

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1987

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See Page 63



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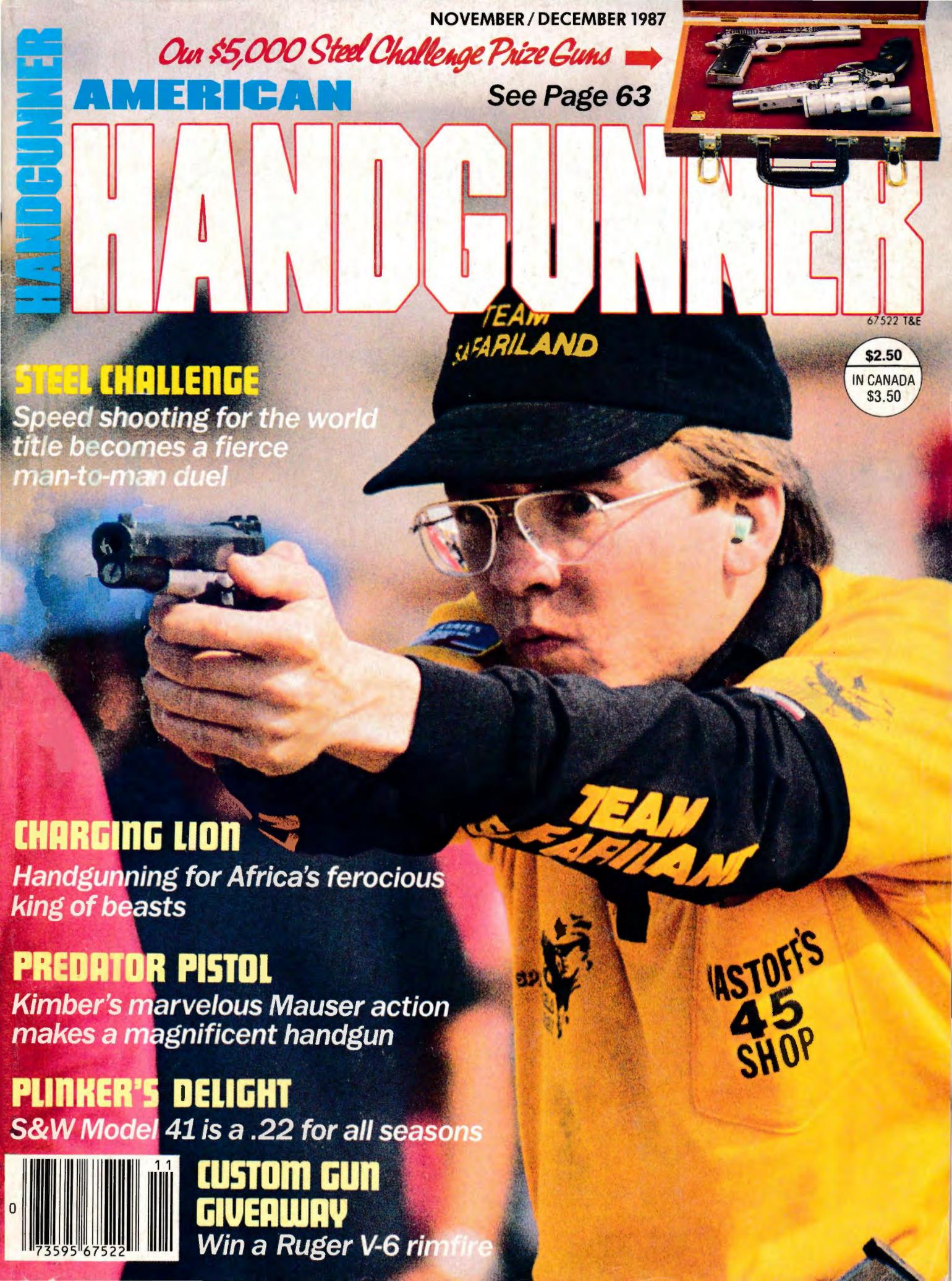
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● **Who's on First**

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● **Not Unusual**

Rob's performance is not unusual. The Winning Ammunition used at the world's most prestigious shooting contests is well documented. Dillon loaded ammunition won the 1983 Bianchi Cup/Brian Enos shooting; '83 U.S. Nationals/Rob Leatham; '83 World Championship/Leatham; '84 U.S. Nationals/Leatham; '84 Bianchi Cup/Enos; '84 Steel Challenge/Pruitt; '84 Soldier of Fortune/Shaw; '84 Second Chance/Plaxco; '85 Steel Challenge/Leatham; '85 Bianchi Cup/Leatham; '85 Soldier of Fortune/Plaxco; '85 U.S. Nationals/Leatham. History not hype, performance not promises, these champion shooters and thousands more around the world know that one good bullet can make the difference between winning or being dead last.

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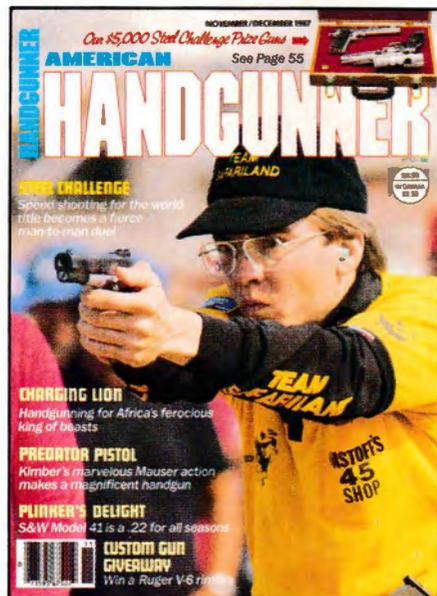
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Cover: Live, action shot of Jerry Barnhart on his way to winning the 1987 Steel Challenge. Photo by Nyle Leatham.

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SPEAK OUT

Don't Believe Those Tails

This letter is in response to your feature *The Guns of Ted Nugent*. What a story, it should be under fiction. Does he expect us to believe this. Shoots a deer 250 yrs. (*sic*) away with a 4" .44 Mag pistol. WOW.

Then he saided (*sic*) he doesn't take drug, (*sic*) doesn't drink, and doesn't smoke. Well, I for one don't believe any of those tails (*sic*). Hope he gets his act together. People of this image don't belong in this magazine.

Bruce Hultquist
Victoria, Texas

Editor's Note: Excuse me, I didn't mean to confuse you with the facts after your mind's made up.

Long Live Rock

Many thanks to *American Handgunner* for Cameron Hopkins' article (Sept./Oct. 1987) *The Guns of Ted Nugent*. Rock stars are generally regarded as dope-using, irresponsible, spoiled brats and egotistic morons.

It was refreshing to learn Ted Nugent is none of the above. A gun collector, handgun shooter, hunter and a guy with his feet on the ground and his head screwed on, Mr.

Nugent's views on politics and opposition to drugs is as impressive as his taste in firearms.

This is the kind of guy who sets a good example for young people. Long live rock 'n roll.

W.L. Fieldhouse
San Diego, Calif.

Texan Likes Metaloy

Recently I sent a handgun of mine to Metaloy Industries in Berryville, Ark., for precision chrome plating. In a very short time I received the handgun back and I am very pleased with the finished product. Their prices are also very fair.

I highly recommend the services provided by Metaloy Industries.

Richard K. Moody
U.S. Border Patrol
El Paso, Texas

Editor's Note: Metaloy Industries may be contacted at P.O. Box 578, Berryville, AR, 72616. Prices are indeed reasonable and a discount is available to full-time law enforcement officers like the Border Patrolman writing above.

By George, I'll Hunt

Massad Ayoob's proven himself to be not only a master with the handgun, but also of the written word with his piece *Handgun*

Hunting: One Man's Odyssey (July/August 1987).

I was moved. By George, I think I'll start hunting again—with a handgun.

Mark Kelly
Anchorage, Alaska

Swiggett At The Helm

Hal Swiggett has been named the new chairman of the *Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation*. Hal will probably be selecting new directors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank *American Handgunner* for all the support while I was chairman.

Larry Kelly
Past Chairman, OAHAF

Editor's Note: The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation is in no way connected with American Handgunner magazine. This is an independent organization dedicated to the promotion of the handgunning sports and educational programs to enhance the use of handguns as legitimate sporting tools of recreation. Memberships in this most worthy organization are available and further information may be obtained by writing Hal Swiggett, Chairman OAHAF, 539 Roslyn, San Antonio, TX, 78204.

Equal Rights for Hunters

I read with interest Jon Winokur's interview with Wayne Bowker (July/August 1987). I was a little surprised by his statements on hunting and his membership in animal rights organizations.

Many of the leaders of the "animal rights" groups are fighting to ban firearms.

The American hunters have fought to keep our firearms and have paid the expenses of those battles.

I will continue to fight for Mr. Bowker's right to own his "precision machines," but I just wish that Mr. Bowker would fight for my chosen sport.

Roy Yowell
Middlebrook, Va.

Editor's Note: Good point. We are all shooters and we all support the Second Amendment. Some of us plink, some of us compete, some of us collect, some of us hunt. But we're all in this together against the gun-grabbers, the tree-huggers, the anti-hunters. The Left would like nothing more than to divide us and then conquer us. We should all respect each other's firearms interests and support each other.

Incidentally, I saw Wayne Bowker wearing a leather holster in the Action Event of the Masters. Mr. Bowker must feel that there are some circumstances which justify the "tor-ture" of killing a cow. Some poor, helpless animal died, probably wailing in agony, so that Mr. Bowker could have a lovely holster.

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER WELCOMES letters to the editor of no more than 350 words. Letters must include the writer's full name and address. Letters must be signed by the writer. Typewritten letters are preferred, but legible handwriting is acceptable. Send your letters to *Speak Out, American Handgunner*, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA, 92108.

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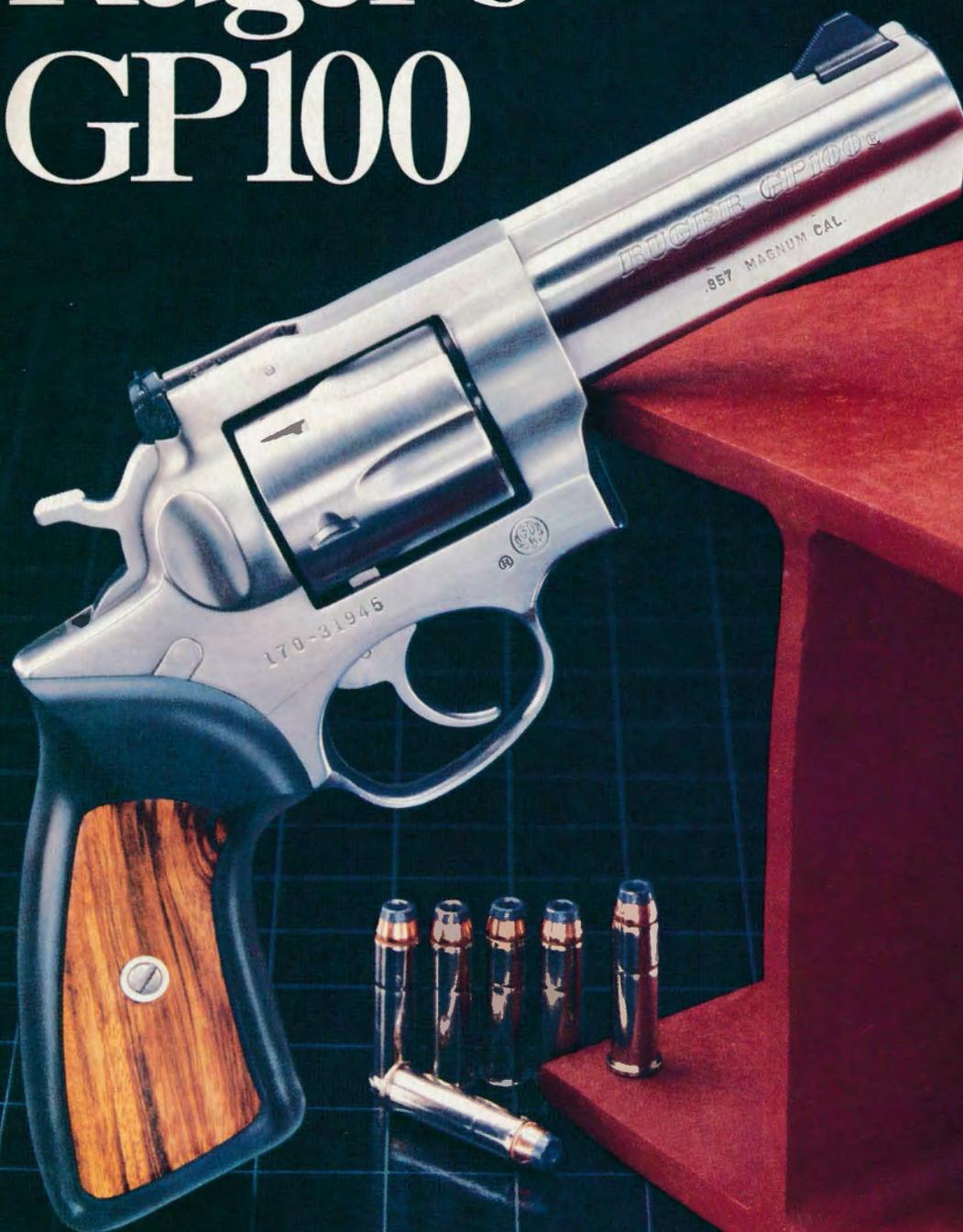
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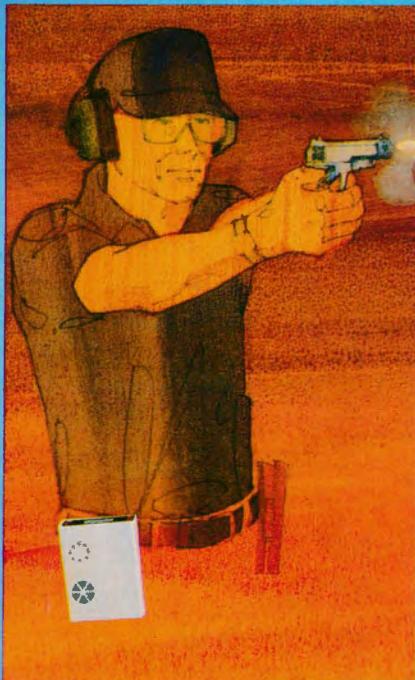
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Tom Campbell In action at the 1986 IPSC National Championships.

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44 Magnum

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Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors in that State.



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...shall consist of a President and Vice President, who shall hold their Office for four Years, and be eligible for Re-election once only.

...which may be included within this Union, shall be bound to Service for a Term not exceeding three Years after the first Meeting of the Legislature thereunto directed. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand; but each State shall have no less than one Representative, and each shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

...each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each

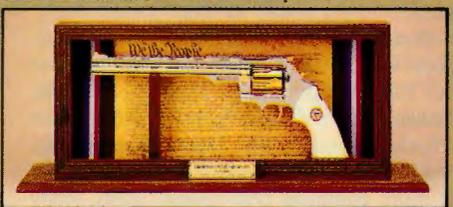


blued to a rich, gloss-black finish. The hammer, trigger, and front and rear sights are plated with pure 24-karat gold, and the deep etching is gold-gilt inlaid. Only 950 will be made; each is serially numbered from 1 to 950, with the prefix CC for "Constitution Commemorative."

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The optional glass and walnut showcase is a beautiful, patriotic way to display and protect the investment value of this piece. Inset with a



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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

HANDLOADER DOWN UNDER LIKES 452AA FOR .44 SPECIAL AND OTHER ROUNDS

Complementing earlier revelations with respect to using 452AA for handgun loading, we have a letter from Alan Whitcombe, of East Doncaster, Victoria, Australia. The information he offers contributes measurably to the pool of knowledge we share.

Whitcombe writes, "Over the past few years, you have published in your handload-

ing column several letters from reloaders who have used Winchester's 452AA in various .32 Magnum, 9mm, and .45 ACP loadings. I thought I would like to pass on my experience with this powder.

"I started using 452AA about 10 years ago, when I began reloading. It was then, and still is, in fairly common use here in Australia and I have found it to be an extremely versatile

powder. We are somewhat limited in this country in the variety of U.S.-made powders available, which I believe accounts for the popularity of powders such as 452AA and 700X in pistol calibres.

"I am currently using 452AA in .38 Special, .44 Special, and .45 ACP as follows: .38 Special (A) 2.7 grains 452AA with 148 grain wadcutter, six-inch Python, for ISU Center-fire Match gives ten-ring accuracy at 25 metres; (B) 3.0 grains, RCBS 124 grain truncated-cone, six-inch Python, for our Service Pistol Match (similar to your PPC Match) shot on 50, 25, 10, and 7 metres gives ten-ring accuracy out to 50 metres; (C) 4.4 grains, RCBS 158 grain cast round-nose, four-inch S&W Model 15, for IPSC shooting, chronographed an average of 851 fps with an extreme spread of 15 fps.

"Using .44 Magnum cases shortened to .44 Special: (A) 5.5 grains of 452AA with 240 grain cast semi-wadcutter, 5½-inch Ruger Redhawk, for IPSC, chronographed 793 fps; (B) 5.0 grains with 250 grain Lyman 429303 round-nose, same gun, for IPSC, gave an average velocity of 723 fps with an extreme spread of 17 fps. No bull, the above two loads were chosen because they make Major in IPSC, rather than because of any inherent accuracy; however, their accuracy is certainly adequate. With the second load, I recently fired six rounds at 10 metres (standing, free-style), which grouped in a lovely keyhole cluster—not a great accuracy test, I'll admit, but I believe that it is a fair indication.

"For .45 ACP: (A) 5.2 grains of 452AA with an RCBS 225 grain cast round-nose bullet out of an AMT Hardballer with a five-inch Bar-Sto barrel, for IPSC shooting, chronographed at an average of 811 fps with an extreme spread of 14 fps.

"All of the projectiles used in these calibres, with the exception of the 148 grain wadcutter, were cast 50/50, lead to linotype. Leading of the barrels was minimal. I use a taper crimp, because I believe it works the brass a lot less and is more consistent than a roll crimp (although I admit that it adds an extra step to my reloading process).

"I have tried 452AA in 9mm calibre, but have found that in order to achieve the velocity I want, which is quite conservative, I would have to use compressed loads. I was not prepared to do this, in the absence of any published specifications from Winchester.

"As an added bonus, 452AA meters very well through the different powder throwers I have used, and, as can be seen from the chronographed results, it burns very uniformly. I have found no (excessive) pressure signs in any of the loads I've mentioned. The only complaint I have is that 452AA tends to leave a small amount of residue, which sometimes sneaks in under a revolver's extractor star..."

Some of Whitcombe's problems with residues of unburned powder may exist because he's using a taper crimp. If case lengths are maintained within .003", it's advisable to use a fairly stiff roll crimp. Doing so, especially when you're loading heavier bullets, will lead to more complete combustion. Also, many

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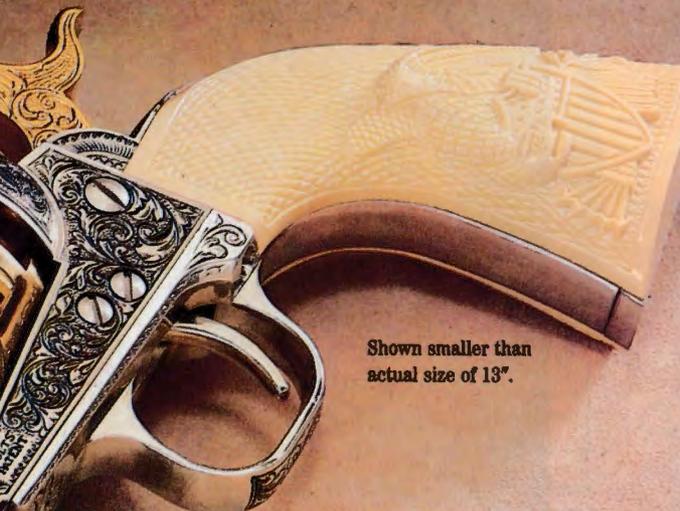
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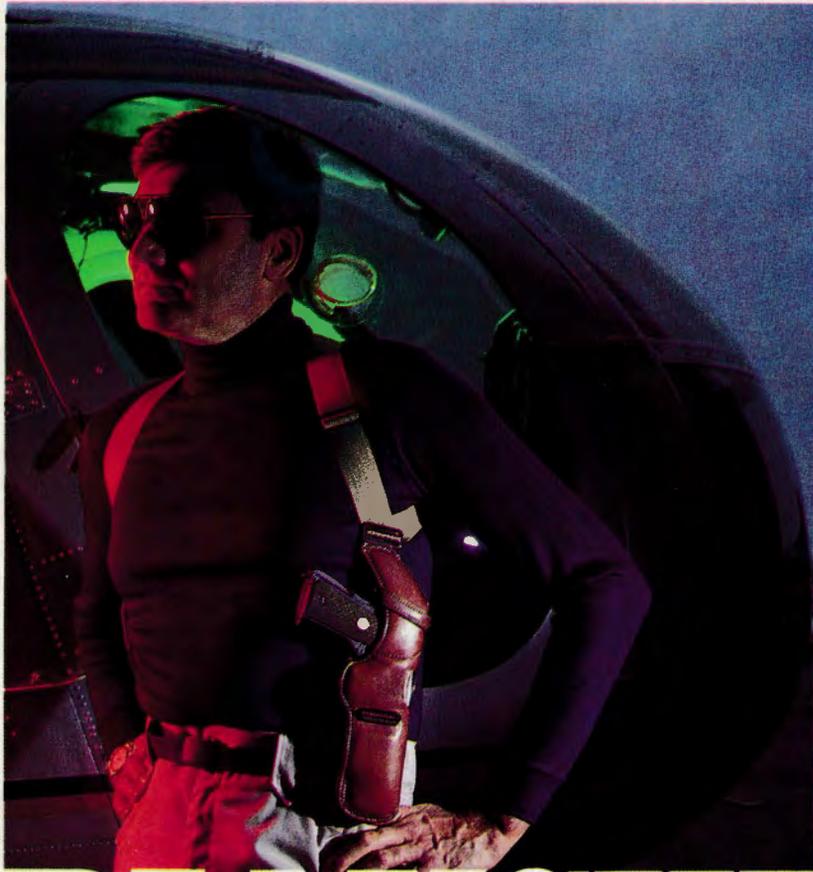
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spherical powders work better if they're ignited by magnum primers.

There's now an optional feature for Hornady's Pro-Jector press. We published a test report on this one in our January/February '87 issue, and the only difficulty mentioned was that of spilling primers when feed tubes were changed. The problem has been remedied. Hornady now includes an automatic primer shut-off system on all Pro-Jectors leaving the factory. No hand operation is required, because the shut-off automatically holds primers in the tube until you make another stroke with the handle of the press.

The shut-off system can be added to Hornady Pro-7 presses, or it's possible to have your Pro-7 converted to full Pro-Jector operation, with automatic primer shut-off, Brass Kicker, cartridge catcher, improved indexing, and improved primer feed. The cost of conversion is \$30. If you're interested in updating your Pro-7, get in touch with Hornady's Dick Placzek. The address is Hornady Manufacturing Company, P.O. Box 1848, Grand Island, NE, 68802; phone (308) 382-1390.

Tips on reloading the .45 ACP—this time with Hodgdon's HS-6—will be up for review next time around. While you're waiting, why not clue the handloading fraternity in on techniques and loads that are working for you? The address is Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA, 93544.



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PACT MKII

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Would you consider practicing without a target? Of course not, because without a target you have no measure of your accuracy. By the same token, if you practice without a timer, you have no accurate measurement of your speed.

"If you combined every other shooting timer on the market into one it would still not contain all the features of the PACT MKII. Working with it has measurably improved my basic shooting skills."

... Brian Enos

EASY TO USE

The MKII is about as easy to use as your pocket calculator. For example, to enter a stop beep or "par time" at 4 seconds, simply push "PAR". The timer will tell you "ENTER PAR TIME AND PUSH SET" so you push "4", "SET". Want to change it to 6 seconds? Just push "PAR", "6", "SET", it's that simple!

ADVANCED DISPLAY

The MKII features an advanced 32 character LCD display instead of the four digit display commonly found on other timers and chronographs. This display allows the MKII to provide you with all of the information for a given shot at a glance, eliminating the hassle of having to "toggle" back and forth between functions in order to review your string.

GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE:

Let's say you fire six shots, reload and fire six more shots. Here is an example of what the Timer will display:

```
#012 .27 6.67
FIND SHOT 7
```

- You have fired 12 shots.
- Your twelfth shot came .27 seconds after your eleventh shot.
- Your total time was 6.67 seconds.

```
#007 1.54 4.07
FIND SHOT
```

Now you are curious about how long your reload took, so you tell the Timer to "FIND SHOT #7" and you see that your reload took you 1.54 seconds. (The time between your sixth and seventh shot.)

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By having the \$49 CHRONO-MOD™ installed in your Timer, you enable it to double as the best portable chronograph on the market. When you fire, your Timer will display the shot number and velocity of the last shot fired, as well as your current average velocity. When you finish your string, push "review", the Timer will display high velocity, low velocity and their corresponding shot numbers. Push "review" again and the Timer will display the extreme variation and average deviation. In addition each shot may be reviewed individually. Enter the bullet weight at the beginning of a string and the Timer will compute the power factor for each shot.

COST EFFECTIVE

Performance has its price and the MKII timer is more expensive than other timers on the market. However, when compared to purchasing a separate timer and chronograph the PACT MKII, with all of its features, ends up costing less. Even if you don't want to purchase a chronograph now, it can always be added at a later date.

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ROB LEATHAM

WINNING IS FUN, BUT LOSING HAS ITS MERITS TOO IF YOU LOOK AT IT RIGHT

Everyone loves a winner. You have been taught from birth that winning is next to godliness. What everyone seems to have forgotten is that winning may not be for everyone!

Competition by its very nature must also create non-champions. For these unfortunate folks we have drudged up a term called "loser." The word even sounds derogatory: L-O-S-E-R.

Let's all ask ourselves right now, "do I qualify as a loser?" All it takes to make it into this club is to have *not won* at something. That, I believe, will make just about all of us lifetime members.

With that being the case, we now have a choice to make. Do we quit, trying to avoid the indignation associated with this terrible state of being, or do we find a way which allows us to enjoy doing that thing you like to do, even if you don't win? To me, that seems like a much better alternative.

How, you may ask, can you enjoy yourself losing? Easy! If you truly enjoy what you're

doing, it shouldn't matter if you win or lose. Sounds good on paper, but you still don't want to believe it, huh?

Well, let me give you an example that happened to me. One of many times I didn't win a match was in 1981 at the IPSC National Championships in Newport News, Virginia. At the time I was as inexperienced a shooter as any you could have found at that event. I had been shooting IPSC matches in the Phoenix area since 1979, and though I would like to say I was winning matches regularly, the truth is I was a loser. In my own defense, I want you to know there were guys like the late Kirk Kirkham, first IPSC U.S. Champion in 1977, Brian Enos, my shooting partner for many years now, and Lee Souter, a young fast Tucsonin who was a threat at every match he entered.

As a matter of record, Brian and Lee each won Arizona State Championships back to back, dominating local competitions through the late Seventies, early Eighties.

Anyway, this is all history now, but men-

tioned here as commentary to my relative lack of skill at the time. I went to that match in Virginia having no idea how I would do nor whether or not I would even be moderately competitive. I went for one reason and one reason only—to do what I liked to do best. Shoot in competition.

Nothing I have ever done in my life has approached the excitement I feel when I go to the line in a big match. Having been there literally hundreds of times over my short career, I can say the thrill of being there has not diminished one bit. Maybe the thrill of victory is different, and certainly the agony of defeat is something that is less painful after many experiences with it, but the excitement and anticipation felt when your turn to shoot comes, is no different now than ever before.

I didn't win that national championship in 1981 nor did I even come close, but I did leave that match a winner in other respects. John Shaw, the returning champion, retained the title in convincing fashion. I finished tenth and Brian shortly behind that and the lessons I learned have stayed with me ever since.

The camaraderie one feels towards the other competitors, the satisfaction of doing the best you could, and sometimes just a little better, all lead to the true enjoyment of competition. The experience of having been there and tried is the true prize.

I have since won many matches, and lost many times more. But I will still go as long as the enjoyment is there. I know what you're thinking, "That's all easy for him to say." And you're right, it is, because I mean every word of it. Soon I will be going to the 1987 Masters Pistol Tournament. I will be very honest right now and say I don't consider myself a favorite to win. The reasons for this are easy to see. I have very little experience in either bullseye or silhouette shooting. To win one must put in a good showing in both. I will be going to do the very best I can and with that I will be satisfied. I will have a hell of a good time. That is for sure. The simple reasons for that are obvious, all the ingredients necessary for me to have a good time are there. A match, other competitors with which to do battle, and a pistol in my hand. For me, those equal a good time.

As I said, I may not win, which would make me a loser in the true definition, but win or lose, I leave with experiences and knowledge unobtainable anywhere else.

Just so the record is straight, I do think the prizes should go to the quick and steady. He who does bestest gets mostest. But understand that the prizes you get for simply trying will stay with you much longer than the money or the finish on that shiny new gun.

So, remember when you're up there on the line at the world championships wondering why you've got this sudden urge to go to the bathroom, or your hands are trembling and knees shaking, those of us who are up next are experiencing the exact same pressures. If you can't find us, don't worry, we're probably in the porta-potty, relieving pressure! That's competition, and I would not have it any other way.



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TEX SHOEMAKER'S EQUALIZER FOR H&K AUTOS IS A PRO'S SHOULDER HOLSTER

It never ceases to amaze me how the people who design handgun holsters can keep coming up with new ideas. Every time I am tempted to think that I have seen it all, up pops someone with a totally new design concept.

In part, much of this is attributable to the development of new materials that can be utilized in the holster industry. Very few of these space age innovations were conceived with holsters in mind but, with the extreme competitiveness of the American holster industry being what it is, the design engineers are quick to take advantage of any new product that will give them an edge.

Witness, if you will, how quickly items like Cordura, Velcro, and plastic laminates were converted to essential composites of a modern day holster. Even traditionalists who are devoted to leather, such as myself, must ultimately concede to the utility of synthetic materials. If I didn't so concede, I'd still be buttoning my knickers.

Fortunately the holster maker's departure from "real leather" is not an exodus. Most of the seniors in the handgun leather industry are still entirely committed to leather for their major holster lines. Nylon rigs are carried as a sideline, mostly because the material is easy to work with and there is demand for the economy holster. The designers of the big outfits, therefore, are still committed to leather as the chief material of the trade.

With the above in mind, I was delighted to test and evaluate a new shoulder rig from the design staff of the old master himself, Tex Shoemaker. No matter where in the world your adventures may take you: be it London, Kontum, or San Salvadore, you are likely to find that professionals often carry their guns in holsters bearing the police star logo of Tex Shoemaker & Sons (and a daughter too).

The new shoulder holster is called *The Equalizer*, which is actually a very poor name. It is not "equal" to any fast action rig I have ever used before—because it is superior to all. This, however, is a very qualified statement. The Equalizer's use is limited to a very narrow range of autoloading pistols, most practically being the Heckler & Koch P7M8 and P7M13.

The Equalizer is unique in that the skeletal holster encases the rear of the frame and slide rather than the front as does a conventional holster. The gun, pointed downward, is held in place by a very strong nylon covered spring. When holstered, the butt of the gun faces forward.

In order to draw, one simply reaches across his chest with his gun hand, grasps the butt, and rocks the gun down and out with

great speed—given practice. I have tried it with the H&K P7 and find it among the fastest shoulder designs available for that particular gun.

In order for the retaining spring to work, however, the gun must feature a squared, or dished out, front trigger guard with a slight bottom lip, as does the H&K P7. The squared front guard with lip keeps the holster spring in place thereby securing the gun.

Since I do not currently own the H&K, I had hoped the concept would also work with my favorite combat M-S Safari Matchmaster .45 autoloader. While it does have the proper

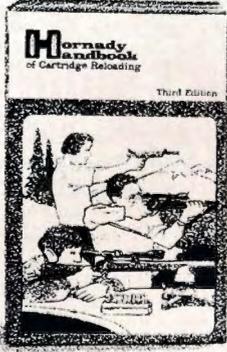
trigger guard shape, it also has an exaggerated beavertail grip safety and, because of this, it just did not work out for me. Actually I would not consider the rig as being safe with any Condition One carry on a single action autoloader.

It would appear to me that The Equalizer would work quite well with the Detonics Pocket 9 DA and the Smith & Wesson 469. Notice, if you will, that I am excluding the large frame guns since, in this holster, they don't lend to concealment. With the right gun mating, however, The Equalizer would be hard to beat.

Workmanship is of the typical excellence for which Tex Shoemaker has always been famous. The harness is completely adjustable utilizing a unique Velcro "glove" concept that is far and away stronger than anything you have ever seen before. Strapping is wide on the shoulder and elastic is both fluid and heavy duty.

The Equalizer is so unique that I predict quite a few personal guns may be modified to utilize the holster concept—





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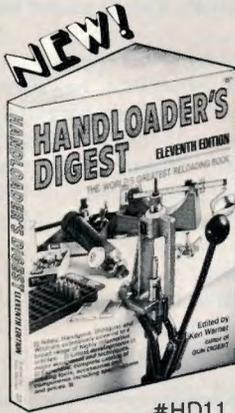
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HANDLOADER'S DIGEST 11th Edition

Edited by Ken Warner

Exclusive report by Edward M. Yard on his newly developed method for measuring breech pressure. Don Zutz on shot-shell trends — loading techniques, new components. Clay Harvey examines the resurrection of the 6.5 Swede. Kenneth L. Walters looks at Potter presses. Col. Jim Crossman, legal technical expert, explains how many handloaders get into gun trouble. R. H. Vandenburg, Jr. provides up-to-date instructions for producing big bore handgun shot loads, including wads, powder charge and cartridge case remodeling. Konrad F. Schreier on the 8mm Mauser and its relation to other rifle cartridges. Plus a greatly expanded catalog of all currently available loading tools, components, chronographs and accessories — in itself, well worth the price of the book. Plus much, much more. 352 8½" x 11" pages.

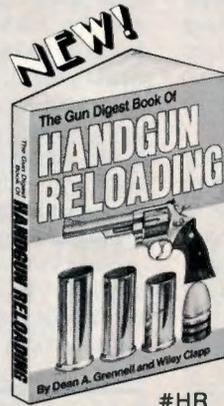


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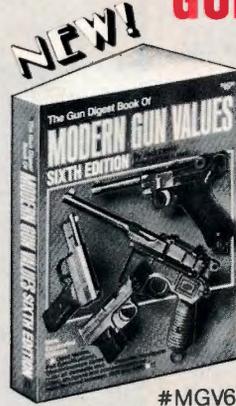


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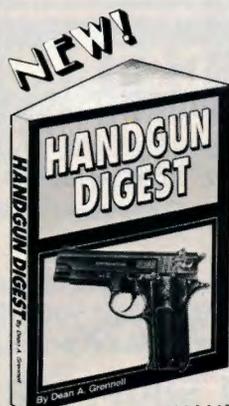


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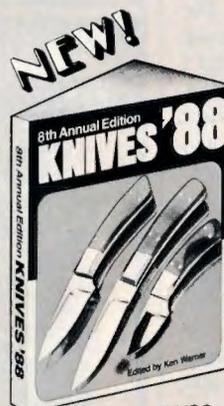


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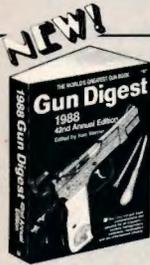
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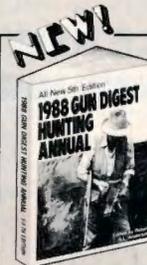
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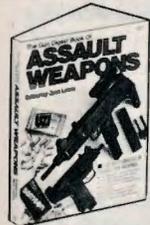
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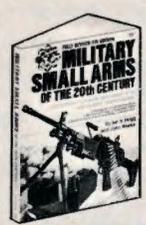
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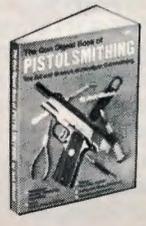
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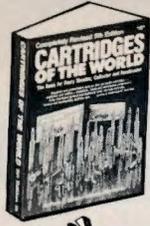
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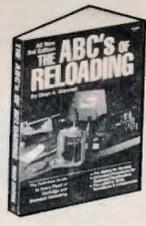
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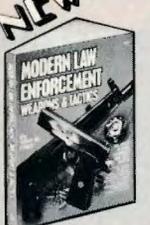
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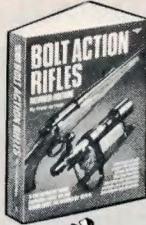
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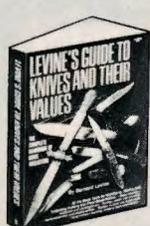
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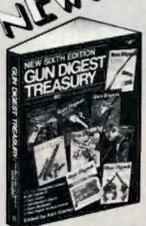
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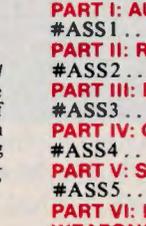
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SILUETAS

JOHN TAFFIN

AGING EYEBALLS RELY ON BLIND LUCK, BUT YOU CAN CURE IRON SIGHT BLURS

Ten chickens. Ten pigs. Nine turkeys. Nine rams. A 38 × 40 revolver and I was elated. Unlimited and Production scores of this type had been attained before, but this was the first time I had shot higher than a 33 with a revolver. I was on top of the world.

Since I had become such a great shot it was only natural that I travel to another match so I could repeat my performance. Same revolver, same bullet, same load, but this time my score was a 28. My score dropped a full ten targets and try as hard as I could, scores over the next few matches did not fare any better. What was wrong? Surely my gun was at fault!

Then I went to the eye doctor for my regular checkup and he uttered those three terrible words: "At your age." Then he proceeded to explain that I was at the age when the eye muscles would no longer consistently allow my eyes to focus on close objects. Just exactly what a handgun shooter does not want to hear.

"But Doc, shooting big bore handguns is a major part of my life and there is no way I am going to give up without a fight."

As I found myself in this position I suddenly noticed, for the first time, that many of those familiar faces from the early days of silhouetting had disappeared. And I also finally realized that they had not quit because of lack of interest but simply because they could no longer see the iron sights. As one American handgunner told me: "I'm not about to go out there and compete in Double D class!"

When the time comes that the eyes have lost their youthful vigor and refuse to focus, especially on the rear sight, are there ways to prolong the inevitable? Definitely yes, and I hope the things that I have discovered will help many others in the same boat.

One of the first things to do is make sure you have an eye doctor who understands and is willing to cooperate and experiment with you. If your regular doctor is not willing to

spend extra time and effort with you, find one who will. As I talked to mine and explained the importance of being able to see the sights and tried to explain the shooting positions, he made a very sensible suggestion. "Bring your guns into the office so we can see exactly what we have to work with."

So the next week I entered the office with two cases of handguns and the doctor announced to everyone to be calm as he was merely treating a shooter. I proceeded to assume the Creedmore position while the eye doctor did two things. He measured the distance from my eye to the rear sight and front sight, and also found the best spot on my glasses for the center of the lens to be located.

Shooting glasses were then made up accordingly and also given a yellow coating to help sharpen the target image. It worked. With special lenses with a lowered center, the glasses were not usable for any activity except Creedmore position shooting, but at least I had purchased some extra time.

I also conferred with the doctor on the usefulness of the bullseye shooter's gimmick of placing black tape over one lens with a pin hole to look through: I was assured that this would definitely help as it forces the eye to focus more readily. Not wanting to mess with taping my glasses and experimenting with different size holes, I looked for an adjustable aperture that could be attached to the glasses. The answer was found in a high-quality adjustable aperture that attaches to the lens with a suction cup. Merit Gunsight Co. (PO

Perhaps the world's mo



The rifle you see here is the perfect choice for plinking. Or target shooting. Or small game. Or home defense (Not to mention being an ideal companion to your favorite handgun.) It's the Marlin Camp Carbine in either 9mm Luger (Model 9), or 45ACP (Model 45).

Both the 9 and 45 feature a machined steel receiver

Box 995, Dept. AH, Sequim, WA, 98382) offers this item and it works well. By a little experimenting as to position and size of aperture, sight image is definitely made sharper.

Now I had glasses for Creedmore but what about standing? Again it was time to experiment. First I tried my regular glasses. This allowed an excellent target image at all ranges, but the sights would sometimes be fairly clear and at other times be very fuzzy according to light and weather conditions and how tired my eyes happened to be.

Explaining this problem to my eye doctor again, we were soon on the track of a solution. A little measuring as I sighted through his office window plus the wearing of headgear that allowed him to try different lenses along with a little experimenting in the field gave me a lens that was exactly halfway in between a lens that allowed me to see the sights perfectly and my regular lens. A compromise that works, at least for now. A little more time had been purchased.

In the past I have never cared for colored sight inserts, or painted sights. Black sights that could be smoked with a carbide sight blackener always seemed the best. It is amazing how our ideas change as we struggle to keep shooting. Both Dan Wesson, for all their guns, and Ruger, for the Redhawk, offer different colored front sights that can help with sight definition. Colors such as blue (baby blue?) and green seem to work well for my eyes.

White outline rear sights also help when

done properly such as on the add-on accessory sights from Millett. They could well be emulated by the factory offerings which are often less than satisfactory.

Painting the sights never seemed to work very well with available materials but this has also changed with a kit offered by Thrifty Buyers Service (PO Box 733, Dept. AH, Middleton, NY, 10940). They offer a Sight-Aid Kit that includes solvent and brush, primer, and choice of glo-orange or glo-lime finish coat. I've equipped two favorite six-guns with Millet white outline rear sights and glo-orange finish on the front sight and both additions really help.

The Millet sights are, of course, illegal for IHMSA competition. However included with their Sight-Aid Kit is a striping kip to make a white outline rear sight by using the white priming base coat.

The Sight-Aid Kit is available for \$8.25 and will do scores of sights and it is easy to apply in two coats, primer and finish coat, and will last longer and show up better than either fingernail polish or airplane dope.

All solutions are simply pushing back the inevitable. There is only one solution that will work for those past the magic age of 45 or who find themselves needing reading glasses or bifocals. If we are to keep competing in IHMSA competition, there needs to be a drastic change in the rules to allow the use of scopes in long range competition.

The door has been opened with the use of scopes for Field Pistol; the next logical step is

to have scoped classes for regular silhouetting. This is the only way that many shooters will be able to stay active in IHMSA competition.

Most of the change would simply be on paper as all classes, rules, etc. would stay the same except weight limits would have to be raised by, say, 12 ozs. to allow for scopes and mounts. I would expect scoped classes to be in place of, not in addition to, iron sight competition for an individual shooter. That is, shooters would only be allowed to compete in scoped or iron-sighted classes, not both. This insures that scopes are used by those who need them because of sighting problems.

I have a lot of respect for a shooter that travels 125 miles to shoot in our local matches. He is 70-years-old, recovered from a stroke and still shooting. He cannot see the sights so he shoots Field Pistol with a scoped Python. Because of the stroke, he can handle very little recoil, so he shoots 125 gr. bullets. But most importantly, he is still shooting. It is good for him and it is good for the sport.

To me, that is the real spirit of silhouette and the desire, which is still existent in so many shooters, should not go unrewarded. It is time for scoped classes in IHMSA long range competition. 

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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

BURNED-OUT? TAKE A BREAK TO SHOOT OTHER GUNS TO CURE THE IPSC BLAHS

I am Joe's front sight. I'm a serrated ramp and me and my back-seat buddy Bo have been enjoying a holiday. Joe quit IPSC shooting.

Bo and I considered going to the beach and basking in the lovely southern California sunshine while we gawked at the bikinis. But Joe howled and stamped his foot saying that a .38 Super Wilson Accu-Comp cannot sunbathe. Joe said we'd get stolen lying on a beach towel.

What's a front sight to do? I'm bored. Joe doesn't even bother to dry-fire me anymore. (Which might not be a bad idea as he recently vaporized a table lamp while "dry" firing. I keep reminding Joe that Charley Chamber is always loaded: always, always, always.)

Joe seems a bit disenchanted and burned-out on IPSC lately. He hasn't shot a match in two months and hardly ever practices. He's devoted all his attention to my third-cousin, Sam Scope, on his pet Scout rifle. If you think that's weird, get a load of this: Joe actually

dusted off his only shotgun and sallied forth to shoot a few rounds of trap. The boy must be seriously ill!

You mean there's more to life than double-taps and head shots?

Well, like any good and devoted front sight, I felt it my duty to speak to Joe about his doldrums. Perhaps he just needs to talk about his blahs.

"Hey Joe," I yelled, "whatzamattah?" Joe leaped three feet. "Dammit, Front Sight, you scared the hell outta me! I told you not to startle me like that. For chrissakes, don't scream! I'm still not used to a talking front sight!"

"Uh, sorry 'bout that. But tell me, why have you quit going to IPSC matches?"

"I haven't quit, I'm just taking a break. Besides, since when do I have to explain myself to a piece of steel?"

"Oh, don't be so touchy. Why are you taking a break?"

"I tell ya, Front Sight, a guy just gets tired every now and then. Believe it or not, there's more to a shooter's life than just IPSC."

"There is?"

"Sure, I love to shoot my rifles too, and that neat new Scout rifle—you know, the one that Jeff Cooper designed—is slicker 'n owl snot."

"I really wouldn't know about the nasal drippings of a predatory bird."

"Besides that, I haven't fired my shotgun since last dove season. I like to shoot my Model 29 and I'm also tuning up for the bullseye event of The Masters. I don't want to be humiliated there again."

"Yeah, Joe, but I thought you loved IPSC. That you'd never quit."

"I told you, I haven't quit, I'm just a bit burned-out. It really helps to try other kinds of shooting, other types of guns, when you get bored with one discipline."

"Really? You mean there's more to life than double-taps and head shots?"

"Fraid so."

Joe and I chatted that evening until well past the *Tonight Show*. Joe explained that six years of non-stop IPSC can grate on you, wear a guy to a frazzle. But Joe said he's already beginning to get his interest back after this short holiday.

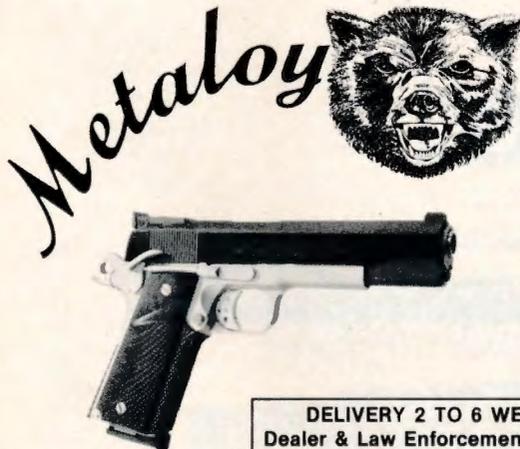
A few weeks after our heart-to-sight talk, Joe went to a match and won. He was elated! I was surprised at Joe because he shot very well in spite of his sabbatical. In spite of? Joe corrected me and said "because of." Joe explained that a short recess can be the best way to forget bad habits and start fresh with that invigorating enthusiasm he missed during his burn-out.

That explains why Joe sometimes shoots a match with his carry gun instead of me and Bo on his game gun. Something different to break the occasional lapses of monotony.

Now that Joe won his first match out of semi-retirement, he's back with gusto. He's dry-firing me again (after first inspecting Charley Chamber) and he's all excited about the hot new IPSC set-up, the Centimeter cartridge from Pistol Dynamics. He's ordered one from Paul Liebenberg and plans to swap me and Bo to the new pistol. Call the moving company!

But I'm still pissed-off that Joe wouldn't let me and Bo go to the beach. I'll get even though. The next time that Joe brings home a hot date, I'll wait until he's snuggled up with her on the sofa. Then she'll hear a blood-curdling banshee yell:

I am Joe's front sight!



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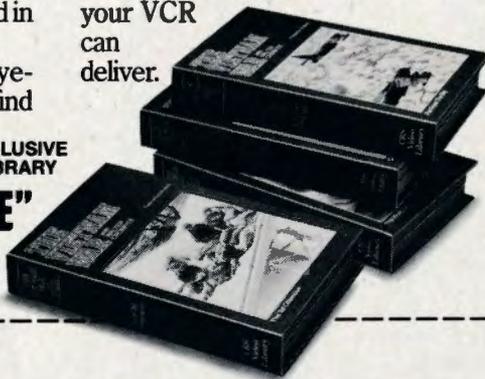
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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN LAWSON

TOLERANCES, FITS AND MEASUREMENTS ARE TIED TO MANUFACTURING METHODS

You'll hear a lot of discussion, these days, concerning quality control or the lack thereof in manufactured consumer goods. Misunderstanding the criteria involved could lead to unwarranted conclusions and harsh judgment of what may well have been heroic efforts to stabilize varying dimensions, attributable to a specific rapid manufacturing process that makes an affordable price to the final consumer possible.

When a manufacturer undertakes large scale production of an item made up of a number of individual parts, he must specify minimum and maximum allowable sizes or critical measurements for each component, to allow interchangeability without hand fitting and assuring proper function of the finished unit. These differences in part sizes, or tolerances, are necessary because production parts vary in dimensions. One reason for this variation is that small surface flaws in a casting or forging require a final polish to whatever depth is required to obtain a smooth, blemish-free surface.

Investment casting is a process now widely used in the firearms industry for rapid, cheap production of component parts. Development of sophisticated methods in "lost wax" investment casting, where a wax replica of the part is cast into a ceramic mold, which is then melted out and filled with molten metal, has saved the manufacturers millions over older methods of production.

Unfortunately, casting involves the engineering compromise of using metals most suitable for sturdy, long wearing parts at the expense of casting characteristics, in some instances. And, while this may have a pronounced effect on aesthetics, the finished pieces are acceptable in most other respects.

American industry is abandoning obsolete technologies in favor of high production computerized methods of fabrication, and the changeover is even making an impact in home shops; software is available to control some home shop machine tools with a personal computer.

The necessity for carefully fitting

replacement or after-market parts to a handgun has sometimes angered shooters who feel that all they should have to do is obtain a part and drop it into the weapon, on the order of replacement parts for military weapons. First, replacement parts are often purposely made oversize to compensate for wear in mating components. A bit of stoning or filing is indicated, usually, to bring the fit into acceptable tolerances. In this instance, the part is reduced in size on critical surfaces until it fits and functions properly. Because of the long period of service and wear from hard use and several refinishinges, even G.I. parts are slightly larger in some critical dimensions than, say, those supplied by Ordnance in the 1940's for 1911 pistols.

This kind of fitting and the necessity for a general evaluation of working capability after re-fitting is what brings shooters to pistolsmiths, in a good many instances.

During World War I, American industry adopted a thousandth of an inch as a minimum acceptable target for precision, consistent with the accuracy potential of the machine tools of the day. By the Second World War, a ten-thousandth of an inch tolerance was not unusual. And, too, industry regularly uses a *millionth of an inch*, measured by light waves, as their minimum standard, in production of super-precision parts for NASA and some critical commercial applications. This causes some confusion among gunsmiths who have never worked in the tool and die shops or been involved in super-accurate toolroom work.

Virtually nothing in pistolsmithing requires a tolerance of less than a half of a ten-thousandth. This unbelievably small measurement can be attained regularly in the manufacture of swaging dies for bullets, by use of precision honing machines. The indicator dial spacing for a half ten-thousandth on the hone in my shop is 1/32nd of an inch, so the almost invisible measurement looks enormous as you slowly grind a part.

A part-fitting chore that requires the smallest allowable tolerance is fitting up a revolver barrel so the front sight is truly perpendicular. Nothing upsets a customer more than finding his front sight leaning galley west, provided, of course, that everything else is done with reasonable competence.

Most of the world uses the metric system of weights and measures, but it may still be mysterious to some older pistolsmiths who did not major in math. So, in response to several requests from readers, I have prepared a chart for reference.

6.35mm = .250"	9.01mm = .355"
7.62mm = .300"	9.04mm = .356"
7.65mm = .301"	9.06mm = .357"
7.7mm = .303"	9.09mm = .358"
7.82mm = .308"	10mm = .394"
7.92mm = .311"	10.4mm = .410"
8mm = .315"	11.46mm = .451"
8.2mm = .324"	11.48mm = .452"
9mm = .354"	11.56mm = .455"

Note that these figures are rounded off, not exact. Caliber designations should never be taken for granted. Always mike an accurate chamber cast or pull and mike a bullet for a precise measurement.



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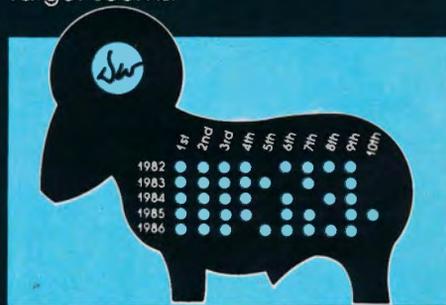
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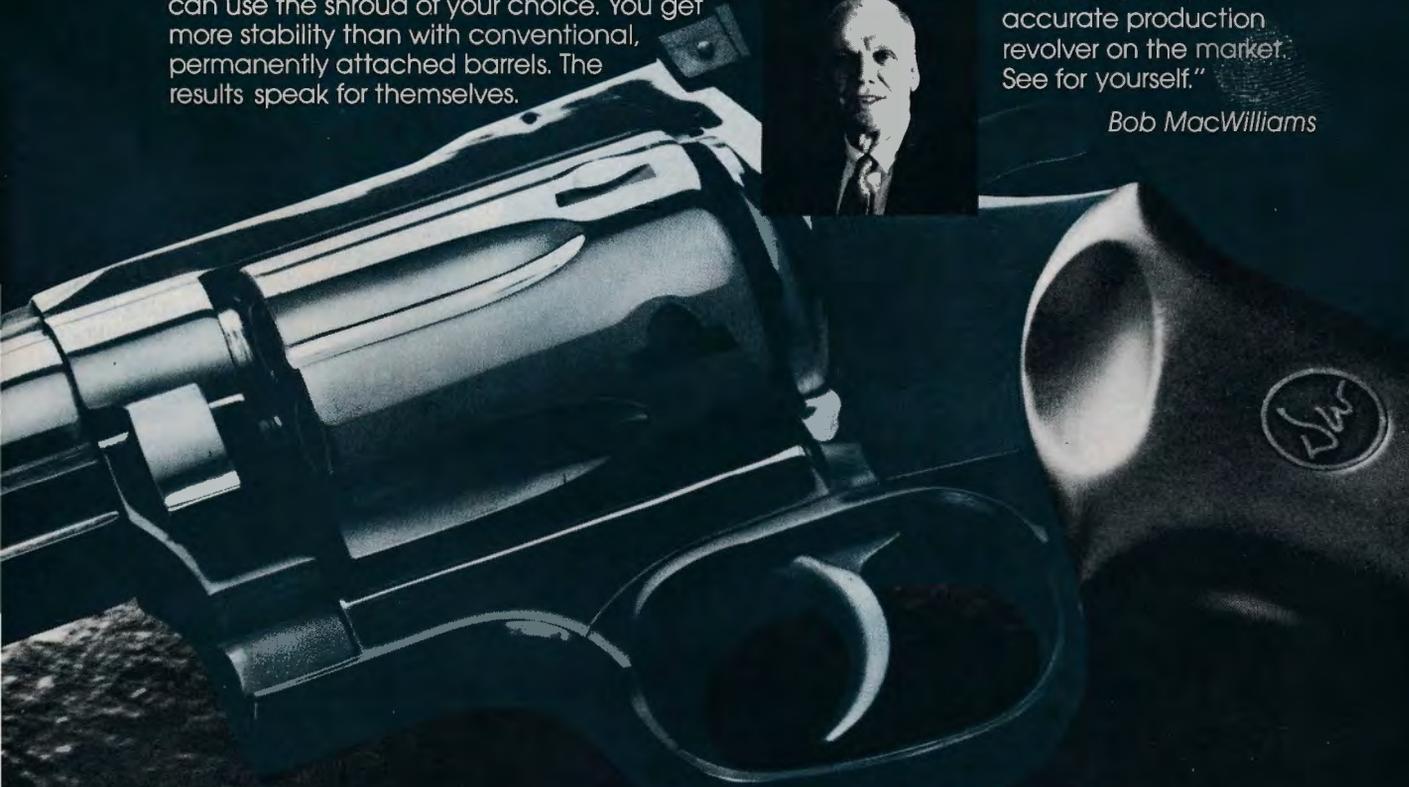
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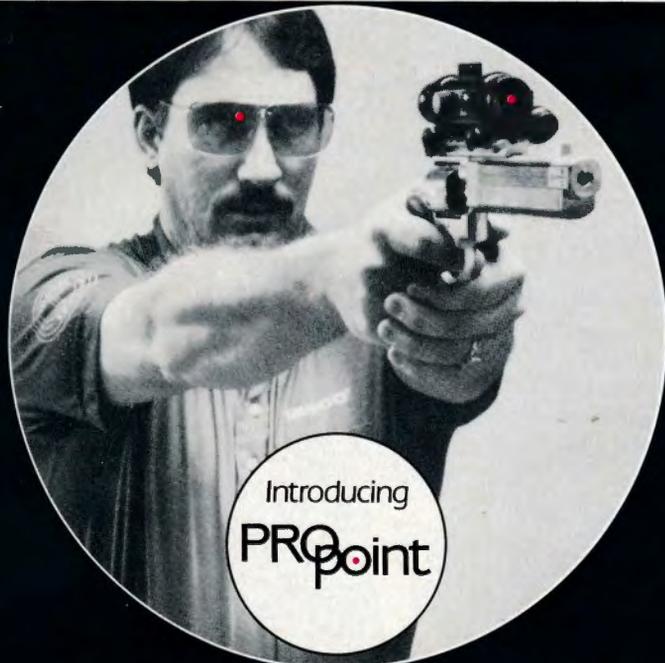
COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

LONG RANGE POLICE HANDGUN ABILITY IS VITAL AS RECENT TRENDS INDICATE

It has long been in vogue to shorten the distances involved in police handgun training. Many departments have eliminated 50 yard shooting and qualify their officers at no farther than 25 yards. I know of no major police department that still requires the six

shots from prone position at 60, not 50, yards that was part of the original FBI course. NYPD's Firearms and Tactics Unit has given serious consideration to making 15 yards the maximum training and qualification distance for their handgun shooting.



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This may well be a mistake, now more than ever.

Enlightened police handgun training tends to reflect the reality of "what's happening on the street." The current concentration on close, fast shooting stems from the fact that most officers murdered in gunfights are shot at close range, usually less than seven yards and often within seven feet.

However, the same statistics indicate that as range increases, so do the officer's chances of winning the gun battle. In long range pistol fights, the cops almost invariably outshoot the bad guys. This is because, in most cases though by no means all, the bad guy probably doesn't have nearly the marksmanship training the officer has.

At close range, bad guys win because when you're at arms' length, marksmanship is less important than who shoots first, and the felon with homicidal intent finds that his action beats the officer's reaction.

I am of two minds on this. Because cops are dying preponderantly in sudden, point blank gunfights, clearly we *must* devote more training to fast close-range defensive shooting. I like the Secret Service's new drill, in which the average agent learns to clear his revolver from under a coat and place two accurate hits, in three seconds, from five to nine feet away.

But, as we devote more time to close range shooting, *we must not neglect proficiency in intermediate and long range shooting as well.* The fact that the Good Guys are winning at long range doesn't mean we can forget about training there, it means we have to *maintain* training there.

This is more important now than ever, because one trend in police gunfights I've observed recently is an increasing number of encounters at longer ranges.

Item: LAPD's compilation of 1984 gunfight statistics indicates that the *average* encounter distance was 28 feet, one-third farther than the 21-foot distance at which these battles have traditionally taken place.

Item: The SOP-9 reports breaking down NYPD's gunfight statistics for 1985 show a marked increase in shootouts at ranges like 15 and 25 yards. I suspect it was partly for this reason that Captain John Cerar, the new head of NYPD's Firearms and Tactics Unit, put the plans to limit all qualification shooting to 15 yards on hold, and maintains at least six shots at 25 yards in the program.

What accounts for the sudden increase in the distance at which the "average" police firefight can be expected to take place? I think the answer will be seen on two sides of the same coin: increased sophistication among professional criminals, and improved training on the part of police.

Today's armed robber, for example, is far more likely to have point men or outriders—armed lookouts—stationed in a position where they can intercept incoming officers. This means a gunfight is more likely to take place across a street than in the confines of the establishment being robbed.

Similarly, officer survival training emphasizes that the officers reconnoiter and take a controlling position instead of rushing into

danger. This means that the cop who 10 years ago might have walked into the bank while the holdup was in progress, is now more likely to take a cover position outside, perhaps finally engaging the gunmen across a parking lot or sealed-off street.

The extending distance trend is not necessarily a bad thing for cops. In NYPD, the ratio of gunfight victories is about 11 to 1 for the cops, and in LAPD, it's even higher. Nothing is 100% in the multi-dimensional discipline of Officer Survival, but if there is any virtually immutable law in that game it is this: "Time and distance favor the man who can deliver the better marksmanship."

Unless you've got a punk with an assault rifle against a cop who barely qualified with his handgun, that marksmanship factor almost always favors the man wearing the badge. It is rare to find a situation like the murder of Idaho Fish and Game officers Bill Pogue and Conley Elms at the hands of "mountain man" Claude Dallas, in which the perpetrator has trained himself to be an excellent marksman, but at least one of the officers did not care for guns and had to work to shoot well enough to qualify.

The average killer of a policeman, while perhaps more ruthless and streetwise and more psychologically prepared for violence than his victim, would be unlikely to shoot a qualifying 70% on a police firearms course.

What's the answer? Police firearms training still demands more emphasis on fast, close, reactive shooting, *but long range shooting skill needs to be kept in the program, and probably strengthened as well!*

It is no trick to teach the average officer to hit a man-size target with every shot at 50 yards, and with three shots out of six at 100 yards, with a quality 4" barrel service revolver. Top quality auto pistols like the HK P7 can do the same.

In this training, the instructor should not allow the officer to change his sight settings for the increased distances, the way it's done in PPC shooting. Under fire at 50 yards, no cop is going to whip out his Combat Screwdriver and come up six clicks on his adjustable sight. Instead, considering that the average .38 Special load will drop four to six inches from 25 to 50 yards, the officer should be taught to put his sight picture on the second button of the suspect's shirt to allow for bullet drop, to gain a center-of-mass hit.

This type of shooting is a little-noted advantage of the 9mm auto. In tournaments from the Bianchi Cup to the NMSS National Championships, this writer has been able to score consistent 10's and X's at 50 yards using the same sight setting and hold as at 25 with Federal's fast-stepping "9BP" hollowpoint, which also happens to have the best stopping power track record of any 9mm Parabellum hollowpoint in wide use by American police. The gun was an HK P9S, the same well-made service pistol that Idaho Fish & Game adopted (albeit in .45 ACP) after the Pogue/Elms murders.

At 100 yards from a solid rollover prone position, the cop can learn to hold his sights on the throat of a man-size target and drop his bullets into the chest cavity or midriff of his

More.

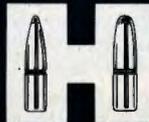
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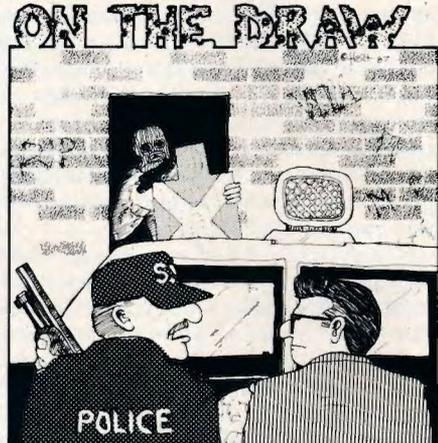


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Times change, trends change, and police training must change with them. Just as hostage situations increased as police radio and alarm technology improved to the point where it was more likely that cops would respond so quickly that perpetrators would be trapped inside robbery scenes and take hostages through "cornered rat syndrome," today's interactions between cops and criminals indicate that longer encounter ranges may become a frequent factor in officer survival.



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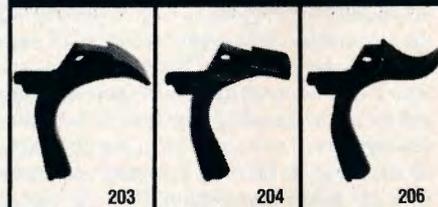


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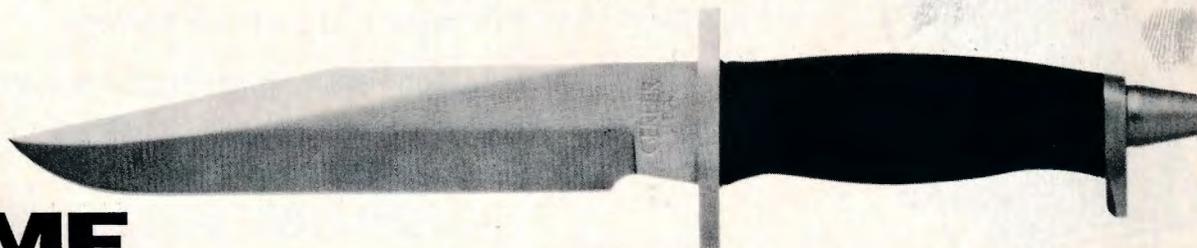
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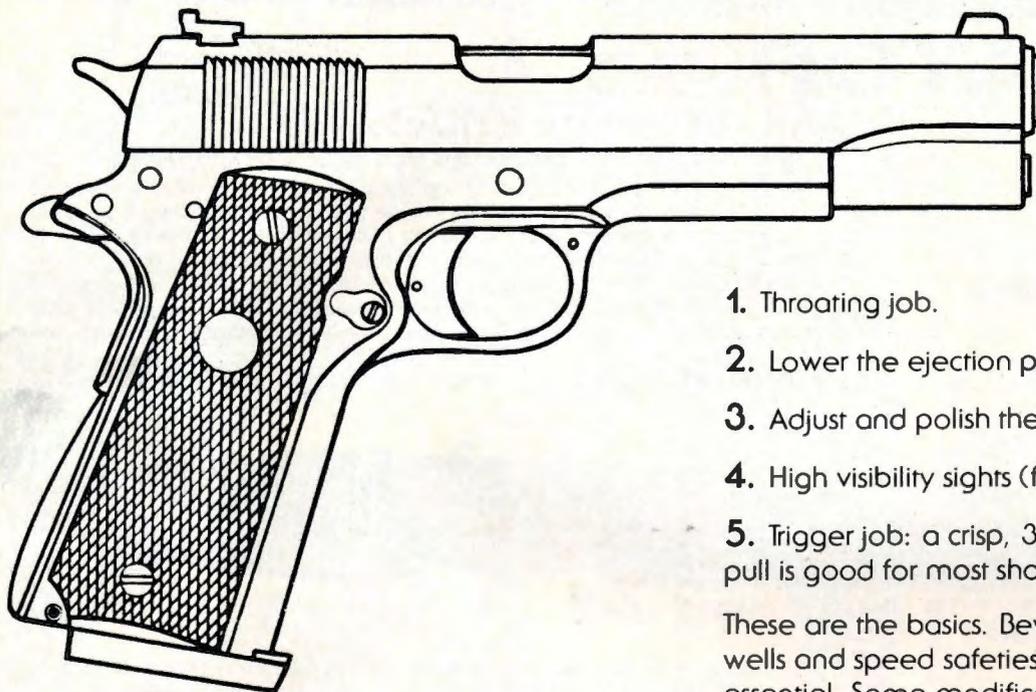
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MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

The Basic Practical Autopistol

Complete reliability is the first requirement of a combat pistol, whether it's intended for competition or self defense. Here are the basic modifications I recommend:



1. Throating job.
2. Lower the ejection port.
3. Adjust and polish the extractor.
4. High visibility sights (fixed or adjustable).
5. Trigger job: a crisp, 3-3/4 to 4-1/2 pound pull is good for most shooters.

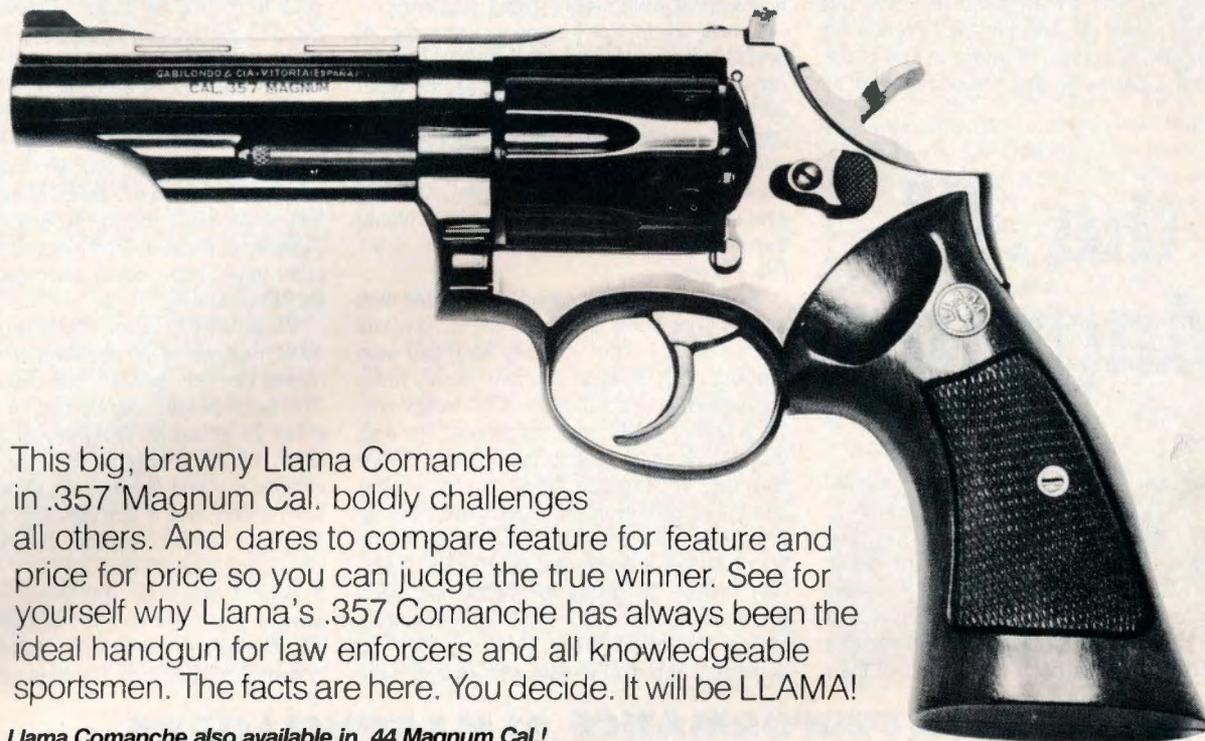
These are the basics. Beveled magazine wells and speed safeties are helpful but not essential. Some modifications are definitely not helpful. For example, deactivating or "pinning" the grip safety eliminates a needed safety feature and promotes a sloppy grip. And squaring or putting a "hook" on the front of the trigger guard are no more useful than good checkering.



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TAFFIN TESTS

The .41 Magnum has been the "illegitimate son" for over 20 years and only now are shooters really discovering the potential of the Middle Magnum. Witness to this is the fact that a cartridge that basically spent its

sales, but it does account for a substantial portion that continues to grow.

I must admit that I came to know the .41 late. But to know it is to appreciate it. It really does not need to be compared to any other cartridge as it can stand on its own merits. It can deliver substantial muzzle energy without punishing recoil. And if, for some strange reason, recoil is desired, using the 250 to 295 grain bullets in full house loads deliver plenty especially in the lightweight 4 3/8" Blackhawk.

Any sixgunner that spends much time with a cartridge soon develops some favorite loads. Shortly after the .41 Magnum was introduced in 1964, a "standard" heavy loading consisting of a 220 grain Keith bullet over 20 grains of #2400 was developed. As with the .44 Magnum, I also use a lot of #2400 with the .41 Magnum, however, rather than zeroing in at 20 grains, I experiment by using anywhere from 18 to 20 grains looking for the best load for a particular sixgun and situation. While 20 grains of #2400 has been perfectly safe in every .41 Magnum tested, giving velocities from 1450 to 1550 fps according to barrel length, I really feel most

sixguns will last a lot longer if the load is cut back to around 19 grains. This loading with the 220 gr. Lyman #410459 will give 1400 fps.

This bullet, cast hard, makes an excellent high-performance load whether the target be our western mule deer, or steel critters, or an elusive tin can on the side of yonder hill. One of the reasons that this bullet is such an excellent performer is its long nose that fills out the cylinder to the end. The longer a bullet is, all other things being equal, the more accurate it should be at long range.

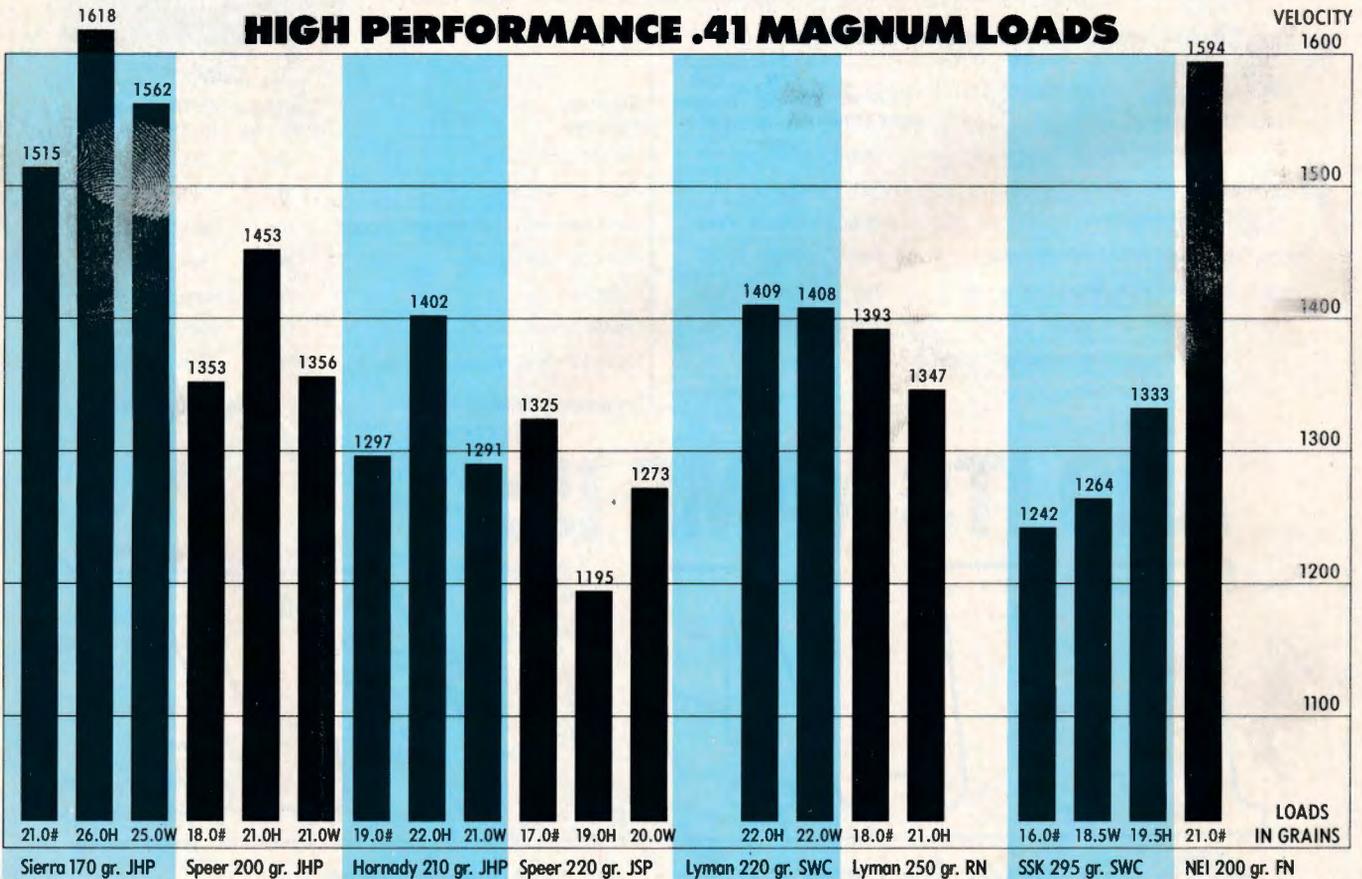
While #2400 is an excellent powder for 1400 fps loads in the .41 Magnum, it is by no means the only powder that can be utilized. The same results can be had by employing either 22 grains of WW296, or 22 grains of H110, or 22 grains of H4227. The latter powder is a real favorite of silhouetters who have found that it delivers top accuracy in Magnum sixguns without heavy recoil or bore leading problems.

Like all magnums, full-house loads are not always necessary or even desirable for the .41. Defensive situations, whether for practice or for real, call for high-performance

the .41 Magnum

first 20 years available only in the original S&W Model 57 and the Ruger Blackhawk, can now also be had in the Ruger Bisley and Redhawk, the big Dan Wesson, the S&W Model 657 and the TC Contender. One of the major handgun manufacturers that I talked to at the NRA convention shared with me that the .41 Magnum is not a major part of their

HIGH PERFORMANCE .41 MAGNUM LOADS



Powder Key: W—WW 296, H—Hogdon H110, #—Hercules #2400

Loads were developed and velocities recorded with a S&W M-57, 8 3/8" barrel. Federal brass cases were used with Federal #155 primers.

loads that have greatly reduced velocities. The same is true of the loads that make for pleasant Sunday afternoon plinking sessions or for teaching beginners how to shoot. Loads in the 900-1000 fps class are needed here. NEI makes a beautiful 190 grain semi-wadcutter, #220.411, with a flat nose that is almost .41 caliber itself. Loaded over 9 grains of HS6 or 7.5 grains of Unique, this bullet at 900+ fps is perfect for these situations.

And this same NEI bullet loaded over 21 grains of #2400 will deliver 1600 fps from long barreled sixguns, giving a very flat-shooting load. At maximum velocities, its large frontal area delivers maximum shocking power be the target fur or steel. Its wide flat nose also makes it the perfect defensive choice in short barreled sixguns even though the velocities are at a very manageable 900 fps.

The .41 Magnum has not been left out of the heavyweight bullet development phenomenon of the Eighties. While to my knowledge only one heavyweight .41 bullet is available, it is a good one. This bullet, available only in NEI moulds and only through SSK, is #275.411. Measuring nearly 1" in length, the SSK .41 bullet weighs 295 grains cast of my hard alloy and with its three grease grooves packed. For hunting, this is *the* bullet when maximum penetration is desired. And loaded to 1300+ fps it will also do a very creditable job on steel critters.

SSK's heavyweight .41 bullet will deliver its 295 grain weight at 1200-1400 fps from

long barreled sixguns, using 17.5-19.5 grains of either H110 or WW296, or 15.5 to 17.5 grains of #2400. Like all of my .41 loads, these loads use Magnum primers and fired cases literally fall from the chamber.

While the .41 Magnum cannot be made into a .44, nor should it be, it is an excellent performer in its own right.

Another indication of the growing popularity of the .41 Magnum is the increased number of excellent jacketed bullets available. For a flat-shooting, high-velocity load, Sierra's 170 grain JHC can safely be driven to 1600+ fps using either 22 grains of #2400, or 26 grains of H110, or 25 grains of WW296. This is an excellent bullet for thin-skinned game at short ranges. Sierra, Hornady, and Speer all make jacketed bullets in the 210-220 grain range that are excellent performers in the .41 Magnum at 1300-1400 fps in long barreled .41 Magnum sixguns. These

velocities, along with excellent accuracy, can be attained with 20 to 21 grains of either H110 or WW296.

Silhouetters have not been left out in the cold as both Hornady (210 grains) and Sierra (220 grains) offer full metal jacket bullets for delivering maximum energy to steel targets. Cylinder busting loads are not necessary for silhouetting and I much prefer loads in the 1200-1300 fps range using FMJ bullets. Here again a little experimenting is necessary to find the best accuracy for each particular sixgun/bullet combination. All .41 Magnums, in my experience, have been extremely accurate using jacketed bullets.

For Hornady's 210 FMJ, I am particularly fond of either 22 grains of WW296 or H110 or 19 grains of #2400, and when switching to Sierra's 220 grain FMJ, each load is reduced by one full grain. All of these loads will cut clover leaves at 25 yards, stay under 2" at 50 meters, and on a good day, with all conditions right, and shooting from sandbags, will deliver 8" groups or less at 200 meters.

It is difficult to not compare the .41 Magnum with the .44 Magnum. While the .41 Magnum cannot be made into a .44, nor should it be, it is an excellent performer in its own right. Any sixgun that can deliver 220 grain bullets at 1500 fps, or 295 grain bullets at 1300 fps, or drop back to 190 grain bullets that give excellent accuracy at 900 fps can easily stand on its own merits. The .41 Magnum deserves a closer look by America's handgunners. 

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10mm 170 gr. JHP Bullet*	1400	731
9mm 115 gr. JHP Bullet	1160	345
.357 Magnum 158 gr. JHP Bullet	1235	535
.45 Automatic 185 gr. JHP Bullet	950	370

*Norma load 11002, from a 5-inch barrel.

As the table illustrates, most other loads can't match the power of Norma's 170 grain jacketed hollow point. Norma also offers a 200 grain metal case (FMJ) load with a muzzle velocity of 1200 fps. Try either one. And experience the most power you've ever felt in an Automatic. The new 10mm cartridges from Norma.



170 gr. JHP

200 gr. FMJ

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The glove is made of a thin soft leather using a special process to avoid "leaching out" due to perspiration. If you have ever worn driving gloves, you know "leaching out" means orange hands. Above and below each finger is leather but in the areas between is fabric. There is a thin pad that protects both the planar nerve in the palm and the ulnar nerve at the base of the fingers with a small portion going to the base of the thumb under the knuckle.

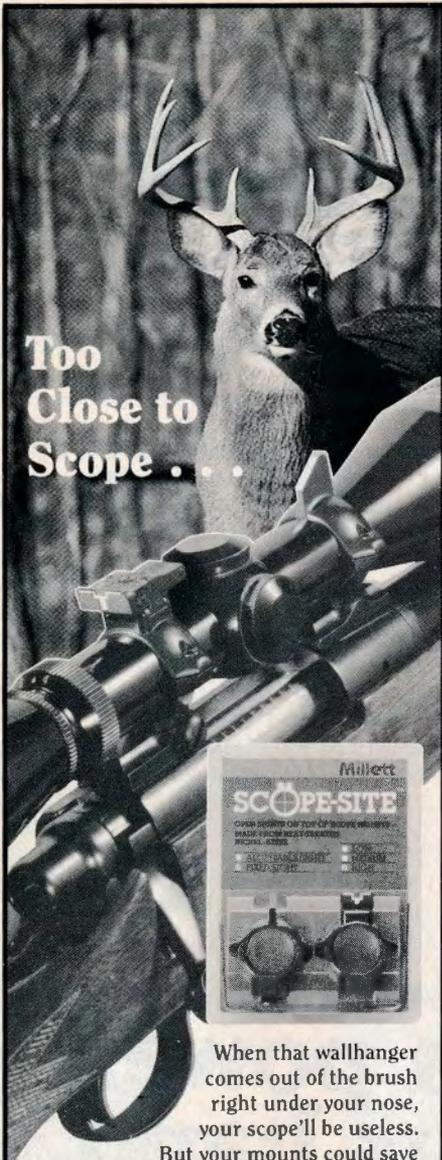
Enough background, does it work?

My personal opinion is—yes! A previous outing with my 35 Rem. Contender left my hand trembling uncontrollably by the fourth shot. With the glove, it took the 25th shot for any semblance of shaking to occur.

There is an additional positive feature the manufacturer missed in his promotional advertising. The Chimere Model 454 Shooting Glove keeps your shooting hand cool and dry. This is a boon to any shooter. So, give the golf glove back to your father and donate the batter's glove to the local little league. Purchase a glove designed exclusively for the shooting sports—if for no other reason because it works—The Chimere Model 454 Shooting Glove.

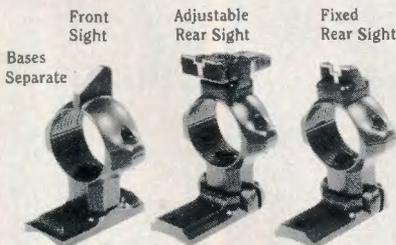


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By Tim Johnson

There exists a strange malady that can afflict the most jaded big bore magnum shooter. The medical term for this dread condition is "Ulnar and Planar Nerve Stress." Symptoms include a general weakness of the hand and an independent shaking of both the wrist and fingers. The worst case scenario is the Carpal Tunnel Nerve Syndrome which can be identified by a swelling of the first three fingers and thumb of the shooting hand accompanied by a tingling and numbness.

Flinching has little in comparison with nerve stress in that most flinching is mental, whereas nerve stress is a physical condition caused by abuse. Mental preparation and self-hypnosis will not lessen nerve stress.

What will?

You could stop launching 180 gr. (plus) projectiles at Mach 1½ (plus) and stick to .22, .38 wadcutter and mid-range .45 loads, but that wouldn't be much fun. Porting helps, so do the more anatomically correct grips. And gloves.

Glove technology for the shooting sports has lagged far behind port and grip design. I've yet to see a nine iron recoil like a .44 Magnum nor a home run that feels like a .357 Herrett, but gloves designed for these sports are often worn by magnum handgunners.

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Professional competitors and gun builders, whose livelihoods depend on reliable performance, choose their equipment carefully. That's why more and more Springfield Armory 1911-A1 pistols are showing up on the firing lines and in the final results of America's most prestigious shooting events, like the Camp Perry National Championships, the Steel Challenge, the Bianchi Cup, the USPSA Nationals, and the Masters International Shooting Championship. For instance:

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John Shaw burst upon the combat shooting scene in 1980 when he won both the Steel Challenge and the IPSC [International Practical Shooting Confederation] Nationals. Since then he's won or finished second in every major combat match and has won as much career prize money as anyone in the game. The Memphis, Tennessee native has been an outspoken critic of the powers-that-be in the sport, from match organizers to firearms and ammunition manufacturers. John is the co-author of two popular books on self-defense shooting and is the proprietor of MISS, the Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting (503 Stonewall, Dept. AH, Memphis, TN 38112). I spoke with him recently about his own career and the state of the sport in general:



CONVERSATION

with a Champion

By Jon Winokur

JW: When did you start shooting, John?

JS: I started hunting when I was a kid. My dad and I hunted quail and other small game.

JW: What kind of hunting do you do now and what guns do you use?

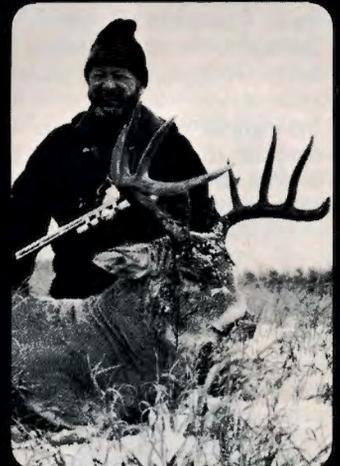
JS: Turkey and duck hunting, deer hunting. For turkey hunting I like to use a combination gun—12 gauge and .223 rifle; for duck I like a three-inch magnum shotgun with a 20-inch barrel and choke tubes. Down here we hunt deer a lot differently than most people do: we hunt 'em and shoot 'em out in the open, so I



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like a small caliber like a .243 or .223.

JW: What are you shooting in handgun competition these days?

JS: I use a Jim Clark auto with two barrels: I use the .38 Super for IPSC matches and the 9mm for the Steel Challenge. I use a Clark revolver with an Aimpoint for the Bianchi Cup.

JW: Here's your chance to sound off: How do you feel about the way the sport is being run these days?

JS: I don't really have much to say about it anymore. I hollered a lot four or five years back about the lack of money in the sport because I thought it was unfair to the competitors. As a result I got a bad boy image. And now a lot of others are saying what I said all along. It doesn't bother me anymore, though, maybe because of the success I've had with MISS and in my shooting career. I don't really care if they give away money now or medals or whatever.

JW: What kind of courses do you offer at MISS?

Determination and flexibility are my biggest assets as a competitor. I've been able to change a lot over the last eight or nine years and that's what's kept me up there.

JS: Last year we did 42 weeks of classes, 36 of them for various agencies of the U.S. government. The rest were civilian classes.

JW: Which government agencies do you work with and what do you teach in the courses?

JS: We work a lot with the Department of Defense—Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and we cover handgun, M-16, sub-machinegun and shotgun, usually in one-week courses.

JW: What about the civilian courses?

JS: They're four-day courses in which we take three-and-a-half days on the pistol and a half-day on the shotgun.

JW: How much involvement do you have in the actual teaching?

JS: A hundred percent involvement. I'm there every day for every class.

JW: Do you teach any competition classes?

JS: Our civilian classes aren't *per se* competition—we just teach you how to shoot. Even our military classes don't go into tactics—but it's all the same whether you're going to use it in combat or in competition.

JW: What's your advice to a prospective student on the kind of handgun to buy for self-defense?

JS: I recommend either a SIG-Sauer or a Beretta auto in 9mm. I like them because they're very safe, what with the double action and the de-cock lever, and they usually work right out of the box. And you can get 20-round magazines for them. I like the 9mm a lot better since you've been able to get Silver-tips for them. For a dyed-in-the-wool revolver man, I'd suggest a Ruger or a Smith & Wesson K-frame or L-frame. I like the 686s especially. For a woman I'd recommend a three-inch, heavy-barrel S&W Model 10 with a round butt.

JW: Do you get into the mental aspects of shooting in your classes?

JS: Not to the degree that other schools do. I feel that the mental game is based on experience and maturity and you can't really teach it. It wasn't until I reached my mid-thirties that I had the experience and the maturity to realize my potential as a shooter without using hypnosis or mental this and that. All your great shooters were in their thirties before they got good at shooting under pressure.

JW: What's your advice to someone just starting out in competition?

JS: First thing, of course, is get some professional instruction. Then get the best equipment you can afford, and don't set your goals too high; you've got to learn to walk before you can run. Learn the basics; learn to hit with one shot before you try two shots; learn to hit one target twice before you go to two targets. Work your way up the ladder. Too many people try to jump into advanced techniques too quickly. At MISS we stress about

10 different basic pistol techniques but we don't let the student combine them until he has learned each one individually.

JW: What's the most common mistake made by novice shooters?

JS: They want to look up and see the bullet hit the target. That's true at all levels, though. We want to see how we're doing whether we're shooting at bottles or Bianchi plates. That's why people tend to shoot better at the Steel Challenge, where the plates don't go over. You don't seem to want to check yourself like you do with falling plates.

JW: Is that another reason why you use a revolver in the Bianchi Cup?

JS: Yes, a revolver slows me down and makes me pay better attention. Autos are a little too fast.

JW: What would you advise someone who wants to be a champion?

JS: You've got to place your goals where they need to be. You don't want to have the attitude that you're going to go out there and beat John Shaw or win the Bianchi Cup or win a lot of money; you want to have the attitude that you're going to go out there and do the best you can do. And that's all you can do.

The main thing is not beating yourself, which is so hard to do. As a matter of fact, out of all the matches I've ever shot, I've probably only been beaten two or three times. The rest of the times I've beaten myself. If you can't go out and shoot your practice scores in a match, or close to it, you're beating yourself. A lot of people can't go out there and shoot 50% of their practice scores. A lot of people are beating themselves.

JW: What's your technique for handling match pressure?

Continued on page 82

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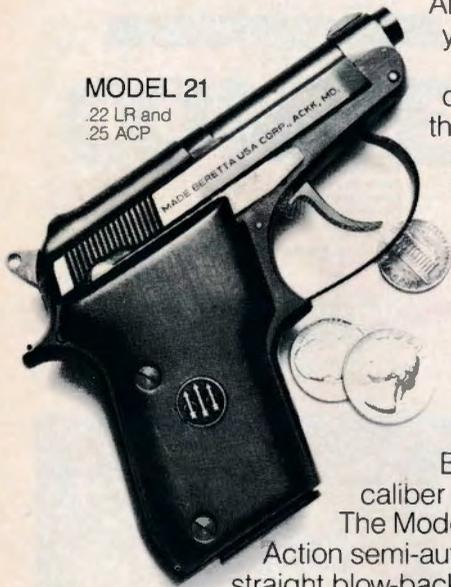
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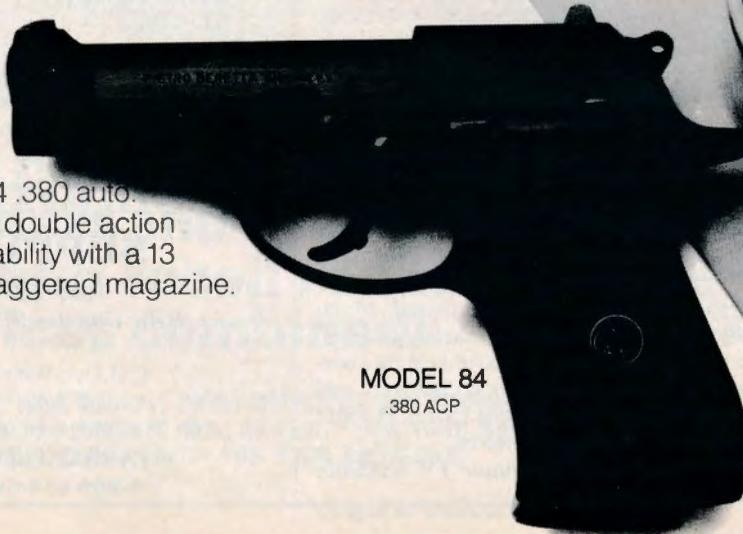
MODEL 950

.22S and
.25 ACP



MODEL 84

.380 ACP



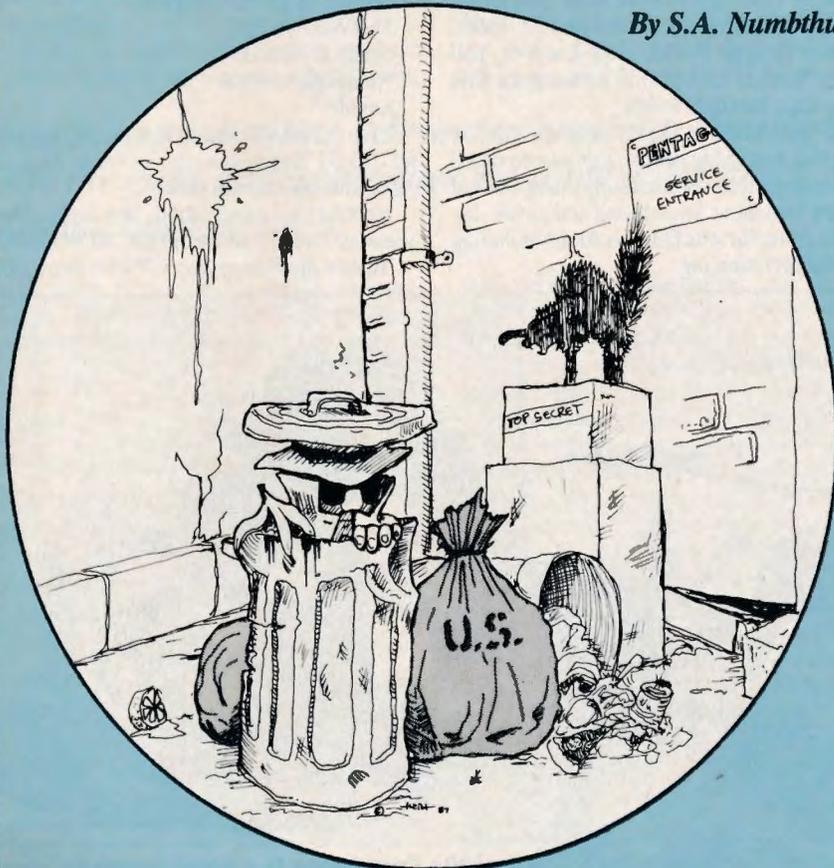
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THE NINE IS FINE

By S.A. Numbthumb



Investigative reporter S.A. Numbthumb goes undercover to discover the real reason why the Army dumped the .45 ACP.

In the mid-1860s the Forces of the Rebellion (CSA) had their Griswold and Gunnison .44 Colt Navy copies, the .44 Dragoon (Walker 3rd Model) horse pistol and the nifty Le Mat revolver that utilized a shotgun barrel for a cylinder hinge pin. The Union had Real Colts in .36 and .44 calibers and the strong .45 Remington revolver.

Colt's SA Army hit the scene in 1873 chambered for the new .45 Long Colt, S&W brought out the .45 Schofield and the military bought it, at the cost of a decrease in power, and shelved the .45 Long Colt.

Strangely, Czarist Russia thought it was the hot lick number, so they bought it in .44 Russian caliber.

The brilliance of the military mind was really dazzling when they dropped the .45 (anything!) in favor of the .38 Special, 'long about the time of the Spanish-American War. After all, look at the "fun" the army had against the Moros of Mindinao. The puny .38 did do one good thing—it proved the value of the bayonet in hand-to-hand combat.

So, for a short time, the .45 Long Colt got a reprieve. Then came the 1911 .45 ACP Colt automatic pistol in, strangely enough, 1911. Colt's .45 auto proved its worth in the War to End All Wars (WWI), the War to End All Wars: Part Two (WWII), the Police Action to End All Police Actions (Korea) and the Limited Warfare to End All Limited Warfare (Vietnam). The .45 ACP Colt had some fun down in the Falklands and engaged in other varieties of entertainment of the man-stopping kind in Grenada.

Never happy with success, the folks that brought you \$600.00 ashtrays and \$400.00 hammers now present the Beretta 92F in Nueva Mike Mike.

So I leafed through some dubious sources in order to discover For God's Sake WHY!

I found in a reference source (with a few pages left after it had lain next to the toilet for some time) named *Hooting Lines* an article by a chubby fellow extolling the virtues of the 9mm over another hack's defense of the .45 ACP.

Then I convinced my kitty to give up her favorite litter-material, *Buns and Wammo*, to read some foreigner's story about the Beretta. His closing remarks indicated a "secret

Continued on page 90

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By Ray Thatcher

Are handguns, calibers, and styles of competition being used in 1986 silhouette as appropriate to handgun hunting now as they were in 1975 when Metallic Handgun Silhouette began?

Oftentimes a shooting pastime, which begins as a practice game for hunting, goes astray and the purpose for the contest becomes lost in the spirit of competition. Precision shooting is required, but firearms and techniques are no longer practical.

Today we have two silhouette games that are of interest to handgun hunters: International Handgun Metallic Silhouette (IHMSA) and The National Rifle Association Hunter Pistol Course.

Without going into a lengthy discussion of these two games (regulations are available from IHMSA, Box 1509, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401, and The National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036) there are differences between each that apply directly to handgun hunters.

NRA competition, due to shooting distances of 100 meters and less, makes the use of maximum bullet weights and velocity/energies unnecessary. The use of optics is allowable, and in fact variable power rifle scopes are prevalent on competition handguns. Calibers such as .22 Winchester Magnum and .32-20 are widely used. Lack of recoil makes close eye relief unimportant.

NRA regulations also require that each competitor shoot from a standing position only. Artificial rests are not allowed.

IHMSA shooting distance is maximized at 200 meters, therefore calibers and loads approximate hunting velocities and energies. Many of these competitors tailor their reloads to each distance, but there are those who use full-blown hunting ammunition throughout the 40 round course.

IHMSA regulations forbid glass sights, but allow competitors to use any shooting position (standing, sitting, prone, or Creedmoor). Artificial rests are not allowed in this game as well.

In the early 1970s Lee Jurras conceived the idea of building long-range handgun competition to promote both handgun hunting and the Auto Mag pistol.

According to *The Gun Digest Book Of*

Metallic Silhouette Shooting by Elgin Gates, noted pistol champion Colonel Charles Askins was appointed director of what was to be called The First Annual Auto Mag Competition. Other notables such as J.D. Jones, the late George Nonte, Kent Lamont, and Harry Sanford took part in forming the first long-range handgun match.

George Nonte was probably the first to state that Auto Mag matches should be based on hunting-style competition, using animal shaped targets at known and unknown distances from various field positions including two-handed standing.

IHMSA matches held in Arizona where silhouette began.

Thompson/Center Arms Contender	19
Sturm, Ruger & Company	6
DanWesson .357	3
Smith & Wesson	3
Remington XP100	3
Seville	1

Five of the Contenders were chambered for .30-30 Winchester, ten in 7mm, three in .357, and one custom caliber.

Revolvers, other than the three Dan Wessons, were chambered for .44 Magnum. Two of the Remington XP 100s fired .308



The circus contortion act known as the Creedmore is a good stance for competition—the best, in fact—but totally impractical for hunting.

As shown in the Gates book, here is a list of handguns used in the First 1975 Tucson Long-Range Championships:

.357 Auto Mag	6
.44 Auto Mag	7
.41 Auto Mag	1
.44 S&W Model 29	12
.41 S&W Model 57	1
.357 Ruger	1
.44 Ruger	8
.357 Colt Python	7
.45 Colt ACP	1
.45 S&W Model 25	1
.44 T/C Contender	1

For comparison is a list of 35 handguns used by competitors in two recent (1985)

Winchester, and one 7mm.

It is interesting to note that better than one-half of the handguns were single-shot, and 19 of those were sending rifle bullets down-range.

The most prevalent type of handgun used in either NRA or IHMSA silhouette competition today is the single-shot. The Thompson/Center Arms Contender is seen on the firing line more than any other.

Are these single-shot handguns suitable for handgun hunting?

In a telephone interview with one of the originators of silhouette, J.D. Jones said, "The Contender is the most practical handgun available for hunting today. It is durable,



HANDGUN SILHOUETTE

relatively inexpensive in comparison to other handguns, and more accurate than a revolver. Most revolvers will not group better than 5 inches at 100 yards. That isn't good enough for hunting."

Listed are muzzle velocities and energies of factory ammunition as represented by fig-

Reloading ammunition is a must with competitors. Due to the number of rounds needed for daily practice and competition, many of them shoot hard-cast lead bullets. This is particularly true if their handgun uses one of the straight-walled cases such as the .357, .41, .44 Magnums or .45 Colt. Keith

and handguns sighted-in prior to hunting.

Each competitor felt that his involvement in silhouette competition made him a better shot. Constant, and in many cases, daily testing and practice, provides these steel shooters with thorough knowledge of their handgun/cartridge combination.

During the previously mentioned telephone discussion, J.D. Jones also said, "Silhouette develops good shots, but bad habits. In the field they take too long getting off their shots at game. Three seconds should be maximum. Dropping into the Creedmoor position in a waterhole is plain stupid, but has been done. Silhouette does not train handgun hunters."

Throughout the entire spectrum of handgun silhouette, the game, as it relates to hunting, is good training provided practicality is kept in mind. The Creedmoor position used by many IHMSA competitors is appropriate for the game, but not practical in the field.

Handgun hunters practice shooting from a two hand standing position. They use a rest if one is available.

Further telephone discussion prompted the silhouette pioneer to say, "Rather than silhouette, a handgun hunter would find more value in going out into an open field, choosing a rock at an unknown distance, and shoot-

Is silhouette shooting relevant to handgun hunting? Are the guns and techniques the same if the steel animal has hair on it?

ures taken from *The Contender Ballistics Chart* (10 shot averages—14" barrels) published by Thompson/Center Arms.

CALIBER	BULLET WEIGHT	MUZZLE VELOCITY	MUZZLE ENERGY
		F.P.S.	FT. LBS.
222 Remington	50gr.	2724	824
223 Remington	55gr.	2767	935
30-30 Winchester	150gr.	2128	1509
357 Rem	158gr.	1921	1295
Maximum			
35 Remington	200gr.	1745	1353
41 Mag	210gr.	1756	1438
44 Mag	180gr.	1926	1483
44 Mag	240gr.	1823	1771
45 Win Mag	230gr.	1529	1194

Compare these velocities and energies to those listed for revolvers, page 251, 1985 *Gun Digest*.

CALIBER	BULLET WEIGHT	MUZZLE VELOCITY	MUZZLE ENERGY
		F.P.S.	FT. LBS.
357 Mag	158gr.	1450	735
41 Mag	210gr.	1500	1050
44 Mag	180gr.	1610	1045
44 Mag	240gr.	1533	1253
45 Colt ACP	200gr.	1025	466
45 AR	230gr.	810	335
45 Win Mag	230gr.	1400	1001

Single-shot handguns, due to their longer barrels, absence of gas loss, and chamberings for rifle calibers have energy increases over other types of handguns. As hunting weapons they certainly fill the bill.

style bullets, for these calibers, are the most popular type used by competitors for both hunting and competition.

Do silhouette competitors use their handguns for hunting?

At each match I made it a point to seek out shooters who use their competition guns in the field. I heard recounts of varmint hunts. Antelope, deer, and elk hunting. In each and every case, when describing a successful hunt, the *stalk* was emphasized as being of the utmost importance. Most game taken resulted from one-shot kills at distances of less than 100 meters. I heard about longer shots passed up even though horns could be seen through scoped handguns.



This SSK Handcannon in .45/70 with a scope is a superb hunting handgun, but the chambering is illegal in NRA silhouette and the scope is banned in IHMSA. Lesson: leave your hunting handguns at home when you go ram-busting.

These handgun hunters/silhouette competitors have learned that even though their chosen calibers have sufficient energy to topple heavy steel rams at 200 meters, and undoubtedly would take medium game at long-range, they opt to close the distance for more positive and humane kills. If the probability existed that because of distance an animal would be wounded and lost, the shot was passed up.

The majority of handgun hunters use optics even though IHMSA bans glass sights. A variety of open and receiver sights are used during competition, but scopes are installed

ing at it within the three second limit. That practice would relate more to the real world."

Handgun silhouette competition, no matter whether it is NRA or IHMSA sanctioned, is only a shooting pastime. From that aspect it has value to the shooting sports. It is an avenue which can be used to achieve the ultimate when shooting steel at known distances with a particular weapon.

Some calibers used in competition are appropriate for hunting if you tailor your energy/bullet combination to the size and type of game being hunted.



and HUNTING

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from Kirkpatrick

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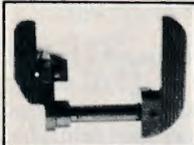
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TEST REPORT

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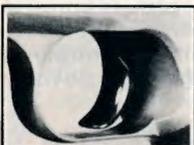
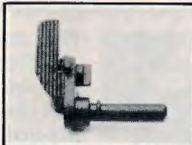
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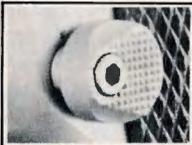
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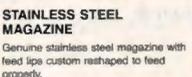
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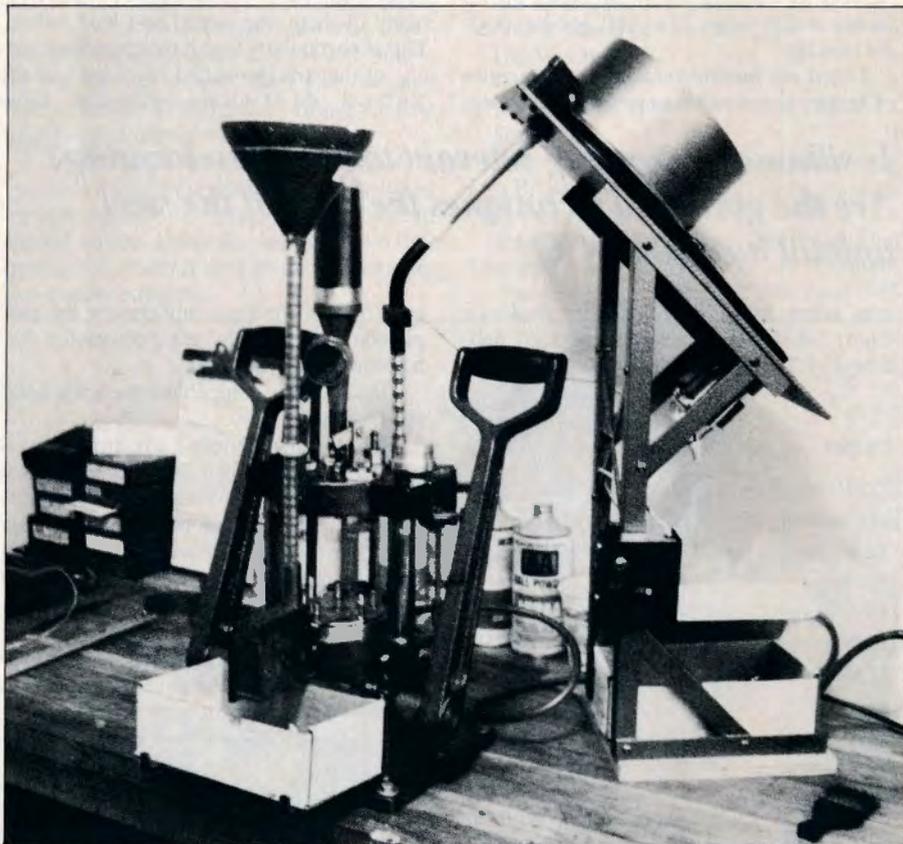
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The Tool with bullet feeder contraption (right) cranks em out!

THE TOOL

By Dan Cotterman

Dave Pickens, president of R.D.P. Tool Co., Inc., in East Liverpool, Ohio, wears a blue cap with bold white letters that spell out **The Tool**. The title suggests exclusivity as if **The Tool**, a hand-operated mechanism that produces reloaded ammo almost as fast as a rapid-fire autoloader spits out empties, stands above the competition. I'm inclined to go along with that, because in all the years I've spent testing reloading tools, I've never worked with anything quite like **The Tool**, formally cataloged as the R.D.P. Model 1500.

The usual run of progressive reloading machinery for home use boasts a production rate of 300 to 400 rounds per hour. From the outset—that is when a green handloader first operates the handle of **The Tool**—it is possible to double or triple that rate. Begin with, say, 1000 to 1200 rounds per hour then, after you've developed a feel for the mechanism and its functions, you'll be able to swing the handle up and down at a tempo that will turn out as many as 2000 rounds per hour, or 50 rounds in 90 seconds. This is the production rate for handgun ammo when **The Tool** is equipped with R.D.P.'s collator, an automatic bullet-feed option that's electronically adjustable to match the rate at which you choose to reload. Similar rates apply to the loading of small, bottle-necked rounds such as the .223,

while larger rounds such as the .30-'06 and .308 can be loaded at the rate of 800 to 900 rounds per hour.

All this, of course, is based on the assumption that you have a need—commercial or recreational—to produce substantial quantities of ammo within limited periods of time. I was satisfied, at first, with just moving the handle up and down and watching this fascinating 100-pound agglomerate of machined tool-steel parts—animated, as it were, by electrically-powered feed mechanisms—do its thing.

Each up/down phase of handle movement, rapid or slow, caused a reloaded .45 ACP cartridge to topple into a cardboard box. Every step of the handloading process, including placing cases and bullets in line for sizing, decapping, recapping, charging, seating, and crimping, had been completed automatically.

Here's a slow-motion rundown of the action. On the downstroke, the platen, with its five-station shellholder plate, rises between two massive guide columns. As this movement is completed, cases in stations two through five are simultaneously resized-decapped, belled-charged, bulletted, and crimped.

Bullet seating and crimping are effected

Continued on page 84

Left handers, and shooters in particular, are a disenfranchised bunch of people. There are only a few firearms made especially for left handers, and until the Randall Left Hand models came out, there were no handguns made especially for left handers. I have shot in IPSC competition with a left handed Randall since they were first introduced, and while it is true

FALCON portsider

By Bob Salpas

that it is possible to make a 1911A1 pistol ambidextrous in operation, it just isn't the same as having a pistol that suits you as a person, and left handers do take it personally.

When Randall Firearms introduced their left handed line of 45 ACP's in the last half of 1984, they were eagerly received by left handed shooters and collectors alike. The demise of Randall Firearms in 1985 left a feeling of sadness among those shooters who appreciated the unique and well made pistols. Fewer than 800 of the Service Model sized pistols were produced during their short production life, and they were literally sold before they were made.

For those shooters who didn't get a chance to purchase a Randall left handed pistol, there is now hope.

Dennis Lau, the former manager of Randall Firearms, brought a lot of the people from Randall with him when he formed Falcon Firearms, and they are now producing limited production runs of a new left handed pistol, the Falcon Portsider.

The Portsider, like its predecessor from Randall, is a virtual mirror image of the venerable 1911A1. All of its controls are on the opposite side than that which we are used to seeing on the standard right handed models. It is identical in most respects to

the Randall Left Hand model, and all of the parts are interchangeable. This should be good news for those shooters who own the discontinued Randall Left Hand pistol.

The test pistol came in the same configuration that it will be sold in, and is an amazingly complete package. It comes standard with combat style fixed sights, long trigger (adjustable for overtravel), combat style ring hammer, wide grip safety, extended thumb safety (left handed), extended ejector, and an enlarged ejection port. The barrel has a 1:16 twist, with 10 lands and grooves, and is ramped and throated to feed wadcutter ammo. A quick check through *Shotgun News* shows the cost of these features, if they were purchased in addition to the pistol, would be over \$50 for the parts alone, not including the cost of fitting, enlarging the ejection port, or ramping and throating the barrel. This provides a lot of value for the money.

one would expect to find in one of the 1911A1 lookalikes, except that most of them were backwards from what one would be used to. There is a short recoil spring guide in this pistol, which is the only difference from the older Randall pistol.

Besides looking good, the pistol is also well made. All the parts were well finished, with few tool marks in evidence. The action was a little stiff at first, as might be expected with a brand new pistol, but it is already starting to smooth itself out nicely after firing a few hundred rounds through it. The trigger breaks at five pounds with a little bit of creep. This is as good as you will find in a production gun anymore. A little trigger work, and the gun would turn into a first class performer. In fact, the trigger would be the only work needed at all on this pistol if a shooter wanted to compete with a stock type gun with a five inch barrel. All of the other modifications that are usually performed on this type of pistol are already

stainless steel with a welded base, and a rounded follower. The outside of the magazine is polished to a high finish, and it inserted and ejected from the gun smoothly and without a snag of any kind.

Test firing the pistol proved that it functioned flawlessly. Several hundred rounds of different types of ammo were fired through the pistol without one stoppage or failure of any kind. It handled roundnose, semi-wadcutters, and hollowpoint ammo with ease, even when they were mixed together in the magazine. All types of ammo fed easily, and the empty cases were thrown into the same general area well off to the left of the gun.

Accuracy tests showed the Portsider would put most types of ammo into very satisfactory groups. Most groups averaged from two to three-and-a-half inches at 25 yards, with the exception of some handloads made up from some old cases with assorted headstamps



The Randall Left Hand model is back as the Falcon Portsider, a mirror image of the 1911A1.

The pistol is made of 17-4 stainless steel, and is quite attractive. It has a brushed satin finish on the flat sides, and a non-reflective bead blasted matte finish on the top and bottom of the slide and frame, and on the front and back of the grip area. It comes with checkered wooden grips.

Field stripping the pistol is accomplished in the normal manner for a 1911A1 type pistol, and revealed only the usual parts

done.

The magazines for the pistol are left handed, and while it may be possible to cut a new slot on the other side of a right handed mag to engage the magazine catch, it is doubtful that it would work in this pistol, because the cutout on the lip of the magazine is on the other side than it is on in a right handed magazine. The magazines have the standard seven round capacity, and are made from a tube of 17-7

which, not unexpectedly, spread the groups out to five inches.

All in all the test pistol proved to be a well made gun with function and accuracy equal to some of the best in a gun right out of the box. The suggested retail price of the Portsider is \$580. The best part is that it is left handed, and it is about time someone is thinking about us again.



FORMING

WILDCAT CASES

The 7mm BR cartridge has an enviable reputation and, wouldn't you know it, just as I really got into making these wildcat cases, Remington announced that I wouldn't have to do it anymore. They now offer factory formed brass and remove the cartridge, at least one step, from the wildcat category. Still, the principles used in forming 7mm BR cases are applicable to most other wildcat cartridges.

Wildcatting is a time honored and growing pastime. I doubt if there is a serious reloader who doesn't harbor a dream of having a cartridge named after himself. Some wildcats have reached the pinnacle and become factory rounds. Witness the 22 Varminter now known as the 22-250.

Wildcatting has knocked around the handgun scene from Steve Herrett's .30 and .357 Herretts to J. D. Jones' monster .375 JDJ among others. Even as I write this I imagine there are reloaders busily necking up, necking down, or changing shoulder angles in the hopes of discovering a new ultimate in power and accuracy.

There are two prerequisites for anyone considering forming wildcat cases, whether they be handgun or rifle: an adequate press and proper dies. The press chosen for this effort is Redding's new Ultra Mag that is designed for heavy use. Anyone considering anything other than the simplest case forming would do well to look at it. The compound linkage creates enormous leverage and makes moving radical amounts of brass effortless. Dies also come from Redding.

The 7mm BR is a .308 case necked to 7mm and with a small primer pocket. It is so simple one wonders why no one thought of it sooner—namely, the use of small rifle primers in cases that normally use larger ones.

The result is, in effect, a more efficient use of the powder space with higher and more uniform velocities and improved accuracy. The small primer ignites less of the powder initially and allows larger powder charges without dangerous pressure.

By Charles E. Petty

While the cases *could* be formed from any .308 brass, the advantage of the small primer would be lost and loading data is not interchangeable. Pressures could be dangerously high due to the more rapid ignition of the large primer, and the significantly reduced case capacity caused by the thicker brass, particularly if surplus military cases are used. They should be avoided.

Depending upon the cartridge, form dies may do their work in one or more steps. In the case of the 7mm BR there are two, for there is a lot of reshaping to be done. Case lubrication is vitally important for either too much or too little can cause problems. Any of the commercially available lubricants seem to work well, but I prefer to apply the lube by hand rather than using a lube pad. A tiny dab on a fingertip is enough and rotating the case between two fingers evenly distributes the lube.

the die and cut off. If a great deal of brass must be removed it is expedient to use a hacksaw for the first step and then finish the job with an appropriate file. It is often difficult to cut cases with a hacksaw for the blade may tend to tear rather than cut the brass. A simple solution is to grind the set off one side of the hacksaw blade and cut with that side next to the die. Tearing is minimized and greatly reduces the number of cases lost in the forming process.

Any case that has been radically reformed will almost surely be thicker at the neck and many require an inside neck ream to complete the forming process. If this isn't done there is a real chance that the thick neck will lead to astronomical pressure and more than one gun has been wrecked this way. The problem with reaming is that the inside neck must be perfectly parallel and of uniform thickness. If it isn't, accuracy is likely to be lousy. Redding uses a long die to support and guide the reamer and both are truly precision pieces. With the reamer properly lubricated, the fit is so close that the reamer will not fall through the die. The actual reaming is accomplished using a T-handle. A relatively small amount of brass is removed in this step, but it goes much easier if the reamer is kept clean and lubricated. This can be done with a brush, but a source of compressed air

helps, particularly since most of the brass shavings end up in the bottom of the case and must be removed. It is also a good idea to remove any oily residue that might cause problems in loading. A squirt of Gun Scrubber or similar cleaner will insure a clean, dry case.

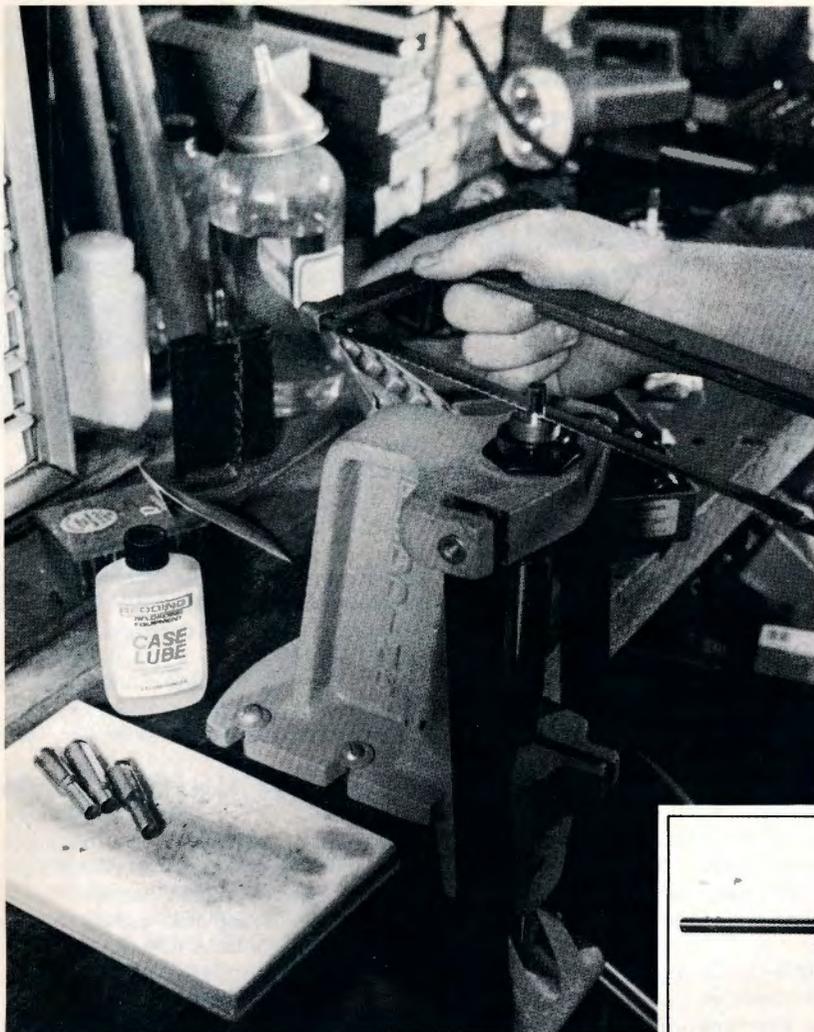
Chamfering the inside and outside of the case mouth completes the forming. Loading is then accomplished with a standard two die set.

Any case that has had the shoulder moved or reshaped will have to be fireformed in the



The birth of a wildcat: (L to R) unformed .308 case; after first form die; after second form die; after trimming; after fire forming; finished wildcat round.

Case trimming is often required and most die sets include a specially hardened trim die to make this chore easier. Trim dies are usually short and often require the use of an extended shellholder to achieve proper depth. The case is simply run all the way into



Trimming wildcat cases can be a pain in the palm with a conventional case trimmer. A hacksaw, properly adjusted as the author describes, is better.

gun. Loads for this purpose should be chosen from the lower end of the range given in the loading manual and one should not have great accuracy expectations from fireform loads. Once the cases have been fireformed, the normal process of load development can be used by working up gradually.

Taking the 7mmBR as an example, the author guides you through the steps of making wildcat brass.

What had begun as something of an academic exercise turned into a lot of fun and broadened my shooting and reloading horizons considerably. The most important thing I learned was that there is no need to fear the process of case forming. The 7mm BR is among the most complicated of wildcat cases to form. Most are easier and, even though it takes some time to make a supply of cases, the result of all that work is more than worthwhile.



REMINGTON INTRODUCES 7mm BR FORMED CASES

Remington now offers 7mm Bench Rest cases ready to be reloaded. No more complicated forming! Originally, Remington only made 7mm BR brass that had to be formed as the accompanying article explains.

The 7mm BR is one of three, in 22, 6mm and 7mm calibers, generated from the well-known Remington Bench Rest case. This is a straight, untapered, .308 case with thinner walls specially annealed for case forming and pierced to accept small rifle primers.

The 7mm BR case is produced by shortening case length to 1.520 inches, pushing back the shoulder and increasing the shoulder angle to 30°. The original Remington BR case was introduced in 1978 as a result of the discovery by bench rest competitors that superior accuracy potential existed in cartridges of relatively short length in relation to their diameter.

Experimentation with cartridges of this

type indicated that a shorter, thicker column of powder behind a sharp case shoulder, ignited by the less violent flash of a small rifle primer, provides more uniform ignition and powder burning.

Chambered in the Remington XP-100 Silhouette Pistol, the 7mm BR combines the accuracy potential of the BR case with the 7mm caliber's well-known ballistic

efficiency to create optimum accuracy, velocity and bullet weight for hitting and knocking down metallic silhouette targets.

When loaded with suitable bullets, the 7mm Remington BR cartridge is also proven to be an excellent choice for small and medium game hunting.



HANDGUN HUNTING

J.D. JONES

RUNNING ANIMALS ARE TOUGH TARGETS, BUT HERE'S HOW TO HIT MOVING GAME

It's awfully hard to tell someone how to hit a moving target whether it's a bird, a plane or Superman. When it gets down to hitting a moving animal, all of the extraneous factors involved make it really tough.

While you may think some of what is going to follow is just an old fart reminiscing, it still has an application in learning how to shoot running game.

There were quite a few cottontails in the area of Illinois I grew up in and I started working on them at an early age with a BB gun. Maybe BB guns were stronger then than now—at least they seemed to be, but occasionally a cottontail got unlucky and ended up on the table.

Running rabbits were a different matter. Dragonflies flying above the water on the pond were interesting targets and the BB splash in the water showed where the shot was going. I soon found out that the stories of how much to "lead" a target were wrong.

At age 11 I was shooting an old M-52 Winchester with a military-type folding peep sight. A 30 acre soy bean field had been combined and it seemed every rabbit in the county moved into it. Back then .22's were a lot cheaper than shotgun shells and I could see every shot hit. I soon found holding the sight just about where I wanted to hit a running rabbit, swinging with him and squeezing the trigger without stopping produced the most dead rabbits.

That's how I still shoot moving game with

a pistol and it works for me. Some of you mathematical geniuses out there can figure out how far a rabbit moving at 20 m.p.h. at a 90° angle from the gun travels while a .22 LR bullet covers 30 yards. I'm too lazy to figure it, but it isn't enough to require any lead. The same goes for a running deer if the range is short enough to shoot at the animal. The T/C, in particular, is capable of a superb trigger pull and that makes shooting running game a lot simpler. A good crisp trigger without much take-up is a big help in hitting running targets.

The best way to gain expertise in shooting at moving objects, in my opinion, is to use a T/C with a well-adjusted trigger and a low power scope. Find something moving at a constant speed, track it with the crosshairs as you squeeze the trigger gently and pay particular attention to exactly where the crosshair was when the trigger broke. If you stop your swing before pulling the trigger, you will shoot far behind the target—and you should be able to see it. You must keep the gun moving.

I might suggest using a tire rolling down an old deserted road as a good way to start. With a little practice you will be able to hold not just on the tire but the center or the edge as you wish.

I find I'm much more accurate using any rest I can find if the range is a little long. At short range it's simply a fast offhand snap shot, barely aimed but aimed nonetheless.



Blackie Sleeva rolled this blackbuck running at 55 yards.

Practice this drill until you are comfortable with it. At that point you are ready to try it with live ammo on the tire. Rabbits are great targets to break-in on if you have both an area where there are a lot of them and where it is safe to shoot at them.

I'm not saying shooting running game is right for everyone. Sometimes it isn't right for me. If I'm not confident of the shot, I just don't shoot.

Blackie Sleeva made a terrific shot on a running blackbuck in Texas last February. Couldn't have been better. The blackbuck was running broadside at what turned out to be 55 steps. He was going flat out which is very fast and Blackie dead centered him in the shoulder. I got lucky with the camcorder and got decent film of it which I understand is going to be in the Pachmayr film on handgun hunting titled *Handgun Hunting With Hal Swiggett*. It should be out by the time you read this and it will be reviewed when I see the finished product.

Don't even think of using the above method with shooting a shotgun on birds—it simply won't work.



The fleet-footed blackbuck is one of the fastest antelopes and a challenge to any handgun hunter.

The AYOOB Files

By Massad Ayoob

DONUTS AND DANGER: THE COLONIE INCIDENT

Situation: Trouble brews like the coffee in the donut shop. Family spat, or homicidal boil-over?

Lesson: Sometimes you cannot fire; sometimes you must. Sometimes a killer leaves you no choice.

It was nearly 2 a.m. in Colonie, New York. The million people who pass through this suburb of Albany on a given day have pretty much gone home, and most of the 100,000 or so residential population is in bed. Not so the "A-line," or midnight, shift of the Colonie Police Department.

Owen Burns, 28, and Ed Sim, 27, had been making good use of their radar. Ed was breaking Owen in on the special Traffic Safety Unit enforcement team. They worked together well: friends since long before they applied to become cops, they had gone on the job at almost the same time and even wore consecutively-numbered badges. The night was chilly—October 11, 1984—and they were overdue for a coffee break when they pulled into the Dunkin' Donuts on Route 9. They were at the counter when the portable radio announced that a man named James Burns (no relation to the officer) had allegedly kidnapped his estranged wife from nearby Niskayuna. They memorized the description and plate number of the alleged fugitive vehicle, a white-over-blue '78 Plymouth four-door. Their ears perked up when the radio told them to consider it a possible hostage situation with, possibly, firearms involved.

Minutes later, the coffee was gone and they were back in the patrol car. Only minutes after they resumed patrol, another car slid into the parking lot of Dunkin' Donuts, a blue '78 Plymouth with white roof.

In only a few more minutes, the agitated couple in the front seat of the Plymouth had aroused suspicions inside the 24-hour coffee shop, and someone had called in. The description of the vehicle and its occupants clicked instantly. Sim and Burns were dispatched to the scene.

As they raced to the location, siren off, they discussed their plan of action. With two years on the job apiece, both had learned that kidnapping calls aren't always what they seem, particularly when an estranged couple is involved. "Beloved daughter decides to leave mom and dad's house to talk over the impending divorce with despised hubby, and mom and dad report her kidnapped." That sort of thing. Yet both had also been trained enough and seasoned enough to know that this was a heavy danger call.

As soon as they wheeled into the parking lot, they saw the Plymouth, its grille a few yards from the blank side wall of the restaurant. Burns slid out from under the wheel, Sim out of the right

front passenger seat as soon as they had come to a stop, behind the Plymouth with the cruiser angled to the side for cover. They had already drawn their service revolvers, department issue Smith & Wesson 4" model 681 stainlesses with Pachmayr Grippers, from their uniform S&W Security Plus holsters.

"Police! Driver, place your hands on the dashboard!"

The chill of the night air had combined with the body heat of the excited passengers to condense a film of dew on the car's back window. But the officers could see the woman in the middle of the front seat suddenly shoved away, saw the movement of the driver's hands and the warning flash of the backup lights as he threw the car in "Drive."

The suspect's flight was short-lived, however. He had no sooner stomped on the accelerator than he realized he couldn't escape without ramming the building. He pounded the brake, stopping the Plymouth dead after its single, jerking lunge.

And then, the nightmare began.

Burns moved quickly toward the driver's door from the left flank, Sim coming in from a more sideways angle from the right. Suddenly, the right front door was flung open, and a middle-aged woman rushed from the car, screaming hysterically and incoherently. Sim didn't have to make out the words to know that it was going to be bad.

And then, he saw the driver reach down under the front seat and saw the fist come up holding the revolver, pointing at him.

Sim's first thought was to shoot first. He *couldn't*—the woman was between him and the suspect. She was in the officer's line of fire, and both she and the officer were in line with the suspect's gun. There was one chance left.

As the woman reached him, Sim grabbed her with his left hand and spun her around, his body now between her and the suspect's gun. She was also between his own gun and the suspect, so he couldn't fire, but he could at least get her clear. Ed Sim tried to throw her to the ground, out of the line of the suspect's gun barrel.

He almost made it.

As he spun the woman clear, he saw almost in slow motion the puff and the flash at the muzzle of the revolver, and the spray of glass that exploded from the right side window. Then the bullet hit him.

Continued on page 69

The Bianchi Cup! Born of a dream to make handgunning a professional sport, parented by holster magnate John Bianchi and World IPSC Champ Ray Chapman, and known as "the Wimbledon of Pistol Shooting" ever since a Columbia Journalism School grad called it that and the name stuck, this tournament has been a touchstone of skill in both speed and marksmanship, of grace under pressure in both victory and defeat.

As the Ninth Bianchi Cup unfolded in the unseasonable heat of the Chapman range in Columbia, Mo., all those elements were pre-

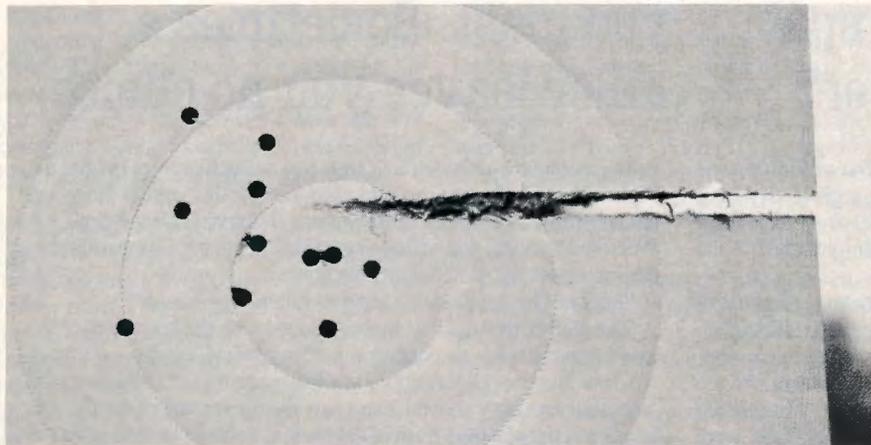
BIANCHI CUP IX

By Massad Ayoob

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

sent. So were the two basic ingredients every couch potato knows are essential to exciting sports: "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

The victory went beyond the competitors this year, and to the Cup itself. The most famous of the professional handgun tournaments rose Phoenix-like from the ashes



The hydraulic turning targets are, literally, faster than a speeding bullet. The tear is from a bullet fired before the target turned. While the bullet was in mid-flight, the target turned edgeways and this is the result. The rip does not score, it's a miss.

where it had lain moribund since the record-low turnout of 1986. NRA officials, who had taken over the Cup a few years before, were trying to run it like just another national championship, not realizing that the demanding handgunners who shot the Cup had become used to the big-dollar, first-cabin operation that John Bianchi and Richard Nichols and associates had made it since its genesis.

NRA bigwigs looked at the dismal '86 competitor count and thought the Cup was dying and should be put out of its misery. They gave it one more year to prove itself. In a real sense, the time between Cup VIII and Cup IX was not just the tempering and practice period between tournaments that it previously had been.

This time, it was a deathwatch.

But inside NRA, there were doctors of the shooting game who desperately wanted the patient to survive, and knew the right treatment. Men like Nichols and Bianchi and Chapman, like pro shooter Bill Rogers who had become the "competitors liaison" with the Action Shooting Committee in Washington. And, perhaps above all, Jim Davis of the NRA Competitions office.

All those other men had been on the professional and commercial side of the Cup and other events on the pro tour for years. They knew how to put a class act together. Davis was largely restricted by the bureaucracy of the NRA and its Camp Perry mentality, sport for sport's sake instead of sport as a pro-am money game. To his enormous credit, Davis saw what was happening, listened to the others, and knew it would have to be handled differently if the Cup was to survive.

It must have taken enormous persuasion, but in the aftermath of Cup VIII, Davis was able to convince NRA to alter its usual, written-in-stone budget and planning procedure and begin preparations for Cup Nine during the third quarter of '86. By contrast, the Bianchi people had usually begun planning for the succeeding Cup the day after the current one, while NRA's mechanisms don't fully grind into gear until the first quarter of the year of the given tournament.

In addition, NRA gave Davis *carte blanche* to publicize the event to the grassroots shooters, tying it in with the growing Action Shooting program at local and regional levels. This had sprung largely from Cup shooters bringing their game home to where they lived, after a heartfelt exhortation by NRA's Jim Reinke and Bill Jordan at the '85 Cup. By September of '86, the New Hampshire State Action Shooting Championships hosted by the Pioneer Sportsmen Club in Dunbarton, with a piddling \$5,000 in prizes compared to the \$160,000 pot that had become traditional at Bianchi, had drawn more registered shooters than the Bianchi Cup itself.

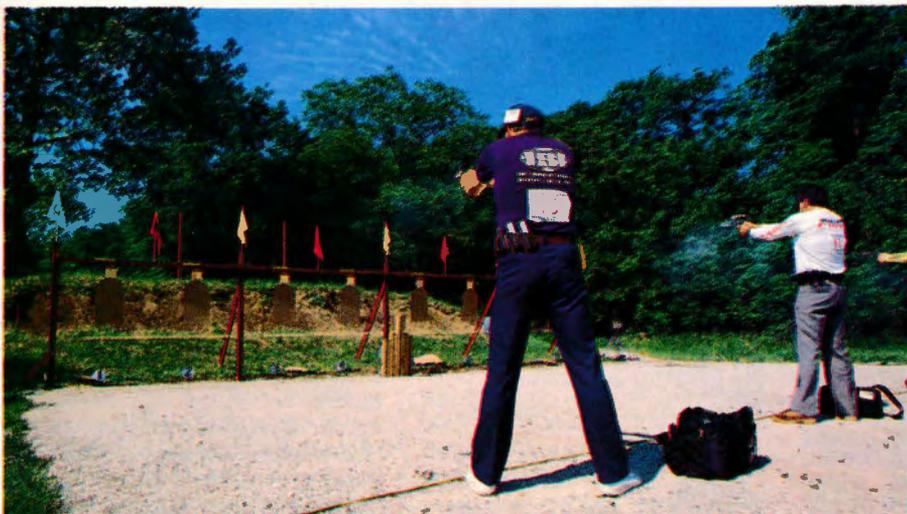
Such grassroots shooters learned from NRA that they no longer had to be among the "200 best shooters in the free world" to successfully compete. Before, it had been a win-

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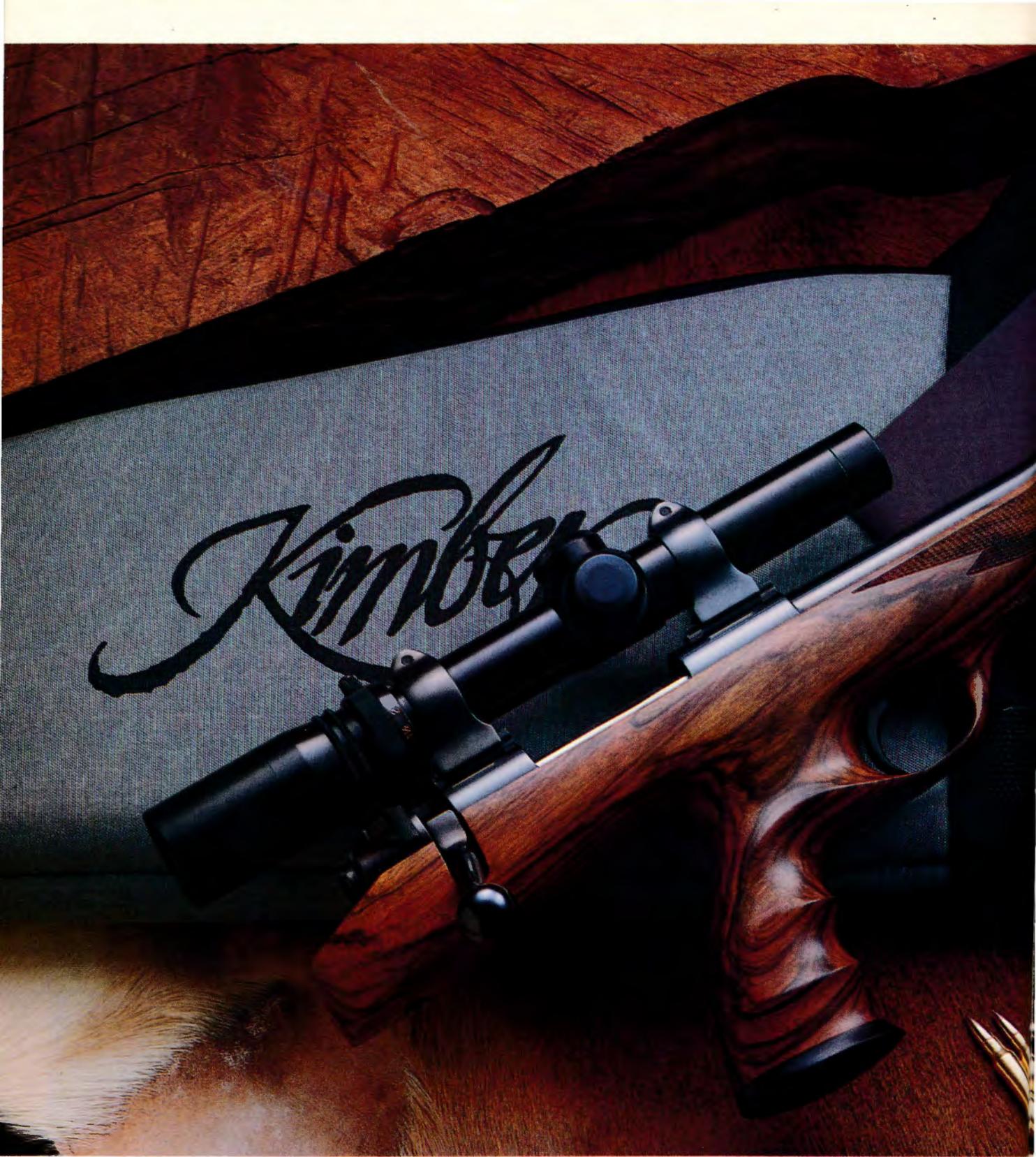
Officer John Pride of the LAPD is the Bianchi Cop! This policeman captured The Cup with a fairly stock .38 Special, beating the top professional shooters!



The gun blurs as Tommy Campbell (left) slaps leather. Mike Dalton and John Pride (above) shoot the Practical Event.



Roberta Geer has some, er, nice equipment. That's an Aimpointed .38 Super Colt.



the PREDATOR

Long the darling of classic rifle lovers, Kimber now courts the handgunner with a new single-shot pistol.

*By Charles E. Petty
Photos by Ichiro Nagata*

American handgunners may not be too familiar with the Kimber name for the company has acquired its enviable reputation for quality,

classic firearms entirely in the long gun trade. There they have built upon the foundation of a single .22 caliber rifle, introduced only eight years ago, to a line that now includes everything from .22 rim-fire to .375 H&H Magnum.

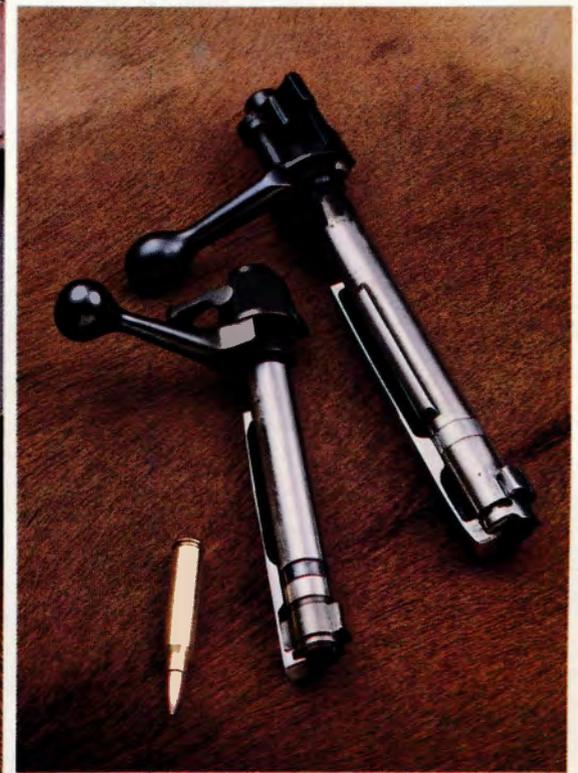
Even though the company is young by American standards, they have a lot of history and experience to draw upon. Jack Warne began in 1947 by forming Sporting Arms



candidly told me that their new pistol, the Predator, began as a fun project, mainly at the insistence of George Petersen of Western Gunstock Products who has long made classy stocks for the Remington XP-100 and now produces the elegant wood that graces the Predator.

The Predator is a logical application for their Model 84 action which was designed a few years ago for the popular .223 Remington and the host of cartridges that use the same base diameter. It was not something Warne took seriously at first and he freely admits that, "It is not our bread and butter." One reason for this is that the gun's price of \$1195 for the Super Grade (\$995 for the Hunter model) is definitely not for everyone.

The new offering, as the name implies, is intended for handgun hunting of varmints although it will



do nicely for long range silhouette as well. All currently available chamberings are based on the .223 Remington case and include the 6mm and 7mm TCU series as well as the .221 fireball, 6 x 45 and .17 Mach IV. While I'm sure plenty of deer-sized animals have been taken with the .223, it would be illegal in many states and the gun is not intended for anything other than varmint or target shooting.

When one builds a pistol on a rifle action, terms get a little confusing, for an action from a right-handed rifle makes a dandy

Ltd. in Australia to produce sporter barrels for the vast quantities of surplus military rifles being gobbled up in the wake of the Second World War. In 1949 they manufactured their first .22 rifle and the Kimber rifles are directly descended from this early gun. The Warne family came to this country in 1969 and Jack went on to become president and CEO of Omark Industries.

Then, in 1979, son Greg formed Kimber and the first rifle was shipped early in 1980. So when they decided to embark on a single shot pistol in 1987, they really didn't venture far afield from their body of experience. In fact, all of the skills used in making rifles are equally applicable. The only differences are that the barrel is a little shorter and the stock doesn't quite reach the shoulder. Warne

Isn't that just the cutest little Mauser action? The big one (above right) is an M-98 Mauser .30-06 bolt while the petite one is Kimber's bolt for the .223.

left-handed pistol. That really isn't a problem for Kimber since they already make a left-handed version of the Model 84 rifle so the customer can get it either way. There will also be slight differences in the grip portion of the stock to accommodate both left- and right-handed shooters. Since the gun is a single shot, a safety may not be something everyone uses, but the Model 84 three position safety is the best choice, for it allows the bolt to be opened while the safety is on. For field use, this is a big plus.

When I saw the first models at the SHOT Show last January my first reaction was, "cute." I still think that applies for the neat, mini-Mausers action, sparkling blue and handsome walnut stock combine to make a very attractive package. At the heart is the dainty little Mauser action which has a solid bottom for more rigidity. The trigger is adjust-



The Predator shoots better than some rifles . . . with factory ammunition consistently under an inch at 100 yards.

able and the linkage entirely steel. Trigger pull on the test gun is a crisp two pounds and I found no need to mess with it.

Petersen's stock is adorned with ebony forend and grip caps and hand checkered in a traditional 24 lpi borderless pattern on the forend. There is no checkering on the grip portion, but it is so well shaped anatomically that there is little slippage. Wood to metal fit is exceptionally good and it's almost impossible to see any gaps between the two.

One criticism leveled is the fact that the trigger guard is a part of the stock. That means it's wood, and critics fear that it will be fragile if dropped. I mentioned this to Warne and he replied that they had already heard this comment and he believes that it would take a freak accident to result in damage to the trigger guard. He pointed out that the weight distribution is such that the gun would likely fall on the muzzle or grip if someone were careless enough to drop it.

Given the size and weight, it is definitely not a one-hand gun and, when fired with sandbags or a Harris bipod, it shoots like a rifle anyhow. In fact, it shoots better than some rifles. Accuracy testing became a real challenge of load

development after a few preliminary groups with factory ammunition consistently fell under an inch at 100 yards. It was logical that if it shot that well with factory ammo, it would shoot even better with some carefully tailored handloads. It did too.

Best accuracy was obtained with

tions that will do as well or better. Besides, I suspect most potential owners will be handloaders and would prefer to do their own testing anyhow. The most important thing is that the accuracy potential is there.

Some of the loads I tried churned



If Kimber had put the bolt handle on the other side, a right-handed shooter could retain his grip while operating the bolt with his left hand.

the Sierra 53 grain hollowpoint and Winchester 748 powder. One group had four shots that nestled into only $\frac{3}{8}$ " , but the fifth shot opened things up to $\frac{1}{2}$ " . This was by far the best and the majority of the loads I tried were in the $\frac{3}{4}$ " range.

Other good performers were Accurate Arms 2230 and IMR 4895. Deadline pressure prevented me from doing exhaustive tests to find other reloads, but I'm sure there are other powder/bullet combina-

up well over 3000 fps from the 15 inch barrel, but I found best accuracy to be with ammo loaded between 2600 and 2800 fps. Muzzle flash and blast can be awesome at maximum charges and there was an added attraction to holding things down just a little, for the milder loads didn't tend to blow objects off the bench. Recoil is not a problem for the weight of the gun is 4½ pounds plus the scope and mounts.

Continued on page 88

Freedom Arms

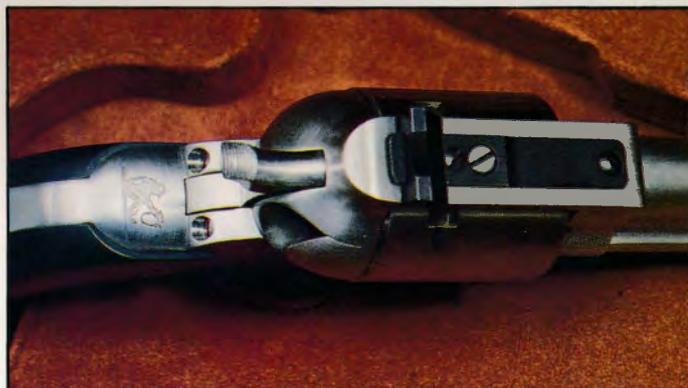
K·E·L·L·Y Commemorative



Three Signature Editions featuring the .454 Casull revolver pay tribute to the accomplishments of the world's greatest handgun hunter, Larry Kelly.

Larry Kelly, the founder of Mag-Na-Port International, is the most accomplished handgun hunter in the world. The first to take Africa's Big Five with a handgun, Kelly has hunted throughout the world with handguns. He instituted the *Handgun Hunters Hall of Fame* and the *Handgun Hunters Museum*.

In his article in this issue, *Handgun Safari*, Kelly takes us with him to share an exciting hunt. Together we travel to darkest Zambia and face a charging lion. Kelly takes us behind the gun and gives us a feeling for what it's like to stop the awesome King of Beasts with one well-placed shot from a handgun, a handgun honoring this great hunter and dedicated conservationist. The handgun is the Larry Kelly Signature Edition of the .454 Casull.



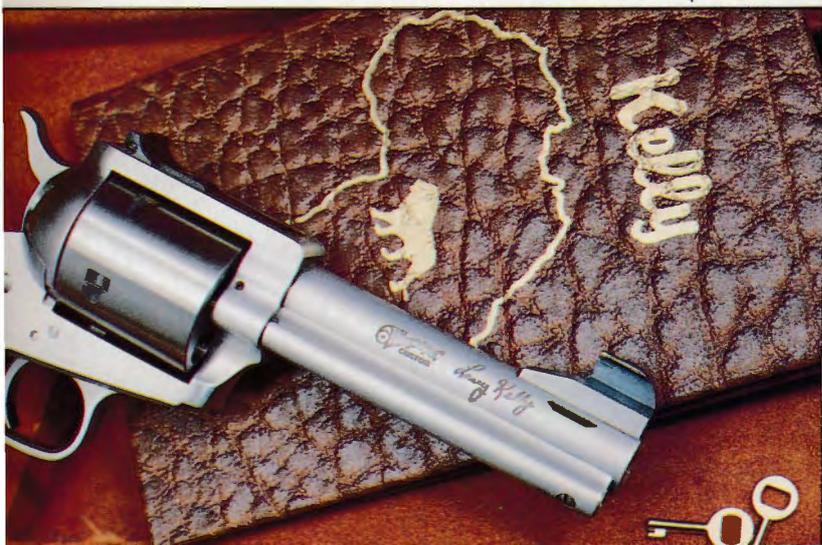
CUSTOM FEATURES

.454 Casull, 8³/₈" bbl., scoped \$1,975
.454 Casull, 4³/₄" bbl., iron sights . . . \$1,785
Matched Pair of the above \$3,590

Each of the Signature Edition Kelly Commemoratives feature:

- Custom solid walnut presentation case
- Leather-bound book highlighting Kelly's hunting accomplishments
- Handgun Hunter Hall of Fame logo on backstrap
- Mag-Na-Port barrel venting
- Special serial numbers
- Deluxe action job
- Larry Kelly's signature laser etched

Five percent of the proceeds from the sales are being donated to the *Handgun Hunters Hall of Fame*.





This was my ninth safari to Africa, and I was here specifically to test a new handgun, the .454 Casull. The .454, of course, was not new, but I had never hunted with one before. Most of my hunting had been done

HANDGUN SAFARI

By Larry Kelly

with my custom Rugers and J. D. Jones' .375 JDJ Hand Cannons.

The boys at Freedom Arms wanted to produce a limited edition of their .454 Casull commemorating my 30 years of handgun hunting and had sent me one of their

revolvers in nearly the same configuration as my Mag-Na-Port Stalker.

I had never before put my name on a gun and before I did, I had to know all about this gun. I had heard a great deal about this revolver and had ported many of them in my shop, but never had given any consideration to hunting with one. I don't like recoil!

That is how Mag-Na-Port came to be. I don't consider it fun to abuse myself in the name of sport.

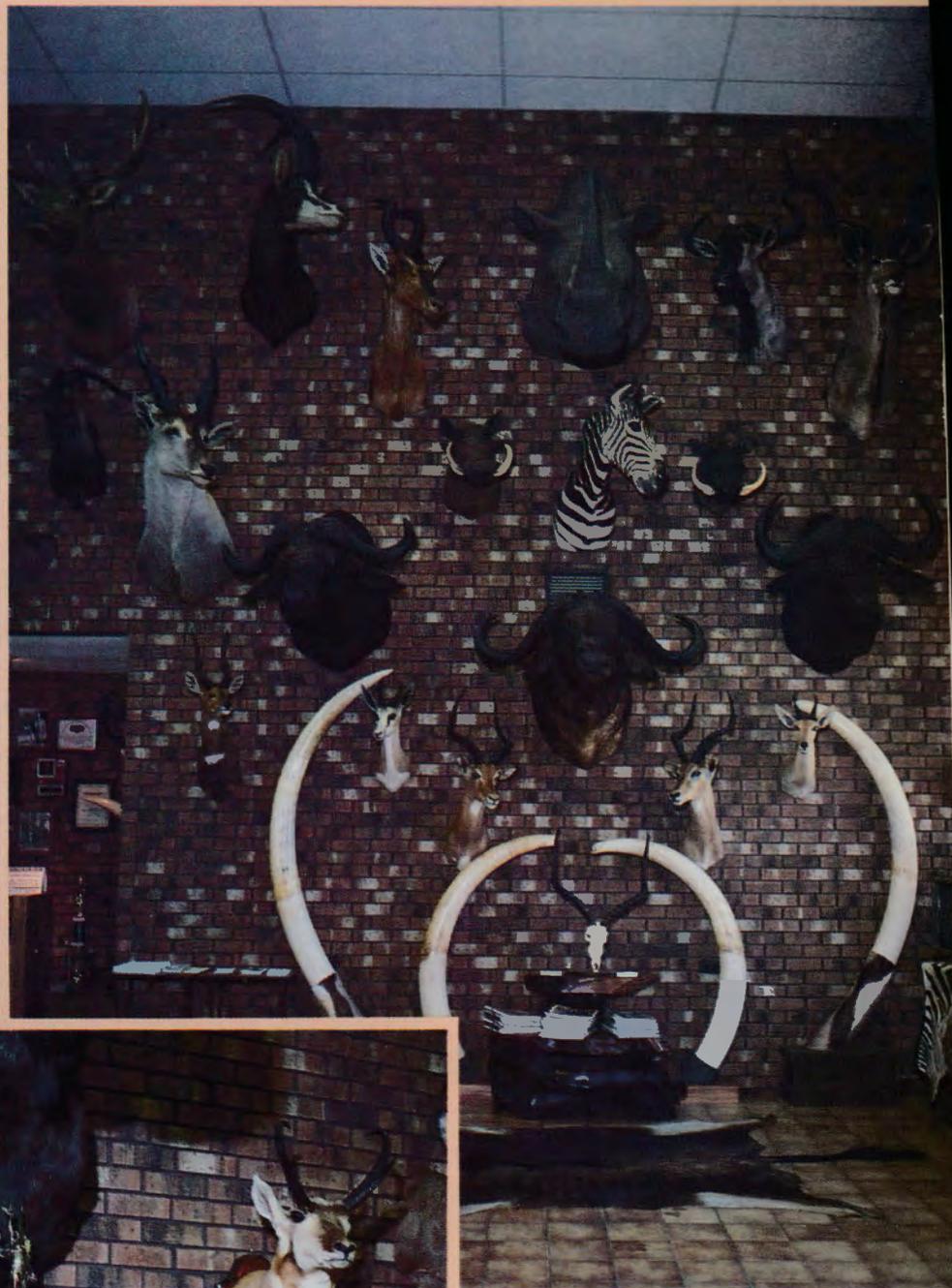
From what I'd heard and read, I was convinced this gun would be a real hell bender on recoil. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the big single-action was quite controllable and was a great deal more accurate and powerful than any other handgun I had ever used. I decided I would try this gun on the big stuff in Africa.

The gun I took with me was a customized version of their .454 and was the prototype model they intended to use in their limited

edition. It had an 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ " barrel, which I prefer as this barrel length points and balances well. They installed the sling swivels and sling, crowned the barrel, and I added my four port Mag-Na-Port venting process. The trigger, which was better than I have ever encountered on a single-action, broke crisply and cleanly at three pounds with absolutely zero creep. Topped off with a 2X Leupold scope, the gun is a close copy of my Stalker and had a comfortable, familiar feel to me.

I had asked Freedom Arms for a heavy bullet with a tough jacket as I am not interested in bullet expansion! What I want in a big game bullet is penetration—the ability to get through bone and muscle. What I received was their 300 grain jacketed bullet loaded to 1700 fps from the 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ " barrel. They explained that the jacket was .032" thick and the core was pure linotype and assured me that it would penetrate.

Continued on page 79



The Handgun Hunting Museum is chock-full of African trophies from the safaris of Larry Kelly. But when the founder of Mag-Na-Port hunted the King of Beasts he nearly paid the final price as he stopped a charging lion with his .454 Casull.

You
can
win
a

V6

*Tom Volquartsen does his magic on
a Ruger Mk. I .22 rimfire to create the distinctive
Volquartsen custom conversion called the V-6.*



Custom pistolsmith Tom Volquartsen transforms the Ruger Mk. II .22LR pistol into a knaf's-eye-accurate custom handgun with sleek, dynamic lines. Tom's V-6 (V for Volquartsen, 6 for six-inch air-gauge match barrel) is a striking custom conversion, both in appearance and performance.

Master engraver Jim Riggs (206 Azalea Trail, Boerne, TX, 78006) executed elegant scrolls and flourishes to embellish the Custom Gun Giveaway V-6 with an added flair of refinement.

But the V-6 boasts more than handsome styling — it is a superb shooter. Tom begins by fitting a 1-14" right-hand twist match barrel to the Ruger frame. Bore dimensions of this excruciatingly correct barrel are .221-.216 with microscopic (literally!) tolerances of .0001" or less. This superlative target barrel is cut with a precise match-chamber, held to similar tight tolerances, and a 60° chamber chamfer to eliminate lead shaving of the bullet.

Such tolerances exceed those of the super-precise aerospace industry!

The barrel features a full-length underlug with a vent rib and a triangular shape.

The rear sight is the unsurpassed Bo-Mar fully-adjustable unit. The front post is undercut with a 60° angle in widths of .100", .125" and .150" as the client may desire.

The receiver is grooved to accept standard scope rings or electronic dot sights.

The action is finely tuned to client specifications of between 24 and 40 ounces of crisp trigger pull. The trigger itself features adjustments for both over-travel and pre-travel.

For more information about the V-6 and other custom designs from Tom Volquartsen, write:

Tom Volquartsen
Volquartsen Custom Pistols
Dept. AH
RR 1, Box 271
Carroll, Iowa 51401
(712) 792-4238



TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, (no envelopes), follow sample; include your name and address; your answer; dealer name, address and phone number. Mail before December 1, 1987. Send to: AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Dept. H11, POB 880409, San Diego, CA 92108-0009.

Limit 1 entry per household.

WHEN WAS YOUR MOST RECENT NEW GUN PURCHASE?

- A) Within last 6 months
- B) Within last year
- C) Within last 2 years
- D) More than 2 years ago
- E) Never purchased a new gun

**AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER
CUSTOM GUN
GIVEAWAY**



Photo by Leonard Wayne

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Address _____

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

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

SAMPLE

By Cameron Hopkins

Photos by Nyle Leatham

Curiously, the Steel Challenge is the only match on the professional tour without a two-time winner. Seven years of the World Speed Shooting Championships have produced seven separate champions.

Conversely, the Bianchi Cup has seen Brian Enos repeat for two wins and Mickey Fowler grab a remarkable three in a row. Rob Leatham has amassed four IPSC national crowns and two back-to-back World Championships. The Second Chance bowling pin shoot gave Bill Wilson twin wins.

The Steel Challenge consists of six stages and all targets are steel plates. The object is to hit each plate as quickly as possible. Both revolvers and autos try to post the lowest time and no stage requires more than five rounds so wheelguns are not disadvantaged.

Unlike any of the other multiple-winner matches, the Steel Challenge has no "points." There are no scoring rings on the steel

disks—a hit is a hit. In addition, there is no power requirement for ammunition, however, minimum caliber is 9mm.

Such open competition generates a lot of experimentation among the competitors to design the fastest gun-cartridge combo. Very light guns, under 30 ounces, and very heavy guns, over four pounds, have been tried. The gamesmen have tried light bullets and heavy bullets, iron sights and optics, crossdraw and appendix-draw holsters.

One chap once tried to squeeze a .380 ACP under the judges' noses with the claim that the *bullet* is 9mm or .355", but the officials ruled that the 9mm minimum refers to *cartridge*, not caliber.

The 1911 Government Model remains the favorite, whether in 9mm, .38 Super or .45 ACP, because this is the ergonomic package best suited for speed shooting. Most importantly, it is a reliable and accurate *single-action* auto pistol. Many attributes of the big Colt find favor with competitors such as the natural, downward motion of disengaging the thumb safety. The grip angle is conducive

to aspects of the "point shooting" technique and the autoloader is highly receptive to various custom alterations.

The fact that the barrel removes from the front of the slide is a major reason why gunsmiths have so much latitude in compensator design. Additionally, the trigger mechanism is relatively easy to tune. A good trigger man can produce two pounds with no take-up and no sponginess.

Other guns have been tried by the inveterate tinkerers of the Steel Challenge. Angelo Spagnoli likes the SIG P-210 in 9mm with extensive reworking by a trio of specialists (one gunsmith did the compensator, another did the trigger/safety and yet another added a few more refinements). The HK squeeze cocker was the trendy gun in 1986, but lost appeal. A Glock 17 has shot the Challenge and so has a S&W Model 10.

Laser sights have tried the Challenge, but have fallen into the experimental junk heap.

A player tried transcendental meditations "to become One with the plates."



1987 STEEL CHALLENGE

An out-of-state shooter phoned home frantically because he'd forgotten to pack his "lucky shirt."

But despite all the weird guns and superstitious gimmicks, no one has ever won twice. Some say the past two years have put an added strain on the shooters because of the conflict in scheduling with the Bianchi Cup, which falls three days after the Challenge. The view is that many who shoot both matches cannot prepare properly for both and therefore shoot moderately well in both. Thus, the reasoning goes, the top guns have not been in top shape for the past two years.

Another explanation for the lack of repeat victories is that the course of fire appeals to a wide variety of shooting skills which in turn opens the match up to more shooting styles and prevents a particular technique from winning match after match. A precision shooter like Mickey Fowler has won the Challenge and so has a speed man like Chip McCormick.

The 1987 Steel Challenge saw a new

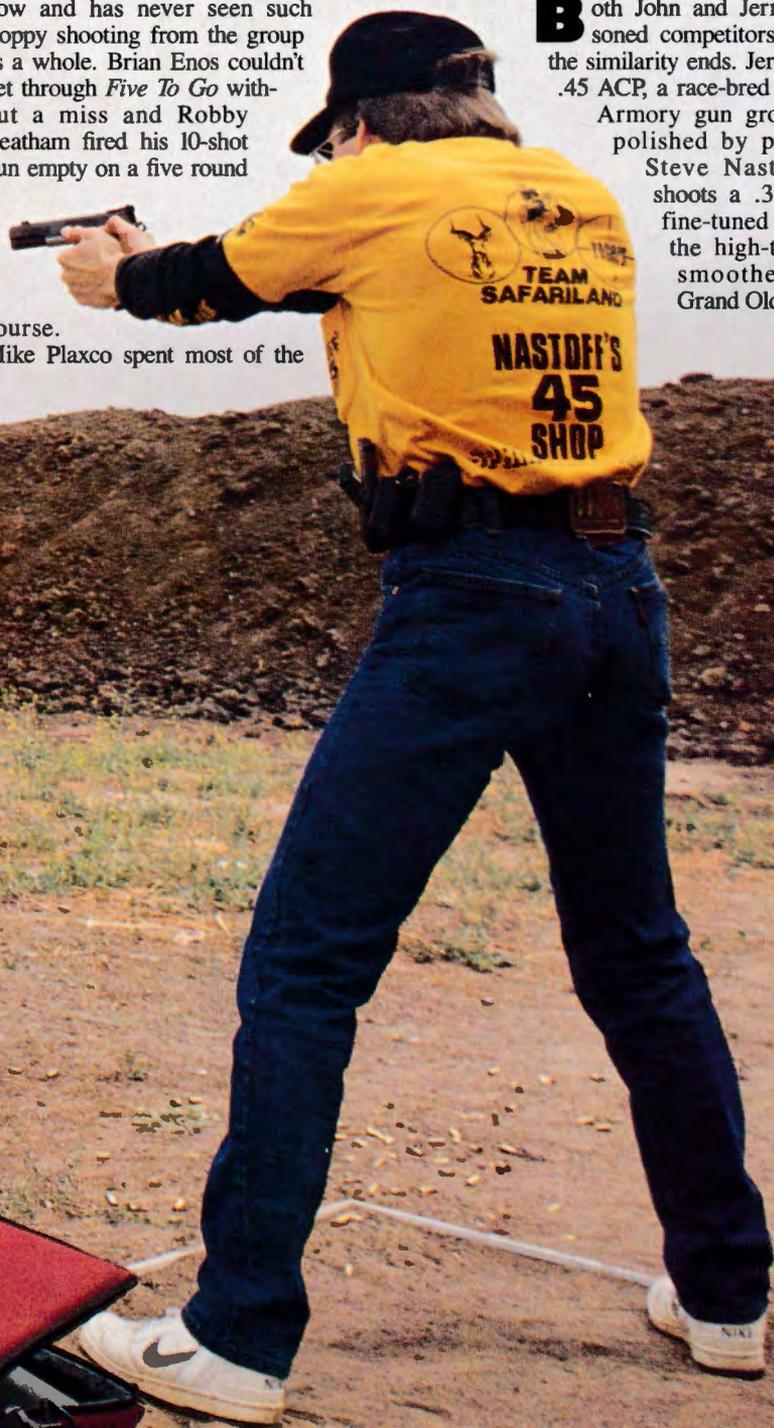
champion and the win was his first major title. Usually the match is fiercely contested by about a dozen top shooters, but this year was a two-man race. The usual dozen were shooting terribly and eliminated themselves in the early going with fast misses, slow hits or a combination of both. This reporter has covered this same handful of nationally-ranked shooters for three years now and has never seen such sloppy shooting from the group as a whole. Brian Enos couldn't get through *Five To Go* without a miss and Robby Leatham fired his 10-shot gun empty on a five round

course. Mike Plaxco spent most of the

match watching the front runners from the back of the pack.

But John Shaw, the controversial competitor and 1980 Steel Challenge winner, and Jerry Barnhart were both shooting strong, consistent stages. The two men with starkly different shooting styles became locked in a man-to-man duel for victory.

Both John and Jerry are seasoned competitors, but there the similarity ends. Jerry shoots a .45 ACP, a race-bred Springfield Armory gun groomed and polished by pistolsmith Steve Nastoff. John shoots a .38 Super, a fine-tuned Colt with the high-tech edges smoothed by the Grand Old Man him-





self, Jim Clark.

It was to be a classic confrontation—intense and high-strung, Jerry faced the methodical and resolute John Shaw. John is confident and relaxed; Jerry is a coiled spring. Jerry can dazzle and astound you with blinding flashes of remarkable shooting. John is controlled and rehearsed and he does not amaze you, but neither is he subject to hot-cold spurts. John would not blowout, Jerry might.

It was to be the climax, the last two stages, and some said an anti-climax. Shaw would protect his three second lead built up after

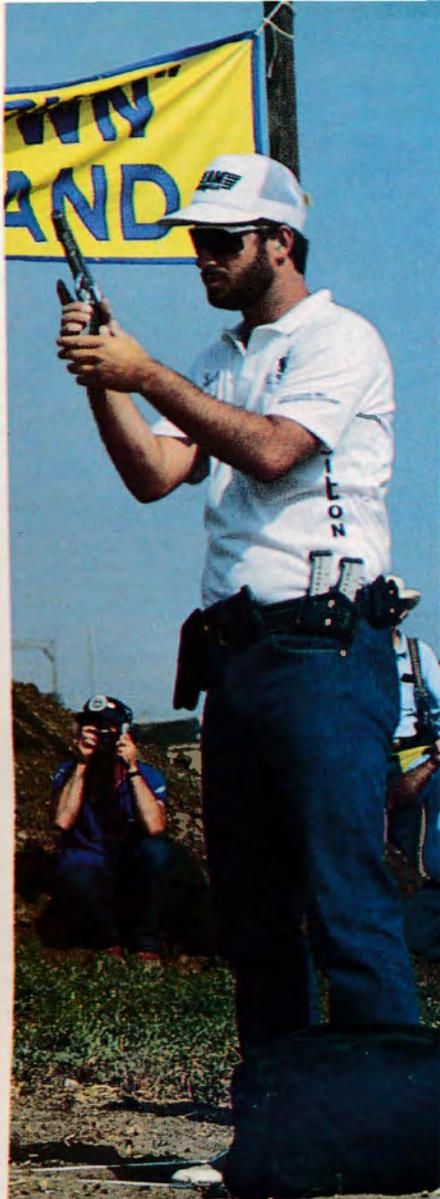
John Shaw (above) lets drive at 5 to Go. John would've won the match if . . . Well, we all can say that! Chip McCormick (right) scoots from box to box on Outer Limits. Note how he keeps his arms extended and gun on target while moving. Stu Mullins (below, left) blows over a Pepper Popper with partner Joe Gaines in the Shoot-Off.



four stages. His experience is too broad, his savvy too profound to fritter away his cushion, and 2.93 seconds is considerable. The pressure would be on Jerry to dazzle and astound.

Jerry stepped to the line on *Triple Threat*, the blink-and-you-miss-it stage sponsored by *American Handgunner*. He faced three steel plates stairstepped up from six, then eight, to 10 yards. The average guy hits the three disks in two seconds; the good shooters smear the plates in 1.7 or so; the world-class men draw and fire three hits in 1.5 seconds.

Tense in concentration, Jerry scooped his Nastoff pistol from his Safariland holster



All done! Rob Leatham caught in the act of unloading just after finishing Showdown. He fired a .38 Super.

faster than an eagle dives for fish. The three gunshots rang as one and the timer said 1.43 seconds. That's astounding, Jerry's hot!

Again and again the soft-spoken man who is a flash of speed slapped leather and rang plates. His average for four runs was 1.49 seconds, nearly a new world record. He handed John a heaping helping of match pressure, for that score could easily devour the lead John had acquired.

Indeed it did. John missed the first two plates on his first run, and didn't even bother to hit the third stop plate.

That gave him a "max time" which must be his "throw away" run. (Shooters go at the plates five times and discard the slowest run, the "throw away run.") John knew he must cautiously attack his remaining four runs; all would count for score.

John averaged 1.88 seconds for his four runs, giving up almost a half second to the challenger each time he drew. But the scores on the lightning-paced *Triple Threat* are doubled to equate with the longer times of the other five stages of the match. By the time



1987 Ladies Champion Michelle Griggs isn't old enough to drink, but she bested a slew of adult females on her way to victory.



By Tammy Madigan

Who would have guessed when the 1987 Steel Challenge began that a 17-year-old high school honor student from central Texas would win the ladies' title?

...AND EVERYTHING NICE

Amazingly, she has only been shooting for a year and a half and was still able to win over more experienced women shooters like Diane Lamb of Arizona, Wanda Miculek of Louisiana and Roberta Geer of Virginia. This was no easy feat, let alone the fact that she also walked away with the Top Junior and Top Tyro Woman awards.

This super woman's name is Michelle Griggs. On her way to victory, she won three of the six events and placed well in the remaining three.

Michelle says that she practices on Saturdays in Austin, with Chip McCormick, the 1986 Steel Challenge winner, and on Sundays on her range at home. The last month before the match she was able to practice every day after school. I asked Michelle if that gets very expensive, shooting up all that ammo, and she laughed. You see, her father owns a reloading business.

Before you say "I don't own a company like that, so I could never afford to shoot

enough to win!" let me tell you about the women who came in second and third.

Judy Woolley from Plaines, Mont., who has been shooting for three years, came in second. I asked her how much she practices and to my surprise and dismay she said that she very rarely has time to practice with live ammunition. She and her husband together only shot 5,000 rounds last year and most of that was at matches. I watched her draw her weapon at the match and constantly remarked at

how fast and smooth she was to her first shot, on a par with most men. When I asked her how she was able to achieve her speed, she said that she did two things.

First, she would pick someone who is better than she, and watch them shoot over and over again and copy what they do best. Second, she works with her gun every day, dry firing and practicing her draw approximately 200 times. She finished little more than one second behind the winner, which over six stages isn't a whole lot of time.

Shirley Hamilton, from San Diego, Calif., came in third. Shirley has been shooting for four years. She works with her husband, Bill, at their own company, so this limits her time for practice. Most of the live practice is done in match situations, with the added pressure that she is almost always a match official thus taking away from the needed concentration for competition.

Again, we come to that cheap, but oh-

Continued on page 86

you punch the calculator, Jerry had picked up a staggering 3.12 seconds on John.

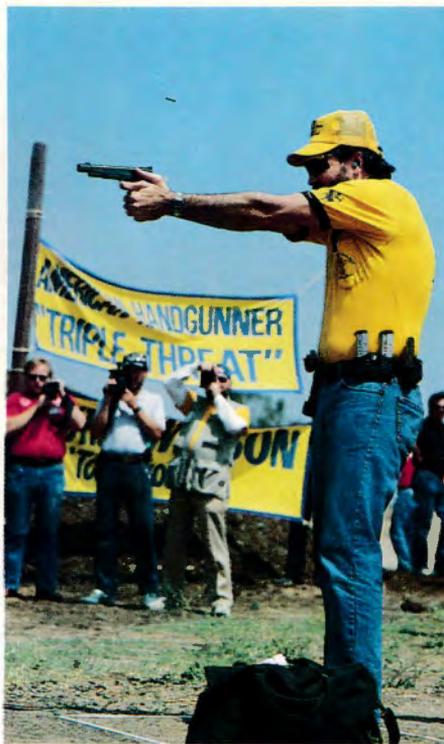
Jerry now held a scant lead of .19 seconds. Barely two-tenths of a second after five stages. One to go. For all intents and purposes, the two men were tied for such a slim lead can crumble with a sloppy grip, a single miss.

As the crowd of spectators elbowed each other for front row seats, the shooters assembled for *Showdown*, one of the faster stages of the tournament. The shooter must hit two eight-inch saucers at 10 yards, swing over to two 18x24 shields at 25 yards and end up with a 12-inch stop plate at 12 yards. An average shooter can do all this in the mid-threes; a good shooter can hit the plates in the low-threes; a world class shooter can turn in two-sevens and two-eights.

Again it was to be Jerry who set the pace. The shooting order is determined randomly so it was by chance that Jerry fired before John on each of the final stages. This can be good or bad depending on whether you'd prefer to shoot "blind" or rather shoot at a "target," your opponent's score.

Jerry must have felt the crushing force of intense, palpable pressure. He has never won a major title, and his first one was staring him in the face. One tiny slip, and John would pounce on him and boot him out of contention.

The crowd craned their necks, straining to catch a glimpse of the photo finish through the throngs of people. There was no PA



Mike Plaxco hoses down the plates on the fastest stage, American Handgunner's Triple Threat. The lanky Arkansas pistolsmith cheered for his teammate on Team Safariland as he watched Jerry Barnhart win the match.

system to hype the tension, but all present knew the stakes. Here, in one microcosmic stage, was the World Speed Shooting Championship.

Jerry lapsed into auto-pilot, as any top-flight competitor will do to escape the pressure similar to a tightrope act. Jerry methodically and mechanically prepared himself like he had done a million-million times in practice. A dab of sight black, a shift of stance, a few perfunctory sight pictures. Load, chamber, chamber-check, holster.

Never before has a Steel Challenge boiled down to the last run of the last stage. A Hollywood director couldn't invent a more exciting finish.

His hands go up, straight up. The Range Officer commences the commands and the Pro-Timer burps. His hands blur to the holster, then lock around the checkered hardwood stocks. The pistol thrusts out, out towards the plates. The gun barks, a smudge magically appears on the brilliant white plate.

And in 2.8 seconds it's over. Again the determined handgunner from Team Safariland addresses the plates, and again the black smears appear.

Four runs total 11.49, or 2.87 seconds per run. John Shaw must shoot 11.30 to tie, 11.29 to win. He must average 2.82.

John shuffles around nervously in the shooting box. He takes a sight picture and then another and another. He is setting himself, and he's taking far longer than he has in any of the previous stages. He is feeling the pressure.

Finally, at his own pace, he raises his hands. He posts a good run, in the two-eights. This could get interesting.

Again he assails the plates for a satisfying two-nine.

Once more, but with a miss, and the clock shows 3.05. No, that's his "throw away" with that miss.

John appears to calm himself after the miss. Front sight, squeeze; you've done it before, do it now. He sizzles, a 2.63! This could get very interesting!

It is the last run of the last stage, and John must shoot another two-six. With that, he wins. A hush falls over the heaving crowd as John reloads for his final run. Never before has a Steel Challenge boiled down to the last run of the last stage. A Hollywood director couldn't invent a more exciting finish.

But it was not to be for John missed the first plate once, twice. Another miss at a far plate. The clock relentlessly keeps tabs and the score is well over three seconds.

Jerry Barnhart has just clinched the 1987 Steel Challenge.



Rob Leatham (right) congratulates Michael Voigt on some good shooting. This camaraderie and sportsmanship is typical on the pro circuit.

American Handgunner's TRIPLE THREAT PRIZE GUNS

By Dave Arnold

First prize for the *Triple Threat* stage of this year's Steel Challenge is a customized and engraved revolver and auto set. *American Handgunner*, sponsor of this stage, kicked in \$3,500 in cash in addition to this prize estimated to be worth \$5,000.

The two craftsmen selected by *American Handgunner* for this project are Bill Jarvis and Jerry Usher, both of California. Bill Jarvis is a pistolsmith who operates his own shop called Jarvis Gunsmithing (4418 Larkstone Cr., Orange, CA, 92669). He has been in the professional gunsmithing business for 11 years. Initially he worked on all kinds of guns but now specializes in building custom revolvers and autos for both PPC and combat shooting competitions.

Among the many notable shooters who use his products is John Pride, the 1987 Bianchi Cup champion.

Jerry Usher is an engraver (29000 Gladiolus, Canyon County, CA, 91351). He is also a top competition shooter who has represented the U.S. in the 1977 and 1979 World Practical Pistol Championships and has placed highly in both the Bianchi Cup and Steel Challenge. His interest in engraving started some 10 years ago but it had to take a back seat because of his shooting. In the last two years he has gone back to engraving and has turned out some fine work. He also engraved a Wilson Accu-Comp which was the *American Handgunner* award at

last year's Steel Challenge.

The guns are a pair that can be used to compete in the Bianchi Cup, Steel Challenge and IPSC competitions. The revolver is a Smith & Wesson Model 10 .38 Special which has been accurized and had an action job that gives it a smooth, light DA trigger. It has been fitted with a 6-inch 1/4-inch slab-sided Douglas barrel, 1-in-14 twist. It also has a heavy underweight, custom grips and an Aimpoint mounted on top of the barrel.

The gun really has the configuration of a typical PPC revolver except for the top rib and iron sights. These are replaced by the Aimpoint which is attached with a Jarvis designed mount. It must be mentioned that the screw holes drilled in the

Continued on page 87



There are only a few guns that are immediately recognizable merely by their model number, but one of them is the fabulous

MODEL 41



Photo by Stanley W. Trzoniec

By Stanley W. Trzoniec

The twenty-two pistol of today offers a multitude of features highly desirable to shooters who may want to squeeze the most out of their handgun budget or equipment. Soft recoil coupled with good accuracy in concert with a very low cost-per-shot simply make them downright appealing to both casual and serious sportsmen alike. Add to this list the availability of extra barrels and sighting options—now you start to bridge the gap between the ordinary and truly universal pistol capable of numerous outdoors or indoor tasks. Such is the example set by the Smith and Wesson Model 41.

History places the Model 41 and its beginning around 1947. It was then that two experimental pistols were made for Smith and Wesson's target team for testing under match conditions. Even the president of S&W was interested because he himself took guns to the matches at Camp Perry often reporting back results and his ideas for modifications on the prototypes.

But the wait would be long, for it took just about a decade, 1957 to be exact, before this target pistol (which, incredibly, was the company's first) would see the light of a steady production status.

In the fall of 1957 the first gun came off the line equipped with a 7³/₈ inch barrel complete with muzzle brake. According to various books on the subject, the factory was indeed surprised at the response for such an autopistol, in fact you might say they were caught with their pants down! By producing only a handful of units (679) they barely filled the pipeline. A year later saw the production of almost 10,000 Model 41's, yet even though the effort was substantial, back orders still persisted.

A year later Smith saw the possibilities of using the gun in the field and introduced a lightweight five-inch barrel. Smith's novel approach to barrel changing consisted of merely pulling down on the trigger guard to unlock the barrel. This proved one gun could be used in varied jobs. In a sense, the die was cast.

The author thinks the Model 41 is a dandy hunting pistol for small game like this New England squirrel.



For variations, we also note that on behalf of the competitors who pursued International Rapid Fire matches, Smith was good enough to bring out a special weapon for their use. Termed the Model 41-1, this gun was equipped with an unusual aluminum slide that allowed the use of the .22 Short round. Considered as a collector's piece now because of the limited 1,000 unit production run, this variant was dropped by the lack of general acceptance.

Another variation on a theme was the Model 46. In reducing cosmetic features, much as they did by introducing the Model 28 over the premium Model 27, S&W was now playing on requests for a low key model, fully up to the standards of the higher priced guns, but more economical to such users as the military. The Air Force was interested only because there was a difference of \$15, but nevertheless a difference. Since the average civilian competitor was not interested in saving \$15, this model was discontinued in favor of the on-line Model 41.



The Model 41 may be the all-time easiest gun to field strip. First, lock the slide back; then pull down on the trigger guard; remove the barrel; then ease the slide forward and off. Done!



The M-52 rear sight (above) is used in the 5" heavy barrel while a smaller sight (below) is used on the 7" barrel. Both sights are excellent.

Roughly 23 years ago in 1963 Smith brought out a third barrel, this time a 5¹/₂-inch version, in a design they called "heavy barrel." For those who wanted a shorter but heavier gun, this was it. The balance is closer to the hand thus allowing a better "feel" for the target downrange. Improved sights were also incorporated, in fact, they are the same ones mounted on the target tuned Model 52 .38 Special automatic. Big and durable with an exceptionally sharp sight picture, they are unquestioned even today by many as near perfection on a .22 target gun.

The last barrel introduced was the 5¹/₂-inch extendable front sight version for shooters who want the best of both

The interchangeable barrels make the Model 41 versatile. Sound engineering went into the various barrels as they all seem to balance remarkably well despite the different lengths and weights.



worlds; a heavy, short tube with a long sighting radius.

Turning to more modern times, today's Model 41 is a joy to shoot. From its interchangeable barrel concept to its smoothness of operation, this gun is sure to please both sportsman and target shooter alike. New catalog specifications for 1987 list the Model 41 available with either the 5½- or 7-inch target barrels; 5-inch field barrel remains as an option.

The gun is blowback in operation, holds 10 rounds and is made in carbon steel only. Weight with the shorter barrel is quoted as being around 44 ounces; the 7-inch barrel checks in at 41 ounces. Mmmmmm—41 ounces, 41 model number.

On a crisp New England autumn afternoon I ventured out to one of my favorite squirrel haunts. Sitting quietly along the side of an old decomposing log I waited patiently for Mr. Bushytail to make a move. Sure enough, after 20 minutes or so of counting leaves on the brightly colored maples around me I heard the pitter-patter of tiny feet on the dry forest floor. To my right about 30 yards distant was a very plump gray squirrel busily scampering around for his share of the winter's cache.

As he climbed a small poplar I inched the 41 out of an Uncle Mike's #5 holster, flicked off the safety and gained his position in my sights. When the trigger broke the squirrel fell downward.

Wandering over to the area I found nothing in sight. Much to my chagrin my prize was nowhere to be found. Could I have wounded him because of too much hold-over? Bad thoughts for sure.

As I searched the ground I did find a small disturbance in the leaves around the tree, obviously, where he fell. When I was just about to give up, he literally exploded from a small hole under the base of the tree taking me not only by surprise, but putting me in high gear for a finishing shot. True to form he again vaulted the poplar, stopping in the first crotch to look over the situation which, unfortunately for him, proved his demise.

Finding only one bullet in him (the last one) led me to assume the first bullet had gone a tad too high, thus scaring him downward. A formal check of the tree about four feet from ground level proved the theory correct.

Thus goes the excitement and challenge of handgun hunting.

Silhouette shooting is very much in vogue these days and for this the Model 41 fits into the games handily. Naturally much of the winning rests directly on the shoulders of the marksman, but, then again, the gun as well as the ammo has to be a strong consideration especially when trying to knock down steel targets at 25,



Here is the one notable flaw on the Model 41, the miniscule safety catch. It is hard to reach, too small to work easily and stiff as a rusted lug nut. It may be the most poorly designed safety on any single-action auto.

50, 75 and 100 yards with a tiny 40 grain bullet. Skill, plus the ability to hit somewhat minute targets as viewed through iron sights at the century mark puts a high priority on the 41 of which she come through with flying colors.

The time honored pastime of plinking surely has to be listed among the great assets of the Model 41 or any rimfire for that matter. For this I would opt for the 5-inch field barrel or that 5½ H.B. target tube that both balances rock steady in the hand and is deadly accurate as well on tin cans.

And then there is target shooting, something the Model 41 was born and bred for from day one. Ransom Rest results showed that using Remington Pistol Match ammo in the heavy barreled gun printed half-inch groups at 50 feet. At 50 yards, the groups opened up to 1½ inches. The longer 1½ barrel showed a marked preference for the same fodder, but this time, three-eighths of an inch and 1/8 of an inch were recorded at 50 feet and 50

yards respectively.

Truly good performance in any man's book. Again, choice of barrel depends on you. Heavy or light, short or long sight radius. With this universal rimfire, both are available.



MORE TO THE BORE THAN ROAR

By J.D. Jones

Fred Sinclair is a rifleman's rifle maker. He specializes in benchrest rifles and certainly knows how to make accurate sporters. I've seen enough of Fred's work to have decided if I ever want a benchrest rifle, Fred gets the job.

The subject of accuracy in single-shot handguns, and to a somewhat lesser extent in revolvers and auto pistols, is a problem. If my phone and mail correspondence is any indication of the unanswered questions out there, the interest is enormous.

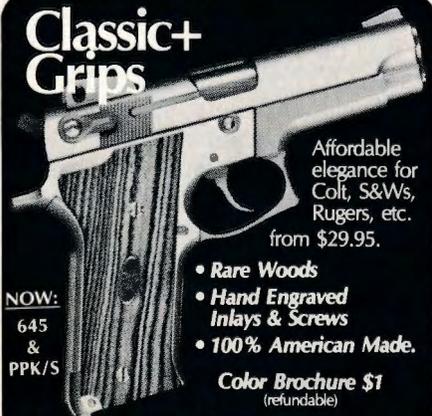
A large part of the public seems to think all you have to do to get 1/2" hundred yard groups out of a T/C, Dominator or whatever is just buy one and put a 2x on it and shoot whatever you have. If you don't get 1/2" groups, the gun is no good. Same goes for revolvers that don't shoot two-inches 100 yard groups.

Super accuracy just isn't that easy. If you want a gun to shoot accurately you have to break in the barrel properly. The ammo must be assembled with benchrest techniques and precision. The scope must be right. You have to know how to shoot, analyze your accuracy problems and correct them.

Fred has written 30 8 x 10" pages in his new catalog that explains what is necessary to get the best accuracy out of a barrel. Of utmost importance is the breaking-in and cleaning a barrel properly. Ammo, scopes, case preparation and bullets are discussed frankly. This is a no-nonsense guide to accuracy.

A great deal of it applies to handguns although some exceptions must be noted in the fine details. The rest of the catalog is devoted to the equipment to give the finest accuracy obtainable. Everyone can learn something from this catalog. It's available from Sinclair International, Dept. AH, 1200 B, Asbury Drive, New Haven, IN, 46774 for two bucks.

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AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 47

The would-be copkiller was armed with an old Smith & Wesson top-break, caliber .38 S&W. The 146 grain round nose lead slug caught Ed Sim in the left side of the pelvis, just below the edge of the duty belt, about where a holster would have ridden had he been left-handed. It burrowed in deep, cutting through the sciatic nerve and finally hammering itself into the bony arch of the iliac wing. To this day, he doesn't know if it was his own momentum or the impact of the bullet slamming into his hip, but the next thing Ed Sim knew he was on the ground, with the woman beneath him and the 681 tight in his fist. Radiating down his left leg was the most intense, burning pain he had experienced in his life.

But as quickly as it had come, Ed willed the pain into second place. More gunshots were exploding, another bullet made a humming sound over his head, and the downed officer focused all his concentration into a single-minded will to survive and save the woman.

Owen Burns had been coming up behind the left rear door of the Plymouth when it happened. Before the tunnel vision kicked in, he saw a terrible and panoramic tableau. The woman bursting from the car, the arm coming up like a punch and the orange flame spurting from the barrel of the gun, the spray of shattered glass that followed out the right rear window in the .38 slug's jetstream wake, and his partner spinning to the ground, pulling the woman protectively beneath him. He perceived it all slow-motion, the almost universal tachypsychia effect that occurs in moments of life-threatening crisis.

His body reacted without conscious will. The countless hours on the police survival training range at Colonie, under instructors Jerry Argay and Bill House, considered by many among the best in the country, had conditioned him to react automatically. In a movement that was half sliding step, half leap, he was around the left rear corner of the Plymouth and behind the rear deck. Taking cover had become instinctive.

So had returning fire. He does not remember taking the position, remembers only that his left hand found its own way into the support grip on his strong hand as, belly down across the trunk, he levelled the model 681 on the suspect, who was still firing.

There was no question of "shoot/don't shoot." Owen Burns would have two memories of that terrible moment. One was the thought, "I don't believe this is happening!" The other was right picture, intensely focused on his front sight just behind the suspect's right ear.

And Owen Burns fired.

He vividly remembers the orange gunflame silhouetting the perfect sight picture, remembers the spiderweb of cracks and the fragments of flying glass as his bullet tore through the back window, and recalls also the body of the gunman jerking violently, then

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For answer refer to page 70

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BEWARE OF CHEAP IMITATIONS

(Continued from page 69)

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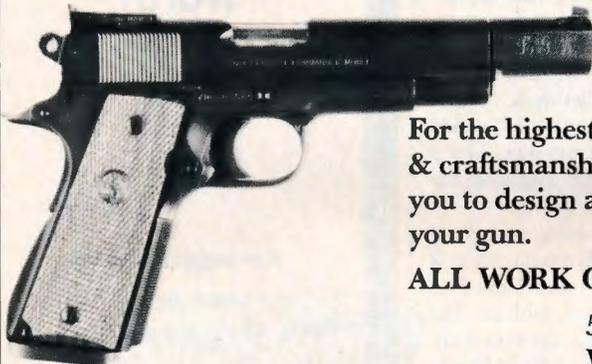
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(continued on page 71)



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slumping like a puppet whose strings had been cut.

His finger was already starting to roll the trigger back for the follow-up shot he'd been trained for. He caught it in mid-stroke, and looked closely. The gunman lay motionless, blood pouring from his ears and nose, and the young officer was aware of a sudden and overwhelming stillness. As he lowered the gun, Burns thought flatly, "I've killed him." Not triumph, not grief. A fact to be accepted. "I've killed him."

And then, shoving thoughts of the dead man aside, he turned toward his partner.

The moment he'd gone down, Ed Sim had focused on trying to protect the woman, and his partner. Guns were still going off, and he tried to force himself to his feet, to move and assist Burns. The leg would not obey; hip-shots destroy mobility.

Gritting his jaws against the unbelievable pain, the powerfully-built young officer crawled toward the patrol car, dragging the woman. Like a drowning swimmer fighting his lifeguard, the hysterical victim was swarming all over him. Ed fought his arms free, grimly leveling his 681 toward the danger as his other hand grabbed the radio and keyed the mike. He was yelling that an officer had been shot and needed an ambulance when Burns rounded the corner of the patrol car.

Sim had heard the muffled shots that followed the one that had taken him, and then the single clearer, louder shot that had reverberated through the night, and then the same eerie silence Burns had perceived. He thought his partner had won, but until now he couldn't be sure. The expression of gratitude on his face was not because his partner was now gently pulling the woman away from him, it was because his partner had survived.

When he heard Burns say softly, "He's down," Sim handed him his 681. Now there was one more survival concern, one he hadn't addressed yet. Himself.

A trained paramedic, Sim wiggled his toes and moved his legs. The pain was agonizing, but the toes moved. That meant the spinal cord hadn't been cut. He helped the other cops who were arriving now to unbuckle the Sam Browne belt and examine the wound. He knew it went deep, and he knew the pelvic structure was involved. Not good.

It was three in the morning. They decided not to wait for an ambulance. Brother officers gently lifted him into the back of his police car, and began the race to the hospital.

Meanwhile, Burns had returned to the bullet-shattered Plymouth with the first two responding officers, Bob Doty and Bobby Krug. Cautiously approaching, they found the gunman had not moved. As Burns retrieved the top-break revolver from where it had fallen between the gunman's knees, he took a good look at the head that lolled over the steering wheel. The .38 caliber entry hole was clearly visible behind the right ear. The man who had shot Officer Ed Sim was dead.

Officer Ed Sim endured four days in the hospital, six weeks of at-home convalescence, and many more weeks of light desk

duty before he was judged capable of returning to full-time patrol. Though the leg still hurts a great deal, it does not interfere with his mobility and function. While it would have been his option to take an early retirement on disability, he refused to; police work was Ed Sim's life.

For Burns, the night's horror had just begun. Back at the station, going through the intensive investigation that always follows an officer-involved shooting, he had been unable for hours to get word from the hospital on his partner's condition.

A few hours after the shootout, he was told that he hadn't killed the gunman after all. Though perfectly aimed, his issue Winchester 158 grain + P hollowpoint .38 Special bullet had been deflected upward as it shattered the sloping rear window, and had passed barely over the suspect's head and out the left front window, flattening itself harmlessly on the blind wall of the Dunkin' Donuts. At the exact same instant of his firing, the kidnapper had placed the muzzle of his own .38 behind his ear and pulled the trigger. He had given himself what he had tried to give his wife and her rescuer: instant death.

Each man, in the hours and days that followed, would torment himself with questions. Burns feared that he had been wrong in automatically moving back to seek cover, because in that time more shots had gone off. Had one of those been the one that almost killed his partner, and in fact left him in pain for the rest of his life? Could he have kept that shot from going off if he had moved forward instead of back, and shot the offender that much sooner?

He had mixed feelings about finding out that he had missed. Part of him felt relief; it was like a weight off his shoulders to know that he had not killed a human being after all. Yet part of him felt a sense of failure: he had tried to extinguish the threat to his partner, had missed, and the threat had extinguished itself.

Ed Sim also felt the need to second-guess himself. Though he and Burns considered themselves equal, he was breaking the other man in on the specialty assignment and hence was something of the man in charge. Should he have kept both officers back out of harm's way, covering the suspect vehicle and waiting for backup? And he hated the fact that he'd been unable to get back up, that the pain had overwhelmed him and kept him from standing again and coming to his friend's aid instead of leaving him in the shootout by himself.

As the aftermath ordeal continued, both men would take great comfort from the Department's handling of the situation. Though Chief Jim Flater was out of town, Deputy Chief Ed Frank raced from his home to Sim's bedside as soon as he heard, and then took control of the investigation. Both men told me later that the overwhelming support and reassurance from command and brother officers helped light a passageway through this darkest part of their police careers.

Today, both Burns and Sim are back on the job. Both their wives suffered, though neither

(Continued from page 70)

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ever asked them to give up the profession they love. These two well-adjusted patrolmen are living proof that officers can face the worst that The Job has to offer and come back from it without psychological handicap.

Ironically, most of the Monday-morning quarterbacking Sim and Burns did on themselves was unfounded. Burns' instinctive reaction of diving to the back of the car and taking cover before returning fire was correct. Investigation leaves no doubt that it was the first shot the gunman fired, not the followups, that struck Sim. Had he been closer to the door at that time, Burns would have been on an angle where he'd have seen the suspect's gun come up later, not sooner; moreover, had he fired from directly parallel to the gunman, Burns' fire could have endangered his partner and the female hostage.

The failure of the bullet to strike where aimed was also not his fault, nor that of his instructors. Colonie settled on that lead + P "FBI load" based on a metropolitan-environment need to have maximum shock with minimum penetration. Though the bullet was slowed and deflected by the window, we've seen the same with .357 Magnum and .45 automatic bullets striking such hard, oblique surfaces. The bullet *did* blow out and weaken the rear window sufficiently that a second shot would almost certainly have struck home. Burns was in the act of firing that second shot when he perceived the suspect to

collapse, and therefore held his fire.

Should the officers have taken cover back at the patrol car, requesting backup units and communicating with the suspect over the public address system in the police cruiser? One officer survival expert who has studied this case says yes, but this writer is not that certain. No doubt that would have been safer for the officers . . . *but consider what we know now, that the officers didn't know then.*

The suspect, James Burns, was 51 and had gone through the classic symptoms and escalation cycle of the chronic wife-abuser. In 1982 he had reached the final stage of the cycle, homicidal impulse, and had shot his wife in the stomach. She survived, Burns was convicted, but the man was out on bond while awaiting appeal.

It is now safe to assume that Burns' intention when he kidnapped his estranged wife was to kill her and perhaps himself, or maybe to do that only if he couldn't somehow "win her back." It was *not* reasonable to expect the responding officers to know this, given the limited information they'd received over the air. It *would* have been reasonable to expect any communications center dispatching this information to call the agency that had issued the bulletin and request further background details on any "possible kidnapping, possible firearms involved" case. Patrol officers cannot do this from the field; it should be the responsibility of Dispatch.

Should the officers have stayed back at their cars? James Burns was prepared to die and to kill; his actions show he wasn't bluff-

ing. In all probability, he would have killed the woman, then either shot himself or exited the vehicle shooting and forced Sim and Burns or other assisting officers to kill him. To the hardened officer survival instructor, that sounds like a fair deal, but remember: we now have reason to believe what Sim and Burns sensed: *without their intervention, the woman hostage would probably have been murdered.*

Sim and Burns knowingly put their lives on the line to get in closer and try to ascertain what was happening and shut off the situation before anyone got hurt. In the coldly clinical sense, their tactics would have been wrong had they been sure the suspect was armed; indeed, one could say that their tactics were wrong even when they had only reason to suspect it. Yet the fact remains that the two officers did get the woman out alive and unhurt, and one of them was observed to physically turn his body to shield the hostage, to take the bullet instead of her.

Call it as you see it, and learn from it as you will. One thing is unarguable: whatever the involved officers might have lacked in tactics, they made up for in courage.



The author wishes to thank Officers Ed Sim and Owen Burns, Chief James Flater, Deputy Chief Ed Frank, Investigator David Lemerise, and the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of Colonie, NY for making this research possible.

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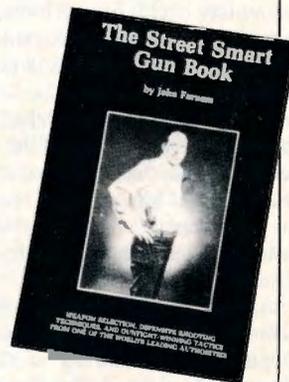
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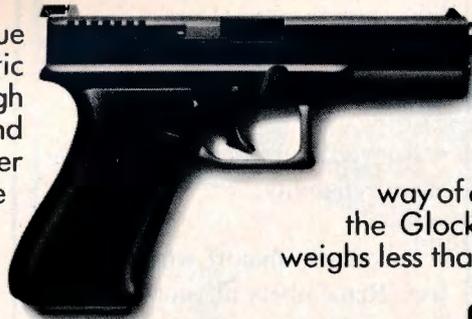
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BIANCHI CUP

Continued from page 49

ner-take-all deal, and whoever you were, you had to shoot against the likes of Robby Leatham and Brian Enos. For most of us, that's like betting it won't get dark at midnight. But now, shooters knew that even though they might not take the Cup itself, they damn well *could* win a gun and a nice trophy as First Place Marksman. Davis inaugurated a "bring a buddy" program, exhorting every Cup veteran to bring a newcomers friend to Cup IX.

And it worked. When the day of the ninth Cup dawned, 204 competitors had registered. Some of them were still among the best in the world—Leatham and Enos and Campbell and Shaw and Dalton and Pride and of course, defending champ Riley Gilmore, among many others. But Davis' efforts had also drawn the largest number of first-time shooters since Cup I, and more women shooters and more International shooters and more junior shooters and more police shooters than ever before. In total turnout, I've only once seen a more packed field at the Cup, and I say that as one of four men left (including Tom Campbell, Frank Behlert, and John Shaw) who have competed in every Cup since its inception.

Davis and company had succeeded. The Bianchi Cup, thanks to heroic measures taken, was not only off the danger list but hale and hearty again.

It has been said that in a major match where there are perhaps 100 competitors capable of shooting a perfect score on a good day and perhaps 20 capable of doing so on demand at the practice range, the tactic for victory is not to shoot above par, but to shoot your average and let all the other front-runners screw up. This strategy certainly proved itself viable at Cup IX.

Oklahoman Riley Gilmore, who in '86 had come out of the middle of the pro-tour pack to win the Cup with a record-setting 1916 out of 1920 points, had prepared for that year-ago victory by firing in practice virtually every day between Cup VII and Cup VIII. Once the title was his, it was understood that he would defend it with the same single-minded dedication that he had challenged it. Tasco, who vaulted into the limelight when their scope graced the S&W M-15 MultiComp Riley had built himself and won with in '86, lavishly supported his effort. Rumors were that Team Tasco, which included Riley, his brother Kelly, and his wife Frances, were firing 400 to 500 rounds a day, every day, in preparation to defend the title. It was true that Tasco had provided them with a motor home, a nutritionist, and a team psychologist.

Other heavy hitters were in the line-up: Rob Leatham, generally considered the best professional handgunner the sport has yet produced, and still not having reached the height of his powers; Tom Campbell, the S&W staffer who allegedly fired 700,000

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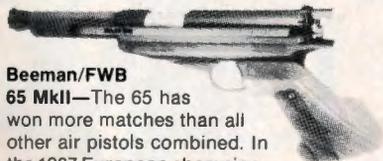


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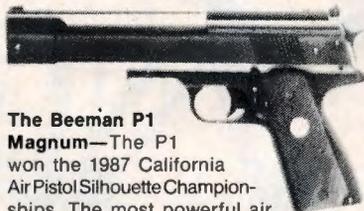
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But Murphy stalked the range, and Murphy's Law brought many to the bench: what could go wrong, did go wrong.

I photographed Tom Campbell as he fired a prohibited seventh shot on the long-distance left barricade. It cost him a 10 point penalty in a game where you can't win with 10 points lost, and blew his concentration. Campbell, who in eight straight years had always made the coveted Top Twenty and usually the top ten, and had been a very close second last year, dropped 44 points. It was eleven times more points than he's lost in '86, and it dropped him and his Aimpointed S&W prototype .45 "Supergun" to 36th place.

Past Cup champ Robby Leatham, current world IPSC titlist, made a bad draw on the barricade and took a bad "set;" one shot missed the target entirely. He finished 15th, but redeemed himself by winning the Colt Speed Event later.

Jimmy Clark, the promising son of the former national bullseye champ and pistolsmith extraordinaire, was riding the peak of his professional tournament career until one 10-point plate didn't fall. I and many others saw the black mark appear on the white steel, which quivered but didn't drop. Some said he had jerked his shot low and the mark was just a bullet fragment, but it looked to us like a solid hit that for some reason hadn't toppled the target. No matter: Clark was now out of the running. So was former Second Chance winner Wayne Umberger, whose plunge to 13th place in one of his best years came when he missed a plate at 10 yards.

Defending champ Gilmore took an early lead with a perfect score on the barricade and 41 tie-breaking Xs. He also cleaned the plates, and was but two points down on the practical event. Gilmore led the pack until he reached the Moving Target event.

All the leading shooters at the Cup are surrounded by cameras. It's part of the pressure that made the event famous as the most intense on the circuit. Gilmore felt that an ESPN camera got too close to him, but whatever happened, his concentration broke: Gilmore dropped 10 points on the Mover, the event that most favors the Tasco scope he helped vault to popularity, and he tumbled to fourth place.

Perhaps the most heartbreaking fall from the grace of whatever gods govern competitive shooting befell Christie and Bill Rogers. A few weeks before the Cup, burglars ransacked their home and stole virtually all their competitive guns. Bill Wilson sent them a brace of his custom S&W-based Cup revolvers, and they shot superbly with them. Christie's score would have made Women's Champion, and Bill would have come in a solid fourth. However, their ammo did not fly fast enough through the range chronographs to make the power floor, and they were disqualified. So were nine other shooters, including the head instructor of a major metro police department.

Many of us felt that the unprecedented humidity that cloaked the range the first couple of days made the air dense enough to slow down bullets. Christie and Bill accepted the bitter double loss with the characteristic grace that has made them favorites on the circuit.

Two shooters, J.B. Maskalis and myself, were disqualified for not being at our shooting stations in time, despite our protests that the original schedules we'd been going by had slated us to shoot later. (Cup IX set another record: the number of shooter disqualifications).

The only shooter to protest a penalty and win was 3rd place Roger Burgess: accused of a premature start, he produced a videotape of himself firing that showed him to be innocent. He was exonerated, and the protest committee decided not to accept video evidence in the future. (Sorry, no room for an editorial on that.)

It is true that holding your own and letting the others fall is a valid prescription for victory, but that does not take away from the superb performances of the winners.

John Pride, firearms instructor for the LAPD, who tallied a superb 1912 out of 1920 with 151-X's won The Cup. The tie-breaking center-X hits on his sheet were four more than famed professional shooter John Shaw logged, dropping Shaw into second. Both men used Aimpointed Smith & Wesson revolvers.

Pride, wearing the colors of his sponsor PMC, became the first man to win The Cup with factory ammo (158 grain lead roundnose service). Once nicknamed Mr. Gimmick—we are talking here about the man who once came to The Cup with a revolver weighing more than a Winchester .30/30 rifle—Pride had declared '87 to be his "back to basics" year. His gun was a Smith & Wesson L-frame stainless with six-inch factory barrel, carrying an aluminum sleeve by Jarvis for barricade-steadying and more stable weight, and mounting an Aimpoint 2000. The grips were by Bill Davis, with an extended bottom to provide a solid base for prone shooting. John cleaned the plates, dropped four points on the Mover and two each on the Barricade and the Practical, and never looked back.

Indeed, he never looked forward or sideways, either. John makes a point of avoiding the "walking scoreboards" who tell you what you have to beat. "I'm not there to beat anybody," he says, "I'm there to beat my own best previous performance."

John uses hypnotherapy in match preparation, and sells a series of useful tapes on the subject. A PPC shooter, he had scored a stunning 1499 out of 1500 points at a big match shortly before The Cup, and dropped the one point at the easy 25-yard stage.

He feels that Action Shooting and PPC feed off one another: "The accuracy demanded for PPC gets me ready to shoot a clean stage at The Cup, and the speed demanded along with accuracy at The Cup makes shooting PPC seem easier," he explains.

Prior to this year's Cup, John spent two

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months of shooting all four stages once a day Monday through Friday, and competing in PPC Saturday and Sunday. It honed him to championship form. To get to the LAPD range where he teaches during the week in time to shoot two stages before work, one instead of eating lunch, and a fourth after shift, he rose daily at 4 a.m., which also allowed for a workout. John cut out booze, junk food, and late hours as part of his training regimen. Even fitting in his commitment around the edges of a 40-hour job, Pride managed to outshoot the leading full-time professional pistol shooters, and his accomplishment was a phenomenal one.

Pride set more than one first. He was the first cop to win The Cup, and at 39, the oldest man to do so. Fowler was in his early 30s when he put his three straight Cups together, and '79 winner Ron Lerch was 35. Gilmore was also in his early 30s, and of course, Brian Enos and Rob Leatham were in their early 20s the three years they dominated the event.

Mario diPaolo of Montreal romped the International class and took 10th overall. Lorna Pavelka, who is winning her class in everything she shoots in her embryonic first year of serious competition, placed High Woman with a fine score. Mario and Lorna are husband and wife, and use nearly identical S&W .38s tuned by Murray Charlton with Tasco scopes and Rogers holsters.

Victory and defeat. The twin essences of sport were present with equally strong flavor, but perhaps the richest taste was the promise of dessert—the promise of Cup X, which promises in the year of its tenth birthday to be



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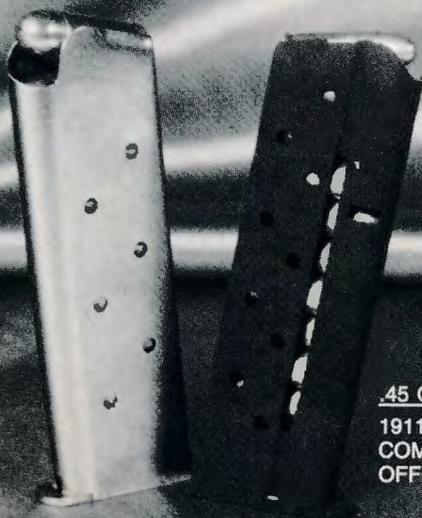
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not only the richest but the most heavily attended Bianchi Cup. The sponsors talk conservatively of 250 shooters, but I think 300 is within the realm of possibility. Remember, "It isn't just for champions anymore." Now, you can shoot the Bianchi Cup, side by side with the finest pistoleros that the history of handgunning has ever produced.



John Pride's guide to the practice and psychology of winning matches the way he won the Bianchi Cup is called "The Pride Method," and is available for \$4.95 + 2.00 postage from Police Bookshelf, PO Box 122, Concord, NH 03301.

CHARGING LION!

Continued from page 55

From my experience with this bullet in Africa, I can say without reservation that this is a bullet which leaves absolutely nothing to be desired. It performed so well for me that as I continue to use the .454, I doubt I'll ever change loads. What really surprised me was that on a subsequent bear hunting trip to Montana I had occasion to discover this gun's long range capabilities. I had heard about this before but seeing is believing, and I'm now a believer.

The .454 was a good performer on plains game and with my confidence building in this gun, I decided I was ready to try it on the ones that bite back.

We needed a Cape buffalo for lion bait and the early hours of the day found us watching a small herd of buff. They were feeding toward us, and one was a very nice bull. I was behind an anthill and was in a cramped position, hardly able to move my arms. The bull was broadside to me and walking slowly. I put the crosshairs behind his shoulder and squeezed, or rather jerked the trigger. The big bull stumbled, regained his footing and took off.

Gut shot! As he ran off, I put another .454 about an inch off his exhaust pipe, called the O-ring in Africa. The bull disappeared into the brush with the rest of the herd. I replaced the two rounds in the .454, and we went in after him.

I consider a wounded Cape buffalo, angry, mean and full of adrenalin, to be the most dangerous animal in the world.

After a few moments of tracking, my guide Craig Hunt stopped and whispered, "There he is." He was in the bush about 80 yards away and looking right at us. The tracker had been carrying a walking stick which I quickly confiscated for a rest. I cocked the hammer on the .454 and got a bead under his nose and, as I did this, out he comes!

Just as he charged, I busted him. Well, he just disappeared from view. It knocked him right on his O-ring. He started bellowing, which I took to be the death howl that a buff makes just as he dies. I turned to Craig and said, "Boy, I knocked the bejesus outta him, didn't I?"

Craig says, "No, he's just mad!" Craig was right.

The buff had regained his feet but was

DEPENDABLE.



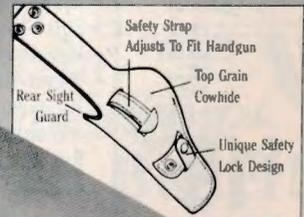
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apparently hit too hard to do anything but stand there and roar. We circled to the left of the animal, and I put one through his neck and that was the end of that. This was a big bull—beefy and with a 40 inch spread.

Four shots on a Cape buffalo? Not bad when you consider that he was gut shot and his adrenalin was pumping. I have seen them take more lead than that from heavy express rifles and still keep coming. If you have ever had to take a front-on shot at a charging Cape buffalo, you will know what I mean. I was awed at the power of the .454 Casull when it stopped him. We now had our lion bait!

The trackers had made several serious mistakes when they built the grass blind at the lion bait. They chose the base of a large anthill to erect the blind, which would place us between the lions to our front, and the water hole to our back. Beyond the water hole, we would have to park the Land Rover when we approached the blind. Apparently, with the anthill to our backs, they felt it was not necessary to completely surround us with the blind, and they only built a grass wall six feet high and eight feet long.

I stuck the .454 out the hole and only had time to yell "Lion coming!"

Late in the afternoon, we parked the Land Rover about a mile from the blind and made a quiet approach. The lions—two males and several lionesses—were on the bait. Craig and I both realized, as we approached the blind, that where and how it had been built could lead to a situation that could become dangerous in a hurry. As I settled into the blind, I tried not to think about Cape buffalo being a staple in the lion's diet.

A lion always goes to water after it feeds. Great! The water hole was behind us and the Land Rover was beyond that. It was getting very close to dark and, at best, if they did go to water after dark, the lions would be between us and the Land Rover. Add to this we had only a grass wall in front of us. The cats just may get a bit upset as they pass the flimsy curtain and discover some uninvited dinner guests.

The big male got up, moved to the right—out of my line of sight—and headed for the water hole. I couldn't see him to shoot, and as I looked back at the bait, four of the lionesses had decided that there was something wrong at the blind.

Now, we have the big male somewhere behind us, and the lionesses, with their bellies to the ground and ears flattened, are beginning to circle the anthill and make false charges at the blind. We were in trouble and the situation was deteriorating by the minute.

Craig with his .458 and the tracker with his .375 were guarding our back and sides. I was at the bottom of the anthill, looking through the peephole, watching the younger male, who during all this, was just laying there watching it all.

The lionesses were getting braver and braver. They were at the side of the blind now, low to the ground, rushing the blind with a growl and backing off again. I looked back through the hole in the blind at the young male, and he got up, kind of stretches and yawns—and comes charging right at the damn blind!

I stuck the .454 out the hole, and only had time to yell, "Lion coming!" Craig was above me and had no way of seeing through the blind, but he could hear the lion coming. The lion was in the scope, coming full bore at us.

When he was six or seven feet from me, I fired and hit him in the chest. It literally blew the lion backwards and over. It was like he went straight up in the air, clawing at his chest. As he went over backwards, his rear paws kicked dirt and sticks all over the blind, and Craig, not able to see what was happening, cut loose with his .458 at the sound. Of course he missed the cat, as it was already down and somewhat to the left of the spot Craig had shot at. It did not make any difference though, that cat was dead when it hit the ground.

Craig wanted me to put another one into the lion, so I stood up where I could see over the blind and put an insurance shot into him.

Now out steps this lioness that was apparently either behind us, or laying off to the side. It was really hard to keep track of all those buggers. She was a big lioness, a big mama. She walked to the young male and nudged it, then started to make noises like she was crying. I thought, Jesus, I don't believe this.

I remarked to Craig, "She's crying." He laughed at the silly American, "No she isn't."

I again argued, "She's crying!" He rolled his eyes and said again, "No she isn't."

Then the lioness turned and glared at us with a look that I will never forget as long as I live! I mean, there was nothing but hate in her yellow-green eyes. Craig did not say anything this time. The tracker, Craig and I were shoulder-to-shoulder, with the tracker watching our back. Craig's and my attention was riveted on the lioness when, just then, we heard the Land Rover coming.

The .454 had proven itself in Africa

The driver, having heard the shooting, was coming to pick us up. When he got close to us, we jumped in, fired several shots to scare the lioness, drove to the dead lion, threw him in the Land Rover, and got the hell out of there!

Upon examining the lion, we found the .454 entered his chest and exited just ahead of the rear leg. The .454 had proven itself in Africa, accurate, dependable, and capable of taking any animal on earth. I was more than happy to put my name on



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CONVERSATION

Continued from page 37

JS: I've probably tried everything from partying all night the night before a match to being real serious about it. I've found that the more I've wanted to win, the worse I've performed, so I just go out there and try to do my best on every single shot.

JW: *Should a beginner buy state-of-the-art equipment?*

JS: I don't know what you call state-of-the-art, but in a holster I'd have to go with an Ernie Hill holster—there's no sense buying a cheap one for \$50 when you can buy a good one for \$75. As far as buying a \$2,000 gun versus a \$700 gun, obviously it's another matter. The gun is the most important piece of equipment, but it depends on the shooter's budget.

JW: *Should a new shooter get a .45 or a .38 Super?*

JS: I'd have to advise him to get a .38 Super. The setup I've got is ideal—a .38 Super with a 9mm barrel. I was probably one of the last competitors to change from the .45—in fact I got into trouble using a .45 in the 1985 IPSC Nationals with the eight-shot courses. I ran the gun dry two or three times. I finally decided that as long as they're going to have courses like that, I'll use a .38 Super.

I call it a John Shaw stance.

JW: *What are your strong points as a competitor?*

JS: I think determination and flexibility are my biggest assets as a competitor. I've been able to change a lot over the last eight or nine years and I think that's what's kept me up there. I haven't been scared to change. I've watched other shooters who were beating me and I changed my stance and my grip, went from two eyes open to one eye open.

JW: *What about going from two eyes open to one eye open?*

JS: You can look at the target and still see the sights with one eye open. You can't do that with two eyes open. If you look at the target with both eyes open you wind up seeing two sights. I never realized where I missed with both eyes open. With one eye closed you know exactly where you missed. With both eyes open you see too many things: you see the target, you see debris flying up if you miss, there's too much to distract you.

JW: *You mentioned changing your stance—have you gone from a Weaver to an Isosceles?*

JS: I don't call it an Isosceles, I call it a John Shaw stance. Get the stance that's comfortable for you. There's no way you're going to be comfortable in a Weaver stance pushing and pulling and turning your body sideways. Anything you want to do well, you have to be comfortable with it. That goes from shooting pool to treading water. You don't normally stand in a Weaver stance so there's no sense

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holding the gun in a Weaver stance.

JW: Can you describe the John Shaw stance?

JS: I pretty well just face the target, bring my hands together towards the target, close my eyes and swing back and forth to get what I call a "natural point of aim."

JW: What are your weak points as a shooter?

JS: In 1981 I opened the school and wrote a book [*You Can't Miss* by John Shaw and Michael Bane] and I was pressing much too hard to promote the school and the book. I think that's probably what some of the other shooters are going through now—they win a couple of tournaments and all of a sudden they're writing a book or opening a school and the pressure's really on. They want to make the business go, they've decided that shooting is what they're going to do for a living, and that creates a lot of pressure. Before they were just sort of playing with it, but now it's their livelihood.

JW: Do you find that you're spending less time preparing for matches?

JS: Certainly. I practiced half a day for the Bianchi Cup this year. I got home Sunday night from the Steel Challenge and left here Tuesday morning for Bianchi. I used to practice a month and fire 20,000 rounds for each tournament. It's hard when two major matches are three thousand miles apart and you only have one day between them. And it isn't easy to go from an open-sight 9mm to a big, heavy-barreled, scoped revolver. It puts a lot of extra pressure on you.



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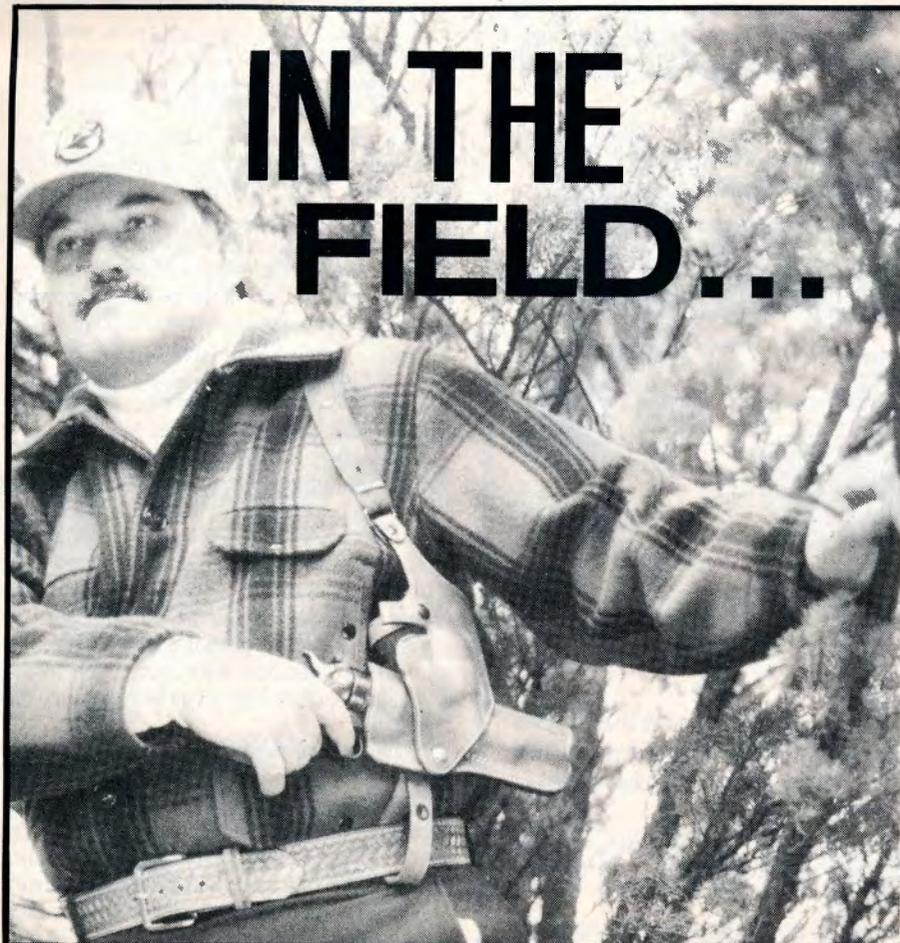
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DEALERS WRITE ON LETTERHEAD AND ENCLOSE FFL.

AH-11

THE TOOL

Continued from page 42

separately. Also, R.D.P. recommends taper crimping whenever variations in case length are not held to .002" to .003". If a roll crimp is used on a case that is, say, .010" to .015" too long, it will be crushed by the tremendous force that is generated between the platen and the crimping die.

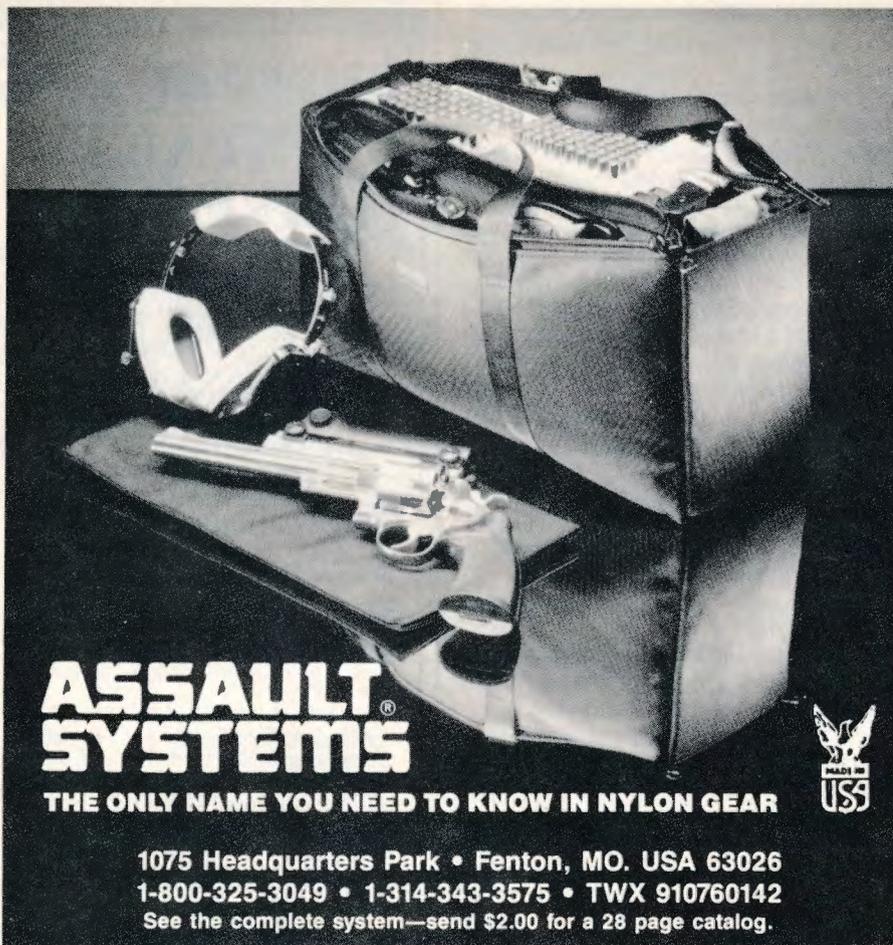
The downstroke is the powerstroke; the upstroke requires that the operator use a little tactile finesse. As the handle reaches the top of its travel, where the least amount of leverage is exerted, you'll feel the primer being seated. The primer will have been vacuum-fed into a cam-actuated rack-and-pinion mechanism that moves along a taper of .015". This taper compensates for the considerable differences in the height (thickness) of primers, differences that exist not only between rifle and handgun primers, but also from brand to brand. If a compensating feature such as this were built into all automatic primer-feed mechanisms we might not be hearing scare reports of primer explosions, because the likelihood of hooking an anvil during transport of the primer would be appreciably diminished.

As the platen bottoms, the shellholder plate rotates 72° right to left, a case is moved by another rack-and-pinion mechanism into position in the shellplate, and, as the shellplate moves past an ejection arm, a loaded round is nudged into the ammo box.

Throughout the reloading cycle, cases are held in each of the five stations by 1/8th-inch-diameter, spring-tensioned ballchecks. Cases can be removed for inspection or replacement at any station, while the ballcheck arrangement provides the advantage of keeping cases from wobbling out of alignment prior to being moved into position for primer seating and other critical operations.

I've summarized the function of The Tool as it might be put to work under optimal conditions; that is, with the advantages provided by the bullet collator, the vacuum primer feed, and the automatic case feeder. These add-ons are capable of substantially increasing production-rate potential. For example, the collator, if adjusted for minimum shut-off time, can tip bullets upright in its hopper and send them along to the seating station at a rate of 2500 per hour. There, they'll be picked up by yet another rack-and-pinion mechanism and fed into position beneath the seating die. As this happens, the case feeder will be putting empties, rim-first, down the tube and into their notch in the shellplate as fast as they can be tossed into the funnel.

The alternative, which trims production rates for handgun or rifle rounds by roughly 20 to 25 percent, is to feed cases by hand and let gravity take care of getting bullets and primers down to where their feed mechanisms come into play. Standard equipment on The Tool includes a cluster of five plastic tubes, each of which will hold 35 to 40 bul-



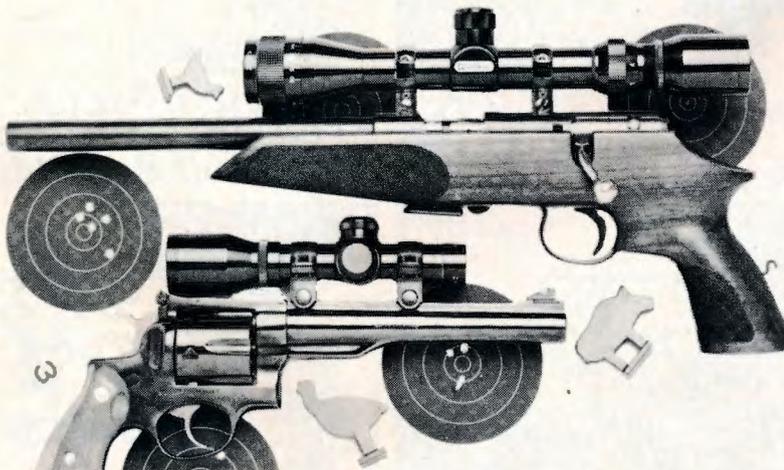
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lets. The cluster doesn't offer the speed or convenience of the collator, but even so you'll be able to load 200 or more rounds before stopping to add a fresh supply of bullets. Meanwhile, although you'll be foregoing the advantage of having primers vacuum-drawn into the seating mechanism (and having the mechanism vacuum-cleaned each time a primer is seated), there'll be no appreciable reduction in the quality of the ammo you'll be able to produce.

Reloading handgun rounds with The Tool calls for the use of RCBS carbide dies, which require no lubrication. Rifle cases are lubed by a special die that incorporates an inner cylinder and an outer cylinder. Lubricant runs down through machined channels to a felt wick at the bottom of the inner cylinder and is transferred to the body of each case. The amount of lubricant supplied to the wick can be controlled by means of a metering valve.

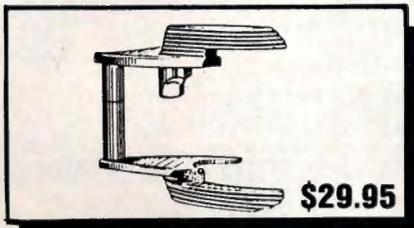
Also included in the operation of The Tool is an RCBS Uniflow powder measure, which is actuated by an adjustable arm as the platen rises.

Ralph Pickens, Dave's father, is a former benchrest shooter, die maker, and gunsmith. Ralph, who says he began brainphasing The Tool about five years ago, refers to the Uniflow as a "very accurate" measure. It ties in quite handily with the level of precision he hopes to achieve with the machinery R.D.P. is turning out. There's also talk of durability: "We've got customers who have loaded more than a million rounds with this equipment and

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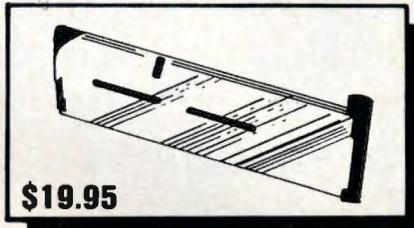
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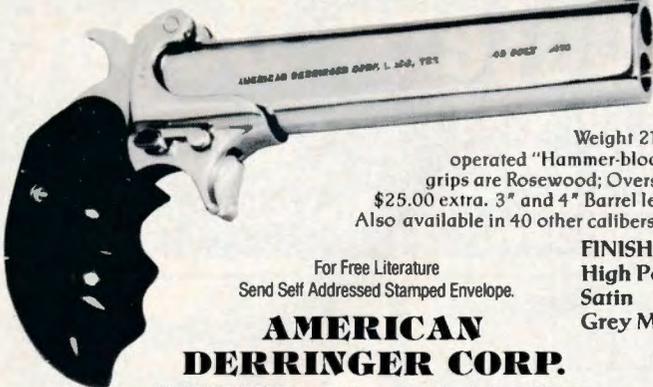
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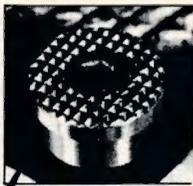
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we've had no complaints from any of them." There's an abundance of quality here, to be sure, all of which is generated in the U.S.A., but you don't get it for peanuts. The base price of The Tool is \$1265 for pistol; \$1315 for rifle. To those amounts it's necessary to add \$695 for the bullet collator, \$180 for the vacuum-priming system, and up to \$285 for the case feeder. Caliber conversions (The Tool will accommodate just about any cartridge you'd ordinarily have need to reload) cost \$40 to \$45.

All of this, from the production rates to the price of The Tool, which, with its full complement of options, will set each proud new owner back more than two grand, is just a matter of balancing numbers with requirements. Reinforcing this premise is the fact that quite a few topnotch IPSC shooters think nothing (well, almost nothing . . .) of spending that kind of money on a custom-crafted autoloader.

But, according to my experience, guns have a way of coming and going, swap fever and periodic financial reverses taking their toll, while R.D.P. claims that this is "The last machine you'll ever have to buy." If you look at it that way, the expenditure may well be justified. Additional information is available from R.D.P. Tool Company, Inc., Dept. AH, 49162 McCoy Ave., East Liverpool, OH, 43920; phone 216-385-5129.



LADIES EVENT

Continued from page 61

so-important factor of dry firing. Shirley practices her draws in front of a mirror to see exactly what she is doing. She also video tapes all of her practices and matches, as well as taping other men and women, then takes the tapes home and watches them over and over again, slowing them down to analyze frame-by-frame what the other competitors do that she could pick up on and improve her shooting.

With a balance of both types of practice, you could be an unbeatable machine. I can't say that either the live or the dry firing was more valuable because the final standings in the match reflect the intense competition put in by all.

If there are any women who think that this competition sounds like something they would like to try, it is a growing sport for them. This year eight of the 19 women competing in the Steel Challenge were new shooters.

The major sponsors are starting to support the women competitors. Springfield Armory is sponsoring Roberta Geer who won the ladies' shootoffs this year. Christie Rogers, who was unable to shoot the Challenge this year because of the time conflict with the Bianchi Cup, is sponsored by Safariland. There are also a few of the other women who are sponsored by Davis Leather.

If any of you are interested in competition with a handgun, check with your local shooting ranges for further information or contact



PRIZE GUNS

Continued from page 63

top of the barrel for the Aimpoint mount also allow an Aristocrat rib to be fitted.

The auto is a typical 1911 pin gun chambered for 9mm. The frame and slide are from Caspian Arms while all internal parts are Colt. The slide is unique in that it has two sets of vertical serrations. One set is located at the rear, in the usual position, while the other set is near the front. The latter is for those who prefer to take a forward grip on the slide when operating the action. The gun has been accurized, given an action job and fitted with a Bar-Sto barrel. It also has the usual accessories like a beavertail grip safety and extended magazine catch.

Because it is intended for speed shooting, it has a low profile Bo-Mar fully-adjustable rear sight with one of Jarvis' heavy compensators mounted on the front of the barrel. This matches the contours and profile of the slide and appears to be an integral part. Black rubber Pachmayr grips with the front strap portion cut away complete the package.

Both guns presented quite a challenge to Jerry Usher who spent a considerable amount of time working up a suitable design. In my opinion, PPC revolvers are not aesthetically pleasing to the eye. This is because the heavy slab barrels, ribs and underweights do not match the curved parts of the frame. As one friend aptly described them, most PPC revolvers look like a Model 10 with a piece of sewer pipe screwed onto the front. Consequently, designing suitable engraving coverage for such guns is not easy.

If working up a design for the revolver was not enough, Jerry also had to somehow match it with that of the 9mm auto. Taken by itself, this gun has a very pleasing appearance but the checkering on the front strap presented problems because it tends to break up any design that is placed on the slide and the compensator.

Nevertheless, in spite of these difficulties, Jerry produced a design that complements both guns and gives them the appearance of a matched pair. On the revolver, this is achieved with simple scroll work balanced with some cross hatching that is applied to the underlug, barrel, frame and cylinder.

Similar scroll work is applied to the sides of the frame and slide of the 9mm auto. A simple curved design near the checkering prevents them from breaking up the design and helps carry it through to the compensator at the front. Both guns have been hard chromed throughout, but with a difference. Instead of the usual satin finish, the round surfaces of the revolver and the flat sides of the auto have a highly polished, mirror-like finish. This provides a nice contrast to the other surfaces which have been bead blasted to give them a matte finish.



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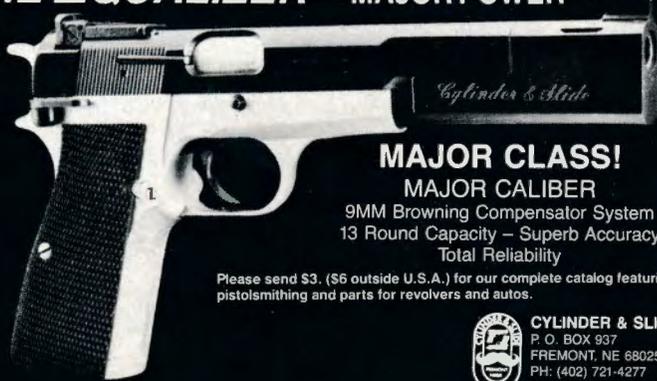
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The SSK Company provided a lovely hardwood case for the matched pair of prize handguns. Handcrafted from cherry wood, the case is both attractive and protective. SSK cases (220 Belvidere, Dept. AH, York, PA, 17404) are available in an assortment of sizes.

When viewed side by side, both handguns have an impressive and distinguished appearance that is fitting for the match for which they are being awarded. In addition to being pleasing to look at, they are also top notch competition guns that can hold their own in any of the matches. They should, therefore, perform well in the hands of Jerry Barnhart who is the winner of the match and also the 1987 Steel Challenge champion.



KIMBER PREDATOR

Continued from page 52

The chamber is cut to minimum dimensions. When case length approaches the maximum .222 length of 1.760", after only a couple of reloads, the bolt began to be a little tight to close. This is not a fault of the gun for I'm sure the tight chamber dimensions contribute to the fine accuracy, but it is a point the reloader needs to know about. I don't have a sound statistical basis for this, but .223 cases seem to require trimming a little more frequently than many rifle calibers and if they aren't kept within proper dimensions, problems of excessive pressure can result. One way to minimize this is to use neck sizing dies.

The Kimber Predator isn't going to be everyone's cup of tea

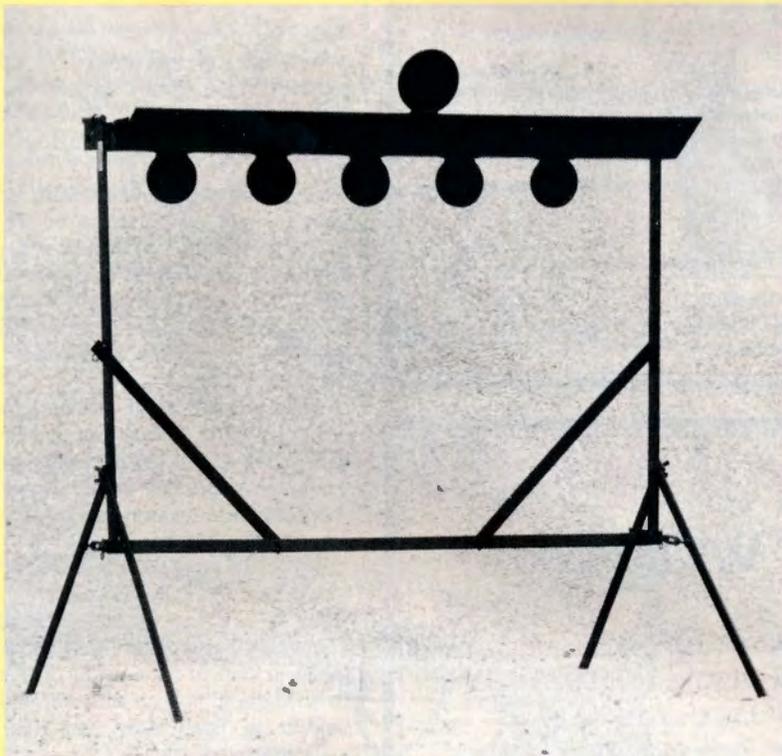
The receiver is milled to accept Kimber's neat scope mounts and they proved to be both convenient and accurate. The scope returned very close to zero when it was removed and reinstalled several times during testing. Two Burris scopes were used for the tests which created something of a dilemma for me.

Bench testing was done using their 7x IER version and I found the extra magnification really helpful while trying to produce the smallest possible groups, but it tends to black out if your head position is not perfect, and this may be something of a handicap in the field if you have to find a target and shoot fast. For this reason I changed to the Burris 1.5-4x variable when I took the Predator crow hunting.

The Kimber Predator isn't going to be everyone's cup of tea for it is an expensive and specialized tool, but it fills a spot between the factory-made XP-100 and the custom pistols made on Remington and other actions. It is also one of the best examples of getting what you pay for.



TEST REPORT



QUIKSET STEEL TARGET

By AH Staff

Quikset Steel Target is a portable set of four-inch diameter steel plates that requires no drudgery of walking downrange to reset fallen plates. This ingenious set of five plates resets itself without yanking on a lanyard or other contrivance disruptive to shooting.

Above the five steel targets is a sixth five-inch plate that, when hit, resets the five targets. The shooter can continuously plink without interruption.

The Quikset Steel Target is the centerfire follow-up to Motsey's Enterprise's first plinking device for rimfire rounds. The QST Model 3845 handles non-magnum rounds with energy ranges of from 270 to 600 foot-pounds. This includes .38 Special, .44 Special, 9mm and .45 ACP, among others.

Constructed of quarter-inch T-1 steel, the plates are hinged at the top and swing backwards to land on a rail. When the sixth reset plate is hit, it releases the rail and the five plates pop back down.

The QST comes with a portable stand that stores in the trunk of a small car. The stand assembles and disassembles easily and all supporting legs are attached with catter pins. No tools are required. The unit weighs 70 pounds, targets and stand.

The QST retails for \$275 plus shipping from 15600 Morro Road, Atascadero, CA, 93422. Telephone orders with MasterCard/Visa are accepted at (805) 466-6457.

Our testing staff used three calibers: .38 Special, .44 Special and .45 ACP. We expended about 300 rounds in testing with five shooters. We found the plates occasionally failed to stay locked-back after being hit because they spun past the locking rail. Every now and then the upper reset plate had to be hit twice to release the five plates.

We also shot the plates with .22 LR standard velocity rounds even though the QST is designed for centerfire ammo. The five plates consistently functioned, but the rimfire rounds do not have the power to drop the sixth reset plate. The unit is not intended for rimfire ammunition, however, .22s work on the plates but you need a centerfire for the reset plate.

Motsey's Enterprises cautions that the QST should be placed at least 50 feet down range to prevent bullet splatter hitting the shooter. Eye protection should be worn. We encountered no problems with bullet splash-back at a range of 60 feet. All testing was with lead bullets.

We found the QST to be an enjoyable plinking device suitable for informal competition. Those practicing for NRA Action Shooting would find the QST a good training aid.

The only problem we found with the QST is that the reset rail casts a shadow on the lower five plates. This obscures about half of the four-inch plates. We found this to be distracting with iron sights, but not so with an Aimpoint Mk. III electronic sight.

We took the QST to a local NRA Action Shooting match and set it up for the competitor's to warm-up for the Falling Plate Event. The unit was greeted with enthusiasm and long lines quickly formed.



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NINE IS FINE

Continued from page 39

government test" that showed "... the 9mm and the .45 are closely comparable in stopping performance." Could have expected that from a gun magazine full of pick-up truck ads.

I leafed through *gundom's* stain rag (works great to mop up oil stains on the garage floor), *Bun World*, and found a nifty photo of a 9mm case that almost blew-out. The story said, "... due to an unusually tight bore, the feedramp was cut rather generously leaving a large area of unsupported brass." Uh-oh, trouble in paradise.

And last, but certainly not least, the Grand Old Man of the .45 auto himself, Jeff Cooper, appeared in a prestigious handgun magazine saying he'd rather face an enemy with a Civil War vintage .44 percussion revolver than a 9mm Beretta. Truth at last!

Then, through more unnamed sources here at the Crossroads of the Marine Corps, I heard what those government tests entailed.

Man, they cooked em, froze em, rolled em round in cement mixers full of mud. They swished em in buckets of water and poured sand in em. Bang, bang, bang—the Beretta 92F came out on top.

But, is this the real reason for trashing the Colt .45 auto? I doubt it.

How about majority opinion versus gun writers? Nah.

Could it be one of Jeff Cooper's failed students trying to get even? Unlikely.

A better explanation could be the current Euro-Fad among Yuppies entrenched in the federal bureaucracy. I mean, have you ever tried counting the sheer numbers of Pierre Cardin and Yves St. Laurent clad short-hair types in those snazzy BMWs and Audis stuck in DC traffic? Don't try without a calculator equipped with scientific notation—you'll run out of display!

Ever notice the similarity between the new Army's dress black uniforms and those of Germany? How about that Kevlar helmet (helmut?) so much in evidence on Grenada.

Nah, must be something else. Even Euro-Fad Yuppies couldn't muster enough power to dethrone the .45 auto. Besides, the choice seems to have been made by rational thought processes which simply couldn't be representative of the usual Pentagon mind-set.

I GOT IT! Don Pendleton!

If it weren't for Don Pendleton's *Executioner* Series, we'd still have the Colt .45. Sure, ole Mack Bolan roams the world off'n Mafia, KGB, terrorists and other assorted riff-raff with his Beretta. So that must be it!

I mean, every book in the series shows ole Mack coming out on top. He beats shotguns, Uzi-ites, Mac 10-ers and even M-60-ers. All through superior skill and accuracy with his silenced Beretta 92F.

The Pentagon and even the President himself would love a sure-fire method of dealing with Russkie Bad Boys, Mohamars Monsters and other assorted Dune Goons.

Mack Bolan has the answer—a Beretta—and now we have it too.

Wonder why they didn't adopt the silencer too?

Oh well, doesn't matter to me. I'll keep my .45 Long Colt Ruger. Yeah, it's slow to cycle and only has six shots, but a 255 grain Keith-type cast slug (it really weighs 263 grains, but that ain't sexy sounding) at 1350 fps (no, they won't print my loading data) should make 18 hits with the Nueva Mike Mike a bit superfluous.

Unless, of course, you enjoy shooting shoe soles of bad guys. No accounting for taste.

Besides which, it keeps S.A. Numb-thumb's thumbs numb and that saves me from thinking up another pen name.



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Beretta 92 COMPENSATOR

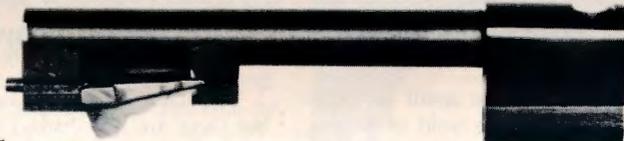


Jarvis Gunsmithing has introduced a drop-in match barrel and expansion chamber compensator for the Beretta 92 pistol. Utilizing the unsurpassed Bar-Sto match-grade target barrel, the Jarvis compensator kit adds five ounces to the Beretta and increases the length by 1¹¹/₃₂ inches.

The compensator reduces recoil by over one-third and slams the brakes on muzzle flip by better than 50%, according to Jarvis Gunsmithing.

Jarvis Gunsmithing will fit the Bar-Sto compensated barrel to your 92 for \$375.

Buying the unit in kit form for your own installation costs \$340. A third option is buying the compensator alone for \$145 to be installed on the factory Beretta barrel.



The compensator is milled from solid bar stock and features the efficient expansion chamber system of porting. For more information, contact Jarvis Gunsmithing at 4418 Larkstone Cr., Dept. AH, Orange, CA 92669.



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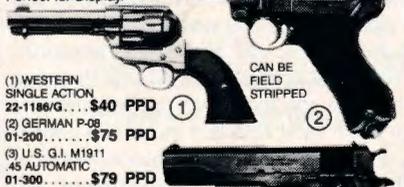
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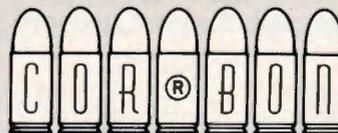
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TEST REPORT

An old saying goes something like, "Big surprises come in small packages," and the subject of this test and evaluation fills the bill for that old saw to a "T." The Charter Pug manages to squeeze a full-sized .44 Special round into a package so compact and lightweight that it may indeed come as a surprise to many prospective buyers.

The Pug is the latest model of the long established line of .44 Special revolvers to come out of the Stratford, Conn. plant. At a mere 20 ounces, the Pug is a handgun that you could carry all day long and almost for-

assembly is accomplished through the use of a screwdriver, punch, and one paperclip. Removing the stocks, one sees the one-piece coil firing spring. Cocking the hammer will bring into view a small hole in the base of the mainspring guide rod. By inserting the paperclip into the hole and lowering the hammer, the spring and rod can be removed. There are two pins in the frame that must be removed, along with another screw in the frame at the top of the backstrap. The entire frame can then be removed. Next another screw is removed which allows the hammer

Charter Arms PUG

By Jim Weller



get that it's even there. Its overall length is a short 7½ inches, while the height is a compact 5¼ inches, and its widest point only measures a hair under an inch and a half. Into this package you can stuff five rounds of .44 Special, the presence of which should indeed take the worry out of being close.

The folks on Sniffens Lane have done their best to come up with just about everything

to be lifted free. Charter does not recommend any further take down, other than the crane assembly should it become dirty.

The Pug isn't meant as a paper puncher, so I wasn't disappointed in the accuracy tests. Firing two-handed at a distance of 15 yards, it's very easy to hold three-inch groups. After all, this is a purely defensive sidearm, and I don't expect it to drive tacks.

A compact package of .44 Special power!

that you could want in a small defensive package. The hammer is void of a spur, although there is a medium sized nub left, serrated on the top to thumb cock it if desired. I found the serrations to be not quite deep enough. Once the hammer is started back, I simply put my thumb over the entire piece and pull it the rest of the way until it's fully cocked. Naturally you wouldn't do this when in a hurry, thus the Pug is intended to be double-action all the way.

The 2½ inch barrel carries a full length ejector rod shroud and sports a full ramp front sight. On checking the muzzle end, it appears that the entire barrel assembly is a two piece affair. The actual rifled portion appears to be encased by the outer assembly. The rear sight notch is integral with their one piece frame and thus is non-adjustable. The firing pin is their standard beryllium copper unit, complete with hammer block system.

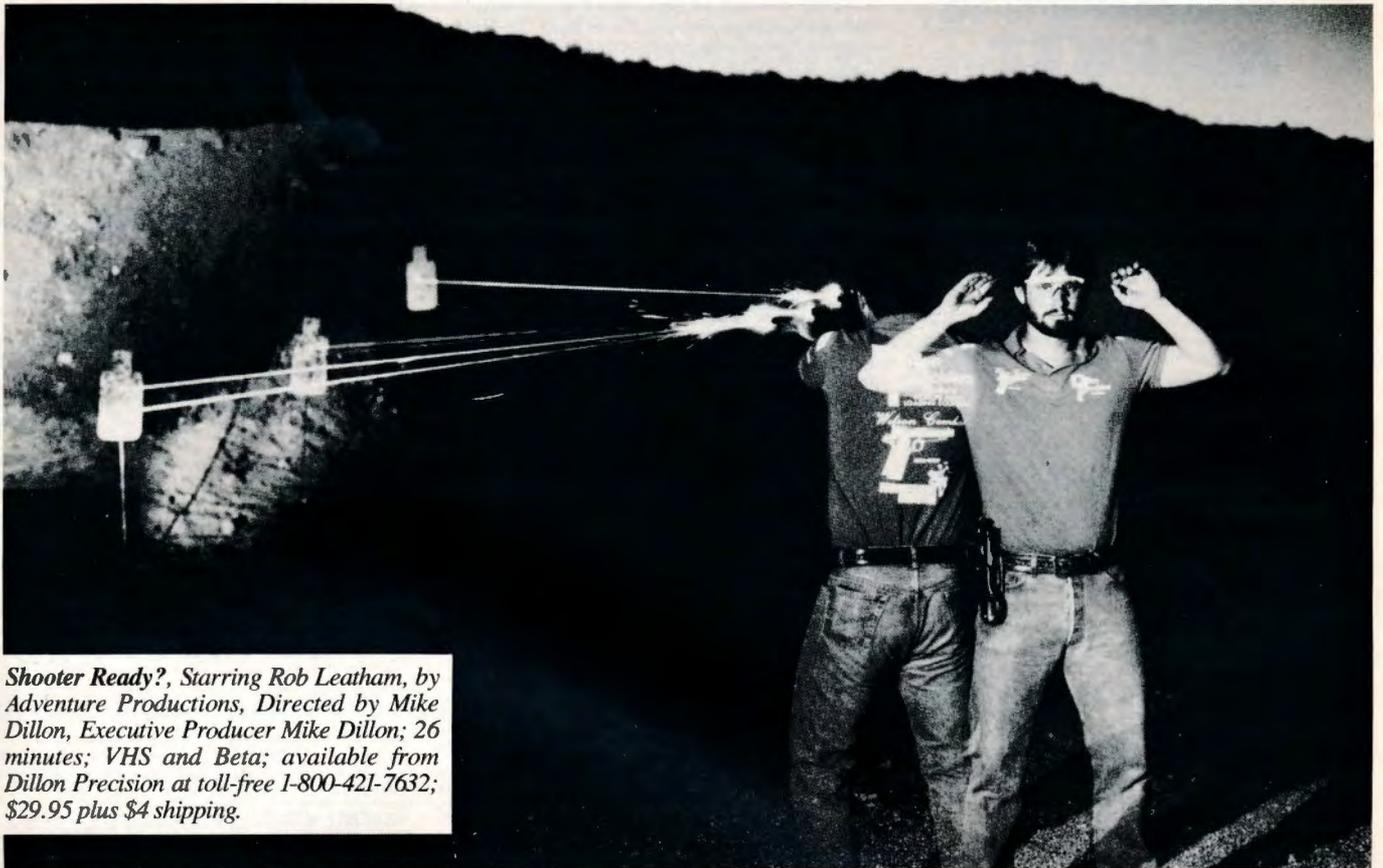
The stocks are checkered neoprene and sport finger grooves. They are very narrow for concealment purposes and are relieved on the side so that speedloaders may be utilized.

With Charter's one-piece frame, dis-

The action on the Pug isn't all that heavy, but there are two distinct snags in the DA pull. You can feel the trigger going "chuck, chuck, BOOM" when pulling through the DA stroke. Speedloaders are available for the Bulldog line from HKS, but be advised that the ejector rod isn't long enough to allow the empties to be eased out. It takes a smart slap to eject them all the way out. There is also a stud on the left side of the frame to arrest the rearward movement of the cylinder when it's open, and it will not allow you to rotate the cylinder when reloading one or two rounds at a time. The rim of a cartridge will catch on the stud and stop the rotation.

Other than a couple of minor points, I like the Pug. Charter now has a Lifetime Maintenance & Service Policy on all their guns which is good as long as you own it. They will replace or repair worn original parts with the exception of the frame, barrel and exterior finish, *free of charge*. Try getting that guarantee from another manufacturer. For more information, contact: Charter Arms, Dept. AH, 430 Sniffens Lane, Stratford, CT 06497.





Shooter Ready?, Starring Rob Leatham, by Adventure Productions, Directed by Mike Dillon, Executive Producer Mike Dillon; 26 minutes; VHS and Beta; available from Dillon Precision at toll-free 1-800-421-7632; \$29.95 plus \$4 shipping.

A deep, resounding voice narrates the opening of *Shooter Ready?* as a helicopter sweeps in low to the desert floor. The ominous chopper lands amid a swirl of prop-washed desert dust and a hatch slowly, dramatically opens. Out steps Combat Master and four-time IPSC National Champion Rob Leatham.

And the bass voice intones, "... only once in a lifetime is a shooter with such extraordinary skill, speed and accuracy born onto the face of the earth."

Leatham utters his first words of the tape in response to the narrator's hyperbole: "Now that's a bunch of bull!"

Leatham sets the tone for his first training tape with this declaration—"you can do the same thing!"

And from there you're off on a dramatic and visually startling lesson on the techniques that have enabled Rob Leatham to claim the first-ever (and not yet duplicated) *Triple Crown* of professional handgunning. In 1985 Leatham won the Big Three: Steel Challenge, Bianchi Cup and the IPSC Nationals. He reveals his secrets in *Shooter Ready?* in a manner so that both the D and A class shooter can benefit. This wide appeal to all skill levels is one of the prime attributes of this clever production.

Another is the (dare I say it?) brilliant cinematography. Shot entirely at night with eerie lighting effects, a smoke machine and tracer bullets, the film creates a surrealistic effect. It's as though Salvador Dali, Francis

Continued on page 97



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VIDEO REVIEW
Continued from page 93

Ford Coppola and Rob Leatham got together and made a movie.

Leatham covers the basics in an advanced manner. Talking about the grip on the pistol, the shooting stance and the reload is often condescending and, well, basic. Leatham manages to convey these fundamentals in a way that is neither insulting to the advanced shooter nor over the head of the beginner. It is obvious the man is a talented teacher as well as a shooter.

From there Leatham progresses the viewer through more refined techniques such as the *El Presidente* drill (he shoots a sub-five-second El Prez on film!), barricade shooting, prone shooting and long range shooting.

All firing is at steel plates—incidentally, you can see the amazing regularity of his double-taps this way—and with 9mm tracer ammunition. Over 5,000 rounds of tracers were fired from his Wilson Accu-Comp custom 1911 pistol.

Slow motion, coupled with the fog machine and the clever night lighting techniques, makes for a splendid "light show" through the black night to the white steel

plates. Even if you don't want to learn how to shoot, the tracers and the light show are almost worth the \$29.95 price of the tape!

Leatham puts this tape, and its purpose, in perspective right from the start. He emphasizes that he is teaching and illustrating *competitive shooting techniques* and not self-defense, not tactics. He makes the point in a most dramatic and memorable manner.

But this is the most delicious morsel of the entire video, and I almost hate to give it away. Everyone gets mad when they know the ending to a good fic!

Suffice it to say there is a captivating "dream sequence" in which Rob blows away a gang of terrorists. He then points out how futile and ridiculous it would have been in real life to go after Uzi and M-16 armed bad guys with a gamey .38 Super comp gun. He uses the cleverly filmed dream to demonstrate his thesis—this, folks, is how to win matches, not how to "be a bodyguard."

You'll be raving about this sequence and many others in *Shooter Ready?* as you blurt the good news to your shooting friends.

Shooter Ready? transcends the ho-hum, amateurish "shooting video" genre and elevates the "training tape" to a new plateau. You will watch it again and again as you pick up more and more subtle little points on this masterful production from a master shooter. On a scale of one-to-ten, I rate this a twenty.

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THE TAMER



By John Taffin

One of the big problems inherent in chambering handguns for rifle cartridges is recoil. Handguns, Ltd. (909 Benton St., Dept. AH, Manila, AR, 72442) is now marketing an add-on recoil reducer for the Remington XP that is called The Tamer.

My sample XP from Steve Malloy of Handguns, Ltd. is a completely custom 7-08. The gun itself is stocked with a beautiful piece of walnut and shows both excellent craftsmanship and wood to metal fit. The Tamer is fitted on the end of the barrel in such a way that one has to look closely to see that it is not machined as part of the barrel itself. As the picture shows, The Tamer consists of two vertical slots on each side. The big question, of course — would it work?

Malloy furnished me with a set of RCBS Bench Rest Dies in 7-08 so I could load for the XP and I loaded 154 gr. Hornady's at factory velocities. A lot of companies make big claims and I have learned to be a little leery until I see, in this case feel, for myself.

Touching off the first round was unbelievable. There was virtually no felt recoil and the XP hardly moved. I then made a foam rest and marked the spot of reference where the butt of the XP rested and fired a full house 7-08/154. The stock moved rearward one-half inch! The test XP was furnished with a 4X Redfield and I spent a pleasant time shooting two boxes of ammo at small targets at various ranges.

I'm impressed with the job of reducing recoil that The Tamer accomplishes. In addition, the workmanship on the custom XP was absolutely top notch. The Tamer is available for both handguns and rifles with a price of \$125 installed. In a recent phone conversation with Malloy, he informed me that he would soon be sending a test .44 Magnum Model 29 with The Tamer installed. I'm looking forward to seeing what can be accomplished in reducing recoil on a sixgun.



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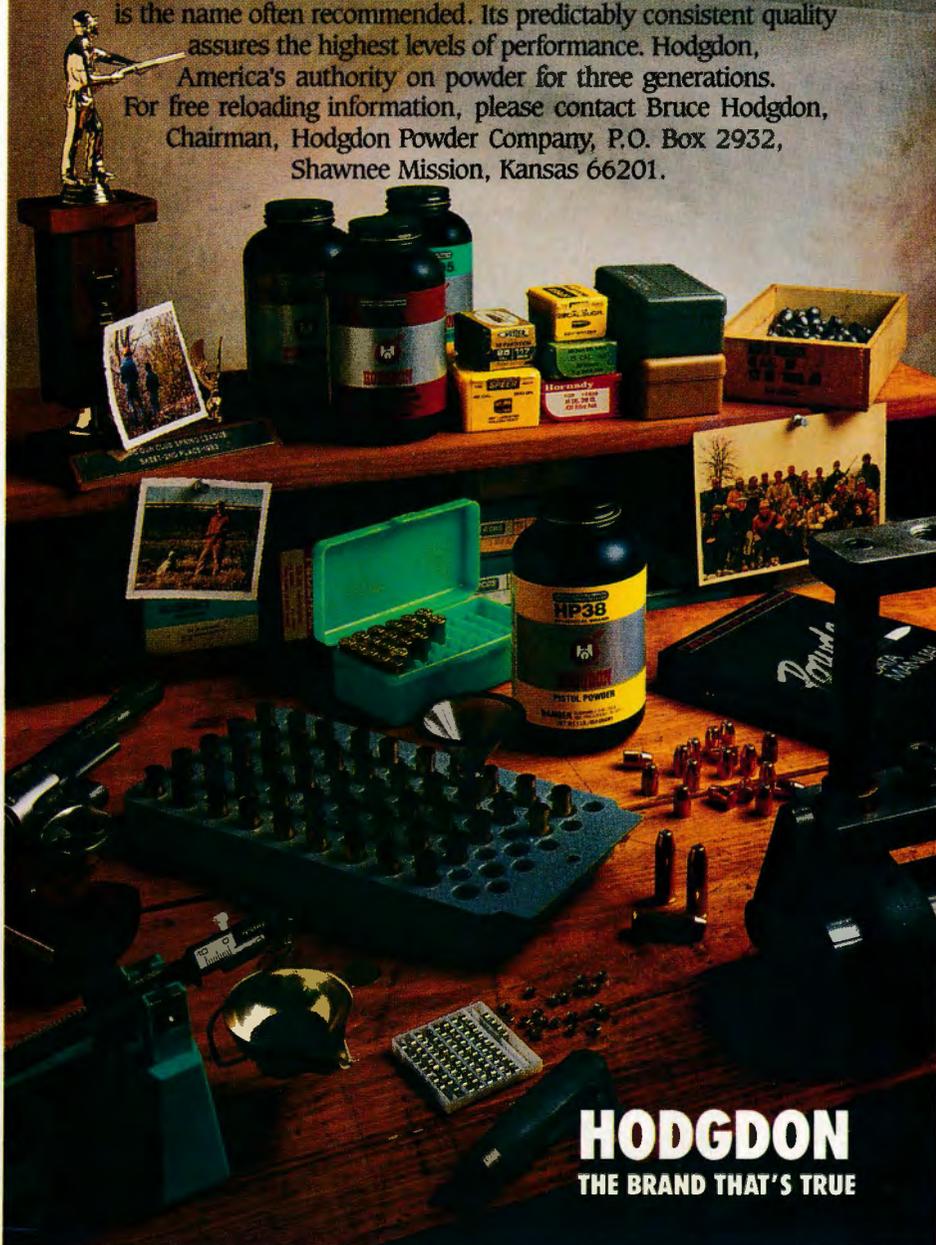
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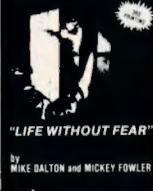


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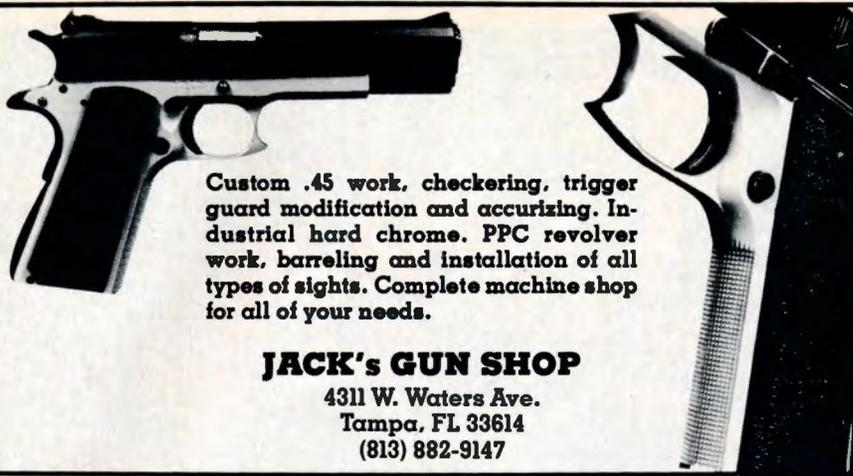


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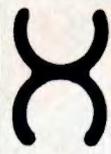
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MORE CONCEALMENT holsters include the Super Belt Slide (left), Inside-the-Pant (center) and Ankle (right).



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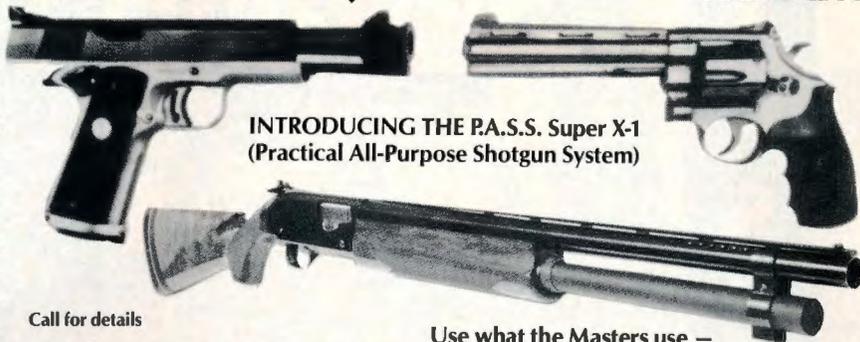
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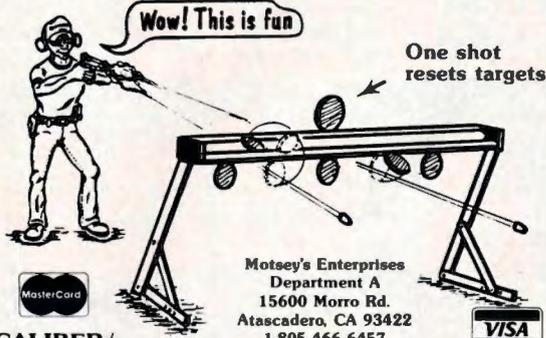
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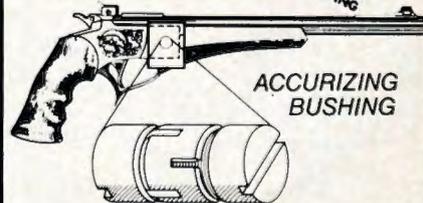
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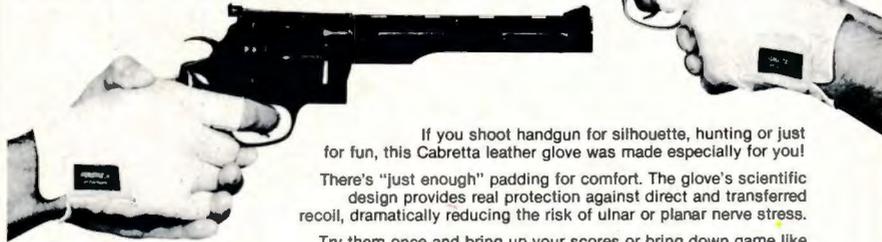
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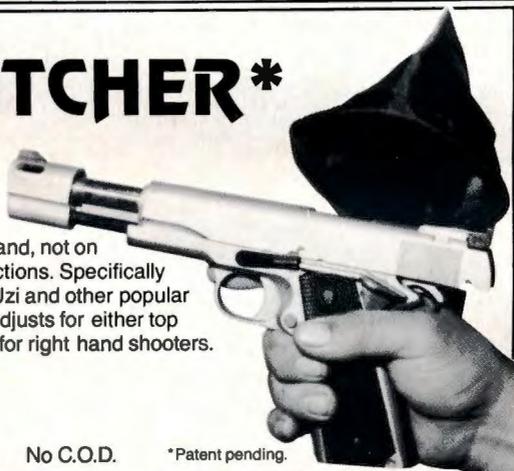
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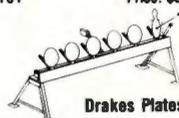
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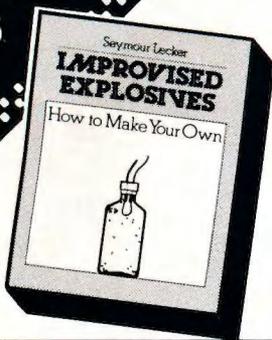
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U.S. INNOVATION IN HANDGUN DESIGN SEES (BRILLIANT!) BARREL UNDERLUGS

The current state of handguns in the U.S. is such that there are many who wonder where it will be 10 years from now. Other questions arise that will have a bearing on the answer to the first question.

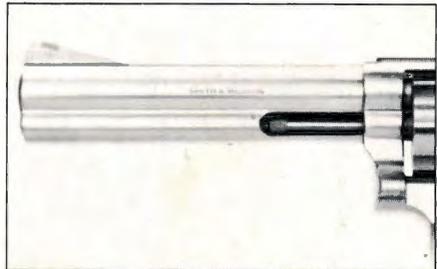
Probably the most asked question is: "What is the state of the current research and development among U.S. handgun makers?" Many seem to feel that handgun R&D in the U.S. is stagnant, with only a few exceptions. This attitude seems to arise from their perception that innovation in handgun design in the past few years has come from abroad.

They cite the **Czech CZ-75** and the **Glock 17** as examples, and they cite the Italian copies of the CZ which have garnered an ever-increasing share of the auto pistol market. They cite the awarding of the military contract to Beretta as another example.

In their search for innovation in U.S.-made handguns, they find only such mundane things as the proliferation of full length underlugs on revolvers and new barrel lengths—shorter for concealment, and longer for hunting and silhouette. They see new or different finishes, and, of course, the introduction of stainless steel.



Before innovation



After (what a breakthrough!)

To some, **Ruger's GP-100** and its promise of a family of revolvers is an innovation not to be overlooked, and **Ruger's P-85**, while not seen as particularly innovative in design, certainly presents an innovation in pricing.

AMT's .22 Rimfire Magnum pistol is undoubtedly the most innovative U.S. design of the year.

Yet even those who decry the lack of creative thinking in U.S. handguns realize that there are restraints which may be holding back research and development. The foremost of these seems to be the present climate of litigation, where we see lawyers advertising for business by stating that "Firearms are inherently dangerous . . . if you are injured in an accident with a firearm, see attorney XYZ." Bringing out a new design in such an atmosphere could be dangerous to your business health.



HK's P-7 is truly innovative with an entirely new design.

Another factor is cost. It takes a lot of money to design and produce a radical new design. And there is no guarantee that once it is produced, the handgun market will accept it. Not only are handgun buyers fickle, they are also lesser in numbers than they were five or ten years ago. Existing handgun manufacturers with popular lines are less likely to innovate than an entrepreneur starting a company with a single design.

Getting back to the first question, where will handgun design be in ten years? Will we still be offered auto pistols which are clones of existing models, and revolvers using basic designs which go back 100 years or more?

Is it time for new, radical designs, or should the industry continue its current ways, and give us cosmetic changes trumpeted as innovative?

If the rumor we hear is true, **Colt** has completely abandoned their "D" frame line. We hear that they have offered to sell all of the rights and toolings for the **Detective Special** and all of the other small frame double action revolvers.

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The news of the month reflects the comments above. **Colt**, evidently, has taken a chapter from the **Glock** book. Gunsmiths are reporting that the mainspring housing on some of the Government Models is made of



plastic. On the plus side, they report that it is a high quality casting that does not detract from the appearance or function of the pistol.

Taurus has "innovated" the design of their **Model 66 .357 Magnum** revolver—it now sports a full length underlug.

The on-again, off-again U.S. distribution of the **Bernardelli** line of pistols is off again. Less than a year after **Springfield Armory** announced that they would be the national distributors, they have decided to drop the line. Thus you'll have a hard time finding the **Bernardelli PO 18 9mm** double-action pistol.

45 Auto Custom Touches by R.D. Nye. 88 pages, 100 illustrations. Softbound, format 8 1/2 by 10 3/4 inches. Published by the author, P.O. Box 60, Valley Farms, AZ, 85291-0060. \$12.95.

Written by a gunsmith, this book details all of the shop operations that are used to produce a GM-pattern pistol with the features found on guns by the well-known pistolsmiths. For some of these jobs, special shop-made tools are required, and Nye also supplies simple instructions for constructing these. In 14 of the 15 chapters, each of the major and minor custom alterations are detailed, including blocking the grip safety, squaring the trigger guard, and all of the other custom touches.

The work is described in a manner that should make it possible for the average "gun tinkerer," if he works very slowly and carefully. As a gunsmith, I would question the suggestion that the average amateur work on the hammer step and seat, but I recognize that some are capable of doing this work, and the book gives good advice. The drawings in the book, by **Thomas R. Barnes**, are particularly clear and well-done.

There are a few typos, but no serious errors in the book. Nye uses a colloquial style that makes it clear he is a good gunsmith, not a writer. In a book of this purpose and type, though, this may be an advantage. In the final chapter, there is a helpful list of parts and tool suppliers, and a list of custom pistolsmiths. The bottom line is that if you have some skill with tools, and carefully follow the instructions, you can create your own custom GM-pattern gun. On that basis, it's an excellent book.

J.B. Wood

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