

HANDGUNNER

1987 Custom Pistolsmith Directory

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1987

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AMERICAN

HANDGUNNER

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Exclusive

**RON POWER'S
GRAND
MASTER
DELUXE**

AMERICAN

**HANDGUNNER
CUSTOM GUN
GIVEAWAY**

**WIN A
CUSTOM
HEINIE
.45**

You Are There!

**BIANCHI CUP '86
IPSC NATIONALS**





I think I need
different glasses.

*Why? Tired of
punching the dirt?*

C'mon. Even the
one's I hit don't fall.
What am I doing wrong?

*Well, first you need
to improve your
concentration and...*

And what?

*And you ought to
try a different
brand of bullets.*

You load Hornady,
don't you?

*Right. I think they
work better, even for...*

Even for what?

*Even for someone
who shakes as bad
as you do.*

Hornady bullets can help you score better in silhouette or any shooting competition. We give you a wider selection—more than two dozen bullets—each one carefully manufactured to help you hit right where you're holding. And we give you a wider range of designs—so you can tailor loads for maximum effectiveness in all shooting disciplines. For unlimited long-range rifle and pistol silhouette use, we recommend loading our InterLock[™] bullets. This exclusive InterLock feature locks jacket and core together to retain more weight on impact...and to produce the extra striking energy that can make sure a target goes down. If you want to score better, try a box of Hornady bullets. See your dealer or write for a copy of our latest Shooter's Guide.

*We're what
reloading is
all about.*



Hornady

Hornady Manufacturing Co., Dept. AG2017
Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802-1848

Hard To Buy For?

The American male has been accused of being very hard to shop for at Christmas. Most shooters are individualists who can take care of themselves and are in fact guilty of being "hard to buy for." It's no wonder that our wives, sweethearts and Santas have a hard time figuring out what we want or need. Often as not, we wind up with a new pair of socks, a necktie and some other gizmo.

This year make it easy for them and tell them what you want. Tear out this ad and leave it somewhere your Santa will find it. Be inventive — try the refrigerator, the front seat of her car, her lingerie drawer. Let her see what you *really* want for Christmas. A new RL550 Dillon Reloader would be really nice but there are many other quality Dillon reloading accessories that are priced about the same as that necktie she was going to buy. Don't be bashful. Just check the boxes in the ad, and don't worry, we'll help her with the ordering to make sure you get the right caliber. Try it, if you don't you will wind up with another damn pair of socks!

☐ The New Dillon RL 550

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Factory Direct

\$234.⁹⁵

Complete (Less Dies)

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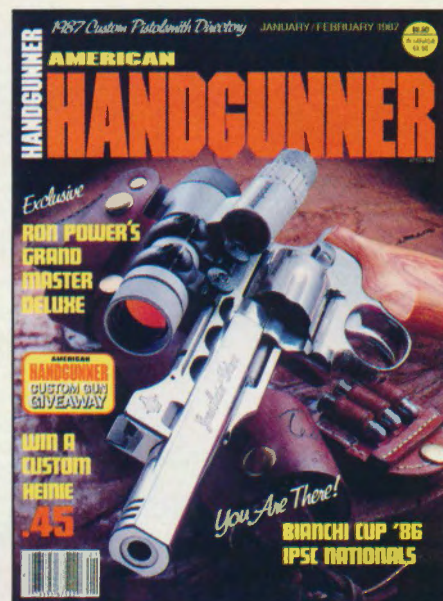
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1987 Vol. 12, No. 62

FEATURES

| | |
|---|----|
| MASTER TIPS , Jon Winokur | 23 |
| PPC Master John Pride explains mental conditioning. | |
| THE AYOOB FILES , Massad Ayoob | 25 |
| An armed citizen fights back against the odds. | |
| HORNADY PRO-JECTOR , Dan Cotterman | 26 |
| A test report on Hornady's new progressive press. | |
| NRA'S BIANCHI CUP 1986 , Massad Ayoob | 32 |
| Bureaucratic bumbling spells trouble for The Cup. | |
| A DILETTANTE'S DEBUT , Robert Mejia | 32 |
| Impressions of The Cup from a first-timer. | |
| WIN THE GUN THAT WON , AH Staff | 34 |
| You can win the gun that won Bianchi Cup. | |
| GRAND MASTER DELUXE , Jim Weller | 36 |
| Ron Power's exquisite revolver for NRA Action Shooting. | |
| CUSTOM GUN GIVEAWAY , | 40 |
| You can win a Richard Heinie custom .45 auto. | |
| 1986 IPSC NATIONALS , Cameron Hopkins | 42 |
| Rob Leatham nails down his fourth consecutive win. | |
| CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH DIRECTORY , | 50 |
| A buyer's guide listing the nation's pistolsmiths. | |

COLUMNS

| | |
|---|----|
| HANDGUN LEATHER , Al Pickles | 6 |
| THE GUILD SPEAKS , George Wessinger | 9 |
| COP TALK , Massad Ayoob | 10 |
| HANDLOADING , Dan Cotterman | 16 |
| HANDGUN HUNTING , J.D. Jones | 18 |
| INSIGHTS INTO IPSC , Cameron Hopkins | 20 |
| PISTOLSMITHING , John Lawson | 22 |
| CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION , Jon Winokur | 24 |
| LEATHAM'S COLUMN , Rob Leatham | 28 |
| INDUSTRY INSIDER , Jerry Rakusan | 78 |



Cover: Ron Power's Grand Master Deluxe with Aimpoint 2000 sight. Photo by Ichiro Nagata.



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HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

ALL THE SIGNS OF QUALITY LEATHER ARE READILY FOUND IN HORSESHOE HOLSTERS

Having spent most of my life in law enforcement, I couldn't hazard a guess at how many times I have buckled up my gunleather or slipped a handgun into its belt holster. Surely it has been better than 10,000 times. Add to that the past few years during which I have been testing all manner of gunleather rigs for the *Handgun Leather* column, and it would be fairly safe to say that I have just about seen it all.

My standards for judging leatherwork are, therefore, really quite high. The amazing thing is how many holster manufacturers meet and exceed those standards. Those that fail number less than ten percent and I can't imagine how they manage to stay in business.

Judging leather, once you have seen a great deal of it, becomes relatively simple. Duty leather and competition leather should look like they are made to last, well, almost forever. Quality leather holsters look like they are made with pride. They are designed to present your handgun in the best manner possible for the task at hand. Of equal impor-

tance in the design are features that protect you and your gun from unauthorized use and abuse. That is to say a fine competition rig should hold your gun securely, and a duty rig should be relatively snatch-proof.

While it should go without saying that a good holster will protect your gun from damage, there are a few on the market that could do just the opposite. As an example, I have just finished evaluating the offerings of a really old line manufacturer. Not only is the stitching sloppy and the leather finish poor, but the inner surface has metal snaps and rivets that are completely uncovered. Needless to say, metal-to-metal contact can eventually mar the finish on your gun.

On a much happier note I have recently had the opportunity to examine and work with two excellent holster rigs offered by Andy Arratoonian's Horseshoe Leather Products of Leeds, England.

Andy's is a one man operation that borders on the outer limits of excellence. Because he makes each holster personally, they reflect

that "pride in workmanship" of which I spoke.

My latest Horseshoe Leather holster is the M2000 Breakthrough speed rig designed for IPSC combat shooting by a master craftsman who is also a respected IPSC shootist—Andy Arratoonian himself.

As the name "Breakthrough" implies, the M2000 is completely open-fronted which sets up the possibility, with practice, of obtaining the fastest draw with an approved IPSC rig. One of the criteria of being approved, of course, is a retention system that prevents losing the handgun during the rigors of IPSC competition courses.

The M2000 accomplishes this in two ways. The holster consists of a three layered body. The outer layer is full-grain premium grade English bridle-leather, the quality of which is obvious even to a novice. Next comes an 18-gauge steel liner plate, then an inner layer of top quality suede. The whole affair is then pressure formed to the exact contour of your specific handgun.

Obviously such a fit will present your gun in the best manner for a speed draw. The fit, however, is adjustable via a tension screw which runs through the open-fronted holster just forward of the trigger guard and below the slide. The screw can be loosened or tightened dependent upon the problem or situation.

The 1 3/4 inch belt looping is offered in two styles so as to present your gun in the muzzle forward rake for the appendix position, or the muzzle to the rear rake for a strong side hip or rear of hip draw.

The M2000 holster, or the complete rig including belt and double magazine pouches, is available in tan or black. Unfortunately, there are no left hand variations at this time and a backlog of orders from some of the top shootists in the world is keeping Andy very busy. Remember, each holster and belt bearing the Horseshoe symbol is hand-made by just one man.

I have owned and tested four very famous IPSC rigs before obtaining my Horseshoe M2000. At this writing I have been using the new rig for over three months and, by actual electronic timing with my Pro Timer II, declare it to be faster than all others I have used. This is, of course, a personal experience, but if an extra second or two, without loss of gun security, is important to you, then the M2000 is worth a hard look.

Strange as it may seem, and possibly due to the value of the U.S. dollar overseas, the wide variety of professional leather offerings from Horseshoe Leather are not anywhere near as expensive as you might expect.

If you would like to peruse a catalog that depicts the various concealment holsters used by some of the world's most elite gun professionals, as well as a great IPSC competition rig, you might send several dollars off to Andy to defray printing and overseas airmail. His address is Horseshoe Leather Products, Dept. AH, 132 Aberford Rd., Woodlesford, Leeds, LS26 8LG, England.



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Two Limited Edition Ka-Bars, honoring
Parris Island and San Diego Recruit Training

*You went into Boot
Camp a boy. You
reached deep down
inside yourself to
find the guts to
endure. You came
out a man . . .*



When the American cause is threatened, the order goes out, "Send in the Marines!" To forge our boys into Leathernecks the Corps uses a hammer and anvil it calls Boot Camp. America owes much to it.

Now, to honor Boot Camp and the men who are the "First to Fight", The American Historical Foundation and Ka-Bar Knives are proud to bring you the Boot Camp Commemorative Ka-Bars—one for Parris Island and one for San Diego Recruit Training. But only 2,500 of each are being made.

If you or a family member made the grade in Boot Camp, this is a trophy of that important passage to manhood.

For Collectors, important qualities make these knives valuable centerpieces of any collection. The edition limit is low—only 2,500 of each, individually serially numbered—and each is a real battleworthy Ka-Bar made by the original maker of America's most famous fighting/utility knife.

Patriotic Americans who proudly salute the U.S. Marine Corps—and those who shared the challenge of Boot Camp or Basic Training in the other services—will also quickly reserve these museum-quality knives.

Memories—In 24-Karat Gold

Everytime you glance at the blade, memories will flood back of the 45-second haircut . . . P.T. . . mess duty . . . guard duty . . . rifle range . . . hand grenades . . . pugil sticks. These activities, and others, are forever captured in glistening 24-karat gold banners across the gleaming, black blade.

The DI's "Smokey Bear" hat and the insignia of the CO and DI are there, too, in 24-karat gold, along with their crossed swords.

If you wish, we can personalize your Ka-Bar by engraving your name, serial number and other information, such as platoon and training dates, on the blade reverse.

A Genuine Ka-Bar Collector's Item

Yes, each is a genuine, battleworthy Ka-Bar, made by Ka-Bar Knives, the company that made the originals for the Corps in World War II. Being a genuine Ka-Bar

guarantees its value. Being a special, Limited Edition Ka-Bar assures its collector interest.

Only one out of every few thousand Marines who graduated from Boot Camp and Collectors can own one, as only 2500 of each are being made. So each will become a valuable collectors item.

Each is issued exclusively by The American Historical Foundation, with active-duty, retired and prior-service military men as Members in 29 countries around the world. The Foundation's serial number registry system guarantees the strict edition limit, which further assures the collector value. Each is engraved with the serial number on the blade and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.

Marines and Collectors who reserve both Ka-Bars will receive matching serial numbers, if they act in time.

Serial No. 1 to Parris Island and San Diego

Serial No. 1 of each Boot Camp Ka-Bar has been presented by the Foundation to the Commanding General at Parris Island and San Diego Recruit Training Depots, respectively, for permanent display to honor the men who are forged into Marines through Boot Camp.

The custom bladesmiths at Ka-Bar Knives are hand-picking only the finest blades for these commemoratives.



San Diego Recruit Training Commemorative Ka-Bar

Each battleworthy blade is mirror polished through many steps—and finally by hand. Only after passing inspection by the Chief Knifsmith's critical eye is it ready for selective plating with genuine 24-karat gold. From this point, each blade is handled with gloves, as the 24-karat gold plated, highly-collectible, straight-pattern cross-guard is fitted in place.

The genuine cowhide leather grip is carefully pressed into place, hand fitted, hand polished and hand waxed for lasting beauty. Then the knifsmith insets the Marine Corps scarlet-and-gold, fired-enamel medallion into the presentation face of the grip.

Next, the Ka-Bar craftsman affixes the 24-karat gold plated butt, a special three-rib design created just for this edition to further enhance the beauty and collector value. Finally, the Chief Knifsmith sights down the blade and inspects this special Ka-Bar in all particulars. When it passes, it is serially numbered on the blade reverse and matched up with its numbered Certificate of Authenticity, ready to be delivered to you.

Display Case Available

A furniture finished hardwood case is also available so you can proudly display your trophy on a desk, shelf or wall. With an acrylic glass lid, it makes each Ka-Bar a visible symbol of your pride in the U.S. Marine Corps—and protects the knife from dust and unauthorized handling.

How to Reserve; Satisfaction Guaranteed

You may easily place your reservation with a small deposit, and credit cards are accepted. Use the reservation on this page or call toll free, 1-800-368-8080. With your reservation, you will also be made a Member of the Foundation and periodically receive interesting, military-history information.

Satisfaction is guaranteed, and there are no shipping charges.

Other commemorative Ka-Bars have been quickly sold out and have increased in value as collectibles. Take prompt action now, while this important opportunity is briefly available. Turn back the clock. Goodbye youth. Hello manhood.

RESERVATION

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return in 30 Days for Full Refund

To: The American Historical Foundation
1142 West Grace Street, Dept. B137
Richmond, Virginia 23220
Telephone: (804) 353-1812
24-hour, 7-day toll free: (800) 368-8080

Yes, I wish to reserve a custom made, Limited Edition Commemorative Ka-Bar selectively plated with 24-karat gold and engraved with the serial number on the blade and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.

- ☐ Parris Island Boot Camp Commemorative
☐ San Diego Boot Camp Commemorative

- ☐ My deposit (or credit card authorization) of \$45 is enclosed. Please
☐ charge or ☐ invoice the balance due per Knife . . .
☐ in two equal monthly payments.
☐ in full.

- ☐ Please also send the display case with sliding acrylic glass lid at \$29 each.
☐ My payment in full is enclosed (\$195 per Knife; display case, add \$29).
☐ I want my knife personalized, at \$20. Send the Engraving Form.

Name

Address

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THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

RON POWER EARNS HONORS AS THE 1986 OUTSTANDING AMERICAN PISTOLSMITH

The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation banquet, held in New Orleans, in conjunction with the National Rifle Association annual convention was, as usual, a rousing success. The banquet was attended by several hundred people, among them many previous winners of the prestigious Outstanding American Handgunner Award. Also in attendance was the American Pistolsmiths Guild. The Guild was there to honor the Outstanding American Handgunner and to present the second annual "Award of Excellence" to the Outstanding American Pistolsmith of 1986.

When the Guild awards committee began the process of selecting a qualified recipient for the Pistolsmith "Award of Excellence," the discussion centered around a member who has contributed a great deal to the pistolsmithing profession. A decision was reached by the membership and Ron Power of Power Custom, Inc., operating out of Independence, MO, was named the Top Pistolsmith of 1986. The presentation of the award was by Jim Clark, past president of the Guild and last year's winner of the "Award of Excellence."

Ron is a talented individual who has been a gunsmith for over 30 years. He started working in the Troost Avenue Gun Shop in Kansas City about 1958. Here he was bitten by the competition shooting bug. He began modifying the auto pistol well enough to win local matches. In 1962 he entered the Army with the idea of shooting on the Army team. He spent three years in the service setting marksmanship records and earning a position with the Marksmanship Training Unit.

He learned a lot about making the auto shoot while in the Army, and he returned to the Troost Gun Shop determined to build the best. This was the real beginning of his reputation as a pistolsmith. He built many custom and combat 45s during this time, but was not limited to the 45 caliber. He also built many 38 Supers, 38/45 conversions, and altered the auto to fire 38 Special wadcutters. This reputation was built around Ron's personal approach to his work and what was to become his personal and business motto "Old world craftsmanship coupled with technology and design."

Ron didn't really plan to, but he began to specialize in pistol work, mostly on autos. As his reputation grew he received many requests for custom and tune up work on revolvers. He worked on Rugers, Smiths and Colts. He began to change sights, add custom barrels and specialize in super smooth double action work. Revolvers sort of became his personal favorite and became a major part of

his business.

When PPC shooting began to grow by leaps and bounds, Ron was there with the bugs already worked out of the heavy barrel double action revolver. He has built PPC revolvers for shooters in every state and many foreign countries. His revolvers have won many national championships and set numerous national records.

Ron is a true custom pistolsmith with a wide range of talent. He does pistol and revolver work, creates new versions of the XP 100 for long range work, designs and manufactures scope mounts, has designed many custom sights, and manufactures 43 different items for use by the custom pistolsmith. His tools and fixtures are sold nationwide and he is constantly introducing new items.

In addition to Ron's accomplishments as a pistolsmith and shooter, he is very active in the shooting sport's formal organizations and is a very active hunter. He is a charter member of the American Pistolsmiths Guild; a life member of the National Rifle Association; a life member of the Missouri State Rifle and Pistol Association and past president or vice president for six years; a life member of the Kansas Rifle and Pistol Association; a member of the Outstanding American Handgunner Foundation; a member of Handgun Hunters International; and a member of



Safari Club International.

Ron has hunted Alaska seven times, hunted most of the western and southern states, and has taken several record class animals with a handgun.

Ron is truly a unique person with many and varied interests. He is presently building a complete underground gunsmithing shop on his 340 acre farm located at Gravois Mill in the Lake of the Ozarks, the land of his roots. This facility and location will provide the Power Custom customer the opportunity to hunt, fish, hike, and target shoot while visiting his shop.

This is another first from Ron Power, the Outstanding American Pistolsmith of 1986.

The Guild is proud to recognize Ron Power and is pleased to be associated with the National Rifle Association and the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation. We look to the future with hope and anticipation of more years of growth and prosperity.





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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

REFLECTIONS ON THE KILLER INSTINCT AND LAWMEN WHOSE FACES SHOW IT

When you are talking about the deadly force aspect of defensive firearms, one of the things you have to get down to is whether someone has made The Decision. Are they capable of pressing the trigger and snuffing out another man's life if that's the only way to keep him from killing an innocent person?

My friend and fellow Officer Survival instructor Evan Marshall gets to the nitty gritty of this issue. He frankly calls it "the will to kill." He is a devoutly religious man and a devoted husband and father. Evan has "been there," but you wouldn't know it to talk to him. You'd see a friendly man with a ready smile who speaks dotingly of his wife and children, a Sergeant whose transfer to the homicide squad was cause for celebration not because it would expand his data base on fatal shootings, but because he could now work regular hours and be home with his children and could do more Scoutmaster and Little League stuff. On the street, one could not ask for better backup. Evan is one of the few cops

I know who has been able to separate the ugliness of the police job in a very tough city from his home life.

Another friend, who'll remain nameless, is likewise deeply devout. A veteran of numerous savage streetfights, he operates on two levels. First, he'll try to subdue the suspect without causing him injury. But if that suspect lays a hand on him, that individual has crossed a line of no return, and is likely to have at least one broken bone before my friend slaps the cuffs on him.

When one street punk swung a nunchaku (karate "nutcracker flail") into his ribcage, this officer called off all bets and, in seconds, did enough things to the punk with his police baton to make him look like a skydiver whose parachute didn't open.

This same man has been in the Dark Place more times than he cares to remember. In one of the most famous police shootouts in modern times, his partner was blown back into his arms, dying from a monster's gunfire, and my friend fired some of the bullets that took

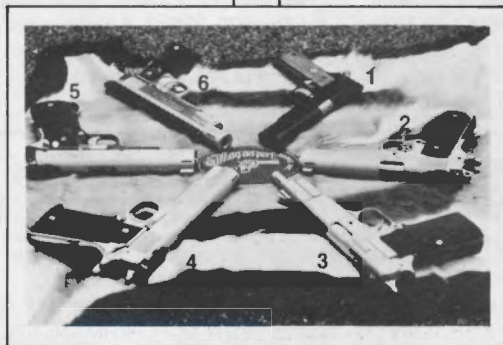
the copkiller's life. It wasn't the first time, or the last. Yet this man is one of the gentlest, most compassionate and sentimental human beings I know.

Consider Jim Cirillo, who has killed in the line of duty more than once and now teaches combat shooting full time for the US government. His long marriage remains a happy one, and as Jeff Cooper has observed, Jim is one of the most well-adjusted human beings you'd ever want to meet.

Yet if you tried to use a weapon on an innocent person before his eyes, Jim would kill you as soon as look at you.

Like the others I've mentioned, Jim has strong religious faith. He told me once about the shooting Cooper developed into an IPSC course of fire, in which Jim had to shoot two armed robbers out from behind a hostage, and then kill a third gunman who was aiming at him, all under fire.

"Mas," he said, "I aimed my gun at the same place on all three of them. One man suffered a wound he completely recovered from; he turned out to be a kid on his first robbery, and to my knowledge never went back to a life of crime. My second shot crippled for life a mean little punk who had never tried to kill anyone until he took his shot at me. The third bullet killed the third suspect instantly; he turned out to be a stone killer with a long record of brutal, violent crimes. I didn't know who they were. I firmly believe a higher judgment than mine decided where those bullets I fired would strike, and the damage those three .38 Special slugs did



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never bothered me."

Jim does not have "killer eyes." Indeed, he laughs a lot. Tends to be the life of the party. One who grows more somber in discussions of fatal shootings is my friend Bill Jordan. His smile disappears entirely when you ask him about his gunfights; his Indian-like eyes crease even more tightly, and he says, "Most of us who worked (the Border in the 1930s) had to do it. I never liked it. I'll tell you this, though, each time you do it, it gets easier. For a certain kind of man, it can get *too* easy."

Col. Charles Askins, in both his police and military careers, has probably killed more enemy combatants in face-to-face gunfights than any other firearms journalist. He speaks of each shooting as if it was a case study. He chooses to talk openly about it because he feels there are lessons there that can keep good men alive when they face evil men.

He feels no qualms about it: he did what had to be done. When I first met Charlie, there was an aura of total control about him, a sense of always being prepared for the worst and not particularly worrying about it. There is a wariness in his face that never fades.

Another good colonel is Jeff Cooper. In wartime, Jeff shot three enemies with his .45 handguns. One of them was armed with a Nambu machinegun, the second with a rifle, the third with a 9mm submachinegun. Jeff felt no qualms either; like a good soldier, he had done his job and killed enemy soldiers he'd been trained to see as sub-human. He felt only the euphoria of having survived against perilous odds.

Jeff in person could be mistaken for a paranoid by a lightweight Yuppy whose only understanding of The Decision was sophomore Psych 101. He always positions himself with his back to the wall, he is always in the Condition Yellow of relaxed alertness, he generally has a Colt .45 auto or a Bren Ten automatic within easy reach, and his aloof coolness can be misinterpreted as arrogance.

Now about 65, Jeff looks ten years younger and moves with a speed that reminds you of a mongoose taking a cobra. He has, for his needs, become quite accustomed to living with The Decision that he made long ago.

Some men's faces show The Decision, some don't. Chuck Taylor has an impassive countenance that, coupled with the icy blue eyes, is mistaken for arrogance by people who can't relate with high levels of self-confidence. At the opposite pole is John Farnam, whose friendly and self-effacing manner gives no hint to the fact that he once had to kill an opponent at point-blank range with his .45 auto in Vietnam. The first impression one has of Chuck is "deadly," the first one has of John is "likeable," yet both are more alike than either would probably admit, and to use a Bill Jordan phrase, both "would do to ride the River with."

When a man tells you of the circumstances in which he had to kill in self defense, you mentally visualize him doing it. I see Farnam with surprise on his face as his trained hand reflexively fires the .45; Cirillo with an expression of intense concentration as he

triggers the .38; Cooper with an eyebrow raised like a professor observing an experiment the outcome of which he had already predicted.

I visualize anger, a rage to live, on the face of Evan Marshall, as if to say, "You were going to orphan my children!?"

On the face of my nameless friend of the many gunfights, I see pursed mouth and tense cheeks, what his fellow martial artists would call a "silent *kiai*," as he fired the shotgun.

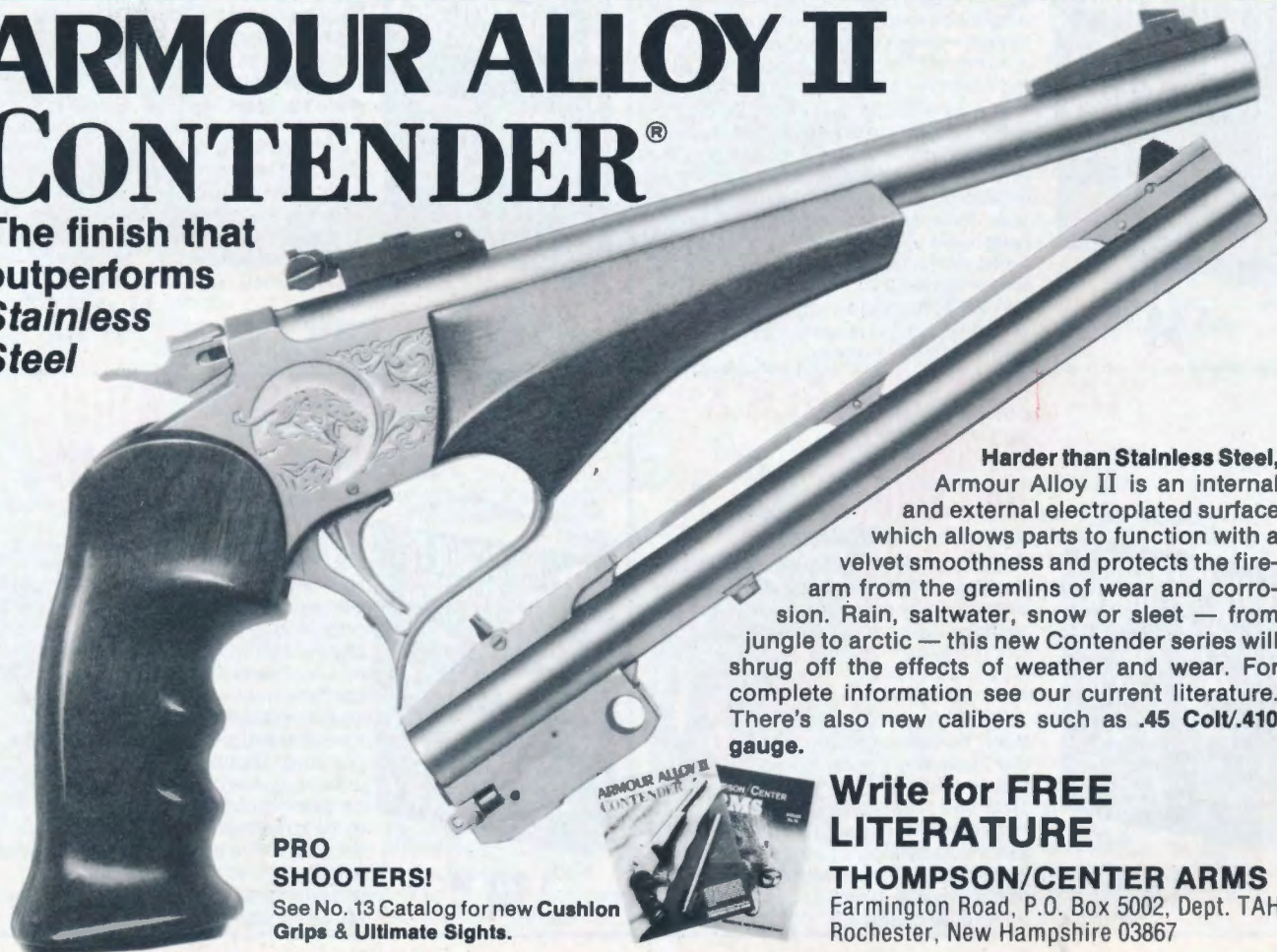
As Taylor fires the .45, I picture an impassive expression; and as the fireball flash of the .357 Combat Magnum illuminates Bill Jordan's face I can imagine a tight-lipped visage that shows half regret for having to take another human life, half disdainful contempt for the sort of human scum that would try to murder a police officer and thus sign its own death warrant, widowing his own wife and orphaning his own children.

If you carry a gun and a badge, and have sworn the oath to protect the innocent, you must look in the mirror tonight and ask yourself if you have made The Decision. Nothing on the face will show it; you'll know it from inside. If you do *not* see the face of a person who has made The Decision, you have found out in time that you are not worthy of that Oath you swore, and not fully prepared to serve those many innocents who count upon you to protect them from the ultimate violence of the homicidal, armed felon who can be restrained only with justifiable, countervailing deadly force.



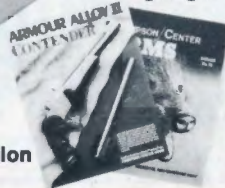
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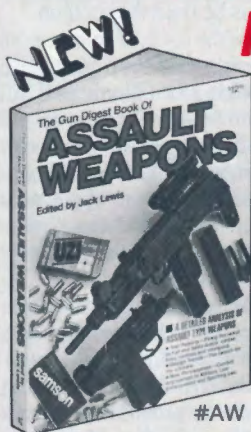
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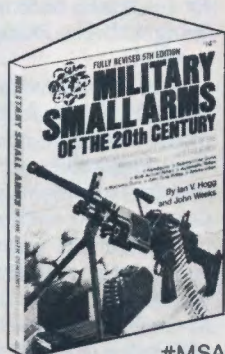
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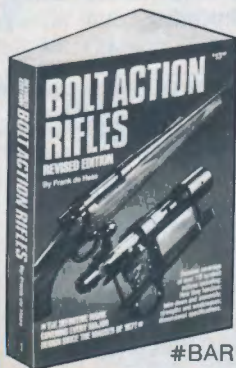
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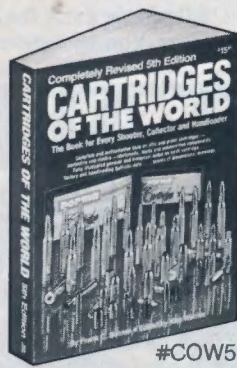
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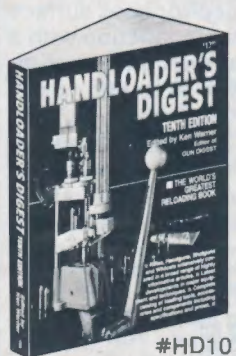
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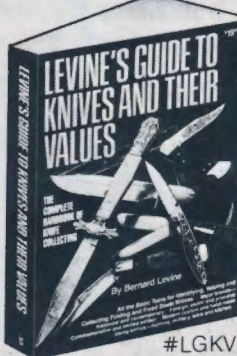
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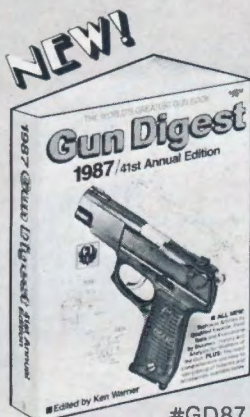


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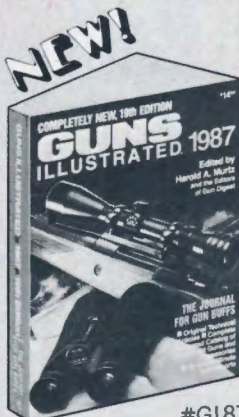
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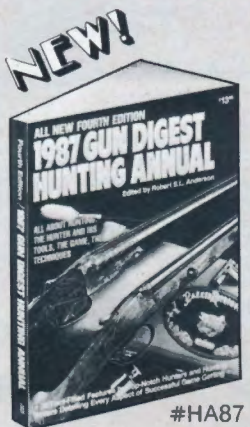
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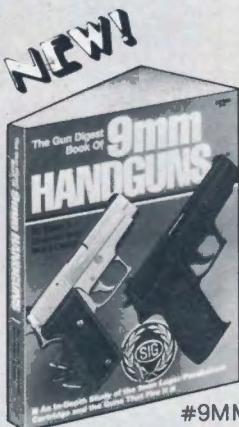
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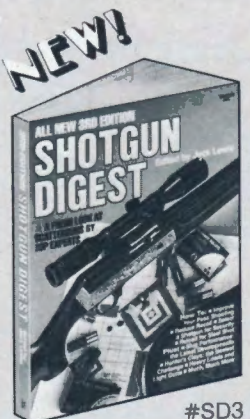
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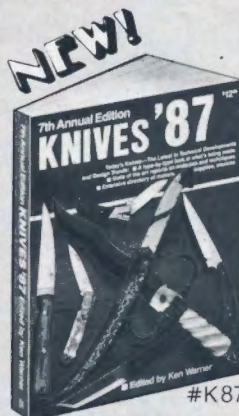
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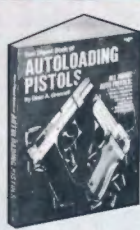
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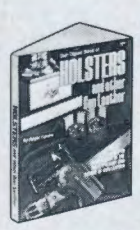
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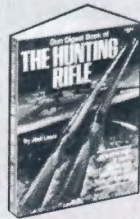
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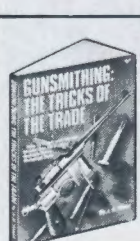
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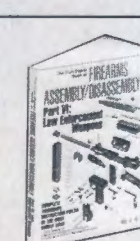
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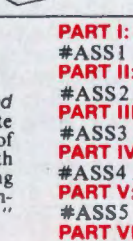
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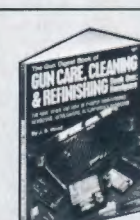
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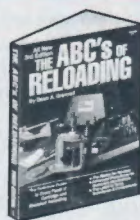
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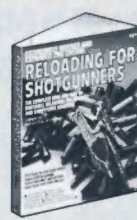
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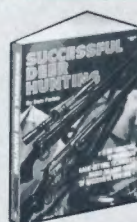
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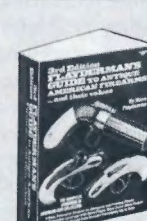
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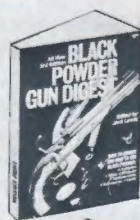
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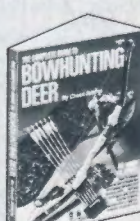
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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

NEW MAGNUM HANDGUN CARTRIDGE IS DUE IN 1993, BUT OLD ONES KEEP US BUSY

Checking the average time interval between thrills, I figure we won't be seeing another new factory handgun magnum till about 1993. We wait and wonder, but maybe it's just as well. Looking at what has become of the eight or so hotrods that have been introduced in the last half-century, we can see that the success of the line has sagged here and there. We've been shown the good, the bad, and the unnecessary, so that the rate of acceptance presently stands at half.

The very existence of the other half suggests the need to return to sanity. I believe, therefore, that a better rule for designing improved handgun cartridges would state that if the case is already big enough for the bore, don't lengthen it.

It has, of course, been necessary to lengthen magnums to keep them from chambering in weak guns, but lengthening lends nothing to efficiency. This is especially true in using today's handgun propellants, which, because they're designed to provide peak pressure rapidly, need not—indeed should not—be loaded as large charges. Moreover, these propellants are more efficient and burn more uniformly in relatively small combustion areas.

So, it seems that, sensing this (and noting the conspicuous failure of a maxed magnum), the tendency among at least a few experimenters has been to trim the standards so as to create smaller, more efficient, combustion areas. The late Fred Schmidt, to name one of several such experimenters, patented a shortened .38 Special round. I haven't worked with the Schmidt shorty, but I

know from my own experience with the .357 Short that much success can be achieved when load development is accompanied by careful observation of pressure signs.

The move toward greater efficiency gained momentum a short time ago when Steve Cooper, a law enforcement major at Austin (Texas) State University, decided to do some work with potential police loadings. He chose for his experiments the .41 Magnum, a good round, as big magnums go, that has teetered on the brink of success for a long time.

Cooper's consideration, however, turned upon public attitude toward police weaponry, so, rather than risk hearing another outcry, he shortened the .41 Magnum by a tenth of an inch, to 1.190, and called it the .41 Police Special. Passive nomenclature notwithstanding, what he managed to create is worthy of attention, because it can point the way to similar achievements with other cartridges, both standard and magnum.

Beyond the initial trimming operation, Cooper details his experiment as follows: "I load a 195 grain cast semi-wadcutter hollowpoint (Lee single-cavity mold) over 15.5 grains of Hercules 2400, in W-W once-fired brass, using W-W standard/magnum midrange primers. From my S&W Model 57 with four-inch barrel, I'm clocking around 990 fps with this load, and getting consistent 2½-inch groups at 25 yards, from sandbag rest.

"Loads fired into wet newspaper at five yards yield four inches of penetration, and expansion to .88-inch, with weight retention of up to 80 percent using No. 2 alloy castings. At seven yards into wet newspapers, and at ten yards, I get between four and five-and-a-half inches of penetration and expansion to .84-inch with good weight retention. When the factory .41 Magnum 'police load' of 210-grain semi-wadcutter was fired into the same medium at the same ranges, all I got was confetti out of the back of my boxes—too much penetration for municipal use!

"Felt recoil is far from outrageous. It's about five-and-a-half pounds in my N-frame revolver, stacking up against almost ten pounds in a S&W L-frame with full-house .357 Magnum loads and 158-grain bullet.

"The semi-wadcutter hollow-point bullet design was chosen for two reasons: National Institute of Justice-sponsored testing showed this bullet type to yield the greatest Relative Incapacitation Index per velocity, and I felt it would present fewer problems with ricochet dangers to bystanders.

"The .41 Police Special is delivering

415.95 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle, momentum of .848, and a Relative Incapacitation Index of around 21.6. At this velocity, the .45 ACP is delivering momentum of .817, in standard loading, so I am well satisfied with the load as it stands."

Steve Cooper would like to hear from anyone who is working along the same lines, anyone who doesn't always go for "bigger is better." His mailing address is 904 Southwood Dr., Lufkin, TX 75901; telephone 409-632-6974.

Barry K. Orange, a doctor of veterinary medicine who works out of Clark, New Jersey, contributes the following W-W 452AA, W-W 231, and Hercules Bullseye loads, as tested in his .45 Colt G.I., with five-inch barrel. Ambient temperature during the tests was 84°F, and all loads had Federal 150 primers.

| Powder | Amount | Bullet & Wt. | Case | Avg Vel | Ext. Spread |
|----------|----------|--------------|------|---------|-------------|
| 452AA | 3.5 grs. | Alberts 215 | W-W | 626 fps | 16 fps |
| " | 3.8 grs. | " | " | 662 fps | 12 fps |
| " | 4.0 grs. | " | " | 681 fps | 12 fps |
| " | 4.2 grs. | " | Fed. | 688 fps | 22 fps |
| " | 4.4 grs. | " | WCC | 734 fps | 32 fps |
| Bullseye | 3.5 grs. | " | W-W | 663 fps | 42 fps |
| " | 3.8 grs. | " | " | 699 fps | 21 fps |
| " | 4.2 grs. | " | " | 764 fps | 39 fps |
| W-W 231 | 4.4 grs. | " | " | 701 fps | 29 fps |
| " | 4.8 grs. | " | " | 750 fps | 36 fps |
| " | 5.0 grs. | " | " | 782 fps | 24 fps |

1) Minimal unburned powder with any charge of 452AA.

2) Minimal recoil and good accuracy with 3.5 and 3.8 grains of 452AA. Tested at 25 yards, but not at 50 yards.

3) 4.0 and 4.2 grains 452AA tested at 50 yards. Accuracy good.

4) 4.2 grains 452AA behind Alberts 215 gave excessive recoil. Difficult to control during rapid-fire.

5) Recoil with 4.4 452AA behind Alberts 215 was greater than with factory loads of approximate velocity.

The National Reloading Manufacturers Association has produced a half-hour video cassette (VHS) that offers step-by-step fundamentals for reloading. It's entertaining even if you're already a handloader, and if you're just getting started it'll show the way to having more fun shooting. The cassette sells for \$29.75 and is available from the NRMA, whose address is 4905 S.W. Griffith, Dept. AH, Beaverton, OR, 97005. Dealers with nothing better to do than attract new customers will do well to get this NRMA cassette and serve it up with a load of coffee and doughnuts some afternoon or evening.

Try radiator flush for cleaning hulls that are mucked up with cast bullet lube, says Pete Reiff, of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Just slosh 'em around in a bucket for five to ten minutes, then pour off the flush-water mix (which will be reusable), and rinse 'em in cool water.

If you have a tip or interesting test results, share your information by sending it to Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA, 93544.

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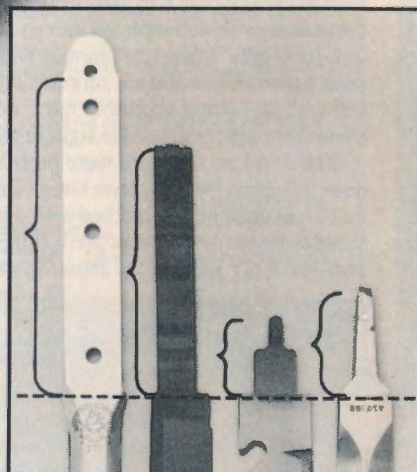
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J.D. JONES

AUSTRALIAN BUFF ARE MORE THRILLING TO HUNT THAN AFRICAN CAPE BUFFALO

I recently returned from Australia and a very successful buffalo and bantang hunt with Barry Lees of Nimrod Safaris. George Daniels (312-428-3311) set up the hunt and handled travel arrangements for me.

Hunting with Barry was great. Pleasant, knowledgeable and a damn good hunter, Barry is the first professional hunter who has ever said, "Those guns look interesting. Do you have an extra I can use?" and then took a 411 JDJ Handcannon and used it very well. At the time he hadn't even seen one fired. In any event, it was a hell of a refreshing attitude.

The Australian buffalo is larger than the Cape buffalo I've seen and a lot more fun to hunt in areas where they haven't been hunted extensively. We helicoptered into an Aboriginal trust area where the animals had never seen a man before and are simply king of the hill with no natural enemy. A fair number of them were aggressive at the sight of man.

The first I encountered were probably not over 150 yards from my tent. Gregg Talekson and I had each just dispatched a wild pig and taken a photo. As we were preoccupied, two buff suddenly jumped up about 35 yards in

front of me. One assumed the stance and look of a fighting bull just let into the ring. He spotted me and without hesitating, charged. At 20 yards I stuck him in the chest with a 500 grain Barnes from the 475 JDJ. At impact he turned and tried to withdraw—the 500 grain soft point had, however, ended the usefulness of his heart and he was down in 20-25 yards. I thought it a good first experience with the Australian buff and it certainly wasn't the last shot as they barreled at me.

This is a whole new ball game. All of the Cape buffalo I've seen were very spooky and difficult to stalk unless you were in a vehicle and then, of course, they don't usually pay much attention to you. I suppose this is a result of hunting pressure. The Australian buff I hunted in another area with some of the *Australian Handgun Hunters International* guys had really been hammered and they acted just like Capes. Spooky as hell.

I would rate these animals fully as tough—maybe tougher—than the Cape. Many of them are bigger than the Cape. Heart shot they both go 20-100 yards before going down. I swatted them from every angle and

with three guns—the 475 JDJ and 411 JDJ in Contenders and with a new 305 grain, two-crimp groove bullet from a Ron Power custom .44 Magnum Redhawk.

The idea of this new .44 bullet is to allow seating to maximum cylinder length in long cylindered guns. Seating it out in the Redhawk allows about 100 fps more velocity and an increase in accuracy. All three guns killed buff with heart shots. Other shots from other angles produced varying results—all pointing to the fact that a well placed first shot is extremely important in killing game. A few of them took an amazing amount of lead before going down.

As an example of how they react, I plugged one bull with an extremely devastating, experimental .475 bullet. He was walking like any old slouched-down, relaxed bull when I hit him dead center in the lungs. He instantly went into a stretched out trotting on his tiptoes, swinging his head around looking for what bit him.

I stepped out from behind the tree I was using to steady my gun's forearm and when he saw me he instantly turned and began to thunder at me. I put the .475 on the ground and Barry handed me the Redhawk (which left him without a gun). My first shot at the charging bull clipped the boss of his horn and went into the shoulder-neck area. The second entered his head a couple inches above the right eye. He gave absolutely no reaction to these shots. The third went directly into the front of the boss of the horn into the brain for an instant KO which was pretty spectacular in itself. He was still probably 35 yards or so at this shot.

Another that I shot in the arse as it was going away acted like a Cape. I was going for a spine-tail shot and hit a few inches low. He went about 175 yards and got into the thickest stuff he could find and watched his trail. I followed the trail knowing full-well I was trotting into an ambush.

When he saw me, he spun around to face me and started to come—I raised the Aimpoint MK III equipped Power Redhawk to brain him and the relatively unprotected front lens caught a sunbeam instantly turning the whole inside of the sight a brilliant but totally useless rose color. I quickly side-stepped into the shade and hit him in the forehead. This hit was under the brain, but turned him for a back-breaker from the side and a finisher in the brain ended it.

Two other bulls were taken within 15 feet for some real interesting times but are each a story in themselves.

Frankly I enjoyed the Australian buff a lot more than hunting Cape. It's certainly more exciting, a hell of a lot cheaper and you can shoot all of them you want without going broke. I'll probably do an HHI hunt next summer for them on a fixed fee shoot-all-you-can basis that probably won't run over five grand or so counting everything, door-to-door. Anyone interested in going drop me a line or call at SSK (Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH, 43910, (614) 264-0176).





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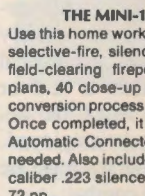
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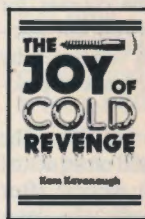
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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

IMPROVE YOUR LOCAL CLUB MATCHES WITH TIPS ON GOOD COURSE DESIGN

Practical shooting is a hemophiliac and the lifeblood is course design. Each time an IPSC club holds a match, a few more course designs bleed away. The practical shooting body needs regular transfusions to replace the lost plasma of course designs. Fortunately, the blood bank is full.

Course design, however, can be tainted like a drug addict's blood. It looks the same as other blood, but it is contaminated and fouled. This corrupts the body. Course design must be purged of impurities.

Let's discuss how to devise challenging and practical courses for your local club.

Overwhelmingly, lack of thoughtful scenario planning is the reason for shoddy course design. The purpose of a practical shooting course is to simulate a real or hypothetical circumstance in which the defensive pistol may realistically be employed. *Simulate* is the key word; courses must be scenarios *simulating* personal combat.

(It is interesting to note that two Canadians were summoned to design the courses for World Shoot VII after IPSC President Jean-Pierre Denis rejected courses submitted by the hosting Americans. Why? Lack of practical scenarios!)

Scenarios can come from real life. The *Guatemalan Steakhouse* is based on an actual incident. The *Cirillo Drill*, named after NYPD Stake-Out man Jim Cirillo, simulates Cirillo's famous shootout with three armed robbers.

Mark Moritz of Phoenix presented the

Traugott Drill in (dis)honor of Ralph Traugott, the cautious hostage who returned a Browning Hi-Power to a terrorist aboard a hijacked airliner. ("Excuse me, Mr. Terrorist, I believe this is your gun.") Mark's scenario exactly duplicates the Traugott situation—start in a facsimile of a plane's bathroom with a Browning Hi-Power (which the terrorist left behind while going potty) then exit the bathroom and deal with three hijackers in, um, a more authoritative manner than Traugott.

Good course design.

Scenarios can also come from the imagination. "What if . . ." begins the process. "What if I arrive home one evening, late from work, and hear my wife screaming just as I reach the front door. I burst in and discover five Devils Disciple bikers—drunk, doped up—pawing at my wife as they struggle to rape her. The scar-faced one is choking her! The tall, ugly one has a knife! My God, the scum are going to kill her. . ."

A course design is born. Now, apply that scenario on paper for your club match. You need one "hostage" target and five Milpark targets. Let's see now, one of the bikers is choking my wife, so we'll put that target immediately behind the "hostage" with only head and shoulders visible. The tall one has a knife poised at her throat. Put that target right next to the "hostage." Now, the other three spin around as I come in the door. We'll scatter them—let's see, how big is my living room?—from four to six yards. They are

closer than the "hostage" and other two targets—we'll put those at 10 yards.

The rules come easily—shooter starts with strong-hand on a doorknob, door shut. You need a prop in this one, a door in a frame of 2x4s. On signal to fire, shooter opens door and engages each of five targets with one round each. Scored Comstock. Five rounds minimum. Time stops on last shot fired.

See? It's not too tough to fictionalize a realistic course design. (In fact, it's depressingly easy in this age of Satanic cults, sadistic slashers and mass murderers.) Note that Pepper Poppers could be substituted for one or more of the hostile targets without compromising the scenario.

An excellent course design is lurking within these very pages. Read the feature *The Ayooob Files* and simulate that real-life shooting as an example of good course design.

One consistent error found in course design is the use of a stop plate when electronic timers, which are triggered by the noise of gunfire, are employed. Stop plates date back to the Dark Ages of IPSC before electronic timers. Their purpose is solely to indicate when a shooter is finished firing on a Comstock stage *timed with a stop watch*.

Stop plates must never be used if electronic timers are available. Exhaustive research has yet to yield a single instance in which a man shot a round, steel object immediately after a gunfire.

The trap to avoid in course design is gadgetry for the sake of gadgetry. Your buddy, who is a welder by trade, builds a fantastic "flopper" target that swings up and then disappears. This is a marvelous prop to use *every now and then*. But the temptation is to utilize the flopper at each and every match *ad nauseam*. Do not be lured into using any prop simply because it is there. Steer clear of designing courses around props.

Instead, design a course based on a practical scenario and, if a special prop is necessary, build the prop. Not the other way around!

Another matter to consider, as noted in the bikers-rape-your-wife scenario, is to break away from the slavish adherence to firing double-taps. Two rounds per target, when you're armed with a revolver facing five assailants, is not just ludicrous, it's suicide. There is nothing wrong with *hitting once*. (The double-tap may well be the Sacred Cow of IPSC whose time has come to be butchered. More on that in another column, fellow lemmings.)

Match Directors, start your brains. Be creative, be realistic. Donate back to the blood bank what we take from it, the lifeblood of IPSC, course design.



FIPT DATES SET

The Florida Invitational Pistol Tournament will be Feb. 20, 21 and 22 near Orlando, Florida. This is one of the premiere IPSC matches in the country. For more information, contact John Isley, Match Director, 1880 Spring Ave., Oviedo, FL, 32765 or call (305) 365-8160.

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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN LAWSON

ONE GUN SERVES SEVERAL FUNCTIONS— HOW TO BUILD THE UNIVERSAL WHEELGUN

In the past 30 years I've sprung cranes, cracked cylinders, fractured barrel leads, cut top straps and flattened enough small pistol primers to fill a bathtub in a futile attempt to soup up the ballistics of concealable small frame .38 revolvers that had a trigger span short enough for me to control rapid D.A. fire.

The current subject of my ballistic abuse is a 2½" Diamondback with a 3½" span that is perfect for my short trigger finger. The double action pull is smooth, the hammer spring does not pack before letoff, the trigger does not overtravel and the grip is long enough that I don't have to perch my little finger under the butt. The bad news is that it's only a .38 Special.

During the years that I have carried a .357 Trooper MkIII as a uniform duty weapon as a part time Police Reserve and Security Training Officer, I've gone on many plain clothes assignments that required my being armed with a small, totally concealed .38 revolver because of regulations and state law. Thus, I have had to practice with two different weapons, averaging 1,000 rounds through each in a month's time. Lately, with restrictions easing somewhat, I have also averaged another 1,000 rounds through a GM and an OM for those occasions when I draw bodyguard duty. Happily, as a pistolsmith, I have access to three progressive loaders, so ammo is not a problem. And, my doctor approves of the exercise I get walking back and forth to the 50 yard line and bending over to pick up brass.

I've always felt there might be a better revolver compromise, so, when the Diamondback's hammer spring took a bad set recently, resulting in 80% ignition in DA mode, I looked through my inventory of wheelguns for what might be a dual purpose

weapon in .357 caliber.

My first thought was a pair of Model 19's in 4" and 2½" barrel lengths, but the 3½" trigger span and target grips ruled these out. Further, I shot a good deal better groups with the longer tube. Then I unearthed a long forgotten 6" Python from the back of the drawer. I was about to pack it away when I remembered an ad for 3" Python barrels. It seemed worth a try. I sent for one. Meanwhile, I took the long tubed snake to the range for one last time.

The 3" barrel came complete with a red insert front blade. Not what I would have specified, but there it was, so it was going to stay on for the time being. Removing the crane retainer screw, I put the cylinder and three part screw aside while I clamped the barrel firmly in a barrel vise between hardwood blocks. Attaching a frame wrench with Python insert, I unscrewed the frame from the barrel. This should never be done by putting a hammer handle through the cylinder cutout in the frame; the result is a sprung frame if any amount of pressure has to be exerted. Then all that remained was to clamp the new barrel in the vise blocks and screw the frame home until the front sight was perpendicular.

Often, the barrel will be a very loose fit in the frame. Such a combination will shoot loose and is seldom acceptably accurate. The solution is to clean the frame and barrel threads with Loctite solvent, prime with Loctite primer and apply a liberal amount of Loctite Stud Lock. This particular product has more expansion than even Retaining Compound, and is ideal for loose barrel tenons. Let it cure at least overnight before firing the weapon and make certain that any excess is wiped away and the parts lightly coated with Vaseline or RIG gun grease.

The 3" barrel is an interesting compromise between the standard 4" and the usual 2 or 2½" hideaway length. I was impressed with the red insert, since it allowed rapid alignment even if the front blade was badly out of focus, and it seems to be fuzzy at certain times of the day while it focuses sharply at others.

This in-and-out of focus syndrome is one of the side effects of elevating and dropping blood sugar levels. When the electron microscope was invented, researchers discovered that the eye's lens was covered with incredibly tiny pores. The lens is always immersed in a natural liquid solution to provide lubrication. As blood sugar levels rise, the lens absorbs more liquid and it expands, changing shape and consequently changing the hyperfocal distance. Thus, shortly after meals, the front sight will blur, but it will again be sharply in focus before the next meal. And, this blurring can be helped by the red insert in the front blade, I've found. The spot of red is easy to center in the rear notch.

Tests at 25 and 50 feet proved to my satisfaction that I could fire the same size groups with the three inch tube as with the four, double action. Group size deteriorates, for me, when I use the 2½ or 6" barrels. The former because of the shorter sight radius and the latter because of front sight waver. With the 8¾" tubes, I can even note heartbeats.

Three-inch tubes are becoming more available on S&W revolvers as stock weapons. Any of these might benefit from the addition of Brownell/Wolff Pro Spring kits and the usual deburring and action smoothing work. A colored front blade insert may also be helpful to those with vision problems.

The last consideration is adequate leather for the stubby tubed wheel gun. The unusual barrel length requires a custom holster. I ordered two for mine from Greg Kramer, who heads up Pro Line Hand Gun Leather (809 So. Geiger St., Tacoma, WA, 98465 (206) 564-6652) here in Tacoma, and the rigs leave nothing to be desired. The first is his Pro Line Universal Duty Holster, designed to slip onto a Sam Browne duty belt and angled forward enough to allow an easy draw when seated. A double matching speed loader pouch finishes off the rig. I have the plain model, but they are also available in basket weave.

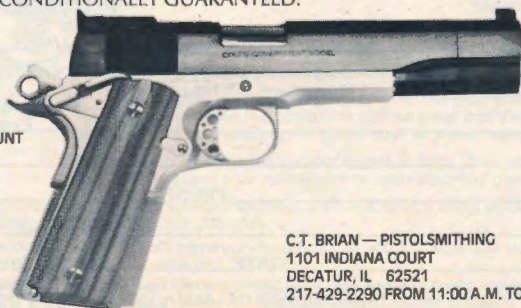
The second holster is Pro Line's Concealment Scabbard that rides high on the belt I normally wear. Hard moulded, like the duty rig, it retains the weapon during activity but releases it for a rapid draw without drag or fumbles. I usually carry Bianchi speed strips for reloads when wearing plain clothes.

So, one three-inch barreled wheelgun now takes the place of the two I had to interchange previously. The compromise length tube has adequate sight radius, the same accuracy as longer barrels and is as concealable as a shorter barrel weapon. Pachmayr Gripper stocks give me a secure grip with adequate trigger finger protrusion into the trigger guard for double action control. I think that I have finally found my universal wheelgun.



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MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

Mental Preparation

Most top competitors will tell you that it's not the best shooter who wins the match, it's the one who's the most relaxed. In order to relax, you have to allow the subconscious to take over and execute what you've pumped into it during practice. Here are some tips on how to do it:

1. Set reasonable goals and reward yourself when you achieve them.
2. Compete with yourself, not other shooters. The minute you start thinking, "I'm going to beat so and so," you're not going to beat anyone.
3. Run through the match in your mind and visualize shooting a good score.
4. Refuse to let spectators or other shooters distract or intimidate you.

When you're mentally prepared, you don't have to think about watching your sights or squeezing the trigger. Your subconscious takes over and you're just doin' it.



JOHN PRIDE, PPC Grand Master, NRA Distinguished PPC Master; Winner, 1983 Bianchi Cup Practical Match.

LEATHAM'S COLUMN

ROB LEATHAM

IPSC WORLD CHAMP REVEALS SECRETS OF VANQUISHING NERVES AND SHAKES

Ask any of the top guns in your local club what keeps them from shooting to their full potential, and you'll usually hear something like "Match pressure got to me." Have you ever thought about what this terrible monster "Match Pressure" is? Do you see it as a physical presence, or just a mental annoyance? Many shooters talk of pressure as though it is some big hazy cloud surrounding and choking them while they shoot. If this is true, the Range Official would feel it, too.

The answer is simple—match pressure is not something following you around, lurking under rocks waiting for the exact moment you shoot to spring up and haunt you into mistakes you would not normally commit. No, this terrible beastie is something you brought to the match, and learning to cope with it is a problem all shooters must learn to deal with. Thank goodness it is not that difficult to overcome. Here is the problem as I see it.

Think of your brain as two parts, one that controls things such as your eyes, ears, hands and feet, and another which controls your

feelings, thoughts, and reasoning. Every day of your life, your heart beats and your lungs breathe. These are involuntary, vital functions. You do not consciously control them. Understand that these are very complicated procedures, something that if left up to our conscious minds to control would surely cause us to perish.

The subconscious mind takes care of them for us. The more simple, mundane challenges in our life are left for the conscious mind. Making decisions, performing motor functions such as driving a car or shooting a pistol are normally controlled by the conscious mind. This is why we shoot poorly, have automobile accidents and vote for fools.

If we can teach ourselves to drive and shoot with the same parts of our brain that control the involuntary muscles, we may once and for all control pressure.

Sounds like wishful thinking, huh? Not so! A human is a biological organism which is a mixed blessing. Having the ability to improve and adapt separates us from lower species. Yet with all our technological advances, it is

the mind that confuses us most. I once saw a movie *Alien* which frightened me so badly I did not sleep well for months after. I know it was only fiction, but I was still scared. You make it much worse in your mind than it actually is.

What we do to combat this is to trick our conscious minds into thinking of something else. In shooting, sight alignment and trigger squeeze are the most common examples. Think about it. You walk to the shooting position, you begin to feel nervous, your hands sweat, maybe your knees shake. What do you do? You tell yourself to watch the sights and squeeze the trigger. Why? It takes your mind off the nervousness you feel.

It makes you shake less—or does it? You think so, but is this because you are concentrating so hard on those sights that you forget you were shaking, or possibly you Forget To Shake? Interesting concept, huh?

I shoot better in matches than in practice. The reason for this is that I am much more focused on what I am doing. I am more concerned with my shooting than getting home from the practice range in time for dinner. This all comes under the heading of concentration. When you think only of what you are doing, you will have a better perspective than if you are distracted by irrelevancies. Realize now the old adage of looking at the sights and squeezing the trigger is just a trick to keep you from thinking of other things. Things like match pressure.

The conscious mind is very shallow and it takes little to keep it occupied. If we can keep it tied up on things which do not cause you problems, something pertinent such as the order you want to shoot the targets, then you will not hinder your subconscious mind from helping you shoot. I like to know the course of fire well enough in my mind that I have no questions about it. Do not go to the line wondering if you should reload here or there, shoot this target from this position or that. Know exactly where you will do things, and how you will do them.

One way to help your concentration in a match is to reduce distractions. When preparing for a match, do not overlook anything which will attract your attention later. Obvious things such as readying your equipment are sometimes overlooked and can cause a loss of concentration. Example: You are loading your magazine, getting ready to shoot an event and you notice your magazines have a boatload of dirt in them. The previous assault stage fired on the range with loose dirt six-inches thick has totally covered the inside, causing the followers to stick. This is the kind of thing you do not need to think about. Make everything as perfect as possible before you get to the line.

Look at your equipment now, before the match. Everything is ready. Gun is clean and properly lubricated. Magazines are clean. Ammunition is perfect. All these things need to be correct when you get to the first stage. Then you will have no excuses, no reason to fear the pressure. Matter of fact, you may look forward to it, knowing you have stacked the odds in your favor by a little thing called preparation.



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The AYOOB Files

By Massad Ayob

ALLEY HOLDUP: THE RICHARD DAVIS INCIDENT

Situation: A pizza delivery man faces three armed robbers, one aiming a .25 auto between his eyes.

Lesson: Practice and planning make up for lack of firepower and a small caliber defense gun.

It was late on the night before the Apollo 11 was to lift off, in the summer of 1969. Richard C. Davis, owner of RC Pizza, heard the man on the phone order "two large sausage and ham pizzas, delivered to 19379 Pennington" in Detroit. He tightened up inside as he hung up, remembering the last time he'd received that peculiar order.

It had been eight months before. His lovely fiancée Karen, knowing he was short of delivery boys, had driven out with the order. She had been met by four black men who'd robbed her. Karen had escaped, losing only \$20 or \$30, but the chilling memory lingered. She had been particularly terrorized by the one who had tried to drag her into the darkness, the tall one with the small, chrome-plated automatic.

Tonight, Davis was again short of delivery boys, but in any case, he knew he'd have to do this one himself. Since the robbery of Karen, he'd begun reading gun magazines. A long, double-barrel 12-gauge stood in a corner behind the counter with a label reading, "LOADED!" His reading had convinced him to buy an autoloading pistol, and he'd been trying to decide between the stopping power of a Colt .45 and the firepower of a 14-shot Browning 9mm. In any case, it had been irrelevant. The struggling young businessman could afford only \$30 for a used Harrington & Richardson model 622, a gun so economically made it didn't even have a swing-out cylinder. The revolver had a six-inch barrel with a huge front sight. To make it snag-free, Davis had cut off the front inch of the barrel.

His reading had also told him of the Federal amnesty on Class III weapons following the Gun Control Act of 1968. He'd taken advantage of that to cut his grandfather's 16-gauge Montgomery-Ward double barrel down to 11½" tubes, also sawing off the stock behind the pistol grip. He had registered the gun with ATF and learned to carry it diagonally inside a sealed pizza box at the bottom of the pile of real ones, with the grip protruding discreetly. He called it his "Magic Pizza," and practiced with it and the H&R .22 as often as he could in the woods, firing close and fast from the hip on two and three targets at a time. But the "Magic Pizza" wasn't in the shop tonight.

His backup gun, the H&R .22 revolver that usually was tucked crossdraw into his waistband under his white pizzeria uniform, was in his hand under a dummy pizza that lay beneath the two ordered

ones as he stepped out of his Ford Falcon in front of the address. As he approached, he saw the lights were out, and knew his suspicions were being confirmed. There were at least two gangs in the city whose MO was to call for food deliveries and then stick up the deliveryman, usually netting \$50 to \$100 per heist. He was also aware that a storeowner in the neighborhood had recently handed over all his money to a gang of holdup men, obediently lain on the floor—and then been executed with a shot to the back of the head.

His hand was tight on the H&R, the pizzas supported by his left hand only, as he kicked on the door of the darkened house. From around the side of a building came a medium-sized black man. "Did you order a pizza?" Rich asked. "Yeah, come around back," was the reply.

Davis considered running. But he didn't want to be shot in the back. *If it's going to happen, he thought, let it happen now when I'm ready for it.* He followed the man who had disappeared around the corner.

As he rounded the side of the house, he found three of them waiting for him, standing in a "V" formation. The lawn came up from the sidewalk here, putting the trio about a foot above him. He had time to think, *"That's cute. They took the high ground for psychological dominance."*

The two average-size men on the sides put their hands behind their back in the mouth of the dark alleyway. Davis' finger was on the trigger of the H&R. Then, as his eyes adjusted to the dimness, he got a good look at the one in the center.

He was a tall, black man, and in his hand was a small, chrome-plated automatic.

"Step around here," the tall one said. He and his friends were six to ten feet from Davis, and the small automatic was aimed between Davis' eyes. Richard remembers thinking for a fleeting instant, "Can I run? Is there any way out?" But then he saw the tall man's finger tighten almost imperceptibly on the trigger of his shiny pistol, and the pizza man made the only decision he had left.

David began firing, as fast as he could pull the trigger.

In the flurry of movement that followed, Davis' mind recorded everything in slow motion. He fired the first shot from under the pizza cartons, and the Remington .22 Long Rifle solid bullet caught the tall man on the point of the chin. His arms shot up and out and he

Continued on page 66

HORNADY PRO-JECTOR

By Dan Cotterman

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Hornady's Pro-7 reloading press, introduced a couple of years ago, brought blessed relief to shooters who needed to turn out handloads by the hundreds without spending too much time at the bench. The Pro-7 featured five stations, automatic primer feed, automatic shellplate indexing, plenty of room in its hefty angled "O"-frame for even long magnum rifle rounds. With a five-station head you could use one for a powder measure and the rest for die sets that offered separate bullet seating and crimping. And there was a \$425 pricetag, which included a set of Hornady's Durachrome dies.

The good news from Grand Island is that there's now a second-generation Pro-7, called the Pro-Jector, that does everything the Pro-7 did while adding improved capabilities. What's more, the Pro-Jector is priced a C-note lower, at \$325. This includes primer feed, primer catcher, shellplate, powder measure adapter, and Durachrome dies. You'll have to tack on the price of a powder measure. If you prefer their fully-adjustable crank-type measure, my choice for this test, you'll spend an extra \$69.50, or if you're going to load exclusively for handguns you can do quite well with Hornady's pistol powder measure, which sells for \$29.50. Another option is to use your own powder measure. If it has standard 7/8ths-14 threads, it will adapt to the Hornady Pro-Jector.

Among the biggest improvements, besides the friendlier price, is Hornady's introduction of a system for ejecting loaded rounds. You move the operating handle down and drop a charge into one case as a bullet is seated in another. Then as you move the handle to the top of its stroke the shellplate will click over to the next station and a loaded round will be nudged into a plastic catcher. Each complete cycle of the handle will put a loaded round into the box. Neat. The Hornadys call this "kicking brass."

That's the quick run-down. There's more, for the old man went all the way with this new Hornady press—from knowing it was on the way, to sweating out the arrival of the UPS truck, to opening the shipping box, to engaging in sub-assembly and set-up, through the first foibles of operation.

The product in this example is of highest quality. Of that we can rest assured; but what we often fail to realize in the heat of anticipation is that we're about to confront a mechanism whose function and assembly have been masterminded elsewhere. In other words,



they know how it goes together and what makes it tick; we don't.

So, for goodness sake spend some time studying the Pro-Jector's instruction booklet. Even then you're likely to run into trouble if you don't familiarize yourself with the drawing and parts nomenclature. Do this carefully and you'll be okay.

Once the Pro-Jector is set up for operation—final adjustments completed, powder hopper and primer feed tube filled—it is possible without pushing for speed to turn out a loaded round every 10 to 12 seconds, which will amount to a box of 50 in about 10 minutes. Moreover, the five-station die platform, automatic primer feed (which, although it has required a few small adjustments, now works quite well), positive straight-line primer seating, automatic shellplate indexing, and the new brass kicker combine to make this a good investment.

Who among us, though, is always content to let something like this remain exactly as it was when it left the factory? Although the Pro-Jector's handle is slightly bent, so it can be adjusted to provide more or less clearance here and there, I found that my knuckles would now and then come in contact with the die platform. Also, the knob on the handle had to be moved down to within 21 inches of the floor at the bottom of each stroke, and adjusting the handle otherwise only increased the height to 25 inches. I'm of average height, but I was having to bend my knees during standing operation or tilt heavily to the right while sitting, in order to take the knob to the bottom of its stroke. Effecting a little more bend in the handle, I was able to have the knob reach the end of its downward travel 27½ inches from the floor, and, because of the added offset, spare my

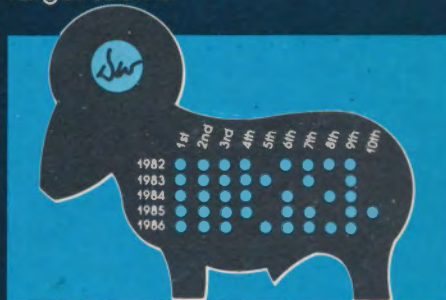
Continued on page 49

IF YOU'RE NOT USING A DAN WESSON REVOLVER, CHANCES ARE YOU'RE JUST SHOOTING THE BREEZE.

Dan Wesson revolvers are the most accurate regular production handguns in the world. For the fifth consecutive year, they have dominated the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA) Championships sweeping first, second and third place. Dan Wesson Arms have taken thirty-eight of the top fifty positions since 1982! No other handgun comes close.

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CONVERSATION

with a Champion

By Jon Winokur



It's been a long hard road to the top for Chip McCormick since he began competing in 1981. A keen student of the game who combines a cerebral approach to the dynamics of competitive shooting with phenomenal hand-eye coordination, he astounded the practical shooting world by finishing 16th in the U.S. Nationals in his third month as a competitor.

Then came the lean times: although the Austin, Texas resident won just about all the state combat and steel matches he entered, including the Texas Steel Masters and the Texas Challenge, and made the U.S. Silver Team at the '83 IPSC World Championship, victory in a major tournament eluded him until he won the 1986 Steel Challenge. I spoke with him recently about his revitalized shooting career and his unique outlook on the sport:

JW: First off, Chip, how did you get involved in practical shooting?

CM: I was an avid rifle shooter and one day at the range in 1981 I saw my local IPSC club [Hill Country Practical Pistol Club in Austin] holding a match and it looked like a lot of fun. I noticed that they were using .45 autos, and since I happened to have a Colt Gold Cup at home, I went to the next match. And won it. And I won the next match. Well, the club was allotted one slot in the Nationals and they gave it to me.

JW: Dedication is a major ingredient for success in any competitive sport. Have you had to make sacrifices in order to win the big one?

CM: I've had to make a lot of sacrifices. It's been a tremendous financial strain, especially in the early years. When you get hooked on a sport you'll spend your last dime chasing the championship and that's just about what I did. Thank goodness for matches like the Steel Challenge where you can recover your expenses even if you don't win.

JW: How much did you win at this year's Challenge?

CM: \$9,250 in cash, a Winchester shotgun and a Cannon safe.

JW: Speed shooting is your specialty. What makes you so good at it?

CM: I think it's my basic approach to all shooting, which is something I call the "tempo method." I try to approach a course of fire the way a musician reads music. I try to "hear" the "tune" before I actually fire it, to pre-program my movement and my speed

before I draw the gun. Once I accomplish that programming, the actual shooting is effortless. It feels like I'm in slow motion.

In speed shooting you're going so fast you don't have time to think about each individual shot. The conscious mind can't work quickly enough, so the subconscious has to take over. I try to treat my mind like a computer both in practice and in a match. How well it functions depends on how well it's been programmed in practice.

JW: How does your practice routine help you program your subconscious mind?

CM: Like most of the top shooters I've talked to, my basic practice drill is to draw and fire one shot. If you can get a good grip on the gun with a fast draw, bring the gun into the shooting position quickly and have good accuracy with competitive speed on one shot, multiple shots are much easier. I work from 25 yards in to 10 yards. Then, after I get my draw and my one shots down, I do two shots and three shots.

When I'm getting ready for a specific match, like the Steel Challenge where the course of fire is published, I try to choreograph all my movements. Each day of practice I pick one stage and I shoot it first—cold—then I wait a few minutes and shoot the next stage and the next until I've shot all six stages. Then I put the gun away and go home. I never stop and concentrate on one stage unless I have a particular problem with it.

JW: Why do you shoot "cold?"

CM: I try to do all my practice without being

JW: Weren't you one of the first to use a .38 Super in competition?

CM: That's right. Charlie Kelsey of Devel approached me at the '82 Bianchi Cup and suggested I try the .38 Super "Gammon." I was really excited because I had seen an article in *Handgunner* about the Devel Gammon and I told my friends that if I had that gun I'd be one of the best shooters in the country. The gun seemed to have an aura about it.

I only used the Gammon for about a year, though, because I could never get my hands on the gun more than a week before the match. That's a big disadvantage.

But the .38 Supers are here to stay. In the past people tried to load their IPSC guns down light for steel shooting, but now we're seeing a lot more guns designed especially for steel shooting.

JW: How do "steel guns" differ from all-around IPSC guns?

CM: Speed shooting requires much lighter loads than IPSC shooting. In order for a Government Model or any delayed-recoil action automatic to shoot a light load, it should have as little weight as possible attached to the slide and barrel. Most of the successful gunsmiths are trying to make their guns capable of using lighter springs because

*I try to approach a course of fire the way
a musician reads music.*

warmed-up because that's how you have to shoot in the match.

JW: Is there any equipment you find useful in your practice sessions?

CM: The new electronic timers are very helpful because they allow you to break all your shots down. For example, if I'm having trouble on a given target, the timer can help me isolate the problem by showing whether I'm shooting it too fast. And using the interval pulse feature helps me establish the proper rhythm for a given course of fire.

the gun whips less with them, especially after it has ejected the shell case and is moving back into battery.

Now, if you take two Government Models and put an 11-pound spring in one and an 18-pound spring in the other, lock them open, hold them out in front of you and drop the slide, the 18-pound spring will cause the gun to whip in your hand much harder than the 10-pounder. But if you try to use a light spring in an IPSC gun and you get a round that doesn't feed perfectly, it can prevent the gun from

locking up.

So in steel guns we try to reduce the weight on the barrel and slide, which allows the spring weight to be a little heavier without creating more movement in the hand, which in turn permits quicker recovery for the next shot. That's the basic design of the gun I used at this year's Steel Challenge. I designed and built it along with Fred Tripp, a machinist and mechanical engineer. It's built on an Auto Ordnance frame.

JW: *What other equipment did you use to win the Steel Challenge?*

CM: I used an Ernie Hill holster and shooting rig which allowed me to go much faster than I ever had before. I used Winchester brass loaded with 3.4 grains of Winchester 231 powder behind a 125 grain bullet. The round produces velocities of about 800 feet per second.

JW: *Most competitors have a technique for handling match pressure. What's yours?*

CM: Concentration is the key to overcoming match nerves. When my squad is called to the line, I begin to think about what I learned in practice. Then, when I'm in the hole, I try to block everything out completely. I don't talk to anyone and I'm not aware of anything other than what I'm there to do. I try to remember the key thoughts that are going to help me through the course of fire such as "slow down on the third plate" or "be sure to get a good sight picture," et cetera.

When I get to the firing line, I go through what I call my "set-up routine," a step-by-step

procedure which puts me in what I term "shoot mode." I check my equipment, go over my key thoughts, take my stance, take a practice sight picture, holster the gun, raise my hands, and I'm ready.

Once I've gone through this process, this routine, my concentration is 100%. If anything breaks my concentration, I'll back away from the line and start the routine all over again. I use my set-up routine religiously not just in a match but every time I practice.

JW: *How much of a factor is luck in practical pistol competition?*

CM: You basically make your own luck. You check your ammo by dropping each load in the chamber before you use it in a match. You make sure your gun is functioning properly. If you're prepared, you'll get the results you deserve. You may catch a bad break here and a good break there, but it all evens out in the long run.

JW: *You're quite a student of the game. Have you noticed any significant changes in the sport, particularly in the mechanics of the stance and grip, since you first started competing?*

CM: In the early years of my competition career, most shooters stood angled to their targets. They were turned sideways in the classic Cooper style—you know, really locked up and twisted. In the last two years I've noticed that among the top shooters the stance is almost square to the target. The same thing with the upper body position—

less angled and more parallel.

The grip has evolved so that the strong-hand thumb is high, the weak-hand thumb is low, and the wrists are staggered. Earlier grips seemed to place the pivot points of the wrists parallel, which allowed the gun to slip more under recoil. By staggering the pivot points of the wrists, the grip is strengthened without adding tension.

And you hardly ever see anybody using the instinct or point shooting technique anymore. Everybody seems to fire all their shots using the sights.

JW: *What about trends in equipment?*

CM: Holsters are almost all strong-side now and most of them are worn zero-angle [straight up and down]. It's the wave of the future because it's the most natural position for the square stance and upper body position.

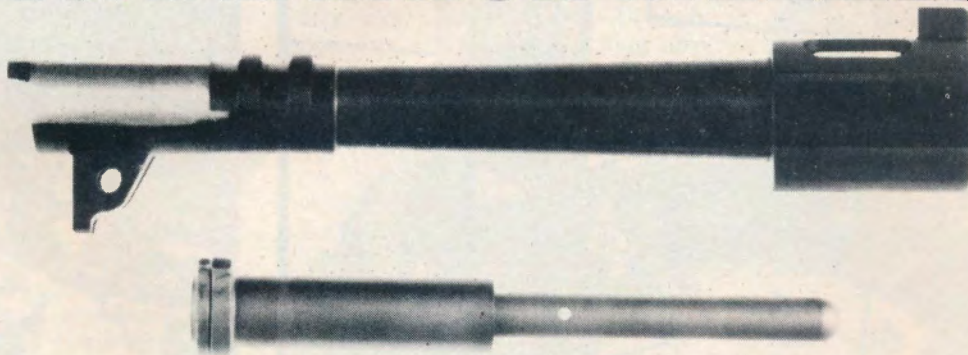
The other major trend I see in equipment is the increased use of electronic timers. Anyone who's serious about competing should use them.

JW: *I understand you've recently started teaching some of your techniques.*

CM: Yes, I teach in conjunction with my bullet sponsor, Central Texas Munitions in Austin. I go all over the country to work with law enforcement agencies and competitors. My program differs greatly from those "learn everything from A to Z in a few days" courses.

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days. That's why my program is based on three phases. In the first phase I take the shooter out and teach him the basics: stance, grip, sight picture, trigger control and then the draw, and then they go practice that.

When they've got to where their combination of speed and accuracy has reached the level I think it should be, then we start to work on multiple targets and skill-builders which allow them to learn the technique of moving from target to target.

After they practice their multiple target skills we go into a third phase in which we work on tactics and strategy, how to approach various courses of fire, how to run assault courses, how to use a barricade.

It's all one-on-one instruction. That way if the student is having trouble at a particular stage, I'm not holding other shooters back by taking the time to correct the problem. Conversely, if I'm working with a fast learner, we can accelerate the whole process. Of course, it isn't that lucrative from my point of view, but I think it's the best way from the student's point of view.

I love teaching. It's really rewarding to help someone reach his personal goal. And if more of the top shooters make themselves available as instructors, it will help the sport grow.



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cessing. The Turbo 3200 even offers the flexibility of choosing either wet or dry media; yet still allows case inspection without stopping the operation.

Ideal for high volume shooters, gun clubs and commercial reloaders, the Turbo 3200 is the first choice for anyone who won't settle for less than the best.

The Turbo™ 1200 — Lyman's most popular.

Most reloaders will find the Turbo 1200 just right for their normal reloading needs. It easily and quickly cleans and polishes up to 400 pistol cases both inside and out. Rotary drum tumblers can't finish cases as quickly or as well because they don't have the unique "Turbo Action" and they don't come packed with a charge of Turbo

Media - the "factory finish" cob media.

The Turbo™ 600 — Lyman's lowest priced.

Large enough to handle many reloader's requirements (200 pistol cases), the Turbo 600 will also produce a "factory finish" in half the time of any rotary drum model.

It allows case inspection while running and features the same "Turbo Action" as Lyman's other models. In short, it provides all the performance benefits of Lyman's largest and most popular models - at Lyman's best price.

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This handy accessory is perfect for any case polisher. Its 14-inch diameter allows it to fit over any receptacle and speeds up sifting of polished cases from media. It can even be used on top of a running Turbo Tumbler to further speed up the processing of cases. It also works well for spraying cases with Turbo Degreaser to eliminate case lubricant prior to polishing. Every tumbler owner should have a Turbo Sifter.



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*Is the luster of The Cup tarnished?
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NRA's BIANCHI CUP '86

The controversy had been in the air long before The Cup began, and had extended into the offices of the magazine itself.

The two masthead people who actually shoot The Cup, myself and the editor, had differed on the change in the glove rule. Subsequent to Cup '85, Ray Chapman had moved to forbid sap gloves since, being forbidden even for most cops, he thought they reflected a lousy image for action sport shooting. Bill Jordan, also on the NRA committee that has taken over The Cup, proposed going a step farther: banning the use of *all* gloves.

The editor believes in letting the shooter go to the max to explore his own outer limits of scoring potential, and bitterly resented the glove rule. I, like the majority of the committee, agreed with Jordan. The gloves had led to barricade holds that, without hand protection and with a powerful gun, would severely injure the hand with blast from the cylinder gap. *Handgunner* readers know enough not to emulate these techniques barehanded, but watchers of The Cup on ESPN might not.

Several shooters, many from the Western contingent, had stated they were boycotting The Cup in protest. Banning the gloves, by itself, wasn't the reason. They were more concerned that Mike Dalton, who had been elected the Shooters Representative by a body of last year's competitors, had not been consulted on the rule change. Even to those of us who wanted to kiss the "wimp gloves" goodbye, that seemed a bit high-handed.

With fewer than 120 competitors on hand, '86 was the most

poorly attended Bianchi Cup since the first one in '79. It wasn't because the charismatic John Bianchi, having handed his brainchild over to

NRA, wouldn't be on hand; John paid a visit, and we all had the opportunity to congratulate him on his richly deserved winning of the 1986 *Outstanding American Handgunner of the Year Award*.

There were several things that hurt attendance this year. First, I suspect, was scheduling. It is bad enough that The Cup has always been scheduled within a couple of weeks of the popular Second Chance match, but this year it was within about a week of the Steel Challenge as well. Shooters who had been drilling themselves for the speedburning pace of the Challenge didn't feel they had enough time to switch gears for the paced precision of Cup shooting. For a man who works, it also means almost three weeks shot to hell.

My own unsolicited advice to NRA and The Cup committee, delivered there and now as well, would be a rescheduling of the match from spring to summer. Ray Chapman's Missouri range is by no means insufferably hot in July or August. In any case, relays are run so well and so promptly that no one needs to be out in the sun longer than 45 minutes at a time to sign up and shoot their relay(s) of the day. For the observers, there is ample shade. Besides, where is it carved in stone that the match *must* take place at Chapman's range?

A careful rescheduling would place the Cup comfortably and ideally on the tournament circuit amidst both IPSC and PPC

Continued on page 48

A Dilettante's Debut

By Robert Mejia

The Bianchi Cup is indeed a tournament of champions. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be a Mickey Fowler or Rob Leatham to get an invitation. Mere mortals such as thee and me can, with the proper credentials, participate.

You cannot, however, fall off the ammo truck at Chapman's range and start popping caps. You will be required to document your shooting skill in one of the sanctioned disciplines (IPSC, PPC, bullseye, etc.). Duffers need not apply.

With an invitation in hand, you now have two important decisions to make: revolver or auto, optical or iron sights. As to action type, revolvers have won the last four years, but several autos have been right up there in the top ten. Shoot what you are comfortable with.

And know this: if you want to be competitive, an optical sight, either Aimpoint or scope, is mandatory. The time frames in this match may seem rather generous to an IPSC man, while the four-

inch diameter X-ring and eight-inch 10-ring appear ridiculously large to a PPC or bullseye shooter.

Don't be fooled. This game is tough. Removing the necessity for sight alignment by use of opticals goes a long way toward improving your performance.

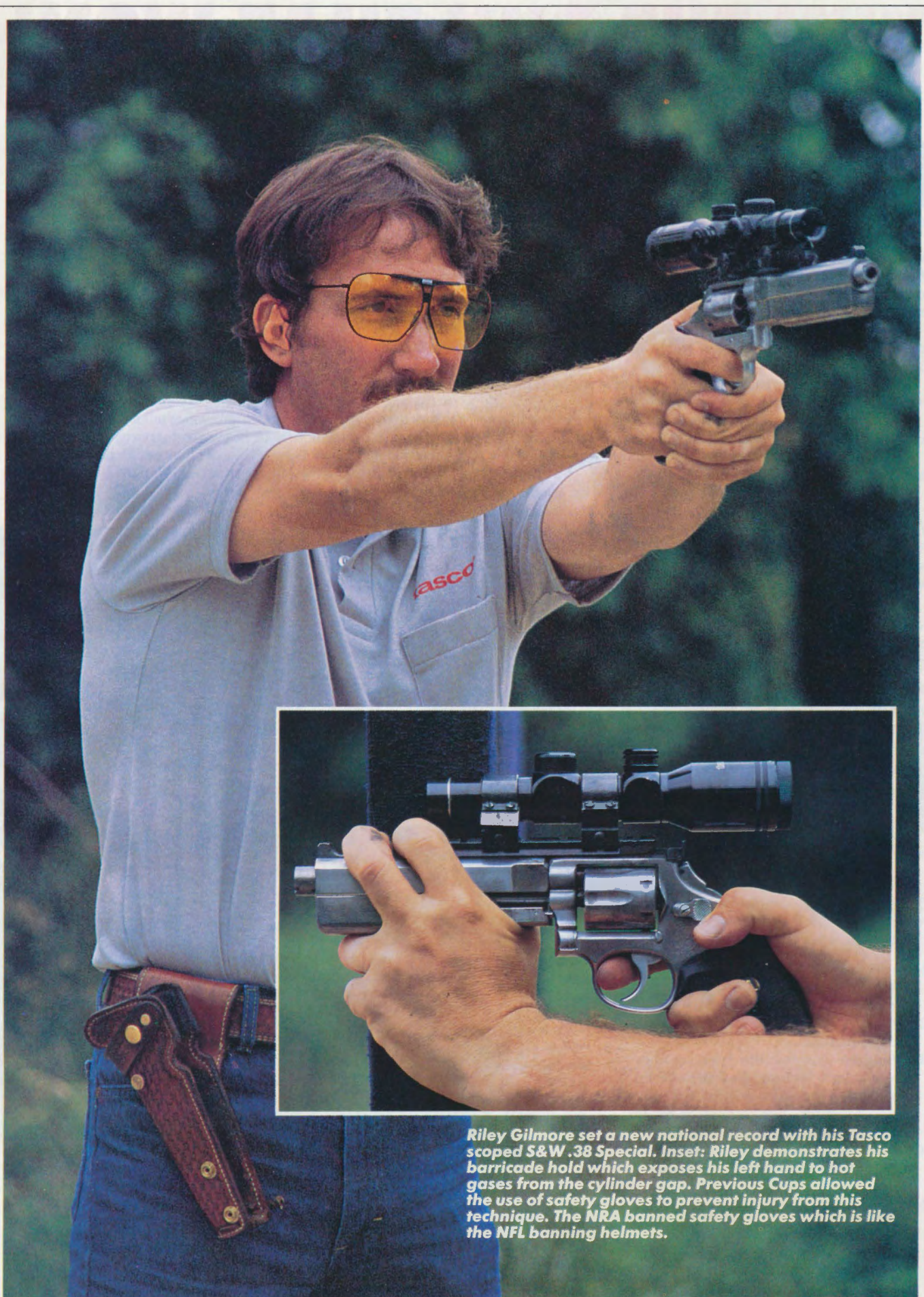
The Holy Grail of the Bianchi Cup is accuracy+recoil reduction. Practically every gun used in the 1986 match had either a heavy bull barrel or some type of compensator/porting arrangement. I even saw three S&W K-22's with heavy PPC-type bull barrels that were used in the .22 event.

Neat little guns, those.

You must tailor your ammunition to meet the power factor, which is 120,000 minimum. This figure is obtained by multiplying bullet weight times velocity. A 158 gr. .38 bullet moving at 760 fps, for example, equals 120,080 which is barely squeaking by. Temperature, humidity, and many other factors affect velocity on any given day. Allow yourself plenty of "fudge factor." Six competitors didn't this year, and were disqualified. The rule is enforced.

This match is completely

Continued on page 72



Riley Gilmore set a new national record with his Tasco scoped S&W .38 Special. Inset: Riley demonstrates his barricade hold which exposes his left hand to hot gases from the cylinder gap. Previous Cups allowed the use of safety gloves to prevent injury from this technique. The NRA banned safety gloves which is like the NFL banning helmets.

WIN THE GUN THAT WON!

Courtesy of Riley Gilmore and Tulsa Firearms

Riley Gilmore's *Gun That Won* the 1986 Bianchi Cup is a Smith and Wesson Model 15 in .38 Special customized by Tulsa Firearms. Dubbed the *Multicomp*, it incorporates a shroud system utilizing a 1-in-14 twist premium Douglas barrel blank.

With the barrel tensioned and locked up at both ends à la Dan Wesson, vibration is reduced and accuracy is substantially improved. Shroud underlugs in various weights are used with a vertical and horizontal crane lockup which allows a very tight cylinder to barrel relationship. The barrels and shrouds may be interchanged.

The action is a medium staging trigger for combined speed and accuracy. The hammer is bobbed to accelerate fall thereby reducing lock time.

All internal and external parts are hard chrome plated to ensure long lasting fit and greater internal lubricity.

The cylinder is chamfered for speedloading and there is a strain screw lock for fine tuning the action for particular ammunition.

The trigger is smoothed and rounded with an over-travel screw installed.

Pachmayr Gripper stocks facilitate a firm grip on the *Multicomp*.

Riley selected the Tasco 1X scope with illuminated dot reticle in Weaver bases for his sight system. Riley says the crosshairs are ideal on bright, sunny days while the illuminated red dot is better on cloudy or overcast days.

Tulsa Firearms offers the *Multicomp* in .22, .357, .44 and .45 caliber in addition to the .38 Special. The *Multicomp* system extends to autoloaders as well with Tulsa Firearms offering a full-house compensated Colt Government Model able to change from .45 ACP to .38 Super to 9mm Luger in less than 30 seconds. The cost is drastically below buying three separate guns in these calibers. This enables a shooter to switch from IPSC to NRA Action to bowling pins literally in a matter of seconds.

Riley Gilmore is now offering three day seminars on competition shooting at his elaborate Tulsa facility. The in-depth classes cover everything from selection of winning equipment to shooting techniques to mental control through subliminal influences.

For more information about the guns and services offered by Tulsa Firearms, write Riley Gilmore, Tulsa Firearms, Dept. AH, 5949 S. Garnett, Tulsa, OK, 74134. Or phone (918) 250-4867 for immediate response to your needs.



How to Enter

Answer the accompanying questions and write down the following information with your answers on a sheet of paper.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

If I win, please ship **The Gun That Won** to me through this local gun dealer. (For shipment purposes, the dealer must maintain regular store hours.)

Dealer _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone # () _____ - _____

Store Hours _____ AM to _____ PM

Mail your entry with answers to **AMERICAN HANDGUNNER**, Winner's Gun Contest, P.O. Box 16025, San Diego, CA, 92116. Entries must be postmarked before midnight, March 1.

Contest Rules

- 1) You must be 21-years-old and eligible to purchase a handgun under Federal, State and Local law.
- 2) Agents, employees and associates of Publishers Development Corporation are ineligible.
- 3) Contest void where taxed or prohibited by law.
- 4) **Only one entry per household.**

Copy the question number and enter your response next to the question number in clearly legible handwriting or typewritten.

- 1) Are you a handgun hunter? (Yes or No) If so, do you hunt big game or small game? (Big or Small)
- 2) Would you like to see more articles on handgun hunting? (Yes or No)
- 3) What are your favorite three columns we regularly feature? (See page 4 for a list of the regular columns) List your three favorites, first through third, in order of preference.
- 4) What do you like most about AMERICAN HANDGUNNER? (Feel free to respond in any way you see fit.)
- 5) What is your annual expenditure for firearms and accessories?
(A) up to \$500
(B) \$500 to \$1000
(C) \$1000 to \$1500
(D) More than \$1500
- 6) Does the advertising and/or editorial in AMERICAN HANDGUNNER influence your purchases of guns, accessories or services? (Yes or No)
- 7) If you compete with a handgun, what disciplines do you shoot? (list the disciplines such as bullseye, IPSC, silhouette, etc)
- 8) Please rank the following magazines by preference. (1 through 6 with 1 being your favorite and 6 being your least favorite) American Handgunner _____ GUNS _____ Guns and Ammo _____ Gun World _____ Shooting Times _____ Combat Handguns _____
- 9) How long do you keep your copies of AMERICAN HANDGUNNER?
(A) Until the next issue arrives
(B) Less than six months
(C) More than six months
(D) Permanently as reference



Note the double lock-up of the crane (above) with a ball-detent system on top of the crane and lock-up on barrel underlug to front of the crane. This aids in accuracy. The protrusion above the muzzle (right) is not a front sight, but a finger-stop for a barrel hold on the Barricade Event.

*This custom revolver won the 1986 Bianchi Cup.
Not a duplicate, not a facsimile, this gun won.*



Photo by Roger Andrews



Photo by Roger Andrews

Grand Master D E L U X E

Ace revolversmith Ron Power butters his bread with his superlative PPC guns. Now he refines his Grand Master Deluxe for NRA Action Shooting.

By Jim Weller

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

In the two years that I followed the PPC Way before discovering IPSC, there was a shooter who changed guns like most people change their underwear. Every time I turned around he had a gun by some other maker, yet he was merely biding his time, waiting for the One Gun.

That gun was a "Power Custom" built by Ron Power of Independence, Missouri. I remember the day he arrived at the range with his new toy and began showing it around. While that was a few years ago, I recall the beautiful action and balance of that re-worked S&W K-frame.

Time moved on and so did I. From time to time I would see a small ad in shooting magazines for Power Custom, but being out of the revolver market I never gave it more than a passing glance. However, with the wheelgun making more than just a passing showing in the Bianchi Cup and other matches, Ron Power is once again ready to surge to the fore with his new creation, the "Grand Master Deluxe."

I was furnished with two samples of this version. One built on a Ruger Security Six and the other a S&W L-frame. Both are in stainless steel, and both include all of Power's options.

He actually builds two versions. The Grand Master, which is a six-inch bull-barreled gun, and the sample Deluxe, which is fitted with a removable compensator.

Both test guns are identically built with the exception of the base gun used in the conversion. Cost of either in the trim furnished is approximately \$1100.

I spent some time on the phone with Ron and learned some interesting data. I had always thought that he was a full-time pistolsmith. However, he informed me that it's actually a part-time business, done on his time off from his job at ARMCO Steel. That would help account for his present backlog of nine months to one year.

He also designs tools and accessories. Brownell's latest catalog lists no less than 44 items designed and/or built by Power. With a schedule like that, it's no small wonder that he gets a little backlogged.

Getting back to the test samples, both guns are left with the

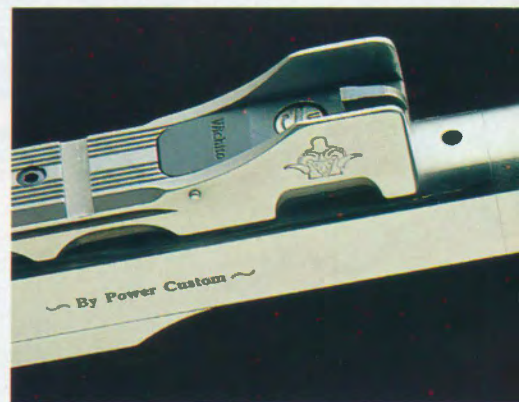




NATIONAL BOARD FOR THE PROMOTION
OF RIFLE PRACTICE, APPROVED TARGET



Left: Power gun features both compensator and screw-in muzzle crown which are easily swapped. Right: compensator uses three angled slots. Low right: Power designed rear sight with four pre-adjustable sight settings. Center right: Wichita rib has grooves milled to accept scope bases. Far upper right: chambers are numbered and chamfered. Far lower right: trigger is polished for smooth DA pull. Note stippling on trigger guard.



hammer spurs intact and both are capable of either single or double-action fire. The barrels are stainless and slab sided, measuring just a shade over 5 3/4 inches from the face of the cylinder. Add the compensator and you bring that up to slightly over seven-inches overall. An underlug is added for additional weight and to house the ejector rod. Barrel diameter is approximately 7/8 inch wide and just over one-inch top to bottom.

Cylinder lock-up is accomplished by two

ball detents located on the crane, one in front and a larger one on top next to the ejector rod. Each chamber is numbered and nicely chamfered for quicker speedloading, while the triggers are rounded and polished beautifully smooth. This is, in my opinion, the *only* way to go in a gun used in DA work.

The large winged rib on top is Ron's own design, built by Wichita. It features a large (make that HUGE) rear sight blade with an undercut post front. The front sight is adjust-



able for elevation while the rear features a four-position dial with each setting adjustable individually for a specific distance using the large knurled knob in the base.

This is a very popular sight with both the PPC and metallic silhouette crowd as it takes

the guesswork out of sight changes at the varying distances fired in those sports. The top of the rib is milled to accept standard one-inch Weaver bases so the shooter can utilize scope or electronic sight if he chooses.

Power's compensator design is a removable one, held in place using a large, coarse thread and fastened with an allen screw located on the underside. In the top are three ports machined at about a 30° angle to the rear. The body is easily removable by backing out the allen screw with the beautifully made rosewood wrench supplied. From there, it easily unscrews the rest of the way by hand.

Included with the Deluxe is a false muzzle should you wish to enter the local PPC match. It installs and removes the same as the compensator.

The final touches include stippling to both



backstrap and front of the trigger guard; a beautiful set of Hogue stocks in dark wood with contrasting grip cap and spacer; and some nicely done etching/engraving.

The two sample guns differ slightly in weight. The S&W tipped the scales at two ounces heavier than the Ruger at 58 and 56 ounces respectively. Power also sent along a new Mark V electronic sight. Added to the S&W, it brought the weight up to a healthy 68 ounces.

Gathering up a supply of Federal factory ammo in .357 and a couple of boxes of .38 HBWC loads by Precision ammo, it was time to hit the range. After setting up the Pro-Tach chrono, I fired the same loads through both

guns, then used a stock S&W M-66 with a six-inch barrel for comparison. Bullets were 180 JHP, 158 JSP, and 110 JHP rounds. Results for five-rounds of each are shown in the accompanying chart.

| Load | Ruger GMD | Smith GMD | M-66 (control) |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Federal 110 JHP | 1435 fps | 1455 fps | 1420 fps |
| .357 Magnum | | | |
| Federal 158 JSP | 1301 fps | 1310 fps | 1250 fps |
| .357 Magnum | | | |
| Federal 180 JHP | 1178 fps | 1175 fps | 1133 fps |
| .357 Magnum | | | |

It is interesting to note that, although the 110 JHP was the lightest in recoil, the most pleasurable to shoot was the 180 JHP. The lighter bullet had a severe muzzle blast while the 180 JHP was more of a BOOM with a not unpleasant push. Incidentally, for those of you who would daire to utilize one of these guns in IPSC, the 180 power factors out to over 211,000! All that and comfort too.

Checking for accuracy, I fired from 50 yards using the rollover prone position. I had no difficulty keeping groups within the three-inch range at that distance. One group from the S&W went a crackerjack one and three-quarters. This is superb accuracy using full-

Continued on page 76

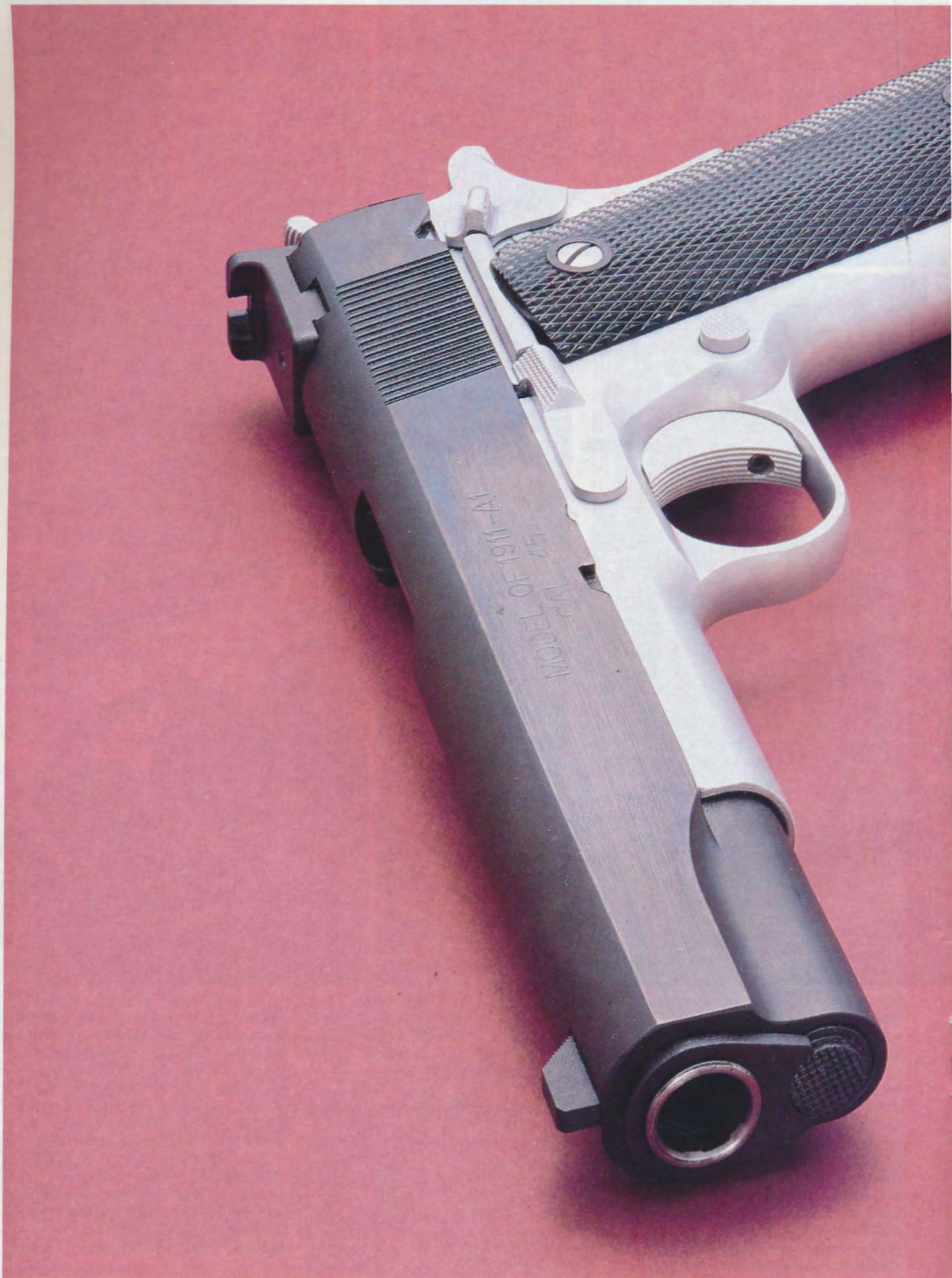


Photo by Roger Andrews

You can win this

HEINIE COMBAT

.45 *A personal defense package with no cosmetic frills, but internal fine tuning that says, "No guts, no glory."*

Pistolsmith Richard Heinie of Havana, Ill., graced the cover of our March/April 1986 issue, but long before that Richard cultivated a reputation for excellence in his one-man shop. He creates custom Colt .45 autos as his mainstay, but also works on revolvers for NRA Action shooting and hunting handguns.

Richard prides himself on his attention to detail that guarantees a Heinie gun is one of the finest renditions of pistolsmithing. His guns have won major tournaments from coast to coast.

But a full-house Heinie competition pistol is but one stall in the stable of Heinie Custom Guns. This *Custom Gun Giveaway* is a practical refinement of a Springfield Armory .45 Government Model. Richard included all the options for what he calls his Personal Defense Package for a lucky reader to win.

Springfield Armory provided one of their excellent forged Government Models as the basis for Richard's handwork.

The functional and attractive finish on the frame is the work of Jim Kelley of Metaloy. Metaloy (501-545-3611) has long been a favorite among those who carry a gun on a daily basis as this unique hard chrome plating resists corrosion and rust that tends to accrue on an oft-used carry gun.

This Heinie Combat .45 includes the following features:

- Heinie Combat/Competition fixed sights
- Bevel magazine well
- Open and flair ejection port
- Trigger job, four pounds
- Adjust extractor
- Install solid barrel bushing
- Re-crown barrel
- Bob hammer
- Wolff 17½ pound recoil spring
- Ray Wilson frame saver
- Deburr all internal parts
- Remove all external sharp corners
- Flat Pachmayr mainspring housing
- Long match trigger

"Most Colt and Springfield Armory pistols modified like this will usually shoot 1½ to 2 inches at 25 yards," Richard attests.

Richard Heinie is a member of the prestigious American Pistolsmiths Guild and as such he has faced the most stringent entry requirements of any gunsmithing organizations. Richard had to present samples of his work for inspection before a panel of pistolsmiths. Richard passed with flying colors.

Despite a surging demand for Heinie custom guns, Richard refuses to hire any help. He staunchly remains committed to the idea of a one-man shop in order to maintain his reputation of excellence. This is your assurance that all work on your gun is performed by the master himself, not some unproven apprentice.

Because of this, Richard stays backlogged with orders. If you are willing to wait a bit for the very best quality, contact Richard at 821 East Adams, Havana, IL 62644 or call (309) 543-4535.



TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, (no envelopes), follow sample; include your name and address; your answers; dealer name, address and phone number. Mail before February 1, 1987. Send to: AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Dept. H1, POB 16025, San Diego, CA 92116. **Limit 1 entry per household.**

How many other people read your copy of AMERICAN HANDGUNNER?

- (A) 1-2 (B) 3-4 (C) 5-6
(D) 6 or more

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☐ (A) ☐ (B) ☐ (C) ☐ (D)

If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:

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Phone # () _____ Store Hours _____ am-_____ pm

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.



SAMPLE

1986 IPSC

Handgunner columnist Rob Leatham wins his fourth national title!

By Cameron Hopkins
Photos by Charles E. Petty

Jamming guns, tumbling bullets, hitting hostages—nothing could derail Rob Leatham's roll to his fourth consecutive IPSC National Championship. Just about everything that can go wrong did, yet Rob commanded such a strong lead he could afford a few disasters.

Amid clamoring cries for a new classification system—Mortals and Rob Leatham—the four-day match purred along smoothly at the modern facility of Dallas Pistol and Revolver Club under the capable control of Match Director Carl Hall. It was July in Texas.

The sirens wailed as paramedics scurried to resuscitate the daily heat stroke victims. Texas in July is *hot*, stifling hot like spending the night in The Box with Cool Hand Luke. But the collapsing heat stroke casualties revived quickly in the shade with some cold water. No serious injuries, no one went to the hospital.

The hostages didn't fare so well. Numerous hostage, or "no-shoot," targets littered the eight courses of fire many of which snuggled cozily next to the "shoot" targets presenting a tricky shot what with the excitement and adrenalin of a national championship shaking up the shooters.

The disaster factor—the probability of screwing up—was tremendous, so high that top guns plugged the Good Guys frequently. Severe penalties result from tagging hostage targets. This is a mistake usually reserved for the lesser skilled rank-and-file, but the Big Boys proved they're human after all.

For the third year in a row, a .38 Super Wilson Accu-Comp captured the national title in Rob Leatham's hands. (His first of four titles came in 1983 with a .45 ACP.) Wilson customized Colts took five of the top 16 spots, more than twice as many as other pistolsmith's guns.

"If anyone asks," the champion confided, "I'm shooting a Springfield Armory gun. But really it's a Colt."

The four-time winner went on to explain that Wilson had been unable to complete the custom work on his spon-

sored-freebie Springfield Armory Government Model in time for the match. "I *do* shoot Springfield Armory guns," the winner added, "but of course with new internal parts."

Incidentally, we report what guns the top finishers *shoot*, not what they *claim* to shoot, because you have come to expect honest, no-punches-pulled reporting, and that's what you get.

The Texas heat brought out the best in the female shooters—short shorts! Floridian Christie Rogers nailed down her second Ladies National Champion crown with her Wilson Accu-Comp in a .38 Super. Previous matches had seen Christie with her pet Devel Gammon, but the charming wife of holster wizard Bill Rogers reported her Gammon has begun to hiccup. Since Devel is no more, there doesn't seem to be anybody to fix it.

The .38 Super cartridge did not stomp the .45 ACP out of the top ten. In fact, it was a stalemate with each cartridge claiming five followers. While we are all hasty to crane our necks for greener grass, we must recognize our own turf isn't all that bad. The .45 ACP continues to make an excellent showing in IPSC matches.

(Never, never, never forget—it's the singer, not the song.

This writer competed with a .45 ACP yet again and proved yet again he can miss with a big bullet just as easily as with a small bullet. Widgets and gimmicks don't win matches, shooters do!)


But for high flying shooters in the stratosphere of the sport, a .38 Super is simply a matter of keeping up with the Jones. If your competition has a slight edge, so must you. However, a .38 Super can be a fair weather friend as the match winner discovered.

Rob's .38 Super gagged three times during the match on tainted ammo. He used three separate loads in the match trying frantically to find one that wouldn't choke his Accu-Comp. He borrowed ammo from Bill Wilson, Bill Rogers and even went over to a pal's house to reload. The loads he brought to the match keyholed into some 10 yard targets on the first stage, a sure sign all is not well.

Tumbling bullets had to go before the crucial standard exercise match with 50



NATIONALS

A full-page photograph of a man, identified as Chip McCormick, in a dynamic, low-to-the-ground shooting stance. He is wearing a bright yellow short-sleeved polo shirt, blue jeans, a blue and white baseball cap, and sunglasses. He is holding a black handgun with both hands, aiming it forward. His right leg is extended forward, and his left leg is bent, pushing off the ground. A black holster with a handgun is visible on his right hip. The background is an outdoor shooting range with several large, light-colored rectangular targets on stands. The ground is dry grass and dirt. The overall tone is action-oriented and competitive.

Shoot and scoot! Chip McCormick, '86 Steel Challenge champ, stuffs in a fresh mag in his .38 Super. Rob Leatham, left, won with his .38 Super Accu-Comp.

Christie Rogers captured her second Ladies National Championship, a back-to-back victory with her '85 win. She shoots .38 Super, this year in a Wilson Accu-Comp.

yard targets. Rob dashed out to a neighboring gun club and tested borrowed ammo until he found a load his Super could digest. (One can't help but wonder what in the world inspired the national champion to show up with such lousy ammo in the first place.)

Other top shooters' Supers also jammed. Malfunctions were not restricted to Supers, I hasten to add, as many .45s did their part to support the rumor of autoloaders being jam-o-matics.

Four of the 341 competitors were disqualified for accidental discharges. One poor chap fired one round in the match—right next to his foot! This is deemed to be unsafe gun handling and the Chief Range Officer did his impersonation of a major league umpire, "Ya'rrre outta there!"



GUNS AND GEAR OF THE TOP SIXTEEN

| Name and Home State | Gun | Caliber | Pistolsmith | Holster | Score |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|---------|--------|
| 1) Rob Leatham (AZ) | Colt | .38 Super | Bill Wilson | Hill | 100.00 |
| 2) J. Michael Plaxco (AR) | Colt | .38 Super | J.M. Plaxco | Rogers | 94.80 |
| 3) Tom Campbell (MA) | S&W | .45 ACP | S&W | Rogers | 94.57 |
| 4) John Shaw (TN) | Essex | .38 Super | Jim Clark | Hill | 92.62 |
| 5) Jerry Barnhart (MI) | Colt | .45 ACP | Steve Nastoff | Rogers | 91.68 |
| 6) John Dixon (TX) | Colt | .45 ACP | Jim Clark | Davis | 89.26 |
| 7) Tim Knutson (AZ) | Colt | .38 Super | Tim Knutson | Davis | 89.19 |
| 8) Doug Evancic (SC) | Colt | .38 Super | Bill Wilson | Hill | 88.55 |
| 9) Larry Spain (CO) | Colt | .45 ACP | Bill Wilson | Hill | 87.88 |
| 10) Michael Martolin (NV) | Colt | .45 ACP | Gray/Martolin | Davis | 87.49 |
| 11) Bill Wilson (AR) | Colt | .38 Super | Bill Wilson | Rogers | 87.41 |
| 12) Rick Byfield (KS) | Colt | .45 ACP | J.M. Plaxco | Davis | 87.17 |
| 13) Donny Summers (MS) | Colt | .38 Super | Wayne Umberger | Hill | 87.07 |
| 14) Chip McCormick (TX) | Auto-Ordinance | .38 Super | Tripp/Grieder | Hill | 86.69 |
| 15) Tom Yost (CT) | Colt | .45 ACP | Steve Nastoff | Davis | 86.59 |
| 16) Mark Mazzotta (RI) | Colt | .38 Super | Bill Wilson | Davis | 86.45 |



Incidentally, no one has ever been injured due to a gun accident at a nationals in the 10 years since IPSC was founded.

Rob rocketed to the front as the pace setter on the first two stages of the match. He won the stage sponsored by *Springfield Armory* and held the lead on the stage supported by *Smith and Wesson* until the last day. These two immaculate performances gave Rob the cushion he would need later to survive gun jams and hostage hits.

On the second day of sweltering Texas sun, Rob's pistol jammed twice on *Competition Electronic's* stage. His panther-quick speed allowed him to clear the jams without losing too much time. Rob recovered by winning the next stage sponsored by *Davis Leather Company*.

Coming into the third day the writing was already on the wall. Rob would take his fourth consecutive national crown. But then on the vital standard exercise stage, sponsored by *Safariland*, a deep seated primer caused a misfire. On this timed event, a jam spells f-l-u-s-h. In the toiddy you go! Rob erased a good chunk of his lead on this stage. But he went on to shoot a strong course on *PACT's* stage.

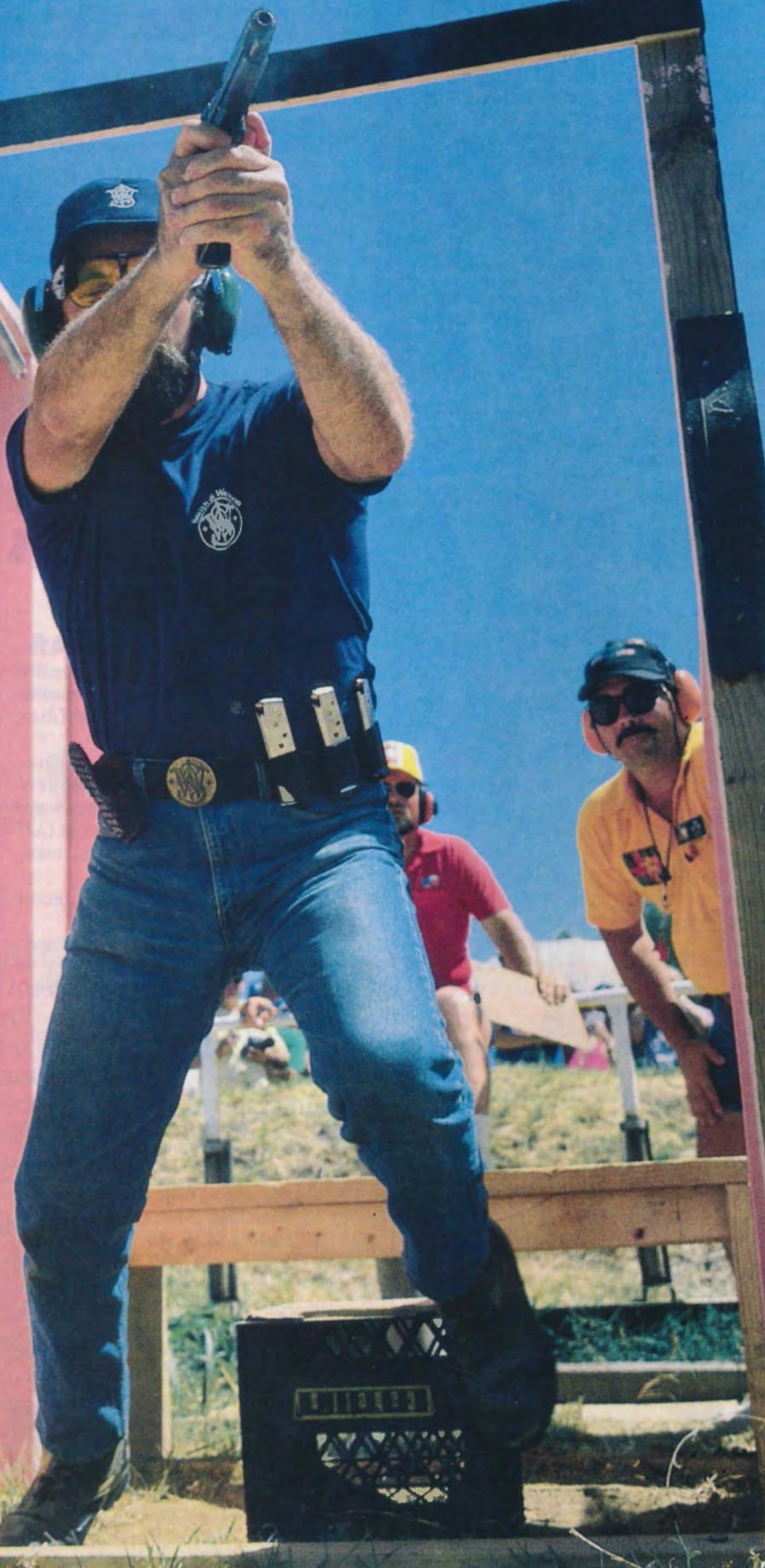
Continued on page 46



The author dive-bombs into prone position for 50 yard shots. Note the elbow and knee pads to prevent scrapes and bruises. That's a Nastoff custom .45.



Tommy Campbell, above and right, is a perennial top finisher with his prototype 745 S&W in .45 ACP. He shoots Federal hardball. His non-compensated, five-inch auto proves it's the singer not the song. He left scores of Trick Gun shooting also-rans in the dust. He was voted Team Captain of the US Team by his peers, testimony to his international experience and years of competitive savvy.



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The last day was anti-climactic. *Wilson Combat's* stage was extremely difficult with six turning targets whipping around to peek at the shooter from behind hostages. Meanwhile, the shooter had to dance back and forth over a foot fault board. Rob plugged a hostage on this stage as did other Master Blasters.

The final stage sponsored by *Dillon Precision* was entirely academic as it was an easy course, a house clearing drill with an interesting target that was completely hidden and only visible through a mirror. John Shaw won this stage, but Rob wasn't far behind as he sealed his fourth consecutive victory.

Others to grab glory were Austria's Roland Barasits who fired his customized Steyr GB 9mm for Top International honors. Top Law Enforcement went to the alternate for the Gold Team, Doug Evancic who fired a .38 Super Colt. Greg Lamb was second-to-last revolver shooter and also Top Revolver. Only two competitors fired wheelguns.

And now it's on to the world championship in Florida. Rob Leatham will return to defend his world championship, and *American Handgunner* will be there to bring you the story.



ATTENTION DOUBTING THOMAS

Yes Virginia (and Thomas), we really do give away all those gorgeous custom guns in our regular *Custom Gun Giveaway* contests.

We last published the names of *Giveaway* winners in the November/December 1985 issue and since then some readers have wondered if subsequent *Gun Giveaways* are "for real." Yeah, man, they're for real!

Here are the names of the most recent winners and the guns they won.

May/June 1985: Jane Markland, custom PPC revolver

July/August 1985: Rick Pfista, custom PPC revolver

Sept/Oct 1985: Donna Goforth, custom Ruger Mk. II

Nov/Dec 1985: Gene Closterman, custom Colt .45

Jan/Feb 1986: Dr. Harris Pierce, custom .380 auto

March/April 1986: Evelyn Martin, custom Colt .45

May/June 1986: Darren Adams, custom S&W .44

July/August 1986: Oscar Vandeventer, custom Ruger .44

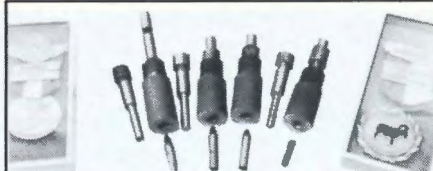
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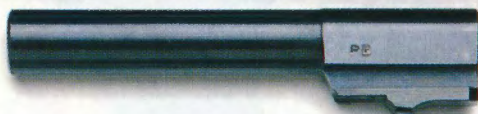


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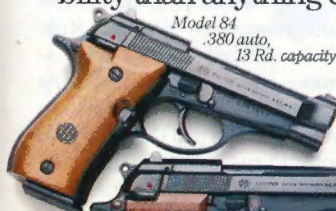


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BIANCHI CUP

Continued from page 32

nationals, as well as the Chance and the Challenge. Since most of the shooters are in their 20s to 40s, there is a preponderance of family men, and this would be an opportunity to build their Cup sojourn around a family vacation. While logistical reasons tie the Steel Challenge and Second Chance to their present dates, there is no compelling reason for NRA not to simply reschedule the match. I believe this would help The Cup strongly.

Reportedly, members of the NRA's Cup committee were considering killing the event in the light of this year's poor turnout. Cooler heads prevailed, and Bianchi Cup has been given at least a year's reprieve, with Cup IX guaranteed for 1987 at this time. I believe that the event can be pulled out of its doldrums.

But the real Bianchi Cup story was that of Riley Gilmore. By the last day, only the cliquish were asking "Riley who?" as they watched the scoreboard. True Cup followers recalled the tall, serious young man as a Tulsa, Oklahoma firearms instructor and gunshop owner who had done well at his first Cup in '84 and made the coveted Top Twenty last year. Shooting a sleeve-barrelled PPC gun designed by his own team, Gilmore had since May '85 been convinced that he could win the Bianchi Cup, and had settled himself into a year-long ritual of intense practice that culminated in the most perfect performance ever logged under the intense pressure of The Cup; a tally of 1916 with 144 X's out of 1920 possible points.

In his early 30s, Gilmore shoots from an Isosceles position, the stance that has won the Cup for the last four years straight. In a tournament that has been dominated by the Aimpoint electronic sight, he gladdened the hearts of conventional telescopic sight fans by using a Tasco scope instead. His custom S&W rested in a Ted Blocker competition speed rig.

If there has been a change in the atmosphere of The Cup since its management went from John Bianchi to National Rifle Association, it is a change from an extravaganza to a more straightforward shooting event. Says one insider who prefers not to be quoted, "NRA was concerned that they paid more per shooter to run The Cup than they do their traditional national championships, and for fewer contestants. I don't think they realize that Bianchi Cup isn't just another shooting event, it's a promotional thing meant to give the public a more dynamic and positive look at handgunning."



PRO-JECTOR

Continued from page 26

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As I have implied all along, the Pro-Jector is an excellent piece of equipment. Two opposite-facing, beveled, spring-tensioned, adjustable pawls, both of which are mounted in the toggle at the bottom of the press, cause the shellplate to index, automatically, as the ram (a substantial two inches in diameter) reaches the lower extent of travel, then index again as the ram rises. It is not, therefore, necessary to bother with flipping a lever or otherwise fingering the shellplate to keep it turning. Indexing is positive, and is correctly adjusted at the factory, which means you can concentrate on placing empties in the shellplate, positioning bullets beneath the seating die, and dispensing powder charges.

Extra shellplates for just about every cartridge, from the .32 ACP on up through the full range of large handgun rounds to magnum ordnance for rifles, are available for \$25 each. The price is reasonable, especially in the case of shellplate No. 1, which will fit dozens of case heads, including the .45 ACP, plus the entire complement of standards and wildcats based on the 7mm and '06. Hornady presently offers 10 shellplates for the Pro-Jector.

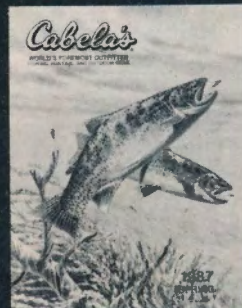
Hornady's pistol powder measure comes with standard bushings 7, 8, 9, 11, and 13, although there are 22 in all. Extra bushings are \$2 each and make possible the dispensing of hundreds of charge weights with more than 20 popular powders. That's fine, but if your devotion to handloading includes rifles as well as handguns, or rifle rounds such as the .25-35 or .35 Remington in the T/C Contender single-shot, you'll need Hornady's big Multi-Deluxe powder measure. With the M.D., it's possible to crank large charges out of a big hopper while maintaining the advantage of micrometer adjustment. Included are pistol and rifle metering assemblies, and two drop tubes (22-30 caliber and 30-45 caliber).

Loaded here during this test were 9mm, using Durachrome dies, as well as .45 Colt and .280 Remington. Performance of the Pro-Jector was smooth and trouble-free, except for a couple of instances in which the priming punch left the feed tube without picking up a primer. No fault exclusive to this system is implied, however, for I have yet to test an automatic primer feed that is 100% efficient. In this case the malfunction was minor and easy to correct.

Shooters write to outline their handloading needs and get advice on which press to buy. Sometimes cash outlay is at the forefront of their considerations, but more often they don't care what they pay as long as they wind up owning a press that'll do what they want it to do, do it right, and last a long time. I'll usually outline the benefits of two or three different presses, depending on requirements. If someone wishes to lavish attention on each cartridge, there are several excellent single-stage presses to talk about; but from now on when a shooter tells me he wants to load fast and head for range or field, the Pro-Jector will be among the presses I recommend.



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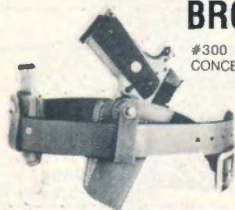


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Members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild are highlighted with the initials APG in their listing. Further information about the Guild may be obtained from: George Wessinger, Secretary APG, Dept. CPD, Rt. 1, Box 40, Chapin, SC 29036.

For your convenience and ease of reading, codes are used to identify the specialties of the pistolsmiths. The codes are as follows:

These codes identify the handgun specialties:

CT = Colt
SW = Smith and Wesson
RU = Ruger
TC = Thompson/Center Contender
XP = Remington XP-100

These codes identify the area(s) of specialization:

PP = PPC
IP = IPSC
SL = Silhouette
HT = Hunting
PO = Police
BS = Bullseye

For best results in obtaining custom pistolsmithing services, the Handgunner recommends that you contact several pistolsmiths to compare services and prices.

This listing is for information only, and the Handgunner assumes no responsibility, stated or implied, for the work of any firm/individual listed.

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Glenn, 16036 N. 49th Ave., Glendale, AZ,
85306, 602 978-9089. *PP IP PO. CT SW.*
PPC; IPSC, Colt autos only. Price list:
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602 839-0033. *PP IP PO. SW RU CT.*
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AZ, 85029, 602 465-7640. *PP IP HT PO.*
CT SW RU. Colt .45 auto. Price list:
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BROADWAY ARMS CO., Joe Pruden,
4114 East Broadway, Little Rock, AR,
72117, 501 945-1853. *IP PO. CT SW RU.*

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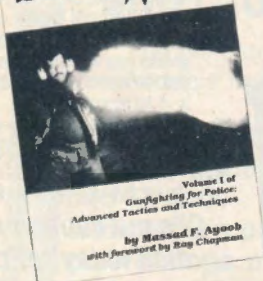
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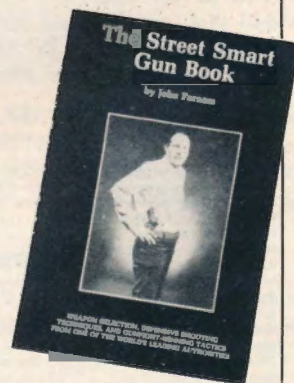
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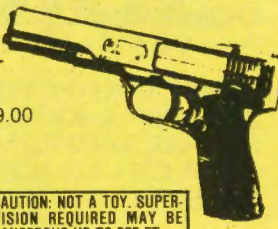
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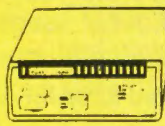
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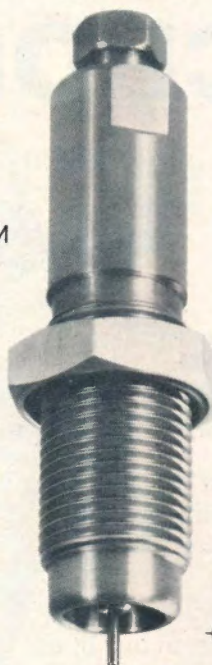
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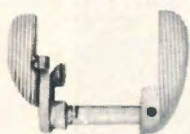
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- | | |
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| d. Protection of your personal body space. | |

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- | | |
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| c. Assailant disarming. | |

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- | | |
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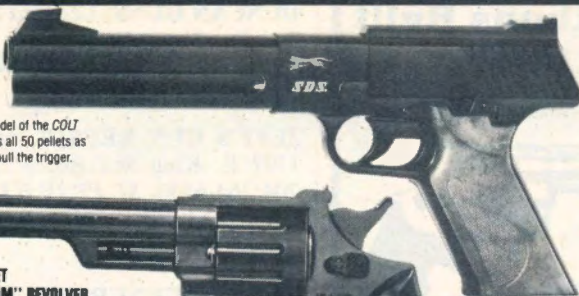
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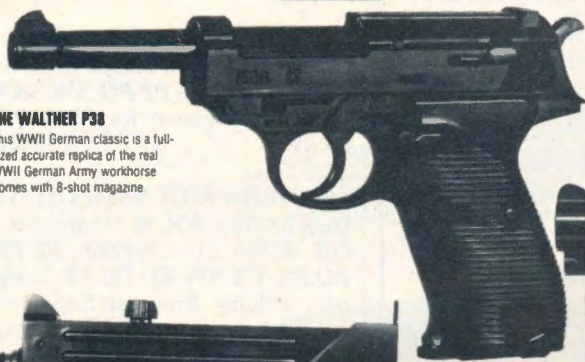


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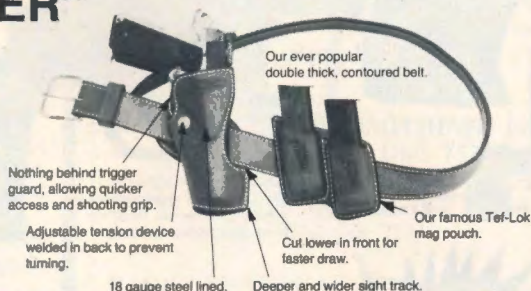
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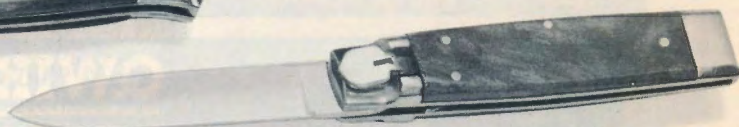
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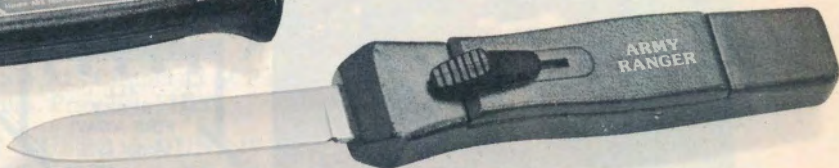
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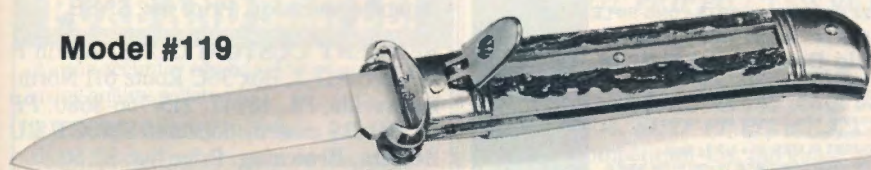
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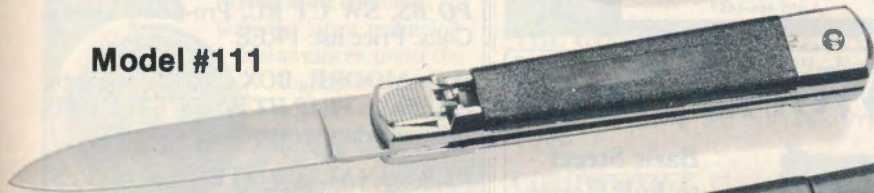
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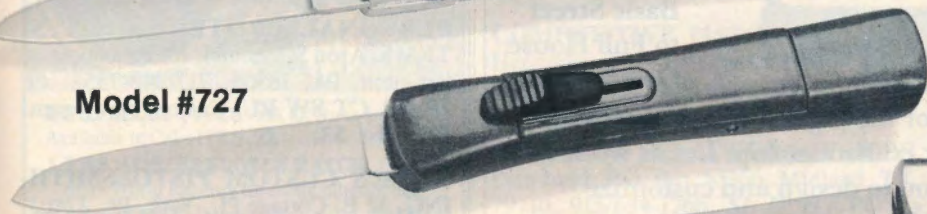


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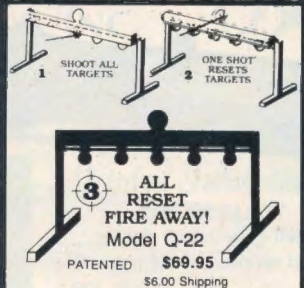
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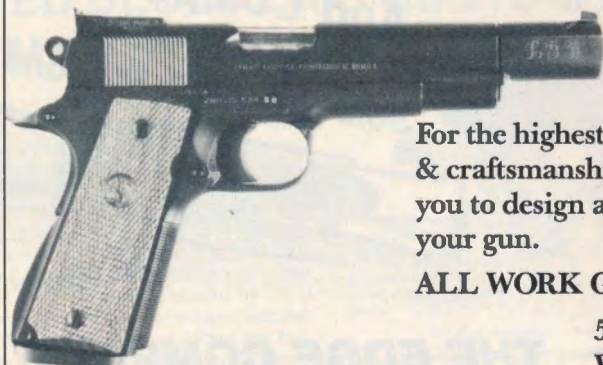
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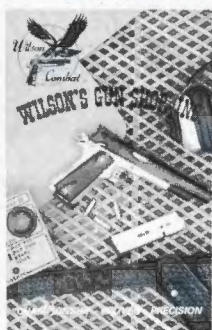
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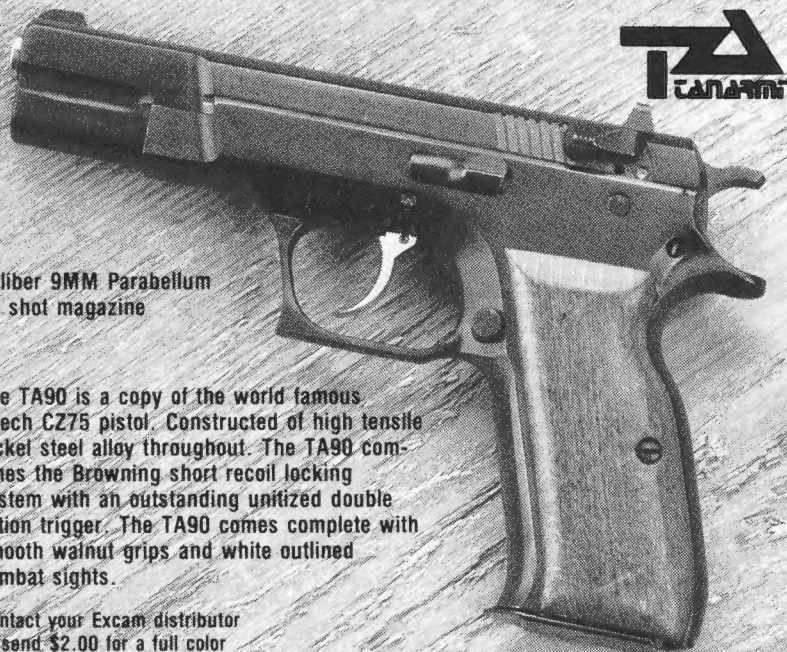
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THE AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 25

toppled back, but Davis had already fired the second shot. He wasn't sure, but he sensed it had struck home, and the gunman sprawled onto his back in slow motion. Davis had time to think, "Damn, I wasted the second shot and I've only got six," as he swung toward the man on the right.

Programmed for rapid fire, Davis' trigger was working faster than his arm could swing. His third shot passed harmlessly between the two suspects. The one on the right was bringing his arms out from behind his back. Davis fired again. The bullet caught the gunman in the right shoulder, and he spun around. As he did so, Davis saw the hands go to the front of the man's body, still hidden from his view.

Instead of falling, however, the man began to turn again to face him, and Davis knew he couldn't let him get all the way around with a weapon. As he fired his fifth shot, he was aware that he was going out of synch, that his plan of shooting each twice wasn't working out and he was using too much ammo, but there was no choice. Davis saw his bullet pluck up the back of the suspect's coat. The criminal collapsed instantly and heavily; Davis' bullet had struck his spine dead center,

an inch above the heart.

He turned to the third man, on the far left, who was running for cover, his head bobbing up and down with his desperate rush to safety. Davis triggered the last shot, and saw the man jerk his head convulsively but keep running. The bullet had missed the man's skull by an inch, passing through his Afro.

The pizzas were long gone, dumped on the ground, and Davis had an empty gun in his hand. He turned to run to his car.

Crack! The bullet caught Davis just above the right ear and behind the temple. The first gunman had risen and fired what should have been a killing shot. Instead, the bullet had struck the bow of Davis' eyeglasses, ricocheted off, and skidded alongside his skull, lodging under the skin of his scalp. Davis felt something like a firm slap in the side of the face, and his glasses went flying off. Without them, he was nearly blind at a distance.

He began to sprint toward the car. *Crack!* A second .25 caliber bullet struck the back of his left thigh. Again, the sensation was like a slap with a dull sting. Davis ran for the Falcon, got behind the wheel, and floored the accelerator.

Something often happens to gunfight participants called "cognitive dissonance." Sometimes, it makes trivial things seem enormously important, yet blots out major concerns. Davis consciously knew that he had been shot in the head, and that he had just probably killed one or two men, yet his strongest memory of his race to the emergency ward is the thought, "Hey, I've just been shot—I can break every traffic rule in the book and get away with it!"

Police response was swift. As soon as Davis told the cops what happened, scout cars were dispatched to the location on Pennington, but when they got to the abandoned house, the three perpetrators were gone. Only the dropped pizzas and bloodstains remained.

Within the night, however, the trio would be captured. The tall ringleader, age 17, had taken one .22 slug that traveled up inside his jaw and exited above his right ear, and the second had skidded off his sternum, passed within an inch of his heart, and exited his back. Yet he was able to help the uninjured one pick up the badly wounded second man and carry him to his house two blocks away. They rang the bell and left him in a heap on the doorstep.

His mother, a hard-working middle-class woman, screamed when she opened the door and found her son in a bloody heap. "Ma," he cried, "I was just walkin' down the street and some white guys in a car shot me in the back for no reason!" As she dialed 911, the mother wondered why her son was wailing, "No, Ma, don't call the police!"

The arriving officers, told that Davis had wounded one of the robbers in the shoulder and in the back, arrested the suspect as they waited for the ambulance. The shoulder wound would heal uneventfully. The other bullet was lodged in the spine, touching but not breaking the spinal cord, positioned so precariously the doctors would not dare

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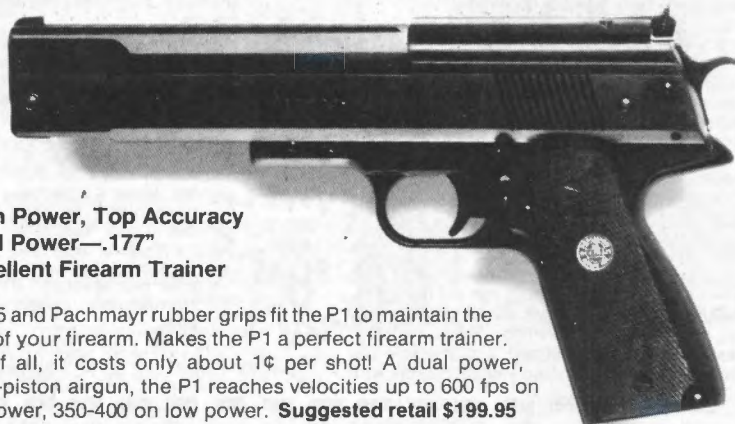
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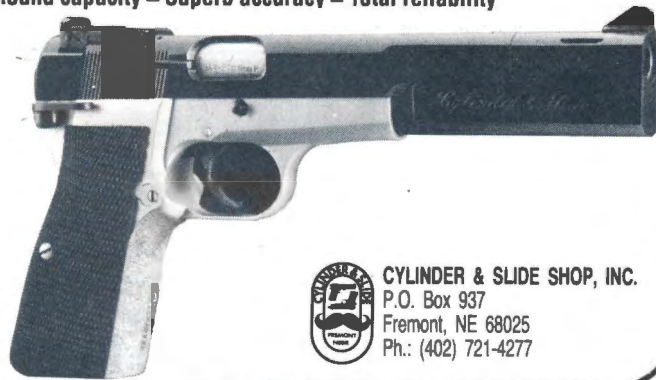
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remove it. His two friends were arrested at the emergency ward at Mt. Carmel, where the tall one had come for treatment.

Davis' stay at the hospital lasted only two hours. The bullet under his scalp was quickly removed, the wound sewn with only three stitches. Davis said almost as an afterthought, "I think there might be one in the back of my left leg." The surgeon rolled him over on the table and said, "My God, son, you're right!"

Amateurs think bullets make simple, straight holes. They do not know that the complex nature of the gunshot wound can make "trauma ward survival" every bit as precarious as "street survival." A foreign-trained intern carefully read the frontal and lateral X-rays of Davis' leg taken over a grid, and Richard clenched his teeth as he probed fruitlessly for the bullet as the local anesthetic wore off. The puzzled doctor paused and went behind a curtain for a consult with the senior doctor. Davis heard the latter say, "Inches, dammit!"

The U.S. was already one of the few countries in the world where medical schools and hospitals used inches instead of centimeters. Now dialed in on the right coordinates, the intern hit Davis with another local, and immediately extracted a fully-jacketed .25 ACP slug. It had missed the bone and the major nerves and blood vessels.

Davis drove himself home about 2 a.m. Wide awake from adrenalin dump, he felt no pangs of guilt, only delight at still being alive.

LESSONS: Re-enactment shows that Davis fired his six shots, with four hits, in 1.5 seconds. One robber swore to police that Davis shot at them with "a small caliber machinegun." This is about as fast as a double-action revolver can be fired, and judged by that standard, his 66% hit ratio is particularly impressive, considering that the national police average with double-action .38s is only 25%.

Davis had practiced intensively with his .22. He had practiced enough with the sawed-off shotgun in his "Magic Pizza" to be convinced that, had he used it, he would probably have killed two men with two shots and had six in the revolver with which to deal with the third antagonist, who instead emerged unscathed.

No one who has analyzed the shooting doubts that if Richard had been carrying a 9mm or a .45, the two wounded men would have been dead. Both were shot within an inch of the heart, and one survived a spine shot when the .22 slug ran out of steam.

Yet, certain facts remain. Davis *did* survive, and the two men he shot *did* go down. More to the point, he owned a \$30 second-hand rimfire because he couldn't afford a better gun. Had he somehow come up with the bucks for a Browning, could he have afforded the constant practice that enabled him to hit so well and so rapidly from the hip with his cheaply-fed .22?

Another chapter was written in the impotent history of the .25 auto, this time a happy one since the Good Guy survived. The leg shot on Davis had little more effect than a mosquito bite, and the head shot that would

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have been instantly fatal with a .38 hollow-point did nothing more discomfiting to Davis than knock his eyeglasses off. (Those in the audience with corrected vision will note that Davis was considerably handicapped without his glasses, and indeed couldn't read the road signs to drive to the hospital. Contact lenses would have solved this problem. Contacts might also have been removed by the coroner: it is highly probable that it was the eyeglass bow that deflected and slowed down the .25 slug enough that, partially spent, it ricocheted off Davis's skull and lodged harmlessly under his scalp.)

Davis is the only man of hundreds I've debriefed who insists that he kept count of his shots in a high volume firefight. This seems to be because he was intending a game plan of two shots per suspect, and was consciously aware that the additional shot required by the second robber had thrown him out of sequence.

Though he could feel his heart pounding in the moments before the shootout, Richard remembers that the moment he knew he had to fire, he felt incredibly calm. He believes that his training in the Marines, coupled with his constant practice in close-range hipshooting, made him confident that he could do what had to be done and survive. A man in a high-risk business, he had often played the "what-if" game and mentally acted out what he would do in such a case. That preparation undoubtedly saved his life. (Davis also remembers that his three antagonists seemed totally disoriented and "derailed" the moment he unexpectedly began firing.)

EPILOGUE: The three suspects—ages 17, 18, and 19—confessed to the attempted armed robbery and the shooting of Richard Davis. All served less than a year before probation.

Richard and Karen were married three months after the shooting. They now have two fine sons. By 1971, Richard had perfected an invention inspired by the incident: soft, concealable undershirts of ballistic nylon and later Kevlar. Thus was born the Second Chance vest, which to date has saved the lives of more than 325 police officers.

By 1975 Davis would be a cult figure among cops, "the man who bulletproofed America's police." Few would know that the vests they wore had their genesis, not in a police gun battle, but in an armed citizen's shootout at the mouth of a Detroit alley.

Asked in 1986 how he feels toward the men he shot it out with, Davis replies, "At first, I had mixed feelings when the doctors told me the two had 'miraculously survived.' The anger doesn't go away after that. The incident made it difficult for me to relate well with black people. It made me bitter toward people who talk about poor, disadvantaged criminals: all three of my attackers were sons of prosperous, decent people who had made a good living the hard way. Yet they were ready to kill me for fifty bucks." Davis shrugs. "Who knows. Maybe what happened with me made them realize their parents had the right way."



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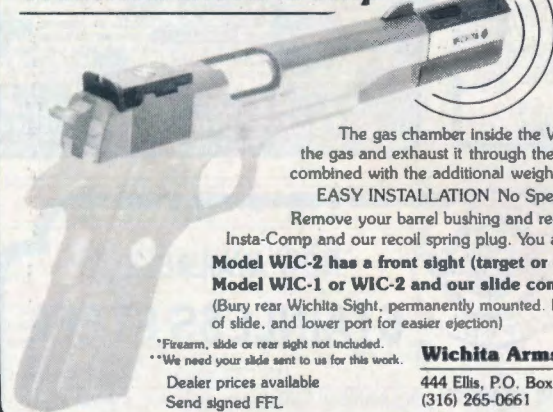
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DILETTANTE'S DEBUT

Continued from page 32

freestyle, within safety limits, and just about any leather that can pass the holster test is allowed. This test consists of the competitor, beginning flat-footed, jumping over a bar 16 inches off the ground, without losing his weapon. Any retention device used for the test must also be used during the match.

One trend I did notice is that most competitors were wearing, in one form or another, leather gear that has evolved over the years. Rigs by Davis, Blocker, and Rogers (now Safariland) were predominant.

Coming from the ranks of PPC made my choices rather easy. My Davis Grade 3, a S&W M-64 .38 with six-inch Apex bull barrel, and an ancient Blocker open-front made before the days of tension screws went with me to Columbia. I tried an Aimpoint, didn't like it, and reverted to my trusty Aristocrat rib. Bad mistake.

The new Tasco Illuminator, first seen at The Cup, looks very promising. My load was a 148 gr. cast wadcutter over 3.7 grains of 231. At 840 fps, this gave me a factor of 124,320, comfortably over the minimum.

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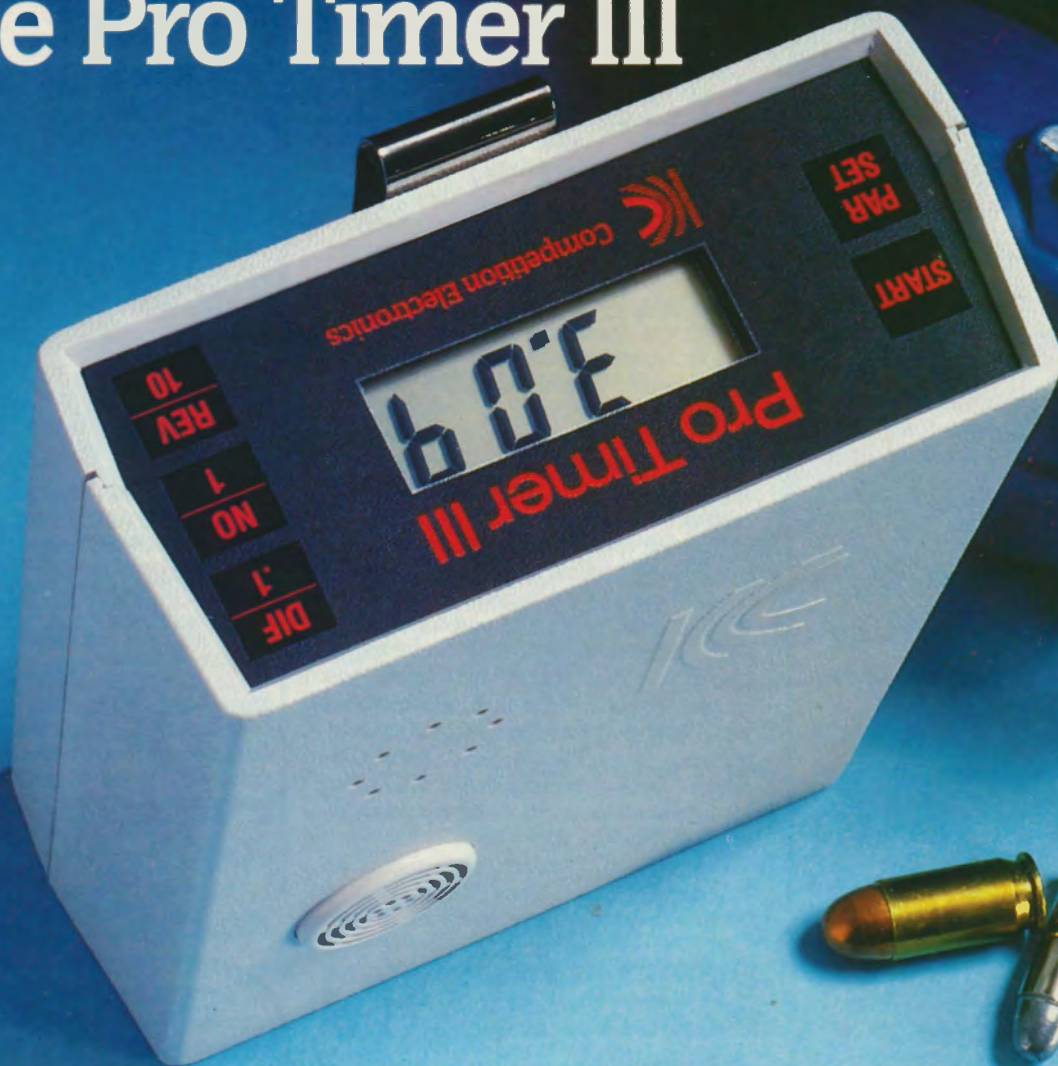
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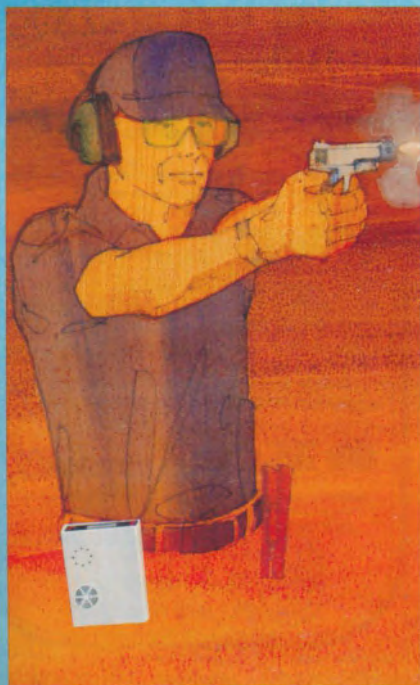
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GRAND MASTER

Continued from page 39

superb accuracy using full-power magnum ammo.

I didn't fare as well using the Ruger. I suspect the reason is that the trigger differs substantially from its counterpart. There is no trouble with overtravel, as both guns are fitted with trigger stops. The S&W's in the back of the trigger, and the Ruger's in the rear of the trigger guard. The Ruger's DA is glass smooth, but pulls near ten-pounds compared to the beautiful six-pounder on the Smith.

SA pulls are different as well, with the Ruger touching off at four-pounds even, and the Smith is a mere whisper at two pounds. The Smith has one of the finest DA pulls I've ever encountered on a wheelgun.

Running some .38 HBWC rounds on a standard PPC course I found out a couple of things. First, a 68 ounce gun is not the easiest thing to hold in front of you for repeated shots, and second, my double action trigger control has gone slightly awry in the past couple of years. PPC's time allotments are rather long, you know, and I'm used to shooting much faster. I did manage a respectable 580/600 and was happy with that considering I hadn't even thought about this type of shooting in the past half dozen years.

I'm sure you're wondering whether or not the compensator was doing its job throughout all this. The answer is yes, especially with the

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.357 loads. Firing the samples next to the M-66 control gun left little doubt that recoil and muzzle jump are substantially reduced—the muzzle flip more than the felt recoil.

To give an idea just how much downward pressure is exerted by the escaping gasses through the compensator ports, Power suggested that I unfasten the set screw and turn the comp body 180° so the gas ports pointed down instead of up. This was done as suggested.

GONZO! Instant .44 Magnum and then some in the flip department! Remember, these are heavy guns, not lightweight K-frames. For an increase in jump like this to occur is certainly proof that the gasses are vented as they should be and muzzle jump affected accordingly. This only occurs, however, when using the high pressure loadings. Recoil with the HBWC ammo was on a par with other PPC guns of this type.

Several of us tried the guns out on steel plates in rapid DA fire and had little trouble in

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NEXT ISSUE THE MASTERS

taking them down rather easily. One shooter was overheard to say, "It don't move. It just don't move!"

One thing that we all noticed was that upon shooting while using the Weaver or rollover prone position where a healthy portion of the body is more to the side of the gun, the weak-side arm was bombarded by gas particles each time the gun was fired. It was most noticeable when firing from the prone position, but could be felt enough when firing standard Weaver that it was rather annoying.

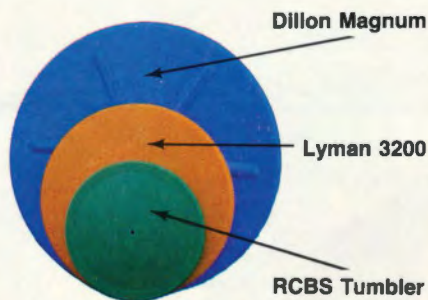
Other than the mild problem with the gas blowback from the cylinder gap, the testing went smoothly. I don't find this to be unique to the Power guns, either. I've experienced this with almost every tightly fitted gun I've fired. Some are simply more noticeable than others.

I am thoroughly impressed with Mr. Power's workmanship and enjoyed wringing out his latest creations. For a current price list and information, you can write to Ron at Power Custom Inc., 13601 E. Terr., Dept. AH, Independence, MO 64055.



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Probably the most despised task in reloading is lubricating cartridge cases for resizing. Rolling cases back and forth over a greased pad is a dirty, time consuming, inaccurate job. Too much grease puts dents in your cases, not enough grease and your cases stick in your sizing die. How about the mess on your hands when the phone rings? There is a better way.

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Dillon Precision's development of an aerosol case lubricant was not an easy task, using it is. Simply lay your cases out on a large tray (a cookie sheet works great) spray lightly with one or two passes and you've done it. No mess, no guess work. Within minutes the lubricant distributes itself around the cartridge cases and you're ready to load. Priced at \$4.50, try a can. You'll never use a grease pad again.

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

BORED WITH BIG BORES? BATF FIGURES SHOW .22 AND .25 CALIBERS ARE TOPS

The question on everyone's mind these days is, "Will the military open up new tests for the issue handgun?" A couple of legislators are making waves, since S&W has claimed that some of the testing was flawed, but sources in the military say "No way will there be a retest!"

It seems to me that the best thing would be to have each GI buy his own sidearm. It sure would be interesting to see what they would buy—it might just surprise a lot of folks. Given an allowance, and telling them it must be of a certain caliber, who knows, you just might see a lot of GIs walking around with

9mm single-action revolvers.

Goodbye Stainless—Hello Titanium

Some years ago, if I recall correctly, Harry Sanford—he of the *Auto Mag* and *AMT* fame—made up a half-dozen or so .45 auto pistols frames using a titanium alloy. They were strong, exceedingly light, and chewed up his tooling fast. Now there is word out of Gun Valley of a new 9mm prototyped in titanium. With some titanium alloys being very dark, this may give a whole new meaning to the phrase "gun metal blue."

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New Guns Coming or Rumored

Late in '86 or early '87 look for the new Smith & Wesson Model 422, a double-action .22 autoloader styled like the 9mm DA line, but, according to an S&W spokesman, "a little bit smaller, a little bit sleeker."

A couple of the local gun shop owners have asked us, "When is the new Ruger pocket revolver coming out?" That's news to us, and with not a hint coming from Southport, it may just be wishful thinking.

Promises, promises. But so far we have not seen production of the 9mm DA auto from Iver Johnson; the .32 DA "Sleeping Beauty" from Arminex, nor the New Model 82 Omni 9mm from Llama. We have neither seen nor heard from the new owners of the Seville single-action, nor anything on the production of the new single shot Competitor pistol. Patience, I guess, is one virtue we are lacking.

Odds and Ends

With so much talk about the big bore revolvers and autos, we felt a bit remiss when going over a report from the BATF on handgun production for the year 1984, the last yearly figures compiled. Here, for your edification, are some of the facts we've been studying. Out of a total of about 900,000 revolvers produced in 1984, here are the percentages:

| | |
|----------|-------|
| .44 | 14.9% |
| .38/.357 | 62% |
| .32 | 5% |
| .22 | 17% |

For autoloaders, there were of the total of 819,000 guns made.

| | |
|---------|------|
| .45 ACP | 7.7% |
| 9mm | 8.6% |
| .25 ACP | 36% |
| .22 | 35% |

Remember, these are BATF figures of U.S. produced handguns only.

Reading a German magazine on arms technology, we find that H&K has a new underwater rocket pistol available for military divers. Looking a lot like an old pepperbox, it fires steel tipped rockets, almost silently. Dubbed the P-II, it is reported that the five-round throwaway magazine (loaded, I presume) costs several hundred dollars. A little steep for shooters, but a mere pittance for taxpayers.

Soapbox Time

A recent issue of *Business Week* had an article on the firearms business. They implied that what the gunmakers needed was versatility, automation and relief from liability insurance problems. That may be true, but there's one more thing they need. That's someone at the end of the production line who knows guns, who loves guns, and who understands the meaning of the word quality.

I'll admit that the quality of the handguns coming out of the factories has improved dramatically in the past couple of years. But a brand new .357 coming into the office exhibited a crack right through the frame, just above the crane pivot. Isolated instance? I sincerely hope so.



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