved to Puerto Rico, I took a disorderly mess of metal-like rummage with me which I had been told would make reload bullets, if a man who knew anything at all about machinery got busy with it. I had a Pacific Reloader, a Star Sizer and Lubricator and great quantities of pig lead, but I had no more idea of how to make them perform than I had of dancing the double-shuffle turkey trot at the Roseland Ballroom in New York.

It is impossible to describe the physical throes a man goes through when he sizes and lubricates his thumb. The aching, piercing misery of it and the immediate stabbing pain, followed quickly by a harrowing, throbbing agony which usually marks a man for life and certainly con-



vinces him that he should give a wide berth to a Star Sizer and Lubricator whenever he runs into one.

I explained all this to Milt Hicks. "I hustle reloads from anyone I can find who can screw up his courage enough to work those damnable machines which turn them out," I told him.

I tried to remember whom I had hustled for the ones I had fired in 1941 at Camp Perry. I couldn't do it. One of the worst wars in history had taken place in the meantime, and trifles such as bumming .45 reloads off of somebody had got away from me.

The 1946 operation, however, was different. It came readily into focus. I had got out of the Navy and was back with the Customs Agency Service in Laredo, and just before leaving for Camp Perry, I went by the gun shop of Ed Bechelheimer, whom I knew was a man with guts enough to tackle those dangerous sizers and lubricators and things, and was turning out some mighty fine .45 semi-wadcutter bullets.

I have learned to profit from my complete helplessness around machinery. I tell such a pitiful tale to people more gifted

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than I as to get their complete sympathy and cooperation. Ed furnished me with four boxes of the straight-shooting little boogers, and I hied myself off to Perry with them.

"I'll get them for you from Ed Bechelheimer," I told Mill Hicks. "When those vice presidents and general managers at Remington see what they'll do in a machine rest, they'll tool up for those .45 semi-wadcutter bullets in no time."

We both laughed at how surprised those Grand Panjandrums at Remington would be when they saw those semi-wadcutter reloads tear the ten ring out at fifty yards. "Oh, they'll wise up then!" I told Mill Hicks. "They'll tool up and have those semi-wadcutter bullets in the stores before the next National Matches!"

When I got back to Laredo, I told Ed Bechelheimer about Mill's plan. "Boy!" Ed said. "We'll mail him four boxes of 'em and they'll just stack up on one another when he fires them at fifty yards!" We tied



them all up and shipped them to Mill at the factory in Bridgeport.

I heard from Hicks about a month later. I still have his letter and here's what it said:

"Dear Lee:

"Of all the scurvy hoaxes you've ever played on me, that .45 semi-wadcutter trick takes the first-place gold medal!

"I got the demonstration all set up, with a well-accurred, .45 Gold Cup National Match automatic sitting in the machine rest. We had everybody there to watch it from the President himself to the boys who sweep the fulminate of mercury off the floors. I slipped a magazine with five of your highly-touted reloads into the gun, and then, being the showman that I am, I gave them a short, pungent speech about how the manufacture of these shells by Remington would revitalize the company; run sales to astronomical figures and probably set new world's records all over the place.

"I fired the first five without looking at them and when I finished and took a look through the scope, I came about as close to fainting as I have since I watched the wolverines eat my Uncle Walter up above Mackinac. I had a high six, two 9 o'clock

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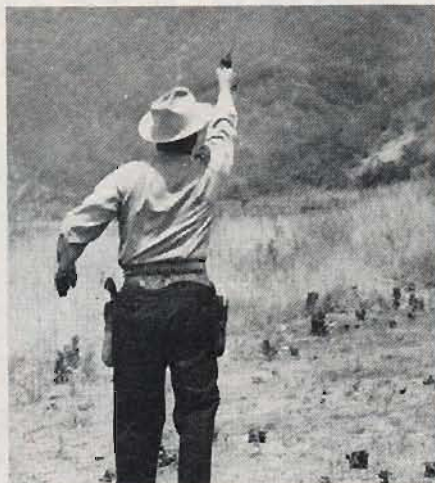
sevens, a low five and a miss.

"Out of desperation, I gave a low chuckle, which, as you know, is a blend of a chuckle and a snort, trying to hold the attention of the high ranking officers of Remington. I nervously loaded my next five and fired them. None of these got inside the six ring. They cut a sort of doily around the five ring . . . but I'll say this for Bechelheimer's reloads. By Jesus! I didn't get one complete miss with that last five!

"I looked around in complete despair, trying to explain things. There was no one left to explain to. They'd all gone out a side door and back to their different types of occupation.

"I want to tell you this, Lee: You have set back the manufacture of .45 semi-wadcutter bullets for, at the very least, fifty years!

"And I want to tell you another thing:



I'm going to get even with you if it takes me fifty years!

"Wrathfully yours,

"Milt Hicks"

I went down to Ed Bechelheimer's gun shop. "Look what Hicks sent me," I said, handing him the letter.

Ed read it over, quietly. I thought, for a bird who had almost ruined the life of a fine man. "You know what happened?" he asked, and before I could tell him I certainly didn't, he went on, "I must have got those boxes out of a pile my punk kid loaded."

I felt genuinely sorry for Milt Hicks, but all the way back to my office I mulled over how horrible it would have been if Ed Bechelheimer had given me that bunch of whirly-bird bullets just before I left for Camp Perry instead of waiting to send them to Milt Hicks!

Another thing, Hicks was wrong as he could be about me setting the manufacturers back fifty years in the final manufacture of .45 semi-wadcutter bullets. Before a year had passed, every bullet manufacturing company in the country was turning them out by the thousands.

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COWBOY HOLSTERS

(Continued from page 45)

practical men. The fancy doo-dads came later. Belts rarely matched the holsters, but they believed in lots of cartridge-holding loops on the belt.

We'll leave the coverage of the modern, fast-draw Western rigs with their forward rake and steel linings for another issue. Let's concentrate on what you can easily buy across the counter at reasonable prices, while still fulfilling that desire to "wear 'em like it was." Although we'll show you a few tie-down types, mostly you'll see the high-riders. Tie-downs truly didn't come onto the scene until the early 20th century. As you can see by the photo, we are picturing nine different holsters as a great place to start your search for that look that wants to go along with your favorite single action.

In the group photo (from l to r-top): This 4570 Grizzly Rig is by G. Wm. Davis and is a high rider with thick leather and cross lacing. It's in all barrel lengths and fits all SA's except .22. Next we have the Lawrence. It's oiled and comes in basket weave or plain. This will really hold a 7 1/2" SA securely. Third from left is Bucheimer in saddle tan. This particular one is for a short-barreled Colt. What about S.D. Myres? Recognize that old name? This one is ornately flower-carved and is an extra-heavy left-hand model. Lastly in that row, this Interarms model fits their Virginian Dragoon. In the bottom row (l-r) leads off with the Bianchi 1851 black powder model that rides high and has a hammer thong for security. Safariland offers this form fitted model with thong and buckle. Next, the carved model by Cobra with an acorn design. Lower right is the Hunter No. 1060 with snap-on belt loop and tie-down. Most of these companies have more than one offering in this category.

So much for the holsters illustrated. Authentically speaking, Brauer Bros. makes a flapped cap and ball holster in black (Union) or russet (Confederate) variations, plus a "Y" series with open top



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and even a Buntline. Don Hume announced a lot of new/old ones at the recent SHOT show. Their #92 can be worn high or low with a drop-loop attachment. Their famous River Belt holster rides high with tie-downs and hammer straps standard. Four other models cover just about every other need. Eutaw out of South Carolina make a nifty rig with the authentic look. Then there is American Sales with a low-priced outfit in black or brown that handles up to a 6 1/2" barrel. El Paso Saddlery has two great ones. A basket or swirl-stamped number with a safety strap and a floral-carved that looks very authentic and is an open-topped model with the cross-piece. Old West, as its name implies, also can fit your percussion guns from Walkers down to Baby Dragoons. A lot of these holsters have that extra piece across the center of the holster.

If you select to stay reasonably or exactly authentic, this is as good a cross section as you can consider. They are not the typical overly-ornamental Buscadero rigs that you may have seen the singing cowboys wear, but the quality and selection is there and they will stand up to and surpass most of the ones you've seen in those old time, faded tintypes. You'll get the genuine look and it won't set you back a month's pay earned by herding critters north to Abilene. The cowboy holster of yesterday? It's here today, pardner!



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- El Paso Saddlery, Box 27194, El Paso, TX, 79926
- Eutaw Co., U.S. Highway 176W, Holy Hill, SC, 29059
- Don Hume, Box 351, Miami, OK, 74354
- Hunter Holsters, 3300 W. 71st Ave., Westminster, CO, 80030
- Interarms, 10 Prince St., Alexandria, VA, 22313
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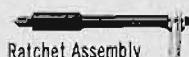
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HYDRA-SHOK S.D.L.

(Continued from page 49)

Washington with a new opinion of what constituted an ideal police service round and what should be taught in a realistic firearms training program. While my Model 19 and the +P+ service load were still carried, by regulation, a Model 60 and Hydra-Shok Scorpion ammunition found its way into my overcoat pocket on a number of occasions. In view of what I thought was a realistic evaluation of my tactical employment of a firearm (close range, multiple assailants), I felt confident that the Hydra-Shok would provide certain advantages over the +P+ load. (The author was fully aware of the legal ramifications involved in using other than authorized ammunition, and had obtained approval from his superiors for the use of Hydra-Shok.)

Our department continued in close contact with Dick Baughman, as well as other



S&W M66 .357 Magnum, Second-Six loader, and Hydra-Shok S.D.L. ammo.

companies, to try to find a solution to the technical (excessive pressure) and tactical (muzzle flash and blast, inconsistent expansion) problems of the +P+ load. Shortly before I left federal service in 1978, Baughman had developed a round that had promise as a replacement for the +P+ ammunition. Testing continued to assure the desired performance.

In February of this year, a phone call from Baughman related that the final design improvements to this new ammunition had been completed and the load had been adopted for issue. Dick also indicated that he was sending some for testing and evaluation.

Upon arrival, I noted that the same red and black packaging is used, but there all similarity ends between this new round and the previous Scorpion load. First, the new cartridge is a .357 Magnum instead of a .38 Special. Government specifications required that the .357 Magnum case be used to decrease chamber pressure and increase accuracy. A nicked cartridge case is used to facilitate extraction, and the primer sealed to resist moisture penetration. The bullet nose cavity measures .26" wide and .28" deep, with 1/8" of exposed lead above the jacket, with a weight of 125

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grains. Overall length is 1 1/2" and the headstamp reads HYDRA-SHOK .357 MAG.

Of the 500 rounds received for testing, all were carefully examined for visible defects (dents, seating depth, etc.), and none were found. Pressure information on the round from H. P. White Laboratories indicates an average of 18,500 PSI, remarkably low for a .357 Magnum and lower than either +P or +P+ .38 levels.

Shooting evaluation of the new Hydra-Shok .357 round was oriented to its use as a self-defense/law enforcement load. I selected weapons representative of police service revolvers, i.e., a 2 1/2" M19 and 4" M66. Ammunition used for comparison was the Federal 125 JHP .38 Special (+P+), Federal 125 JHP .37 Magnum, and W-W 158 LHP. .38 (+P). These rounds are representative of ammunition used by my department and other area law enforcement agencies. An 8" thick, 18" x 18" square of wet pack was prepared for expansion and penetration evaluation. A Master and a Marksman class shooter were used to represent the spectrum end of



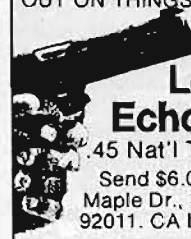
.357 Magnum controllability test went to Hydra-Shok over 125 JHP Federal.

police qualification levels, for tests of controllability under distance/time limit factors. The course of fire consisted of six shots in four seconds at seven yards, six shots in five seconds at fifteen yards, and six shots in six seconds at twenty-five yards, under ideal conditions of light and temperature (45°) and against a single target. No attempt was made in this test to simulate combat conditions, but merely to provide a measure for controllability comparison between ammunition (.357 Magnum Hydra-Shok and .357 Magnum Federal).

As the accompanying photographs show, the Hydra-Shok round exhibited excellent accuracy and an impressive expansion/penetration ratio. Controllability definitely favored Hydra-Shok, with both shooters (whose normal service round is the 125 JHP Federal .38 +P+ in a 2 1/2" M66), commenting that the recoil of the Hydra-Shok was a bit less than their issue ammunition. In test targets fired by the control shooters, group sizes increased when the Federal .357 Magnum round was used, and while the Master class shooter had some vertical stringing of his hits (at 25 yards, caused by sharp recoil and short time limit for recovery), the Marksman actually missed the target once at 15 and

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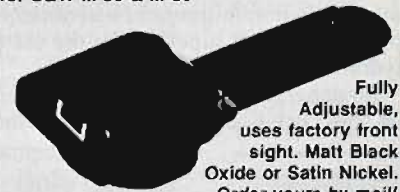


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three times at 25 yards with the magnum ammunition.

Weapons were examined for unburned powder in barrel and cylinder, and none could be found, and fired cases showed no signs of excessive pressures.

While these tests were limited in scope, it appeared that Hydra-Shok is now producing the most tactically efficient (accurate, low muzzle blast, flash, recoil, and excellent expansion) .357 Magnum round on the market. Dick Baughman has called the new load S.D.L.—Super Defense Load, and, in my opinion, it is an apt description. Those individuals and agencies seeking a solution to the problems of the +P+ syndrome would do well to evaluate the Hydra-Shok S.D.L.



IPSC HOLSTER RULE

(Continued from page 35)

gun so that a good, solid "shooting grip" can be obtained while drawing the handgun. This means that a holster worn forward of the hip must tilt the muzzle forward of the grip (this same holster if slid across the belt to the weak side angles the handgun for an ideal grip from the cross-draw position). However, if this same holster is worn to the rear of the hip (over the back pants pocket) it is almost physically impossible to draw the handgun, short of dislocating one's shoulder. To acquire a decent shooting grip on a handgun worn to the rear of the hip, the muzzle must tilt to the rear as it traditionally did for years prior to IPSC competition. Due to its overwhelming attributes the forward rake holster was almost universally accepted, becoming a pretentious (although effective) token of practical pistol shooting.

Then Ross Seyfried entered the scene. Ross won the 1978 U.S. Nationals, and was



Tom Campbell displays the form which allowed him to win the "Scramble."

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER · MAY/JUNE 1981

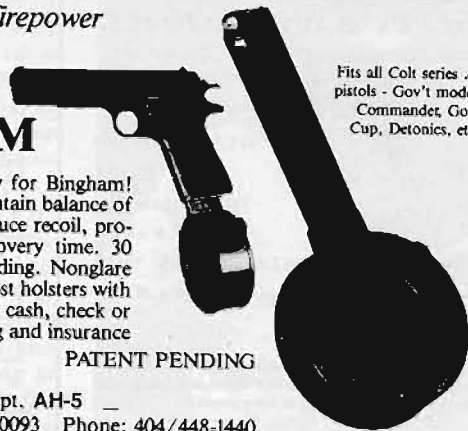
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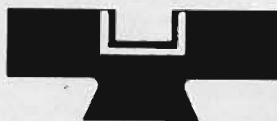
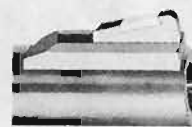
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2nd place in both 1979 and 1980. In the 1979 World Championship Match he placed 3rd. In the "man against man" events, he won both the 1979 and 1980 events and the 1979 International event (hence the title "fastest man in the world"). The striking factor in Ross' austere record is that he tabulated these laurels using a muzzle-to-the rear holster that 20 years of competition had "proven" ineffective! This accomplishment gave light to a new approach to defensive pistolcraft and more and more "Seyfried-type" holsters appeared in the practical shooting arena, helping to further discredit the reigning holster prejudices.

In August, when the International functionaries gathered to formulate their plans, it was decided to alter the course of the holster controversy by stipulating a holster rule. Although nebulous, the rule as stated says, "... the holster must be capable of being worn under light clothing without being seen." This will make wearing a

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1980 IPSC NATIONALS TOP SHOOTERS

1. John Shaw (TN)	557.00
2. Ross Seyfried (CO)	528.73
3. Tom Campbell (MA)	517.10
4. Mickey Fowler (CA)	513.43
5. Ray Neal (CA)	458.87
6. Mike Dalton (CA)	456.60
7. Mike Fichman (CA)	446.82
8. Bill Wilson (AR)	435.42
9. Nick Pruitt (CA)	432.55
10. David Stanford (UT)	426.97
11. Mike Plaxco (AR)	423.55
12. Steve Duffy (IL)	407.19
13. Roger Burgess (MD)	399.63
14. David Scott (SC)	397.22
15. George Lorrison (VA)	377.43

holster in front of the hip in either the strongside or cross-draw position a matter of considerable complexity. Although police officers will be given a waiver for their duty equipment, this rule also coerces the shooter to mount his holster on his pants belt. Since relatively few IPSC competitors are legally authorized to carry concealed weapons, many shooters feel that the new holster restriction is of very vague practicality to the bulk of the participants. The rule will have the effect of prompting the shooter to wear his handgun to the rear of his hip (consequently with the muzzle to the rear). Some feel that this is a 20 year regression as far as holster innovation is concerned. However, Ross and a handful of other competitors have proven beyond a doubt that the muzzle-to-the-rear holster worn to the rear of the strongside hip is "or can be" as practical as the forward rake/cross-draw design.

The 1980 match consisted of five separate events that were a "surprise" to everyone (including the officials) until the night before the match.

Event I was a series of stages where the contestant would draw and fire two rounds at a target. Since the farther the shooter moved back from the target, the less his success depended upon speed and the





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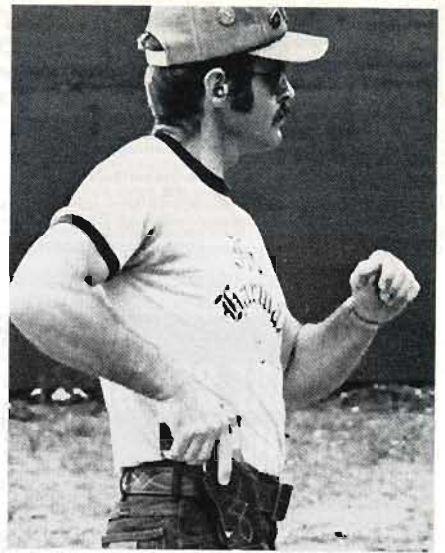
New IPSC rule sanctions this muzzle-to-the-rear holster worn rear of hip.

greater his marksmanship ability was tested, the course did not favor any particular holster design. The winner of Event I was Mickey Fowler, last year's National Champion, who used a Bianchi "Chapman Hi-Ride" holster worn in the cross-draw position.

In the speed match, the shooter addressed three targets, one 90 degrees to his right, one directly in front of him and one 90 degrees to his left, all at five meters. On the signal, the shooter had two seconds to draw and shoot one round at each target

and only hits in the 6" x 6" head counted! Two seconds is an almost ludicrously short period of time to accomplish the task at hand, therefore this event would appear to favor a forward rake "speed rig." I say "appear" because ironically this event was won by Ross Seyfried using his muzzle-to-the-rear holster!

The scramble defies description. It was a conglomerate of pain-inflicting obstacles and clusters of targets leaning at inebricated angles, which combined to consume inordinate amounts of time to accomplish. The shooter first stepped up on, and then shot over a wall at two targets, negating an advantage to any particular holster design. A one meter square, sawdust filled tunnel was then navigated, engaging six targets through a couple of "portholes" cut in its downrange side. After the tunnel, two targets were shot from a "Rhodesian Wall" just prior to moving to the final firing position where the moving target was engaged. To add a spark of enthusiasm to the shooter's efforts, the moving target was started 30 seconds after the start signal was given, regardless of where the shooter was! At no time after the start whistle did the shooter have to re-holster his sidearm; if re-holstering between obstacles had been mandatory, the tunnel would have caused a lot of the contestants utilizing the cross-draw mode to opt for the strongside carry. Tom Campbell was the top performer on



This forward rake holster worn front of hip is prohibited by new IPSC rule.

the "Scramble" utilizing this unique sternum positioned holster.

The "Reach" was aptly named for the long range from which the targets were engaged. Since the shooter was not forced to re-holster between positions, holster design did not enter into the success-factor of this event. This course was an almost pure test of sight alignment and trigger squeeze, and "shoot as fast as you can hit." The

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winner of this event was John Shaw who used a Gordon Davis "Usher International" holster worn in the cross-draw position.

The "Jungle Lane" was composed of four separate assaults down a clearly marked trail. Since the contestant could draw his handgun as soon as the start line was crossed (and no re-holstering was required) this course of fire favored no particular holster design. John Shaw also won this event utilizing his cross-draw holster.

The top 16 shooters on the first five events ran this course "man-against-man" (two shooters, the first one to finish being the winner).

A digital timer was started when the "go" light came on, signaling the contestants to move three paces and knock a can off of a table with their "strong hand" (prior to drawing their weapon). A series of four metal targets (placed at various distances) had to be knocked over, the handgun reloaded and then a round metal



This year's IPSC National Champion, John Shaw, used a cross-draw holster.

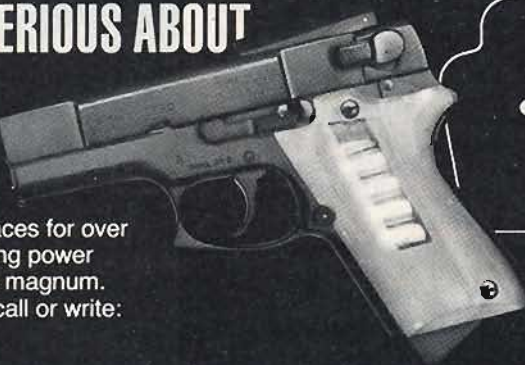
disc shot off of an electrical contact to stop the time.

In addition to the electrical equipment, a "flawless performance" was turned in by Nick Pruitt with the fast time of the day, 5.35 seconds. Since the handgun had to remain holstered while the contestant knocked the can off of the table, a holster worn in front of the hip, either strongside or cross-draw would have been physically quickest, and therefore most efficient. Ross Seyfried added an appendage to this law of nature by winning this match with an incredible display of speed, accuracy, poise, but most important—consistency.

This year, no one had to wait for any smoke to clear to know that John Shaw

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was the new United States Champion. John's performance all week had been exemplary and when the shooters voted to cut the point value of the shootoff in half, John's victory became irrepressible.

Out of the six events that took place at the match only the "speed shoot" and the "shootoff" gave a physical advantage to a forward rake holster and Ross won both of these events with his muzzle-to-the-rear holster! This is perplexing if analyzed objectively. Whether Ross is as good as he is because of his equipment or in spite of it is hard to say. When proficiency is measured in hundredths of a second, concentration and discipline (traits, sadly deficient in today's society) become far more paramount than which way your holster tilts.

The new holster rule has stirred up quite a ruckus. Many clubs have discussed disaffiliating with IPSC (adopting the "take-my-ball-and-go-home" policy), while others have stated that they will simply ignore the new holster dictum.

Many applaud the new ruling hoping that it will circumvent the evolution of hybrid, unrealistic gear. They fear the precedent that PPC set by falling into the abyss of equipment specialization, reducing it to a state of sham practicality. This is clearly not the case with practical pistol shooting. Diversity of course design separates the practical match from trivial



While lanyard in teeth holds window up, Ross Seyfried shoots "The Reach."

shooting games, and in that regard the future of IPSC is bright.

Although IPSC has been influenced by a number of people, its ideals, formation

and functioning have been due in large measure to Jeff Cooper, IPSC's supreme patriarch. In 1980 the reins of IPSC in the United States were passed to Jake Jatras. Whether the recent holster ruckus becomes a significant issue or a "tempest in a teapot" is largely in the hands of the new U.S. Regional Director.

The stage has been set, the trend is clearly advancing toward the muzzle-to-the-rear holster design. How smooth this transition takes place remains to be seen. Most of us participating in IPSC are "blessed" with an attitude of "I-may-not-always-be-right-but-I'm-never-in-doubt," and therefore conflicts are inevitable. However, most practical shooters possess the resiliency that will enable them to weather the storm of controversy and further the progress of this, the *most* meaningful shooting sport.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Jake Jatras, director of IPSC in the U.S., explained that the new holster rule has been adopted only by the International Body and therefore applies only to International Competition. Jatras said U.S. IPSC Region clubs "are free to run their matches under current holster guidelines." If a club wishes to adopt the new rule, that is fine, but not mandatory. International competitors, however, will be subject to the new rule.



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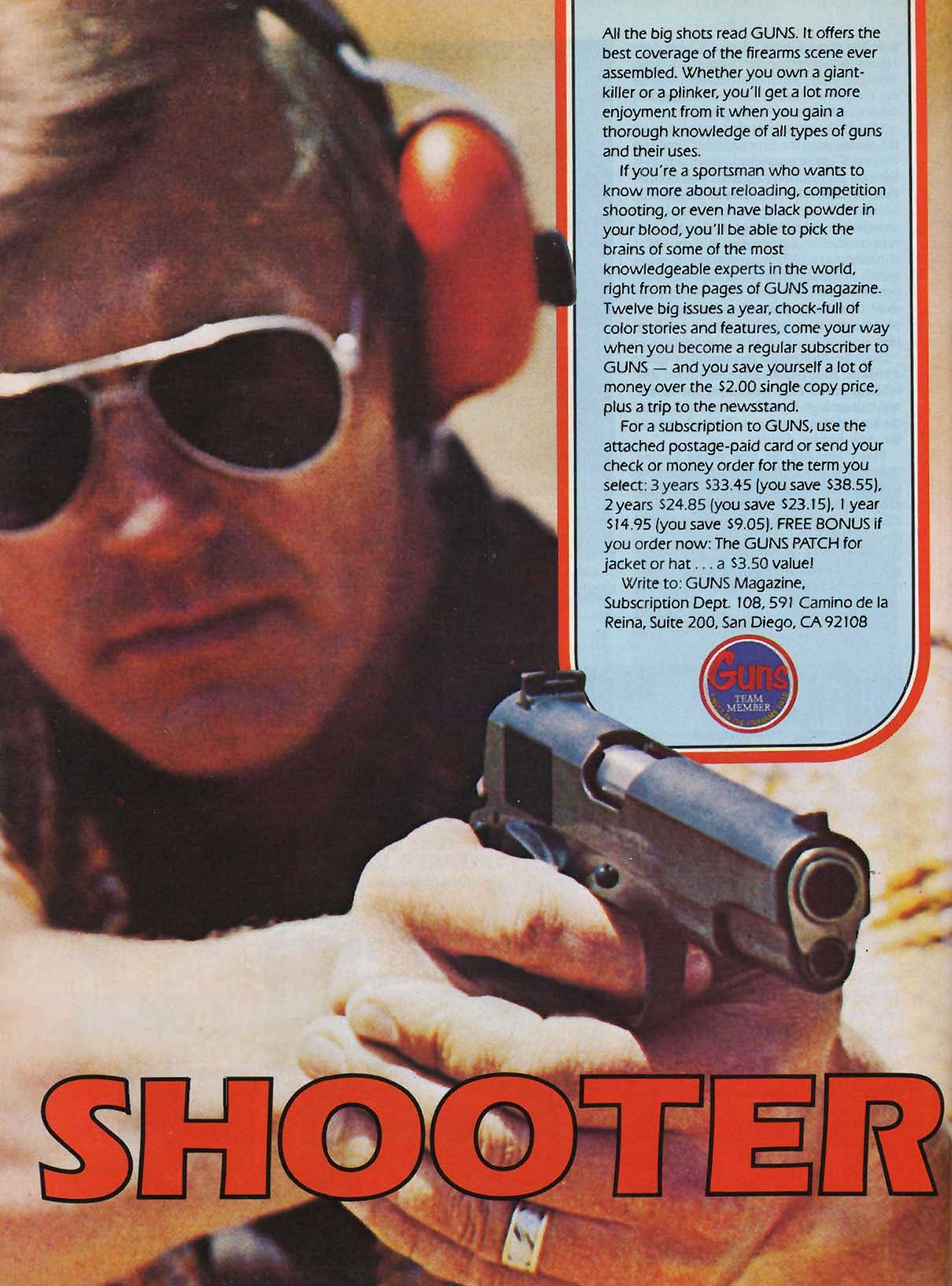
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SHOOTER

Top ten cartridges according to sales

As compiled from data recently provided by Federal Cartridge, Winchester-Western, and Remington Arms, here are the top selling cartridges:

1. .38 Special
2. .357 Magnum
3. .25 Auto
4. 9mm Luger
5. .45 Auto
6. .32 Auto
7. .44 Remington Magnum
8. .380 Auto
9. .32 S&W Long
10. .44 S&W Special

Norma .38 Magnum now designated +P

The .38 Special Norma Magnum (stock #19119) introduced in 1980 is to be redesignated +P in the United States, according to information received from FFV Norma, Sweden. "It will still have a muzzle velocity of 1225 fps, and a muzzle energy of 367 ft. lbs. In other words, it will still have its remarkable Magnum performance," he said.

"We are designating the cartridge +P in the United States simply to observe industry standards here, which are different from some other countries," he added.

For additional information contact: Greg Pogson, Vice President, Marketing (607) 273-2993

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Colt to discontinue Single Action Army

Colt Firearms has announced to its distributors that production of Colt Single Action Armies will be discontinued on or about December 1981. This decision has been made due to current market and economic conditions. Continuous production is scheduled through 1981, however, the phase-out will occur model by model each month. Some models have already been discontinued and this will continue through 1981.

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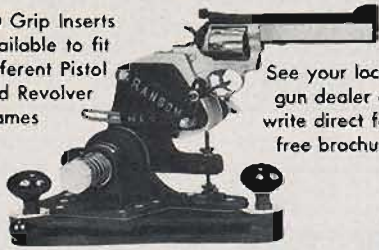
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It was indeed a thrill to be the recipient of your first American Handgunner Custom Gun Giveaway. May I first express my thanks to Jerry Rakusan, Niki Delabarre, Mike Packard and those whom I have not mentioned who were involved with this particular drawing, and a special thanks to the one who chose my name.

I can honestly say this is the first thing I have ever won. The funny thing about my winning was that when I saw the picture of the gun in AMERICAN HANDGUNNER magazine I was overwhelmed by the beauty of it and I decided to purchase a Smith & Wesson model 25-S and send it to Bill Davis for the custom work. In fact, I contacted the Davis Custom Shop in California and asked them to send me information and a price for the identical work that was done on the contest gun. I didn't receive the information which delayed me from the purchase and in the meantime I mailed my entry with little thought of ever being chosen. In any event things worked out perfectly.

Keep up the good work and my highest compliments to a great magazine and much more to those persons that made this possible for me.

Glenn D. Mason
Williamstown, NJ

Everyone at AMERICAN HANDGUNNER thanks Glenn for his kind word, but most especially the support that he and thousands of others have given us. The Custom Gun Giveaway is one way that we can show our appreciation.

CONSISTENT 50 X 50 HOME HANDLOADING

Since my name was mentioned in Sight Settings by Lucy Chambliss in the March/April 1981 AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, I am taking the liberty of disagreeing with Jim Weller's column in the same issue regarding handloads.

I think my handloads are pretty darn good. In addition to the 1496-110X Lucy mentioned, I also fired a clean 600-42X in the Governors 20 held at Fort Meyers, Florida during July 1980. I give part of the credit to myself, after all, I'm the guy that aims and fires the revolver and who puts in all the hours of practice. Another part of the credit goes to Travis Strahan, who built me the finest revolver I have



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ever fired. The remainder of the credit goes to the ammo I shoot, and here's where I have to disagree with Jim Weller's contention that handloads can't shoot as well as factory ammo or commercial reloads.

The only ammo that I shoot in competition is the ammo I load myself. Contrary to Jim's experience, my handloads, Ransom Rested at 50 yards, give me 50X per 50 rounds, and do it every time—performance I just can't consistently get from any factory ammo.

For the benefit of other shooters who want to improve their scores I use WW231 powder, Federal small pistol primer and Precision Ammo's .38 cal. 148gr. HBWC. With good brass, good components, and a loading machine in proper adjustment, anyone can load for X ring accuracy. The rest of it is up to you and your revolver.

David Wiegel
Orlando, FL

POLICE .38 AMMO STILL A PROBLEM

A recent article by Massad Ayoob (see American Handgunner Jan/Feb 81, page 16) has prompted this letter. I am one of the many unfortunate cops armed with the obsolete 158 grain Police Service Round. Further, my department seems one step worse than others—requiring the military jacketed bullet.

I would hope that AMERICAN HANDGUNNER could correct this. Let those of us who understand handguns bring moral and legal pressure against police departments indifferent to the lives of their officers.

C.W. Franklin
Milford, CA

Thank you for your letter. We recognize a problem exists with some Departments in regards to service ammunition.

Unfortunately, we are just a magazine and have no real power in directing or making of official policies. If our media influence helps some, that is our intended and hoped for achievement.

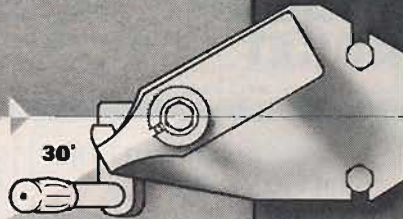
To those who must suffer under backward or uninformed administrations, we sympathize with and strongly recommend an active role be taken in bringing light to dark corners. Practically, you might leave a copy of AMERICAN HANDGUNNER—open to page 16 (Jan/Feb 81 issue)—on the Chief's desk some morning.

The next step is to circulate a petition among knowledgeable officers and present a battery of signatures to show you're serious about change. Also, make a resolved effort for some local media support.

Good luck, C.W., we're with you all the way and would be interested in hearing of any efforts making headway.

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER · MAY/JUNE 1981

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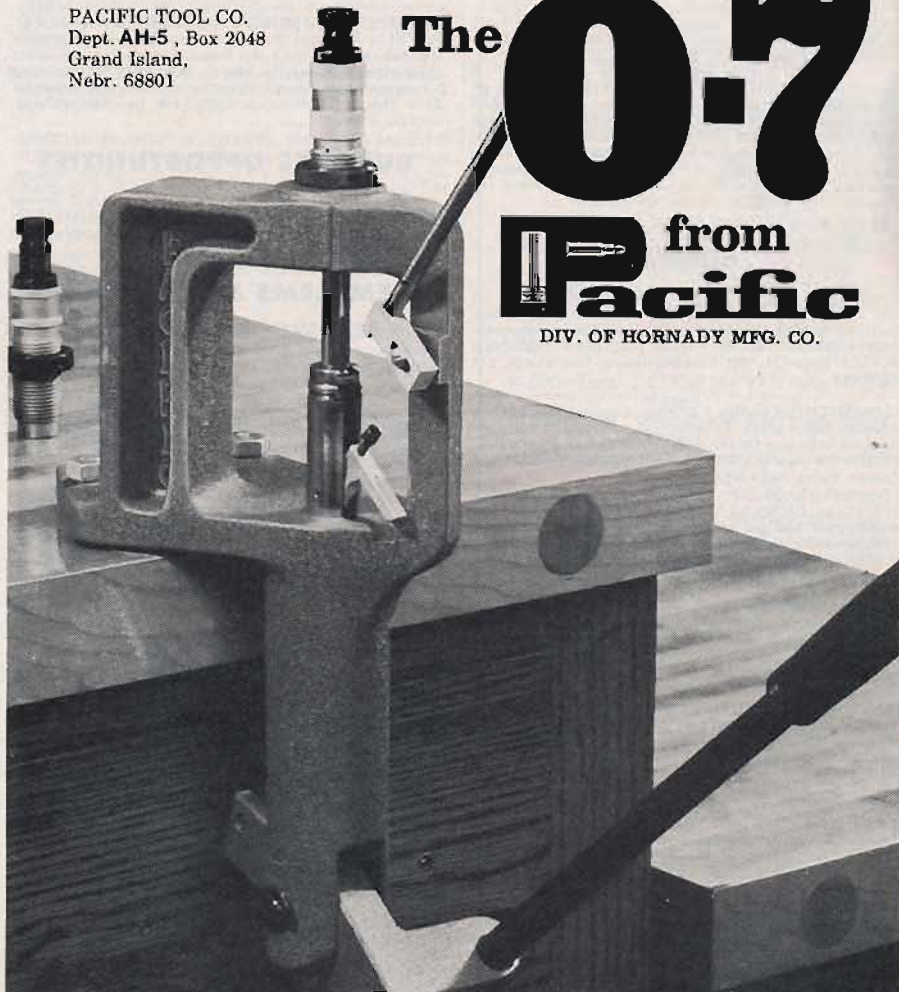
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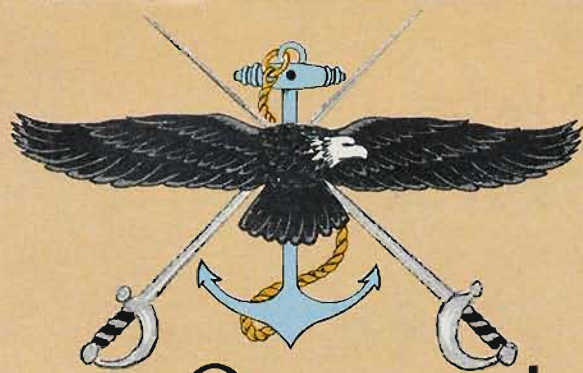
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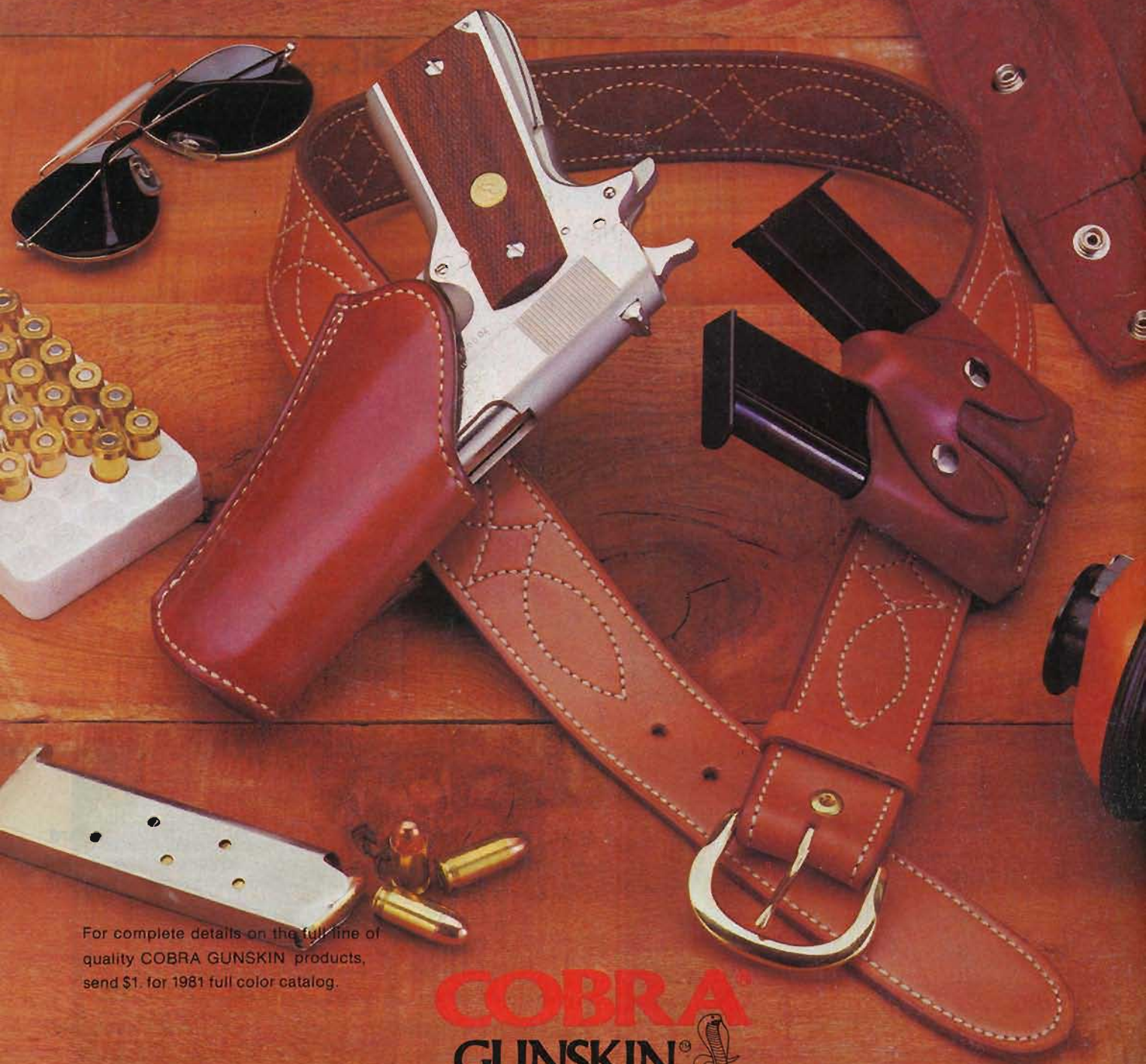
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