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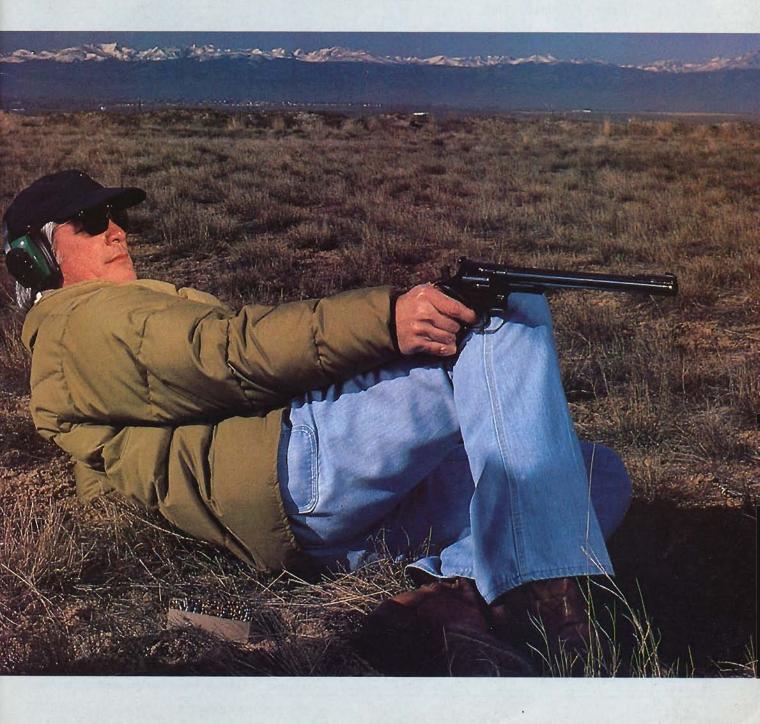
semiautomatics made, they comprise the broadest line of handguns on the market.

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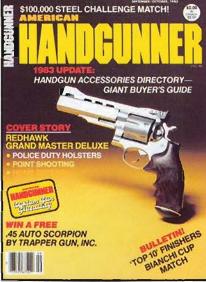


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COVER: Redhawk Grand Master Deluxe by Ron Power, custom pistolsmith. Photo by Nick Karros of San Diego, Calif.

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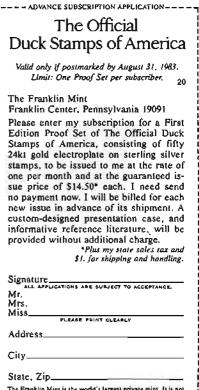


The 1934 "Mallards Dropping In" by Iay N. Darling is the historic first Duck Stamp issue, designed by the legendary artist who originated the Duck Stamp ides.

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## COP TALK

#### MASSAD AYOOB

#### HERE ARE THE LATEST EQUIPMENT, TECHNIQUES FOR POLICE SURVIVAL

S ince the KTS "killer bullet" scare a few years ago, more cops than ever are looking for ways to defeat armor-piercing ammunition with their concealable vests. One maker offered an expensive item that resembles a chain mail vest and

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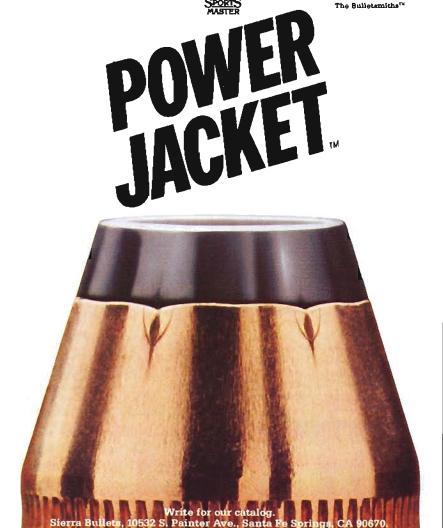
Thanks to six small serrations

around the nose of the jacket, the Sierra Power Jacket transfers energy more efficiently than any other handgun bullet.



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weighs from 9 to 14 pounds-totally impractical for street wear.

A better answer comes from Rich Davis of Second Chance, the founder of soft body armor and still the leading innovator. For only \$9, the officer can buy an RK-30 panel which slips into the front of his existing vest. In my tests, it defeated the current KTW ammo in .357 and .38 calibers, and was penetrated only by the old, point-nose KTW that is long since out of production, and presumably unavailable today.

l don't like the idea of a smooth steel surface on the outside of my vest, because a round-nose conventional bullet fired on an upward angle (by a down-but-not-out opponent) could theoretically ricochet off. Much better is Second Chance's K-30 insert (\$25), which is made of tougher, *flexible* steel panels. This defeats both armor-piercing handgun rounds and the .30 Carbine cartridge (in one case, an outlaw biker punched an officer wearing a K-30 insert, and shattered his own hand.)

Cops and friends of cops, rejoice. The famous police unarmed combat instructor, Jordan Roth, once told me, "For every attack, there is a counter, and for every counter, there is a new attack." This time, with the new Second Chance inserts, the good guys are on top of that cycle, at least for a while.

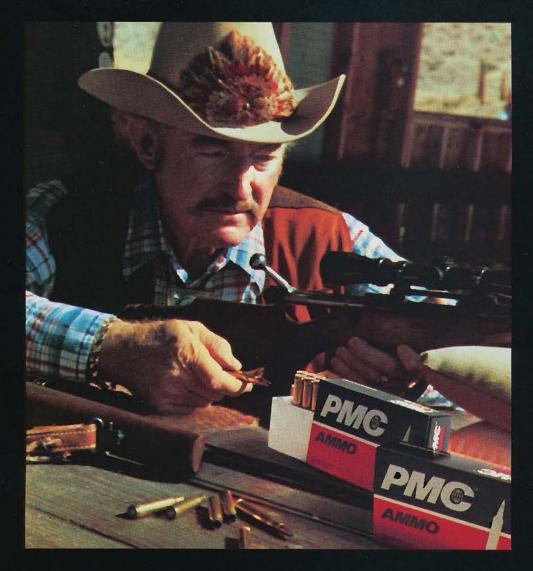
#### BEST SPEEDLOADER

Speedloaders have become state of the art for cops to carry spare revolver ammo, but belt cases for them haven't kept pace. The best to date is the Rogers Six Pack series (made by Rogers Holster Company, 1736 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville, FL 32216).

A shooter himself, Bill Rogers (an ex-FBI agent) knew how a speedloader had to be grasped for fastest, smoothest use under stress. He also knew that cops don't like a loader case that bulges out away from their belt.

I've been playing with his Double Six Pack, and I like it very much. It's cut away on the sides, so thumb and middle finger can grasp the loader body as the tip of the index finger unsnaps the flap. The front of the case then folds down; instead of lifting, you run the loader straight out of the belt and into the gun. Because the loader itself is carried above the belt, only about half of it sticks out in front; it's about as compact as a conventional drop pouch.

The one problem with it is that the sides, being open, causes the loader to be dislodged during extreme physical exertion, such as rolling over barricades. Bianchi's chief designer, Richard Nichols, has been working with me on an improved loader case. We took its standard leather unit, which has a screw-adjustable tension device and cut out the sides for better finger access. Thanks to the tension device, you can unsnap the outer flap when trouble seems in the offing, and the speedloaders will still stay put even if you do somersaults. One or two more prototypes and I



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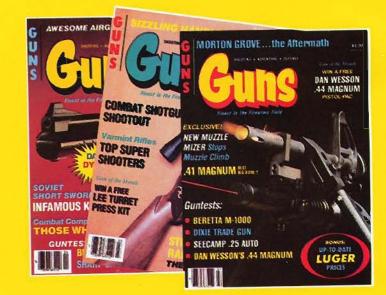
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think we'll have the ultimate heavy-duty police loader case for the street. Stay tuned.

#### DOWN-AND OUT?

"How down is *down*?" On TV, when a cop gets into a gunfight, it's over as soon as the bad guy drops. In real life, when they drop, they're often "down but not out." A couple of years ago in New York City, two cops cut down a suspect who fell as if he was dead. They ran up to him and he turned over and opened fire with a Browning Hi-Power 9mm, killing both officers.

There are various schools of thought on this. John Farnam, one of the top experts in police survival tactics, prefers to leave the downed suspect where he is for half an hour before approaching. I teach the same method as NYCPD now does: the officer who does the shooting stays behind cover, calling for backup, reloading his weapon or drawing his second gun, and constantly scanning for another bad guy. When assisting officers arrive, they approach the downed suspect from his blind side, stepping on his gun hand and keeping him covered. Then, even if he appears dead, he is handcuffed and searched for additional weapons, before being turned over to the paramedics.

An interesting observation comes from Jim Cirillo, late of NYCPD's Stakeout Squad and now an instructor in firearms and officer survival at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Jim speaks from an informal study done on criminals who lost gunfights with the Stakeout Squad, which collectively killed more than 30 armed robbers in shootouts before it was disbanded.

#### WATCH FOR CROSSED LEGS

"When the gunman you've shot goes down," he said, "look and see if he fell with his legs crossed. In our shootings on the Squad, we found that virtually every suspect who turned out to have been killed instantly, or rendered unconscious at the moment of the bullet's impact, had fallen with feet or ankles crossed. We theorize that this is because one side of the brain shuts off before the other, and the leg on the opposite side crumples first, causing the body and legs to twist when the individual drops. Naturally, you want to use great caution when approaching any downed suspect after a shootout, but I think even greater caution is warranted if the man has not fallen with his feet or legs crossed."

According to statistics from the Police Foundation, only 25 percent of the felons shot by police are killed, and many of those don't die instantly. The officer shot him because that man presented clear and present danger to innocent life—and you have to assume that danger still exists, even though he's fallen down after being shot at.

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## HANDLOADING

#### DAN COTTERMAN

#### READERS WRITE ON RELOADING FOR .45 AUTO, EXCESSIVE PRESSURES

This time I'll list the address at the outset: Handloading, POB 222, Pinon Hills, CA 92372. This amounts to an upfront expression of our desire to have you, the handloading experimenter, feel welcome to take an active part in this column. If you have information to share with other handloaders, send it along and we'll try to include it here.

A wealth of useful information surfaces as a result of this sharing plan. For example, a letter from Jack Williams of St. Joseph, Illinois reveals some interesting experiences with handloading for the .45 auto.

"I had to give up on my old .45 with the Bomar rib," writes Williams. "I tried some loads with Blue Dot and sheared all the screws holding the rib; it ended up on the right side of my nose, twice! Some of us 'lead heads' never learn. It's a good piece of equipment, but should be used only for mid-range loads.

"I am now shooting a Safari Arms

Matchmaster I bought as parts and assembled myself. I am very pleased with it.

"I bought 1,000 of the Hornady 4515 (200-grain FMJ match) bullets and have loaded and fired about 500 so far. All reloads were made with Federal brass, either new or once-fired. Range was 25 yards and a Lee machine rest was used. Overall length was 1.270 inch and a moderate taper crimp was used. Primers were Alcan large pistol.

"So far, I have tried Unique, Bullseye, SR 4756, 700X and WW 231. Of all loads, 95 percent grouped within 1½ inches or less. My best results were with WW 231. Loading 6 grains, I got groups measuring 1.152 inch. With 6.3 grains, I fired a group that had four in .639 inch with one flyer that opened the group to 1.171 inch. Since there didn't seem to be a lot of difference between the two groups, I decided to use 6 grains for my standard load (cheaper).

"I fired these groups last winter with about three feet of snow on the ground. Later on, after the snow had melted, I found almost all of the bullets. I picked them up and sorted out all the ones that had not been deformed, except for rifling marks. Then I did what I thought was a very stupid move. I reloaded the oncefired bullets, again with 6 grains of WW 231. I used a maximum taper crimp, which still allowed the bullet to turn in the case, but didn't allow it to move up and down."

Williams achieved what we might call a point of structural climax. His expository leads us to believe that, by recovering and reloading fired bullets, he has allowed his propensity for thrift to carry him to a ridiculous extreme. However, he says, "Hang onto your hat, Dan, and sit down," then continues as follows:

"I shot those rounds the same way as the originals and the group measured 1.177 inch! I have 80 rounds loaded, but haven't had a chance to shoot again to see if it was a fluke.

"I think this Hornady bullet is going to be a winner. I have also tried some in the .45 ACP cylinder of my Ruger .45 Colt convertible. I loaded them in the same way, except the length overall was 1.272 inch. Bullseye (5.4 grains) grouped 1.732 inch from a machine rest at 25 yards; and Unique (6.3 grains) grouped 1.534 inch out of the Ruger.

As far as obtaining accuracy with oncefired bullets is concerned, consider the fact that they were subjected to but minimal distortion in the snow, and that the rifling

## THE HANDGUN THAT ALTERED THE GAME!

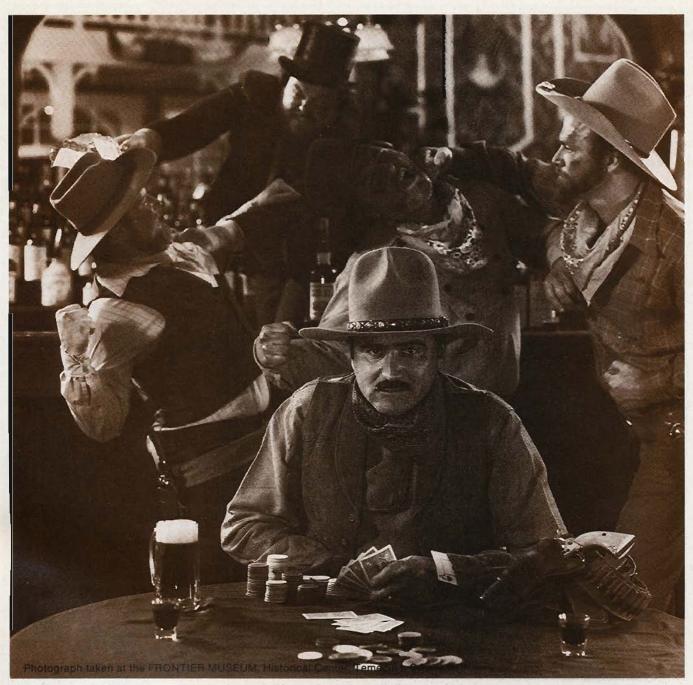
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impressions were distributed around the circumference of the jackets, so as not to ruin their ability to achieve what the scientifically-inclined might refer to as "gyroscopic isostasy."

#### WHY HURRY?

Dean R. Purdie of Faribault, Minnesota writes, "I have often wondered why in more recent years the handloader is in such a big hurry to load cartridges that he doesn't take the time to do things well; and it seems that progressive loaders, while they certainly have their place, are in my opinion not very scientific in manufacturing a first-rate reloaded cartridge.

'This, of course, is a personal feeling. Being from the old school, I believe that if you are going to do something you should do it well. I think there are steps deleted, such as primer pocket cleaning and case inspection, when using some of these automatic reloaders, that could lend themselves to problems in the finished product. I guess people that do a lot of shooting are trying to reduce the amount of time spent at the reloading bench; in a way, I can't blame them."

Purdie's observations fit right in with my own thinking. Reloading is an enjoyable pastime, and there's an element of individual creativity that is highly rewarding, so why be in a hurry? However, when it is necessary to achieve a high rate of production, let's hope those who crank the automatic reloaders will take time to clean and inspect cases as noted. Automatic reloaders imply a certain advantage in the matter of uniformity, but we are inclined to wonder about the uniformity with which primers are seated, and the uniformity of crimping-especially when there are variances in case lengths.

#### **VERN SPEER**

The late Vern Speer years ago worked out an uncomplicated and quite practical method for determining relative chamber pressures. Observing, and rightly so, that different guns produce pressures in differing amplitudes, and that test data from various laboratories using pressure guns were often less than consistent, Speer said he'd discovered a more reliable process. Acknowledging the fact that the cartridge case is the weakest link in the chain of components, he wrote:

"If the pressures at which these cartridge cases are fired do not exceed the elastic limit of the unsupported rim of the cartridge case, then we consider that the pressures are entirely usable, regardless of what they might be.

"We fire increased loads, increasing the charge by about a grain at a time, and check the rim diameter of the cartridge case with sensitive measuring instruments, both before and after firing. If any measurable increase in diameter of the rim of the case is noted, we consider that pressure is excessive, reduce the charge about 6 percent and list it as a maximum load in our

#### loading table."

Speer went on to acknowledge the value of looking for other signs of excess pressure (such as difficult extraction and flattened or cratered primers), in addition to measuring rim diameter. Note also that he cited "any measurable increase" as sufficient cause for reducing a load.

The foregoing may exist as a viable means of determining relative chamber pressures, especially for the home loader who does his work physically and financially removed from costly laboratory equipment.



#### CORRECTION

Under Dan Cotterman's "Favorite Loads" (July/August issue), the .44 Special load, behind the Remington B22940 240-grain JHP bullet, should be 14 grains of H-110 powder-not 24 grains of WW296, as reported. Caution: do not fire the latter load in .44 Special revolvers! (L.D.)

#### INFO 'QUICKIE'

Thinking shooters realize that the tension of competitive shooting is as close as any training program can come to duplicating the stress and strain of actual armed combat.

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Front



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The Frankonia Jagd Catalogues (formerly known as the Ratgeber Fuer Den Jaeger or Hunter's Counselor) have not been readily available in the United States for nearly twenty years. This German language catalogue has become a basic reference work for firearms enthusiasts who are interested in German and other European guns and hunting equipment. It has no American counterpart. Over 500 pages and profusely illustrated in full color. 1982 and 1983 editions can now be purchased.

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## **COMBAT SHOOTING**

#### MICKEY FOWLER

#### FOWLER GIVES TIPS ON STANCE, SIGHTS, COMPENSATORS/PIN-GUNS

Editor's note: Mickey answers five questions here, received from readers of his regular column in this magazine. If you have any you would like him to field, send them along and we'll forward to him.

(L. D.)

**Q.** I'm starting to compete in local IPSC matches. I enjoy the sport, but unfortunately have very little time to practice. I can only go to the range once a week. What shooting exercises could I do to get the most benefit from my available practice time?

A. You can raise your skill level considerably by doing the following: Take 10 minutes a night to practice dry-firing and gun handling. Cut out some scaled-down silhouette and bullseye targets and tape them in a convenient spot. Practice aligning the sights and squeezing the trigger.

Use a tape recorder or timer to practice single draws and reloading drills. Purchase an air pellet pistol. This will allow you to

practice in the house. The pellet pistol will teach you sight picture, trigger squeeze and follow-through.

I recommend the following exercises be included in your weekly range visit: Place three IPSC Milpark targets three yards apart, edge to edge. Start at seven yards and do six single draws as quickly as possible, while keeping all shots in the 10-inch circle.

Next, move to 10 yards and do an *El Presidente*. Stand with your back to the targets. On the start signal, turn and fire two shots on each of your three targets, reload and fire two more shots on each target. Strong-hand only and weak-hand only shooting skill must be developed. From the 10-yard line, draw and fire two shots on each target, strong-hand only; reload and switch pistol to the weak-hand and fire two more shots on each target.

Move back to the 25-yard line and do 10 single draws, 2½ seconds per draw. This is one of the best exercises to teach a shooter trigger control quickly.

Finish off the session with 10 slow fire shots at 50 yards.

As your skill improves, try to pick up speed on these exercises, without sacrificing accuracy. Don't be satisfied with anything but center hits. This will give you a good basic foundation upon which to build your skills.

Q. I am having trouble picking up my front sight quickly. I have noticed that most of the top competition shooters use black sights. Will I be at a disadvantage by using a colored front sight?

A. Most top shooters use black sights because it gives the sharpest light definition on most targets in daylight conditions. If you have normal vision you should have no problem with black sights, unless your rear sight notch is too narrow. This can be fixed easily by having it filed open to allow more light to show on both sides of the front sight.

If you still have a problem, try putting some flat (not glossy) fluorescent paint (bright orange) on your front sight. Glossy paint creates too much glare on bright days.

Q. I've noticed that some top IPSC shooters lock their strong arm to full extension when firing, while others bend the arm in varying degrees. Which way is best?

A. The full extension gives best results for most shooters when shooting double taps or multiple targets. The full lock-out seems to keep the hand, arm, shoulder and



1865 New Highway, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735 / 516-752-8544

head positioned more consistently behind the pistol, allowing the eyes to stay on the front sight, even through recoil. For all-out speed in firing one shot from the holster, the bent arm position is slightly faster because less movement is required to bring the gun up to eye level.

Q. I have just purchased a .45 auto. I'm having a problem with flinching (shots going low on the target). Do you have any cure for this?

A. The flinch, in various degrees of seriousness, is a problem for *both* novice and expert shooters. Flinching is caused by anticipating when the pistol fires and jerking the trigger, which pulls the muzzle down. This causes the shot to strike very low, or even off the target.

Practice dry-firing at home, squeezing the trigger so smoothly that the front sight doesn't move when the hammer drops.

When live-firing at the range, try to concentrate on the front sight and smoothly operate the trigger. If this doesn't help, have a friend take your pistol but not let you know whether it's loaded when he gives it back. Try firing a shot and see if the front sight moves as the hammer drops. This sometimes helps. Each shot, whether in rapid or slow fire, should be somewhat of a surprise when it goes off.

Double-action revolvers are excellent training aids in overcoming the flinch. Get a revolver with a smooth action and practice pulling the trigger smoothly, without hesitating, as you squeeze. This should teach you good trigger control; by pulling through, without stopping, a surprise break is achieved. Remember, the bullet always strikes where the sights are aligned at the time the hammer drops and strikes the primer, which detonates the powder.

Q. What are the advantages of compensators and pin-gun configurations on combatmodified competition .45 autos?

A. The purpose of these devices is to reduce muzzle rise during recoil. This allows the shooter to quickly regain the sight picture. An added benefit is about one inch in increased sight radius, over a pistol with a five-inch slide. Lets look at two different systems and see how they differ.

The "pin gun" was developed by Louisiana gunsmith Jim Clark. It was originally designed for use in bowling pin matches. A five-inch slide Colt Government model is fitted with a six-inch custom barrel. A oneinch-long weight is added to the end. This weight looks like an extension of the top half of the slide. The standard barrel bushing is removed and a tapered sleeve is installed on the barrel to take its place. The factory front sight is milled off the slide and an undercut target sight is installed on the end of the barrel extension. The added weight of the barrel extension and sleeve effectively reduces muzzle rise. The Clark pin gun is reasonably priced and reliable.

Mike Plaxco of Roland, Arkansas introduced the muzzle compensator on a large scale to American shooters. Advantage Grip System competition proven



## by MICKEY FOWLER

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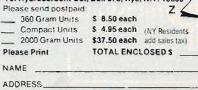
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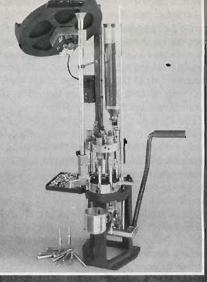
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Bill Wilson of Berryville, Arkansas makes a system called *Accu-Comp*, which combines the extra weight of a pin-gun with a muzzle brake. Wilson proved the effectiveness of his system by setting a record single run and overall time winning the Second Chance Bowling Pin Match last year.

Which system is best? If you like a pistol that has substantial extra weight, get the Clark pin-gun, or the Wilson Accu-Comp. If you like your pistol to remain just a little above standard weight, get

the Plaxco compensator.

#### Guide service offers handgunner hunts

Foggy Mountain Guide Service of Dover-Foxcroft, Maine is offering some excellent bear hunts for handgunners (in September and October), according to Wayne A. Bosowicz, America's Guide/Outfitter of the Year (1978 and 1979).

His guide service is highly recommended by many prominent outdoor writers, government officials and taxidermists.



"Our policy here is very strict," said Bosowicz. "No cubs are allowed to be shot (really, very few men would ever shoot one anyhow)."

Bosowicz has served on Maine's legislative committee for guides. He is a life member of the National Rifle Association and a member of the Bear Biology Association.

For further information, write to him at RFD 2, Box 103 (Dept. AH), Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426.

#### **INFO 'QUICKIE'**

The first national combat competition for police was held in 1959 at Indiana University in Bloomington. It was co-sponsored by Colt and the university's Center for Police Training.

## HANDGUN LEATHER

#### **AL PICKLES**

#### THREE HOLSTER MAKERS DECRY MODERN COPS 'SLAPPING PLASTIC'

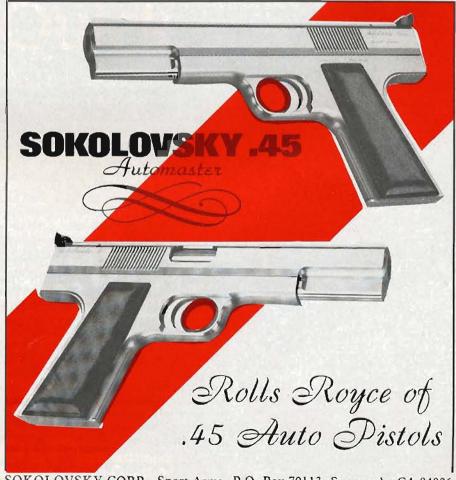
There are so many really good leather holster makers today that it is a wonder the few poor ones manage to stay in business. I suppose the poorer quality holsters are purchased by people who have failed to realize that quality-be it gun, ammo or holster-can spell the difference between life and death.

I cannot imagine a true professional putting an \$800 gun into a cheaply made leather holster, but they occasionally do. This article is not about cheap quality rigs, even though the prices of some holsters I mention might not be much above \$25. Others will cost much more than that, but they are usually complete carrying systems. So, let's start with a complete system.

Strong Holster Company is no newcomer to the field of leathercraft. The Strong tradition of quality goes back more than 50 years. From what I have seen, it is keeping pace with changes in guns and methods of carry. Of particular interest to me, is its shoulder system, dubbed appropriately *Strong-Side*.



Strong Holster's "Strong Side" rig.



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T.D.P. Industries, Inc. Dept. AH-9 Zieglerville, PA 19492 I have taken to experimenting with the Charter Arms .44 Bulldog and some exotic speciality ammo currently produced for the gun. After examining the workmanship of the *Strong-Side* shoulder system at the SHOT Show, I ordered one for concealed carry. It so happened that the .44 Bulldog was one of the few guns that Strong does not catalog in this system. Not wanting me to be denied the immediate experience of using an excellent rig, Strong sent one for a medium-frame revolversuch as the Ruger Speed-Six.

To my surprise, I was able to fit the Charter Bulldog with only a few minutes of modification. I put on the rig over a light polo shirt—a true test for comfort—and was pleased to find I could wear the rig 12-16 hours a day and hardly notice it was there. I am assured Strong soon will be tooling up for a specific fit with the .44 Bulldog.

#### **COMFORT FACTOR HIGH**

Another super feature of the Strong-Side is the availability of accessories for the "balance" side of the rig. The leather strap, which snaps to the belt, is designed to hold some of the smallest, serviceable ammo carriers, magazine cases, and cuff cases I have ever seen. This "less is best" skeletonized approach is largely responsible for the ultimate comfort of the Strong-Side shoulder system. I am sufficiently impressed to even forgive the company for cataloging its magazine case as a "clip case."

One of Strong's features is the strength of its stitching. A variety of polyester blends have been specifically designed for the separate sewing operations involved in holster manufacture. Strong's theory is that one type thread cannot perform all the various stitching requirements. It is this approach to each operation that makes for Strong quality. Strong Holster Company is housed at 105 Maplewood Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930.

Concealed weapons carry has always presented unique problems for women. Couple this with the fact that more and more women have decided on armed defense as the only logical response to rape, robbery, mayhem, and murder and you have a growing market for special gun carry rigs.

Since violent confrontations develop rapidly—and by surprise—purse carry of a handgun is hardly worthy of serious consideration.

One of the most practical carry systems is on the leg, using ankle holsters when wearing pants, and thigh holsters when wearing a dress. These permit almost complete handgun concealment, even in the warmest weather; yet, they provide easy accessibility for the victim of the assault early-on, most probably when first being knocked to the ground.

#### THIGH RIGS

While many good ankle holsters are

presently available, good thigh rigs are scarce. It took some rather diligent research to come up with just three manufacturers; two can be written off as poor approaches to a serious problem.

The remaining rig, made by Flatbush Country Leather, is the result of devoting several years to solving this specific need. Harvey Flatbush has been a leather hobbyist most of his adult life. He is an excellent craftsman. What he has devised is a high quality thigh rig that utilizes the wearer's hip and thigh in roughly the same fashion a shoulder rig crosses the shoulders for support. The rig can be worn under any dress-short of a mini-skirtpresents no bulges, and allows a pistol to be drawn with good speed from most positions. My daughter, who has carried a concealed weapon for many years, tried this rig as her first thigh holster and reports it works quite well with reasonable comfort.



A unique one-the "SafePack" system.

Other superior features include a builtin thigh money pocket, a unique springloaded gun release that works every time, and the capability of interchanging the holster between its thigh harness and a matching Flatbush shoulder harness.

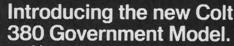
The holster is completely lined, including the flat spring gun retainer/release, and bespeaks a labor of love. Actually Harvey Flatbush painstakingly makes each unit by hand to precise measurements.

The thigh rig is not easily interchangeable between wearers, as it takes four separate measurements t custom fit a customer; otherwise, it would be a lot less concealable and comfortable.

It appears, judging by the design, that the more female your figure the better this rig is going to work. Certainly it is one of the most ingenious breakthroughs for women and handguns that I have every examined. I predict—once the word gets out—that this brilliant innovator will be flooded with orders. Get in touch with Flatbush Country Leather, POB 116, Ione, WA 99139.

Seldeen Leathersmiths, rapidly becoming famous for its award-winning *Double Action Holster*, offers an equally well conceived inside-the-pants holster called *The Cat.* 1 presently own two, one for my .44 Bulldog, another for my Astra A80 .45 autoloader.

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Made entirely in the U.S.A., our new Colt is unmatched for reliability and famous Colt quality and craftsmanship. Actually, the newest Colt has been around a long time. The Colt 380 closely resembles a scaled down version of the famous 1911 Government Model 45. Chambered for 380 ACP, it incorporates a new safety firing pin lock. This new safety allows you to carry the 380 fully-loaded, hammer cocked and locked, ready for immediate action.

From the first round to the last, the single action trigger pull remains consistent, and takes the guesswork out of 1st round placement. So if you're in the market for a compact selfdefense firearm, take a good close look at the new Colt 380 Government Model. See your Colt dealer today.

Be a safe shooter—Never chamber a round until you are ready to shoot. Always read and follow the instruction manuals which accompany each firearm. Free instruction manuals are also available from the factory on request.



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I have never really been enraptured by any inside-the-belt holster, even though tucking a gun down my waistband (rightrear) is my most common casual mode of carry. I guess my blasé attitude has something to do with build and comfort. The added dimensions of a holster just plain hurts the small of my back. For some reason, undoubtedly the cut and design of The Cat, the discomfort of inside-thepants carry is greatly reduced. If you, too, have had problems finding an inside-thepants holster that is both secure and reasonably comfortable, I suggest you give Seldeen a try. It might not work, since we are all built differently, but it solved one of my long-time gun-carry problems.

Seldeen does top quality leatherwork and is housed at 350 N. Lantana Ave. (#504), Camarillo, CA 93010.

SafePack makes its holsters of nylon, not leather. For the most part, its designs are novel and definitely special-purpose. Some of the designs are for packing a handgun rather than day-in, day-out carry. There is a difference. I spotted the company's display at the SHOT Show and decided one of its rigs was just the ticket for my kind of "woods wandering."

I often find it fun to grab a pistol and a box of ammunition and just set out on a long walk or horseback ride. Dressed lightly in levis and a camo T-shirt, where do you put a box of ammo? If mounted, as any horseman will tell you, many waist holsters are not as practical or comfortable as the western flicks would have you believe. An exposed shoulder rig is far better.

#### COMPLETE SYSTEMS

The SafePack models STP100 and STP200 are across the chest, bandolier style, packing systems. The carrying "case" is made of ballistic nylon, padded with neoprene foam, and lined with pack cloth nylon. Within this one case you can store your handgun, while an outer pouch will hold a full 50-round box of ammo. There are even fasteners for attaching other small accessories. A belt tie-down snaps in place to keep the system from flopping about at full run or gallop.

I don't know if this is a rehash of an old idea, since it is so basically simple and practical; at least I have never seen the concept before. In order to test the rig, my son-in-law and I set off afoot looking for a new rock chuck colony. By noon I was sorry I only had one unit, which I let him test, because my box of ammo was breaking down in my back pocket.

SafePack also makes belt holsters with pockets for gun and cuffs, ankle holsters, and a host of accessories attached with velcro. Its nylon products are certainly of belter quality than the offerings of earlyday nylon holster makers—and far more practical. SafePack does business at 5917 Burchard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034.

I admit, grudgingly, that nylon has a place in the holster industry, although fine leather holsters never will be replaced; certainly not by plastics, as some holster makers attempted a few years ago.

Leather is rich and warm, pleasant to touch, see and smell. A gun coming out of a leather combat rig has a sound of its own, too. I just can't visualize even today's modern lawman "slapping plastic."

Seldeen, Flatbush, and Strong just won't let it happen.

#### 4-GUN GIVEAWAY

Here are the winners of the four custom guns in our annual giveaway program:

Sue Champine, Mt. Clemens, Michigan (Wilson .45 auto); M. F. Cooper, Duncanville, Texas (Ruger Convertible Single-Six .22); William F. Daniels, Desert Hot Springs, California (Abilene .44 Magnum by Mossberg), and Burt Wyka, Woodland Park, Colorado (RWS M10 air pistol).

#### **INFO 'QUICKIE'**

The original duckfoot pistol was a hand-held flintlock volley gun designed to fire several shots simultaneously in a horizontal pattern.

The name derives from the way in which the separate barrels fan out from a common breech, somewhat in the manner of the wide splay in a duck's foot.

It is purely a modern designation, however, and what the original makers and users called this gun is not known.

Duckfoot pistols were for use against a mob of attackers. According to tradition, they were especially popular with sea captains who might face a mob of mutineers, with prison guards, even with bank runners.

Most specimens were designed to be hooked on the user's belt. This fact would seem to indicate they were intended for use by such people as seamen and runners who operated on foot, and not by horsemen who normally carried their pistols in holsters.

The idea of firing a number of barrels from a single priming dates from the beginning of firearms history.

Because duckfoot pistols were made in limited quantity and are in great demand by collectors today, they have been subject to considerable faking. The collector, therefore, is advised to look at a specimen carefully before accepting it as genuine.

Points to look for: barrels and breech cast in a single piece of brass (a no-no), inferior workmanship, course wood checkering, and improper proof marks.

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## SILUETAS

#### **PHILIP C. BRIGGS**

#### SILHOUETTE SHOOTER / AUTHOR LIKES 7MM INTERNATIONAL RIMMED LOAD

Long-range handgunning, a growth sport that has boomed since the birth of handgun silhouette shooting, started with rather modest expectations.

Three special, long-range pistols, appeared in the early 1960s. All were chambered for rather modest cartridges. Two were built around new cartridges: the Hawkeye was mated to the .256 Winchester Magnum, the XP-100 to the .221 fireball. Both were small cases, even by the standards of the time; so were the first chamberings in the T/C Contender.

Many years later I had the opportunity to ask Wayne Leek, who had been in charge of the design team that developed the XP, why they had shortened the triple deuce when they selected a round for the then-revolutionary XP. divide into two camps—those who favored a (heretofore considered) big case (the .223) and those who went even bigger (the .308).

#### 7MM INTERNATIONAL

In the last couple of years, things have pretty well settled down to a few favored cartridges. T/Cs adoption of Wes Ugalde's 7mm/.223 for its popular Contender model has nailed the lid on the prior concept of what's right for a handgun cartridge (it's actually about this size for the 10-inch), and the pistol/cartridge has come to dominate IHMSAs *Production* competition category. In the Unlimited classes, the larger cased 7mm International dominates, followed by the smaller, 7mm BR. Still, there are those who think that there



T/C Super 14 chambered for 7mm INT-R. Note fire-formed case, loaded round.

"We started with the .222 cartridge," he said, "but it had too much capacity to be efficient in the 10-inch barrel. The shortened case worked better, and gave velocities close to our target of around 2,600 fps with the 50-grain bullet."

Save for a few experimenters, such as the late Al Goerg, that sort of thinking prevailed for the next 10-12 years, right up to 1975.

The first major handgun silhouette match was held that fall in Tucson, Arizona. Although no one showed up with a conventional wisdom bender at that match, it served to sow the seeds of change.

The next year's match, in El Paso, Texas in the fall of 1976, was won with a custombuilt XP-100 in .308 caliber with a 1½ inch case. From then on, anything was fair game, up to and including the .458 Winchester gunsmith/competitor John Towle screwed together on an XP-just to show it could be done.

The next few years saw the wildcatters

is a need for just a little more snap, particularly in the *Production* category of competition.

What's needed is a cartridge that's in the middle: Not too hot, not too cold, but just right. There have been some attempts at that goal in the past, but as the .223 case is tapped out in the 7mm TCU, they've been built on chopped .308s. No good. The forming operations are a pain and, since the production guns are holdovers from the 1960s, they won't handle a case that big around.

The perfect porridge appears to have been recently found. It's no surprise that Elgin Gates, who has been at the helm of handgun silhouette shooting from the beginning, 'should be the source of the solution. Gates was at El Paso with a .30/.223 but went on to the bigger-is-better camp shortly thereafter, designing the wildly popular 7mm INT. Now he's come back to the drawing table to split the difference. If my early results are any indication, you'll

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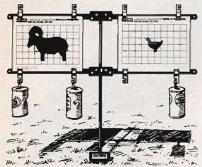
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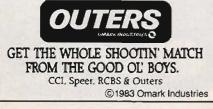


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soon be able to buy an out-of-the-box T/C chambered in the new round. Gates has a winner in the 7mm INT-R.

The 7mm INT-R is formed from a full length .30-30 case. While retaining the original body diameter at the shoulder of .400 inches (versus the .445 inches of the 7mm IHMSA International and the .370 inches of the 7mm TCU) the body length and shoulder angle are modified, so as to be identical with the 7mm IHMSA International. Also, the case capacity is about 25 percent more than the 7mm TCU, and this is where the extra performance and horsepower come from.

Gates first worked with a version of this 7mm INT-R case with the neck cut down to the same overall length of the 7mm International case. For two reasons, however, he decided to retain the full 2.04 inch length of the .30-30 case.

The long neck gives better support and alignment for the long 160-175-grain bullets being used these days. (It will also be just the ticket for long-bearing length cast bullets.) The second reason was based on the desire to design a high-performance 7mm *Production* category cartridge, with the minimum possible amount of brass work involved. Anyone who has gone through the tiring, brass-wrestling chore of forming, trimming and cutting necessary to make the .30 Herrett cases, or the nightmare of the endless struggle of making the 7mmBR brass, will understand the merits of this approach.

Forming the 7mm INT-R from common .30-30 brass is as simple as ordinary loading. Just run the .30-30 case through the 7mm INT-R full-length or neck die. It takes only one light stroke through the die to neck the case to 7mm and establish the junction of the neck and shoulder.

No compound press or extra pressure is needed—just a one-time simple light stroke in and out of the die.

At this point, you prime the case, put in the powder charge and seat the bullet in the ordinary reloading procedure. Because it is a rimmed case, the headspace is taken up on the rim, so I followed the established procedure for forming the Herretts by leaving the shoulder a tad forward for a tight fit in chambering.

Recently, Gates sent me two T/C barrels, both rechambered 7mmTCU barrels, to be used in preliminary load development.

#### HOLDS PRESSURES DOWN

A larger case attains higher velocities than the 7mm TCU will deliver, while holding pressures down to the level the T/C will withstand. I set a goal of 2,000 fps with bullets in the 140-grain class in the 10-inch tube, and 2,200 fps in the 14-inch barrel. The latter velocities equal those delivered by wildcats such as the 7X47mm, which have been found to be reliable on the rams and produce about all the recoil most shooters can stand.

The first task was to fireform a couple of

hundred Federal .30-30 cases to the test barrels. All loads were formed and loaded in one operation on a Dillon reloader.

With the formed cases in hand, and some thoughts on loads, I headed for the range with a selection of components and a Lee turret press, equipped to load on site. All loads were developed on the spot. Although the loads I used were safe in these barrels, until factory chamberings are available they should be considered as indications of attainable performance levels only. Even the two barrels used had different limits.

The bullets and the powders-T2208 and T-VEN-are avilable from TCCI, POB 302, Phoenix, AZ 85001. All are priced inexpensively and worked fine.

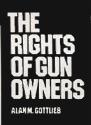
T2208 is close to Ball-C in burning rate; T-VEN is a little faster than 3031. Both powders and bullets "hit the spot" in loading for the popular 7mms.

All loads used Federal #210 primers.

Space does not permit a full report on my test-firing results; however, if anyone wants a summary of my findings, drop a note to Len Davis, editor of the *American Handgunner*. He'll be glad to send you a copy, if you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

I think you'll find that the 7mm INT-R is indeed the perfect porridge, as my load data indicates.

So, start rounding up some .30-30 cases; T/Cs production run can't be far off.



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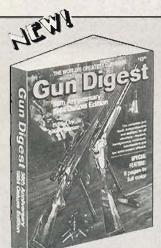
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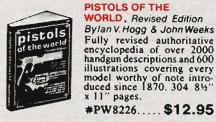
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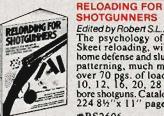


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## **HANDGUN HUNTING**

J. D. JONES

#### **'REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE' VITAL** IN ASSESSING BULLET EXPANSION

Robert Marion of Herndon, Virginia has written an interesting letter, detailing his experiments in the area of terminal ballistics.

His basic test subject was the .357 Magnum revolver and a wide variety of bullets fired into an impact medium of watersoaked phone books, interspersed with pieces of cinder block, in an effort to simulate flesh and bone.

Marion's experiments were an effort to investigate the behavior of .357 bullets relative to small- and medium-size game. Unfortunately, he has had "little opportunity to correlate simulated media results with real world experience."

Frankly, "real world experience" is hard to acquire, and nowadays I feel it's fashionable for many to simply parrot what has been written and spoken in the past that "bullets must expand" to be effective, and "should not go all the way through and waste their energy on the countryside," or "should stop inside the animal, therefore transferring all of its energy to the animal."

When you read or hear these kinds of generalized all-inclusive statements, I think you can be sure the originator has very little "real world" experience, or else hasn't been paying attention.

More than twenty years ago, Lee Jurras (pioneer in high velocity handgun ammo) and I met and found we both had an extensive interest in terminal ballistics. As a result of that interest and experimentation, Super Vel—the first company to offer high performance jacketed hollow-point handgun ammunition to police and sportsmen—was formed. This highperformance ammunition was extremely controversial at the time; however, it rapidly became accepted and copied by practically evey ammunition company in the world.

Super Vel's initial project and product were designed to provide more effective .38 Special ammunition for police work. This was achieved by high-velocity, lightweight hollow-point bullets, which also solved the over-penetration problem, important to police. The results were definitely an improvement over existing ammo.

#### TEST MEDIA

The test media used in developing this ammo were sand, water jugs, grease, paraffin, Duxseal, water-soaked paper and anything else we could think of; plus anything with hair on it we could get in the sights.

After about 21/2 years of some 500 experimental rounds per week, I had become convinced that a little knowledge about ammunition is dangerous; that test media in general is reliable only if conducted in laboratory-like conditions, with controlled temperature and water content, and relates only to what one bullet does in relation to another in a particular test media; that when meat and bone are hit, it's sometimes difficult to relate what actually happens to any test media; that the size of an exit wound has little to do with whether a bullet expanded or not; that energy figures may be quite interesting, but generally are useless and misleading, and that most test media make a bullet look better than it actually is.

I found no practical way to assure a constant moisture content throughout a stack of water-soaked newspapers. Duxseal is an industrial product and can be found in most electrical supply houses. Its consistency varies with temperature. Under temperature controlled conditions, Duxseal can be very uniform and give an excellent comparison between bullets. It also expands bullets nicely for near-perfect results. As a loose correlation between Duxseal and game, I found that a handgun bullet that just about disintegrates in Duxseal at 70 degrees F. at 20 feet probably will give some expansion at 25-50 yards on a wild hog.

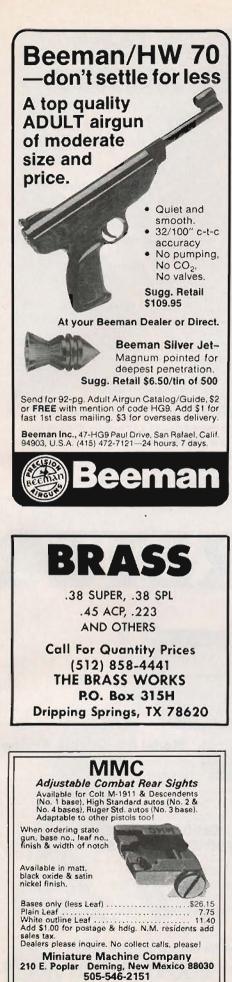
I've spent many enjoyable hours experimenting with bullets in various media. Even a hit on the edge of Duxseal may give a different appearance than that of a center hit. Plaster of paris casts of bullet cavities in Duxseal are easily made and fascinating. They are re-useable and not messy to work with.

#### **DEFINITIONS VARY**

Getting back to the writer, his first conclusion—"the .357 is highly dependent upon the bullet used to obtain effective performance; either maximum expansion/shock or good penetration"—is one that I would probably agree with, if I knew his *definitions* of "effective performance," "maximum expansion/shock" or "good penetration."

Definitions vary with the animal, range and what you want to do with it after it's in the bag.

plus any- For example, a cottontail hit with a AMERICAN HANDGUNNER · SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1983



lengthwise shot at short range with one particular 125-grain .357 H.P. probably gets the maximum expansion/shock possible from a .357, but leaves little to be desired for eating purposes. I've seen the same 125-grain H.P. load fail miserably on a 150-pound hog, penetrating only about 21/2 inches. He absorbed all the energy from four .357 rounds, and it didn't seem to bother him much. One .41 Magnum factory S.P. load dropped him in his tracks deader than a doornail, exited and expended an undetermined amount of energy on the countryside. This particular 125-grain .357 round is highly regarded in police circles as a "manstopper" and may well be (if the man isn't heavily clothed or muscled); I see a considerable difference in what is seemingly desired as a police round, and what I want as a hunting round

Energy transfer is interesting. I see the words "transfers all of its energy to the animal" frequently. Try this. Put a bullet in a vice. Squash it until it doubles in diameter or reduces in length by around 60 percent. How much energy did that take? How much energy is actually used in expanding the bullet; and how much is absorbed by the animal? By what part of the animal? What did it (the energy) do? Was it totally expended in two inches, 10 inches, through guts, stomach contents, bone or what? After thousands of tests and hundreds of field examinations of the results of gunshot wounds in animals, I've succeeded in posing more questions than I've answered, to my satisfaction.

#### WOUND CHANNELS

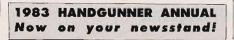
Generally, I see little difference in the wound channels between various handgun bullets of the same style and caliber, although they show alarming differences in various test media.

Take .44 Magnum wounds for example. They seem 3-5 times larger than those left by .357s. Most .44 Magnum bullets exit medium game, so it's difficult to assess what expansion, if any, occurred. I don't know of any .357 magnum ammunition I consider adequate in the field for hogs or deer. I'd definitely select a 158-grain S.P., or a heavy cast bullet, if I had no other caliber choice.

On whitetail deer-sized game, I see little difference between wounds created by .44 caliber bullets. With a decent hit, *any* .44 bullet will take care of a deer—in short order.

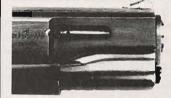
Bullet expansion tests are enjoyable, informative and thought provoking. I'd like to thank the writer for his letter, and solicit your ideas and comments on this subject, as well as any others you might like to express.

Write to me c/o Handgun Hunters International, POB .357 MAG, Bloomingdale, OH 43910.



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## J. D. JONES GETS TOP HANDGUNNER AWARD

THE BERETTA

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#### By Len Davis

J. Jones was named *Outstanding American Handgunner* for 1983 during the National Rifle Association's annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona May 6-10.

The top prize was presented by Ron Power of Independence, Missouri, a custom pistolsmith who designed the prize-a *Redhawk Grand Master Deluxe* .44 Magnum revolver encased in a carved mahogany box with two speedloaders (see cover story)-on behalf of the *American Handgunner* magazine.

Jones also received an Abilene .44 Magnum revolver, manufactured and donated by O. F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.

A regular columnist for the American Handgunner magazine, Jones is one of the original developers of high velocity, expanding handgun ammunition.

His many handgun innovations include the JDJ line of big game hunting cartridges, cast bullet designs and the .41 Avenger (a Colt Government Model

(19)

1911 conversion).

Jones has authored hundreds of major handgun stories, appeared on pro-gun panels and TV programs and has actively participated in and promoted handgun shooting sports for many years.

He won the International Long Range Free pistol match in 1981 at Bisley, England.

Jones is founder of Handgun Hunters International, president of SSK Industries and past chairman of the Outstanding American Handgunners Foundation (OAHF).

The award, founded in 1973 by Lee E. Juras, a former manufacturer of high velocity handgun ammo, was established "to give recognition and reward to those relatively few individuals who have devoted their lives to furthering handgun shooting as a legitimate sport."

Other nominees for this year's award

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J. D. Jones, left, receives award from designer, custom pistolsmith Ron Power.

were John T. Amber, gun editor emeritus for Gun Digest; Massad Ayoob, a regular columnist for the American Handgunner magazine, world renown authority on police firearms training, author of several gun books and hundreds of major magazine stories on arms/ammo/shooting and founder of the Lethal Force Institute in Concord, New Hampshire; John Bianchi, president, Bianchi Gunleather; William M. Davis, D. D. S., a long-time participant in the National Matches, Camp Perry, Ohio (as a shooter, coach and team captain).

Also Elgin T. Gates, one of the founders and president of the International Handgun Shooters Metallic Silhouette Association (IHSMSA) of Idaho Falls, Idaho; Dick Metcalf, nationally known handgun writer and gun legislation analyst; Roy Rogers, actor and shooting sports promoter; Charlton Heston, actor and supporter of pro-gun legislation, and Hank Williams Jr., country western singer, handgun hunter, gun collector and a leading participant in the fight to defeat California's Proposition 15, a strict gun control measure.

In addition to the customized Redhawk, Jones received a bronze statue of a handgun shooter firing from a two-hand position; the statue, approximately three feet high, remains in Jones' permanent possession. It was presented by Joseph P. Tartaro, publisher of *Gun Week* and OAHF chairman.

Guest speaker at the annual awards dinner was Robert K. Corbin, Arizona's attorney general.

Previous award winners and the years in which they were honored are Elmer Keith, 1973; Col. Charles Askins,

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1974; William B. Ruger, 1975; Bill Jordan, 1976; Harlon Carter, 1977; Skeeter Skelton, 1978; Lee E. Juras, 1979; Warren Center, 1980; Steve Herrett, 1981, and Hal Swiggert, 1982.

For information on the OAHF and next year's nominations, write Tartaro at Gun Week, POB 441, Station C, Buffalo, NY 14209.

#### Prints feature noted guns of the Old West

Tistory comes alive in a set of eight magnificent prints featuring guns of the Old West.

The collector's print series includes 81/2 inch by 11 inch full-color litho-



graphs of famous guns owned by Sam Bass (the famous Texas outlaw), Billy the Kid, Bat Masterson (noted lawman

of the West), Frank James (brother of Jesse James), Buffalo Bill Cody, Sam Houston (first elected president of the Republic of Texas), Geronimo (the famous Apache Indian) and General Francisco (Pancho) Villa, the Mexican bandit leader, whose gun is pictured here-a .44 Merwin & Hulbert revolver with ivory grips.

Each gun is presented in a beautifully photographed setting, and includes a brief history of the gun and its owner.

The guns are part of the collection of the Southwestern Historical Wax Museum, Grand Prairie, Texas.

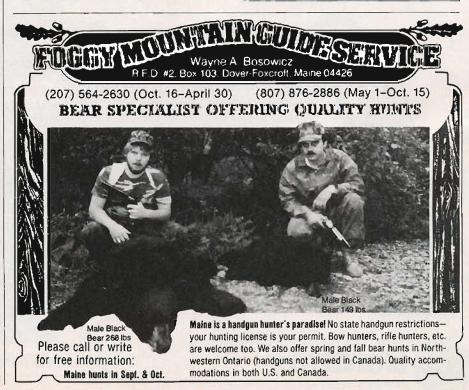
Price of the collection of eight prints, including an attractive parchment portfolio, is \$24.95 (special prepublication price).

They may be ordered from Mega Media, 2104 East Randol Mill Road (Dept. AH), Arlington, TX 76011. Texas residents should include an additional \$1.25 for sales tax. Quantity prices are available,

upon request.



Introduced late in 1971, the .44 Auto Mag cartridge was developed for the Auto Mag pistol designed by Harry Sanford of Pasadena, California. The cartridge is made by simply cutting off .30-06 or .308 Winchester cases to a length of 1.30 inch, inside reaming to make them accept .429 inch diameter bullets and finally trimming to a case length of 1.298 inch. The newly formed brass is then loaded with standard .429 inch jacketed bullets of 200 to 240 grains in weight.



## NRA CHANGES ARE REJECTED

#### By Len Davis

"Guns don't make criminals. Hardcore criminals use guns, and locking them up and throwing away the key is the best gun control law we could ever have," said President Reagan in a 30-minute address to the l22nd annual meeting of the National Rifle Association in Phoenix, Arizona, May 6-10.

In obvious total support of the NRAs programs and objectives, the president referred to a frequent charge that supporting gun owners' rights "encourages a violent, shoot-'em-up society. Don't they understand that most violent crimes are not committed by decent, law-abiding citizens; they're committed by career criminals.

"It's time for our loved ones to walk the streets of America without being afraid," he said. "We will never disarm any American who seeks to protect his or her family from fear or harm."



Reagan said longer prison sentences (for those who commit a felony while armed) and tougher treatment are beginning to pay dividends in the nation's crackdown on crime.

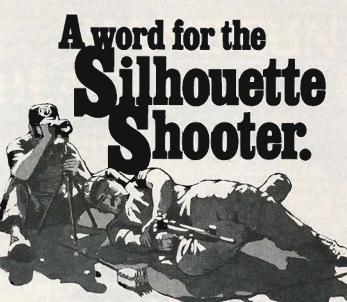
He urged greater support of police officers across the country and stressed the need for "a minimum mandatory term of five years imprisonment for the use of armor-piercing bullets-cop-killer bulletsduring a federal crime of violence."

Reagan told the audience that his administration is making every effort "to reform the firearms laws which needlessly interfere with the rights of legitimate gun owners like yourselves.

#### LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS

"I look forward," he said, "to signing a bill (the McClure-Hatch bill) that truly protects the rights of law-abiding citizens, without diminishing the effectiveness of criminal law enforcement against the misuse of firearms."

NRA members rejected without debate a series of bylaw changes that challenged Executive Vice President Harlon Carter's one-man rule of the 2.7 million member orgainzation. Carter formerly was head of

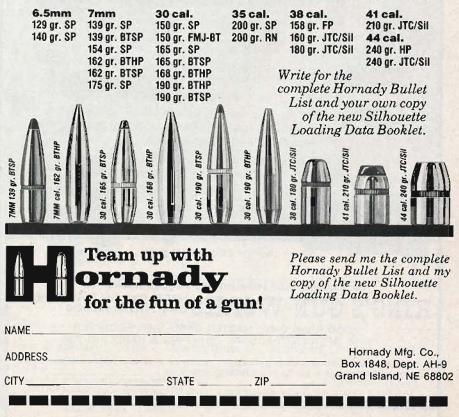


#### Here at Hornady

we're just as serious as you are about silhouette shooting. In fact, ten members of our management and research staff are active competitors in local and national matches. We thought you'd like to see some of the Hornady bullets they recommend after testing them personally.

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#### There are 23 Hornady Silhouette bullets to choose from ...



AMERICAN HANDGUNNER · SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1983

the U.S. Border Patrol.

The vote, by an approximate two-thirds majority at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, climaxed a bitter, in-house fight, one of the periodic bloodlettings that the NRA undergoes at its annual conventions when members fear their leaders are losing their cutting edge.

The amendments were proposed by Neal Knox, former head of the NRAs Institute for Legislative Action, the NRAs lobbying arm. Knox was fired last year by Carter.

Knox had suggested that Carter was not militant enough in defense of the right to bear arms, and was making unneeded compromises with anti-gun elements.

In an obvious effort to heal the breach in the organization, Knox told the members after his amendments were voted down that he would not be a candidate for Carter's job.

Many of Knox's supporters at the meeting repeatedly objected to the bylaw amendments being lumped together and voted upon without debate of any kind. Many complained that it was a blatant power move by an organization that prided itself on democratic procedure.

#### **BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

The proposed bylaw amendments would have shortened Carter's five-year term (he was elected in 1982) to one year,



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with a return to an annual election for the office of executive vice president; made the positions of secretary and treasurer less responsible to the executive vice president; curtailed the power of the executive vice president to spend funds; made the position of director, Institute for Legislative Action, elective rather than appointive, and given the institute priority in using membership lists and computer mailing facilities.

The nearly daylong meeting, chaired by NRA President Keith M. Gaffaney (a retired sergeant, Los Angeles Police Department), was attended by more than 3,000 members, many of whom chafed under the necessity of being recognized by the chair and speaking from the correct microphone, a number of which were scattered around the hall.

More than 150 commercial exhibits were displayed in the Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center, where many of the NRA's 13 special sessions and annual banquet were held.

NRA press room officials told the American Handgunner that more than 30,000 people attended the five-day meeting.

An interesting-and significant-aside: More than 180 Secret Service agents were assigned to protect President Reagan during his one-day (May 7) visit to Phoenix.

#### Four bullet moulds announced by RCBS

The growing interest in the use of cast bullets for handgun metallic silhouette shooting has resulted in four new bullet moulds designed for this popular competition.

Produced by RCBS, they feature a ballistically efficient anti-skid nose shape and gas-check heels.

The .357 Magnum mould casts a 180-grain bullet and the .44 Magnum a 240-grain bullet. Both have a single, broad cannelure-lubricant groove-and angled crimp groove.

The 7mm 145-grain and .308 165-grain bullets have a long, bore-riding forward shank. The groove diameter rear shank is short enough to be seated entirely in the case neck; yet, the bullet heel does not intrude into the powder space in small volume cases such as the 7mm TCU and .30 Herrett.

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Weights of the .357 and .44 bullets are with a 1-10 ratio tin/lead alloy. The 7mm and .308 weights are from Linotype allov

All four designs are offered only in double-cavity moulds at a suggested retail price of \$35.

For more information, write Omark Industries, Inc., Sporting Equipment Division, POB 856 (Dept. AH), Lewiston, ID 83501.

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To extend the range of the MARK III, there are two optional telescopic sight attachments available: the fixed 3 power or new variable 1.5 to 4 power zoom. Point of impact remains the same with or without either attachment. Should you remove the telescope attachment, there is no need to reposition the sight-eye relief and position of the dot within the tube will not affect point of impact.

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#### Aimpoint.

AIMPOINT U.S.A. Dept. AH9/10 203 Elden St. — Suit 302 Herndon, VA 22070 Gun laws: fact, fancy, farcical

Three brief newspaper stories, from as many states, point up some of the ancillary activities taking place around the country, with respect to our nation's gun laws.

GARY, IND. – Mayor Richard Hatcher was ordered to pay–out of his own pocket–more than \$600,000 for denying citizens the right to apply for a gun permit.

A Superior Court jury levied the judgment when it found Hatcher guilty of unconstitutional and arrogant use of power. Hatcher had ordered the Gary police department to stop processing applications for gun permits.

Hatcher commented after the verdict, "This sets the cause of gun control back 20 years." *More, we hope.* 

CHICAGO-The Chicago police department has 47 persons, working two shifts, just to process firearms registrations. So far, registration certificates have been issued only to law enforcement and corrections officers because of the time and effort required to run criminal background checks on applicants.

James Conlisk, commanding officer of the department's gun registration section, told the *Chicago Tribune*, "It's a monumental task. We could have 100,000 clerical workers and it wouldn't help. We have no idea how many registrations we have. They're still coming in and lying around in envelopes ..."

Now that ex-mayor Jane Byrnes is out of a job, why don't they ask her to help? This registration business was her idea.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—The first anti-gun bill before the California legislature never reached the floor for a vote. A bill which would have required a 15-day waiting period for long guns was rejected by the Criminal Law and Public Safety Committee—even before the opponents could testify.

You don't suppose that the overwhelming defeat of Proposition 15 had anything to do with this action? (J.R.)

#### INFO 'QUICKIE'

Blazer ammo (Omark Industries), in non-reloadable aluminum cases, is available in six different .38 Special and two .357 Magnum loads. A 9mm Luger load and a .25 Auto load is expected to be available shortly, according to The Good Ol' Boys in Lewiston, Idaho.



#### FORMED POCKET HOLSTER

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#### Puerto Rico's gun laws: mighty tough

By Len Davis

Y ou handgunners; you think you have it rough here in the statestry Puerto Rico.

We just received a letter from an old shooting friend, Modesto Cartagena of the U.S. Border Patrol, now stationed in that Caribbean territory of the United States.

He was recently transferred there, his birthplace, after having spent many years as a Border Patrol officer in Yuma, Arizona.

Cartagena is recognized as one of the finest PPC shooters in the Border Patrol. He is a police marksmanship instructor, a law-abiding citizen with a spotless record.

Let me quote part of his letter, verbatim:

"You will never in your life imagine how hard it is to shoot down here. A person has to get his guns registered, obtain a permit for each gun, obtain a permit to carry a gun and then obtain another one for possession of a gun.

"If you are an avid shooter, the government will shoot you down because they don't like pistol shooters down here.

"I'm still waiting for two of my permits, so I can start shooting. It has cost me more than \$350 (U.S. dollars) so far, to obtain just the possession permit.

"The police also will conduct a personal investigation of my background, in order for me to get that license.

"The people down here making the laws don't have any idea what a gun even looks like.

"I have talked with more than 1,000 police officers; all have the same complaint."

Cartagena goes on to say that the Puerto Rico gun laws have been in effect for the past four years, and alludes to the influential "politicos," who are involved in creating such legislation.

Now, this man is not just the run-ofthe-mill resident seeking legal means to possess and shoot handguns.

He is a U.S. law enforcement officer, of many years' standing, who was born in Puerto Rico.

A background check? Come, now!
 Cartagena adds that he hopes the
 NRA "will come down here to fight

such gun laws."

You handgunners; aren't you glad you don't live in Puerto





## QUICK QUIZ

#### By Len Davis

Here are 10 true or false statements developed from recent issues of the American Handgunner. If you get seven or more right, you win the Careful Reader Award and a tip o' the hat from Editorial Director Jerry Rakusan. Answers are on page 38.

(1) The tighter the cartridge case crimp, the higher the pressure and the higher the point of impact.

(2) The Jet is a .38 Special cartridge necked to .22 caliber.

(3) The Weaver stance is so named because the front sight weaves across the target.

(4) The custom XP-100 is by far the most popular unlimited handgun for silhouette shooting.

(5) New holsters by Bill Rogers may be the ultimate for .45 autos.

(6) The .32 S&W Long cartridge is used in international pistol competition because of its relatively light recoil.

(7) The Colt Single Action Army revolver was introduced in 1973.

(8) The newest High Standard .22 pistol is its Model HD. (T)

(9) PPC revolvers leave much to be desired, in terms of basic accuracy.

(10) Detonics has produced two new autos and a big, hinged-frame revolver-a la the famous British Webley.

#### (T) (F)

(T) (F)

#### **INFO 'QUICKIE'**

Remember Lucy Chambliss, who used to write the American Handgunner column, Sight Settings? Even though she has retired from fulltime writing, none of us can forget that she was U.S. National Woman Champion (with the handgun, at Camp Perry) in 1954, 1960 and 1961. Great shooting, Lucy!

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### Blocker rig cuts cross-draw time

The Mickey Fowler Speedmaster crossdraw rig is the newest product put out by Ted Blocker Custom Holsters of Rosemead, California.

Fowler asked Blocker to produce a holster that would reduce cross-draw time, essential in combat pistol competition, in which Fowler reigns supreme.

"We accomplished this," said Blocker, "by lowering the front of the holster to a bare minimum, without moving or losing the efficiency of the tension device."

Blocker also added a new belt-slot system with built-in belt guides and adjusting screws, which eliminates all belt-to-holster movement.



It also raises the holster 1½ inches, which helps reduce draw time.

The Speedmaster rig of Champions is available with conventional fold-over belt loop, for either strong side or crossdraw use, at no additional charge.

Each rig comes with a holster that features an 18-gauge steel liner, adjustable tension device, metal-lined hip plate, double stitching for durability, and deep, wide sight rails; in addition, there's a fully-contoured belt of doublethick, full-grain cowhide, and the company's *Tef-Lok* magazine pouch. Prices range from \$127 to \$190, depending upon finish.

Holsters, belts and pouches are also sold separately, in three different finishes/prices.

Rigs are available for the Colt Commander, Colt Government Model, Colt Gold Cup, Browning High Power, AMT Hard-Baller, pin guns and six-or seven-inch long slide autos.

Blocker makes holsters also for guns with compensators, Bo-Mar ribs (and others) at no additional charge.

For more information, write to the company (POB 821, Dept. AH, Rosemead, CA 91770) or International Shootists, Inc., POB 5254 (Dept. AH), Mission Hills, CA 91345.

**INFO 'QUICKIE'** One of the best manuals on handgun shooting is Gil Hebard's *Pistol Shooter's Treasury*. For info and price, write to him in Knoxville, Illinois 61448.



### Super Vel,<sup>®</sup> leading developer of the hollow point cartridge, is now producing a full line of 380, 9mm, 38+P, 357 MAG, 44 MAG, and 45 ACP Ammunition at its new plant. Join the ranks of sportsmen and marksmen who know the Super Vel<sup>®</sup> difference! <u>Available to dealers by the box and case</u>. Examples of the unique Super Vel<sup>®</sup> cartridges include:

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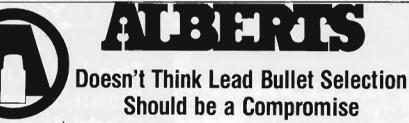
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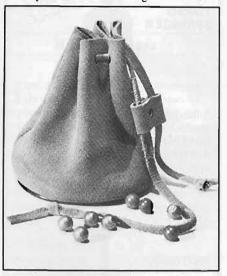


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### Cartridge shooters can use black powder gear

Those neat leather possibles bags and bullet bags made by Michaels of Oregon for black powder shooters have another purpose-not advertised by the company... They're ideal for cartridge shooters,



too. For example, they are great for loose rounds, empty cases, cleaning brushes/ rod tips, small screwdrivers, a stop watch, black and white target pasters, cleaning patches, feeler gauges for revolver cylinder gap measurement, a pocket knife, shot plug (for determining close values on paper targets), half-moon clips for the S&W M25 .45 ACP revolver and earplugs.

For more information, contact Jack Durrett, Vice President/Marketing, Michaels of Oregon Co. (Dept. AH), POB 13010, Portland, OR 97213.



(1) **True**.

- (2) False. Change .38 Special to .357 Magnum.
- (3) False. The Weaver stance was named for its popularizer, if not originator, Jack Weaver, a deputy sheriff from Lancaster, California. He was one of the early proponents of a two-hand combat grip.
- (4) True.
- (5) True.
- (6) True.
- (7) False. Change the 1973 to 1873.
- (8) False. The company's Model HD was produced between 1941 and 1951.
- (9) False. Some 50 years of trial and error by shooters and pistolsmiths have resulted in near total perfection.
   (10) True.

THE

# NEW BOOKS

We have reviewed dozens of gun books over the years, which we would rate on a scale of 1-to-10.

The book we are reviewing in this issue of the *American Handgunner* rates a positive 10, in every respect.

It is Life Without Fear, by Mike Dalton and Mickey Fowler, two of the nation's leading combat pistol shooters.

The most informative guide ever written on self-defense, it was written for all who believe in their right to survive a legal confrontation.

The authors have researched and tailored this subject to meet the unique needs of personal self-defense. The result is a 218-page book that covers every aspect of the subject-legal requirements, recommended equipment, mental conditioning and various areas of planning for home security.

Life Without Fear is written in such a way as to appeal not only to the novice, but also to the more experienced gun owner.

The chapter, "Basic Shooting Styles and Techniques," alone is worth the price of the book. It is a masterpiece of information, complete with 88 captioned photographs.

Every chapter-there are nine-is profusely illustrated by photographs

Bunnl

taken by Ichiro Nagata of Benecia, California. Nagata is recognized worldwide as a superlative photographer of firearms.

The book's "Resource Guide" contains the names and addresses of manufacturers and suppliers of handguns and handgun accessories, along with pistolsmiths and makers of custom parts.

There's also an excellent "Glossary of Terms" and a page devoted to revolver and semi-automatic pistol nomenclature.



Life Without Fear was introduced to the public April 9 at a special autographing party held at the Poway Gun Works in Poway, California.

Co-owners Ray Peet and Bill Simpson hosted the affair for Fowler and Dalton.

Fowler, a three-time Bianchi Cup champion, holder of the prestigious Combat Master rating, all-time top money winner in practical pistol competition and 1979 U.S. National Combat Shooting Champion is recognized as the top professional pistol shooter in the world today.

Dalton has been one of the most consistent top competition shooters in the world for many years. He is a four-time *Southwest Pistol League* champion, holds the prestigious rank of Combat Master, is a two-time member of the U.S. World Combat Shooting Team and holds numerous national and international records.

Both men operate the world renowned International Shootists, Inc. training school (POB 5254, Mission Hills, CA 91345), which has produced more world class shooters than any other training facility. Their courses have attracted students from all over the world, providing them with the best possible handgun training available anywhere.

Life Without Fear sells for \$9.95 (soft cover), \$14.95 (hard cover) and \$19.95 (autographed, numbered hard cover). Postage and handling is \$2. California residents should add 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> percent tax.

Copies may be ordered directly from International Shootists. Dealer and quantity discounts are available.

This is a must book for every owner of a handgun. (L.D.)

1983 HANDGUNNER ANNUAL Now on your newsstand!

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Also new from Burris in 1983 is the 7X Intermediate Eye Relief scope designed – especially for the precision shooting handgunner.

For 1983 catalog send 50¢ to Burris Co., P.O. Box 1747, Greeley, CO 80632

Mickey Fowler wins by a whisker in a field of 198 competitors, and takes away \$7,500 in cash and prizes.

NICKE



Mickey Fowler, the world's leading professional combat handgun shooter, came from behind in the last two stages of the grueling five-stage Steel Challenge pistol tournament April 14-16 at Canyon Country, California to win the coveted first place and \$7,500 in a field of 198 shooters from 18 states, Guam and Canada.

Right on his heels down to the final shots of the tournament was John Shaw, another top-ranking professional shooter, who fired a 74.21-just a whisker behind Fowler's 73.97 (scores are based on speed and accuracy). Shaw was the 1981 winner.

The two-day match was held on Wes Thompson's Juniper Tree range, less than an hour's drive north of downtown Los Angeles, in weather that was made to

### By Len Davis

order for the men, women and childrenyes, children-who competed in what has become-in only three years-the créme de la créme of combat pistol/revolver shooting: the World Speed Shooting Championship.

The match was sponsored by the Southwest Pistol League (SWPL), a non-profit organization headquartered in La Crescenta, California.

The match purse totaled more than \$100,000 in cash and prizes donated by the SWPL and the manufacturers/distributors of guns, ammunition and accessories (last year, the purse was more than \$62,000, distributed among 154 competitors).

Of the 198 competitors who finished the tournament this year, 19 were women (10 last year), 19 fired revolvers (eight last year), and 12 were sworn law enforcement officers (eight last year). Half of the lawmen were from the Los Angeles Police Department.

outhwest Pistol League

Names and scores of the top 20 competitors are carried elsewhere in this story.

The two youngest shooters were ages 12 and 14 (see profile).

#### PLAXCO STILL FORMIDABLE

Last year's winner of the *Steel Challenge* tournament was J. Michael Plaxco of Roland, Arkansas. He placed 6th this year with a score of 75.79.

High police score (86.08) was fired by Mark Moore of the Wilkes County (Georgia) Sheriff's Office. He placed 32nd, using a .45 auto.

High woman scorer was Linda Zubiena



The Steel Challenge match features high spectator appeal.

of North Hollywood, California (see profile). She fired a 98.48 for 77th place.

High revolver score (86.66) was fired by Fred Wardell of the Maricopa County (Arizona) Sheriff's Office. He placed 35th with a six-inch barrel Smith & Wesson M586, with a Millett rear sight and a Frank Glenn action job. Glenn is with the Arizona Department of Public Safety in Phoenix. Wardell was also high revolver shooter last year (using a four-inch barrel Colt Python duty gun!)



Mickey Fowler took home many fine prizes for his excellent shooting prowess.

Close behind Wardell, also using revolvers, were two Los Angeles Police Department shooters-Officer John Pride, a firearms instructor at the LAPD Academy, and Officer Fred Romero, a "street cop." Pride fired 87.15 for 38th place; Romero 89.94 for 49th place.

Pride was the first competitor to fire an Aimpoint sight (Mark III) in the Steel Challenge match. It was mounted on a

## **TOP 20**

1. Mickey Fowler (California)	73.97
2. John Shaw (Tennessee)	74.21
3. Brian Enos (Arizona)	75.41
4. Bill Wilson (Arkansas)	75.54
5. Jim Zubiena (California)	75.68
6. Mike Plaxco (Arkansas)	75.79
7. Nick Pruitt (California)	76.40
8. Rob Leatham (Arizona)	76.44
9. Chip McCormick (Texas)	76.85
10. Ray Neal (California)	77.94
11. Jeff Wassom (Texas)	78.12
12. Tom Campbell	
(Massachusetts)	78.17
13. Jim Vaughan (California)	78.38
14. John Sayle (Ohio)	78.62
15. Rick Castelow (Tennessee)	78.96
16. Mike Fichman (California)	79.31
17. John Dixon (Texas)	79.31
18. Mike Dalton (California)	79.52
19. William Rogers (Florida)	80.67
20. Lee Souter (Arizona)	81.25

Smith & Wesson Ml4 four-screw wheel gun (made in the 1940s) with a six-inch heavy Douglas barrel (114-inch) and an aluminum ramp designed for the Aimpoint sight by Bill Jarvis of Huntington Beach, California, a former California Highway Patrol officer.

High international shooter was Jeff Nelson of Guam. He fired 85.38 for 29th place.

This year there were five quick drawand-fire stages-one more than last yearon steel targets (round and rectangular), placed at ranges from seven to 40 yards. Each competitor fired a minimum of 100 rounds (75 last year) during the tournament.

#### WILL TO WIN

The name of the game for shooters was a combination of speed, accuracy, firepower, intense concentration-and the will to win.

Match director Jack Breskovich did an outstanding job in making sure that all safety precautions were followed, to the letter, and firing schedules adhered to, as closely as possible. His astuteness in conducting the match was perhaps best described by one comment echoed throughout the ranks of competitors: "a smoothrunning shoot, from start to finish."

Winners of the five individual match stages, their sponsors and times in seconds, along with last year's winning times (in parentheses), were:



Spectators and shooters alike keep tabs on match results on this billboard.

Flying M: Colt, Mickey Fowler, 9.46 (9.63).

Speed Option: Sturm, Ruger & Co., Rick Castelow, 7.22 (8.08).

Double Trouble: Devel Corporation, Chip McCormick, 9.50 (9.06).

Five to Go: Rogers Holsters, Chip Mc-Cormick, 12.88 (13.98).

Outer Limits: (a new stage this year): Aimpoint, Mickey Fowler, 24.70.

Going into the Outer Limits stage, the toughest of the Steel Challenge course, the difference between Fowler and Shaw was only .37 second, in favor of Shaw. It was the event that decided the match. Both shooters fired the two highest scores in this stage; but Shaw's 25.31 wasn't fast enough, and he dropped into second place, just .24 second behind Fowler in the overall tally.

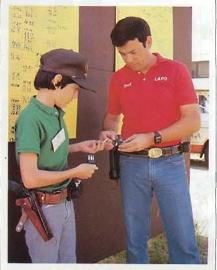
Shaw fired the Outer Limits stage first. So Fowler knew exactly what he had to

# TWO YOUNGEST SHOOTERS

he 1983 Steel Challenge match featured a Mutt and Jeff combo in the form of Nicky Mook (4-foot-6; 76 pounds) and Alan Jenkins (6-foot; 150 pounds).

But that isn't the whole story, just part of it.

The rest is that Nicky, 12, and Alan, 14, were the youngest competitors in a field of 198.



Los Angeles Police Officer Fred Romero gives advice to Nicky Mook.

Both finished the 100-shot match, although their scores were off-the-mark, due primarily to a basic lack of experience, compared with their fellow competitors.

"But wait 'til next year!" they both echoed.

Nicky, who lives in Encino, California, has been shooting since he was 7.



Alan Jenkins gets a few pointers from SWPL executive Mike Fichman.

In terms of competitive marksmanship, however, he's been at it only about six months-with a revolver. Continued on page 74

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shoot to win the tournament. The pressure on him in the last few minutes of the twoday match was terrific. He had never won the *Steel Challenge* match (he placed 4th last year).

"Fowler on the line!" the range officer ordered.

The 35-year-old "pro" from Canyon Country-site of the match-stepped up to the firing line, adjusted his Clark Pin Gun with the Advantage Grip System in his Ted Blocker Speedmaster cross-draw holster, shook his wrists and raised his hands close beside his head.

He indicated he was ready.

#### LONGEST RANGE OF MATCH

At the starting signal, he drew his customized .45 auto with its 33-ounce trigger pull (by Advantage's Jack Breskovich) and engaged the steel plates at 25 and 40 yards (the longest range of the tournament).

With the gun's safety on and finger outside the trigger guard, Fowler moved quickly to the opposite side of the shooting box, where he engaged the 25- and 40-yard targets on that side of the centerline, and then fired on the stop plate at 20 yards.

He repeated the course five times, the best four runs being his final score.

Out came the calculator.

It was all over. Fowler had won another big one, added another trophy to his burgeoning collection of evidence that he is truly the *top* professional pistol shooter in the world today.

Readers of the American Handgunner may be interested in knowing that his winning load was a 200-grain H&G #68 bullet, ahead of five grains of WW 231 powder.

Overall scores were tallied after the first two days of shooting. As a result, team scores were announced. High four-man aggregate was won by the Cannon Safe-International Shootists team, consisting of Fowler, Mike Dalton, Mike Fichman and Jim Zubiena. The team is undefeated in several years of major competition.

The third day was devoted to two-man team shootoffs on *knockdown* steel targets at ranges of 7, 15, 20 and 25 yards.

Sixteen teams were formed from the 32 highest overall shooters, all of whom fired semi-automatic pistols (both customized and out-of-the-box) in a blaze of superspeed and amazing accuracy.

The Fort Knox Security Safes team championship was won by Tom Campbell and Jeff Wassom; they averaged 4.5-second runs.

The best single run of 3.94 seconds was turned in by Rob Leatham and Nick Pruitt.

#### **GREAT SPECTATOR APPEAL**

In terms of basic spectator appeal, this was the high point of the tournament, although the five-stages of individual shooting on *stationary* steel targets also drew large crowds of onlookers, who viewed the

# TOP WOMAN SHOOTER

W ith crime on the rise, every woman in the United States should take a course in home-defense shooting and learn the basics of handgun marksmanship, safety precautions and the definition of lethal force in her community.

That's the opinion of Georgia-born Linda Zubiena of North Hollywood, California, high woman scorer in the 1983 Steel Challenge tournament.

She fired a 98.48 for 77th place in a field of 198 competitors, 19 of whom were women.

Her husband, Jim, placed 5th with a 75.68 (last year he was 9th).

In the Double Trouble stage, Linda beat three of the top 20 shooters: Brian Enos, Jim Vaughan and William Rogers.

When Linda isn't practicing, honing

her skills with the .45 auto, she is acting and modeling-or doing commercials for some pretty big name advertisers. Continued on page 75



# HOLSTERS, GUNS, GUNSMITHS OF THE TOP 20 COMPETITORS

3. Brian Enos	Blocker-X Davis-Shaw Davis Rogers	6" Pin gun Pin gun Clark barrel Pin gun Accu-Comp Bar-Sto barrel Pin gun	Jim Clark, LA Jack Breskovich, CA Jim Clark, LA Bill Wilson, AR
3. Brian Enos	Davis	Clark barrel Pin gun Accu-Comp Bar-Sto barrel	Jim Clark, LA
		Pin gun Accu-Comp Bar-Sto barrel	Bill Wilson, AR
4. Bill Wilson	Rogers		
		Accu-Comp Bar-Sto barrel	Bill Wilson, AR
5. Jim Zubiena	Blocker-X	Pin gun 6¼" Bar-Sto	Mac's .45 Shop, CA
6. Mike Plaxco	Rogers	Plaxco compensator Bar-Sto barrel	Mike Plaxco, AR
7. Nick Pruitt	Davis-X	Pin gun 6" Bar-Sto barrel	Bill Donovan, CA
8. Rob Leatham	Davis	Pin gun Accu-Comp Bar-Sto barrel	Bill Wilson, AR
9. Chip McCormick	Rogers	Pin gun Bar-Sto barrel Devel muzzle brake	Devel, OH
10. Ray Neal	Davis-X	Colt/Neal pin gun 6" Bar-Sto	Bill Donovan, CA
11. Jeff Wassom	Rogers	Devel Gammon 8-rd. mag.	Not provided
12. Tom Campbell	Rogers	S&W prototype (M59) S&W 6" barrel	Tom Campbell, MA
13. Jim Vaughan	Bianchi-X	7" custom stain. 8½" sight radius	Oliver Smith, CA
14. John G. Sayle	Davis-X	Pin gun Accu-Comp	Bill Wilson, AR
15. Rick Castelow	Rogers	6" pin gun Bar-Sto barrel	Autoshop, CA
16. Mike Fichman	Blocker-X	6" long slide	Boland, CA
	Rogers	Plaxco compensator	Joe Hesakker, TX
	Blocker-X	6%" pin gun	Jim Clark, LA
19. Bill Rogers	Rogers	Plaxco compensator Plaxco barrel (NAPCO) Pin gun	Self-built
20. Lee Souter	Davis	5" pin gun	Guy Hammond- Don Jeter, AZ
X: Crossdraw Holster "score": Rogers			

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER · SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1983

.ction from well-constructed bleachers provided by the Southwest Pistol League.

Non-shooters were able to identify hits on the steel targets, both audibly and visually (all targets were painted white and repainted for each shooter).

"Next year we hope to have an array of large digital clocks positioned just behind the firing line, so spectators will be able at a glance—to track the performance of each shooter," Mike Fichman, executive director of the SWPL, told the American Handgunner.

Watching the shooters go through their paces over the five stages of fire and in the team shootoffs were several hundred spectators from virtually all walks of life and representing a broad spectrum of ages, ranging from pre-teenagers to men and women in their 70s.

Each competitor fired two or three stages each day, shooting five times over each stage. His four highest scores—or times—at each stage were averaged to comprise his five-stage, two-day total score, *plus* any penalties imposed.

Following are descriptions of each of the five stages:

Flying M: The shooter stands with one foot touching the starting line of the 16foot foul line. At a signal, he runs toward the end of the foul line, knocks over a tin can from a rest placed three feet above the ground with his gun-drawing hand before touching his holstered pistol. He then turns down range, draws his gun and places at least one hit on three targets (two 18x24inch rectangle and one 12-inch round) from outside the foul pole. The rectangles may be hit in any sequence, but the round impact target must be the last one hit.

### FIVE-SECOND PENALTY

If the shooter fails to hit the impact target to stop the timer, he receives an automatic 20-second string. A five-second penalty is charged for each of the rectangles not hit, a premature start and for touching the pistol with the gun hand before knocking over the can.

Ranges: 7, 10 and 15 yards.

Speed Option: The stage is so named because contestants have the option of shooting an extra target for a bonus (two seconds deducted from time). The shooter stands facing the targets (same size as Flying M course). At the signal, he draws and fires at three round plates, placed at 8, 10 and 15 yards. A round plate at 25 yards is an optional target and does not have to be hit. The bonus is awarded only once in each string, and then only if all other (3) round plates, and the rectangle stop plate are hit in the string. The four round plates may be fired in any order. But the shooter must fire at the rectangle plate (at 35 yards) last. Failure to hit the rectangle, and stop the timer, automatically gives the shooter a 30-second string. A five-second penalty is imposed for each premature start, and for each of the mandatory targets not hit.

Continued on page 70

## **SOUTHWEST PISTOL LEAGUE**

The Southwest Pistol League was organized in 1963 by Jeff Cooper, now head of the American Pistol Institute in Paulden, Arizona.

A major breakthrough in its activities took place in 1980, when Mike Dalton and Mike Fichman came up with the idea of holding the first *Steel Challenge* match in 1981.



Mike Dalton, left, and Mike Fichman discuss plans for the SWPL.

All they had to work with in the SWPL coffers was \$2,000; but they went ahead anyway and put together the 1981 tournament, which attracted 127 shooters and produced a purse of \$20,000.

The following year, there were 154 competitors and the purse totaled a little more than \$62,000.

# LASER GUN FIRED FOR FIRST TIME IN STEEL CHALLENGE

That was not a Buck Rogers gun being shot in the Steel Challenge match this year.

It was a helium-neon laser sight mounted on a customized .45 auto and fired by James Anthony, president of Anthony Research, Inc. of Beverly Hills, California, its designer.

Weighing a little more than four pounds, about the size of an elongated shoe box-but considerably narrowerthe aluminum prototype uses 12-volt batteries and a converter to ignite the plasma tube and create the laser beam.

Using a special pair of helium-neon glasses, with mirrors on the outside of the lenses to reflect light (everything yiewed is red), all a shooter has to do is point the gun in the general direction of the target, touch the trigger, look for the red dot—the laser beam—put the dot where you want the bullet to strike, squeeze off the trigger and *voilá*, a bullseye! This year, competitors numbered 198 and they vied for a purse of more than \$100,000.

The SWPL, a non-profit organization, depends entirely upon volunteer help and financial assistance from the manufacturers/distributors of guns, ammunition and accessories; all benefit greatly from the sound liaison.

Purse money for the Steel Challenge tournaments comes from match fees and a wide range of cash contributors, in addition to those individuals and companies that donate prizes for various categories of winners.

Dalton was editor of the SWPL's monthly journal in 1977 and 1978; Fichman was its editor in 1979 and 1980; Craig Gifford in 1981 and 1982. Paul Christel is the current editor of the league's publication.

#### MONTHLY MATCHES

Of the 400 some-odd members of the SWPL, approximately 10 percent are women.

The league holds matches each month on Wes Thompson's Juniper Tree range in Canyon Country.

During the early days of the Dalton-Fichman combine, there were about 70 shooters registered for each month's match; today, that figure has risen to more than 140.

Dalton was executive director of the Continued on page 77

It requires no "sighting," as such. The gun and laser device are amazingly accurate even when fired from the hipright out to a range of 50 yards.

Continued on page 76



As a police officer, I feel compelled to make some introductory comments before going into a discussion on instinctive point shooting.

This type of handgunning is designed to take the life of another, and has no place in the sport of hunting or competitive shooting.

Carrying a sidearm is *not* a passport guaranteeing safe passage. It demands that you use your head and practice cautious awareness in your daily travels. A gun is an instrument of last resort and should *only* be considered when your life, or the life of another, is at stake. *Never* use one to challenge others, or to prevent the loss of personal property.

The best place to begin point shooting is with the act of picking up and holding a handgun—a revolver, because I believe it to be the best gun for self-defense.

When properly held, a handgun should feel like an extension of your hand and point naturally at the target. To accomplish this, it is important that your grip be high on the backstrap. This allows the trigger to be pulled as smoothly as possible. Too low a grip could result in low bullet strikes, due to excessive downward pressure on the trigger.

Now, insert the trigger finger to the first joint. If you go beyond that point there is a tendency to push the gun to the side. If you use too little of your finger, it will cause undue effort in pulling the trigger.

Finally, lock your thumb down so it touches the middle finger of the same hand.

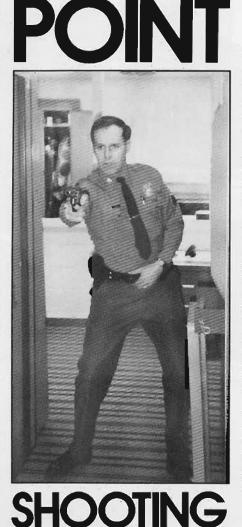
A two-hand hold should be used at distances greater than 20 feet for maximum accuracy. Hold the revolver, as previously mentioned. You will notice an indentation in your wrist, just behind the thumb. Put the tip of your weak hand thumb into it. Then, reach around with the remaining fingers and grab as much of the gun as you can.

Many shooters anticipate recoil and compensate for it by pushing one hand forward. This action tips the barrel down, causing a low shot. By putting the thumb into this pocket you restrict the forward movement of the wrist. Try ii. Hold the revolver with one hand. While keeping your forearm still, move the barrel up and down, bending at the wrist. Now, take your free hand, put the thumb into that wrist pocket, and hold it firmly. You should notice a considerable restriction in vertical movement.

Involving the so-called weak hand also gives added support, and controls windage by restricting horizontal movements.

### **KEEP BOTH EYES OPEN**

Closing one eye is fine for the target shooter, but this practice has no place in instinctive point shooting. In any hazardous confrontation, there is a tendency toward tunnel vision, because all senses focus on the present danger. It would be foolish to further reduce your peripheral



By David A. Wilson Lt., Trumbull (Conn.) Police Dept.

Veteran police officer gives tips; says revolver is best for self-defense and recommends 'fingerpointing' exercise.

vision by closing one eye.

Ideally, the shooter should place his feet shoulder-width apart, with his weight distributed equally before firing. Whether to bend at the knees seems to be a matter of personal preference. The problem, however, is that there isn't always time to get into an ideal shooting stance. You may be in the middle of a flight of stairs, or sitting in a car when the moment of truth arrives.

You must now prepare yourself to shoot,

with some degree of accuracy, in any direction and from whatever position you may happen to be in at the time.

From a standing position you have several options. They include wrist-on-hip, elbow-on-hip, extended point and twohand point shoulder. Let's examine each.

The wrist-on-hip position is commonly used in close quarters. When inside a building (with gun drawn), you instinctively pull the gun close to your body before entering a room. You don't want your gun to pass through a doorway before you have a chance to look around. If you stick the barrel out too far, someone is likely to take the gun from you.

The elbow-in-hip position is most frequently used when anticipating trouble. If the situation warrants a drawn gun, this is the way to approach it: When you spot your adversary, you'll probably go into an extended point or two-hand point shoulder position. But, until then, the approach should be made with the gun held lower. There is a very good reason for this. If the gun is raised to eye level you find yourself concentrating in the direction of the point. Holding on or near the waist reduces tunnel vision, and opens up a 180-degree field of view.

Often our weak hand is preoccupied with the tools and packages of daily life. In these situations, it is often impossible to take up a two-hand shooting position. You could drop your burden, whatever it is; but in so doing, you may be throwing away a potential shield.

For instinctive point shooting I like a modified shortstop stance, and a one-hand hold on the gun. At close range, it is extremely effective on the target and, if the need arises, I can move away-fast.

The extended one-hand point is also the most natural position you can go into. With practice, you'll be able to point a handgun with speed and accuracy, until now, reserved for your index finger only.

#### **TRY FINGER-POINTING**

Try a simple exercise. Look around the room and pick out a target. It could be a table lamp, door handle or wall clock. Raise your hand and point a finger at it. Move to another target and try it again. After several times, you'll become aware of your finger-pointing accuracy. Now, imagine for a moment that this finger of yours is capable of firing a bullet. All that remains is to replace the finger with a handgun barrel. With a little practice, you soon will become a proficient point-shooter.

Before going off to the range you might want to check out your grip, stance, and position. Stand in front of a full-length mirror (with an empty gun) and slowly practice your draw and point. By looking at yourself, you will know immediately if the shot would have been good.

Of all the shooting positions, the twohand point shoulder is the most popular. It offers speed and accuracy for the

Continued on page 86

### By Stanley W. Trzoniec

Of all the features on any handgun made today, the sights, in all probability, are of the least concern to most shooters.

Why? Because, just as we expect a good transmission with every car, we have grown to expect a good set of adjustable rear sights on any handgun not needed for such activities as undercover work or military applications.

For most plainclothes or service guns, adjustable rear sights are not vital for quick, point-type shooting. Close encounter shootoffs under seven yards require reflexes fast enough to beat a cat, with precise accuracy secondary as long as it is sufficient to knock the assailant off his pins, or disable him for a few milliseconds while you get off the second or third shot.

Armed forces often list their requirements with handguns to the point of "battle ready and able." They want a weapon designed to withstand the rigors of combat—with no frills or nonsense—just good and reliable.

We are now left with the sportsman, target shooter and plinkers who want good adjustable sights that allow them to zero-in a gun to a particular load. This, in turn, gives them the necessary confidence; knowing that when the bullet leaves the muzzle it will fly true to the target or game.

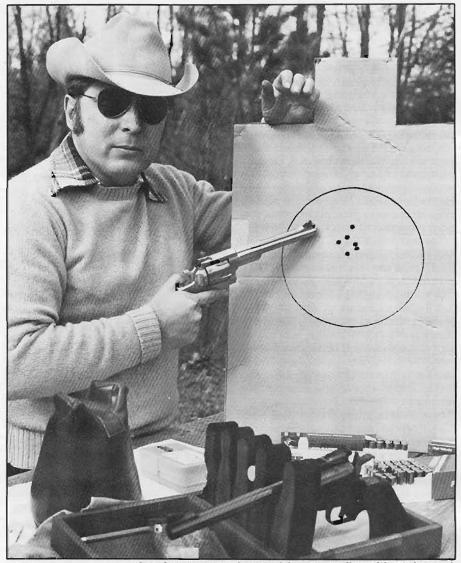
Let's take a closer look at what's coming through as standard equipment on today's modern handguns. Although it's precise enough to satisfy the whims of 90 percent of all shooters, there *is* room for specialized gear.

### SMITH & WESSON

I'll start with the General Motors of handgun makers—Smith and Wesson. Since there is no definitive date on when exactly adjustable sights came into being, I checked the *History of Smith and Wesson* by Roy Jinks and couldn't find anything in writing there either. What I did notice however, were photos of some of the older models going back to the turn of the century. Although it seemed they did not have elevation adjustments, windage was accomplished by simply turning a screw on either side of the revolver frame.

Today, the picture has changed drastically. On all S&W revolvers, the sight machine is clear, precise and with no sloppiness anywhere. Blade width is .635 inches, with the notch going about .125 inches. Depending on the front sight, this seems to be a good combination for most shooting duties.

White outline blades seem to be on the upswing among heavy shooters, and Smith supplies most of its magnums with them; they're optional on others. To illustrate its popularity, I recently ordered a S&W M586 for field testing and was promptly notified by their PR man, Bill Clede, that because of my desire to have a white outline, I would have to wait another couple



Good groups require precision rear adjustable sights such as those on this Ruger Redhawk held by author Trzoniec.

# FACTORY-INSTALLED REAR SIGHTS

They fill the bill for most shooting needs. For special requirements, there are many excellent custom sights now being manufactured.

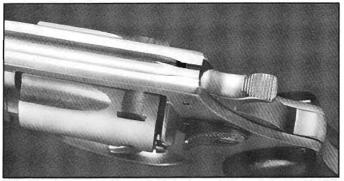
of weeks for this option.

Response is positive on all the guns I own or have tested. To change the impact one must move the rear sight in the direction you want the group to move on the target. Each click moves the POI (point of impact) about %-inch in elevation; ¼-inch windage at 50 yards, and half that amount at 25 yards.

Over the years, much criticism was leveled at S&W for not having an elevation adjustment on its 9mm autos in the M39 and M59 class. For a while, manufacturing brought out a replacement sight that did fill the bill for windage and elevation.

It was however, an interim part at bestand looked it.

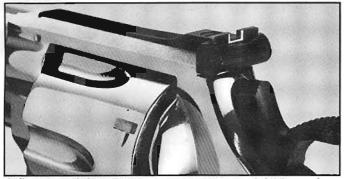
Since then, Smith has changed the whole rear sight assembly for the new generation guns in its models 439/59, 539/59 and 639/59. Designed to look like *Continued on page 79* 



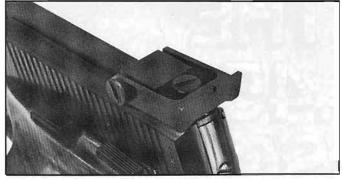
Charter Arms revolver sight is for quick-point situations. Browning Medalist (discontinued) has easy-to-adjust screws.



Rear sight on the T/C Contender Super 14 is outstanding.



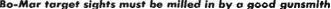
A fine rear sight is this one on the S&W Model 29 revolver. Bo-Mar target sights must be milled in by a good gunsmith.





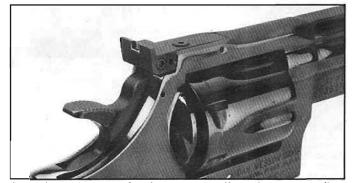
The rear sight on this Beretta is designed for rugged use.



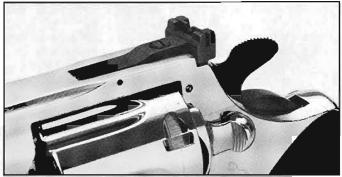


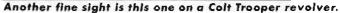


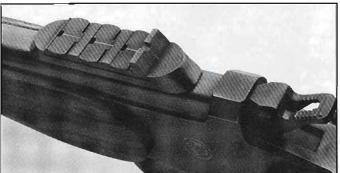
Rear sights on all Ruger revolvers are strong and reliable.



Dan Wesson rear sights feature excellent design, rigidity. This special rear sight is installed on a Jurras "Howdah."







# 12 AUTO RP (ON / TRAPPER GUNS, INC.

### By Len Davis

Remember that 9mm Scorpion Gun of the Month we wrote about in the March/April issue of the American Handgunner?

Well, we have another for some lucky winner-this one in .45 ACP caliber.

This month's beautiful little hand cannon, designed and customized by Trapper Gun, Inc., started out as an all-steel Colt Combat Commander, out of the box.

Several major design changes were made by Lin (Trapper) Alexiou, who founded Trapper Guns (18717 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026) in 1969.

These include the installation of black Delrin grips and a Millett adjustable rear sight, throating the barrel and polishing the loading ramp for easy feeding of all type ammo, stippling the front and back grip areas for maximum control during firing and giving the frame and slide a satinnickel finish.

A unique system, designed by Trapper, helps reduce recoil of the shortbarrel (31/2 inches) auto.

The tough, satin-nickel finish-both inside and out-is non-glare and noncorrosive; its durability will never show holster wear.

The safety lever, slide release, trigger and grip tang are finished in a dull finish blue.

The Scorpion offers maximum concealment with full power, which makes it ideal as a police undercover or home-defense gun.

I did considerable dry-firing with this fine gun and found it has excellent balance and points naturally.

Alexiou tells us that all of the guns he customizes-it takes about three weeks-are put through a rigid accuracy test before they leave his shop.

"Any custom auto we build," he told the American Handgunner, "will always take its original magazine, along with any special magazine built for it.

"You gain peace of mind knowing you can fire several different magazines without any malfunctions," he added.

The gun comes with two magazines in an attractive, felt-lined, leather-like case, complete with lock and key.

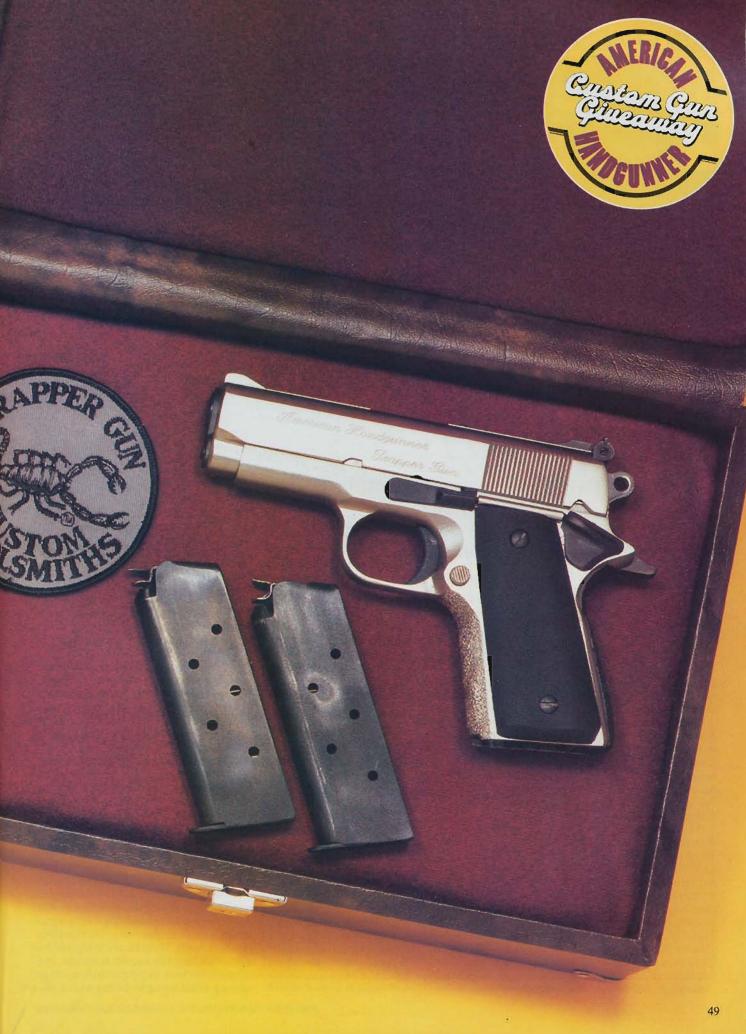
The lucky winner of the Gun of the Month will have himself (or herself) a fine combat handgun, which lists for around \$800. Price includes initial cost of the Colt Commander, plus the customizing work done by Alexiou (around \$410).



TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM-S/O, local dealer name and address. Mail before October 1, 1983. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116.



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.



# GUN GRABBERS BEWARE!

# **POLICE DUTY HOLSTERS**



### By Trooper First Class Steven L. Campbell, Louisiana State Police

As a full-time police officer, I am constantly amazed at the cavalier attitude displayed by some of my colleagues toward their personal equipment.

I once observed a uniformed, on-duty deputy take delivery of a brand-new S&W revolver at a retail outlet. He removed the pistol from its box and loaded it from the reserve ammunition on his belt. He then put his duty gun in the box, strapped the new gun into his holster, got back into his marked car and went to work.

If I hadn't been standing there watching the whole episode, I would never have believed it. He didn't even try the action to see if it worked, much less go to the range and zero-in the piece. I know this man. He is not your basic "good ole' boy" smalltown bumpkin, although such types unfortunately abound in my part of the country. This officer works for a large, wellorganized and well-trained sheriff's office. He is an intelligent, articulate, and outstanding cop.

Although this is the worst example of

indifference regarding personal gear that J have first-hand knowledge of, I could bore you with countless others. The point is that far too many cops, who are otherwise bright and competent, do not pay enough attention to the very items that can mean life or death to them.

### STRONG-SIDE HIP HOLSTERS

are mighty important to police officers-and so are holsters.

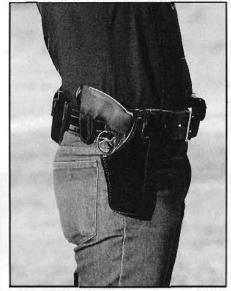
What prompted this article is the successful conclusion to my search for the ideal uniform duty holster. During my years on the job, I have carried or tried out almost every type imaginable. We will confine this discussion to strong-side hip hol-

# Too many cops overlook the importance of something that can mean life or death to them.

Aside from his gun, the most important piece of gear a lawman uses is his holster. I have attended several seminars and numerous pistol matches and have talked with scores of cops from all over the country. One of the least-discussed topics heard at any gathering of policemen is holster design. The reasons for this vary. Some departments, although they are relatively few in number, issue a specific holster and require that it be worn. There is nothing a man can do about that. The general consensus seems to be, however, that just any old holster will do, as long as it is comfortable. Worse still, some officers use a particular type because they saw it on television.

sters. While some agencies, such as the Washington State Patrol and Michigan State Police, still use the cross-draw, I feel that this design has too many drawbacks for uniformed duty use. There are many other lawmen of much more experience than I (notably Bill Jordan) who share this opinion.

The three most critical areas of consideration in a uniform duty holster are accessibility, security, and comfort, in that order. You must be able to present that gun instantly, with no fumbling. On the other hand, it must be held securely in the leather during the varied activities one might encounter during a shift, such as running, climbing or wrestling with a sus-



Safariland Border Patral holster

pect. And last, but certainly not least, it has to be comfortable. A cop's gunbelt is as intimate as his underwear. Eight or more hours is a long time to wear something that doesn't fit properly.

A word about the gun-grabber: Gun retention is more a state-of-mind than anything else. Getting too close to a suspect is inviting him to make the attempt. You should—when possible—maintain enough distance to allow for reaction time. Getting on some wise punk's one-yard line to emphasize your point of view can be a great tension-reliever. I know. I've done it, and so has every other cop at one time or another. That doesn't make it any safer.

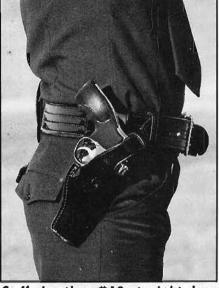
Several excellent systems for thwarting the gun-grabber are being taught today. At best, however, most departmental training programs just lightly touch on this important subject. At worst, they ignore it completely. To be blunt, the majority of America's policemen do not practice gun retention. Veteran criminals, though, practice disarming techniques—regularly.

Most cops take an attitude of "Who needs it?" The sad fact is, we all do. Under stress, a person will do what he has practiced. If the subconscious has no ingrained procedure to fall back on, it will compel you to do one of two things: panic, or take the first action that comes to mind.

#### **KEEP GUN SECURE**

Chuck Taylor's KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle has a real application to holster design. If your holster has a safety strap which you unsnap during impending action and then refasten when the danger is past, sooner or later you're going to forget to snap it back. This is an open invitation to a gun-grabber.

Regardless of your holster design, it should have a thumb break. This device is by far the most efficient method for keeping the gun secure, yet immediately available. As the web of the hand hits the gun's



C. M. Leather #12 straight drop

back strap and the fingers close around the butt, your thumb naturally releases the extended snap, dropping into place for a firm grip as you clear leather. If the strap is properly positioned between hammer spur and frame, the snap must be disengaged before the gun can be removed. Simple, yet effective.

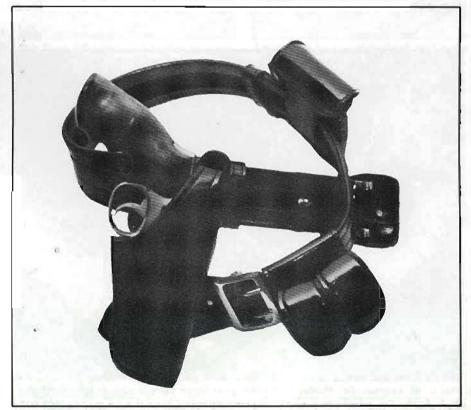
Another mode of retention is the hammer loop, consisting of a leather thong which fits snugly over the hammer spur. This has all the disadvantages of the standard strap, with the added problem of being smaller and much more difficult to manipulate swiftly. I have no doubt that



Safariland #13 forward cant rig

there is someone out there who can demonstrate a very fast draw, using either a strap or a hammer loop. Nevertheless, the fact remains that either method requires two separate hand movements, rather than one fluid stroke.

I recall reading several years ago about one "expert" who curled the end of his safety strap upward and outward. He claimed that this enabled him to "wipe" his hand upward on the holster, releasing the strap while obtaining his grip. No doubt. It also exposes the strap to be snagged and popped loose by any number of things, such as steering wheels and seat



Author's duty rig, made by the C. M. Leather Company of Berryville, Arkansas.

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belt buckles. Why complicate things unnecessarily?

### SNATCH-PROOF HOLSTERS

Spring-loaded front break holsters, pioneered by *Berns-Martin* and refined by *Bianchi* and others, have become quite popular over the past few years. These holsters are slit down the front edge, with spring-steel strips of varying power holding the leather closed. The gun is pushed out through this opening in front rather than drawn from the top. Some manufacturers have claimed their version of this design to be snatch-proof.

We must keep things in perspective. Any holster that is snatch-proof is also drawproof. Take, for instance, one officer who was sitting astride a violent, face-down suspect, preparing to cuff him. The suspect simply reached back, pulled the officer's gun straight out of his front break holster, and managed to fire five wild (and effective) rounds before being subdued.

What is devised by man can be overcome by man. No mechanism is infallible. In his classic work *No Second Place Winner* (which should be required reading for every cop), Bill Jordan expressed his views on the break front design in most eloquent terms. I see no way to improve on these observations, so I'll repeat them here, with Bill's permission.

"Its strongest point is the security with which the weapon is carried. Due to the holster's construction, the gun could not be taken from behind by an assailant and could only be pulled out through the front. It is at its best in locations where the officer must work in thick crowds. In my opinion, its greatest drawbacks are that it does not expose enough of the gun butt or any of



All uniformed NYCPD officers are required to carry this Jay-Pee holster, made by Courtlandt Boot Jack Co., NYC.

the trigger guard; it offers resistance in drawing, followed by complete lack of resistance as the weapon is freed from the retaining springs, making control and alignment difficult; and last, although a minor point, it is homely."

#### FRONT-BREAK DESIGNS

Admittedly, this design offers more security than any other type, but it has its problems. Several deputies with whom I shoot use the *Bianchi Judge*, which is gen-



This C. M. Leather Co. Model 12 holster was worn by a Dallas-Forth Worth Airport Authority motor cop on the day he dumped his bike on a concrete runway. Although badly gouged from the impact and friction, it is still serviceable.

erally considered to be the state-of-the-art among front-break designs. When practicing, we fire the "Vice Presidente" course and other courses requiring a rapid draw from the "surrender position" (hands held at shoulder height). All these officers will, at least once during a practice session, get the gun tangled up so badly that they have to abort that draw. More often than not, they must adjust their grip between draw and trigger squeeze. Reholstering with one hand is also rather difficult-an important consideration when trying to maintain control of a suspect prior to cuffing. Another point is that this design will rapidly take the finish off a blued pistol. How much is that extra bit of security worth?

So far, we have narrowed our ideal holster down to a strong-side, conventional open-top style with a thumb break. All that remains is to choose quality, angle of carry, and the drop, or "reach." Forget about swivel holsters. They are an anachronism from the days when cops were respected by all, and having to pull your gun was front-page news. One of the prime requisites for a smooth, efficient draw is that the gun butt be positioned in the same location at all times. Swivel holsters, when allowed to swivel freely, have been known to turn 180 degrees and hang up. Stay away from them.

Many firms produce police leather these days. Three of the largest-Bianchi, Safariland, and Don Hume-are generally acknowledged to be the leaders in this specialized field. A quick look through their catalogs offers a bewildering variety from which to choose. Keeping our design parameters in mind, however, shrinks the available models down to a dozen or so. These three firms have built their reputations on quality. You can't go wrong with any of their products, at least from a quality standpoint. The other two factors to consider in selection of a duty holsterdrop and angle of carry-are related and require closer study.

#### HOLSTER DROP

The drop, or reach, of a holster is dictated mainly by preference and the way you are built. A cop spends most of his day sitting in a patrol car. The bottom of the holster must clear the seat in order to be comfortable. The gun should be held at an attitude that is conducive to a speed stroke, which brings us to the third prime aspect of a duty holster.

Basically, there are three angles to be examined: muzzle-rearward, muzzle-forward, and perpendicular. Muzzle-rearward is most often seen on the Border Patrol and high-ride types. While this design offers optimum clearance for sitting down in a chair or car seat, its major drawback is that it forces you to begin the draw with an unlocked wrist. This is aggravated in the high-ride, particularly if you are of small stature like me. I wore a *Safariland* #29 high-ride for several months and **INSIDE-THE-URISTBAND HOLDSTEP HOLDSTEP They've been around for many years and haven't** changed much in basic design and application. Belt clips are much improved; so are accessories.

### By Don Shumar

One of the best ways to carry a concealed handgun is in an inside-thewaistband holster.

A large part of the pistol is covered by your pants; what's left is snugged tightly to the body by belt tension, or waistband, if you are wearing beltless slacks. You can use this method of carry with almost any type automatic. Revolvers present the problem of cylinder bulk. Most holster makers offer models that will accommodate revolvers with barrels up to four inches long.

The earliest example of an inside-thewaistband holster in my personal collection was made in the early 1900s for a Colt single-action .45. By the time it came along, most close-to-the-belly guns had evolved into short barrel, double-action revolvers, in calibers .32 to .41.

The holster was originally sold by Sheldon-Payne, a hardware firm that became prosperous by being in the right place (El Paso, Texas) at the right time (turn of the century, when the American frontier was ebbing and the Mexican Revolution was getting into full swing).

It is held in position by an alligator clamp, which apparently someone tried to patent. Since suspenders then were much in style, it attaches to the trousers and works fine with or without a belt. A large flap on the back prevents the owner's shirttail from getting in the way, or snagging the hammer when the shooter reached for his gun.

Like most holsters of that period it was made from soft, lightweight leather.

### MOST ARE CARBON COPIES

Designs haven't changed much in the past years. Today, just about every holster maker in the business offers one of this type, which gives you a clue about their popularity. Most are carbon copies of each other and made with the smooth side in. *Continued on page 82* 



This back-of-the-pouch belt loop helps keep a thin profile; it's very secure.



Soft pouch/metal belt clip type for S&W M60. Can be worn between pants and belt.



Adjustable belt hook swivels and locks to hold the pouch at any desired angle.



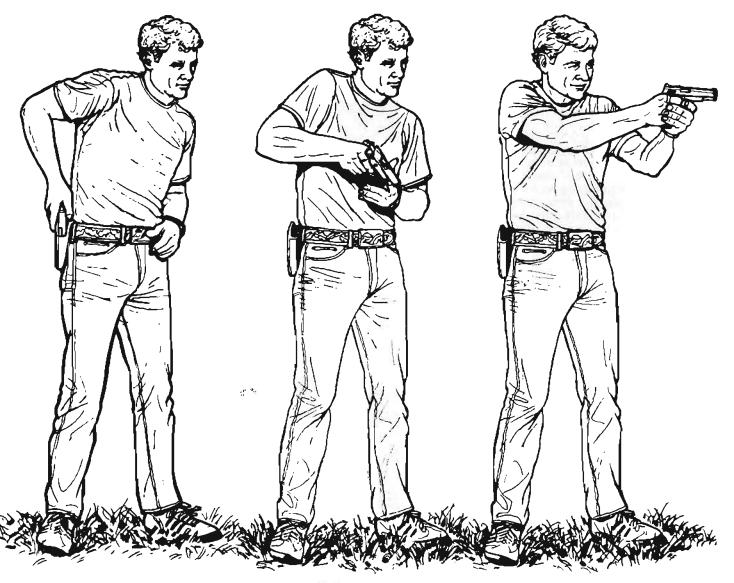
This turn-of-the-century rig has large flap to help keep shirt clear of gun.

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# The Strong Side Draw

The strong side carry is a highly concealable position and is thus especially appropriate for those who must carry a gun every day. It's comfortable, versatile, and unexotic, permitting a draw with the weak hand from behind the back if necessary while still holding the pistol close enough to the body to prevent it from hanging up in the brush, in a doorjamb, or on a barricade. And, contrary to popular belief, it's just as fast as the crossdraw.



ROSS SEYFRIED, Combat Master, 1981 IPSC World Champion, winner of Man vs. Man events at the 1979 IPSC World Championship and the 1979 and '80 IPSC National Championship.

- 1. Begin with a square stance, leaning slightly forward. As the strong hand grasps the pistol...
- 2. ... the weak hand moves toward the pistol, picking it up almost immediately after it leaves the holster.

3. Hands and pistol meet at centerline of body: shoulders are slightly forward of center of gravity, allowing maximum use of body weight and strength to control recail.

# SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!



I was an eerie feeling that came over me as I stood behind the wall, my .45 ready. I had no way of knowing what awaited me when I turned the corner. One thing was clear: the decision was already made; if I saw a gun pointed at me, if my life were threatened, I would shoot. I had made *the* decision about self-defense.

Making that decision was just one of the things I had done since taking a defensive awareness course.

On the final day of field instruction, we were put to the test. As Dick Brooks, our instructor said, "Our mental preparedness can either help us avoid difficulty, or allow By Linda Knab

The name of the game is awareness. It takes good instructors and serious-minded students – both men and women – to make it all meaningful. us to be totally surprised-unable to deal with a crisis situation."

So there I was, mentally prepared to confront an unknown situation. He blew the whistle, I stepped around the corner. Quick decisions had to be made. Not *if* to shoot, but *who*. Adrenalin surged. The guy with the broken bottle was right next to me, while the guy with the shotgun and a hostage was 15 yards away. The guy with the broken bottle went first. The targets were Duelatron cartoon figures from Advanced Training Systems.

Afterwards, I watched the others in the Continued on page 78



Custom pistolsmith develops the ultimate big-bore handgun in limited edition for members of Ruger Collectors' Association. To be produced: 200. Price: \$1,695.

### By Fred Romero Los Angeles Police Dept.

Of all the major handgun calibers on the market today, none capture as much respect as the .44 Remington Magnum. Formidable in appearance and effect, this load has held a fascination with both novice and experienced shooter alike since it was developed back around 1954 by Elmer Keith.

Because of its hard-hitting reputation, the .44 Magnum is the mainstay of bigbore handgun fans around the world. Regardless of whether you believe the stories of what this caliber can do, unless you have had the opportunity to fire a cylinder full of these mini-freight trains, you really can't appreciate just how *powerful*—and *effective*—a "full house" .44 Magnum actually is.

Because of the extreme muzzle energies generated by this hefty caliber, use of the .44 Magnum has generally been limited to silhouette matches and big-bore handgun hunting. Admittedly, some stalwarts have also adapted the .44 Magnum to policework (a la the infamous Dirty Harry); in most cases, however, practical considerations have precluded it from being commonly accepted as a serious duty or self defense piece. It's just too much gun for the average person to use in this capacity. Aside from the sporting alternatives, the .44 Magnum is more often thought of as the ultimate "fun gun" by the majority of people lucky enough to own one.

Ron Power of Independence, Missouri is known as a custom gunsmith for the handgun trade. Having been involved in this field for more than 20 years, Power's name generally is associated with highgrade PPC (Practical Pistol Course) revolvers. Along with turning out the exotic wheelguns used by many top PPC shooters, Power is also responsible for designing and manufacturing several bandgun accessories for the shooting industry; many are available from Brownells, Inc., Rt. 2, Box I, Montezuma, IA 50171. (Send for a copy of its 148-page catalog; it's well done.)

### ENTER RUGER REDHAWK

A few years ago, Power was privy to an intriguing new handgun: the Ruger Redhawk. Realizing that this gun represented a



Numbered chambers in cylinder enhance the ease of proper timing, each shot.

state-of-the-art design, Power envisioned the genesis of a gunsmith's dream—the ultimate big-bore handgun. Utilizing the knowledge gained from many years of painstaking work, he set about on what was to become the most extensive customized series of revolvers ever produced. No cost was to be spared, and no option worth having would be left out. The finished product was the *Redhawk Grand Master Deluxe*.

The gun itself embodies everything that makes for a one-of-a-kind piece. Starting with the basic frame, a 5½ inch Douglas premium stainless steel barrel (1½ inch diameter) with milled sides was attached. The barrel is counter-bored with a targettype crown and, through the efforts of Larry Kelly of Magna-Port, each barrel comes equipped with those characteristic slits near the muzzle for better recoil control.

Next, come the little "extras": a stainless steel shroud for the ejector rod, jeweled hammer, stippled backstrap, rounded and polished trigger, and individually numbered chambers.

On top of the gun rests one of Power's finely machined and innovative Grand Master Deluxe sight ribs. The front sight is a 1/8 inch post with a 10 degree undercut, protected by prominent sight guards.

Both the front and rear sight are adjustable and have a non-glare finish. The rear sight utilizes the patented Multi-Range system designed by Power; it allows for four separate distances to be pre-set on an adjustable cam wheel.

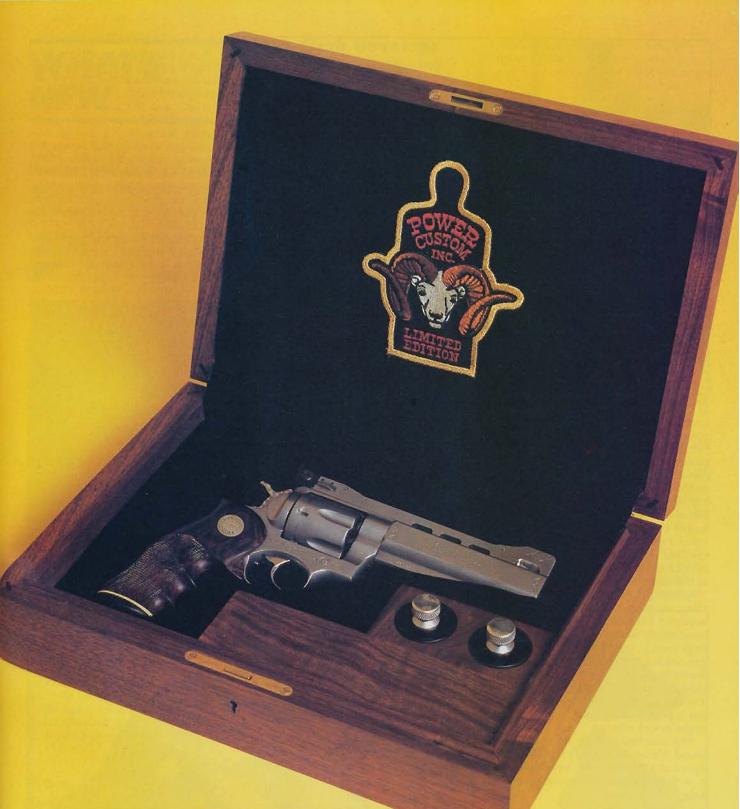
The finish on the gun consists of highly polished surfaces blended with brushed satin, accented with scroll work and select script. Put it all together, and you have the makings of a real dreamgun.

As you might expect, the Power Redhawk is strictly a limited edition item; only 200 of these extraordinary guns will be made. The guns are made available to members of the Ruger Collectors' Association only on a limited basis. Each will be individually numbered and come with a certificate of authenticity from Ron Power.

### **TEST-FIRING**

No report on this fine gun would be complete without some mention about how it performed on the range. Although many guns in the series will probably remain in an unfired condition by the true collector, they are also intended to be used as a functioning hunting piece by those who can't stand the thought of owning a gun they can't shoot.

For the test, Ron graciously offered me one for evaluation. Gun number 20 of 200 was sent and, quite frankly, I wasn't ready for what I received. Upon opening the shipping box, the first thing to catch my eye was the exquisite American walnut case made by Fred Wenig of Lincoln, Mis-





Ron Power's Grand Master Deluxe sight rib is innovative and finely machined.



Power's front sight: a ½ inch post with undercut, protected by sight guards.



Rear sight utilizes his patented Multi-Range system with 4 pre-set distances.



Felt recoil, at instant of firing, is greatly minimized by the gun's weight.

souri. The finish and fit were flawless. Engraved on top was the RCA Logo, exact in every detail. Inside, set in velvet, was the Power Redhawk and two speed-loaders custom-made by HKS with the RCA logo on the release knobs. The gun was incredibly beautiful, more so than expected. Fitted with a Hogue wood Monogrip, it looked every bit the classic piece the advance material said it would be. Close inspection revealed that every detail had been carefully tended to. If it shot as well as it looked, Ron Power had a winner.

Admiring a gun in a walnut case is one thing; shooting it is quite another. After acquiring 150 factory loads, the gun was immediately taken to the range for a thorough testing. Aside from the fact that the gun was a collector's piece, no mercy was shown as all 150 rounds were fired. Double-action and single action, up close and way back rapid fire and slow fire; if someone is going to send you a gun to test, you might as well enjoy it!

The conclusion: The RCA Redhawk Grand Master Deluxe may have been designed as a hunting piece, but after seeing it perform, its combat heritage is hard to hide.

### QUICK RECOVERY

The way the gun is presently fitted, it probably is the best example available of what a big-bore combat/defense gun should be. With the extra weight of the heavy barrel and the massive sight rib, in conjunction with the Magna-Port feature, this gun stays on target better and recovers more quickly than any other .44 Magnum in production—even with full factory loads.

The trigger pull was smooth, although characteristically long.

The Hogue Monogrip felt comfortable,

even during rapid fire.

Shot groups with the Power Redhawk were impressive, especially at 50 yards. Offhand, they averaged 2½ inches to 4 inches. Not bad for a 5½ inch barrel. For serious distance shooting, however, a longer barrel and sight radius is recommended. This is not to say that in the hands of a capable shooter the gun is not a fine performer. Because of the quality of the barrel and the sighting system, accurate shots are well within the realm of possibility, but a longer barrel would take some of the edge off of a critical shot at a prize game animal—say at 100 yards.

All in all, those individuals who are in line to purchase one of Ron Power's masterpieces will definitely be getting their money's worth, at \$1,695. When you consider that one of the country's best gunsmiths is putting this gun out as his personal tribute to the Sturm, Ruger Company, a respected and dedicated collector's association, and the craft he has so faithfully followed over the years, it's worth every penny.

The test gun used for this article has been generously donated by Ron Power and the American Handgunner to the Outstanding American Handgunner of 1983. The award was given in conjunction with the NRA's annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona (May 6-10).

All inquiries regarding this gun should be directed to: Redhawk Grand Master, POB 2176 (Dept. AH), Shawnee Mission, KS 66201.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Redhawk manufacturer: Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., Southport, CT 06490.

Customized by: Ron Power, POB 2176, (Dept. AH), Shawnee Mission, KS 66201.

Caliber: .44 Remington Magnum. Cylinder capacity: Six rounds.

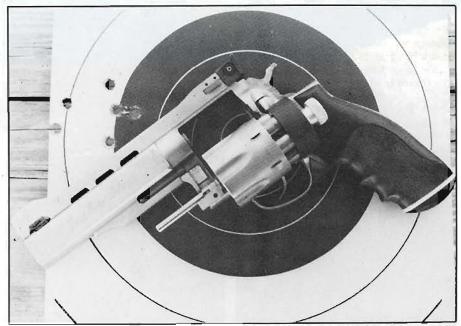
Barrel: 5½ inch Douglas premium stainless steel, 1-in-14 inch twist, Magna-Ported.

Weight: Approximately 70 ounces. Sights: Power Custom Grand Master

Deluxe Rib, adjustable front and rear. Stocks: Custom-crafted wood Monogrip by Guy Hogue, POB 2038 (Dept. AH), Atascadero, CA 93423.

Features: Brushed satin finish, stippled backstrap, jeweled hammer, numbered chambers, accented scroll work and RCA logo, handcrafted American walnut case, custom-made speed loaders by HKS.

Price: \$1,695.



This six-shot group was fired at 50 yards. It measured a fine 2½ inches.

58

# WHAT'S NEW

### Pachmayr introduces grips for Dan Wessons

Pachmayr has introduced a new presentation grip for the Dan Wesson .41 Magnum and .44 Magnum revolvers, designed especially for handgun hunters and metallic silhouette shooters.

The new grip is said to position the hand correctly, improve accuracy potential, absorb recoil and maximize control in virtually any kind of climate.



Available in one size only, the new gripdesignated DW-44—"radically improves shooting comfort and control," according to a company spokesman.

The new DW-44 comes with a beautifully engraved Pachmayr logo medallion insert, is manufactured of the finest neoprene rubber (with lightweight steel insert) and sells for \$16.25.

For more information, contact Bruce Baker, Director of Marketing, Pachmayr, POB 15053 (Dept. AH), Los Angeles, CA 90015.

### Now, full-moon clips for the S&W M25.45

Owners of Smith & Wesson M25.45 ACP revolvers will be glad to know there are some new cartridge clips on the market.

Of rugged construction, they hold six cartridges (unlike the conventional three-round, half-moon clips).

The steel clips, first of their kind, cost \$5.95 for eight (same as the company's 9mm full-moon clips).

For more information, write Steven Crawford, Ranch Products, POB 145 (Dept. AH), Malinta, OH 43535.

### Jim Clark Develops mount for Aimpoint

James E. Clark, nationally known pistol shot/pistolsmith, has developed mounts for both the Aimpoint sight and standard .45 auto scopes (such as the Burris IX).



His six-ounce aluminum mount is made specifically for the Aimpoint sight, and replaces the left grip.

Both mounts are easily installed: remove the left grip and replace it with the mount. They can be used by either right- or left-handed shooters.

The mounts have two extra pre-drilled holes and come with a liquid metal anchoring kit for easy tapping into the grip frame. Hardened screws and complete instructions are included. Mount clears gun with rib sight attached.

Price of the Clark Aimpoint sight mount is \$43 (postage \$1.50 extra).

For more information, write to Jim Clark, Clark Custom Guns, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 22-A (Dept. AH), Keithville, LA 71047.

# John Shaw designs new case for handgunners

A unique Pro-Shooter's Case for handgunners has been designed by John Shaw, founder and director of the Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting (MISS) in Memphis.

Made of durable Dupont nylon, it has nine compartments (several are zippered) for shooting gear, including two *removable* 16-inch-by-9-inch padded



pouches ideally positioned inside the zippered case for protecting revolvers and autoloaders, with or without a scope.

The case measures 18 inches long, 12 inches high and 12 inches wide; it comes with a wide carrying handle and an adjustable over-the-shoulder transport strap padded for maximum comfort.

It weighs 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds and retails for \$69.95.

The American Handgunner tested this new product and found it to be exceptionally well designed, superbly made and ultra-practical for a wide variety of handgunners.

For more information, contact Shaw at MISS, Dept. AH, 503 Stonewall, Memphis, TN 38112.

# Sidekick holsters will fit 2" and 3" snubbies

Michaels of Oregon's new line of Sidekick holsters includes a model designed for two-and three-inch barrel small-and medium-size revolvers.

Designated "size 0," it is made of a patented sandwich of Cordura nylon, waterproof closed-cell padding and nylon lining: good-looking, practical and rugged.

The new holsters are available in both camouflage and black, right-or left-hand.

Holsters come in 10 sizes—the smaller the number, the smaller the holster. The range fits virtually every revolver and auto made in the United States.

Sidekick holsters feature an adjustable safety strap that holds the guns in place securely. The holster conforms to the contours of each gun, and returns to its



original shape so it can easily be used for several guns of similar size.

A two-inch web belt loop is positioned on the back to give a medium-high ride. Matching brown and black nylon web holster belts are available separately.

The Sidekick "size 0" holster retails for \$10.95.

For a full-color catalog and holster selection guide, send \$1 to Michaels of Oregon, POB 13010 (Dept. AH), Portland, OR 97213.

# **BEAUTIFUL CONTROL** NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLT PYTHON, S&W, N, L & K FRAME REVOLVERS AS WELL AS AUTOMATICS

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# BIANCHI BULLETIN!

**B**rian Enos of Mesa, Arizona won the 1983 Bianchi Cup match in Columbia, Missouri May 25–28 with a score of 1903/ 612X, outscoring Officer John Pride of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) who fired 1902/407X. Both shooters fired Aimpoint-sighted revolvers.

Enos was second last year with 1902, one point behind Mickey Fowler who placed 8th this year with a score of 1878/136X. Fowler fired a .45 auto.

Here are the other "top 10" places in Bianchi Cup V (1983):

- Tom Campbell, Massachusetts, 1897/ 141X.
- Bill Gambill, North Carolina, 1890/ 158X.
- Mark Duncan, North Carolina, 1890/ 123X.
- Robert Leatham, Arizona, 1886/142X.
- Jerry Usher, California, 1882/131X.
- Mitchell McNeese, 1876, Michigan, 1876/217X.
- Fred Romero, LAPD, 1876/109X.

Overall purse was \$150,000. Enos received \$12,500 in cash, Pride \$10,000.

High four-man team was the LAPD with a score of 7412/737X. Second was the ISI-Cannon Safe team with 7359/480X. Each member of the winning team received \$500 in cash.

High woman competitor was Sara Van Valzah of Maryland with 1765/91X for 58th place in a field of 207 shooters. She received \$2,000 in cash.

Of the 207 competitors, 10 were women, 63 police officers.

Seven of the top 10 shooters fired revolvers, three fired autos; eight used an Aimpoint sight.

After both Enos and Pride had "cleaned" the eight-inch plates in the last stage at 25 yards, they continued to fire until one missed a plate. Pride knocked down 311 more consecutive plates, Enos 505. Each plates counted an "X" in their overall scores.

A full account of the match—with photographs—will be carried in the November/December issue of the American Handgunner, written by Officer Fred Romero of the LAPD. (L.D.)

# **INFO 'QUICKIE'**

The American Handgunner is the only publication of its kind pertaining to firearms.

Published six-times-a-year, it keeps its readers abreast of the latest worldwide developments in pistols and revolvers and their use.

Your constructive criticism is welcome, at all times.





### AMERICAN HANDGUNNER WELCOMES

letters to the editor of no more than 350 words. They must include the writer's full name and address and be typewritten. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space. Editor.

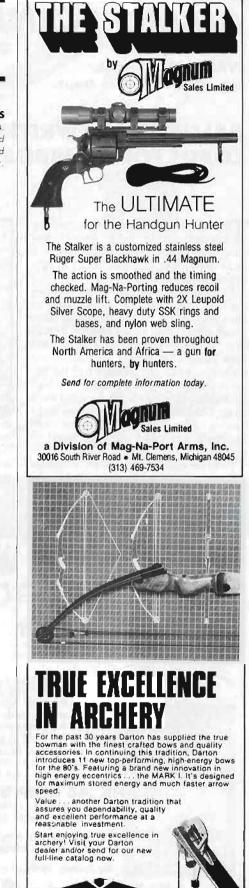
### Ruger stops shipping .357 Max. revolvers

We have temporarily stopped shipping Ruger Blackhawk SRM .357 Remington Maximum Single Action Revolvers, because extended testing in the last few months has revealed some problems related to erosion in the breech and forcing cone of the barrel, and on the underside of the top strap of the frame, just over the barrel-cylinder gap.

Revolvers which have been fired thousands of rounds exhibit a narrow cut line in the underside of the frame top strap, just over the barrel gap. This "cut" will generally become apparent in a few hundred rounds. and will increase in depth to as much as .015" to .020" after a few thousand rounds. However, continued firing does not increase the depth of this cut beyond .015" to .020". We believe that this cut is caused by mechanical abrasion of the frame by high velocity gases and particles, primarily unburned powder. So far as we have been able to determine, this cut does not affect the safety or serviceability of the revolver, and is probably only detrimental as an appearance factor. Nevertheless, we wish to evaluate the situation more fully, including possible design changes to eliminate or reduce this effect.

Similarly, erosion at the breech end of the barrel and in the forcing cone becomes apparent after a few hundred rounds, and becomes severe enough after a few thousand rounds to gradually degrade accuracy and cause increased spitting of unburned powder, gases, lead, and gilding metal from the barrel-cylinder gap. This increased spitting from the barrel-cylinder gap may pose an increased hazard to bystanders positioned close beside or slightly in front of the shooter, and to both shooters and bystanders who fail to use eye protection. We are now in the process of evaluating design and material changes to eliminate or reduce this barrel erosion problem and its consequences.

Continued on page 93



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# AMMO SCENE

### EVAN R. MARSHALL Sgt., Detroit Police Dept.

# BALLISTICIAN/WRITER REPORTS ON LOADS FOR SNUBBIES, FOUR-INCHERS

The .38 Special is the most commonly encountered caliber in law enforcement (although the 9mm is replacing it in many departments); it has been the subject of much controversy.

The traditional police service ammothe 158-grain round nose lead load-has been responsible for the deaths of more police officers than all the terrorist attacks ever launched. Officer after officer has been killed after putting six rounds into the torso of bad guys. I once had the dubious distinction of being shot in the thigh with this particular load. I wasn't even aware I had been wounded, and was in the process of handcuffing the prisoner when another officer asked about the blood on my trousers.

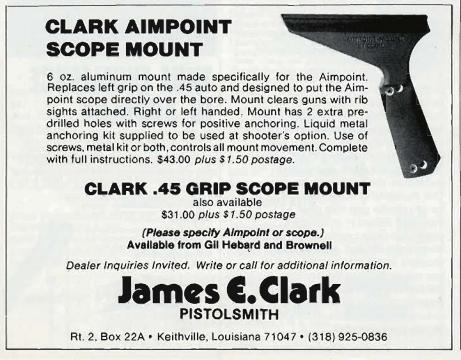
Pleas for more effective ammunition for this caliber were routinely ignored by the manufacturers, and officers were forced to carry handloads on duty, or carry larger caliber guns. While some departments (such as mine) allowed a wide variety of more powerful weapons, most officers were restricted to the .38 Special.

This was the status of things when Lee Jurras tipped the ammunition industry on



its ear. Jurras, producer of the Super Vel (SV) line of ammunition, took a radically different approach by lightening bullet weight substantially, hollow-pointing its dead soft lead core and encasing it in a thin copper jacket. By driving the bullet substantially faster than the traditional offering, he was able to produce reliable expansion in four-inch or longer barrels. An officer was now able to upgrade his chances for survival, merely by purchasing a box of ammunition.

Other manufacturers soon jumped on the bandwagon. Today there are a bewildering array of "high performance"



offerings. Which is best?

### **TESTING PROCEDURES**

First, let's take a look at the testing procedures used to make the determination.

Ten rounds of each load are fired over the skyscreens of my Oehler Model 11 chronograph. The highest and lowest reading are thrown out, and the eight remaining are averaged for a final velocity figure. Five loads are fired into ductseal, the best and worst are thrown out, and the diameter of the remaining three are averaged. Two five-shot groups are fired for accuracy, and the best group is discarded. Accuracy is not listed in the results unless I uncover a load spectacularly good, or incredibly poor.

I'm fully aware of the objections to ductseal as an expansion medium, but since I haven't found any members of the human race who'll let me shoot them, we have to stick to a more practical substitute. I talk regularly to police officers regarding their ammunition and its performance. The loads that performed well here have performed satisfactorily on human targets.

The .38 snubnose revolver commonly found in the waistbands and holsters of off-duty and plain clothes cops is the first choice of civilian gun toters, too. If the traditional .38 Special load is anemic in longer barrel lengths, it approaches total uselessness in the two-inch versions. Two manufacturers, however, have produced loads specifically designed to perform well out of a short-barrel .38 Special:

95-gr	2" vel.	2" exp.	4" vel.	4" exp.
Rem., JHP	913 fps	.456"	1,032 fps	.587"
Win., JHP	943 fps	,476"	1,024 fps	.591"

These loads have been designed for optimum performance in the snubnose, and show only slight velocity gains in the longer barrels.

The 110-grain bullet weight was the one originally chosen by Lee Jurras for high performance .38 Special loads, and there is an impessive listings of loads in this bullet weight. A S&W Bodyguard (M49) was used for the two-inch tests, while a new stainless Colt Python was used for the four-inch tests, as follows:

110-gr.	2" vel.	2" exp.	4" vel.	4" exp.
SV., JHP	987 fps	.502"	1,087 fps	.563"
Fed., JHP	924 fps	.467"	1,023 fps	.507"
Speer JHP*	867 fps	.423"	926 fps	.472"
Win., JHP	916 fps	.483"	1.029 fps	.534"
Norma, JHP	1,065 fps	.452"	1,189 fps	.502"
Rem., JHP	929 fps	.443"	1,018 fps	.516"
Front., JHP	904 fps	.461"	983 fps	.499"
*This is not a - aluminum fran				ve use in

The Norma offering had the highest velocity but, because of a rather heavy jacket expansion, is far below what its velocity might indicate.

The 125-grain loads offer a good compromise between velocity and bullet weight. These loads produce velocities close to those of the 110-grain loads with a heavier bullet:

125-gr.	2" vel.	2" exp.	4" vel.	4" exp.
Win., JHP	878 fps	.467"	982 fps	.512"
Rem., JHP	865 fps	.461"	942 fps	.509"
Fed., JHP	832 fps	.458"	929 fps	.539"
Fed., JSP*	846 fps	.406"	918 fps	.463"
Fed., NY-HP**	834 fps	.542"	926 fps	.623"

\*\*Nyclad Chiefs Special hollow point.

Nyclad was formerly made by Smith & Wesson. When it stopped the production of ammo, Federal bought the rights to Nyclad. At the SHOT Show in Dallas this year, Bill Siems promised me the first sample for this column. This load is not a + Poffering, and can be used in airweight snubs without worry.

The Federal sample arrived too late for photos. But a quick range session provided the data included in this story.

CCI is the only producer of a 140-grain .38 Special load. Now that Hornady is producing a 140-grain JHP, we may see an offering under the Frontier label.

140 gr.	2" vel.	2" exp.	4" vel.	4" exp.
CCI JHP	835 fps	.429"	939 fps	.506"

The 140-grain load shoots closer to point of aim in fixed sight weapons calibrated for the 158-grain bullet. This load has proven to be gratifyingly accurate in all the .38s I've tested it in.

The standard bullet weight has not been ignored by the high performance advocates, and each manufacturer has at least two loadings in this weight:

158 gr.	2" vel.	2" exp.	4" vel.	4" exp.
W-W LHP	806 fps	.518"	941 fps	.609"
W-W SWC	747 fps.	.389"	907 fps	.423"
Fed. LHP	792 fps	.504"	946 fps	.594
Fed. SWC	734 fps	.372"	892 fps	.403"
CCI JHP	764 fps	.406"	903 fps	.467"
R-P LHP	807 fps	.509"	916 fps	.583"
R-P SWC	732 fps	.384"	856 fps	.407"
CCI JSP	744 fps	.401"	909 fps	.436"
SV SWC	723 fps	.371"	886 fps	.399"
Fed. SWC*	729 fps	.419"	902 fps	.446"
"Nyclad + P S				

It seems to be the current vogue to criticize the .38 Special. The fact remains, however, that the overwhelming majority of law enforcement personnel are still restricted to this caliber. Those short-sighted gun writers who label the + P loadings as useless are giving police chiefs and mayors, for example, the data base they need to reject requests for high-performance .38 caliber loads.

What's best? That depends on your intended purpose. For .38 snubnose users, I can see nothing better than the Federal Nyclad 125-grain hollow point, or the Remington, Federal, or Winchester 158-grain lead hollow points. These loads will expand in flesh at their rather moderate velocities.

For four-inch barrels or longer, I like the Winchester or Remington jacketed hollow points. The longer tube allows them to build up enough steam to rupture the jacket and produce significant expansion.

If you have any questions, contact me at Patrol Operations Section, Thirteenth Precinct, 4747 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48235.



# SHOOT TO WIN! **JOHN SHAW WINS 1982 "SOLDIER OF FORTUNE**

Learn how he did it - and how you can - in his best selling book, YOU CAN'T MISS.

American Handgunner

Magazine says: "You Can't Miss is a must for

the dyed-in-the-wool hand-

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extremely informative...

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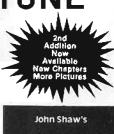
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## **Combat Handguns**

Magazine says: "To all future champions "To all future champed to and to those who want to themselves, You Can't Miss is a solid hit in the x-ring!





Tapes Available Pistol - \$59.95 Shotgun - \$49.95

THE BOOK YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER · SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1983





# "The market is booming with new model holsters, grips, after market parts, speedloaders, scopes, gun cases and maintenance gear..."

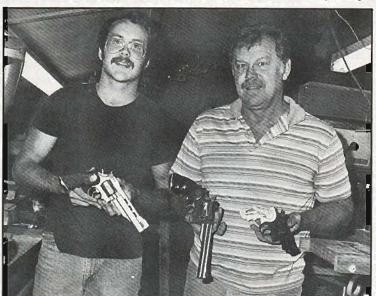
### By Stanley W. Trzoniec

The handgun accessory aftermarket is booming. With all the major companies introducing new models year after year, and shooters either modifying, customizing or improving those new additions, the field has literally been thrown wide open for new products or ideas.

From a new set of grips, to improved leather gear, the handgunner of today has a selection of top-grade material unavailable a decade ago.

Take grips, for example. Depending on what you are looking for automatically puts you into one of four categories: factory, factorycustom, production-custom or independent-custom makers.

Factory grips, as the word implies, are those handles produced on a mass-production basis. Carved generally from straight-grained walnut, these products fill a big void in the market. They are profiled to fit an average hand, are inexpensive, and are available at 90 percent of all U.S. sporting goods stores.



Guy Hogue and his son, Aaron, produce fine handgun grips in their Atascadero, California shop. Aaron does most of the fineline checkering. Guy is a retired Los Angeles police officer.

Made in a multitude of shapes-target, magna or "banana style"-they are truly crowd pleasers. Let's say you are in the market for a S&W M14. This gun, as equipped, comes with the small, or magna, grips. For one reason or another the gun does not feel right. The gun shop clerk, noticing this, reaches into his display case and pulls out a pair of hand-filling target grips. At once, the gun feels as if it was made especially for you. Most companies- Smith & Wesson, Colt, Charter Arms and Dan ample, is known for its full line of molded "neoprene" grips. Easy on the hands, they tend to give a little during recoil, thus lessening the total effect. Mustang, on the other hand, makes a rubber grip called the "Rangefinder," as well as wooden grips to fit most any handgun on the market. Same for Jay Scott, Sile and Rogers.

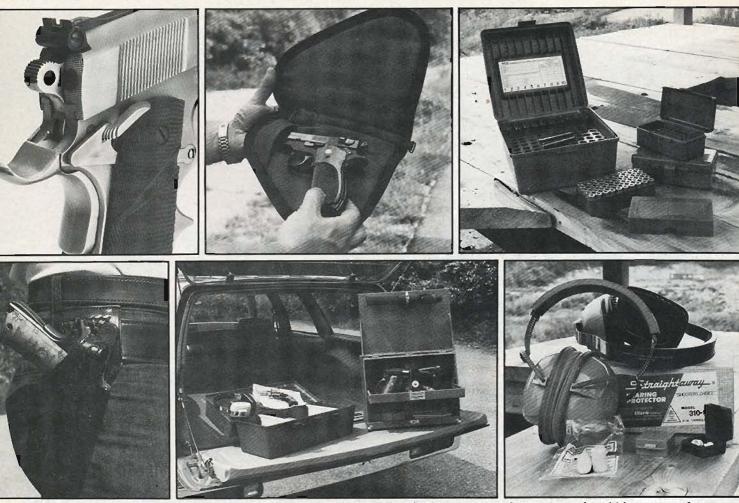
The independent custom makers will, on request, send you a diagram on which you draw the outline of your hand. From this, they create magical equations, then make a wooden grip to fit your exact hand style. Originally made for target shooters who

Wesson, to name a few-offer these original equipment models (OEM).

Factory-custom is yet another branch of the tree. Here, we find grips made from birdseye maple, cocobolo, rosewood or even

ivory, if the spirit moves you. Colt has established a Custom Shop on its premises that will cater to your needs, no matter what your budget limitations. For a catalog, write Custom Shop, Colt's Firearms Division, POB 1868, Hartford, CT 06102. The catalog lists grip designs and applications, along with engraving, finishing and other custom touches available. The last time I purchased one it cost \$5; in full color, it is worth every penny. Art Jewel is another company to contact for custom quality grips.

Next is what I call production-custom grip makers. This includes such names as Pachmayr, Mustang, Jay Scott, Sile and Rogers. Each has its own features. Pachmayr, for ex-



From top, left to right: Safari Arms grip safety tang and ambidextrous safety, pistol rugs offer protection, plastic cartridge containers, Safariland lined holster, MTM (left) and Pachmayr cases, ear protectors—a shooter's must.

must position their hand in the same spot after every shot, this facet has mushroomed into an excellent business; shooters in the know recognize the value of such an accessory. A letter to Herrett, Jean St. Henri, Guy Hogue or Bob Newell will get you all the specifics you need.

Leather goods is yet another area where the competition is keen. There are two divisions-production and custom. The former is where the mass merchandisers, such as Safariland, Bianchi, Don Hume and Smith & Wesson, fit in. The latter include William Davis, Milt Sparks and Andy Anderson.

Holsters and related gear are personal items. No matter what, everything must be just right. Obviously, the leather people think on the same wavelength, for their catalogs "runneth over" with models of virtually every design, description, color and style. In checking the literature put out by Bianchi and Safariland, for example, I find more varied designs than I can honestly count without the help of a pocket calculator.

Bianchi's full color catalog runs 62 pages, and will cost you \$3. In those pages a wealth of information dwells. Starting out with all the features that make a good Bianchi product, we move through holster designs such as the *Thumbsnap*, Outdoorsman, Protector and Cyclone on to competition rigs.

Safariland has a big catalog, too. Its duty holsters are well known around the country, as is its innovative 1000/1001 shoulder



Author displays fine shoulder rig by Smith & Wesson. Note size of the gun.

holster system that not only holds your gun out of sight, but allows the user to clip on accessories such as cuff cases, speedloaders or spare magazines. Sportsman rigs, pistol rugs, belts and speciality items complete the array of excellent products produced by Safariland.

Other makers have their own ideas as to what the ideal holster rig should be. Don Hume and Smith & Wesson will supply literature on request. Custom makers offer leather goods slanted to the needs of special interest applications, be it practical competition or undercover work.

No article on accessories would be complete without mentioning the recent deluge of parts for the .45 auto. Companies such as Safari Arms, King Gun Works, Swenson, Bar-Sto and MMC help serve the needs of the "slabside pistolero."

Little comfort pleasers called beavertail grip safeties go a long way to keep your hand in one piece during sustained combat matches with the .45. Made to exact tolerances, these items replace factory safeties and offer a wide area of contact between thumb and forefinger.

Ambidextrous safety devices from Safari or Armand Swenson provide the shooter with either hand capability. Maga-Continued on page 80

# HANDGUN ACCESSORIES **SOURCE DIRECTORY**

ADVANTAGE, POB 828, Whittier, CA 90608 Grip systems for .45 auto., competition shooting accessories. AIMPOINT USA, 201 Elden St., (103),

Herndon, VA 22070

Electronic sights. AJAX CUSTOM GRIPS, 122229 Cox Lane, Dallas, TX 75234

AK-U GRIP, Box 77285, Ft. Myers, FL 3390) Forward barrel grip. ALAMO LEATHER GOODS, POB 12736, San

Antonio, TX 78212

Holsters, belts ALCO CARRYING CASE, 601 W. 26th St., New York, NY 10001

Aluminum cases ALESSI CUSTOM CONCEALMENT

HOLSTERS, 2645 Niagara Falls Blvd., To-nawanda, NY 14150. AMERICAN DISPLAY CO., 127-131 Black-

stone St., Providence, RI 02905 Wood cases. AMERICAN EAGLE, 5 Center Market Pl.,

New York, NY 10013

Stocks, auto magazines. AMERICAN SALES & MFG., Box 677. Laredo, TX 78040

Gun belt rigs. ARIZONA WOOD PRODUCTS, POB 3183. Flagstaff, AZ 86003 Shooting benches, presentation cases. ARMADILLO SHOOTING SUPPLY, 406

Bellevue Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Ammo boxes.

ARMOLOY CO., 204 East Daggett, Ft. Worth, TX 76104 Plating.

ARMSPORT, 3590 N.W. 49th St., Miami, FL. 33122

Scop ART JEWEL, 421 Irmen Dr., Addison, IL 60101

Stocks ASSAULT SYSTEMS, 826 Horan Dr., St.

Louis, MO 63026 Gun cases. AURUM ETCHINGS, P.O. Box 1868, Hart-

ford, CT 06102

Etchings. B-SQUARE MOUNTS, POB 11281, Ft. Worth, TX 76109

BADGER MFG., 2054 Youngstown-Lockport Rd., Ransomville, NY 14131

Custom stocks. HARRY R. BALAIN, 4207 W. State Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021

Trigger guard extensions. BARAMIE CORP.

6250 7-Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48234

Hip-Grip.

BARNETT, INTL. Box 934, Odessa, FL 33556

Single point sights. BARON TECHNOLOGY, 4 Norman St.,

Bridgeport, CT 06605 Etching, plating, BAR-STO PRECISION MACHINE, 3377 Sul-

livan Rd., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Colt, Browning barrels. L.L. BASTON CO., 2101 N. College, El Dor-

ado, AR 71730

Devel 45, Colt parts. BEEMAN, 47 Paul Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903 Air pistol accessories.

BEHLERT CUSTOM GUNS, POB 227, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Sights, custom accessories BELL'S CUSTOM SHOP, 3315 Manheim

Rd., Franklin Pk., IL 60131

Auto pistol porting. BELLTOWN LTD., 33 Belltown Rd., Stamford, CT 06905.

Gun cleaning cloth kits (Wipe Away) BELT SLIDE, 1301 Brushy Bend Dr., Round

Rock, TX 78664

Holsters. BERETTA USA, 17601 Indian Head Hwy., Accokeek, MD 20607 Holsters.

BIANCHI GUNLEATHER, 100 Calle Cortez, Temecula, CA 92390 Holsters, belts, speed loaders.

**BILSOM INTERNATIONAL, II800 Sunrise** Valley Dr., Reston, VA 22091. Ear protectors. BINGHAM LTD., 1775-C Wilwat Dr., Norcross, GA 30093 Stocks, sights. BIRCHWOOD CASEY, 7900 Fuller Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55244 Gun care products. BLOCKER'S CUSTOM HOLSTERS, POB 821, Rosemend, CA 91770 BLUE & GRAY PRODUCTS, RD #6, Box 348, Wellsboro, PA 16901 1 ubricants BO-MAR, POB 168, Carthage, TX 75633 Combat si VICTOR BORTUGNO, 4859 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462 Stocks LESLIE BOWLER LTD., 126 New Cross Rd., London, SE14 58A, ENGLAND Olympic grips. BRAUER BROTHERS MFG. CO., 2012 Washington St., St. Louis, MO 63103 Holsters, gun cases. BREAK FREE, 9999 Muirlands Blvd., Irvine, CA 92714 Cleaners, lubricants, BROWN CUSTOM, 8810 Rocky Ridge Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46217 Combat sights. BROWNELL'S, Rt. 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA 50171 Tools, supplies. BROWNING, Rt. 4, Box 624-B, Arnold, MO 63010 Holsters, gun cases. MAYNARD P. BUEHLER, 17 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563 Scope mounts, tools. BULLSHOOTER'S SUPPLY, POB 13466, Tucson, AZ 85732 Stocks, sight insert kits BURRIS CO., 331 E. 8th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631 Scopes. BUSHNELL OPTICAL, 2828 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107 Scopes, mounts. BYRON'S, POB 796, Cassleberry, FL 32707 Stocks C'ARCO, Box 308, Highland, CA 92346 Ransom rests. CPM INC., 9875 Chartwell, Dallas, TX 75243 Aluminum gun cases CAP & BALLVILLE GUNS, 198 Ballville Rd., Bolton, MA 01740 Pistol pommels. CAR-TEC IND., 14758 Keswick St., Van Nuys. CA 91405 Safety guards. CARAVILLE ARMS, POB 545, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Sights, ejector rod housings for Ruger revolvers, squeeze cocking conversion units, custom .45 parts. CATTLE BARON LEATHER CO., POB 5572, Scottsdale, AZ 85261 Holsters, pouches, CELLINI INDUSTRIES, 15327 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78232 Muzzle brakes. CENTRAL SPECIALTIES, 6030 Northwest Hwy., Chicago, IL 60631 Trigger locks. CHAMPION'S CHOICE, 223 Space Park S., Nashville, TN 37211 45 auto mounts JAMES E. CLARK, RI. 2, Box 22A, Keith, LA 71047 Scope mounts, sights, barrels, CLEARSIGHT PRODUCTS, POB 14838, N. Palm Beach, FL 33408 Optical aids for shooting. CLEAR VIEW MFG. CO., 20821 Grand River,

Detroit, MI 48219 Scope mounts. CLOYCE'S GUN STOCKS, Box 1133, Twin Falls, ID 83301

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FORSTER PRODUCTS, 87 Lanark Ave., Lanark, IL 61046 Tools and gauges. FUTURE SPORTS USA, 170 E. Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450 Shock watches.

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Cleaning products. KOLPIN MFG, CO., 119 S. Pearl St., Berlin, WI 54923 Gun c

JOHN KOPEC, POB 218, Valinda, CA 91747 Single-action pearl grips.

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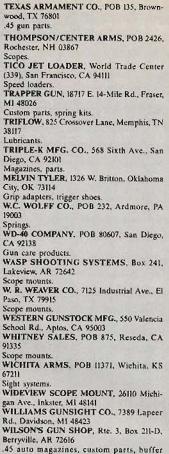
SHASTEEN INDUSTRIES, POB 527, Defisnoe, OH 43512 Gun cases.

SHERWOOD INTERNATIONAL, 18714 Parthenia St., Northridge, CA 91324 Parts, accessories,

TEX SHOEMAKER & SONS, 714 W. Cienega Ave., San Dimas, CA 91774 Holsters, belts.

SHO GUN SHOP, 26646 5-Mile Road, Redford, MI 48239 Parts, accessories, barrels. SHOOTIST SUPPLY, 622 5th. Belle Fourche, SD 57717 45 auto accessories BEN SHOSTLE, 1201 Burlington, Muncie, IN 47302 Engraving, stocks. SILE DISTRIBUTORS, 7 Centre Market Pl., New York, NY 10013 Stocks. SMALL ARMS WEAPONRY, 141 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN 37214 Stocks, scope mounts, sights. SMITH & WESSON, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01101 Sights, stocks, holsters, SOUTHERN GUN EXCHANGE, 4311 NE Exp., Atlanta, GA 30340 Stocks MILT SPARKS, POB 187, Idaho City, 1D 83631 Holsten SPORTS, INC., POB 683, Park Ridge, IL 60068 Replacement stocks. SPORTS SPECIALTIES, POB 5837, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 Barrel inserts SSK INDUSTRIES, Rt. 7, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910 Spring kits, conversion units, custom T/C barrels SUPREME PRODUCTS, 1830 S. California Ave., Montovia, CA 91016 Stocks. SWENSON 45 SHOP, POB 606, Fallbrook, CA 92028 "Swensight," safeties. SWIFT INSTRUMENTS, 952 Dorcheser Ave., Boston, MA 02125 TDP INDUSTRIES, POB 277, Zieglerville, PA 19492 Cleaners, lubricants.

Cleaners, lubricants. T-F INC., POB 326, Lakeside, CA 92040 Magazines, half-moon clips, gun cases. TASCO, 7600 NW 26th St., Miami, FL 33122 Scopes.



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# LOUISIANA COMBAT SHOOTING CLUB TAKES UNIQUE APPROACH / MATCHES

### By Len Davis

Hard work, organizational knowhow and the cooperation of a local law enforcement agency has paid big dividends for a group of dedicated handgunners in Louisiana.

The combination has enabled the *Canebreak Combat Shooters* club of Thibodaux, situated about 60 miles southwest of New Orleans, to give away more than \$5,000 in handguns, reloading components and other prizes; and the club is only in its second year of operation.



Club member Gary Thibodaux told the American Handgunner that the club's big October shoot has grown from a \$1,200 match in 1981 (the first matches were held in February of that year) to a \$5,000 match in 1982.

He attributes much of the club's success to the fact that Sheriff Duffy Breaux of the Lafourche Parish (county) has allowed its members to use his local law enforcement range—at no charge.

"Since we didn't have any range expenses," said Thibodaux, "we were able to use the entry fees from all the matches held during the year (monthly, March through October) to buy guns and other shooting-related items for our annual 'blow-out."

The 1982 October match drew 50 of the best shooters from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, according to Thibodaux.

He said prizes were divided among several classes—Master, A, B and C— "so everyone had a chance to win something.

"It's not much fun for a 'C' class shooter to compete with a 'Master' class shooter for the same prize," he added.

Last year, the match consisted of basic combat shooting: an *El Presidente*, a rack of falling plates and three "short and sweet" courses.

All who shot at regularly scheduled matches held during the year received a

flyer, detailing each course of fire, about a month before the October shoot.

Thibodaux said a half-time show was held during the lunch break. In 1981, for example, the break featured a shooting demonstration of an 1886. 45-70 Gatling gun. Last year, a British Lewis machine gun was exhibited—and fired.

The American Handgunner usually doesn't have the space to report on regional or sectional shoots; there are just too many scheduled each year around the country.

In this case, however, we felt the uniqueness—and success—of the Louisiana club's approach to conducting a combat shooting match might well be emulated by other such clubs in the United States—to the benefit of all.

For further information about the Canebreak Combat Shooters club and its matches, write Thibodaux at 307 Emerald Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301. Or give him a call at (504) 446-0093.

### Pachmayr eases task of field-stripping .45

Veteran hardballers: read this, and flip.

Pachmayr has come out with a Widget stick, designed to make easier the task of taking-down and reassembling the Colt M1911.45 auto.

Here's what the stick does, according to the manufacturer:

(1) Depresses the plunger spring, while re-inserting the safety lever.

(2) Holds the plunger spring back, while inserting the slide stop pin.

(3) Keeps pressure on the recoil spring plug, when removing a tight barrel bushing.

(4) Pushes down the magazine follower, while disassembling the magazine.

Molded from a special nylon formula, the *Widget* is virtually unbreakable, yet pliable enough to insert into difficult-toreach areas.

Price of the Widget is \$3. For more information, contact Pachmayr at POB 15053 (Dept. AH), Los Angeles, CA 90015.



The famous Colt Officer's Model .38 Special target revolver is listed in the 1908 Sears, Roebuck catalog at \$18.50, new, along with the Colt Single-Action "Bisley" Model (also new) at \$15.50. The good ole days!



1149 TUNXIS ST., HARTFORD, CT 06101



### STEEL CHALLENGE Continued from page 44

Double Trouble: The shooter stands facing two targets at seven yards. The 12-inch round targets are positioned in a vertical plane, with their centers spaced three feet apart. The center of the lower target is 30 inches above the ground. The top target is equipped with an impact switch. Upon signal to commence fire, the shooter must draw his gun and hit the lower target first, then the top target to stop the timer. A fivesecond penalty is imposed for a premature start, and for not hitting the lower target first. Maximum time allowed for each string is 10 seconds. The final score for this stage is multiplied by two to keep all stages on an equal par. This is a fast and furious

### STOP PLATES SHOT LAST

stage, times being measured in split

seconds.

Five to Go: The shooter stands facing the targets. At the signal, he draws his gun and fires at four 10-inch plates. They may be shot in any order, except that the 12-inch stop plate (at seven yards) must be fired at last. Upon striking the stop plate, the string ends with the total time being the competitor's score. A five-second penalty is imposed for a premature start and for not hitting a 10-inch plate. Maximum time allowed per string is 20 seconds. The final score for this stage is divided by two, to keep all stages on an equal par.

Ranges: 7, 10, 12, 15, and 18 yards.

Outer Limits: This course was described earlied, in reference to Fowler's down-tothe-line confrontation with Shaw. Targets are 12-inch steel plates at 25 yards, rectangular steel plates measuring 18x24 inches at 40 yards, and a 12-inch stop plate at 20 yards.

The course was the downfall for such topflight shooters as Brian Enos, Jim Zubiena, Mike Plaxco, Nick Pruitt, Rob Leatham, Chip McComick, Ray Neal, Jeff Wassom, Tom Campbell, John Sayle, John Dixon, Mike Dalton and Lee Souter-all of whom fired in the top 20.

The most devastating damage inflicted by the *Outer Limits* course was suffered by Chip McCormick, who fired a score of 35.42 for 80th place in this stage, to end up with an overall score of 76.85 for 9th place. McCormick finished 2nd last year.

High scores by revolver shooters on this stage were fired by Fred Wardell (29.13/ 14th place) and Fred Romero (29.83/21st place), both lawmen.

Up to this point in the two-day match, all targets have been stationary.

Knockdown targets were used on the third day in the two-man team shootoffs, an event controlled by the match director, four line judges, two electronic timers and two stop plates. The team that knocked



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NE VA DA NE VA DA POB 1039, Bldg. 23, Suite B, 84 Cooney Island Dr., Sparks, NV 89431 TEXAS POB 53/647 (214) 660-1951 2501-1 Dalworth Avenue, Grand Prairie, TX 75051 down all the plates and stopped the timer won the run. If the stop plate was hit and any knockdown plates were left standing, the run went to the other team, provided it accomplished its task. In the event of a double fault, the run was shot over. The reason for using two timers was to make sure the winning interval was greater than 5/100th of a second; if not, the run was declared a tie. As with a double fault, it was re-run.

### **TEAMWORK NEEDED**

Teamwork was an absolute necessity. Several faster teams were defeated because they fired too quickly and hit the stop plate *before* the last plate was knocked down.

Master of ceremonies for the team shootoff was Nick Emmanouilides, SWPL promotion director and the person responsible for the excellent support of the match by the manufacturers/distributors of guns, ammunition and accessories.

Overall responsibility for quality control in the match was handled by Mike Fichman, who arranged squadding for all shooters, and spearheaded the acquisition and installation of the giant display tent and the many colorful banners displayed at all match stages.

Fichman was assisted by scores of able assistants, all volunteers from the SWPL: the personification of enthusiasm and personal dedication.

This year's purse of more than \$100,000 was approximately \$38,000 higher than the amount distributed to prize winners in 1982.

"We are aiming for a purse of more than \$150,000 next year," said Fichman.

"Our ultimate goal is to make the Steel Challenge match the richest and most competitive handgun tournament in the world-the top match for pistol and revolver shooters.

"And we intend to keep it *practical*," he added. "No frills, no fancy invitations; the best match for everyone, both competitors and spectators alike."

Total cash distributed to this year's winners by the SWPL exceeded \$21,000. The money came from sponsors' donations and match fees.

For winning the match, Fowler took home \$3,250 in cash and merchandise valued at \$4,250, for a total of \$7,500. Included in the cash figure was \$500 for winning the *Flying* M stage, another \$500 for winning the *Outer Limits* stage and, for being a member of the four-man Cannon Safe-International Shootists team, \$250.

Among the merchandise won by Fowler was an H&K M91 (A2) .308 semi-automatic rifle with bipod, three magazines and a Schmidt & Bender 4x25 scope, a Ruger Security-Six .357 Magnum revolver, a Ron Power customized revolver with Aimpoint sight, and a Colt Combat Government .45 auto.

Cash awards for the top 15 places were: Second, \$1,500; third, \$1,000; fourth, Don't rely on your gun's safety. Treat every gun as if it were loaded and ready to fire . . .





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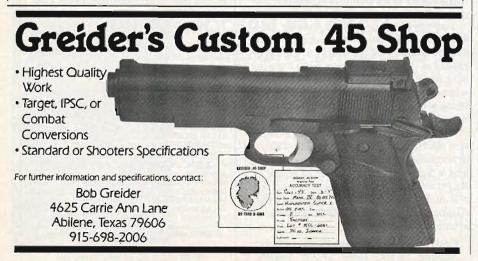


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Each of the five stage winners received \$500 cash; second and third place winners, \$250 and \$125, respectively.

Rick Castelow, who won the Speed Option stage, received a Ruger .44 Magnum Redhawk.

For winning the Double Trouble stage, Chip McCormick received a Smith & Wesson M39 conversion with holster and magazine pouch. McCormick, who also won the Five to Go stage, received a Colt Government Model .45 auto with a Steel Challenge holster rig, made by Rogers Holster Company.

Each of the top 20 shooters won, in addition to cash awards, his choice of prizes—as follows:

Fowler, the H&K M91; Shaw, Star reloader; Enos, Cannon safe; Wilson, Cannon safe; Zubiena, Detonics Scoremaster auto; Plaxco, H&K P7 auto; Pruitt, Colt .45 Combat Government auto (donated by Tri-Flow lubricants); Leatham, Smith & Wesson cased M629: McCormick, engraved/cased Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum (donated by Caswell Equipment Co.); Neal, Colt Government Model .45 auto; Wassom, Dan Wesson .41 Magnum stainless steel Pistol Pak; Campbell, Remington M870 12-gauge custom shotgun (donated by Cylinder & Slide Shop); Vaughn, M-S Safari Arms M81 .45 auto; Sayle, cased Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum Revolver (donated by Gun Owners of California); Castelow, FIE Corp. 12-guage auto/pump shotgun; Dixon, Clark custom .45 auto; Fichman, Randall .45 auto; Dalton, Omark/RCBS Green Machine .45 ACP reloader; Rogers, Michigan Armament Combat Flite auto (donated by Police Products West), and Souter, Auto-Ordnance M1927 A3 Thompson.

### **CATEGORY PRIZES**

Top International winner (Nelsen) received \$500 cash from Wester Security.

Top Cop (Moore) received a two-inch Smith & Wesson M37 revolver from S&S Precision Bullets.

Top Revolver (Wardell) received \$500 in cash, a case of .38 Special Blazer ammunition from Omark Industries and a Ted Blocker custom six-inch PPC holster.

Top woman (Zubiena) also received \$500 cash and a Smith & Wesson M36 revolver donated by Police Products West.

Members of the winning two-man Fort Knox Security Safes team (Campbell and Wassom) each received \$500, a Fort Knox safe and a Smith & Wesson M19 four-inch barrel revolver.

Other corporate donors included Stoeger Industries, B&B Sales, Dillon Precision, Thompson/Center Arms, Redfield Scopes, Bushnell Scopes, Atlanta Arms & Ammo, Magnum Research, Davis Sales (C-H Distributors), Charter Arms, Behlert Custom Guns, U.S. Arms (Mossberg), Bar-Sto Precision Barrels, J. Michael Plaxco/Pistolsmith and Millett Gunsights.

Also Armson OEG, Blocker Custom Holsters, Hornady Manufacturing, Lyman, Chuck Stapel Custom Knives, Pachmayr Gunworks, Goetz Bullets, G. Wm. Davis Holsters, Federal ammo, Bianchi Gunleather, Metalov, George S. Crane Co. and Hensley & Gibbs bullets.

Also MTM Molded Products, T-M Industries (Art Benjamin), Hogue Combat Grips, Sierra Bullets, EMF Early & Modern Firearms Co., Kershaw Knives, Kolpin Gun Case, A & J Manufacturing, International Shootists, Inc., Swenson's .45 Shop, Jack Breskovich's Advantage Grip Systems, Hardcast Bullet Co., John Shaw's Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting, Wilson's Gun Shop (Berryville, Arkansas), Mag Light, Ram Products, Metaloy, Buckles by Mike, Second Chance, Rig Products, Hoppe's and John Spilborghs/Pistolsmith.

Mac' .45 Shop donated three \$1,200 certificates, which were given out at a raffle during the tournament banquet.

# **OPENING SHOT**

The American Handgunner donated a year's subscription (either new or renewal) to each competitor.

The opening shot was fired by Jameson Parker, star of the CBS television series, Simon & Simon.

Opening ceremonies included shooting demonstrations by Bob Munden, fastdraw artist, and John Satterwhite, director of the American Shotgun Academy in Prescott, Arizona. Satterwhite is believed to be the only man who can load a pump shotgun and, in continuous firing, hit all seven empty cases before any reach the ground.

The tournament banquet was held at Knollwood Country Club in Granada Hills, California. Master of Ceremonies was Nick Emmanouilides, who performed superbly.

When plans are formulated for next year's match, we hope consideration will be given to creating awards for the youngest shooters.

After all, they're the ones who'll be taking the places of such great competitors as Mickey Fowler, John Shaw, Brian Enos, Bill Wilson, Jim Zubiena, Mike Plaxco, Nick Pruitt, Mike Dalton and

others in this year's "Top 20."

# INFO 'QUICKIE'

One of the best books on loads and cartridges for handguns is Ed Matunas' American Ammunition and Ballistics, published by Winchester Press (1421 South Sheridan Drive, Dept. AH, Tulsa, OK 74101). The 220-page book is well indexed, contains an excellent glossary and some mighty fine tables.

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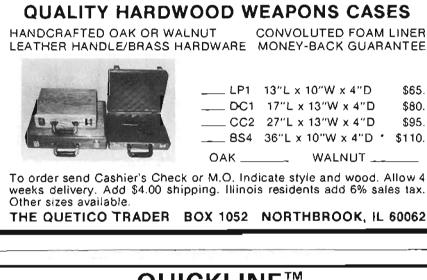
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YOUNG SHOOTERS Continued from page 42

He fired a Smith & Wesson M14 .38 Special with a 6-inch barrel, fitted with a Bo-Mar rib. Grips were by Pachmayr.

"I like a revolver better than an auto," said Nicky. "It has less recoil."

The sixth-grader dry-fires an hour each day, after school.

He gets lots of encouragement from his father (David), who also fired in this year's Steel Challenge match.

# BEATS DAD

"I beat my dad on the Flying M course last week," he said. "And it was in competition, in one of the Southwest Pistol League matches here in Canyon Country."

Nicky practices each week at the West Valley Pistol Club in Saugus, California. He uses an HKS Speed loader and fires about 2,000 rounds a month.

By the time you read this story, Nicky will have taken the competition course offered by International Shootists, Inc. and attended Jeff Cooper's school (Gunsite) at Paulden, Arizona.

When asked what he wants to do when he grows up, he replied:

"I plan to have my own shooting academy, like ISI or Gunsite. And I'm going to be a Combat Master like Mickey Fowler, Mike Dalton and Mike Fichman. I want to shoot both IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) and PPC (Practical Pistol Course).

"I may even try an auto next year; it's a lot faster than a revolver," he added.

Whatever-revolver or auto-we predict readers of the American Handgunner will be hearing more about Nicky Mook.

# ALAN JENKINS

We predict, too, readers will be hearing more about 14-year-old Alan Jeukins of Cathedral City, California.

Alan fired a .45 auto pin-gun (by Ted Jordan of Palm Springs), with ammo he loaded himself.

The Jenkins family-Alan, his mother (Margie) and father (Wayne)-all fired in this year's *Steel Challenge* match. Wayne placed 70th, Alan 170th (outscoring his mother, who placed 195th).

Alan started shooting a rifle when he was around 8; then, about a year-and-ahalf ago, he got into combat handgun shooting, competitively, with a revolver. He switched to an auto about three months ago.

The eighth-grader dry-fires for a halfhour or so every day after school, and shoots around 400 rounds a month in practice at the Palm Springs (California) Gun Club.

Alan reloads for the entire family, al-

though he admitted that his dad reloaded his own ammo for the *Steel Challenge* match.

Asked what short of load he used in the match, he replied:

"An H&G 200-grain semi-wadcutter, with 4.3 grains of Red Dot. That should give me a muzzle velocity of around 850 fps."

Alan wants to be an auto mechanic like his father, who works strictly on Rolls Royce cars in Palm Springs.

When Alan isn't shooting or reloading he is racking up A and B marks in school, and playing computer games.

There should be more shooting families like the Jenkins; good people, a *real* credit to the sport. (L. D.)

TOP WOMAN

Continued from page 43

She joined the Southwest Pistol League (SWPL) in 1976, but really didn't compete seriously until 1980. She was second high woman shooter in the 1981 *Steel Challenge* match. Last year, as she put it, "I left my brain at home." She finished 104th in a field of 154 shooters.

# **BEATEN IN 1982**

She was beaten by Pamela Morris of Phoenix, Arizona (top woman shooter in 1982), who placed 78th, and Joanna Fichman of La Crescenta, California, who placed 89th.

This year, Joanna (wife of the SWPLs executive director) placed 102nd, Pamela, 110th.

Linda has been married to Jim since 1977.

"He's a terrific pistol coach, especially where women are concerned," she said.

"Jim does all our reloading, on a Star; I just pick up the brass," she added.

Linda fired a pin-gun customized by Mac's .45 Shop of Seal Beach, California. It's worth about \$1,000 she said.

"It has Pachmayr grips, the left sideonly-of Jack Breskovich's Advantage Grip System, Bo-Mar sights and a smooth trigger pull just under three pounds," she said.

Linda uses a Ted Blocker cross-draw holster that was especially designed and padded for her thin waist.

Her load for the match was a H&G 200grain semi-wadcutter bullet, ahead of 4.4 grains of 231 powder. She estimated the velocity at 775 fps.

She and Jim shoot twice-a-week on the California Pistol Club's range (formerly Ray Chapman's range) in Canyon Country, just a 25-minute drive from their home.

**REVERSE-TWIST BARREL** Linda fires about 400 rounds a week;



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Jim fires another 100.

She believes her scores will be considerably higher when she has a reverse-twist barrel installed on her .45 auto. (Colt barrels have a left-hand twist; she wants one that twists to the right.)

"It will help tighten the grip in my palm as the gun discharges. There'll be less bothersome torque than with left-hand twist barrels, so it'll be great for women with weak wrists."

Right now, she explained, no one makes such a barrel.

"But I hope Irv Stone of Bar-Sto barrel fame will come through for me," she said. An avid horseback rider, Linda was invited to participate in the Olympics equestrian trials of 1969.

When Jim isn't shooting, acting and doing commercials for national accounts he's enjoying himself and entertaining others as a rock 'n' roll drummer.

Linda believes that more women should shoot with their husbands.

"It helps bring couples closer together," she said.

She urges married male shooters to bring their wives to the range and introduce them to handgun shooting sports.

"They'll learn to like them; I guarantee you," she added.

Asked if she competes against her hus-



band, she replied:

"I only compete against myself, at my own pace and skill level."

Good advice to all shooters, Linda.

(L. D.)

LASER SIGHT

Continued from page 44

Anthony was the first person to fire a laser-sighted handgun in the Steel Challenge match, which he finished.

# CONVERTER BOOSTS VOLTAGE

Anthony explained that the converter takes 12 volts of power and builds it up immediately to several thousand volts.

The prototype sight he used provided a little more than six milliwatts (in a 14½ inch "box"), and was designed for daytime shooting.

For nighttime shooting, only a half-milliwatt (and a smaller "box") is required, according to Anthony, a 32-year-old financier and inventor from Houston, Texas.

He said he sees three areas of major application: handgun tournaments, police use and home-defense.

A smaller sight, for use by law enforcement agencies, will fit on an automatic or revolver; it utilizes a battery pack/cord.

During the tournament, Anthony took deposits from two competitors for laser sights, priced at \$2,500 each. Delivery time: three or four weeks.

For that amount, each purchaser receives a sighting device (five milliwattsplus) made of lightweight ballistic plastic, a pair of special glasses, two 12-volt batteries and charger, a lightweight plastic case and a mount of his choice.

# EASY TO SHOOT FROM HIP

Anthony said the device can be mounted also on a rifle or shotgun.

He said he plans to manufacture a twomilliwatt model, which will retail for \$1,650.

In an exclusive interview, Anthony told the American Handgunner that this sighting device "is a natural for hip and 'instinctive' shooting.

"The laser actually is easier to shoot from the hip than from a raised position. From the hip, recoil in any caliber is more controllable, because the arms are bent and each joint becomes part of a shock absorber system."

"It makes an expert out of a novice shooter," he added.

Anthony's greatest problem shooting the Steel Challenge match was getting the device out of its special holster in split-second time.

"The laser-sighted gun I used was a bit awkward to draw," he admitted.

"Especially when you are competing against some of the fastest handgun shooters in the world." (L. D.)



Dalton was executive director of the league from 1979 to 1983. Fichman, his successor, was elected to his first two-year term this year.

The Steel Challenge match, championed by Dalton and Fichman-with the able assistance of many league members-has become the safest and most successful shooting event of all time.

Coupled with innovative courses shot on steel targets, the World Speed Shooting Championship is a crowd pleaser, the favorite of shooters, spectators and media alike.

The tournament draws the finest combat shooters in the world. Unlike other major tournaments, it is not profit-oriented, nor is it commercially attuned in terms of overall sponsorship. It is not a so-called "invitational shoot." Anyone can enter.

Rather, it is a friendly gathering of enthusiastic supporters, topflight handgunners and volunteer workers: a truly winning team.

One volunteer at this year's match was Mike Dalton's wife, Marilyn. She was Chief Scorekeeper and, with her able assistants, did a magnificent job of compiling facts and figures for competitors and media representatives.

Fichman and his colleagues have some great plans for next year's *Steel Challenge* match. Readers of the *American Handgunner* will be among the first to learn about them, once they have been finalized.

(L. D.)

# **INFO 'QUICKIE'**

Identical in dimensions of the old .38 Automatic Colt Pistol (ACP), the .38 Super cartridge was introduced in the late 1920s for use in a specially designed version of the Colt Government Model .45 auto. Since the .38 Super cartridge is loaded to pressures much higher than those of the .38 ACP, great care must be taken to avoid using .38 Super ammo in the older guns made for .38 ACP.

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class go through the same exercise. In each face I saw determination and confidence. That's what the class gave us, as well as the basic mechanics of how to shoot. These courses are offered by private individuals and can cover a variety of ground, including how the gun functions, which one is best suited for each individual's needs, home defense, training for brief confrontations, handling a pistol safely, and being defensively aware of your environment.

Continued from page 55

# **GETTING FAMILIAR**

This "field training" gave us a chance to use the skills we had acquired through earlier lectures and slide presentation, all part of Brooks course.

During class time instruction, we became familiar with our own pistols; taking them apart, cleaning them, learning the names of the parts: the barrel, the bushing, the slide, firing pin, ejector, and so forth. All became parts of a tool. This type of familiarity takes away the fear that many attach to the word "gun." As with any tool, it is useless and dangerous without a certain degree of skill.

Handling a pistol safely is to know what makes it unsafe, and using it properly. We were drilled on grip, stance, and draw. A good strong grip at all times, whether strong hand, weak hand or freestyle is essential. Loaded or unloaded, never point a gun at something you're not willing to destroy.

In home defense situations, one must be aware of what's on the other side of walls, for example.

If an intruder attacks within the home, quick, easy access to a safe (empty chamber, full magazine) .45 or other type handgun may be the owner's only hope. That is, if escape is not possible, and the owner understands the legal and psychological ramifications, long before the event goes down.

Defensive awareness training provides the opportunity for a handgun owner to make these vital decisions in a judgmental way. Getting the legal facts, weighing personal values and deciding "if it really came to him, or me-could I?"

# SAFEST WAY TO LEARN

Just as there are different points to be covered, there are different ways to teach them. Learning to shoot a .45 from a holster may not be the easiest way to learn how to shoot, but according to Brookswho lives in Woodside, California-it is the safest.

As a field instructor of Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute, Brooks' Defensive Awareness and Pistolcraft Short Course (DAPSC) follows the same philosophy as Cooper's: be defensively aware, at all times. "You are no more armed because you own a gun than you are a musician because you own a piano," said Cooper.

As with the others taking this course, I came away from my first meeting re-evaluating how I have been walking around totally oblivious to many potentially dangerous situations. That's the defensive awareness part: be aware of your environment, tune in to it, and stay out of harm's way! It's not the same as being superstitious, or paranoid. It's the first step toward realizing that something bad can happen, to me. We read of incidents happening to "others" all the time in the paper. In 1979, a poll was taken showing that 1 out of every 5 Americans is expected to encounter a violent situation within his or her lifetime.

With the increasing crime rate and threat to personal safety on the rise, the number of handgun owners in the United States has also skyrocketed. Californians purchased 371,160 handguns in 1981. But owning a handgun doesn't automatically mean you can cope with a crisis situation, should one arise.

# GOOD INSTRUCTORS

That is why many handgun owners are turning to courses such as those offered by such people as Jeff Cooper (Gunsite, Arizona), Dick Brooks, and Mickey Fowler and Mike Dalton of International Shootists (POB 5254, Mission Hills, CA 91345).

The cross section and combination of people seeking out these courses are as varied as their reasons for taking the instruction. With me at DAPSC were a lawyer, an office worker, a shopkeeper and a housewife. Brooks has had doctors, nurses, secretaries, and even a mayor take his course. Husbands and wives often take the course together. Many times the course is used as an introduction to practical pistol shooting. It's not just for men. More and more women are learning to shoot, either on their own or with their husbands.

Herc and Debi are a Northern California husband and wife team that began with the desire to learn how to shoot for self-defense. The started out by taking Brooks' course. After an introduction to defensive awareness and shooting, they joined a local gun club which sponsors practical pistol shooting matches.

"We liked the realistic circumstances that practical pistol provides," they said. Beneath the sport, the scores, the trophies, the fun, is the fact that competition puts a great deal of pressure on the shooter and allows his conditioned reflexes to take over.

# WOMEN HOLD THEIR OWN

"We wanted more training," they continued. "That's why we went on to Jeff Cooper's school in Arizona. A week there gave us valuable, in-depth training. We learned more about ourselves, and how we react in an aggressive situation, than we

ever imagined was possible."

Herc and Debi are still new at practical pistol shooting; they are not yet into competitive shooting. But in Southern California, at the annual Southwest Pistol League's "Steel Challenge" match, several husbands and wives do compete. Jim and Linda Zubiena, for example, do well each year—as do Mike and Joanna Fichman. It isn't team shooting, but rather an opportunity for individual accomplishments. The women hold their own in this high pressure, big money match. They don't have to apologize—to anyone.

Practical pistol shooting is a safe, controlled practice of defensive marksmanship. To get to that point, a certain degree of defensive *thinking* is absolutely essential.

A defensive awareness and a sound pistolcraft course offers the handgun owner not only the basic skills necessary for self-defense, but also the skills of defensive thinking. Just as we drive *defensively*, so should we be in tune with our surroundings, whether we're in a relaxed awareness condition or a more alerted one. We can then respond to an aggressive situation, without panic.

For me, being defensively aware doesn't mean I have to do anything. Rather, it means I have confidence in myself, knowledge of my own reactions and the skill of a trained handgunner to protect myself—if the need arises.

My answer is "yes, I could."

# FACTORY SIGHTS Continued from page 46

something out of Buck Rogers, it is practical and rigid. With this latest modification, it puts the M39/59 group of guns right up there with the best of them.

# COLT SIGHTS

With Colt, the average consumer has a choice of two varied but basic designs. First is what I call its regular, or standard, sight. This is featured on most of its guns, such as the Mark V, Trooper and Python.

For the target buff, the highly acclaimed Gold Cup uses a different setup: the Elliason sight. Machined to extremely close tolerances, this sight with each click moves the group ½ inch laterally at 50 yards, and ¾ inch in elevation. With a rear blade measuring .720 inch across, easy pickup is assured, even in the most demanding situations.

As an added attraction here, you can order your Python with these sights included on the gun. Granted, you have to go through Colt's Custom Shop for this, but for my money I consider this type of an extra a good investment. Not only are you investing in a better sight picture, this will, in the long run, pay a dividend if you decide to trade the gun.



Ruger is next. With an eye towards dependability and value, the Ruger Micro rear sights are just that. Available on special models with a white outline, elevation settings are locked in by clicks. Windage however, has a free system with a detent every ½ turn. In any case, I can't find fault with any sight on any Ruger gun I own.

The Dan Wesson story is slightly different in that the whole rear assemblynot just the blade-moves from left to right. That adds a rigidness to the unit not seen in any other type of rear sights. Those of you out there who may be prone to giving a gun rougher than usual treatment might consider this gun when planning your next foray in the bush. Elevation also is accomplished with the special tool provided (for the Allen screws), which allows the user to zero-in with positive results. Combined with the novel front, removable colored sights, the Dan Wesson sighting picture is excellent.

# SPECIAL SIGHTS

I could go on and on talking about adjustable sights milled in by H&R, Charter, High Standard, Browning or Interarms. But the fact still remains, factory installed rear sights are hard to beat for most of our shooting needs. BoMar, Millet, Behlert, MMC or Micro turn out products so precise, yet rugged, to solve most, if not all, shooting problems.

BoMar, for example, makes probably the most popular sight for tough match shooting. Free from backlash in all adjustments, they are made to withstand the constant pounding of a gun, especially those on the IPSC circuit. Granted, they have to be milled in by a professional gunsmith/ machinist; the delay and money spent doesn't even come close to the extended value and service received.

Looking through Millett's recent catalog, the mind is boggled by the assortment of add-ons. The company offers revolver, automatic, custom and low profile sightsand even a handgun boresighter gauge for those of us too lazy to get out to the range; a boon for busy gunsmiths.

Proper rear sights can add much to our shooting pleasure. With the basics laid down, the shooter can gain that extra measure of confidence so desperately needed in the sport of handgunning. The handgun makers have supplied the equipment; all you need to

add is the skill.

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HANDGUN ACCESSORIES Continued from page 66

zine bases insure a full seating of a loaded clip. Rear sight replacements offer a much clearer sight picture in rapid fire matches.

### TRAINED HANDS

Difficult parts to install are best left to a man schooled in the practices of good machine shop discipline. Dick Crawford, King's Gun Works or Pachmayr all have the knowledge and equipment necessary to do the job right. Milling a slide for Bo-Mar sights, or installing long match triggers, are best left to trained hands.

In the same vein of competition, speed loaders to revolvers are like extra magazines to Colt automatics. Both get the job done in a quick, efficient manner. Whether street combat or match participation, fast reloading of your gun is absolutely essential in these stress-related activities.

Eye protection is an important consideration to every handgunner. Glasses should be comfortable, lightweight and shatter resistant. Grey tinted lenses are used on bright sunny days, where transmitted light to the eye is only 30 percent. Hazy days require more light to reach the retina, so yellow can be used. This color is also favored indoors; transmitted light here is about 80 percent.

Scopes have become increasingly popular over the years. Mainly used in hunting, jut about every optical maker—including Leupold, Redfield, Bushnell and Weaver put out some kind of scope to fit every gun. Scope bases and rings are included in the list; most, except Weaver and B-Square, have to be drilled and tapped to the gun for proper installation. The two mentioned have systems that just screw, surround or adapt to a particular handgun. Ventilated ribs milled into Colt Pythons and Dan Wesson revolvers are naturals for these target mounts.

Ear protection should also be included in a shooter's basic list of priority items. Available in different shapes and sizes, all conform to that one single requirement: the suppression of high-pitched sound. There are over, under or behind the head muffs, all designed with the shooter in mind. Modern technology has brought us smaller forms of protection in the form of spongy little puffs, or miniature ear valves. Whatever your choice, make sure you wear them when shooting on the range, or in close confines. Remember, once your hearing is destroyed, it can never be restored.

# **GUN CASES**

For the trip to the range, good quality cases are available from Pachmayr or MTM. The former makes a case known



The handgun fires, and shock waves travel up the shooter's arm. Again and again - causing shock, vibration and fatigue. In answer to this problem, a group of international and national class shooters have tested a new product that, they found, helped reduce recoil/muzzle jump and arm fatigue while giving them quicker recovery and tighter shot groups. In addition, the product gave them therapeutic aid for arm fatigue, tendonitis, shoulder problems and related traumatic injuries. It's called. . .

# The Shock Watch

Worn like a watch, the patented Shock Watch contains a special dense liquid that fractures, absorbing shock, each time a round is fired. With this dramatic reduction in recoil shock, stress and fatigue is greatly reduced.

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over the years for durability, capacity and strength. Made in various sizes to accommodate three, four or five guns, the Pachmayr entry also can be supplied with a back door for easy access and comes in two colors. MTM has designed a case with two compartments, thus satisfying the "gadgeteer."

Single gun forays are covered also. Soft cases, sometimes referred to as pistol rugs, fill yet another hole in the accessory lineup. Made especially for trips back and forth to the range, guns should never be stored in such rugs. The lack of air circulation leads to rust problems later.

Wooden presentation cases made by Smith & Wesson, Colt and a host of other companies play an important part in preserving your prized handguns. Outfitted with form-fitting compartments, they cradle your guns in luxury, keeping that unfired condition look for years to come.

Cartridge protection is important to both hunters and match shooters. When the stakes are high, men in the know make sure their ammo is safe and sound. To this end, firms such as MTM and Flambeau turn out thousands of partitioned ammo boxes. Molded from high impact plastic, they are available with capacities of 50, 60 and even 100 rounds. Sizes range from 9mm to .45 ACP. Silhouette buffs are not forgotten. MTM has cases for them, in sizes to fit up to and including the new

rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader.

lubricity and hardness (Rockwell

D) Increased durability due to super

"70" C).

wildcat entries. Both firms also list various colors, which keep different loads separated. Ammo and magazine wallets help fill out the line for the fellow who may need only a minimum number of rounds to carry.

No list of accessories would be complete without the mention of maintenance. Space age lubricants laced with Teflon aid today's handgunner in keeping his pistols in tip-top shape. Products such at Tri-Flow, Break-Free and TufOil help keep all surfaces in a state of readiness, no matter what the climate. Hoppe's #9, the old American standby, comes in the usual bottled form, plus a spray applicator for those hard-to-reach places. Canned oil, cleaning kits, patches and cleaning rods are all familiar items so necessary for the proper care of your firearm. For long-term storage, a new product called Rust-Guardit will hinder corrosion for years. When sprayed on metal surfaces, it will protect your guns against the elements for days on end. Looking much like a photographer's dulling spray when applied, it is easily removed by the use of a light duty solvent. At today's prices, I consider every firearm purchase an investment, not only for recreation, but for basic value.

Good accessories let us "customize" our handguns with a modest cash outlay, and provide an environment for future research and development.



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**INSIDE WAISTBAND** Continued from page 53

The best are tanned, so perspiration won't soak through and rust or blemish the gun's finish. A suede-like exterior clings to clothing and helps hold everything in place. Pouches tend to swallow most of the gun except the butt, and the smaller the weapon the more that disappears.

Belt clips, at least on the better brands, are much improved and will work with or without a belt. This can be handy in some special applications, or with beltless slacks. For appearance and rust resistance they're generally nickel-plated.

The biggest minus on these soft pouch jobs is that they tend to collapse under belt pressure when the gun is drawn, and it takes two hands to open them again. The best method is to detach the holster, put in the gun, and then reclip the whole thing. In an emergency—when cuffing a prisoner, for example—you may not have the luxury of having both hands free to get all this done properly.

Another potential debit is the clip. If it isn't properly fastened (and sometimes even when it is) it may pull loose during the draw and leave you pointing a holstered weapon. It doesn't happen often. But it can, once in a while. I know of two cases. It's also possible for someone to take away your gun during a rough and tumble tussle, *especially if it is retained by a safety strap.* It does little good to secure the gun in the holster, if the holster isn't equally well fastened to the belt.

The nickel-chrome finish won't show through a coat, but it will through a knitted sweater and some shirts—when it does, it's a dead giveaway. This is one case where the retainer must be non-reflective, or match the color and texture of the belt.

# SKIN-TIGHT HOLSTERS

In the late 1950s and early 1960s Chick Gaylord pioneered the "thin rigid leather" school of holster crafting. It was revolutionary at the time, and included some new dimensions on inside-the-waistband designs. He molded the hide skin tight to the gun, and treated it until it would hardly flex. A weapon shoved into one of *those* scabbards stayed put until it was deliberately drawn.

Metal clips were discarded and replaced with wrap-around loops made from the same material as the holster. Secured with a one-way snap, it was almost as easy to remove as the clip, and far less likely to detach at the wrong time.

The pouch was cut so you could get a correct grip on the butt, and careful attention was paid to make sure that all appendages—such as hammer spurs or adjustable rear sight blades that might catch or snag were covered up. Since the pouch was rigid it wouldn't flatten out when the gun was removed. Sometimes Chick added even more security by including a thumb-break safety strap. Such an outfit was safe, highly concealable—even with a .45 automatic or Smith "N" frame Magnum—and very fast if you practiced a bit.

Today, holster makers like Alessi and DeSantis carry on the Gaylord tradition with some added innovations of their own. Most notable are wings or pads on the front and back of the pouch—which is angled for a strong-side/FBI-style draw that wrap around the hip and help support and hold the holster in place.

# **CONVENTIONAL THUMB-BREAKS**

Alessi's *Hideout* is available in either open top or pull-through versions. Conventional thumb-breaks require one to push a tab backward with the thumb to unsnap the snap. This can be a problem if the holster is very tight to the body (the tab has nowhere to go) and requires the thumb to be high on the initial grip. In the pullthrough mode, the snap is centered above the frame or slide in such a manner that a hard jerk on the gun will spread the straps and release the snap. You don't have to shift your shooting grip; just grab and pull.

DeSantis has several models, including its #6 *Inside High Ride*, which has many of the same features as the above, including the pull-through strap.

Its #5 Invisible Agent fits no one else's pattern. An abbreviated skeleton of leather holds the gun, which can be any size (within reason) pistol or revolver, because the bottom part that goes around the muzzle and holds the gun is adjustable. If you switch guns a lot, you may like this one-and save considerable money.

One of the more popular pint-sized belly guns is High Standard's little .22 double-derringer. But look out; if you shove it back in the waistband and miss the holster while hooking the trigger over the belt, and continue pushing down you may end up with a bullet in your lower extremities.

A good way to carry one is in a DeSantis #7, which puts the butt just out of sight below the pants top. Uniformed officers can cover the clip—the only part that shows—with their duty belts. Other examples of the #7 follow the customary scheme of soft pouch/metal clip designs.

# PLASTIC BREAKFRONTS

Bill Rogers, well known for his plastic breakfronts—which are in a class of their own—and some outstanding IPSC and PPC gear, also produces an excellent "inside job." The body is constructed from a patented sandwich with a thin layer of plastic in the middle. Once the pouch is formed it never loses its shape. On Colt "O" frame automatics (Government Model, Commander, and Gold Cup), Rogers molds in a groove where it will hold the safety "on" when the weapon is carried cocked and locked. This can be ex-



tremely important if you use an ambidextrous safety with extended thumbpieces. Some holsters will allow body movement to work them down and off.

The belt retainer is different, too: a stiff plastic tab with a folded hook on the bottom. It's secure, quick to remove and put on; and it can be swivelled on a pivot screw to any angle you want.

Galco International Ltd. (ex-Jack Ass Leather) has a somewhat similar set-up on its *Inside Hooker*, except that it's made from metal, is leather covered and doesn't swivel. It also has a stiff pouch that won't fold up at the wrong time.

The venerable George Lawrence Company has been around since 1857, the oldest holster makers in the country with 126 years of continuous operation and a reputation to match. Its M25 has an inflexible pouch and leather belt loop with a Velcro closure. There's no chrome to give you away, and it's not going to come off until you remove it. The standard configuration is angled for cross draw. If you want it otherwise, let them know.

# LAWRENCE'S CUSTOM WORK

Lawrence is one of the few large firms that will consider doing custom work. Normally, it's in the form of adaptation to an existent model. Let the company know if you have a non-standard gun or a special problem. Keep in mind, however, that this

**Silhouette Rifles** 

**Silhouette Pistois** 

sort of a project isn't inexpensive. Lawrence does exellent work, so whatever the expense, it will be well worth it.

Cobra Gunskin has two models worthy of note.

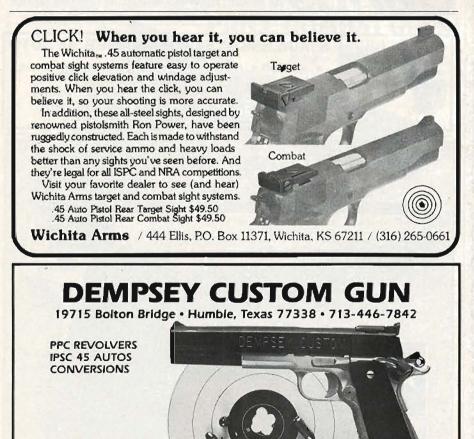
One is its *Sidewinder*, designed by Andy Anderson of Fast Draw leather fame. Again you have a rigid pouch (suede-lined, if you want) with a rotating belt loop. Wear it at any angle.

Another is its H-3 Combo, which has belt slots in the back, and the common chrome-plated clip on the front. Wear it inside or out, either way you want. The rigid pouch sports a thumb-break, which neatly covers hammer spurs, sight blades, and such.

Dick Saldeen puts out what he calls the *Cat.* It's held on the belt by a slotted tab behind the pouch. A bit different, to say the least; but it works. I've used one with a Star PD and like it fine. It takes time to get used to the belt hook-up, but it grows on you. Basic construction makes it pretty hard for someone to snatch your gun.

I was responsible for the Shoestring holster that was featured in the September/October 1982 issue of the American Handgunner. In certain undercover applications, this holster—if you can call it that—is ideal. Anyone who can tie a knot can make one for a couple of bucks.

When Milt Sparks was confronted with the "collapsing flabby pouch syndrome,"



he cured it by sewing a reinforced leather strip around the mouth to hold it open. So, with one imaginative stroke, that problem was solved. His *Summer Special* was developed in collaboration with Bruce Nelson who, at the time, was a police officer working undercover narcotics investigations.

This model features also sight rails, which stiffen the pouch even further and keep the front blade from tearing things up. The belt loop is secured with a one-way snap that makes sure it stays fastened. Unquestionably, this is one of the best rigs available. If you buy one, get the # 300 set, which includes a matching 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch wide belt and "inside" magazine case. Everything's compatible and you can't find a better value.

### **GORDON DAVIS HOLSTER**

Gordon Davis has a similar style called the #455 Security. The one I examined lacked sight rails, but had two independent belt loops. It's not likely they'll both unhook at the same time. If getting into action without encumbrance and superior concealment are your prime prerequisites, this one's hard to beat. It can be ordered with sight rails, for an additional \$5.

Bianchi uses the same strap-around-themouth mode on his M3 *Pistol Pocket*. Unlike Sparks and Davis, he puts the smooth side of the leather out, and has a thumb-break.

In his latest version, the belt loop swivels, so the pouch is adjustable to any carry angle.

When you choose a holster, take a careful look at the gun you are going to carry in it or, conversely, be sure the leather is appropriate for both the firearm and the particular way you are going to be using it. Since the gun will hug in close to the body, sharp projections are a deadly liability. This is one situation where target sights may best be left off. If not, pick a holster that will cover and protect that area. Hammer spurs, particularly on late model Smith & Wesson guns, must be covered by leather or otherwise modified. They can be shrouded, or just plain cut off. If you don't take precautions, they'll quickly wear a hole through coat linings and shirts. If you are not sure, take a small scrap of cloth and shoeshine it across the suspect edge, corner, or surface. If you get fuzz followed, by rips and tears, you're in trouble.

Sturm Ruger offers a spurless hammer as an option on its Police-Six, Speed-Six, Security-Six line. It will take the standard hammer in any one of these revolvers.

Charter Arms recently introduced what it calls a *Pocket Hammer*. Order it as original equipment, or have one installed in any older model.

Colt can fit most of its "D" frame guns (Detective Special, Cobra, Agent, etc.) with a hammer shroud. Its Custom Gun Department can de-spur and tune the action on just about any current, and some discontinued Colt revolvers.

# MODIFY DOUBLE-ACTION GUNS

I strongly suggest that any revolver with the hammer thumbpiece cut off should be modified to *double-action only*. Once you have it cocked, the hammer must be lowered "just so," or it will fire. One slip can cause a lot of grief; and it isn't hard to do. So don't take the risk. If you must have the single-action mode, keep the spur intact and get a holster (or, shroud) that covers it.

Perspiration can cause trouble. Pick a gun finish-stainless steel, electroless nickel, Electrofilm, Teflon, hard-chrome, whatever-that will stand up to it.

Neoprene rubber or fiberglass-reinforced nylon grips offered by Pachmayr, Mustang, Sile and Hogue don't have any lacquer or varnish to wear off, or any sharp checkering to cause snags.

Rigid pouches usually work better than soft ones, especially with the larger, heavier guns. Within limitations, the supple type do best with small- and medium-sized guns. An exception to this are those with reinforced entrances, made by Bianchi, Davis, and Sparks.

Those who work in a job where someone might try to take their guns during physical encounters had better opt for a model with a safety strap over the gun, and a belt loop designed for positive retention. If necessary, any of the snapped models can be altered so the snap won't unsnap. Then you'll have to thread your belt through the loop; but those few seconds lost might save your life.

Metal clips offer the advantage of being easy to put on and take off, and they can be used with or without a belt, in most cases. But be sure they are stiff enough to remain in place during a draw, and that their nickel-chrome finish won't give you away.

# **OTHER METHODS OF CARRY**

When working undercover in hot weather, one can clip a small, soft holster inside a rib bandage under his shirt, anywhere on the belt or waist, or in a boot top. All these options can be changed quickly when circumstances dictate. If necessary, the gun and holster can be temporarily dumped. For this application, buy one with a thumb-break from Brauer Bros. or Cobra Gunskin; otherwise, you'll lose the gun out of the boot.

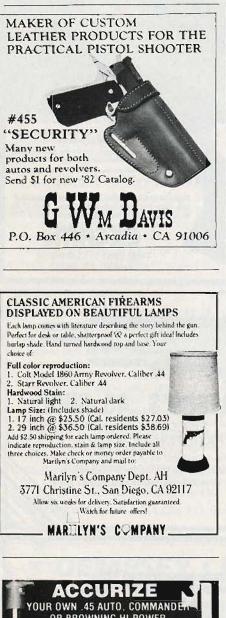
If you are wearing a suit, sport jacket, long coat, or have your shirt tail out, you can put the holster outside your pants, inside your belt. This is more comfortable, and the loss in concealability is small. When you move the rig inside, remember to let out your belt a notch or two.

Many of the holsters we have discussed can be worn strong-hand, weak-hand or cross-draw. Some are pre-angled for a selected position and won't work well any other way. Decide what you want and check the makers' specifications before you buy. Those made by Cobra and Rogers, with adjustable belt retainers, may be the best bet if you switch around a lot.



Roy's Custom Leather has one-its M123-which has a clip that can be reversed from one side of the pouch to the other, so you can wear it either right- or left-handed.

You don't have to use a belt with the spring clips. But it's a good idea to do soespecially with the heavier guns. All other methods we've looked at require one. Therefore, when you buy a holster, look at what's available in *matching accessories*belts, clip and cartridge cases, and handcuff carriers; be sure to get everything you need.





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# POINT SHOOTING

Continued from page 45

instinctive point shooter. It has, however, been compromised by the competitive combat shooter. The desire for high scores on paper targets has driven many shooters to raise their guns to eye level to get a better sight picture. You may get away with it during daylight hours, but when the sun goes down you'll be lucky to see the gun in your hands, much less the sights.

Another problem in eye-level shooting is a loss of night vision caused by the muzzle flash. After the first shot you can't see the target. This can be corrected by holding the gun below the line of sight, allowing you to look over the muzzle flash.

Go to the range, experiment and discover your limitations. Using silhouette targets, begin at the 10-foot line and work your way back. Twenty-five feet should be tops for this kind of shooting. Beyond that, there are other options open to you; tactical withdrawal is one.

**DUTY HOLSTERS** Continued from page 52

damn near dislocated my shoulder every time I drew from it. Unfortunately, the high-ride is the only half-way decent holster available for carrying a six-inch gun. More on that later.

Muzzle-forward designs have only two faults which keep them from being ideal. The gun butt is pressed against the back of the car (or chair) seat, and can get quite uncomfortable. Secondly, the gun is served up nicely for anyone, say, in a crowd, who knows about thumb breaks and tries to snatch your piece from behind you. While the fact is that most gun-grabs occur when an assailant is in front of you, never forget Murphy's Law. On the plus side, this design allows the draw to begin with a locked wrist. This is most important for consistency.

The best mass-produced example of a muzzle-forward style is the Safariland #13. I would estimate that 75 percent of the police officers in the twelve-parish (county) area I work use this specific model. It's a good holster. I wore one for two years. But I think there is something better.

# **OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL**

The straight-drop, as it is popularly called, carries the pistol perpendicular to the ground. Supposedly, this design was originated by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Until recently, custom makers with their various models were the only source. Please note, however, that Safariland and Don Hume have announced their own versions of this superb design. I have examined both, and they are good, if a bit bulky.

The straight-drop keeps the gun just high enough and close to the body so it is unobtrusive, yet accessible. The better models have a deep slot between belt shank and holster body to accommodate a jacket hem. Besides providing a trim overall appearance, the straight-drop is the perfect compromise of speed vs. security. Here also you'll find metal lining. Some companies sandwich a thin piece of sheet steel between thicknesses of leather prior to sewing. This dramatically increases the holster's durability and, unfortunately, the weight.

My first straight-drop was made by Looper Brothers of Oklahoma. It was metal-lined, with a full-length metal-lined back plate, and weighed a ton. I liked the holster mainly because it looked sharp and nobody else at my troop had one. This was during my pre-survival-consciousness days, when I was a brand-new rookie with no prior police experience. After several months on the road, I realized that the conventional safety strap caused me to take more time getting my gun into action than I was willing to sacrifice. Carrying one of these (or any, for that matter) holsters unsnapped is asking for trouble. I soon sold that holster and began a three-year search, discovering in the interim the superiority of the thumb break. I have now come fullcircle back to the straight-drop.

# C.M. LEATHER'S MODEL 12

Of the many different holsters produced by the C.M. Leather Company of Berryville, Arkansas, I can say without reservation that their Model 12 is the finest police duty holster available anywhere, at any price. It is a straight-drop, short shank design with thumb break and a deep jacket slot. The shank has a metal insert, allowing you to shape it according to your hip swell. The holster is fully lined with soft glove leather and positions the gun butt just above belt level. It comes in plain, basketweave, or Clarino. A metal-lined version is available.

Upon handling this holster, one immediately notices that the leather is substantially thicker than that found in the bigname makes. The company uses 6-7 ounce leather in all duty holsters, as opposed to the 4-ounce weight usually employed by the major firms. C.M. Leather has in its shop a Model 12 that was worn by a Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Authority motor cop on the day he dumped his bike. The man went sliding down a concrete runway, still astride the machine, with the holster bearing the brunt of all that weight and friction. Although badly gouged, the holster is still serviceable. You would be hard-pressed to find a better testimonial to a product's durability.

Every C.M. Leather holster is made one at a time, by hand. The result is a heavier grade of leather, more uniform stitching,



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and greater attention to finishing details. Since the holsters do not move on a production line, every flaw can be noted and corrected. Carl Martin, founder and owner of the firm, personally inspects every holster before it goes out the door.

You would expect a holster that has been produced by such exacting methods to carry an astronomical price tag. Guess again. The current price for a plain black *Model 12* is \$40, while the Clarino finish like the one I use, goes for \$45.

# **HIGH-RIDE HOLSTER**

C.M. Leather offers a complete gallery of duty, concealment, competition, and special-purpose items. I noted earlier that the high-ride is currently the only practical holster available in which to carry a sixinch gun, and it has problems inherent in the design. When we visited C.M. Leather in the fall of 1982, a local deputy and I discussed with Martin our ideas on modifying a Model 12 to permit carrying a six-inch revolver. Our primary concern is to maintain the superior carrying and drawing properties of this holster, while keeping the bottom edge the same distance from the gunbelt for comfort while seated. Martin added a few suggestions of his own and assured us it would be no problem. We left that meeting with the sure knowledge that if an article can be crafted from leather, this man can do it.

At least once a week, I am asked by someone, both other cops and civilians, where I got my holster and how to go about acquiring one. C.M. Leather does not have a catalog, nor does it advertise. The reason for this is simple: the demand for its products has always exceeded the supply. Martin and his crew stay busy supplying major agencies across the country. It is a measure of the man, however, that he will take time out from a hectic schedule to make a single holster for a cop, if he doesn't have the item in stock when it is ordered.

More and more departments nowadays are issuing equipment to their troops. Fortunately, most agencies, such as my own, allow the officer some latitude in his individual gear. If it is time to replace your present rig, or you're simply not satisfied with what you've got, perhaps C. M. Leather can fill the bill, with high quality at a reasonable price. Give Carl Martin a call at (501) 423-6696 and he'll be happy to discuss your needs with you. Or, a request on department letterhead will ensure preferential treatment. Write: C.M. Leather Co., POB 247 (Dept. AH), Berryville, AR 72616.

In these times of shoddy workmanship and production shortcuts, it is refreshing to come across a manufacturing firm that takes pride in its work and backs that pride with top-quality merchandise at reasonable prices.





# Sound Guard offers custom ear protectors

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The Sound Guards kit comes with premeasured packets and easy-to-follow instructions.

Retail price is \$13.95.

For more information, contact Ron Penney, Earway Laboratory, POB 4708 (Dept. AH), San Diego, CA 92104.

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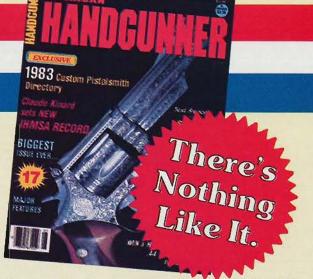
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# INDUSTRY INSIDER

Continued from page 94

forward to getting a couple for a test-fire report.

Colt was at the NRA show in Phoenix with its new, compact .380 auto-a scaleddown M1911AJ with barrel bushing and the whole works (MK IV Series 80).

Beeman is a name synonymous with air guns, but Dr. Bob is jumping into the cartridge gun field with both feet. Beeman will be offering the German Korth revolver in .22 and .357 Magnum calibers at about \$1,595; or in a convertible (.357/ 9mm) at \$1,895. Beeman will also be handling competition pistols from Unique, FAS and Agner. If you are into bullseye shooting, these names will be familiar to you.

Pachmayr is getting into non-custom handguns with a line of .22 conversion units. These are made by Peter-Stahl of Germany, and there are models to fit the M1911, S&W 39-59, Sig and the Browning Hi-Power. Peter-Stahl has developed an interesting double-action auto chambered for, among other cartridges, the .45 Winchester Magnum. I would presume that Pachmayr will handle these when they are available.

# **POLICE MARKET**

When the 9mm Colt becomes available, we can look for increased activity (for Colt) in the police auto pistol market especially 9mm autos.

With the acceptance of the 9mm auto by more and more state and local law enforcement agencies, it would not surprise us to see firms like **Beretta**, **Colt**, **H&K**, and **S&W** get into a real fight for a share of the market. We look, too, for **Ruger** to push up its auto pistol project, so it can get into the campaign and benefit accordingly.

The police market is not especially lucrative in itself; but having your gun in a growing number of police departments sure doesn't hurt your image in the sporting and self-defense markets.

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# SPEAK OUT Continued from page 61

The Ruger Blackhawk SRM breaks new ground in the use of highpressure, high-power revolver cartridges. As in any product at the leading edge of its technology, continued research and product experience leads the way towards higher levels of performance and longevity.

We at Sturm, Ruger feel strongly that the few weeks delay in shipping the new Blackhawk SRM .357 Remington Maximum revolvers will, in the end, be to the benefit of our distributors, our dealers, and most importantly, to our friends, the shooters, to whom all of our best efforts are, and will continue to be, directed.

William B. Ruger, Jr. Senior Vice President, Manufacturing Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. Southport, Conn.

Editor's note: More manufacturers of firearms should take this forthright approach, when required. Thanks, Bill. And good luck! (L.D.)

# Revolver accuracy is in the gun's forcing cone

I have just finished reading the article on "Revolver Accuracy" by Russ Gaertner in the March / April issue of the American Handgunner.

I'm interested in smoothing the forcing cone in my Dan Wesson .357. However, Gaertner did not include the full address of the Brownell Company in his article. (It's Rt. 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA 50171.)

This was the first issue of the American Handgunner I have ever read, and am so delighted with what was between the covers, that I am sending a check for my first year's subscription.

The articles are well researched, very informative, and to the point. Of particular interest to me were the "Info Quickies."

The only complaint I have is that it is a bimonthly publication. Bill Wells Independence, Kentucky

Hardball is a slang term for full metaljacketed .45 ACP pistol ammo.

INFO 'QUICKIE'



AMERICAN HANDGUNNER · SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1983

# **INDUSTRY INSIDER**

# JERRY RAKUSAN

# DON'T FOOL WITH MOTHER NATURE: A .357 MAXIMUM CARTRIDGE LESSON

There are certain things that are selfevident, which does not mean that they cannot be changed; but you had better know what you're doing if you do decide to alter the basic concept.

One of these self-truths is that metaljacketed bullets are for auto pistols and lead bullets are for revolvers.

Now, we all know that there are many successful metal-jacketed revolvers bullets. Mother Nature lets us get away with revision of her concept, as long as we behave ourselves and act like gentlemen. But we are prone to want to break barriers; the sound barrier was broken, space was conquered, and almost all of the difficult mountains in the Himalayas have been climbed.

Not too long ago, a brash young man decided that there was still another barrier to be broken—that of souping-up an already souped-up cartridge: the .357 Magnum. After all, it had been around for many years, and where is it written that it could not be made even *more* powerful? So, this brash fellow added a bit to the length of the .357 Magnum case, loaded it up and down, and proved to himself that his extended cartridge really *did* work. He shot it in his custom Contenders, and marveled at the velocity and energy of this "growed-up .38."

Now, this brash young man was the head of a group which used its guns to knock down steel silhouette targets at pretty fair distances for a handgun. His followers heard of this new cartridge, and clamored for cases, factory loads and guns so that they, too, could experience the wonder of the amazing .357 Maximum.

But here a thread began to unravel from this cashmere concoction. The followers fired not only single-shot hand rifles, but revolvers of gigantic proportions.

# 'WATCH IT, BUSTER!"

So it came to pass that the cartridge was developed and manufactured. Along came another brash young man, who said to all who would listen, "If you can make a cartridge, 1 can make a revolver to shoot it." And he did, a stretched version of one of his most popular revolvers. And shoot it, he did. With a great ball of fire, a roar of thunder and not just a little recoil, this "new" gun contained the pressures and sent the jacketed bullet screaming toward the target.

But those who listened closely at the thunder heard the call of Natural Forces saying, "Watch it, Buster!"

It is written that for every action, there is a reaction. As this screaming giant was awakened by the ignition of its engine, it



had to go somewhere and do something. It found that it could push the bullet out ahead of it and ease its tensions. But it also discovered a slight gap just ahead of the bullet and, like the giant burp of a gluttonous medieval monarch, it sent its hot gasses out of this handy egress.

The cutting flames found easy relief in all directions, except up. Here, freedom was blocked by the top strap. And shot after shot took its toll on the bottom of the top strap. The searing gasses also ate away at the face of the barrel, eroding the forcing cone and displacing the metal, so that the tiny gap was soon not big enough, and the cylinder would no longer revolve.

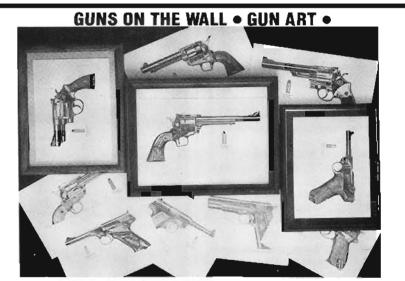
The brash young men had once again fooled with Mother Nature, and we all know what happens when you do *that*.

So, at the ammo-maker and the gunmaker, there is much scratching of heads, as the brash young men try to figure out a way of bending the rules, skirting the lightning bolts and deluding Mother Nature into thinking that we are not going to upset her postulations.

# NEWS GUNS

Rumors are that Colt soon will introduce two new 9mm autos that meet all of the requirements of military handgun tests. Whether this will open up the joint services search for an American-made pistol is yet to be seen.

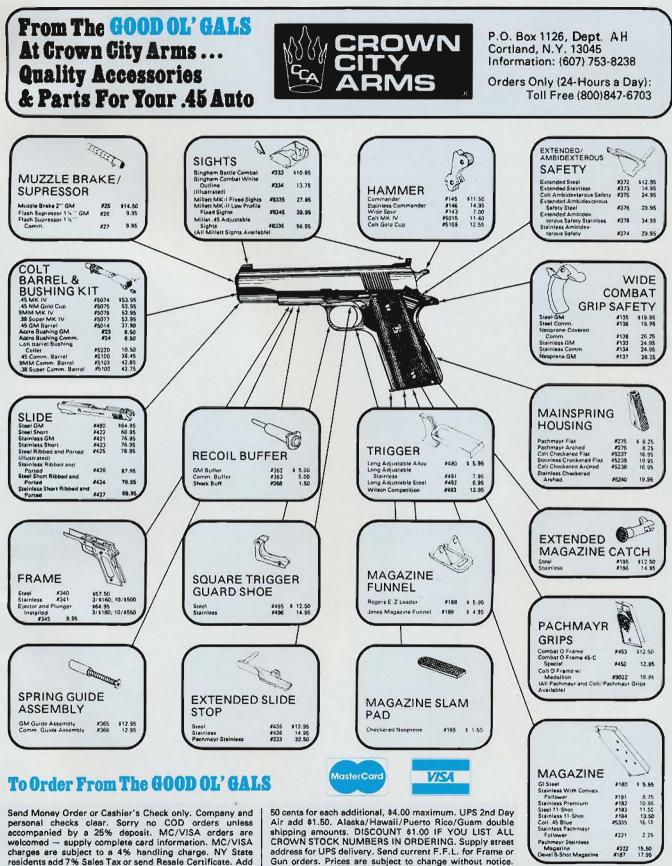
Charter Arms is in the pocket auto pistol business. The two samples we have seen-a .22 and a .380 auto made in West Germany-looked good; we are looking *Continued on page 92* 



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