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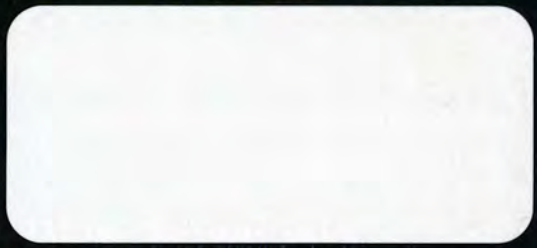
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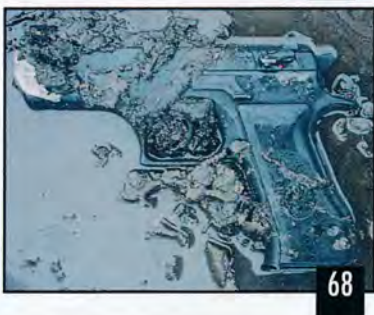
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H418



Smith & Wesson's new Performance Center customized this dazzling .44 Magnum out of a Model 629. Photo by Ichiro Nagata.



AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

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Remember The Visionaries

Kudos on your coverage of the Steel Challenge 1990. In 1983, the International Shootists Team of Mickey Fowler, Mike Dalton, Craig Gifford and Mike Fichman received sponsorship from the Cannon Safe Company including air fare, match fees, uniforms and hotel costs. By today's standards, \$7,000 isn't much, but in 1983 it was unprecedented. The ISI team shot the Steel Challenge, Bianchi Cup and IPSC nationals that year.

In 1990 I visited the Steel Challenge for the first time in four years. I suppose to really appreciate the growth, you need to be away from it. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the sponsors, shooters, match officials and spectators. The growth of the "pro circuit" is phenomenal.

As the sport grows, it's important to remember the visionaries, the ones who not only believed in the shooting sports, but also realized the sport's potential to focus positive attention on firearms.

My list of folks to thank:

John Bianchi: I think I read in *Hand-*

gunner that John envisioned a whole series of professional matches when he started it all with the Bianchi Cup.

Richard Nichols: Who administered the Bianchi Cup in its early years until the NRA took it over and who set the standards for the professional operation of a match of this caliber.

Mike Dalton, Mickey Fowler, Mike Fichman: The founders of the Steel Challenge, for seeing the same goals and pushing for the best.

Tom Ruger: Without Tom and his generous support, the Challenge may not have continued after its second year. Even though his revolvers didn't make an impact on what was obviously an auto match, Tom used his influence to win the Steel Challenge many friends. Tom was our first major sponsor.

Alan Brown, Tim Bailey: Opened a lot of doors in the industry, and twisted a few arms. Always had a minute to listen to a new idea and had a few great ones of their own.

Jerry Rakusan: Former editorial director of *American Handgunner* for being first to see the need to cover match-

es like these.

Thanks to everyone who took my calls. Thanks for letting me play too.

Nick Emmanouilides
former Steel Challenge promotions
director
Valencia, Calif.

Club 100 Praise

I recently took the advice of *American Handgunner's* Club 100 of America's top pistolsmiths when obtaining a pistol for my wife and myself. The man I contacted was Dave Lauck of D&L Sports.

The job at hand was a full-house competition .38 Super for myself and a comped Officers Model for my wife's self-defense. Dave was extremely helpful in our decisions on what exactly would suit our individual needs. Some of these items we had not thought of and others we learned were just a waste of money.

When Mr. Lauck advertises personal, professional service on an individual basis, he means just that! Super service! Both pistols arrived in about eight weeks and are the most beautiful works of art I have ever seen, almost too beautiful to get dirty at the range. But we did. Both pistols shot flawlessly and accurately.

I would like to pass on Dave's address for fellow shooters:

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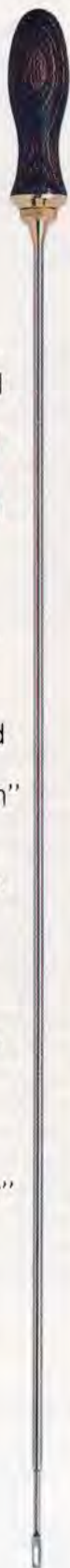
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Thank you for passing this information on to fellow shooters.

Paul Luffman
Albuquerque, NM

Red Letter(s) Day

The only problem I have with *American Handgunner* (other than articles by the blood-thirsty and motley-memored Col. Askins) is that it only comes once every two months.

By the way, I find more information, constructive exchange and entertainment in your letters section than in the entirety of most other firearms magazines!

Go team go!

Dean F. Miny
Oakland, Calif.

Major Dud

I'm surprised at all the fuss over the so called "Major Nine." I once thought that IPSC was a competitive simulation of combat conditions for the purpose of teaching survival techniques with handguns. Maybe it is no longer politically correct to admit the origins and purpose of the exercise.

In any case, no one with any sense would depend on a Major Nine as a tool in a professional capacity or any life threatening situation any more than you would drive a "funny car" for travel or patrol.

Since we are on the subject of odd cartridges—just for the record, what is the 10mm good for? Is it another .41 Magnum boondoggle? Is it a commie plot by Doorknob and Dickhead? Is it that most rare and elusive of all critters, the Major Dud?

I notice the ongoing S&W bashing, but not much has been said about the demise of Colt. If ever there is a corporate "Self-Inflicted Wound Award," I think it should be given to Colt Industries/Firearms management. From nonexistent customer and labor relations to record setting (30 years) after-the-fact design innovation, Colt is a black hole of management skills.

I see we now have ex-Colt execs swimming over to join Ruger's crew. I'm not so sure Big Bill needs any additional advice on how to destroy his company. He seems to be doing just fine on his own.

Bill Copenhagen
Richmond, Calif.

German Reader Burnt

I am a reader for years and I know you are strictly handguns. And I know too that *AH* is strictly for their readers. This is the reason I ask you for help in a special case.

October, 1987, I ordered one .38 SA conversion kit for my Colt-Gov. from an American gunsmith. I provided the slide and the sight. A deposit of about US \$250 was made. November, 1987, I decided to

get a 9mm Para top too. I provided the slide and sight. One more deposit of about US \$150 has been made.

After several phone calls, I got the first of them, the .38 SA in November, 1988. February, 1989, I got the final bill and I paid the balance immediately. From then on I made phone calls, I have sent letters, even picture postcards! All I heard: next week, sorry for the delay, and so on.

I don't want to blame the gunsmith by publishing his name now, but I am sure he is a reader of *AH* and this will speed up my 9mm conversion if he reads my letter in *Speak Out*.

Thank you for your help and your patience in reading my letter.

Peter-Michael Sagel
Dusseldorf, Germany

Editor's Note: We stand by our readers and we will attempt to assist any reader who feels he or she has been mistreated by any company in the firearms business. We will be especially diligent in serving our readers with complaints about any dishonest or unscrupulous business practices.

We suggest that our readers take a chapter from Herr Sagel's book and never pay in advance. (We call that the "Bren Ten Lesson," but some people obviously came in late and need a refresher course.)

Waiting Period On Porn?

In this country individuals are allowed to publish as well as purchase pornography regardless of how offensive it may be. There are no two week waiting periods or lengthy forms to fill out that may discourage would-be purchasers from getting what they want.

Congress hasn't banned X-rated video tapes and limited the number of pages in any monthly men's magazines in order to curb the rising occurrence of rape in this country.

So can somebody please tell me that when one out of three women can expect to be raped in their lifetime, why can't women expect to legally own a gun to protect themselves from such an attack in the first place?

I think that some new priorities are in order starting with the victims of crimes... as well as those who choose not to be victims in the first place.

Joe Gibson
Venice, Calif.

Love Them Lil' Rugers

Finished reading John Taffin's "Lil' Rugers" (Sept/Oct 1990) a few days ago. Mr. Horvath's work in this area was news to me. My three favorites in one package! Ruger Single-Actions, short guns and .44 Specials!

Suffice to say, I have one on the way already and when I can find a good three-screw .357, I'll have a pair.

I wish Andy Horvath much success. I

Continued on page 12

DANNY SULLIVAN ON WINNING



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SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 8

must say, in passing, that his answers to my two letters were quick, responsive and courteous. I look forward to doing further business with Andy at the Diagonal Road Gun Shop.

Thank you, Mr. Taffin!

A.W. McGrew
Tucson, Ariz.

Turn Up The Wick

Rob Leatham's recent trouble over the 9mm Major means we lost a valuable source of research information. When Rob's .38 Super blew out five years ago, his statement that he wanted to build a *lighter* .38 warned me he was unaware that case head blowouts aren't just caused by excessive *peak* pressure, but excessive Momentum Density (MD) for the slide weight.

I dropped a letter to Dan Cotterman (former Handloading Editor of *Handgunner*) in 1986 which he headlined and concurred with in his column. Briefly, excessive MD shortens the dwell time in battery, and if the dwell time drops below the barrel time of the bullet, excessive and residual pressure can blow out an unsupported case head.

I forgot about readers who can do something about it. Colt ignored the problem in the Delta Elite, but S&W took it seriously enough to do extensive studies of dwell time compression to get the optimum combination of slide weight, toggle length and spring tension for the 10mm and .40 S&W. I suspect Colt's problem was in marketing with the sales brass most likely wanting to be "first kind on the block" with a 10mm.

By running up the MD, Rob encountered an emergent problem. I had mentioned the problem in a 1978 article on loading for autos as a theoretical possibility. Thanks to Rob's willingness to press the envelope, thus bringing attention to the problem, all the other steps followed. S&W spent over \$2 million in the most important step of all: finding the solution.

Now our space age automatics are no longer limited to bullet weights developed for pre-World War I designs. More importantly, we know *why* there aren't going to be any "chopped Tens" and why we should be wary of +P and +P+ ammo in chopped Nines.

All shooters, not just IPSC competitors, have benefitted from Rob's willingness to dare the unknown. Remember,

before pilots turned up the wick, no one had ever heard of the sound barrier.

James J. Glackin
Pasadena, Calif.

Bottomfeeder Bites Back

In response to your cretinous Mr. Hopkins (clearly a descendant of a long line of cousins), his attack on lawyers backfires.

He gibbers (Sept/Oct 1990, ".40 S&W"): "There's still another benefit to shortening the .40 S&W. Lawyers, the bottomfeeders of society, always lurk greedily to suck the lifeblood from anything worthwhile. Smith & Wesson moved to circumvent their parasitic prowling by insuring that the new .40 S&W *cannot* properly chamber in a gun made in .40 G&A, 10mm PGW or Centimeter."

Implicit in his maunderings is that S&W would not have made a safe round but for the threat of being sued. Precisely. Of course, S&W may not agree with nor appreciate the implication.

As to the book, *Firearms Litigation*, it's an example of legal cookbooks, and is no sign that the industry is being singled out.

I've edited literally hundreds of books on how to sue everybody from funeral directors to antitrust violators. And how to defend such suits. (I didn't edit the book in question.)

Roger A. Needham
professor of law
The Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Lansing, Mich.

Hey, He Likes Lawyers!

Several years ago, Cameron Hopkins lived in Waco, Texas, while earning a degree in journalism from Baylor University. He was well-known and liked throughout the community and it is significant that some of his best friends were lawyers.

These are the type of guys who used their profession to protect the innocent and obtain justice for the people they represent. One in particular donated many hours toward protection of abused children and is now the president of the local bar association.

I was a little surprised when Hopkins characterized lawyers as the "bottomfeeders of society," but I know he was not trying to impugn the entire profession.

Mike Cumpston
Waco, Texas

You Call This Hunting?

The *Handgun Hunting* column by J.D. Jones in your Nov/Dec 1990 issue is appalling, to say the least. I received a copy of it from a PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) letting me know their struggle to ban hunting has just begun. Thanks, Jones.

That was *not* hunting, period. Four shots from anything is nothing to be very proud of, much less write about! Sure, it's a handgun. Big deal.

All articles like this do give ammo to anti-hunters. Being proud of "one of the most destructive wounds I've ever seen" is nothing to be proud of.

I've been on six major hunts in the last eight years and I fired six shots to take six nice animals. One-shot kills—that's what the final phase of the hunt is all about.

I am not hunting so I can write articles and I'm not an expert shot. I use enough gun and I practice, practice, practice. Mutilating my quarry with some stupid little handgun to prove that I'm macho or to write an article just plain stinks.

Instead of going hunting, maybe Jones should take up golf. The idea is the same—the fewer the shots, the better, and you must use enough club.

Troy Gregory
Grand Forks, ND

You obviously don't understand the column. You are apparently perfect—I'm not. You seem to live in a fantasy land whereas I'm a realist. I sincerely doubt if we will ever have a meeting of the minds.

I'm flattered you think something I said in my column will have an effect on the outcome of hunting. On the anti-hunting issue, I am a realist and I realize nothing I can say or do will have much influence on much of anything.

The bear was dead within 20 seconds of the first shot. I doubt all your fantastic one-shot kills were dead that quickly. Six animals hardly qualify for what I would normally consider one major hunt unless you were going after something really difficult like an Argali sheep in the Gobi desert.

I'm not impressed by "one-shot" kills per se. I'd much rather use two—or four, if that's what it takes—to end things quickly. I know that one shot doesn't always do the job, no matter how much one pretends it does.

I'm also interested in why you don't write concerning more than one shot being used on people. There are plenty of examples in this and other magazines.

Finally, golfs don't have horns.

J.D. Jones

Ruger Recalls P-85s

Sturm, Ruger & Co. has recalled all of its P-85 pistols made between 1987 and 1990 due to an unsafe condition. "The company recently learned of a broken firing pin in an early production pistol which resulted in a discharge when the safety/decocking lever was engaged," Ruger's press release said. Ruger will modify the guns at no charge with new "Mk. II" part. They estimate the recall cost at \$3 million. For information on how to return your P-85, call toll free 1-800-424-1886.

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER welcomes letters to the editor for the *Speak Out* column. Letters should be typewritten, but legible handwriting is acceptable. Letters must be less than 350 words. We reserve the right to edit all published letters for clarity and length. Send your letters to *Speak Out*, American Handgunner, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92675.

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Have you ever picked up a pistol at a gun show, realized that the design or execution was different from all of the others on the long rows of tables and wondered why certain features were incorporated, then wondered who had designed and used the special weapon?

Most of the pistols I've made up in the past months fall into the "special" category.

Aveni's Avenger

Tony wanted a test bed for the new centimeter diameters, so I made him a Government Model that was convertible by field stripping and replacing parts, from 10mm to .40 S&W.

Starting with an in-the-white Caspian 10mm slide and GM frame, I fitted the top section using Brownell's new slide and frame fitting kit. The slide slot file made short work of this previously tedious chore. The 10mm barrel dropped in, but the Bar Sto .40 S&W was fitted to slide and frame using Brownell's Barrel and Bushing Fitting Kit.

A King's GM grip safety was modified to the user's specification and one of the aftermarket checkered flat housings was used.

A Videcki trigger, Brown ambi safety and Brown slotted round hammer and Hogue grips finished the frame. An MMC plain ramp front and Millett target low mount rear capped the slide.

Wilson's Shok-Buff recoil buffer was inserted to control the recoil. An alternate King's double-coil recoil spring system with rod follower was used in the 10mm configuration. The pistol was finished in slow rust blue, after an appropriate logo was applied to the slide. The finished pistol makes side by side comparisons for the ballistic experimenter.

Most's Mauler

Joe wanted his World War II Browning Hi-Power fitted out for more terminal ballistics than the Parabellum round was delivering on the large varmints that invaded the pastures of his Tennessee farm. The tangent sight was a desirable feature, he thought, but the front blade was frequently lost in the rear notch when taking a "fine bead" sight picture.

I installed a Marble shard front sight and the gold bead filled the top of the rear

sight notch at just the correct height for a rapid, certain sight picture. SGW's .41 AE barrel did the caliber conversion, while Hi-Power magazines with the lips carefully ground .044" farther apart fed the strange little case into the barrel ramp flawlessly.

Cylinder & Slide's wide trigger tamed the Browning's awkward pull, while their ambi safety allowed for south paw use.

There has been some comment lately about feed reliability with this round. In this pistol, equipped with the old pattern internal extractor, feed under the hook was certain after the usual polish and adjust work. I have not tried the rebated rim with an external extractor pistol.

Salazar's Sluggers

Rio works on the Border Patrol from Texas to California, and having lots of contact with the Texas Rangers, he favors the intelligent approach to weapon and carry: a .45 loaded, with the hammer down on a live round.

Joe wanted his World War II Browning Hi-Power fitted out for more terminal ballistics than the Parabellum round.

(Please, spare me the moronic number designation that describes nothing. Jeff Cooper and Smith & Wesson should all be flogged for taking a simple prose description of a model and readiness condition and obfuscating them with meaningless, arbitrary numbers.)

Rio wanted his Officers Model and Combat Commander stainless pistols to cock more easily during the draw. I fitted both with the original pattern, wide 1911 hammers. I saved these from carry versions of the Colt World War I commemorative pistol.

With hammer alone installed, they bit the web of his (and my) hand badly. Installation of a modified King's grip safety in stainless put an end to the nipping.

It is interesting to note that at least three variations of the wide spur hammer exist: longest is the Commemorative version, next is the original issue 1911 hammer and shortest of all is the current aftermarket version. The latter usually can be used with the previous grip safety without bite, but it also blends well with the

King's grip safety.

The rest of the changes were reliability oriented, or merely to improve the decor. ("We Mexicans like an occasional splash of color," he told me.) The Ahrends cocobolo grips add a decorous touch to the package, without doubt. Now he can walk side by side with the Rangers without having to hide his pistol under his jacket.

Old Dad's Dozier Driller

I often shoot during a live fire class, so I found it necessary to build myself a special pistol that would allow just a *leettle mite* of an advantage over anything else on the range.

Starting with a blued Commander, the frame was hand-checked and the lower parts hard chromed. A low mount Wichita and MMC white line front back up a Centaur barrel with solid slide stop pin.

The Videcki trigger pushes on a McCormick sear, which in turn trips a McCormick titanium hammer. A Tubb titanium firing pin transmits the hammer blow to CCI primers. (CCI makes the least sensitive primer, but it is the one I favor for use in my progressive presses.)

A Wilson ambi safety allows for southpaw use and Ahrends combat grips in Gaboon ebony set the frame off nicely while allowing a rapid manipulation of the standard mag release.

Since this is essentially a very sneaky street carry piece, I don't want things protruding or cutting into the Pro Line holster I carry it in.

I have added a few other touches that speed manipulation: a Smith & Alexander flat stainless housing, a modified King's stainless

steel grip safety and a Wilson ambi safety in stainless provide fumble free controls.

For class use, I load H&G 68's ahead of WW 231 powder, but for street use I've switched from Silvertip to Federal Hydra-Shok ammo. The heavier 230 grain bullets really flatten out in a target. I fired one into a thick book and the penetration at 25 yards was past page 500, with a one piece flattened projectile remaining in the book.

If you stock up on Hydra-Shok, make absolutely certain that you have the Second Generation cartridges. My lot 25 B is the latest configuration. Earlier bullets had a thicker post and the overall length of 1.180" would jam pistols that fed everything. By seating the bullet out to an overall of 1.224", pressures dropped a bit and feed became flawless.

See the Industry Insider column on page 122 for the latest controversy on the Hydra-Shok. Editor.

A note to engineers designing pistol bullets for the 1911: if the lip of a hollow-point touches the outline of a ball round,

Continued on page 70

REPEAL IHMSA BAN ON SCOPES NOW BEFORE MEMBERSHIP DECAYS AWAY!

Operation Shove has been in the news quite a bit the past few weeks. It's an organization demanding that if 20% of the users of a product are left-handed, then 20% of the corporate executives also have to be left-handed. Or something like that.

And we continue to hear about endangered species and all the concessions that must be made to insure that nature does not lose any of its critters and all must be protected from extinction. Where were the endangered species acts when dinosaurs really needed them?

Well, I'm an endangered species, a dinosaur, and I need help from Operation Shove. I am endangered for the simple reason that I am a silhouette shooter over the age of 50. A rare bird indeed. A real honest-to-goodness dinosaur.

I don't know what percentage of the shooters in this nation are over 50, but I would hazard a guess that it is a lot more than 20%. More like 50%. Or even more. We need an Operation Shove of our own.



Using the famous "taco hold," this NRA silhouetter gets more hits with a scope.

As this is written I have heard that the vote in IHMSA is going 5-2 against the price ceiling rule for production and revolver class handguns and we are about to see a great wrong righted. That is an important step forward.

Age Discrimination

But, more needs to be done and done quickly. I have been a member of IHMSA since the very beginning, even before we had silhouette matches in my state. And my organization, International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, is discriminating against me and many thousands of others who have the same terrible disease.

We have lived long enough to find that our eyes will no longer focus on iron sights well enough to continue to compete in International and AAA classes in long-range silhouetting.

Apparently we have outlived our usefulness to IHMSA. By its continued refusal to allow scopes in long range silhouetting, IHMSA says in effect "We don't want you anymore. Go somewhere else and compete!"

Scopes In Other Sports

And the strange thing is that we can go almost anywhere else and compete on an equal footing simply because optical sights are allowed.

I can hunt with optical sights. I can shoot bullseye with optical sights. I can shoot IPSC with optical sights. I can shoot NRA long range with optical sights. I can shoot Hunter/Field Pistol with optical sights. I can test guns with optical sights. I can shoot indoors with optical sights. I can shoot outdoors with

optical sights. I can even shoot airguns and bows with optical sights.

But, I cannot shoot IHMSA long range silhouettes with optical sights.

This discrimination was really driven home to me this summer as I covered the Masters tournament. The Masters is made up of three main events which I describe in greater detail in my story on the match in this issue.

The Masters celebrated its fifth anniversary this year. When it started, four years ago, optical sights were allowed in one event of the three, and competitors had their choice of using a scope in either Action, Precision, or Long Range.

This year scopes were allowed in all categories. And the result? Allen Fulford, the Gentleman from Georgia, who is knocking real hard at the door marked "Age 60" won the overall competition.

Meanwhile, IHMSA says, "If you can no longer see the sights well enough to compete, we don't want you." The Masters says, "If you can still hold a gun and pull the trigger, we will take care of the sighting problem. We want you in The Masters."

Why the difference? Of course, some of the sponsors of The Masters— those that pay the bill for the largest and richest shooting tournament in the world— are pistol scope manufacturers. Perhaps they really put pressure on the rules committee. I don't know. If they did, I say "Hooray for them!"

Officers of IHMSA, the time has come. In fact it is long overdue. Let's stop the discrimination and get in step with the needs of the older shooter.

And let's be just plain realistic. Does it make sense economically to tell the shooter who can best afford to shoot silhouettes that he or she is no longer wanted?

The big question remains, even if optical sights are allowed in IHMSA long range silhouetting— will it be possible to win back all of the silhouettes that have been disenfranchised?

Probably not, but we can help stop the steady exodus of shooters from the sport.

Each year, some local club in each state is given the opportunity to host an IHMSA state shoot. Overtures must be made to IHMSA Headquarters well ahead of time if the local club really desires to host a state shoot.

Our local club, The Boise Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, "The Critter Gitters," hosted our first state shoot in 1981. The feeling after it was over was "Never Again!"

But by 1986, we had new officers, many new shooters, and we did it again. The feeling must have been much better the second time around as the club decided to host the 1990 State Shoot. By this time, only two of us remained from the group that had been shooting in 1981.

So, with plenty of fresh and eager spirits, the officers of the club made plans to host the state shoot. I decided to lay back and watch the workings and see what the feelings would be after the shoot. I also volunteered to skip shooting in competition and instead volunteer my services as line officer and gun certifier for the three day shoot. I was also asked to serve on the protest committee.

The officers went to work nearly one year before the shoot was to take place. Sponsors had to be lined up, those who would help foot the bill. Trophies had to be ordered or made. Before this could be done it would take a long time just to decide what type of trophies would be given to the winners. Plaques? Silhouette trophies? Belt buckles?

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A local gunstore, Intermountain Arms, was contacted and they generously donated a Browning .25-06 single-shot rifle to be auctioned off to help raise money. Numerous contacts brought in many door prizes for the shoot and decisions had to be made as to how to pass these out.

Work, Work, Work

The range had to be put into tip-top shape. Rails have to be level, targets have to be straight, extra targets have to be available in case of breakage. The decision was made to place white sand on the berms behind each bank of targets and this was a large undertaking.

Weeds to chop, gravel to lay to keep the dust down, target setters to line up with someone reliable in charge. Food services had to be provided. Good food, not just food. This all-important task was handled by the Match Director's wife.

The big days came. The weather was great, the match went smoothly except for a rash of rams that would not go down with hits from 7mm TCU's. Shooters complained and the rails and targets were re-checked and many a chorus of "Get a bigger gun!" were heard.

I spent three enjoyable, but long, days doing what I could to help keep things running smoothly. After the shoot, I polled the officers and asked them to please share their feelings on the shoot.

After-Match Report

Match Director John Gibson, other officers and those responsible for various duties before and during the state shoot—Gordon Davis, Alice Melody, Tom Melody, Mark McNee, Tom Phillips, and Larry Wetzel— all responded to my questionnaire.

To the last man, and woman, they all replied that they would do it all over again, and felt it was a success. They were proud of the local club for being able to put on such a good shoot. This type of feeling would certainly be a help in building up any local club.

There were some negative aspects pointed out that perhaps will help other local clubs in the future.

First, and foremost, it is a lot of work and nearly impossible to get enough help. If you are a club officer or volunteer to help with a state shoot, you *will* work both during the shoot and for many weeks and months leading up to it.

You will find it very difficult to take part in the competition as you would like. It is difficult to be 100% psyched up to shoot when you also have other duties during the match.

One major mistake that I saw was that of not having official scorers. This could cause real problems and I would caution any local club that sponsors a state shoot to make sure that official

scorers are hired.

Two of the respondents mentioned something along this line: "I'm shocked to find out there are some who will cheat (or are suspected of it) if left on their own," or, "whiff of cheating— this is supposed to be fun!"

Almost all silhouetters are honest, *but* not having official scorers can be a little too much temptation for some.

One thing that I found quite interesting was the number of participants. In February, 1982, in the middle of winter, on a Saturday, we had 125 guns go through the line.

In 1990, during a three day state shoot, we had a total of 119 guns signed up. Eight years ago, 125 guns in a normal one day monthly shoot; this year six less guns during a three day championship state shoot.

This points out quite dramatically the overall decline in silhouette shooting.

If you are an officer in a local club or just a very interested member, bring up the idea of your club sponsoring a state shoot. It will get the club working together and, if done correctly, will result in some very proud feelings for the club.

If not done correctly, it could be a real disaster. Don't even bother to consider sponsoring a state shoot unless a great deal of real positive commitment and willingness to really work is evident.



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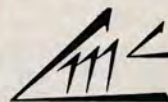
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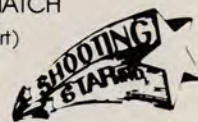
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WHEN IS A BALL NOT A BALL AND WHY THERE'S SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

Heavy use of handguns in competition during the last decade has taught us more, as a group, about the components used to make handguns than anything else. Collectively, we have learned how to build autopistols that will hold up to usage rates that were considered unreasonable only a few short years ago.

The firearms industry has learned how to build handguns more powerful than anyone thought possible only a couple decades ago for both long range silhouette and hunting. But what have we learned about one of the most important components used in our ammunition—smokeless powder?

Smokeless powder has been with shooters for approximately 100 years now, and yet we still are struggling with two undesirable side effects resulting from the combustion of smokeless powder in metallic cartridges: smoke and ash.

According to industry experts smoke and ash are actually two different things and they should not be confused. It is also important to separate out of this equation those outside factors influencing the production of smoke and ash in a metallic cartridge firearm, items like the lubricant used on cast lead bullets or the type of primer.

It is a well known fact that lubricated lead bullets produce more smoke than that seen with jacketed ammunition, but that is not the smoke we are discussing here.

Ash is defined as the solid residue remaining after burning or oxidation of smokeless powder, or it can also include the remaining portion of the unburned powder deposited in the barrel, chamber, the empty case, or even under the extractor of a semi-auto pistol.

The smoke under discussion here is defined as "the suspension of small solid particles in the expelling propellant gases."

This smoke and the ash left in the chamber are two different items and these byproducts of the combustion of smokeless powder have a heavy influence on the performance and reliability of today's competition handguns.

Smoke has been a concern of competitive pistol shooters for years, but it wasn't until IPSC-style shooting arrived that we saw weekend shooters devouring quantities of ammo in the 10,000 round multiples. This heavy consumption of ammunition has placed a greater emphasis on cleaner burning smokeless powder for reloading handgun ammunition today.

Smokeless powder is found in two dif-



Accurate Arms No. 7 is a spherical powder that's incorrectly called "ball powder."

ferent types and three different shapes. This is pretty basic stuff, but the information is absolutely necessary, if for no other reason than for review purposes.

Smokeless powders are either single-base or double-base. Single-base smokeless powders use nitrocellulose as the source of their energy and double-base powders use both nitrocellulose and nitroglycerin.

(Military powders sometimes use other energy sources such as nitro-guanidine and if they also contain nitrocellulose and nitroglycerin they are known as triple-base powders.)

DuPont is no longer involved with the manufacture of smokeless powder, but at one time they had almost a virtual monopoly on the production of smokeless powder, black powder and explosives in this country. A federal anti-trust suit after

the turn of the century lead to the formation of the Hercules Powder Company and the Atlas Powder Company.

Most of the singlebase powders went to DuPont, while most of the double-base powders went to Hercules, although the products from the two companies were not separated according to their nitroglycerine content. Hercules got most of the powders developed by the Laflin & Rand Company.

The Hercules powders, produced for over 50 years now, are all double-base powders, while the former DuPont powders—now produced by IMR Powder Company—are single-base powders with certain specific exceptions, 700X and 800X being IMR powders that are double-base powders.

It is agreed by different authorities from various companies that tests with shotshells have shown single-base powders to be cleaner burning than double-base powders in shotguns, but as of yet there is no conclusive evidence to support this theory in handguns.

The three shapes of smokeless powder are flake, ball (sometimes known as

"spherical" to avoid infringing on Winchester's trademark of Ball™) and tubular.

Each of these shapes have great significance, because of the amount of surface area each shape possesses. The surface area of each granule has a direct influence on burning rate and as many of you know, the specific burning rate of a propellant is kinda important.

Olin-Winchester Corporation produces spherical

powders, or what they call "Ball™ Powder" and they like the name so much that Ball™ is a protected trademark belonging to the Olin Corporation. All Winchester ball powders are double-base smokeless powders.

The most important aspect of a powder granule is its "web thickness." In a flake powder granule, web thickness is defined as one half of the actual thickness because it burns from both sides.

So, without the presence of inhibiting deterrents, the thinner the particle of powder, the quicker the burning rate of that powder. And the thicker powder particles, conversely, the slower the burning rates.

Thicker granules are also suspected of being dirtier in combustion, but not everyone agrees with this. Some authori-

Continued on page 75

AS WE'LL DEMONSTRATE, THERE ARE TWO RELOADING PRESSES ON THIS PAGE.

You don't need glasses. They're both right in the middle of the page. First, there's the RCBS Rock



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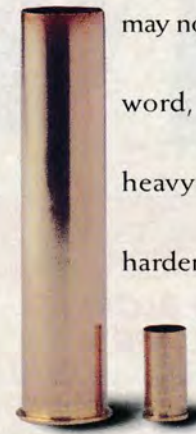
heavy-duty cast iron design,

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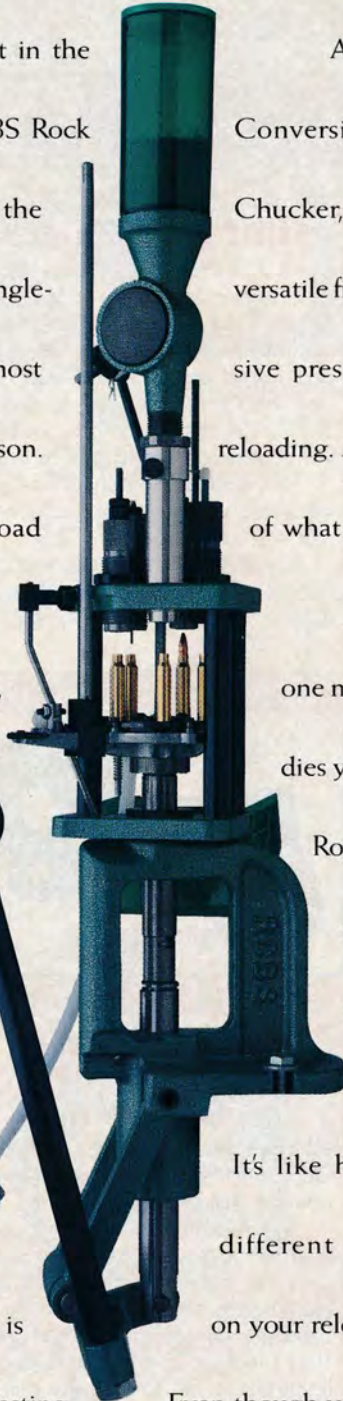
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The new Top Secret concealment holster hides your handgun in a foam-backed compartment within the fanny pack.

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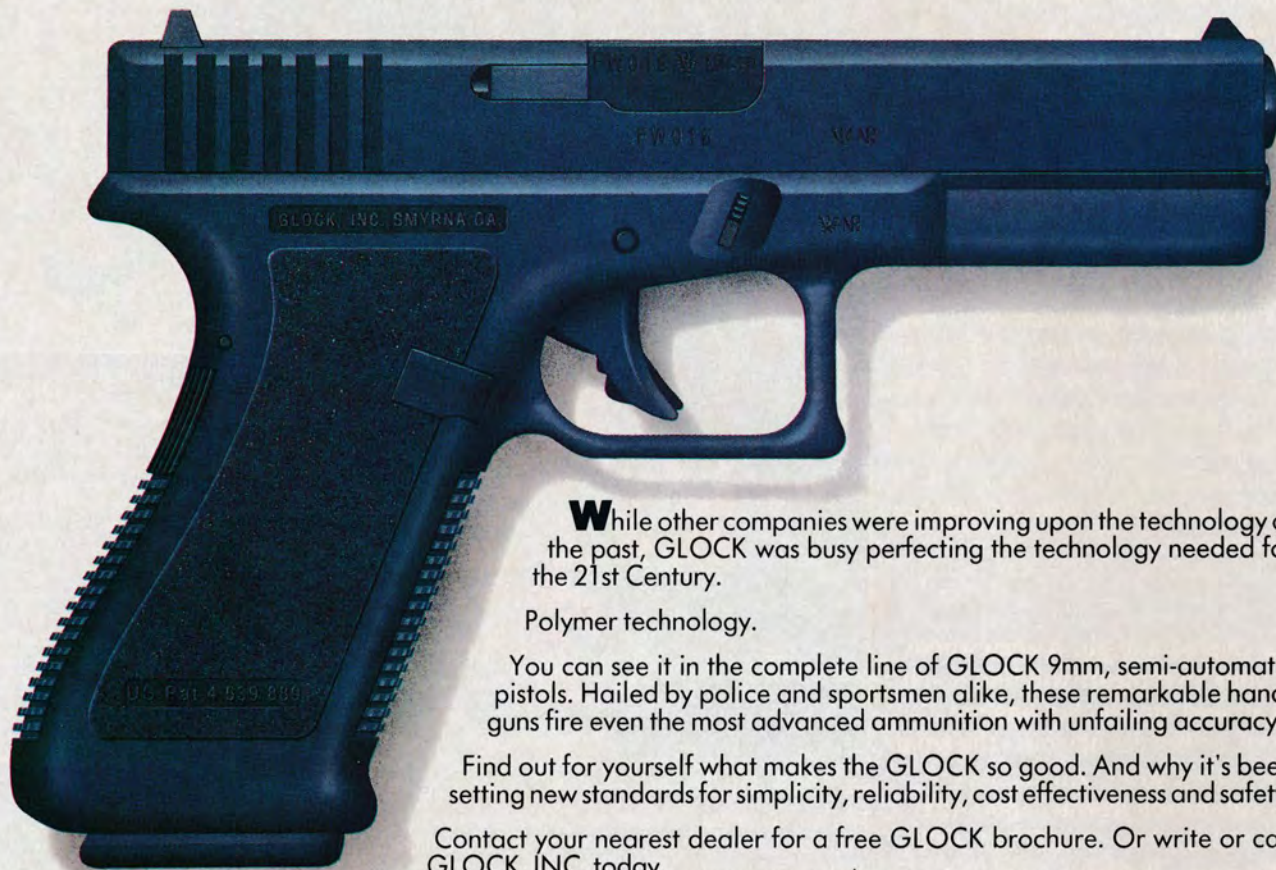


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WAKE UP TO SOMETHING SPECIAL ON CHRISTMAS MORNING!

I hate to keep handing you the same old line, but it's true and I keep hearing it every year about this time. It goes like this, "I just don't know what to buy (fill in your name) for Christmas. He's so hard to buy for." Your wife or sweetheart says it. I'll guarantee it. Then she says, "He has everything he wants." Now you and I know damned well that's not true, but she says it. The end result is that we've gained a reputation for being hard to shop for and most of it is our fault, because we never tell them what we want. We usually wind up with some new socks and some damned silly neck tie we'll never wear. Well this year dare to be different, tell her what you want.

BE OBVIOUS!

Take this ad and put it somewhere that your sweetheart will find it, on her car seat, maybe her lingerie drawer, or be real obvious, the front of the refrigerator! All she has to do is call us toll free at 1-800-421-7632 and the boys at DILLON will do the rest. We have reloading machines and accessories to fit your budget and we won't try to sell her something you don't need. We'll help her with the calibers and other technical stuff and just in case it isn't right we'll take it back or exchange it.

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The world's most versatile progressive reloader. The *RL 550 B* will reload over 120 different rifle and pistol calibers, a task made easy by our unique removable toolhead, allowing you to change calibers without adjusting dies. Complete with a match accurate powder measure, the *RL 550 B* will produce quality reloads in excess of 750 rounds per hour!

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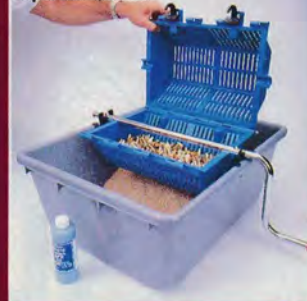
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10MM FOR HUNTING IS TOO FEEBLE EXCEPT FOR CLOSE-RANGE SHOTS

As I recall we first had the 10mm Rumor. Then we almost had the gun. Then we had the guns and the ammo, which proved to be too hot for the guns, but no magazines. Call that the 10mm Original.

The first Norma-loaded powerhouse 10mm Original was watered down to current ballistic levels, what I call just the plain 10mm.

Then we have the 10mm Lite—the FBI load of a 180 grain hollowpoint at about 950 fps, which I understand is to be increased to about a grand.

Next came the 10mm Whimp, otherwise known as the .40 S&W. The stubbiest of all the 10mm's, the 10mm Whimp came by its name after I fired one into the gravel path a couple feet in front of me only to have the bullet flatten a little and just lay there. On the ground!

A 185 grain Federal Match load from my infamous S&W Model 625 buried

deep enough I couldn't dig it out with my small pocketknife. I was able to fire my 625 because it had been recently rebuilt by Bud Brown of Cherry Corners Gunshop, (11136 Congress Rd., Lodi, OH 44254 (216) 948-1238).

Really, that may be unfair to the 10mm Whimp as the factory load is a hollowpoint—which, incidentally, didn't open at the hollowpoint, it folded straight back closing the hollowpoint—at an impact velocity of about 950 fps while the 185 grain Federal is a swoopy FMJ which at 755 fps impact velocity is obviously the better penetrator in that medium. Anyway, I like the 10mm Whimp designation better than its other name.

Gunwriter's Grist

It's tough to imagine what the gunmags would have done for material to publish in the last few years if it hadn't been for the 10mm's. It's obvious the 10s

were invented to do one thing first—make money for the manufacturers.

Sorry gunnuts, it's a fact of life. Most of the manufacturers' Top Dogs do not live and breathe firearms and ballistics. In fact, some of them have no interest in shooting whatsoever. They are businessmen and without them no gun company could exist.

Hobbyists who are not businessmen cannot keep a company running. Without the material ability of these individuals to run a business well enough to make money, the business would not exist.


But the product itself—the 10mm—was originated as a combat round. More punch than the .45, more penetration than the 9mm. Very little more recoil than the .45. More knockdown power than the .357 Magnum and holds more rounds to boot. Equals a .41 Magnum.

Does that sound familiar, sports fans?

10mm Malarkey

Well, forget it. Now the current 10mm has "excessive," "fearsome" and even "horrendous" recoil. In the California Highway Patrol tests the Colt didn't work enough to complete the test. The Glock broke frames with the 10mm and the Whimp. The 10's recoil was just too much to bear.

The Whimp in the S&W Model 4006 proved incredibly reliable throughout the 5000 round test each gun was subjected



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to with an acceptable recoil level. Quite interesting was the fact about 20 companies invited to participate in the CHP tests declined to do so.

I'm sure you'll get a dose of more detail of the tests elsewhere in the magazine, but the fact of the matter is that S&W, by default of some and non-performance of others, simply didn't have any competition.

I don't mean this in a derogatory manner at all. The S&W gun's performance combined with the Whimp cartridge was terrific.

Whimp Firepower

Seems like it was just a few years ago the 9mm and firepower was the hot item. Still is to a lot of people. Now the Whimp and firepower are the answer. From the looks of the slug I picked up off the gravel path, Whimp users better have firepower!

I predict you will see reams of reloading recipes published all geared to improving the performance of the factory 180 at 950 load. Which may well abuse the guns and certainly not improve their lifespan or controllability.

One thing I haven't seen mentioned along with the excellent controllability of the S&W is its weight. I don't have one handy to weigh right now, but it is substantially heavier than the Nines and the gun has been substantially altered from

its 9mm configuration.

(Smith & Wesson's catalog lists the 9mm Model 5906 at 38 ozs. and the .40 S&W Model 4006 at 36 ozs. Editor.)

10mm For Hunting?

I guess by this time you may have gotten the vague impression I'm not too thrilled with the performance of the 10's

| Experimental 10mm MAGNUM Handloads | | | |
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| H-110 | 20.5 grs. | 200 gr. | 1,475 fps |
| H-110 | 21.0 grs. | 200 gr. | 1,519 fps |
| <hr/> | | | |
| H-110 | 21.5 grs. | 170 gr. | 1,494 fps |
| H-110 | 23.0 grs. | 170 gr. | 1,592 fps |

as hunting rounds. Right, I'm not. (Although some seem enthralled with them.)

First, few seem to have more than 50 yard accuracy. Sure, a lung or heart shot—if you can hit it with a 10—will kill a deer. So will a .22 Short, but that doesn't make either a legitimate sporting

cartridge.

I've shot more than a few medium sized animals with the .45 ACP loaded to greater velocity and energy than the original 10mm and I'm here to tell you it and my own .41 Avenger isn't adequate for generalized deer hunting.

Bayed animals can be taken with almost anything. Shots at undisturbed animals from tree stands at close range will also be relatively effective.

I say use the 10's like a bow and arrow and they will give average results. Suppose you screw up and have to go after a cripple. Think he is going to wait until you get within 50 yards standing broadside for your finishing shot? Not bloody likely!

Auto-Mag Fan

Some of you are thinking this guy is just anti-automatic. Wrong. I was and still am a big fan of the original Auto-Mags in almost all persuasions—.357, .41, and .44.

I've never been a big fan of the .45 Win. Mag. and it has been chambered in the original Auto-Mag. I still own and intend to break out the four Auto-Mags I still own and hunt with them again. It's a pity they were ahead of their time (and expensive for when they were available).

If one understood how they worked and fed them properly, they were the finest and most accurate pistols around.

Continued on page 111



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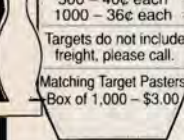
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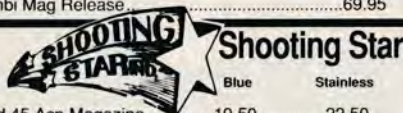
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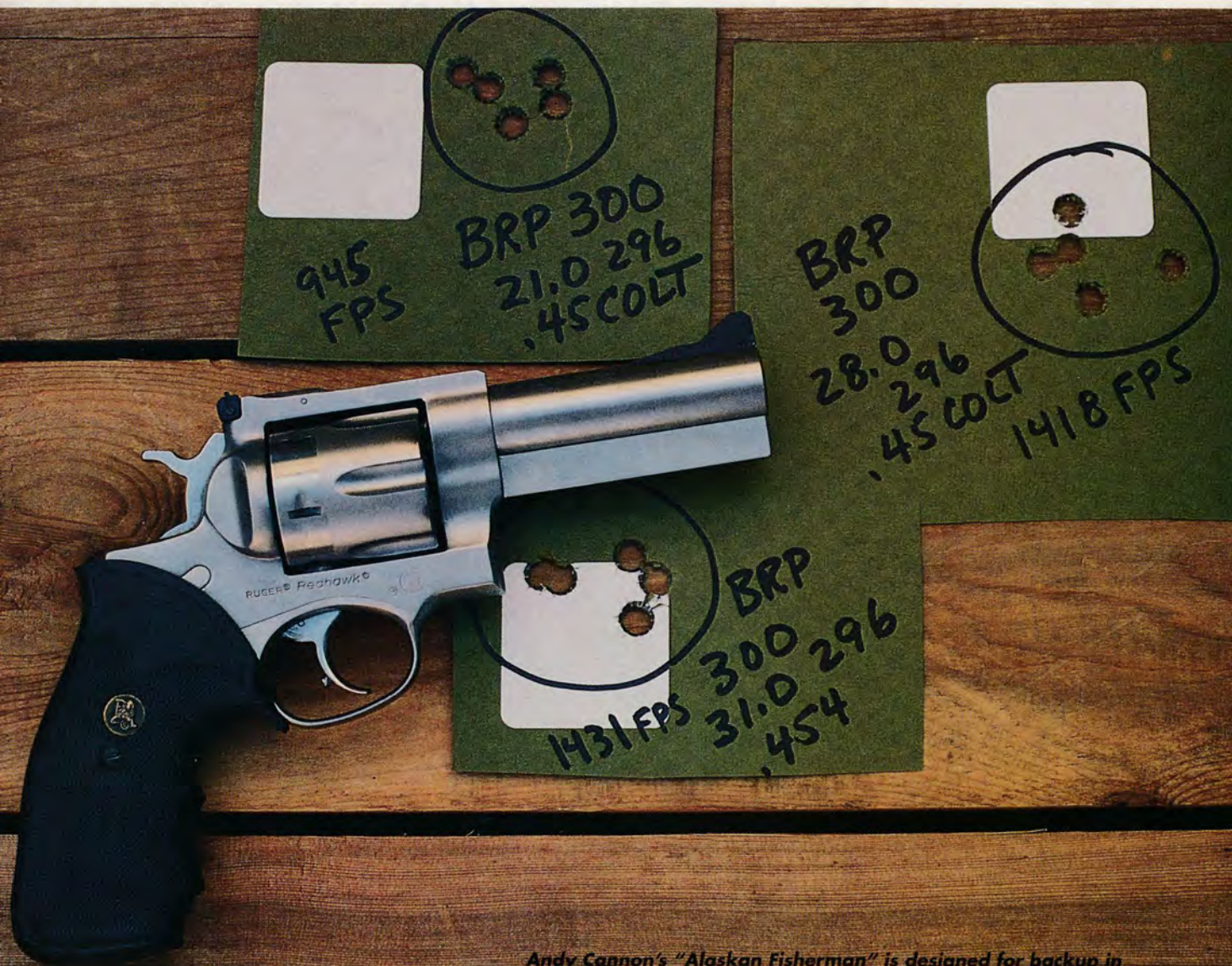
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| Ambidextrous Safety..... | 49.95 | 54.95 |
| Oversized Thumbblatch (For S & W Revolver)..... | 18.95 | 19.95 |
| Hex Head Grip Screws (Set of 4)..... | 7.95 | 8.95 |
| S & W Ext. Slide Release | | |
| (For 645, 745, 4516, 1006)..... | 41.95 | |
| (For 3903, 3904, 3906, 3913, 3914)..... | 41.95 | |
| (For 5903, 5904, 5906, 6904, 6906, 4006)..... | 41.95 | |
| Beavertail Installation Jig..... | 17.95 | |
| 1 Pc. Heavy Duty Guide Rod & Plug..... | 25.95 | |
| Reverse Recoil Spring Plug (Blue)..... | 15.00 | |

HANDGUN RELOADING COMPONENTS

| | | |
|---|---------|----------|
| Handgun Bullets..... | per 500 | per 1000 |
| Winchester 9mm 115gr FMJ..... | 25.50 | 48.00 |
| Remington 9mm 115gr JHP..... | 28.50 | 53.50 |
| Winchester 9mm 124gr FMJ..... | 27.50 | 51.00 |
| Remington 38 Auto 130gr FMJ..... | 27.00 | 50.00 |
| Remington 38 148gr HBWC Lead..... | 19.00 | 33.00 |
| Remington 38 158gr SWC Lead..... | 19.50 | 33.50 |
| Winchester 38 125gr JHP..... | 27.00 | 50.00 |
| Winchester 38 158gr JHP..... | 32.00 | 61.00 |
| Remington 44 180gr JHP..... | 40.50 | 75.00 |
| Remington 44 240gr JHP..... | 46.00 | 85.50 |
| Remington 45 Acp 185gr JHP..... | 44.00 | 82.00 |
| Winchester 45 Acp 230gr FMJ..... | 43.00 | 80.00 |
| Handgun Brass..... | per 500 | per 1000 |
| Winchester 9mm UNprimed..... | 38.00 | 71.00 |
| Winchester 357 Mag. UNprimed..... | 38.75 | 72.00 |
| Rem. 38 Super +P UNprimed (Yellow)..... | 39.00 | 75.00 |
| Rem. 38 Super +P UNprimed (Nickel)..... | 43.00 | 80.00 |
| Winchester 10mm Primed..... | 58.00 | 110.00 |
| Winchester 44 Mag. UNprimed..... | 53.50 | 99.50 |
| Winchester 45 Acp Primed..... | 55.00 | 99.50 |
| Once Fired 45 Acp..... | 43.50 | |

Many more handgun reloading components available at discount prices. Send postcard for listing.



Andy Cannon's "Alaskan Fisherman" is designed for backup in bear country, a rugged .454 Casull customized from a double-action Ruger Redhawk. Taffin shot some .45 Colt loads in it too.

Double Action .454 Casull!

A pair of customized Rugers are the first double-action revolvers for the potent .454 Casull

By John Taffin

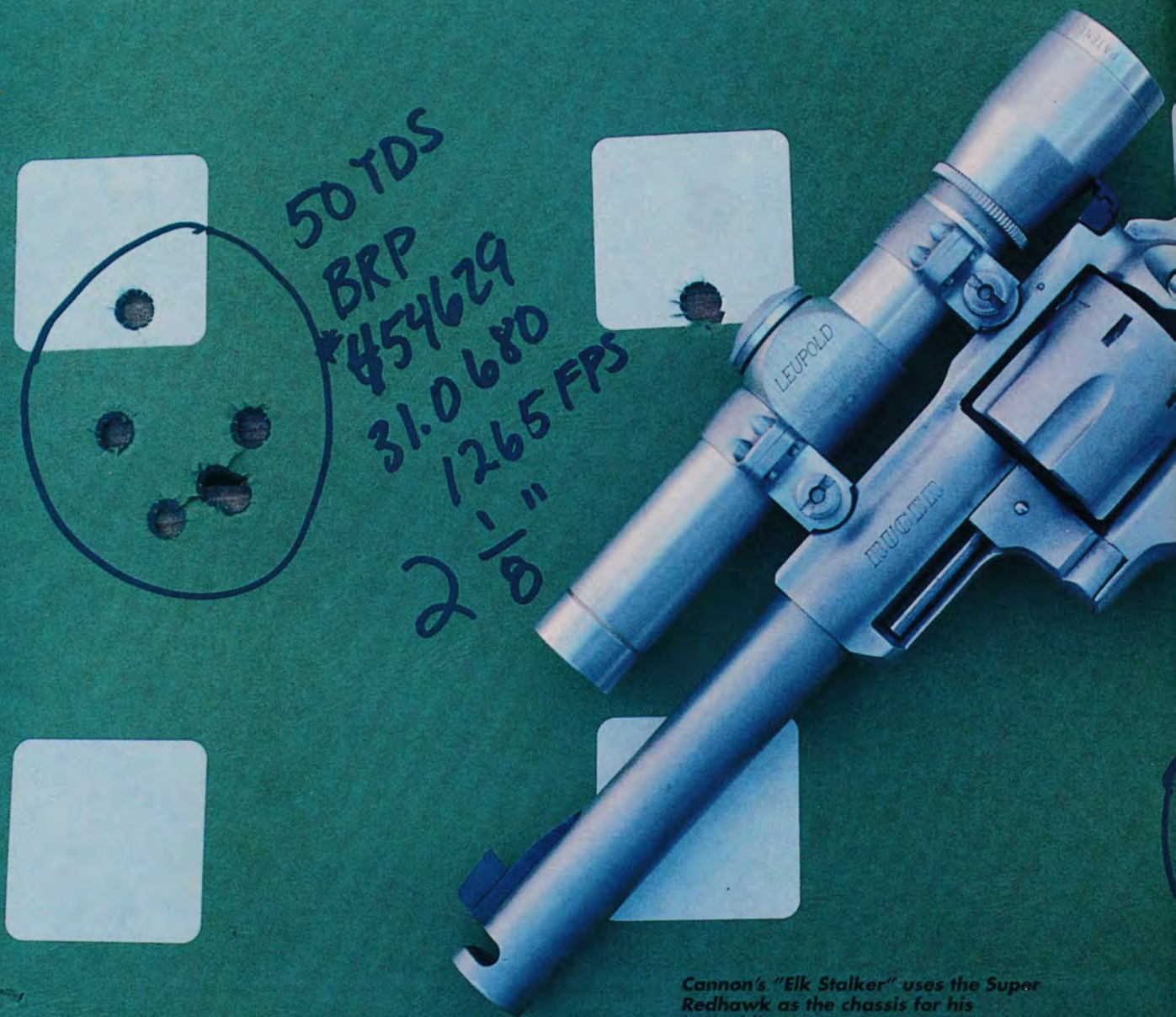
Taking a firm grip, I nonchalantly prepared to shoot the first round of .454 Casull through Andy Cannon's custom Ruger Redhawk. Being no stranger to heavy recoiling handguns, I thought I was prepared for what was about to happen. I was not!

Even though I've spent a lot of my shooting time with big bore sixguns, I wasn't ready for the sting of *that*. At the first shot my immediate reaction was, "I've got to shoot at least 299 more rounds through this thing!"

My writing endeavors have resulted in comprehensive testing of virtually every big bore sixgun, semi-automatic and single-shot available. For the testing of every .44 Magnum now on the market for the 1990 *American Handgunner Annual*, 2,000 rounds were fired in four days of 500 rounds each.

For an article on John Linebaugh and his big-bore five-guns, 600 rounds were fired in a .475 Magnum and a .500 Magnum in four shooting sessions.

Substantial experience has been gained shooting both the T/C Contender and the SSK custom Contender in .45-70. And, worst of all, while gathering data for the .454 Casull I once spent six hours shooting 780 rounds through three different Freedom



Cannon's "Elk Stalker" uses the Super Redhawk as the chassis for his hotrodging up to .454 power levels.

Andy Cannon's .454 Casull "Alaska Fisherman"

Handloads And Accuracy Results

| Bullet | Powder Charge | Velocity | 25 Yard Group |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------|---------------|
| 260 gr. JSP | Freedom Arms factory | 1616 fps | 3.00" |
| 300 gr. JSP | Freedom Arms factory | 1405 fps | 2.00" |
| 240 gr. FA JHP | 36.0 grs. WW296 | 1444 fps | |
| 260 gr. FA JSP | 34.0 grs. WW296 | 1501 fps | |
| 300 gr. FA JSP | 32.0 grs. WW296 | 1464 fps | 2.75" |
| 360 gr. Cor Bon | 24.5 grs. WW296 | 1203 fps | 2.25" |
| 300 gr. Patriot | 32.0 grs. WW296 | 1464 fps | 2.75" |
| 350 gr. Patriot | 24.0 grs. WW296 | 1237 fps | 3.25" |
| BRP #454629 | 31.0 grs. WW680 | 1193 fps | 1.25" |
| BRP #454629 | 31.0 grs. WW296 | 1431 fps | 1.25" |
| BRP #454629 | 28.0 grs. H4227 | 1335 fps | 2.25" |
| BRP #454629 | 25.0 grs. #2400 | 1414 fps | |
| SSK #340.451 | 21.0 grs. #2400 | 1268 fps | 2.5" |

All loads are assembled with Freedom Arms .454 Casull brass using Remington #7 1/2 primers. Groups are six shots fired from a standing rest over an Oehler Model 35P chronograph. The test gun is a custom Ruger Redhawk in .454 Casull with a 4" barrel.

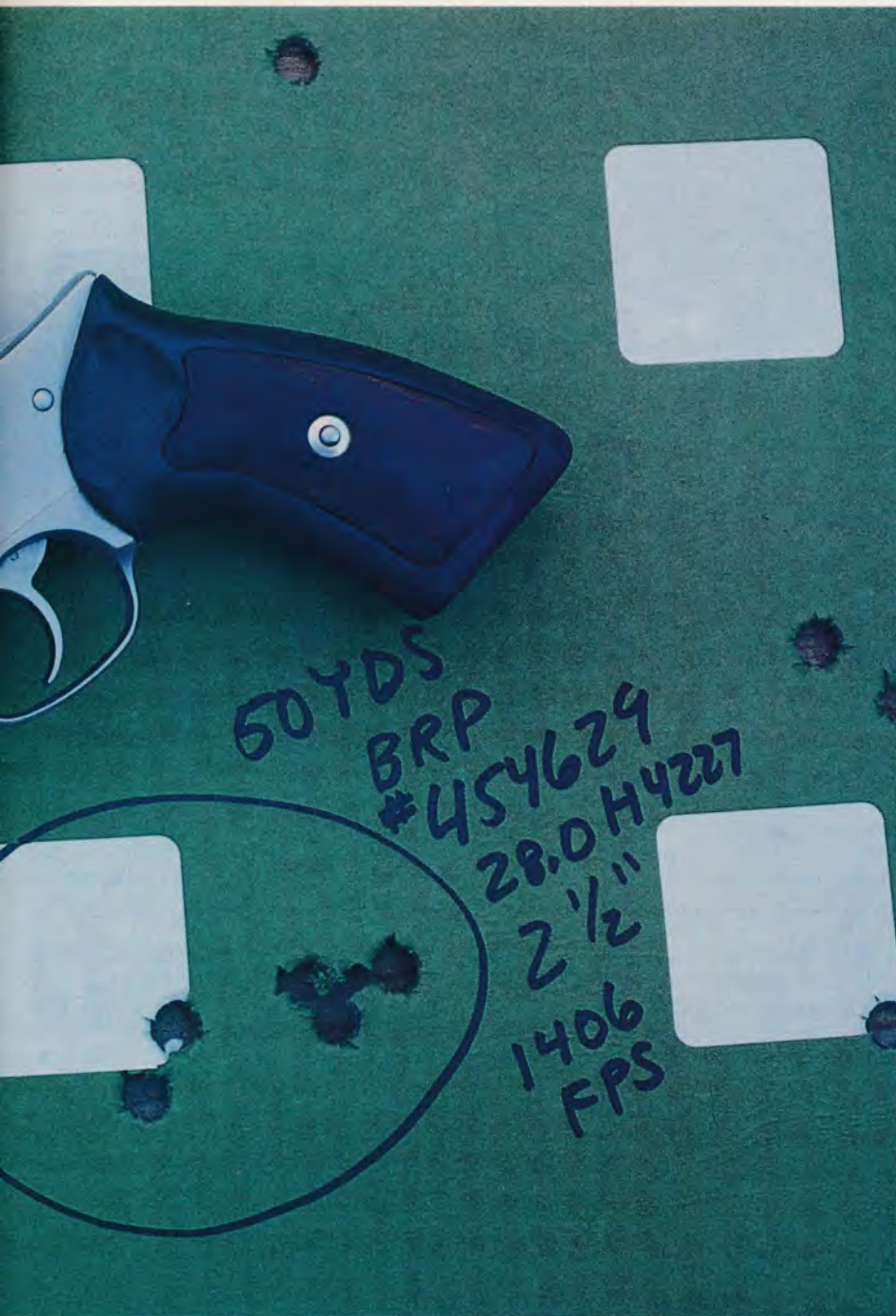
Arms .454 Single-Actions. Yes, it was stupid.

R-E-C-O-I-L

As the hammer fell on the first double-action revolver ever made in .454 Casull, I perceived something akin to being hit in the hand with a crowbar. In zero degree weather. By someone very mad at me.

The sixgun that was raising all these bruises was a Redhawk custom chambered for the .454 Casull by Andy Cannon. Yes, I did say Redhawk and, yes, I did say sixgun, not fivegun.

Andy Cannon has now "cannonized" the Redhawk and is offering both Redhawks and Super Redhawks chambered for the .454 Casull. However, Andy is not the first to custom-chamber a handgun to the .454 Casull cartridge made famous by its marriage to the



SAA as he had found the old .45 to be a much better killer on game than the modern .357 Magnum. In his experiments, Casull played with numerous calibers from the .22 Hornet up through the .44's, but came back to the .45.

The early experiments in pursuit of a more powerful .45 caliber saw Dick



The Super Redhawk's mammoth frame houses 6 shots of .454 Casull.

bulge many cylinders. The cartridge was a good one, but the walls between the cylinders were too thin. Along the way, frame mounted firing pins were used along with special barrels and heat-treated frames. All to no avail. Cylinders burst, top straps blew.

The goal was to get a 230 grain bullet to a muzzle velocity of 1,800 fps. The brass could do it, the specially loaded ammunition could do it. The guns could not.

A conventional six shot cylinder was just not strong enough to contain the pressures that would be generated. The answer seemed to be a five-shot cylinder that would give greater strength and more metal between chambers.

Dick Casull saw the need for the extra strength and five-shot cylinders were whipped up as large as possible to still fit the frame window of the Colt Single Action. Using 4140 steel and five-shot cylinders, muzzle velocities of 1,300 fps were obtained.

By now Casull, still in his early twenties, became interested in heat-treating and metallurgy. The intrepid experimenter figured a way to heat-treat frames to 40

beautifully-crafted single-action revolvers from Freedom Arms.

At one time, the Seville single-action was offered in a six-shot .454. Jim Rock offers his XLR single-shot pistol in .454, and both the Competitor and MOA single-shot pistols are also available in the .454 chambering.

At least one source is available for the .454 Casull on the Ruger Single Action, that being Wheeler-Topping Custom Revolvers in Bountiful, Utah.

At least two Winchester 94 XTR's were chambered in .454 and one of these was shot by Yours Truly at *The Shootists Holiday* in 1988. Freedom Arms is also now offering a matched set consisting of a .454 revolver and a Sharps rifle in .454 Casull.

So, Andy Cannon is not the first, but he is the first to offer the .454 in a double-action revolver. But let's go back a mite and work our way forward.

.454 Casull Origins

In the 1950's, a young, virtually unknown gunsmith established a lasting love affair with the Colt Single Action in .45 Colt. Dick Casull preferred the .45 Colt chambering in the Colt

Rockwell without warping them in the process.

This was 1954. With a Colt Single Action .45 and a special five-shot cylinder, results of 1,550 fps were obtained with 250 grain bullets. This was more than the soon-to-be-unveiled .44 Magnum would deliver.

By 1957, Casull decided to build his own single-action frame. Dick was now at the point that he could engineer parts as needed and using 4140 steel for the frame and 4150 steel for the cylinder, the first ".454 Magnum" was created.

In 1979, after a number of false starts, Dick Casull and Wayne Baker came together and the result was Freedom Arms. It had been a long hard process that had taken 30 years, but finally in 1983, the first factory built .454 Casull was delivered.

The .454 had progressed from modified Colt Single Actions, to five-shot cylindered Colts to a custom built, five-shot single action. The .454 Casull had arrived.

Double-Action .454

During the 1960's, *GUNS Magazine* reported that Dick Casull offered Ruger Super Blackhawks chambered in .454, so it



Freedom Arms 5-shot cylinder (L) has more meat between chambers than 6-shot Ruger. But Taffin likes the double-action feature of the Ruger.

Montana Elk Stalker and is made on a Super Redhawk. This conversion consists of re-chambering to .454 Casull using the original cylinder and a "full-house action and accuracy package" as Cannon calls it.

This package results in total reconstruction of the action to lessen travel tolerances. The recoil of the .454 is much higher than that of the .44 Magnum, and



close tolerances must be maintained to prevent the gun from shooting loose.

The "new" .44 Magnums from Smith and Wesson adhere to this philosophy and the innards of all Model 29s and 629s have been changed to lessen, as much as

is rather ironic that Andy Cannon is now offering Ruger Redhawks and Super Redhawks in .454 Casull chamberings.

Now, 10 years after Freedom Arms fired up the first production single-action .454, we have the first *double-action sixgun* chambered for the .454 Casull.

The guns chosen by Andy Cannon to be made into .454's were, naturally, the strongest double-actions ever made—the Ruger Redhawk and Super Redhawk.

Having run 300 grain cast bullets to 1,400+ fps in a 5 1/2" .44 Magnum Redhawk, and the same bullet to 1,500+ fps in a 7 1/2" Redhawk, I can readily attest to the strength of the Ruger Redhawks.

Montana Elk Stalker

The first .454 received from Andy Cannon is known as *The*

| Andy Cannon's .454 Casull "Montana Elk Stalker" | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------|---------------|--|
| Handloads And Accuracy Results | | | | |
| Bullet | Powder Charge | Velocity | 50 Yard Group | |
| 240 gr. JHP | Freedom Arms factory | 1801 fps | 4.00" | |
| 260 gr. JSP | Freedom Arms factory* | 1767 fps | 3.00" | |
| 300 gr. JSP | Freedom Arms factory* | 1587 fps | 2.5" | |
| 240 gr. FA JHP | 36.0 grs. WW296* | 1700 fps | 3.75" | |
| 260 gr. FA JSP | 34.0 grs. WW296* | 1628 fps | 3.25" | |
| 300 gr. FA JSP | 32.0 grs. WW296* | 1548 fps | 2.625" | |
| 300 gr. Cor Bon | 29.5 grs. WW296 | 1451 fps | 3.00" | |
| 300 gr. Cor Bon | 32.0 grs. WW296* | 1515 fps | 3.00" | |
| 360 gr. Cor Bon | 24.5 grs. WW296 | 1307 fps | 2.00" | |
| 300 gr. JSP | Patriot factory | 1474 fps | 2.5" | |
| 325 gr. JSP | Patriot factory | 1446 fps | 4.00" | |
| 350 gr. JSP | Patriot factory | 1317 fps | 3.25" | |
| 300 gr. Patriot | 32.0 grs. WW296* | 1585 fps | 3.25" | |
| 350 gr. Patriot | 24.0 grs. WW296 | 1237 fps | 3.25" | |
| BRP #454629 | 31.0 grs. WW680 | 1265 fps | 2.125" | |
| BRP #454629 | 31.0 grs. WW296 | 1538 fps | 2.00" | |
| BRP #454629 | 32.0 grs. WW296 | 1613 fps | 3.75" | |
| BRP #454629 | 28.0 grs. H4227 | 1406 fps | 2.5" | |
| BRP #454629 | 25.0 grs. #2400 | 1414 fps | 3.00" | |
| SSK #340.451 | 26.0 grs. H110 | 1391 fps | 4.5" | |
| SSK #340.451 | 21.0 grs. #2400 | 1268 fps | 2.25" | |

*indicates sticky extraction

All loads are assembled with Freedom Arms .454 Casull brass using Remington #7 1/2 primers. Groups are six shots fired from a standing rest over an Oehler Model 35P chronograph. The test gun is a custom Ruger Super Redhawk in .454 Casull with a 7 1/2" barrel fitted with a Leupold 2x scope.

possible, the movement of parts during recoil.

Cannon's Super Redhawk is refinished in industrial hard chrome giving a surface hardness of 78 on the R.C. scale. The barrel, available in any length the customer desires, carries an integral recoil reduction system. This system consists of an expansion chamber compensator at the muzzle end of the barrel, in front of the Ron Power front sight, that travels one-half the circumference of the barrel.

The barrel itself is a match grade Apex stainless steel barrel with a 1:24 twist. Other front sight configurations are available. The Ruger rear sight has been replaced by a fully adjustable, rugged unit from Millett.

Shooting The Big Magnum

While waiting for a 2X scope to arrive from Leupold, I did some preliminary testing of the .454 Super Redhawk. The combination of the Millett rear sight and Power undercut front sight gave a beautiful sight picture but I found that for my eyes and my hold, the Cannon .454 shot one and one-half feet high at 25 yards, the front sight being much too low.

During those first firings, the cylinder unlocked three times and rotated backwards. This is a common malady with heavy recoiling revolvers and is the main reason Smith & Wesson redesigned the lockwork of their .44 Magnum.

Once the Leupold scope was installed, the extra weight stopped the cylinder unlatching problem. With scope installed, the Super Redhawk weighs in at three ounces shy of four pounds. I do not see the cylinder unlatching as a major problem since the Super Redhawk is one revolver that *demand*s a scope.

The extra weight of the scope also brought felt recoil to a tolerable level. I actually found the Montana Elk Stalker quite controllable and, in fact, almost approaching pleasant.

No one who has had extensive experi-

Continued on page 71

SLAUGHTERING SACRED COWS: RADICAL THOUGHTS ON STOPPING POWER



By Mark Moritz

Do hollowpoints *reduce* stopping power? Is shot placement *really* the key factor? Is the .38 Special really *superior* to the .45?

Let's take some Sacred Cows, grind them into hamburger, and make food for thought.

For example, "everybody knows" that hollowpoints improve stopping power. Oh, really? And how does everybody know that? Can it be proven? The answer is no, it cannot be proven. It may be true, but then again it may not. It is quite possible that hollowpoints actually *reduce* stopping power.

We generally consider "perfect" performance to be a bullet that "stops just under the skin on the far side." This is supposed to indicate that the bullet has "dumped all its energy," and that a bullet which penetrated fully would be wasting energy beyond the target. But is that assumption true?

There are several factors that probably determine stopping power. One of them is *velocity*. All other things being equal (velocity, bullet weight, etc.), the bullet with the greater velocity should have the greater stopping power. If that is true, then think about this:

Here comes a bullet. It is traveling at 1200 fps velocity. It strikes a person and penetrates into the body. For the first inch of flesh that it traverses, it is still moving at 1200 fps. Then it starts to

slow down. For the next inch that it travels, it is moving at something less than 1200 fps. The farther it goes into the body, the slower it travels. When it hits that last inch of flesh, just before stopping under the skin, it is traveling quite slowly.

Thus, that bullet has struck one inch of flesh at 1200, one inch of flesh at almost zero, and the several inches in between at various velocities greater than zero but less than 1200.

Now consider a bullet that never slows down at all. It starts at 1200 fps, and exits the body still zipping along at 1200 fps. It hits every inch of flesh that it contacts with a velocity of 1200 fps.

If velocity is an important factor, then isn't it reasonable that it should be important all the way through? Is this why big-game hunters insist on "solids" for complete penetration? When hunting Cape buffalo, grizzly bear and other dangerous game, a bullet that stops inside the body, or deforms in any way, is considered to be a failure.

You can think of this another way, the way the automobile makers do. When an old car hits a telephone pole, the telephone pole breaks. When a modern car hits a telephone pole, the car disintegrates. Modern automobiles are made to deform on impact. They are, in effect, "hollowpoint" automobiles.

The theory is that the force of an impact should be absorbed by the car, not by the telephone pole, or by the car's

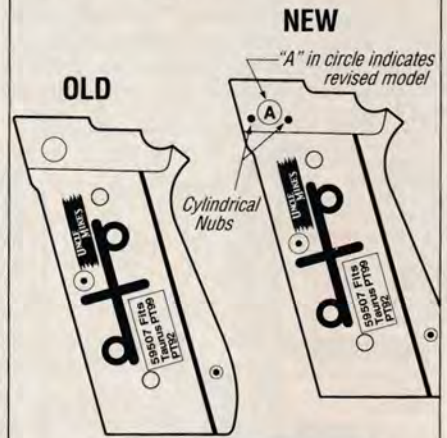
PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE:

"Uncle Mike's" Grips for Taurus PT92 & PT99 9mm Semi-Auto Pistols

Michaels of Oregon is recalling its "Uncle Mike's" Custom Grade Molded Handgun Grips, Set No. 59507, for Taurus PT92 and PT99 semi-automatic 9mm pistols. It has come to our attention that the trigger bars of some of these pistols can come away from the frame when the pistols are equipped with our grips. A pistol in this condition could accidentally discharge, causing possible injury or death to the shooter or bystander.

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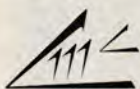
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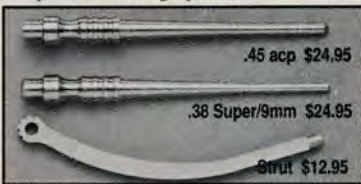


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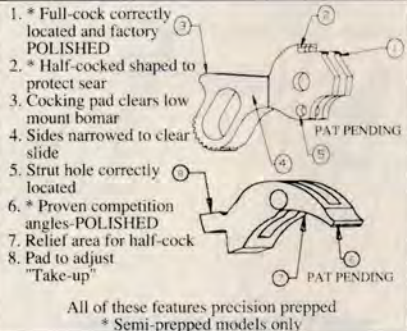


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* These parts are designed to be installed and safety checked by experienced professional pistolsmiths, for use by competitors in sanctioned competitions. *



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NEVER ANY CASTING FLAWS
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Improved Geometry (Competition Tested)
Perfect Parallelism between pivot hole & all other features
Titanium-Lightweight, High-Strength, Hi-Tech
In-house Manufacturing (Unmatched quality)

occupants. So, a bullet which "mushrooms" and stays inside the body does not transfer its energy to the body, it absorbs the energy.

It takes a lot of energy to deform a metal bullet. Take a rock and an egg of equal weight. Throw them at somebody (say, Howard Metzenbaum). If they travel at the same velocity, they will have the same kinetic energy.

Which will do the most damage to the target? The rock. Why? Because the egg will absorb all the energy, through "expansion" or "mushrooming" or "deforming" or whatever you want to call it.

Deforming projectiles don't transfer energy, they absorb energy. Maybe we should all be carrying solids like the African hunters do.

How Important Is Velocity?

It probably is important, but is it all-important? According to one commentator, velocity is—and this is a quote—"everything." Everything? Nothing is everything. If velocity was everything, then the .22 Hornet would be a better stopper than the .458 Magnum.

Does anybody really believe that? (Apparently so.)

In Elmer Keith's book, *Big Game Rifles*, he wrote about shooting hundreds of rabbits and coyotes with what he called "bronze needles"—.17 caliber bullets at 4000 fps. Despite the extraordinary velocity (Mach 5!) he reported miserable stopping power, with most of the animals staying on their feet and walking away.

The "Powerful" .38 LRN

In 1975, the National Institute of Justice published its Relative Incapacitation Index (RII), "proving" to all who desperately wanted such proof, that a 9mm hollowpoint is superior to .45 ACP hardball. That got a lot of play in the gun press.

What hardly anybody mentioned was that the RII "proved" a lot of other really strange things. Probably the most despised loading for police was the old .38 Special standard velocity lead round nose (LRN). There was no end to the reports of failures with this load. Nevertheless, according to the RII, that load has almost twice the stopping power of .45 hardball!

And that's not all. Would you believe that 9mm hardball is three times as effective as .45 hardball?

This is like programming a computer to list "all animals that can fly." When you see pigs and cows on the list, that should be a clue that something is wrong with the computer program.

Ah, but the RII was set up to favor higher velocities, right? Given the same velocity, a bigger bullet must be more effective, right? That is what the written report says. But the calculations contradict the text.

Continued on page 109

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| 7.62x39 | 22.50 | 51.50 | 97.50 | 182.00 |
| 250 SAVAGE | 22.50 | 50.00 | 94.50 | 178.00 |
| 8MM MAUS. (8x57) | 23.00 | 52.50 | 98.00 | 184.00 |
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| 25-20 WIN. | 12.75 | 31.50 | 57.50 | 109.00 |
| 25-20 WIN. | 12.50 | 29.50 | 52.75 | 98.00 |
| 25-06 REM. | 23.00 | 52.50 | 98.50 | 185.00 |
| 257 ROBERTS | 21.00 | 48.50 | 89.75 | 163.00 |
| 264 WIN. MAG. | 26.00 | 60.50 | 112.00 | 212.00 |
| 280 REM. | 23.00 | 52.50 | 98.50 | 185.00 |
| 300 WIN. MAG. | 29.25 | 62.00 | 125.00 | 237.00 |
| 300 SAVAGE | 23.00 | 52.50 | 98.50 | 185.00 |
| 300 WEATHERBY MAG. | 35.00 | 80.00 | 156.00 | 307.00 |
| 30-30 WIN. | 16.50 | 39.00 | 71.00 | 124.00 |
| 30-40 KRAG | 19.75 | 45.50 | 88.00 | 164.00 |
| 303 BRITISH | 20.00 | 46.00 | 85.00 | 159.00 |
| 308 WIN. | 21.50 | 48.50 | 92.25 | 173.00 |
| 32 WIN. SPL. | 18.50 | 41.75 | 78.75 | 142.00 |
| 32-20 WIN. | 12.50 | 28.50 | 53.00 | 99.00 |
| 338 WIN. MAG. | 28.50 | 64.00 | 121.50 | 230.00 |
| 35 REM. | 22.75 | 51.25 | 97.25 | 182.00 |
| 35 WHELEN | 23.00 | 52.50 | 98.50 | 185.00 |
| 375 H&H MAG. | 30.25 | 72.50 | 141.50 | 270.00 |
| 444 MARLIN | 27.25 | 60.00 | 115.75 | 216.00 |
| 45-70 GOVT. | 30.25 | 66.75 | 129.00 | 236.00 |
| 416 REM. MAG. | 35.00 | 80.00 | 156.00 | 307.00 |
| 458 MAG. | 33.00 | 71.50 | 141.00 | 277.00 |

HANDGUN BRASS



| UN-PRIMED (REMINGTON) | 100 | 250 | 500 | 1000 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 25 AUTO | 8.25 | 18.50 | 35.00 | 65.50 |
| 32 AUTO | 8.50 | 19.50 | 36.25 | 67.50 |
| 32 S&W LONG | 8.50 | 19.50 | 36.25 | 67.75 |
| 380 AUTO | 9.00 | 20.25 | 38.00 | 70.75 |
| 38 SPECIAL | 9.00 | 20.00 | 37.75 | 70.00 |
| 38 SUPER + P (BRASS) | 9.25 | 21.00 | 38.50 | 72.00 |
| 38 SUPER + P (NICKEL) | 9.75 | 23.00 | 42.00 | 77.50 |
| 357 MAGNUM | 11.00 | 26.00 | 50.00 | 89.00 |
| 41 MAGNUM | 13.00 | 29.25 | 55.75 | 103.25 |
| 44 SPECIAL | 13.00 | 29.25 | 55.75 | 103.25 |
| 44-40 WIN | 13.25 | 31.25 | 61.25 | 111.50 |
| 45 ACP | 11.75 | 27.00 | 50.25 | 93.50 |
| 45 AUTO RIM | 12.25 | 28.00 | 52.25 | 97.50 |
| 45 LONG COLT | 12.50 | 29.25 | 54.25 | 101.00 |
| 30 CARBINE | 10.75 | 22.50 | 41.25 | 74.00 |
| 10MM | 12.75 | 30.00 | 54.75 | 105.00 |
| FACTORY PRIMED (REMINGTON) | | | | |
| 380 AUTO | 10.00 | 23.75 | 44.50 | 81.50 |
| 32 AUTO | 9.50 | 21.50 | 42.50 | 78.50 |
| 9MM | 10.00 | 23.75 | 44.50 | 82.00 |
| 38 SPECIAL | 10.00 | 23.50 | 43.25 | 81.00 |
| 38 SPL + P (NICKEL) | 11.00 | 26.00 | 50.00 | 89.00 |
| 357 MAGNUM | 10.25 | 24.00 | 45.00 | 83.00 |
| 357 MAGNUM NICKEL | 11.00 | 26.25 | 50.50 | 90.00 |
| 44 MAGNUM | 13.50 | 32.50 | 59.00 | 110.00 |
| 45 ACP | 13.25 | 30.75 | 57.50 | 105.00 |
| 30 CARBINE | 12.25 | 29.00 | 47.50 | 85.00 |
| 10 MM | 13.25 | 32.50 | 60.00 | 116.00 |

CASE QUANTITIES AVAILABLE — PLEASE INQUIRE

RIFLE BULLETS



| CALIBER AND TYPE (REMINGTON) | 100 | 250 | 500 | 1000 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 17 REM. 25 GR. PLHP | 6.75 | 16.25 | 29.50 | 51.75 |
| 22 HOR. 45 GR. S-PT | 6.75 | 16.25 | 28.50 | 53.00 |
| 22 HOR. 45 GR. H-PT | 6.75 | 16.25 | 28.50 | 53.00 |
| 22 CAL. 50 GR. PLHP | 7.00 | 16.50 | 29.25 | 54.50 |
| 22 CAL. 55 GR. PLHP | 7.25 | 17.00 | 31.00 | 57.75 |
| 22 CAL. 55 GR. PSP-WC | 5.50 | 13.00 | 25.25 | 46.00 |
| 6MM-243 80 GR. PSP | 7.75 | 17.75 | 32.75 | 61.00 |
| 6MM-243 80 GR. PLHP | 9.50 | 21.75 | 39.75 | 74.25 |
| 6MM-243 100 GR. PSP-CL | 8.75 | 20.50 | 37.00 | 69.50 |
| 25 CAL. 87 GR. PLHP | 8.75 | 21.25 | 39.50 | 69.75 |
| 25 CAL. 100 GR. PSP-CL | 8.75 | 20.50 | 37.25 | 69.50 |
| 25 CAL. 120 GR. PSP-CL | 9.50 | 22.00 | 40.25 | 75.50 |
| 270 130 GR. PSP-CL | 9.50 | 22.00 | 41.00 | 76.25 |
| 7MM 150 GR. PSP-CL | 10.25 | 23.75 | 44.00 | 82.25 |
| 7MM 165 GR. SP-CL | 10.50 | 24.50 | 45.50 | 84.00 |
| 7MM 175 GR. PSP-CL | 11.00 | 25.25 | 47.00 | 88.00 |
| 30-30 150 GR. RNSP | 9.75 | 22.75 | 42.25 | 79.25 |
| 30-30 170 GR. RNSP | 10.50 | 24.25 | 44.75 | 83.50 |
| 30 CAL. 125 GR. PSP-CL (7.62x39) | 9.50 | 22.00 | 40.50 | 76.00 |
| 30 CAL. 150 GR. PSP-CL | 10.00 | 23.50 | 44.00 | 82.00 |
| 30 CAL. 165 GR. PSP-CL | 10.50 | 24.75 | 45.50 | 85.00 |
| 30 CAL. 180 GR. PSP-CL | 11.25 | 25.50 | 47.75 | 89.50 |
| 30 CAL. 150 GR. BRONZE POINT | 15.25 | 35.00 | 65.25 | 122.00 |
| 30 CARB. 110 GR. FMJ | 7.50 | 17.00 | 32.75 | 61.50 |
| 30 CARB. 110 GR. S-PT | 7.50 | 17.00 | 32.75 | 61.50 |
| 32-20 100 GR. SOFT POINT | 10.00 | 19.75 | 35.50 | 66.50 |
| 45-70 300 GR. JHP | 13.50 | 32.75 | 61.50 | 115.00 |
| 45-70 405 GR. S-PT | 15.00 | 34.75 | 65.75 | 123.00 |
| 303 CAL. 180 GR. SPCL | 11.00 | 25.50 | 48.00 | 89.75 |
| 8MM 170 GR. SP-CL | 11.00 | 25.00 | 47.00 | 88.00 |
| 8MM 220 GR. PSP-CL | 12.75 | 30.00 | 54.75 | 102.50 |

CASE QUANTITIES AVAILABLE—PLEASE INQUIRE — PLHP: Power Lokt
Hollow Pt., PSP-CL: Pointed Soft Pt. CORE LOKT

HANDGUN BULLETS



| CALIBER AND TYPE (REMINGTON) | 100 | 250 | 500 | 1000 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 25 ACP 50 GR. FMJ | 5.00 | 11.00 | 21.00 | 39.00 |
| 32 AUTO 71 GR. FMJ | 5.25 | 12.50 | 24.00 | 43.50 |
| 380 AUTO 88 GR. JHP | 6.00 | 13.50 | 26.00 | 48.50 |
| 380 AUTO 95 GR. FMJ | 5.25 | 12.50 | 23.00 | 43.00 |
| 9MM 115 GR. FMJ | 6.25 | 14.00 | 26.50 | 50.00 |
| 9MM 125 GR. JHP | 6.50 | 15.50 | 28.50 | 53.50 |
| 9MM 147 GR. FMJ | 6.25 | 14.25 | 27.50 | 51.50 |
| 38 CAL. 148 GR. HBWC LEAD | 4.75 | 11.25 | 21.00 | 36.50 |
| 38-357 158 GR. SWC LEAD | 5.00 | 11.75 | 21.50 | 37.00 |
| 38-357 125 GR. JHP | 6.25 | 14.00 | 27.00 | 50.00 |
| 38-357 125 GR. SOFT POINT | 6.50 | 14.50 | 27.50 | 51.00 |
| 38-357 140 GR. JHP | 6.75 | 16.00 | 29.00 | 54.50 |
| 38-357 158 GR. JHP | 7.50 | 17.00 | 32.50 | 61.00 |
| 38-357 158 GR. SOFT POINT | 7.75 | 17.50 | 33.00 | 62.00 |
| 38 SUPER 130 GR. FMJ | 6.50 | 14.25 | 27.50 | 51.50 |
| 41 CAL. 200 GR. JHP | 9.50 | 22.50 | 41.00 | 77.00 |
| 41 CAL. 210 GR. SOFT POINT | 9.75 | 23.00 | 42.25 | 79.00 |
| 44 CAL. 180 GR. JHP | 9.25 | 21.50 | 40.50 | 75.00 |
| 44 CAL. 240 GR. JHP | 10.50 | 24.00 | 46.00 | 85.00 |
| 44 CAL. 240 GR. SOFT POINT | 11.00 | 25.00 | 47.00 | 87.50 |
| 44-40 200 GR. SOFT POINT | 10.25 | 23.50 | 44.50 | 83.00 |
| 45 ACP 185 GR. SWC (JACKETED) | 10.00 | 23.00 | 44.00 | 82.00 |
| 45 ACP 185 GR. JHP | 10.00 | 23.00 | 44.00 | 82.00 |
| 45 ACP 230 GR. FMJ | 10.25 | 24.00 | 45.00 | 84.00 |

CASE QUANTITIES AVAILABLE — PLEASE INQUIRE

RIFLE/HANDGUN BULLETS



| CALIBER AND TYPE (WINCHESTER) | 100 | 250 | 500 | 1000 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 224 DIA. 55 GR. FMJ | 4.25 | 10.00 | 18.00 | 33.00 |
| 224 DIA. 55 GR. PSP | 5.50 | 13.00 | 25.25 | 46.00 |
| 30 CAL. 147 GR. FMJ | 9.50 | 22.00 | 41.25 | 76.00 |
| X 30 CAL. 150 GR. POWER POINT | 10.00 | 23.50 | 44.00 | 82.00 |
| 380 AUTO 95 GR. FMJ | 5.25 | 12.50 | 23.00 | 43.00 |
| 9MM 115 GR. FMJ | 6.25 | 14.00 | 26.50 | 50.00 |
| 9MM 124 GR. FMJ | 6.25 | 14.25 | 27.50 | 51.50 |
| 38-357 110 GR. JHP | 6.00 | 13.50 | 25.50 | 48.00 |
| 38-357 125 GR. JHP | 6.25 | 14.00 | 27.00 | 50.00 |
| 38-357 158 GR. JHP | 7.50 | 17.00 | 32.50 | 61.00 |
| 45 ACP 230 GR. FMJ | 10.25 | 24.00 | 45.00 | 84.00 |

X 30 CAL. 150 GR. POWER POINT IS A POINTED SOFT POINT,
NOT FOR USE WITH 30-30

WINCHESTER SPECIAL PRICES BULLETS IN CASE QTY'S.

| CALIBER AND TYPE (WINCHESTER) | CASE QTY | PRICE (PRICE/M) |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 224 DIA. 55 GR. FMJ | 7640 | 230.00 (30.10) |
| 224 DIA. 55 GR. PSP | 7640 | 298.00 (39.01) |
| 30 CAL. 147 GR. FMJ | 2860 | 198.00 (69.23) |
| 30 CAL. 150 GR. PSP POWER POINT | 2800 | 195.00 (69.64) |
| 380 AUTO 95 GR. FMJ | 4430 | 172.00 (38.83) |
| 9MM 115 GR. FMJ | 3660 | 167.00 (45.63) |
| 9MM 124 GR. FMJ | 3390 | 158.00 (46.61) |
| 38-357 110 GR. JHP | 3820 | 165.00 (43.19) |
| 38-357 125 GR. JHP | 3360 | 154.00 (45.83) |
| 38-357 158 GR. JHP | 2660 | 147.00 (55.26) |
| 45 ACP 230 GR. FMJ | 1830 | 139.00 (75.96) |

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MAJ NEW WINCHESTER RIFLE BRASS CALIBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY NOV./DEC. PLEASE INQUIRE!

RIFLE BRASS



| UN-PRIMED (WINCHESTER) | 100 | 250 | 500 | 1000 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 218B | 17.00 | 40.00 | 73.00 | 135.00 |
| 22 HORNET | 12.25 | 25.50 | 46.00 | 88.00 |
| 222 REMINGTON | 14.75 | 34.00 | 60.50 | 109.00 |
| 223 REMINGTON | 16.25 | 37.00 | 65.50 | 122.00 |
| 22-250 REMINGTON | 18.00 | 41.75 | 76.75 | 142.00 |
| 220 SWIFT | 22.25 | 51.00 | 95.00 | 172.00 |
| 243 WINCHESTER | 18.75 | 43.50 | 80.00 | 148.00 |
| 270 WINCHESTER | 19.75 | 47.00 | 84.00 | 155.00 |
| 284 WINCHESTER | 25.00 | 60.00 | 112.00 | 214.00 |
| 30-06 SPRINGFIELD | 20.25 | 48.50 | 86.50 | 159.00 |
| 300 WIN. MAG. | 29.25 | 62.00 | 125.00 | 237.00 |
| FACTORY PRIMED (WINCHESTER) | | | | |
| 30 CARBINE FACTORY PRIMED | 12.25 | 29.00 | 47.50 | 85.00 |
| 308 WIN. FACTORY PRIMED | 23.75 | 54.00 | 99.00 | 184.00 |
| 7.62x39 FACTORY PRIMED | 24.00 | 55.00 | 101.00 | 188.00 |

HANDGUN BRASS



| UN-PRIMED (WINCHESTER) | 100 | 250 | 500 | 1000 |
|--|---------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 9MM | 9.00 | 20.75 | 38.00 | 71.00 |
| 38 SPECIAL | SEE REMINGTON | | | |
| 357 MAGNUM | 9.00 | 20.50 | 38.75 | 72.00 |
| 40 S&W | 12.75 | 31.00 | 58.00 | 112.00 |
| 44 MAGNUM | 12.25 | 28.25 | 53.50 | 99.50 |
| 45 ACP | 11.75 | 27.00 | 50.25 | 93.50 |
| 10MM | 12.50 | 30.50 | 56.00 | 108.00 |
| FACTORY PRIMED (WINCHESTER) (LAQUER SEALED PRIMER) | | | | |
| 380 AUTO | 10.00 | 23.75 | 44.50 | 81.50 |
| 9MM | 10.00 | 23.75 | 44.50 | 82.00 |
| 38 SPECIAL | SEE REMINGTON | | | |
| 357 MAGNUM | 10.25 | 24.00 | 45.00 | 83.00 |
| 40 S&W | 13.75 | 33.00 | 62.00 | 120.00 |
| 41 MAGNUM | 14.25 | 33.50 | 63.00 | 118.00 |
| 44 SPECIAL | 14.00 | 33.25 | 60.50 | 113.00 |
| 44 MAGNUM | 13.50 | 32.50 | 59.00 | 111.00 |
| 45 ACP | 13.25 | 30.75 | 57.50 | 105.00 |
| 45 LONG COLT | 14.00 | 33.00 | 60.75 | 112.00 |
| 45 WIN. MAG. | 17.50 | 41.00 | 75.00 | 139.00 |
| 10MM | 13.25 | 32.50 | | |

WAITING TO DIE: WHY A VICTIM CAN BE DENIED RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

Even the most placid of towns is not immune to criminal violence.

In the wake of grisly murders of five students in Gainesville, Fla., news media reported a surge in firearms ownership. Not surprisingly, the gun of choice for residents seeking to protect themselves and families was the handgun.

Gainesville confirmed what we have supposed for some time. While Americans cherish the right of individual law-abiding citizens to keep and bear handguns for, among other reasons, self-defense, many citizens defer their first purchase as a matter of economic priority.

When an outbreak of criminal violence bursts upon the scene, priorities change.

Our laws must be designed to respond to the changing requirements of the law-abiding.

While many local media railed against the gun purchases and expressed concern about accidents, NRA did something about it. NRA provided special free seminars on safe handgun use and storage, crime prevention and self-defense.

The seminars gave NRA staffers and members of the local North Central Florida Sportsmen's Association the opportunity to speak first-hand with the residents there. In Gainesville, these first-time handgun purchasers were stunned to discover that surrounding Alachua County has a 48-hour waiting period.

For them, it was 48 hours too long.

The most often-asked question: "Where is the nearest county without a waiting period?"

Gun Owners Deter Crime

The choice of a handgun for defense is a sound one. According to Gary Kleck, Professor of Criminology at Florida State University, Americans thwart criminal attack some 645,000 times each year by lawful use of handguns.

Private handgun ownership deters crime. A survey of convicted felons done for the National Institute of Justice revealed that encounters with armed victims are "as worrisome to [felons] as encounters with police."

Gun prohibitionists who argue that a seven-day waiting period is "reasonable" fail to acknowledge the crime-deterrent effect of an armed citizenry. They fail to address the problem of a hemorrhaging criminal justice system that releases violent offenders early through light sentenc-

ing, plea bargaining, probation and parole.

Above all, waiting periods fail to address violent criminals' primary source of guns: the black market. Firearms are so readily accessible through illicit channels that researchers are compelled to describe commercial dealers as "a minor and unimportant source" of guns for felons.

In his 1989 task force report to Congress, Attorney General Dick Thorn-

The U.S. Attorney General testified that criminal conviction records were so poor that a check would yield false results 40 to 60 percent of the time.

burg echoed this fact when he advised that the greatest hurdle to any felon identification system at the licensed dealer point-of-sale "is the reality that felons obtain guns through many illegal, unlicensed means."

Background "Coin Toss"

While advertised as a means by which law enforcement can conduct a background check, the "Brady Bill" neither requires a check nor does anything to improve the poor quality and inaccessibility of today's criminal conviction records—the very records on which any background check must be based.

The U.S. Attorney General testified that criminal conviction records were so poor that a check would yield false results 40 to 60 percent of the time.

Thus, law-abiding citizens have a fifty-fifty chance that their purchases will be disapproved. Small wonder that the vast majority of purchase denials in Maryland (where there is a seven-day state waiting period and background check) are overturned on appeal.

"Crime of Passion"

Arguments that a seven-day "cooling off period" will reduce homicide misrepresent homicide in general and domestic homicide in particular—the only category in the FBI crime data which is suggestive of so-called "crimes of passion." Police studies show that some 85% of domestic homicide cases involve previous domestic quarrels serious enough to summon police.

In nearly half the cases, the police had to be called to the residence five or more times before the killing occurred. There is no

"sudden violent outburst" but a series of violent acts perpetrated over and over again for years. Most of these families have histories of violence, and drug or alcohol abuse, dating back years, even decades.

Rather than halt criminal violence, the Brady Bill will result in wrongful denials of a Constitutional right. As an alternative, NRA strongly supports the accurizing of the criminal conviction records on which any check would be based. NRA believes that proposals such as waiting periods should be decided by the states.

NRA favors instantaneous criminal record checks if and when a jurisdiction's criminal justice records are correct and accessible. NRA backed such a system in Virginia.

Because crooks are inclined to circumvent any check (7-day wait or instant check) by using false identification or black market sources, NRA calls for

greater effort by law enforcement to target the illicit trade in stolen firearms and other illegal practices.

Solutions To Crime

To stop those few commercial purchases by felons, NRA supports the accurizing of criminal justice records and the adoption of an instantaneous records check system, preferably by individual states. The technology exists to put this system in place today, but accurate criminal history records is an indispensable prerequisite.

One of the nation's strongest voices for genuine crime deterrents, NRA calls for more police, judges, prisons and prosecutors, minimum mandatory sentencing for criminal misuse of firearms and the reduction of plea bargaining, parole and probation for violent offenders.

And, because private gun ownership deters crime, NRA also supports the right of law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms as a means of reducing violent crime.

In NRA's view, there is a partnership between law-abiding, gun-owning citizens and law enforcement that deserves special nurturing, because that partnership represents society's collective and effective response to crime.

It is a partnership best described by Professor Kleck, who found that "gun use by private citizens against violent criminals and burglars is common and about as frequent as arrests."



Wayne LaPierre is executive director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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ZANY ACCIDENTS IN IPSC SHOOTING: HOW TONY SQUASHED HIS THINGIE

It seems to be a characteristic of human nature to be fascinated by accidents and disasters. If the subject is skydiving, or mountain climbing, or auto racing, people want to hear about parachutes that didn't open, or ropes that broke, or tires that blew.

So I guess it's only natural that when the subject of practical shooting matches comes up with friends and acquaintances, as it sometimes does, they always want to hear about accidental leg shots and such.

They seem vaguely disappointed to find that the typical IPSC match is about as dangerous as a chess tournament. Not that the potential for danger isn't there—after all, we are using real guns and full power ammunition—but the combination of trained shooters, vigilant range officers, and rigid enforcement of safety rules has given IPSC competition a splendid safety record.

But I have known of a few injuries over the years. One of them came to mind while I was cleaning my Dillon 1050 reloader a few evenings ago, and thinking, not for the first time, what an ingenious design it was.

Among its clever features is a ratchet that requires the operator to make a full stroke of the operating handle once started, thereby making it almost impossible to accidentally double-charge a case. It's an excellent feature, yet oddly enough it played a part in the strange incident that befell my friend Darcy who, incidentally, is one of the best all-around shooters I know.

Darcy's Dillon Disaster

I overheard Darcy describe the incident to a group of competitors as I was waiting in line to register and pay my match fees at one of our monthly qualifiers. It seemed he had decided to give his faithful 1050 a good cleaning and was hard at work with rags and brushes, removing traces of spilled powder and spent primer debris.

He was thinking of other things, not really paying much attention to what he was doing, when his right hand happened to fall on the operating handle. For some reason—habit, maybe, or inattention—he automatically cranked down on the handle, forgetting that his left hand was beneath the toolhead.

The next instant his index finger was trapped between the bullet seating die and the shell plate. The pain, he said, was

tremendous, but worse yet, because of the ratchet, he was unable to release the pressure and get the hand out.

Completing the operating stroke would have squashed his finger flat. It is possible to push down slightly on the handle and then manually release the ratchet, but that takes two hands.

There was no one else in the house, and it looked as though he had only three options: slow starvation, squashing his finger, or gnawing his hand off at the wrist.

But still thinking clearly despite the pain, he maneuvered in such a way that

This, I knew, was the hot set-up. I felt pity for all those shooters who had to make do with stock, unmodified guns.

he was able to get his chin on the operating handle and depress it a little, meanwhile reaching around the back of the machine and releasing the ratchet with his right hand.

The injured hand came free, he grabbed it with the other hand, and spent the next five minutes bouncing around the basement, performing the dancing and chanting routine appropriate to such circumstances.

Having paid my fees I joined the group and expressed my sympathy, knowing the injury would be a particular nuisance to Darcy, who is a southpaw.

"That wasn't all," Darcy said. "A blood blister formed beneath the fingernail, and the finger throbbed so bad I couldn't sleep. I finally decided the only way to stop the pain was to drill through the nail and relieve the pressure."

When he said that my stomach turned over and, judging by the suddenly pale faces and bobbing Adam's apples in the group, I could tell I wasn't the only one affected.

But Darcy blithely went on, unawares, "So, I went down to my workbench, chucked a one-eighth bit in the drill, and set it on the nail." (A couple of people hurriedly left the room.)

"Then I thought, no, I just can't do this. If the bit goes too deep and hits the nailbed, the pain will be unbearable."

I felt a moment's relief, then Darcy went on, "But the pain kept up until I couldn't stand it any more. I cranked the

drill up to full speed so it would get through the nail fast." (A couple more people ran for the door with their hands over their mouths.)

"But it turned out I needn't have worried about going too far. As soon as the bit broke through the nail, the blood sprayed up about a foot. I bet I'm the only person who spells relief 'Black & Decker.'"

I looked at him in disgust. "Boy, the stories you make up just to throw people off their game. Do you really expect anyone to believe that?"

Darcy didn't bother to reply; he just held up his hand. The nail of the index finger was black, and in its center was a round 1/8" hole.

Well, I'd paid my match fee so I stayed to shoot, but I might as well have gone home. With the image of that drill bit in my mind I couldn't have hit a bull's hind end with a handful of gravel while holding on to his tail.

Coincidentally, my own worst injury in competition involved the same digit, though the circumstances were different.

It happened quite a while ago, when IPSC was still a rosy-cheeked infant and my match gun was a modified Colt Gold Cup.

It had spit away its front sight, as Gold Cups sometimes do with full power loads, and I had fitted it with a silver-soldered ramp sight.

This, I knew, was the hot set-up. I felt pity for all those shooters who had to make do with stock, unmodified guns.

Articles I read indicated I should take a file and bevel the mag well, then round off edges like the sharp corners on the Elliason rear sight, but at that time I would no more have filed on a gun than tried to remove my own appendix.

I felt about that gun much the way a mama grizzly feels about her cubs. My great fear at that time was of getting stress cracks in the gun's frame. Everything I read or discussed with other club members warned of this danger.

Recoil Spring Retaliation

We were all certain that the impact of the slide on the frame would eventually leave the gun with more cracks than a dried up mudhole, and the only way to prevent such a disaster was to use extra-power springs.

Standard 16 lb. Government model springs were regarded with disdain. Springs rated at 18 1/2 lbs. were the bare minimum, 20 lbs. were better. But I had the Big One, a 22 lb. recoil spring!

Of course, to go with it I had fitted an

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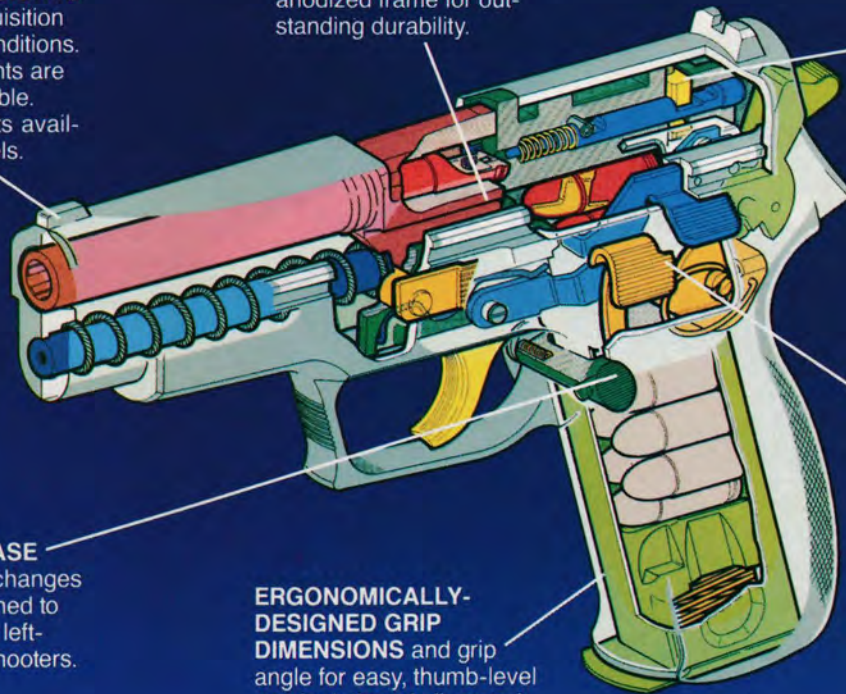
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extra-power firing pin spring, and an extra-power mainspring. Then I started getting stovepipes, so I bumped the powder charge in my reloads up a couple of tenths. (At the time it seemed to make sense.)

The heavy recoil spring whipped the slide forward with all the viciousness of a sprung bear trap, but I was happy. My frame was safe.

With great trouble and expense, I had managed to round up three 8-shot Devel mags. Two of them worked perfectly, and for that matter still do. The third would feed fine, but if the gun was shot dry its follower would jump the slide stop, trapping the mag in the gun.

Since it's considered a tactical *faux pas* to shoot the gun dry, in practice sessions I always changed mags with a round in the chamber, so this little nugget of information went undiscovered.

Then came the day of a certain match. One stage called for the shooter to fire eight rounds at a group of targets, then run a few steps to a barricade and fire eight more rounds at a second group of

recoil spring plug—against the edge of a hard surface and pushing the gun forward.

I set the slide against the edge of the barricade and shoved as hard as I could. The barricade fell over.

Now I was on the edge of panic, for the trapped finger was going numb and I was afraid gangrene would set in. But even then, the safety lessons that had been drilled in over a lifetime of shooting didn't fail me.

Turning 90° to the right so as to keep the gun muzzle downrange, I tried to hook the rear sight on my belt buckle. The first swipe missed, and the sharp edges of the sight slashed across my

stomach, almost removing my own appendix.

The second attempt was successful. I slapped a fresh mag in the gun, racked the slide, and hosed the targets down.

The range officer, who had been at my elbow throughout, gave the command to unload and show clear. When the line had been declared safe he spoke, "Good gun handling. The muzzle was downrange and the finger out of the trigger guard while you solved your problem. But the barricade was gone when you engaged the last group of targets, so it's a procedural error for each shot fired. Eighty points penalty."

Continued on page 88

Driven by that heavy recoil spring, the slide leaped forward with all the speed and power of a striking rattler, trapping my finger in the ejection port.

targets from behind cover.

Aha, I thought, this is where my Devel mags earn their keep. As I engaged the final target in the first group, I lost the front sight for an instant and quickly fired an insurance round, the gun going to slide lock.

Running to the next shooting position, I punched the mag button. The mag didn't eject.

Arriving at the barricade, I hooked the front edge of the mag's floorplate with a finger and pulled. It still wouldn't move.

Now getting desperate, I held the mag button down with the thumb of my shooting hand and stuck the index finger of my left hand in the ejection port, shoving down hard on the top of the mag.

The mag popped free. As it did so, its follower pulled down the slide stop.

Driven by that heavy recoil spring, the slide leaped forward with all the speed and power of a striking rattler, trapping my finger in the ejection port. I reacted by trying to yank it free, but in vain.

Then I attempted to use that finger to pull the slide back, but the pain was too great. Through a fog of agony I recalled seeing other shooters clear jams by placing the bottom front of the slide—the

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BY JOHN TAFFIN

TAFFIN TESTS

A recent Smith & Wesson news release boasted: "Smith & Wesson is very pleased to announce that the California Highway Patrol has selected the new .40 S&W Model 4006 as the agency's duty sidearm. According to the California Highway Patrol's *Weapon Test and Evaluation*: 'This weapon exhibited the best performance during the endurance testing of all weapons tested.'

'This is an important milestone for the new .40 S&W,' said S&W President Steve Melvin, 'because it establishes the new caliber as the choice of a most prestigious law enforcement agency. When we and Winchester decided to cooperatively develop the .40 S&W cartridge, we both felt we had an excellent new product for the law enforcement community. This selection goes a long way toward verifying that feeling.'

Anyone who reads about guns at all has surely noticed the excitement created by the S&W/Winchester collaboration in bringing out a new pistol/cartridge combination. Excitement such as I have not seen over a new handgun caliber in my

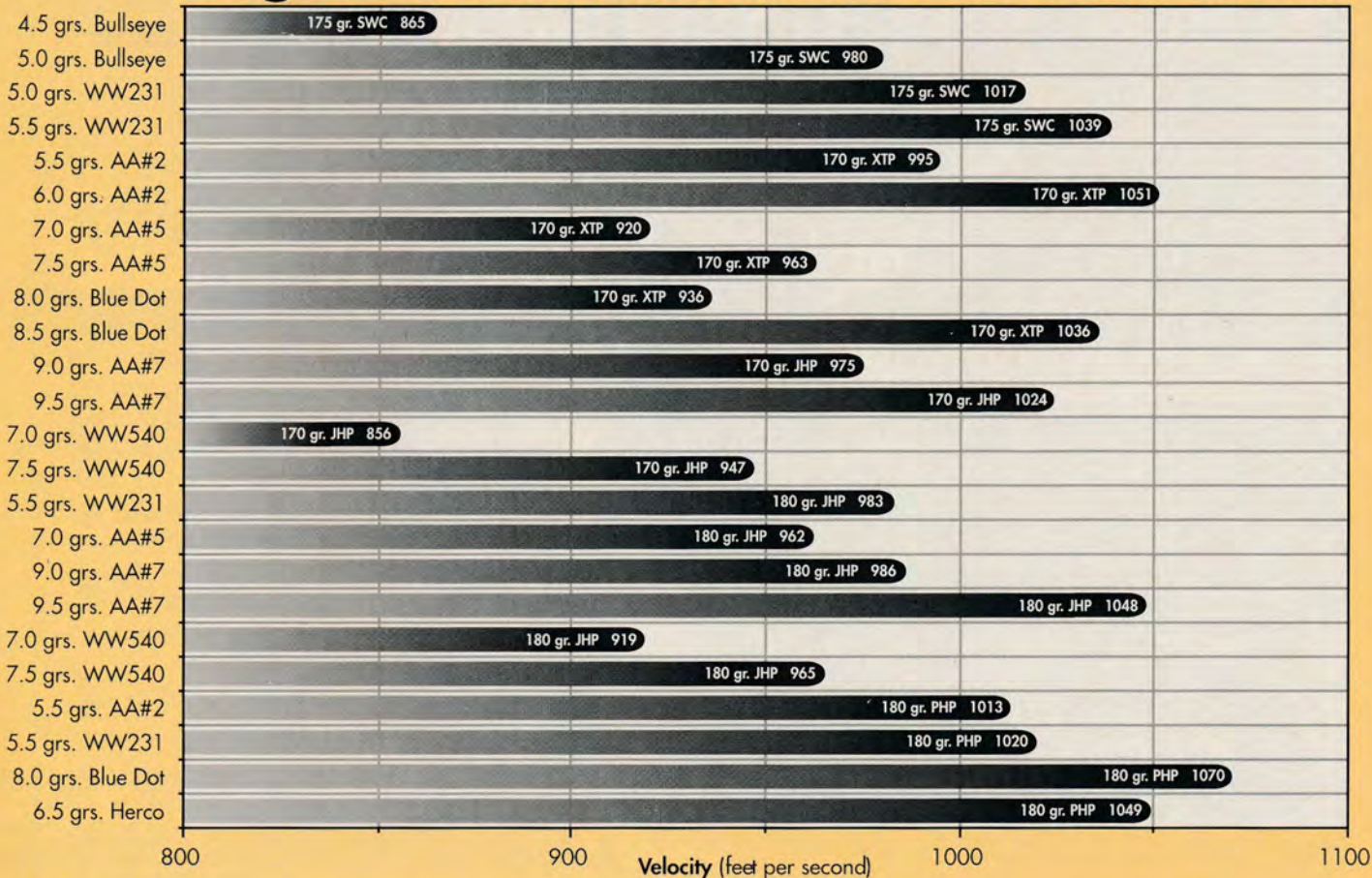
The California Highway Patrol has already ordered 7,000 of these new guns and some 10 million rounds of ammo. For better or worse, California often leads the nation and this time they have taken a very positive step forward. This one will proba-

the .40 S&W

35 years of shooting. Putting it simply, the Model 4006 and .40 S&W combination looks like the finest "weapons system" in history for our all too often out-gunned cops.

bly save the lives of many peace officers. Peace officers are sometimes inadequately armed for a couple of reasons—administrators who do not understand the meaning of an effective defensive hand-

High Performance .40 S&W Favorite Loads



WARNING: Neither the author nor **American Handgunner** accept responsibility for results obtained with this reloading information due to the inherent variation in handloading components and individual reloading techniques.

gun and, probably even more prevalent, cops who are not shooters.

For the first time, we now have a high-capacity (12 shot), moderately sized semi-automatic that delivers a payload that will genuinely surprise me if it does not come very close to being the equal of the .45 ACP in the area of one-shot stops.

And it doesn't stop with just the Smith & Wesson .40 S&W as other makers are already offering .40's and I have seen at least three other semi-automatics in the new cartridge.

What Smith & Wesson and Winchester have done is simply to give the peace officer—and the armed law-abiding citizen—an honest-to-goodness modern semi-automatic that delivers a bullet of adequate diameter and weight.

Of course the .40 is not proven yet, but one only has to look back at the record of the ancient .38-40 which it duplicates to know what to expect.

The .38-40 was a proven stopper; with modern bullets the .40 S&W should be even better.

The Winchester factory load for the .40 S&W (The 10mm Short?) duplicates the FBI load for the 10mm (The 10mm Lite?), both of which are rated at 950 fps with a 180 grain bullet. The Winchester load clocks 963 fps from a four-inch barreled .40 S&W over the triple skyscreens of the Oehler Model 35P and the Federal "FBI load" goes 948 fps from a five-inch S&W Model 1006.

Two false premises have received wide circulation the past decade or so. First, the .45 ACP is too much gun for the average police officer or armed citizen to handle. Secondly, the 9mm is an adequate defensive cartridge plus as an added bonus affords greater firepower and less recoil.

Both of these premises happen to be false but like so many other myths, they have received such widespread circulation that many shooters actually believe that they are true.

What the .40 offers is a chance to bring us back to reality and give something very close to .45 ACP "stopping power" (if there really is such a thing) with the gun size, recoil, and nearly the magazine capacity of the 9mm. Very nearly a case of being able to have one's cake and eat it too.

In the 1870's, the .38-40 offered the same ballistics as the modern .40 S&W and over the next 70 years was outdistanced in popularity in the Colt Single Action only by the legendary .45 Colt and the .44-40.

In the 1960's, Elmer Keith, Bill Jordan, and Skeeter Skelton beat the drums for a new police cartridge, but instead of getting a .41 Special at 950 fps in a medium-sized sixgun we wound up with the excellent outdoorsman's cartridge, the .41 Magnum at 1,400+ fps in the large N-

framed Smith & Wesson and Ruger Blackhawk. Too much of a good thing for the purpose originally intended.

Now the wrong has been righted and we have the .41 Special but it turns out to be the .40 S&W and not in a Sixty-ish sixgun but a Ninety-ish high capacity WonderTen semi-automatic. The 1960's offered a large framed .41 carrying six shots; the 1990's gives us a medium framed .40 with 12 shot capacity. Ain't progress wonderful?

The .40 cartridge itself is nothing more than a shortened 10mm to allow an overall loaded cartridge length equal to the 9mm. The brass itself—the .40 S&W, that is—is longer than the 9mm, but the use of fairly blunt bullets of 170 to 180 grains allows an overall cartridge length that will work through guns designed for the 9mm.

While the FBI went with full-sized semi-autos that handle the 10mm Lite, the California Highway Patrol has gone with medium sized semi-autos that handle the 10mm Short. Something backwards here as the ballistics are the same but the uniformed officer carries the medium-sized pistol and the undercover agent carries the full-sized pistol. Hmmm?

Loading the .40 S&W is no great chore and I have been loading for a couple of months now using RCBS's Carbide .40 S&W dies which have performed perfectly. Brass for the .40 S&W is not what one would classify as abundant yet, so one may be tempted to trim 10mm brass to .40 S&W length. It works on the outside but not on the inside as the 10mm brass cut to .40 S&W length must be inside reamed to accept bullets without bulging the brass.

Anytime that a new cartridge surfaces it is always quite interesting to venture into the reloading of same without really knowing where one is going. Sometimes it is more than interesting if one has nothing but the seat of the pants and common sense to fly by.

In the case of the .40 S&W, it was quite simple to begin reloading as I had extensive data on the .41 Action Express which is only slightly larger in powder capacity than the .40 S&W.

Going to the .41AE data, I found loads for the 170 grain bullet that were in the 950 fps range, cut the powder charge one-half grain and I was right on the money with the same weight bullet in the .40 S&W. All the work that had been done with the .41AE really saved a tremendous amount of time and guesswork when loading the .40 S&W.

Powders for the .40 S&W are those normally used for semi-automatics, namely Accurate Arms #2, #5, and #7, Hercules Herco, Unique and Bullseye, Winchester WW231 and WW540, and the powder that seems to work extremely well for everything from semi-automatics

through the .475 and .500 Linebaughs, Hercules Blue Dot. In fact, Blue Dot seems to give 150 fps more muzzle velocity with less pressure indicated on the primer than AA#7.

Bullets for the .40 S&W are already in abundance as .40 inches and 10mm are identical and Hornady and Nosler both have excellent 170 grain jacketed hollow points available and Speer and Sierra both have 180 grain .40/10mm JHP's that are perfect for the .40 S&W.

For cast bullets in the .40, I have utilized the Bull-X 175 gr. lead semi-wad-cutter and Lyman's #401043 180 grain which is what I would describe as a round flat nose design.

The .40 S&W is very easy to load for at least in the Smith & Wesson 4006 as at no time did any malfunctions occur nor were there any feeding problems with any of the bullets that were tried. This is amazing in light of the fact that I just finished testing two tried and true .45 ACP's from two different makers and both malfunctioned three times.

Duplicating the factory load of approximately 950 fps is quite easy and can be accomplished with 180 grain jacketed hollowpoints and 5.5 grains of AA#2, 5.5 grains of WW231, 7.0 grains of AA#5, 9.0 grains of AA#7, 6.0 grains of Herco, 8.0 grains of Blue Dot, and 7.5 grains of WW540. Loads assembled with 9.0 grains of AA#7 and the Sierra 180 grain jacketed hollow point gave the best accuracy in this bullet weight.

Switching to the slightly lighter 170 grain JHP's from Hornady or Nosler, the same powder charges cited above for the 180 grain JHP will give velocities in the 900-1,000 fps range. The most accurate jacketed bullet load of more than 60 loads that were tried in the Smith & Wesson Model 4006 turned out to be the 170 grain Nosler JHP over 8.0 grains of Blue Dot. At a muzzle velocity of 906 fps, this load groups into one and one-quarter inches at 25 yards. Its accuracy is duplicated in cast bullet loads by Lyman's #401043 over 5.0 grains of WW231 for a muzzle velocity of 975 feet per second, or Bull-X's 175 grain semi-wad-cutter over 7.5 grains of Blue Dot for 1,004 fps.

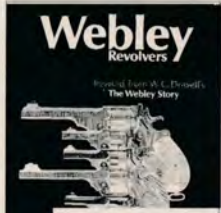
Handguns are used for many varied purposes. Target shooting, silhouette competition, action shooting, hunting, and just plain plinking to name a few. The .40 S&W may find a solid niche as a competition cartridge, but first and foremost the purpose of a handgun is defense. Immediate defense.

A handgun can be carried in a properly designed holster, and be just as ready for quick action as if it were in the shooter's hand and be depended upon for a quick, one-shot stop to a life threatening confrontation. The .40 S&W could well become the epitome of defensive handgun cartridges.



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BARK OF GUNWRITERS IS WORSE THAN BITE OF 10MM IN GUNFIGHTS

Before any human being had been shot with it, at least two gun scribes referred to the 10mm Auto as "the ultimate manstopper." That optimism has proven premature.

In the last ten months, I've been able to access reports of five shootings with the full power 10mm load. The information is as follows:

Southwest: Suspect is shot twice in the torso, once in the chest and once in the back, according to the newspaper. He collapses on the second hit and dies at the scene. I was unable to determine what load was used.

Northwest: Suspect is shot twice in the torso with 170 grain JHP PMC 10mm and once with a 9mm round. He remains up and running and is shot a third time by the Good Guy with the 10mm; this round strikes the spine and neutralizes him. The spinal hit stays in, and the others exit. The gunfight was over quickly.

Southwest: Suspect is shot eight times at close range with 170 grain PMC hollowpoint. Six of eight bullets enter the body cavity, piercing most of the vital organs. However, the suspect climbs out the opposite side of the vehicle and runs 30 yards before collapsing. Most bullets went side-to-side and stayed in the body.

Southeast: Evan Marshall reports an incident in which a subject is shot 11 times during an extended gunfight with Norma 170 grain hollowpoints. Five of these hits are in the thorax. The suspect finally collapses and dies. Most, if not all, the hits produced exit wounds.

Northeast: S&W consultant Tom Campbell advises that a Springfield, Mass., police officer was shot with a 10mm in an off-duty encounter. The bullet was reportedly a Winchester 175 grain Silvertip, fired from a weapon stolen out of the Colt factory.

The officer was hit in the shoulder. Campbell was advised that the bullet mushroomed dramatically and stopped in six inches of flesh, and that the officer was released from the hospital the following day. Campbell was told that the officer did not go down, was not seriously disabled during the encounter, and would have been able to return fire had he been armed off duty.

Stopping Power?

The only good thing I see in going over the above five instances is that the

good guy lived, even if the four bad guys did not. The four shootings of criminals took two dozen 10mm hits—not shots, *hits*—to take down four bad guys, an average of six hits per gunfight.

This is not impressive.

I do not know how many shots were fired in the first southwestern incident, or the southeastern one. However, in the second southwestern incident the officer hit the suspect eight for eight at close range, and in the northwestern shooting, the man behind the Colt Delta told me that he fired three shots to score three solid hits.

That's two incidents of 100% hit potential, despite the 10mm fullbore's reputation for kick. The bad guy in the Springfield incident let go five shots to wound the officer once, a 20% hit factor. Thank God the man couldn't shoot.

Lite Tens

How does this extrapolate to the FBI version of the 10mm round, a 180 grain JHP going 950 fps and variously dubbed "10mm Lite" and "-P"? Or, for that matter, to the ballistically equivalent .40 S&W round?

Hard to say. At this writing (early September '90) there are not yet any reports of either round being used against a human subject in the field. However, it is asking a lot for the feebler version of the 10mm to be a better stopper than the hotter version. One wag refers to the .40 S&W as "the Forty Short and Weak."

Evan Marshall, the leading compiler of bullet performance statistics based on actual shootings, has publicly referred to the 10mm and .40 mania as "a ballistic nocturnal emission." Marshall himself carries a high capacity 9mm with CorBon factory ammo, which comprises a 115 grain Sierra JHP at over 1300 fps.

Quantity Of Injury

Why is the 10mm not taking bad guys down faster? Overpenetration is one reason. Jeff Cooper has noted that, mathematically, a .45 slug has about 56% more cross-sectional front impact area than a 9mm, and a 10mm cuts that advantage by half.

Let's compare the deep-driving 10mm with a good .45 ACP hollowpoint like the street-proven CCI Lawman 200 grain. The man most associated among gunnies with the .45 and the 10mm is Jeff Cooper, who recently suggested that the key factor in stopping power is "QI," or "Quant-

ty of Injury."

The .45 Lawman round creates a wider round that generally stops just on the other side of the aggressor's torso. The narrower 10mm bullet produces a proportionally narrower wound that will exit the subject's back and spend a good part of its mathematically greater power displacing air behind the armed criminal instead of displacing tissue inside him. (Or, in a worst case scenario, it goes on to displace the tissue of a bystander).

But, clearly, the .45's injury producing power is better utilized; which of those two wound channels do *you* think produces the greater "quantity of injury"?

This past summer when I was at the FBI Academy, the first recruit class of Bureau agents were training diligently with their guns. Their issue weapons, and those of the FBI instructors, are among some 300 weapons from a projected 9,600-gun order of S&W Model 1076 10mm pistols. A like number of 4006 S&Ws have been ordered from the California Highway Patrol.

In the next couple of years, as those guns get out in the field, we'll know for sure whether the 10mm Lite FBI load or the .40 S&W will do better than the full power 10mm, though that's rather like expecting a .38 Special to outperform a .357 Magnum.

Time will tell. In the meantime, beware of range experts who tell you that the unloaded .40 S&W will be the ultimate combat pistol. That's what they said about the full strength 10mm, and five shootings later, the skeptics are sneering smugly.



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YOU CAN WIN A SPRINGFIELD ARMORY DISTINGUISHED MODEL .38 SUPER

From the Springfield Armory Custom Shop.



Photo by Roger Andrews

TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard (no envelopes) and follow sample. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Dept. H11, POB 880409, San Diego, CA 92168-0009. Mail before Dec. 1, 1990.

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Wrong-o, hoser! The Springfield Armory Custom Shop, under the guidance of respected pistolsmith Les Baer, is successfully producing high tech 1911-A1 custom pistols—from reliable custom carry guns and super accurate bullseye punchers to lightning-quick IPSC grease guns—in the unbelievably short time of just 12 to 16 weeks. (Note: We said *weeks*, not years.) And they're building these babies *right*, with all the bells and whistles and attention to detail you would expect from any of America's top of the line, high profile custom pistolsmiths.

Witness this issue's Custom Gun Giveaway: Les calls it his "Distinguished Model." And the name suits the product to a "T." Because this slick speedster, precision built on a premium quality Springfield forged frame and slide and chambered in .38 Super, is loaded with all the best gizmos and whiz-bangs that are favored by today's most successful IPSC competitors.

In fact, Springfield's "Distinguished Model" is a virtual clone of the match-proven comp guns currently being used by the three key members of Springfield's factory-sponsored team of world-class shooters: Ken Tapp, Doug Koenig, and Rob "El Grande" Leatham. That's some endorsement!

And that's a standard package...all for \$2,535 retail, if you can believe that. Of course, if that's *still* not enough for you, the Springfield Custom Shop will allow you to make revisions and substitutions to any of the standard packages (seven in all).

For more information on the complete line of Springfield custom pistols, contact:

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The AYOOB FILES

EDP SHOOTING: THE FURNITURE STORE INCIDENT

Situation: You're escorting a strange-acting man from your store when he turns on you with a knife.

Lesson: Shooting an aggressor with a bared knife who is close enough to kill you is totally justified.

There is nothing funny about shootings. At the same time, those who deal with the aftermath—patrol officers, investigators, doctors and nurses—have learned that grim humor can help to alleviate the otherwise unrelieved suffering and grief that such incidents will occasion. It is because the case we're about to relate contains so many cluster-coital aspects that, out of mercy to the good guys involved, this will be the first *Ayoob Files* in which pseudonyms are used.

* * * *

Was Rob Gonif a small time criminal because he was insane, or was it the stress of the life of crime that drove him to his diagnosed paranoid schizophrenia? It mattered little to his victims. All they knew was that Rob was a criminal, *and* a certified EDP, the short form of the euphemistic police term, Emotionally Disturbed Person.

November 18, 1986, dawned cold in the Ohio city where Rob lived, but he didn't seem to notice the discomfort. Despite the pleading of his mother, with whom he lived, he would wander out in the cold, walking barefoot and shirtless. Of late, he had taken to sitting for hours at a time in a darkened basement, staring at nothing. He was off his medication; he had decided for himself that he no longer needed his anti-psychotic medications, Haldol and Congentin. He dressed and left the house at 6 a.m.

His wanderings took him to Green's Furniture Store. He liked to loiter there, staring at pictures on the walls. His mother told him not to do it, that it was a place of business and he knew perfectly well he wasn't going to buy anything there. Rob angrily told her that it was a public place and he could go where ever he wanted.

Harold Arbiter, the manager of the furniture store, realized that someone was upsetting his customers. Pale, average sized, 33, Arbiter was cautious as he walked toward the disturbance.

A young black man, five-seven and about 150 pounds, sat in a brown leather reclining chair. Arbiter did not know Rob Gonif, but he could see there was something wrong with him.

Gonif was shrugging his shoulders rapidly, as if highly agitated. He seemed to be twitching inside his green Army-style trench coat. Gonif was rapidly clenching and unclenching his fists.

Arbiter was frightened. He watched as the man in the recliner clenched and unclenched his jaw muscles so rapidly it seemed as if his face was pulsating. There was a slurping sound; Gonif was loudly sucking on his teeth. His eyebrows furrowed as he glowered at the store manager.

Untrained in police work or threat management, Arbiter did not know that he was witnessing a classic display of what are called Pre-Assault Cues. All he knew was that this man's actions were frighteningly bizarre. "Perhaps he's drunk, or on PCP," Arbiter

Continued on page 102

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

CLUB 100

More and more handgunners are coming to appreciate the enhanced performance of a customized handgun. From minor polishing and fitting for better reliability to extensive modification and elaborate alteration for better accuracy, today's pistolsmith can offer you a wide range of choices. Caliber conversions, auto pistol accurizing, muzzle brakes and compensators, action tuning, custom sight installation, you name it. Custom work can range from \$25 for slicking up a revolver's trigger pull to several thousand

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the Club 100 and succeeding members have been selected by American Handgunner staff in cooperation with the American Pistolsmiths Guild.

Club 100 Criteria

- ✔ Dedication to excellence in all facets of the pistolsmithing profession.
- ✔ Evidence of consistent quality of workmanship.
- ✔ Sound and established business practices.

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Terry K. Kopp, 1301 Franklin, Lexington, MO, 64067, (816) 259-2636

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R.D. WALLACE

R.D. Wallace, Star Route 1, Box 76, Grandin, MO, 63943, (314) 593-4773



Specializes in reshaping of grip frame, trigger guard; trigger, hammer work; custom grips including Tiffany; obsolete parts handmade; engraving.

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CANNON'S GUNS

Andy Cannon, Box 357, 2387 Meridian, Victor, MT, 59875, (406) 642-3644

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JARVIS GUNSMITHING

Bill Jarvis, Box 173, Hamilton, MT, 59840, (406) 961-4392

Manufacturer of auto pistol barrels, rifled CM and stainless steel barrel blanks; compensator kits for Colt 1911A1 models, S&W 645, 745, 4506, Beretta 92, Taurus 91, 92, 99; L-frame barrel weights, sights and sight mounts; Bianchi revolvers, PPC revolvers, IPSC compensated autos; police duty guns tuned; member APG.

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Specialist in Ruger revolvers; sophisticated caliber conversions including action tuning, custom barrels, five and six-shot cylinders; from .22 to .500 for single and double action guns; member, APG.

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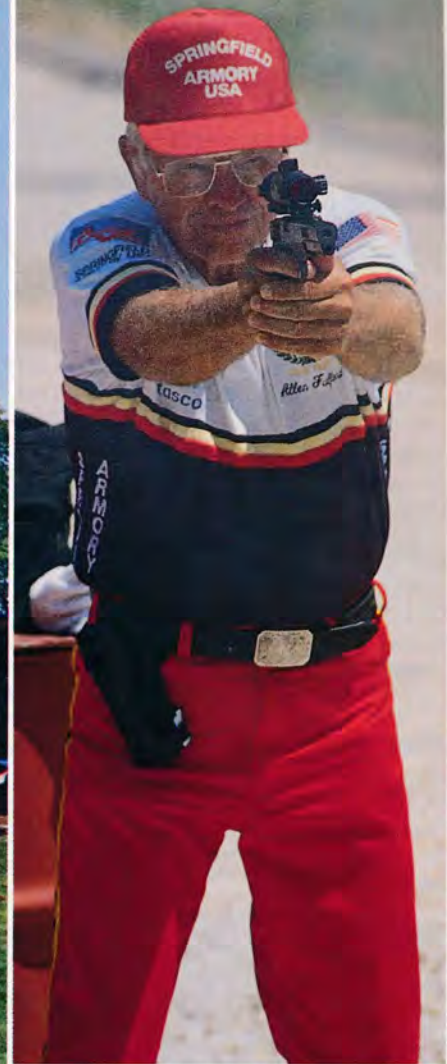
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My stomach was churning all the time!" That may have been what was happening on the inside, as he shared with me after the final event, but Allen Fulford looked cool as ice as he made history by becoming the first shooter to repeat as The Master.

The 59-year-old gentle man and gentleman from Georgia surprised everyone by adding a second Master's title to his 1987 victory. The first Masters in 1986 was won by Wayne Bowker, followed by Allen Fulford (1987), Ken Tapp (1988), and Brian Enos (1989).

He surprised everyone— witness a poll of the gunwriters who cover The Masters, those who are "really in the know," which resulted in not one pick for Fulford.

In fact, the picks were quite interesting. Out of 10 gunwriters, no less than eight picked Brian Enos to win again, three gave the nod to Ken Tapp and one picked Carter Jones. (How did 10 writers make 12 picks? A couple of guys hedged their bets by naming two possible winners.)

As you can see, it was a foregone conclusion that Brian Enos would win the

match with a slim possibility that Ken Tapp would edge him out. I would like to be able to say that I did not go along with the crowd, *but* I picked— yep, you guessed it— Brian Enos. I am somewhat vindicated by the fact that I did pick the right winner of the Action Event. So much for prognostication and its worth.

The Masters Tournament in just five short years (this being an anniversary year celebrating Masters V) has become *the* shooting tournament. This is Number One because it combines three major disciplines, draws the top shooters, and, in addition to 300 competitors, draws thousands of spectators and also extensive media coverage including the shooting magazines, newspapers, TV and radio.

The IHMSA Internationals draw more shooters but it is a one-discipline event, strictly silhouette shooting. Actually, if tallied the same as the IHMSA Internationals, The Masters has 900 entries as each of the 300 competitors shoot three guns.

The Masters combines bullseye and speed shooting with silhouetting and also adds long gun events, centerfire rifle, rimfire rifle and shotgun for those who wish to take part with those "other" guns.

Add in the entries that take part in the long gun events and The Masters is actually larger than the IHMSA Internationals, truly making it the Number One shooting tournament.

(In 1990, Camp Perry's NRA national championships drew 5,480 shooters of which 2,287 entered in pistol events, but who's counting? Editor.)

The Masters was conceived by Roy Jinks of Smith & Wesson who has served as Match Director until this year when those duties were turned over to Dick Metcalf, president of PASA, the host club for The Masters. Both Roy and Dick have done a masterful job, no pun intended, and along with the hundreds of PASA members and community volunteers, they have managed to run what has to be the smoothest tournament around.

Even when the floods came on the third afternoon of shooting, they either had a contingency plan or they thought very quickly on their feet, and made the necessary adaptations to keep everything working properly. I cannot say enough about the Pike-Adams Sportsmans Alliance and the good people from Barry and Quincy, Ill., who make this match



THE MASTERS

INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Taffin
Photos by Nyle Leatham



such a memorable experience for shooters, spectators and the press.

Other tournament hosts would do well to take a long, hard look at this smooth operation. I stand in awe at the amount of preparation and the thousands of volunteer hours that go into The Masters.

Three Disciplines

As mentioned, The Masters combines three disciplines: Precision, Action, and Long Range shooting. To win the tournament, all three must be accomplished well. It is possible to win the tournament without winning any major event as the match is tallied by adding all three scores together with a very simple system being used.

The top score in each event is given a rating of 100%. Every other score is then figured as a fraction, or portion, of the top score. For example, if 30 is the top score in Long Range, it is given a value of 100% and 25 would be $\frac{25}{30}$ or 83.33%

The Match itself consists of three days of shooting with each shooter participating in one event each day. Those who have proven themselves in the past Masters to be the top shooters, the Super Squad, are bunched together in each



Now there's a sight that brings a smile to a Masters shooter's face, a clean bank of Precision targets! The white paddles pop up—when hit!—to cover the black targets disks. In the large picture, the shooting gallery of the Long Range Event proved a handy viewing spot for three pretty fans (inset, top left) who no doubt rooted for Allen Fulford (inset, middle), the only two-time winner.

event for about a two hour period. This is an excellent idea for a number of reasons.

Spectators and the press do not have to follow a complicated schedule and run all over the range trying to follow a certain shooter or shooters, in which case they would surely not be able to see all the top guns. Just show up at the right place at the right time on the right day and the top shooters will all be shooting. Perhaps of even greater importance is the fact that this takes the spotlight off the sportsman

shooter as he or she does not find him or herself shooting next to a Bowker, Fulford, Tapp or Enos which could be quite disconcerting to say the least.

Let's look at the events themselves. The winner of each event picks up \$4,500. A very nice sum for doing what you enjoy doing. The only catch is that you have to do it better than 299 other shooters.

Action. Long Range. Precision. That is probably the increasing order of diffi-



culty for most shooters. Not all, as the results would have been quite different if... well, more about that later.

Action Event

Sponsored by Winchester and *American Handgunner*, this event combines speed with accuracy. Competitors must draw from a holster and knock over five targets in three separate phases. Only six shots are allowed. A missed target is a two second penalty and an extra shot is also a two second penalty.

Each phase is repeated three times in this event and targets may be fired in any order in all stages. Handguns must be .32 Magnum caliber or larger.

Stage One ("Zig Zag"): Five 12-inch plates set at heights of from 16" to 60" and from ranges of 10 to 20 yards.

Stage Two ("Wild Card"): Five 8" plates set at 12 yards and arranged in a pentagon around one 5.75" plate. A hit on the small plate causes the two adjacent 8" plates to fall.

Stage Three ("Hole-In-One") This stage consists of a 10"x12" diamond shaped plate, a 10" square plate, two 12" round plates, and an 8" round plate.



At second place overall and Top Professional, 21-year-old Doug Koenig raked in over 10 grand in cash for three days of shooting! He had won the Bianchi Cup three months earlier and went on to win the IPSC World Shoot three months later. Pretty good year, 1990!

Ranges vary from 9 to 11 yards and some plates are obscured by a plate in front of them that must be knocked down first.

Long Range Event

Sponsored by Simmons Outdoor Corporation and *Guns & Ammo*, this event is loosely based on IHMSA and NRA long range silhouetting and Hunter/Field Pistol. I say "loosely based" because it is much more difficult as targets are not at the same distance nor necessarily the same size for each five shot sequence.

Handguns must be 6mm or larger in caliber and must weigh under 5.75 pounds including sights with a barrel less than 15" and an overall length of less than 25 inches. Some shooters opt for the lightest possible cartridge to allow the use of rifle scopes which must be placed close to the face and it is not unusual to see targets turned on their stands, a miss, instead of a knocked down hit.

Stage One: Fired from a standing position in two phases. Phase 1 allows 90 seconds with five 6" round plates at 75 meters and five 9" plates at 100 meters, fired alternately. Phase 2 allows 60 seconds to engage five 6" round plates at



Mayor Ed Venicombe of Barry, Ill., delivered a welcoming speech to the shooters. All the butterflies (upper right) weren't in the competitors' stomachs! The panorama picture is the Precision Event range.

100 meters at staggered elevations. Tough!

Stage Two: Fired from a freestyle position also in two phases. Phase 1 consists of five 6" plates at 100 meters and five 12" plates at 200 meters, fired alternately in 90 seconds. Phase 2 presents the shooter with five 6" plates at 200 meters at staggered elevations with a total allow-

able time of 60 seconds.

Stage Three: Again a freestyle position is allowed. Phase 1 consists of five 9" plates at 150 meters and five 9" plates at 200 meters shot alternately in 90 seconds. Phase 2 presents five 6" plates at staggered elevations at 150 meters with a time limit of 60 seconds.

It is easy to see that the Long Range Event at The Masters is quite different from long range silhouetting. The latter offers 40 targets, shot in groups of five with the same size target at the same distance each phase of 10 shots and with a total time allowed for the 40 shots of 16 minutes or 960 seconds.

The former presents the shooter with 45 targets of different sizes, at different distances, and different elevations and allows a total time of 450 seconds. Experience in IHMSA or NRA silhouetting could actually be a liability rather than an asset in this difficult variation of the sport.

Precision Event

Sponsored by Rolex/Dame & Hurdle Jewelers and Tasco Sales, this bullseye event for most shooters is where the rubber really meets the road. Precision

means exactly what it says, so much so that this event will never ever be conquered to the tune of a perfect score. Only .22 rimfire pistols or revolvers are allowed and the course is fired from a standing position one-handed only!

Stage One: All fired at 25 meters in three phases. Phase 1 allows 30 seconds for five 4.5" targets. Phase 2, same targets in 10 seconds. Phase 3 consists of five 1.77" targets in 90 seconds. That is silver dollar sized targets at 25 meters fired off-hand! But wait, it gets more difficult.

Stage Two: This stage is fired at both 25 and 50 meters. Phase 1 consists of five 4.5" targets at 50 meters in 90 seconds. Phase 2 is a duelling style with three seconds allowed to hit each of five 4.5" targets at 25 meters with a seven second time delay between each target. Phase 3 presents the shooter with five 1.77" targets at 25 meters with a time limit of 90 seconds.

Stage Three: All fired at 50 meters. Phase 1 yields five 4.5" targets in 60 seconds. Phase 2 cuts the time in half for the same sized targets. Phase 3—remember I told you it gets tougher—consists of five 1.77" targets at 50 meters in two minutes. Set up a



target, mark a black bull of 1 3/4" diameter and then back off 55 yards and take a look at the size of the target you are shooting!

Important Change

Coming into the 1990 Masters the record for Precision was 27 out of 45 jointly held by Allen Fulford and Capt. John McNally of the Army Marksmanship Training Unit. The record fell in 1990, and fell hard.

Something happened at— or I should say before— the 1990 Masters tournament of tremendous significance both for The Masters and other shooting disciplines. It is so important that it is quite possible that a different Master would

Ken Tapp, below, bolted two scopes on his long range pistol to beat the bullet drop problem of shooting from 75 to 200 meters. Gamey, gamey!



have emerged except for this one simple little rule change.

IHMSA says to the senior shooter, at least as this is written, "We do not want you to compete any longer. Yes, you have been a dedicated shooter for quite awhile, but now it is time for you to get out of the way. Goodbye, nice to have known you."

The Masters says, "We want you to shoot and keep on shooting and to do so as long as you can hold the gun and pull the trigger."

What makes the big difference? Scopes! In just four short years, the rules committee of The Masters has shown Solomon-type wisdom and allowed scopes in *all* events! Perhaps that wisdom was somewhat encouraged by the fact that pistol scope manufacturers are among the sponsors that foot the bill for The Masters. Whatever the reason for the change, it is well received by this writer and I applaud the rules committee.

I do not believe Allen Fulford would be the 1990 Master without this change.

One of the stated aims of The Masters from the very beginning was that of raising the level of professionalism in the shooting sports. Allowing the use of scopes in all phases will certainly add to the professionalism by not discriminating against the older shooter. This will definitely have far reaching effects on The Masters in the future.

Excitement Reigns

You would think after five tournaments the excitement would wane. Not so. The 1990 Masters packed as much excitement into three days of shooting as one is likely to find in any sporting event. The Super Bowl promises but rarely

GUNS AND GEAR

Precision Event

| Score | Name | Pistol | Scope | Ammo |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 273.12 | Allen Fulford | High Standard M-106 | Tasco Pro-Point | Eley 10-X |
| 251.81 | Doug Koenig | Pardini SPE | Aimpoint 3000 | Eley Match |
| 250.81 | Floyd Wine | High Standard Victor | Aimpoint 3000 | Eley Club |
| 249.12 | J. Michael Plaxco | S&W M-41 | Tasco Pro-Point | CCI Green Tag |
| 245.42 | Ken Tapp | Browning Buckmark | Burriss 1x | Eley Match |
| 243.79 | Al Sinclair | High Standard Victor | Tasco Pro-Point | CCI Green Tag |
| 243.55 | Kelley Gilmore | Hammerli M-215 | Tasco Pro-Point | Eley 10-X |
| 240.15 | Brian Enos | S&W M-41 | Aimpoint 3000 | Eley Match |
| 240.03 | J. Dennis Crocker | High Standard Trophy | Tasco Pro-Point | CCI Mini Group |
| 236.63 | Tom Campbell | S&W M-41 | Aimpoint 2000 | Eley Red Box |
| 233.00 | Wayne Bowker | High Standard M-104 | Aimpoint 2000 | CCI Pistol Match |
| 232.79 | Lamonte Drees | High Standard Citation | Aimpoint 2000 | Federal Match |
| 232.37 | Michael Voight | Pardini | Tasco Pro-Point | CCI Pistol Match |
| 232.14 | John McNally | Domino M-602 | Aimpoint 2000 | Eley Red Box |
| 227.61 | Ross Carter | S&W M-41 | Tasco Pro-Point | Remington HV |
| 227.16 | Dwight Stearns | Ruger Gov't Model | Pachmayr (iron) | Remington Target |



As one observer has wryly commented on the weird gun designs of the Masters, "A smart answer to a stupid question." A course of fire dictates what gun will be used, not any match rules. Invent a course of fire that rifles will excel at, and what do you think people will shoot? Guns like these! They use rifle scopes and rifle barrels and rifle calibers and rifle actions... but of course this is a handgun match!



delivers; The Masters sends the blood racing and the heart pounding for anyone who has any love for handguns and great handgun shooting at all.

The favorite spectator event at The Masters is the Action Event as it is fast and the crowd can gather right behind. A couple of hours watching the Super Squad shoot was well worth the 2,000 mile trip I made from Idaho to Illinois.

I love handguns, but sixguns in par-

ticular are my consuming passion. And if there were no other event but the Action Event, and there were no other competitors except Jerry Miculek, it would be worth the trip just to see this sixgunner make his 8³/₈" Model 27 .357 Magnum sing!

Sixgunners from Ed McGivern to Elmer Keith to Skeeter Skelton had to be looking down and smiling as Jerry proved once again that a good sixgun man can

beat a good semi-auto man. He does it over and over and over.

And he does it so smoooooothly that he looks slow! No wasted motion, just bang-bang-bang-bang-bang-bang and the clock reads out incredible times.

For the three stages and three five-shot phases each of the Action Event, Miculek's unofficial times as I recorded

Continued on page 84

OF THE TOP 16

Long Range Event

Action Event

| Pistol | Caliber | Scope | Pistol | Caliber | Holster | Cash Winnings |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| Ultra-Light Arms | 7mm BR | Tasco 4x30 | Springfield | .38 Super | Safariland | \$31,535.00 |
| XP-100 | 6.5mm BR | Burris 7x | Springfield | .38 Super | Safariland | \$10,130.00 |
| XP-100 | 7mm BR | Burris 7x | Springfield | .38 Super | Safariland | \$7,420.00 |
| XP-100 | 6mm BR | Burris 7x | S&W M-4006 | .40 S&W | Safariland | \$11,948.00 |
| Les Baer custom | 7 TCU | Burris 7x and 4x | Springfield | .38 Super | Ernie Hill | \$3,070.00 |
| XP-100 | 7mm Int'l | Burris 7x | Colt Commander | .38 Super | Safariland | \$2,150.00 |
| XP-100 | 7mm BR | Tasco 6x40 | S&W M-15 | .38 Spl. | Safariland | \$5,900.00 |
| XP-100 | 6mm BR | Burris 7x | S&W 5906 | 9mm | Safariland | \$1,615.00 |
| Ultra-Light Arms | 7mm Int'l | Burns | Colt | .38 Super | Ernie Hill | \$1,170.00 |
| XP-100 | 6mm BR | Burris 7x | S&W M-745 | .45 ACP | Safariland | \$1,165.00 |
| XP-100 | 7mm BR | Burris 2-7x | Springfield | .38 Super | Safariland | \$600.00 |
| XP-100 | 7mm BR | Leupold 4x | Colt | .45 ACP | Ernie Hill | \$580.00 |
| XP-100 | 7mm BR | Leupold | Springfield | .38 Super | Safariland | \$550.00 |
| XP-100 | 7mm BR | Tasco 6x | Glock 17L | 9mm | Prizene | \$910.00 |
| Wichita | 7mm Int'l | Tasco 4x | Colt | .38 Super | Safariland | \$1,500.00 |
| T/C Super 14 | 7x30 | Simmons 2-7x | Colt | .38 Super | Ernie Hill | \$9,250.00 |

SMITH & WESSON PERFORMANCE CENTER



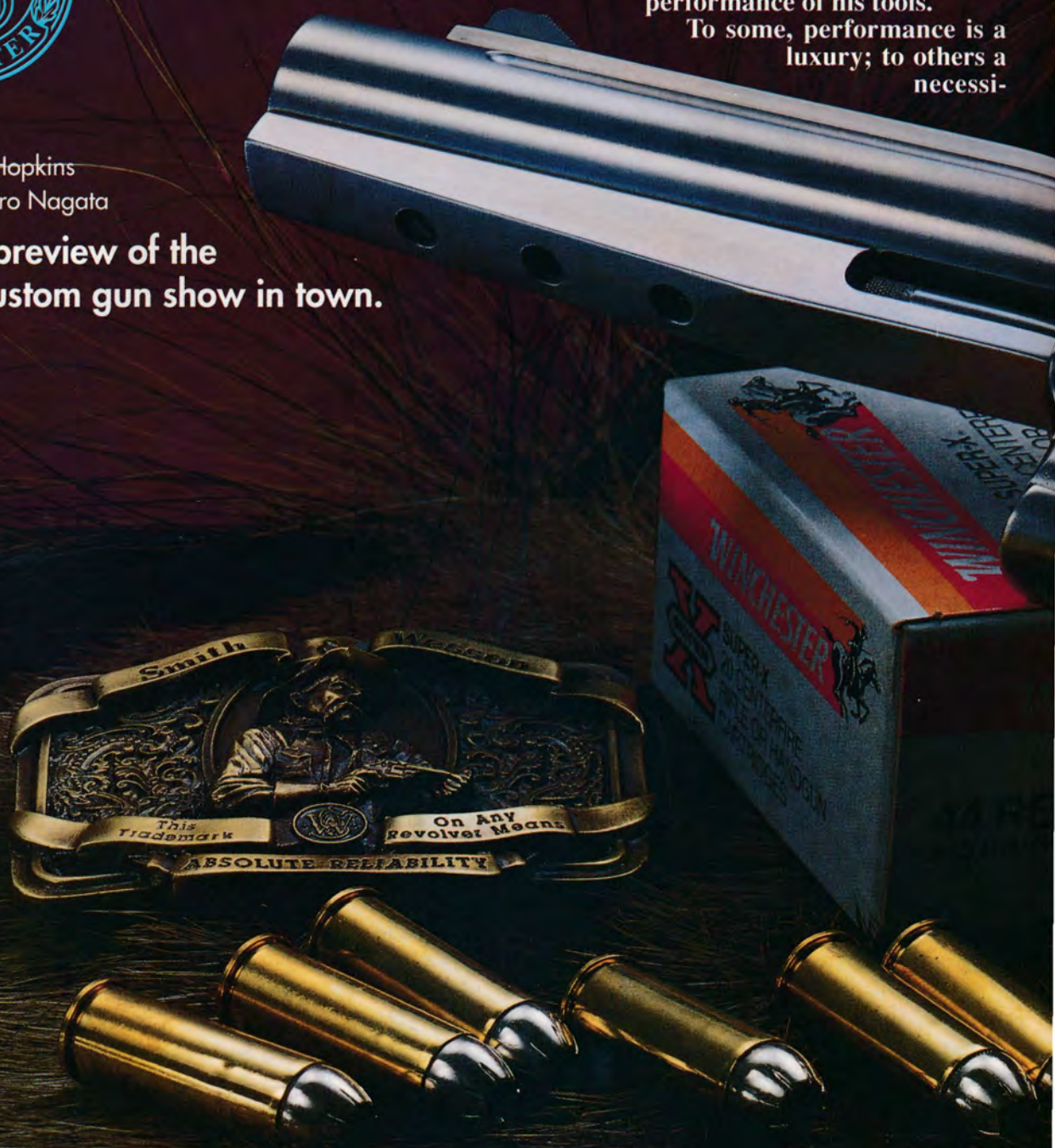
By Cameron Hopkins
Photos by Ichiro Nagata

**A sneak preview of the
newest custom gun show in town.**

Performance. From the most discriminating esthete to the most humble consumer, performance counts. Amateur and professional, neophyte and expert, everyone enjoys performance.

Performance is a demand, not a request. A pilot requires performance from his plane just as a carpenter relies on the performance of his tools.

To some, performance is a luxury; to others a necessity.



ty. The perfect time-keeping of a diamond studded Rolex is ostentatiously less significant than, oh, the performance of a skydiver's chute.

Performance counts, no question. And a company that prides itself on quality products needs, above all else, performance. So it is with Smith & Wesson, the world's largest revolver manufacturer that wants not only to be the biggest but also the best.

Performance means satisfaction, end-user satisfaction, and Steve Melvin, the enlightened president of Smith & Wesson, appreciates the fact that the

Shooter Of The Nineties defines performance in his own individual terms.

That is why S&W has adopted its attitude of responsiveness that we humorously refer to as the "Gun of the Week" policy. Special limited runs of models with only a modest demand of, say, 5,000 units are now flowing off the Springfield assembly lines.





For a company that will make nearly three-quarters of a million guns this year—over two times more handguns than Ruger and Colt combined!—it is remarkably refreshing to see a commitment to serving such small niches in the market as, for instance, a three-inch heavy-barreled J-frame .32 Magnum.

But it's not enough. Performance is very much in the eye of the beholder and there are Smith & Wesson collectors who would say that rare begins with the number one and ends long before the number 100.

And then there are serious shooters, performance-minded shooters, who don't much care how many of a certain model are made, they just want one with a good action job, good sights, good looks. One that *shoots*, one that *performs*.

Accordingly, Smith & Wesson decided to open a custom shop to service the needs of its more discriminating clientele, be they sophisticated collectors, hard-bitten cops on the beat, athletes competing in major shooting championships or just a regular guy who likes the best a handgun has to offer.

According to S&W historian Roy Jinks, the opening of the new Smith & Wesson Performance Center, as the cus-



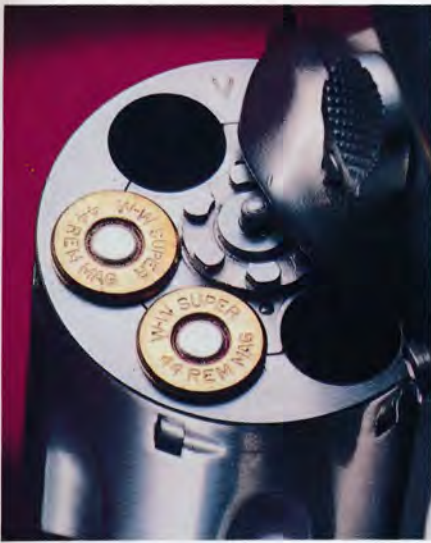
The 629 Hunter sports an expansion chamber milled into the Krieger barrel.

tom shop is called, is the first time in the company's long and glorious history that it has ever had a custom shop.

The Performance Center has recruited two of the finest gunsmiths in the world, one a revolver expert and one a pistol

authority. Pistolsmith Paul Liebenberg from South Africa was named the Chief Engineer of the Center and he recruited noted revolversmith John French of Duarte, Calif., to direct the revolver division.

Together, John and Paul were pooled



Clockwise from upper left: 1) Today's 629 cylinder does not recess the case heads, a cost-cutting step left over from previous S&W owner Lear Siegler. 2) Mickey Fowler shot the 629 from hunting field-positions. 3) The hammer spur is slimmed down from the honker "target" version. 4) The trigger is smoothed and radiused for improved DA shooting.



with several top craftsmen from other divisions at Smith & Wesson where they had been recruited to serve in the new Performance Center. Tom Gordon and Jim Rae of the PC have worked extensively with both autopistols and revolvers in the prestigious S&W Model Shop.

"Jimmy Rae cut an L-frame from a block of steel during the L-frame's early development. Tom has been involved with prototype work and he's really good with concepts. If you want something to work, you give it to Tom," said John French of his new colleagues.

The whole operation is under the competent direction of the manager of the PC, John Wallace.

Apart from featuring the best work of these highly regarded gunsmiths, the Performance Center also offers engraving services from master engraver Paul Piquette.

Special "Team Guns"

Additionally, the Performance Center serves as the official armorers of Team Smith & Wesson. In fact, manager John Wallace notes that the needs of the team have taken precedence over the commer-

cial sale of custom guns.

"Initial focus is for support of the shooting team," Wallace explained, "but we will develop new models for sale based on our work with the shooting team."

For instance, the radically customized IPSC pistols used by the team in competition will serve as the basis of less exotic models that will be offered to the public. Based on the double-stack magazine Model 5906 chambered for the wildcat .356 TSW, these outrageously redesigned pistols are converted to single-action operation and feature some of the most futuristic cosmetics of any IPSC pistols.

Similarly, the exotic revolvers for Bianchi Cup competition are serving as models to develop an "Action Revolver" for sale to shooters everywhere. Featuring custom barrels with ergonomically contoured protuberances for gripping the barricades, these highly modified L-frames utilize expansion chamber compensators, new lock work and super-slick DA-only triggers.

Legal Stoppages

Having examined both autos and revolvers of Team S&W members, it is

our opinion that the Performance Center is holding a few aces up its sleeve that the general public probably will never see. You can blame the S&W legal department for that, not the Center itself.

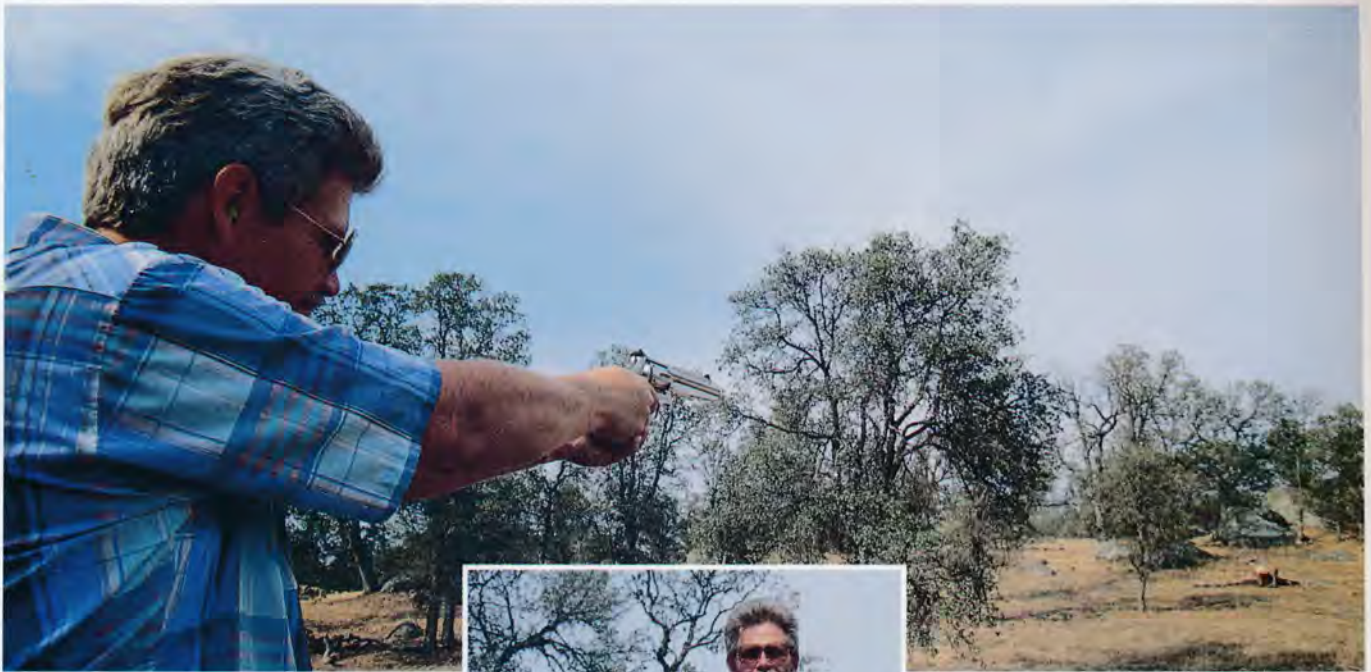
We seriously doubt if the wildcat .356 TSW cartridge will be offered to the public. We also question if the sharks in pin-stripe will permit the crisp, light triggers of the Team's guns to be sold to Billy Bob Reynolds of Eggstain, Arkansas.

It is no secret that the runaway judgments for product liability have inflicted a crippling self-doubt on American business. A ladder maker is sued because some brain-dead moron tries to climb on his roof from his ladder that is set on a steep driveway covered in ice! The ladder slips, the guy falls, the ladder maker is sued. And the idiot wins!

Unfortunately, there is a lot of technology available that we, the American consumers, will never see.

We are not to blame for our own actions; it is obviously the fault of the manufacturer if we do something stupid.

Until national legislation is passed that puts some common sense back into the common law, we will be handcuffed with



Shooting off-hand at 50 meters, three-time Bianchi Cup champion Mickey Fowler shot this incredible group with the 629 Hunter. He was holding Kentucky windage on the deer's butt because the sights were set for a different load than the hot 300 grain handloads Mickey was shooting.



intentionally inferior goods and services.

So it is that we will get four-pound single-action triggers instead of two. Magazine safeties will be active, transfer bars will be retained.

The Performance Center will be hamstringed, to some extent, by the very real concern of product liability litigation. Please do not ask the Center to perform custom work that you might be able to get down the street from Joey who pins grips safeties in his garage at night.

Sneak Preview

We were able to get a sneak preview of two revolvers that will be offered as "packages" from the Performance Center. The two models are quite different and they highlight the wide range of custom territory that Smith & Wesson has staked out.

The first, and the one we have chosen to highlight most prominently, is an extensively modified Model 629 .44 Magnum that the Center is tentatively calling the "629 Hunter." John Wallace pointed out that the S&W marketing department is in charge of selecting names for guns and that the actual name under which the gun will be sold may be something a bit more racy. This six-inch barreled .44 Magnum is designed as a hunting handgun.

The second Performance Center revolver that we tested is known around the PC as the "686 Carry Comp," but again the name may be changed by the spin doctors in marketing.

This .357 Magnum on the L-frame chassis is customized for a police duty revolver or for civilian self-defense applications. You can read about the 686 Carry Comp in greater detail in the accompanying sidebar.

Our sneak preview into the Performance Center also entails a brief look at the Tactical Pistol which is also described in an accompanying sidebar.

Masterful Engraving

We mentioned in the beginning of our story about the engraving services of the Center and we will elaborate by saying that there are two models available now in addition to standard engraving services.

The "Engraved Pistol of 1990" is any pistol in the line that is covered with a special pattern of master engraver Paul Piquette's unique "American style" of light scroll with gold inlaid accents. The special pattern will only be offered on a

very limited production of 15 pistols that will be cased in French fitted walnut presentation boxes.

The "Engraved Revolver of 1990" is identical except that the base model is a revolver chosen by the client. Pearl grips will be standard and only 15 will ever be made. Prices are yet to be finalized, but John Wallace says each will sell for in the \$1,800 to \$3,000 range.

Standard engraving services are also offered with "A" (one-third), "B" (two-thirds) and "C" (full) levels of coverage. Also, special engraving services such as your initials, name, company logo, or police badge may be reproduced.

Action Package

Another range of services from the Performance Center might be loosely grouped together under the heading "specialty gunsmithing."

This includes a standard action job, fitting of custom grips, relieving the cylinder latch for speedloader use and other basic combat modifications. Already the PC is offering the "Action Package" with selected revolver models.

The "Action Package" is presented to owners of post-1962 S&W revolvers. The "Action Package" consists of an action job, custom grips and three initials laser engraved on the sideplate. The pricing is as follows: action job only, \$82; action job with Hogue Monogrips or Pachmayr Grippers, \$96; action job and initials, \$102; action job, grips and initials, \$106.

There will be more services offered by the Performance Center as consumer demand manifests itself. As John Wallace frankly told us, the PC doesn't exactly know what the shooters want yet. Once the Center gets cranking and enough orders and requests are received, then the Center will react accordingly. "We're constantly on the lookout for what the

Continued on page 113

686 CARRY COMP

Designed for the serious business of self-protection, the distinctively modified "686 Carry Comp" is the Performance Center's premiere package for a rugged and reliable fighting revolver.

This .357 Magnum stainless steel L-frame is offered to police officers and armed citizens who demand nothing less than the best. When your life is at stake, there can be no compromise.

The 686 Carry Comp consists of a 4-inch barreled S&W Model 686 with an integral muzzle compensator milled directly into the barrel.

The front sight is moved back and replaced with a sharply undercut post fitted with a tritium dot insert for night shooting. The stock S&W rear sight is also fitted with two tritium radioactive dots that line up with the front's night sight in the popular three-dot arrangement.

The recoil shield is relieved for reliable functioning even if the gun is fired overhead. (Gravity can push the shells backward against the recoil shield, tying up the gun.)

The action is tuned for smooth and crisp operation; a DA-only option is available.

The cylinder latch is sculpted for enhanced performance with speedloaders. Similarly, the cylinder's chambers are lightly chamfered to facilitate fast insertion of a speedloader.

The trigger is press-fitted with an over-travel stop and recurved for smoother, more controllable double-action fire.

The grip frame is roundbutted and fitted with a choice of Hogue Monogrips™ or Pachmayr Grippers™.

If you're looking for the ultimate self-defense revolver, check out the street-proven stopping power of the .357 Magnum in this custom L-frame from Smith & Wesson. The "686 Carry Comp," a premium conversion of the



Distinguished Combat Magnum, is available now from the Performance Center.

For more information write the Performance Center at S&WPC, Dept. AH, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01102 or call John Wallace at (413) 781-8300.



.40 S&W TACTICAL PISTOL

Phase One Tactical Pistol

- ✓ standard 4006 frame and slide
- ✓ precision throated Bar Sto match barrel
- ✓ S&WPC tuned for duty and accuracy
- ✓ over-size mag release button
- ✓ over-size manual safety
- ✓ Novak low-profile rear sight

options: tritium night sights, Bo Mar rear sight, extended mag well funnel

Phase Two Tactical Pistol

All Phase One features plus:

- ✓ custom milled frame and slide (special heavy rails)
 - ✓ checker front strap 30 lpi
- options:* custom beavertail, single-action conversion, front slide cocking serrations, checker trigger guard, extended mag well funnel, adjustable trigger reach, tritium night sights, Bo Mar rear sight.

Phase Three Tactical Pistol

All of Phase Two features plus:

- ✓ spherical bushing
 - ✓ checkered front strap
 - ✓ checkered trigger guard
 - ✓ single-action conversion
 - ✓ specially contoured SA trigger
 - ✓ custom beavertail
 - ✓ "Carry Comp" recoil reduction compensator
- options:* tritium night sights, Bo Mar rear sight, extended mag well funnel

Available in the exciting new .40 S&W caliber, the Tactical Pistol from the Smith & Wesson Performance Center is designed for autopistol connoisseurs. Be it for a carrygun, a basic match pistol or a full-blown racegun, the Tactical Pistol conversion is functionally and aesthetically superior.

Offered in three grades, the Tactical Pistol is based on the Model 4006 and comes with two fitted and numbered 13 shot .40 S&W magazines. Options and features vary with each grade.

Prices had yet to be determined at press time, however, PC manager John Wallace said pricing would be worked out by the time you read this.

He also noted that other options might be available upon request. For more information write the Performance Center at S&WPC, Dept. AH, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01102 or call John Wallace at (413) 781-8300.



Tericho 941



By Dave Anderson

The Jericho 941 is a heavy-duty, full-size service pistol made by Israel Military Industries. As the name suggests, it is quickly interchangeable between two calibers, 9mm Luger (or Parabellum, if you prefer) and the relatively new .41 Action Express.

It is imported to the U.S. and distributed by K.B.I. Inc., (P.O. Box 6346, Dept. AH, Harrisburg, PA 17112; phone (717) 540-8518). Currently K.B.I. is distribut-

A dual caliber Israeli autopistol that's one tough gun.

ing the Jericho only as a complete package which includes the pistol itself plus a wide assortment of attachments and accessories: 9mm and .41AE barrels, each with its own recoil spring and guide rod; two 16-shot 9mm magazines and two 11-shot .41AE magazines; a handy RIG cleaning rod and bore guide, stamped with the Jericho 941 logo; cleaning brushes for both calibers; two 50-round boxes of UZI factory ammunition (9mm 115 gr. FMJ; .41AE 200 gr. FMJ-FP); all



The Jericho comes in a nifty plastic carrying case with all the accessories you see here.

neatly packaged in an attractive, custom fitted polyethylene carry case.

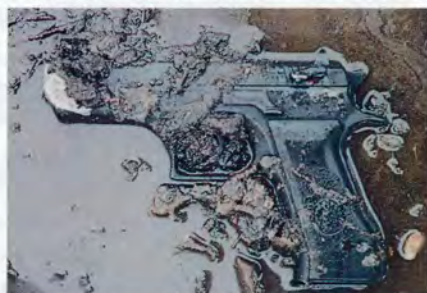
In design and function the Jericho is very similar to the Tanfoglio TZ-75 with a slide-mounted hammer drop safety (Series 88 TZ-75 pistols went to a frame-mounted sear locking safety), which was itself modeled on the famous Brno CZ-75 design.

I wouldn't be surprised to find that IMI buys the frames in the white from

Tanfoglio and then does the final machining and fitting; or, if not, then they are certainly working from the same set of blueprints. This is not a criticism, incidentally—quite the opposite as Tanfoglio quality is first rate.

However, Jericho is not simply a clone of the TZ-75.

The first notable difference is the forward extension of the frame ahead of the trigger guard. You hear a lot of talk about



Rub-a-dub-dub, a dunk in the mud and the Jericho kept right on shooting.

full-length slide rails. On this gun the frame rails are also full-length, and with the gun in battery the slide is fully supported by the frame. In theory this should result in more consistency when the slide cycles and returns to battery, and potentially greater accuracy. It also puts a bit more weight out front, ahead of the balance point.

With a loaded magazine in place the Jericho has a "neutral" feel, with just a slight tendency towards muzzle heaviness. The next feature one notices is the slide, with its flats milled at an angle, rather similar to the Desert Eagle and Bernardelli P0-18 pistols. The slide is topped with a narrow, grooved sighting rib.

The sights, both front and rear, are strongly mounted in dovetail cuts in the slide and are adjustable for windage only (target sights are a \$42 option). The front sight is a low, serrated ramp, 0.130" in width. The rear sight is nicely rounded and has a 0.105" wide notch. Sight radius is 6.15".

The sights are fitted with tritium night sight inserts in the popular three-dot pattern. Tritium sight inserts are one of the most useful and worthwhile innovations to appear on the scene. Not only do they improve your ability to hit under dim light conditions, but they can help you find and pick up the gun more easily, say from a nightstand in a dark room.

As far as I know, the Jericho is the only pistol currently available with night sights as a standard feature, though some makers offer them as an option.

Another unusual feature is the polygonal rifling in the barrels. Claimed advan-

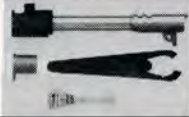
Continued on page 90

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Continued from page 99

and Jerry felt that he had speed in reserve. Not since Ira Paine visited Bisley in the 1880's had pistol shooting held its audience so spellbound. Even without publicity the crowds were big—on the last day estimated at over 1500 people.

Sources at Smith & Wesson tell me that a formal attempt on McGivern's record will probably be made before long. I will be there and I hope *The Washington Post* comes too.

Next year we hope that the overseas competitors will be joined by a lot of *American Handgunner* readers. For more information on Bisley and Pistol '91, write to the National Rifle Association at 21 The Letchworth Gate Centre, Protea Way, Letchworth, Herts., SG6 1JT, England.

The last we heard of that man from Louisiana was that he was regretting the lack of iced tea, and heading for Gatwick Airport. He has given Britain a new piece of history, and we hope he'll be leading a return to a big welcome in 1991. We'll even fix the tea.



PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 15

feed will be certain; short rounds often jam due to a change in feed timing. Also, an increase in water capacity of a case will lower pressures and allow a slightly heavier charge of certain powders. All of which have a profound effect on the amount of grey hair (if any is left) on your pistolsmith's head.

Some local IPSC shooters are firing Hydra-Shok bullets in important matches. The second generation changes resulted in a reliable and super accurate round. I've seen ragged one holers at 25 yards from a sitting position, and under 2" at 50 yards from the same shooter.

Rossi Rumbings

At a recent class, one of my officers produced a brand new, out of the box revolver that would not ignite CCI primers double-action, but would pop them single-action. Needless to say, it was not a very desirable street carry piece in that condition.

I was able to find a slightly heavier spring in one of Brownell's spring assortments that, when cut two turns longer than the original, ignited the hard primers easily and still allowed for single-action fire. Does this send a message to the officers who buy a carry weapon and pack it forth into the night without test firing their new piece?

I hope so.



.454 DA

Continued from page 34

ence shooting the .44 Magnum should have any problem with the Cannon .454 Super Redhawk.

Problems quickly surfaced with sticky extraction of both factory .454 loads and handloads with 300 grain jacketed bullets over 1,500 fps. Once 1,550 fps was attained with these bullets, fired brass had to be tapped out. On close examination of the cylinder chambers, I found the cylinders to be quite rough and this accounted for some of the extraction problems.

Twenty-six loads consisting of factory ammunition from both Freedom Arms and Patriot Manufacturing, as well as handloads with cast bullets and jacketed bullets, were test-fired in the Elk Stalker.

Freedom Arms factory loads consisting of the 240 gr. JHP (1,801 fps), 260 gr. JSP (1,767 fps), and 300 gr. JSP (1,587 fps) were all tried over the Oehler Model 35P.

Switching to the same bullets and my favorite handloads of 36.0 grs. of WW296 with the 240 gr. JHP, 34.0 grs. with the 260 gr. JSP, and 32.0 grs. with the 300 gr. JSP, gave muzzle velocities from the seven and one-half inch barreled Super Redhawk of 1,700, 1,626, and 1,587 fps respectively.

At 50 yards the best accuracy results were obtained with the Freedom Arms factory 300 gr. JSP—two and one-half inches for six shots.

Patriot's 300 gr. JSP also put six shots into two and one-half inches at half the length of a football field.

The best group of all, Cor-Bon's 360 gr. bullet over 24.5 grs. of WW296, went into one and one-fourth inches at 25 yards and two inches at 50 yards, again with six shots.

Switching to cast bullets, results were even better. My favorite .454 load of the BRP (1210 Alexander Rd., Dept AH, Colorado Springs, CO 80909) 300 gr. cast bullet from Freedom Arms/Lyman mould #454629GC, over 31.0 grs. of WW296 gave results of two inches for six shots at 50 yards.

Going to 100 yards and using the spare tire of my Bronco as a rest for my arms gave results of two and one-eighth inches for five shots with the sixth shot (shooter error) opening the group to three and three-eighths.

.454 Alaska Fisherman

Now the fun was over and it was time to test the second Andy Cannon custom .454 Casull, this time on a Redhawk.

A very lightweight Redhawk. The Redhawk mentioned at the beginning of this article. This is Cannon's *Alaskan Fisherman* built on a standard Ruger Redhawk with a four-inch barrel, Power quick draw front sight, and the complete

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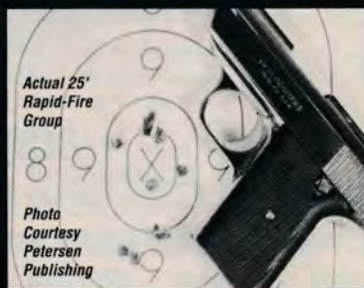
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But only in the beginning. With wooden stocks installed, I fired 80 rounds the first session and the result was a large raw spot at the base of my thumb that took eight days to heal. The Freedom Arms .454 single action carries a grip frame that is a masterpiece of design, rivaling the old Elmer Keith Number Five SA grip and the modern Ruger Bisley grip. The Ruger Redhawk does not.

Something had to be done to make this gun more controllable and the answer was Pachmayr. The installation of Pachmayr's Gripper Redhawk grips evened the odds and put the Redhawk and me on a somewhat equal footing. I was able to fire 200 rounds through it the second session following a morning of shooting 200 rounds of .45 ACP through the little Colt Officer's Model.

Consider Pachmayr's mandatory on this little .454 just as they are on the hard kickin' Contenders.

Cannon's Alaskan Fisherman turned out to be a super little sixgun—once it was tamed. And it is certainly one of the most attractive custom Redhawks it has been my good pleasure to experience.

The round bull barrel carries a weight-adding underlug, held on by two Allen head screws, that can be removed if desired, although I can't imagine anyone wanting to remove weight from this hard kickin' little package.

The Alaskan Fisherman's action is very smooth double-action and the single-action trigger pull is clean with no creep whatsoever. A nice added touch is the polishing of the hammer and trigger and the rear one-third of the cylinder.

This cylinder, unlike the test-sample Montana Elk Stalker, has chambers that are as smooth as the proverbial baby's bottom.

The Alaskan Fisherman proved to be an extremely accurate sixgun. Since it is a four-inch barreled, iron-sighted revolver, all test firing was accomplished at 25 yards. The same load that worked the best for me in the 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Montana Elk Stalker also proved to be the best in the four-inch Alaskan Fisherman.

This could be the result of a self-fulfilling prophecy as I have such confidence in this load, namely BRP's 300 grain #454629GC over 31.0 grs. of WW296.

This load, from the four-inch Alaskan Fisherman, clocks 1,431 fps through the triple screens of the Oehler Model 35P and shoots into one and one-quarter inches at 25 yards.

The same bullet over 31.0 grs. of WW680 for an easier handling 1,193 fps also shoots into one and one-quarter inches.

The .454 Cannon Alaskan Fisherman is, as its name implies, a defensive weapon against big bears. As such, if it is ever needed, the recoil will not be felt in the least.

For daily use, this Andy Cannon .454

becomes exceptionally practical if it is fed reduced loads or used with .45 Colt loads. And as an added bonus, I have found that I can run .45 Colt brass to the same 1,400+ fps with 300 grain bullets in the .454 Redhawk that I obtain with .454 brass.

Taffin's Thoughts

What conclusions can be drawn from my test-firing of the .454 Montana Elk Stalker and the Alaskan Fisherman? First, the .454 *does work* in a double-action six-shot Ruger Redhawk or Super Redhawk as converted by Andy Cannon.

This requires more than just the judicious use of a reamer as the entire action must be refitted to minimize movement upon recoil.

When I say "work with .454 loads," I will qualify that by stating .454 *factory loads* or handloads at, or slightly below, factory levels.

Will they hold up? During my testing of the Super Redhawk and Redhawk .454's, I put 500 rounds through the former and 300 rounds through the latter. The Super Redhawk .454 Casull had 500 rounds through it before I received it, all factory loads.

Turning to the lighter Redhawk .454 Alaskan Fisherman, I don't believe anyone could handle the recoil to shoot it extensively enough with full house loads to see it shoot loose.

When Elmer Keith tested the original .44 Magnum by Smith & Wesson, he reported that he shot it 600 times the first year. That was in 1956. Trouble did not arise until silhouetters started shooting them that many times in one or two practice sessions. With the Redhawk .454, the shooter should give up before the gun does.

There are many handloads that have been published, many by Yours Truly, that are way above factory levels. My .454 Freedom Arms fiveguns will handle all of these with ease; the Redhawk and Super Redhawk start straining.

I regularly run the Freedom Arms .454 to 1,800 fps with 340 grain bullets. This is too much to ask of a Redhawk, be it a Cannon six-shot .454 or a Bowen five-shot .45 Colt.

Measuring the cylinders of the Redhawk .454 and the Freedom Arms .454 with an RCBS dial caliper gives this side by side comparison:

| | Redhawk .454 | Freedom Arms .454 |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Cylinder diameter | .1780" | .1750" |
| Width between chambers | .090" | .150" |
| Outside cylinder wall | .120" | .120" |

While the six shot Redhawk .454 cylinder is 4% thicker in diameter, the five shot Freedom Arms .454 has 67% more metal between cylinder chambers.

When loaded appropriately, the .454 Casull on the Super Redhawk is the most powerful double-action hunting revolver available. Andy Cannon guarantees his

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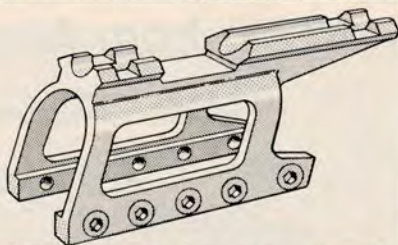
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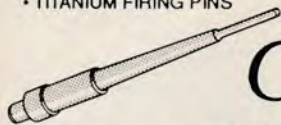
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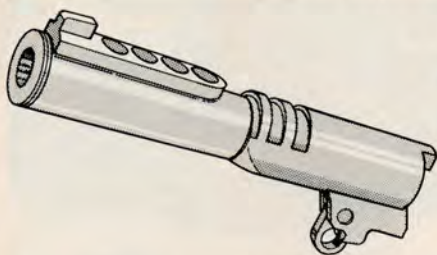
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Final Reflections

The .454 Alaskan Fisherman, while only slightly larger and heavier than a Smith & Wesson Model 29, allows 60 grains more bullet weight to be driven 200 fps faster. Or, if the same 240 grain bullet weight is desired, 300 fps faster than in a four-inch Model 29.

For the use that it is intended—last-ditch defense against mean-tempered bears—the Alaskan Fisherman wins my vote as the number one choice.

Additionally, as strange as it may seem, there are some shooters who will just not touch a single-action revolver for any reason. Yes, I know what they are missing, but they now have a double-action .454 option open to them.

I have no intention of giving up my single-action Freedom Arms .454's. They are beautifully built, in fact custom built, revolvers that will continue to be in service long after I am gone.

But, the double-action sixguns available from Andy Cannon are a welcome addition to the world of handgunning and can only serve to make the .454 Casull even more popular than it already is.

I will be sending one of my Redhawks to Andy to be made into a .454 Alaskan Fisherman. Mainly to be used with heavy .45 Colt loads, it will always have the option of using .454 loads should the occasion arise.

If you'd like to send your Redhawk or Super Redhawk off to Andy to get an Elk Stalker or Fisherman conversion, you can get ahold of Andy at Cannon's Guns, Box 357, Dept. AH, Victor, MT 59875. (406) 642-3644.



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HANDLOADING

Continued from page 22

ties argue instead that the absolute density of the powder has a greater influence on its dirtiness in burning. The greater the absolute density, the dirtier the burn.

Now, one of the distinctions of spherical powders versus flake or tubular powders is the accusation by some of Winchester's competitors that spherical powders don't burn progressively because as the

its pressure level and then drop off when compared to powder "B"?

It is important to add at this point as a reminder to the reader that a round of ammunition is always a complete system that is no better than the sum of its parts or any combination thereof.

You will find that certain powders react better when used in combination with some primers instead of others. After all, the primers used by the ammunition manufacturers are seldom the same ones used by the private reloader.

Of course, the same thing can be said

problem of dirty burning powders. As many of you may know, graphite is added to every canister powder available from domestic manufacturers and its sole purpose is to reduce static electricity or for lack of a better term, "static cling."

This graphite glazing is absolutely necessary because of the tendency of the powder granules to gather a positive charge during the manufacturing process and adhere to each other.

It is debatable—and far from resolved—but it is possible that graphite may add to the dirt found in the chamber after firing. Some authorities dispute this and others leave it open to question. Some manufacturers even question if high nitroglycerine content powders require higher amounts of graphite to maintain their flowability through powder measures and automatic loading machines as others claim. But if they do, these powders that have heavy amounts of graphite could add to an additional dirt problem.

Powders that come with two different size granules may be the dirtiest of them all, simply because of the physical problems in burning two different size particles in the same load. If a smokeless powder has both small and larger granules in the same charge, then

the smaller granules will burn first leaving the larger ones to burn after them. The problem is that by the time the larger granules are beginning to burn, the pressures needed for complete combustion are beginning to drop in a handgun barrel and incomplete combustion results with the larger granules being left as unburnt ash.

This leaves a lot of trash in the gun after firing and is one of the major problems with using both large and small powder granules in the same powder.

Powder Ain't Perfect

Certain aspects of smokeless powder are not perfect or an exact science because the primary ingredient is an organic material. While wood pulp is the major source of cellulose for the manufacture of nitrocellulose, cotton is also used.

But Mother Nature has yet to grow a forest of trees or a field of cotton plants in exactly the same way or composition!

But one thing you can be sure of is the knowledge that shooters today are demanding cleaner burning smokeless powders and the industry is searching hard to answer that demand.



Rick Castelow's .38 Super is puffing smoke like a locomotive even though it's "smokeless" powder. Lead bullets spew smoke worse than jacketed from the grease burning.

sphere gets smaller in burning, there is also less surface area. (Burning the sphere produces a geometric reduction in surface area.)

However, it should be noted that Ball™ powder contains more surface area and has higher *bulk density* (which is different from *absolute density*) than competitive powders and these features lead to favorable applications in military small arms.

Flake powders are porous and in many ways similar to a sponge. This nature of the porous flake provides more surface area both initially and during the oxidation process itself.

However, in response to the problem of less surface area as the sphere diminishes in size the manufacturers of spherical powder may add deterrents to slow the burning rate and this, in turn, may add to the residues left behind after combustion.

Pressure Curve

Another aspect of smokeless powder combustion that may add to a dirty gun is the exact pressure, or the optimum pressure, curve of the powder in question and here the primer used can have a heavy influence.

How fast does powder "A" get up to

about the powders themselves because Hercules, for instance, makes about 200 different powders every year and almost all of them are non-canister powders for use inside the industry.

Yet, there may be a clue to the correct powder each shooter should use. The smoke visible after combustion or firing of a smokeless powder cartridge in a firearm tells us something about the amount of oxygen in that load.

Judging The Smoke

Obviously, guns come in all different shapes, sizes and barrel lengths. Therefore it is pretty hard for powder manufacturers to develop a powder that works well in all barrel lengths.

If a shooter experiences a lot of white smoke when shooting his pet load in his favorite handgun he can safely assume—all other external factors being equal—that his powder has been formulated to minimize the ash left in the barrel.

If, however, he finds a lot of unburned powder in the barrel and chamber with very little white smoke, then he can figure his powder was designed to reduce smoke and has a lower oxygen content.

"Static Cling"

But that still doesn't solve the total

By Massad Ayoob

The long awaited Smith & Wesson Model 640 "hammerless" revolver marked far more than just another item in S&W's burgeoning new revolver catalog. Unlike the special run, limited production items, this one is back indefinitely.

And it's more than just a snag-free Model 60.

In his authoritative *History of Smith & Wesson*, Roy Jinks shows a drawing of an experimental "hammerless" revolver executed by Joseph H. Wesson in 1882. Jinks notes that city police of the period often carried their service revolvers in coat pockets and sought a snag-free gun, and that this was a reason for the development as well as the more widely known fact that S&W patriarch Daniel Baird Wesson wanted to create a child-safe handgun.

RETURN OF THE CENTENNIAL

**An evolution of S&W bellyguns:
(top to bottom)
New Departure Safety Hammerless
lemon-squeezer "Centennial"
Centennial Airweight
today's Model 640 Centennial**



In 1884, the first version with a grip safety was designed. The gun actually went on sale in 1887: the "New Departure Safety Hammerless" was produced in .32 and .38 S&W centerfire.

The revolver went through five variations as a top-break five shot before its discontinuation in 1940. A dozen years later, celebrating a century since the company's founding in 1852, Smith & Wesson introduced the revolver they accordingly named Centennial.



The configuration of the Safety Hammerless—lemon-squeezer grip lever and all—was grafted onto the Chief Special that had become overwhelmingly popular since its introduction in 1949. Notes Jinks, "The aluminum—or Centennial Airweight—model was the first to be manufactured...the first 37 revolvers were manufactured with an aluminum alloy cylinder and weighed only 11¼ ounces. By May, 1954, the factory produced new cylinders in steel, thus increasing the weight to 13 ounces. On December 1, 1954, the first steel revolvers were completed..."

When S&W went to numerical designations in 1957, the all-steel Centennial became known as the Model 40 and the Centennial Airweight as the Model 42.

Centennial's Features

Alone among the J-frames until the late Eighties introduction of the Lady-Smith, the Centennial's round walnut grips were smooth instead of checkered. A high "horn" of wood rose to the rear edge of the gripframe, and like other early J-frames, the cylinder latch was rectangular. By the late Sixties, however, the latch was squared to a more conventional S&W look, and the gun had regular J-frame grips, albeit still unchecked.

Sales did not soar. In 1955, S&W had introduced the Bodyguard, a similar Chief Special variant with a built-in hammer shroud. Unlike the double-action-

only Centennial, the Bodyguard could be thumb-cocked. This, remember, was a time when most cops still qualified single-action on bullseyes and double-action revolver shooting was considered an arcane science.

Most who wanted the snag-free compactness of the Centennial thought the Bodyguard a more versatile choice. Sales languished to the point where the Centennial was discontinued in 1974.

The sleek appearance of the gun captured the eye of those who did armed fiction. Ian Fleming armed James Bond with one at the same time he issued him the trademark Walther PPK .32 in *Dr. No*. The Centennial was to be his heavy artillery, the Walther sort of a routine carry gun. The Centennial was lost on Dr. No's island, and forever after (while Fleming wrote the books, at least) the Walther would be 007's primary armament.

Another fictional spy, TV's farcical Maxwell Smart, also used a Centennial.

Ian Fleming himself had posed with one for the bookjackets of his novels. Anti-gun novelist Evan Hunter, who wrote the immensely popular *87th Precinct* detective series under the pen name Ed McBain, armed Detective Bert Kling with a Centennial.

Perhaps it was Hunter's reaction to readers catching a writer who prided himself on technical correctness having Kling

"release the safety on his .38 revolver" in earlier entries. The Centennial was the one revolver of the period with a safety lever.

But the Centennial's advantages went beyond its streamlined, racy silhouette, and its appeal went much deeper to professionals than to their fictional counterparts.

Design Strengths

Being as snag-free as Joseph Wesson intended, the Centennial was always a great hideout gun that snaked from pocket, waistband, or ankle holster at high speed. The smooth grips prevented any friction whatsoever against tight fabric when the gun was concealed deep, again aiding speed of presentation.

The grip safety was superfluous, since anyone holding the gun in firing position would depress the lever into "fire" mode. The top-break versions had a long, hard, two-stage trigger pull that did indeed make them tough for a child to stroke off. My five-year-old cannot budge the trigger of my Fifth Model New Departure, my Model 42, or my Model 640...but she can't do it with my Bodyguard, either.

What the grip safety did was bring the web of the hand back a bit from the backstrap and give the average adult male hand a longer, more natural reach to the trigger. The J-frame is an extended .32-frame, but it was extended forward for the .38 Special cylinder, not backward for the hand. Most men get too much finger inside a J-frame's guard, and don't have the leverage for a properly controlled trigger stroke. The New Departure .38 put the finger with its distal joint resting on the trigger, the ideal position for good double-action shooting.

Shooting The Centennial

The new Model 640 lacks the grip safety. As a result, without custom grips, the hand doesn't quite have the perfect position of the long-triggered lemon squeezer of yore and isn't even quite as good in this respect as the Models 40 and 42, but it comes a lot closer than your standard J-frame of today.

The reason is that high "horn" at the back of the gripframe. The feature does a number of interesting and useful things. One is that it brings the hand higher on the gun, extending the web of the hand farther from the trigger and thus giving a more natural "trigger reach" as discussed above.

That same high position makes the gun sit at a different angle in the hand than a Chief Special or Bodyguard. If you hold your wrist the same way you would with a Model 36 or 60, the Model 640 will point high. If you are a hipshooter, you've probably found that the big problem is hitting low—a Model 640 will largely correct this.

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With the Centennial, as with the Bodyguard, the high sidewalls of the compact revolver frame make this technique more viable.

An important Centennial advantage is that the frame is extremely strong. The enclosed top of the frame creates one more line of solid, angled steel, sweeping back in direct alignment with the firing cartridge.

Gunwriter Jac Weller wrote years ago that S&W had chosen the Model 40 Centennial for its in-house tests of a J-frame .357 Magnum, and implied that the savage recoil in the little gun was more a reason for cancelling the project than lack of frame strength.

The high horn puts more frame behind the line of recoil and strengthens the gun in the sense that a station wagon is more crashworthy than a sedan of the same size and model. We note that the Model 640

***The Centennial design
offers dramatically
improved rapid fire
control and greatly
enhances hipshooting
or "firing through the
pocket" techniques.***

bears inside the frame at the bottom of the cylinder window the following statement engraved in capital letters: "TESTED FOR +P+."

An S&W spokesman advises that special heat treating is the reason for the +P+ rating and that it might be given to future all-steel J-frames, but it is inescapable fact that the Centennial was once again the testbed of the concept of reaching out for power that a .32-size frame could once have never contained.

More Pluses

The Centennial has other advantages. The high hold gives one maximum strength and leverage in a struggle for the gun. The snubnose revolver is already the single handgun easiest to hang onto when someone is trying to take it away from you. The Centennial's design goes the standard snubby not one better, but two.

First we have the high hold for greater strength.

Second, however, the hammerless design permits the defender to pull the gun in tight to the body with the thumb of the gun hand touching the side, and to place the weak hand over the top rear of the frame.

The defender now has most of the gun covered, and can exert an extremely powerful hold.

This is similar to the "two hand protected gun positions" that have been

developed variously by Smith & Wesson Academy, and by Rick Washburn and the late Sensei Jim Morell.

This hold is even stronger, however, since so much more flesh and bone is wrapped around the superstructure of the handgun. Make sure that the palm of the supporting hand stays well back of the cylinder, so it won't bind rotation and so the hand will not be burned by gases escaping from the barrel/cylinder gap. This technique also gives enormously strong rapidfire recoil control at close range.

It can't be done with an auto; the slide would be blocked after the first shot. It can't be done with a conventional revolver for obvious reasons, and even with a Bodyguard, the flesh of the supporting palm could block the button-like exposed hammer portion. The technique should be reserved for the Centennial, but there, it is useful indeed.

Like the Bodyguard, the Centennial is at home in a jacket pocket. NYPD detectives learned long ago that there was no better location for a 2" snubby when danger threatened on the mean urban streets.

Both the Centennial and the Bodyguard will fire 100% through the coat pocket without the lining fouling hammer or firing pin. The Centennial is best for this application, though, because of the grip angle.

A Chief or Bodyguard will point low at this angle, but a Centennial will angle the shots right into the belly of any opponent who is in so close there is no time to clear the revolver from the pocket.

Testing the 640

Twenty-five yard groups with our test 640, serial number CEV 3406, ran around 2" with Federal wadcutter, about an inch larger with 158 grain +P "FBI loads" by the same maker. This is ample belly gun accuracy.

Our gun shot a bit low left and, with a touch of the file to the sight and a whack of the armorer's babbitt, could be brought right into line. Like some other recent J-frames, it has a good one-eighth inch front sight instead of the abominable little 1/10" job that was standard on J-Smiths for so many years.

The rear sight, however, needs to be hogged out proportionally to take advantage of this feature.

Though the high-backed grip twisted less in the hand than a Chief or even a Bodyguard when fired from the box, we still fitted a pair of Craig Spegel's excellent Boot Grips, which sacrificed no concealability but dramatically improved handling.

LFI Associate Mike Carmoney chrographed some of the new +P+ CorBon 115-grain hollowpoint at a screaming 1232 fps from his own 640. He noted, however, some flowback of the Magnum primers into the firing pin hole.

This did not occur in the Model 60 he

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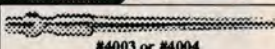
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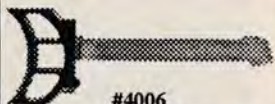


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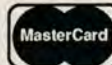
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used as a comparison gun. Whether this is a function of the floating firing pin design— previously used by S&W in centerfire revolvers only with the Model 53 .22 Jet and the Model 547 9mm— or just a very warm lot of ammo, we don't know.

Personally, I carry FBI loads in my snub .38s and in analyzing a number of gunfights feel they do better than +P+ anyway. With +P and standard, our 640 worked flawlessly.

One problem you may have with the hammerless Smith is leather. Retaining straps on rigs designed for conventionally shaped Chief Specials just won't secure with a Centennial.

You'll need an open-top holster that uses tight leather or some sort of friction device to secure the weapon.

I carry my 640 in an open-top SFAS (Super Fast Ankle Scabbard) which is produced on special order by Gene DeSantis and is boned so tightly to the J-frame cylinder that I can go through a strenuous martial arts class without the revolver coming loose, yet this is probably the fastest ankle rig on the market.

640 In Perspective

The J-frame really doesn't have the beef to be rebuilt into a great .357, but with proper .38 Special rounds like the all-lead semiwadcutter +P hollowpoint the FBI made famous, it'll get you through the night.

The Centennial design offers dramatically improved rapid fire control and greatly enhances hipshooting or "firing through the pocket" techniques, in both cases because the unique profile of its gripframe puts the hand in a more advantageous position vis-a-vis the revolver.

It is totally snagproof. I would like to see the old flat cylinder latch brought back, since the square one takes a nasty bite out of my thumb whenever I shoot it, but that's nothing a Dremel tool can't handle.

All things considered, gunwriter Wiley Clapp did us all a service when he mobilized his readers to convince S&W to reintroduce the Centennial.

I'd still like to see it in Airweight to make it an even more versatile pocket and ankle gun. *Your wish is granted, Mas. S&W advises that an airweight version is in the cards for 1991. Editor.*

I was going to hard chrome a vintage Model 42 and make a street back-up out of it, but put the project on hold when I heard about the 640. Now that I have one, I've left the 42 new in its box for now.

Even though it's 19 ounces empty and 24 ounces loaded, the 640 has kind of grown on this belly gun fancier.

Watch out, S&W Bodyguard: there's another "thinking man's Chief Special" in town.



HANDGUNNING HINTS

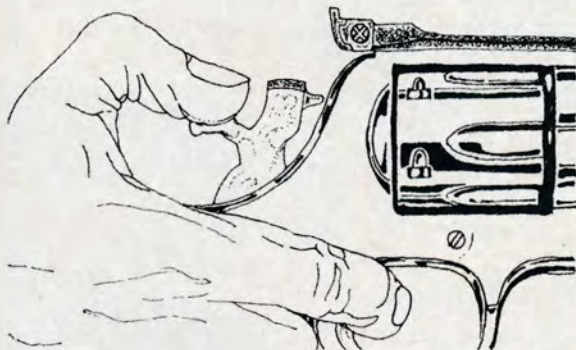
Bennett Viken & Robin Sutton

Revolver Cocking for Single Action



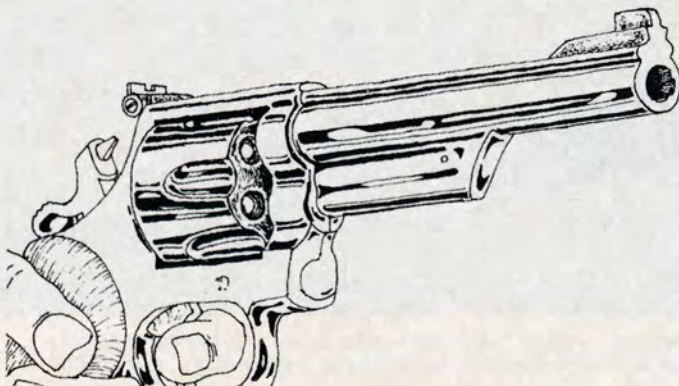
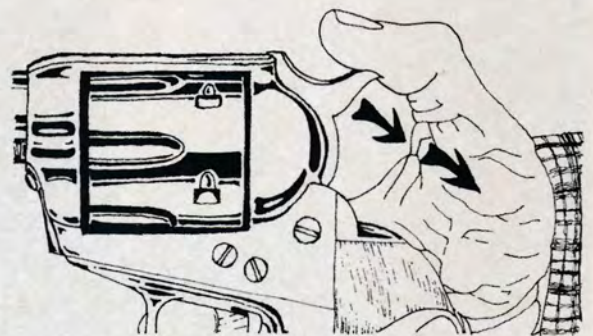
1. Many use the side of the thumb.

2. But that can pull your sights badly off target.



3. It's better to use the ball of the thumb, bringing the hammer straight back.

4. Listen for both big clicks if your gun has a half-cock stop.



5. While you may use two hands, always take some one-handed practice to be prepared.

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THE MASTERS

Continued from page 61

them were 7.99 (3.10, 2.49, 2.41), 7.99 (2.46, 2.26, 3.27) and 8.96 (2.98, 2.94., 3.04). That, my friends, is consistency as normally only encountered by a machine not a man!

Consistency is absolutely necessary to winning the Action Event and definitely the key ingredient in being The Master when it is all over. A shooter can miss targets in Long Range or Precision and still win the event. One mistake in Action and it is all over.

Mistakes Aplenty

And mistakes there were aplenty in the Action Event. So many that as I watched the Super Squad shoot the first day, I realized that this, the easiest of the three events, was the pivotal point of the whole match, that all important "turning point" that TV announcers are always looking for in football games.

As I watched the first three Super Squad shooters in the Action Event, I could scarcely believe what was unfolding. The first three up were J. Michael Plaxco and Tom Campbell shooting for Team Smith & Wesson and Rob Leatham representing Springfield Armory and Safariland.

Stage One, Phase One sees Plaxco with a 2.48, Campbell with a 3.36, and Leatham with a 3.28. Plaxco is smokin'! Stage One, Phase Two sees Plaxco just slightly slower at 2.59, but then it happens. Twice! Leatham has a double fault for 7.28 and Campbell winds up with a 9.22 because of a jam. Incredible.

It is already over for both of them. Plaxco makes it through all nine phases with a total 28.34, winding up second only to Jerry Miculek in total time.

Jerry Barnhart, representing Colt, went 2.44, 2.28, and 2.21 for a sizzling time of 6.93 for the first three phases. And then he also hit a snag with a 6.88 for Stage Two, Phase One. It could have been all over for him at this time, but he showed what a fierce competitor he really is by winding up with second place with 28.34 beating Plaxco with the tie-breaker system and being beaten overall only by Jerry Miculek.

Koenig had the Action Event nailed down. He was absolutely smoking! The first three times in Stage One were 2.28, 2.35, 2.68 and I thought to myself, "The day of the sixgun is over!"

Second Stage, the same fast pace: 2.51, 2.96, and then it happened. The Action Jinx! His third phase of Stage Two resulted in a double fault of one missed target and one extra shot. Experience will take care of 21-year-old Koenig who is already wowing them on the pro circuit

where he won the 1990 Bianchi Cup.

As more members of the Super Squad competed, the drama unfolded. The first Master, Wayne Bowker hit a 6.16 at Stage Two, Phase One. Brian Enos, the 1989 Master, had some incredibly slow times (for him) of 4.90, 5.06, and 5.82.

1988 Master Ken Tapp's first time was



Happiness is a new Rolex watch and 30 G's in cash for winning The Masters.

a very slow 4.95 followed by a 5.03 and a 4.54.

As Allen Fulford shot, the drama unfolded even more. The Action had beaten some of the top shooters already and with a bullseye shooter's background, this is Allen's worst event. His



Allen Fulford is allowed a few minutes of reflection in the shooting stall of the Long Range Event while target setters reset the steel. The stall's walls are filled with sand to stop an accidentally discharged bullet from hitting a neighbor.

HANDGUNNER

WINCHESTER



THE MASTERS
2.02

4

POWLER
333



The clock says that Mickey Fowler has fired four shots in 2.02 seconds on the Action Event sponsored by Your Favorite Magazine and a leading ammo maker.

stomach may have been boiling, but the Gentleman from Georgia showed how cool he could be and calmly shot nine respectable scores.

Nothing incredible, his times as I recorded them unofficially were 3.39, 3.61, 4.05, 3.54, 3.97, 4.22, 3.67, 3.78, and 3.89. Slow by the standards of Leatham, Barnhart and Campbell, but he shot consistently. There is that word again, and he never messed up.

He did not just win the match on the Long Range Course nor at the Precision Course. He is the 1990 Master because of his respectable showing in the Action Event. He wound up in 29th place in Action but had he not stayed with it, we could easily have had a different Master.

Long Range Surprises

The Long Range Event gave some real surprises. Wayne Warren of McHenry, Ill., took it with a 37 out of 45 for first

place followed by Robert Williams of Summerville, W. Va., in second, and Allen Fulford in third. Both Williams and Fulford also shot 37's but because of the tie-breaker, difficult-target system, wound up in second and third place.

Warren used an XP-100 in 7-08 by Al Sinclair with a Redfield 4X scope to win the long range event. His load was 40.0 grains of IMR 4895, with a 160 grain bullet ignited by CCI primers. Williams also used a 7-08, an Ultra-Light Model 20 with a Leupold 3x scope. Fulford's choice was also an Ultra-Light, in 7BR with a Tasco 4x30.

The Long Range Event does not have the spectator appeal of the other two events as the crowd can't see a darn thing. Spectators must gather not behind the shooters but instead must seat themselves far to the right of action. Even those from the press who are allowed to be in the actual shooting area find it diffi-

cult to follow the action.

What is desperately needed here is a electronic score board in front of the spectator section that tracks exactly who is shooting where and what targets. This would certainly raise the interest level in this event.

Coming To The Wire

Coming into the last day of shooting of the three major events and the suspense is really mounting. The Super Squad will be shooting Precision, Fulford's best event. LaMonte Drees is overall leader, but he shoots action today and that is his worst event.

The Action and Precision events are staged next to each other and I positioned myself in between so I could observe the Super Squad shoot Precision and also track Drees as he goes through the Action. Drees had a great Precision score of 28 targets and a very respectable Long Range score of another 28. A good run in the Action could win it all for him.

Fulford comes into Precision in second place. He is riding a great score of 37 in Long Range and a respectable Action score of 34.12 seconds. He needs the Precision to assure a first place finish and the first repeat as The Master.

The shooters are called to the line: Enos, Tapp, Fulford, Bowker, Jones, Pride and Kanazawa. In the First Stage, Tapp and Bowker both take 10 of 15 targets, Fulford connects for 11, but John Pride manages to take down 12 of 15 and we have a horse race.

At the same time, LaMonte Drees is called to the Action Event and everything—the total of three days of shooting and many months of preparation—will all be settled in a few short moments.

Drees runs through Stage One with times of 6.21, 4.64, and 4.73. Looks like it is all over for him.

Stage Two yields faster times of 4.48, 4.34, and 4.26 and he really buckles down on Stage Three and shoots three very respectable scores of 3.69, 3.33, 3.38. Had all of his scores been as good as the last stage, the results would have been quite different. If Drees works on his Action shooting in preparing for The 1991 Masters he has a really good chance to take it all.

Back to Precision, Stage Two. Enos and Tapp both hit 10, Pride falls to 6 and Fulford is— yes, here comes that word again— consistent and takes 11 more targets. Can he do the same in Stage Three?

Final stage: Enos 6, Tapp 6, Pride 7, Bowker 8 and Fulford matches Bowker with an 8 and tallies a total of 30 to tie Kelley Gilmore for first place. Gilmore takes the Precision Event due to the tie-breaker, difficult-target system, but Fulford is the 1991 Master!

Top 16 Shoot-Off

On Saturday, the Top 16 are involved in a shoot-off with each man-



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on-man pair competing in the best two out of three. Eight pairs, four pairs, two pairs, and then the final face off between J. Michael Plaxco and Allen Fulford.

Fulford managed to take five for five 12" plates standing at 200 meters, but Plaxco shaded him taking two of three events to win the Top 16 Shoot-Off.

Fulford took home \$25,000 plus another Rolex watch as Grand Master, but Plaxco did all right collecting \$3,000 for the Shoot-off win plus he also collected \$2,125 for winning three of the four rifle events. I also saw him toting golf clubs around in Quincy, so for all I know he may have won money in a golf tournament on the side too!

The winner of each event—Kelley Gilmore (Precision), Jerry Miculek (Action), Wayne Warren (Long Range)—collected \$4,500 each. Prize money was handed out down the line to the total tune of \$250,000. One quarter of a million dollars in prize money in only five matches gives an indication of just what a prestigious tournament The Masters really is.

Other top money winners in The Masters were High Female: Kay Clark, \$2,500; High Senior: Burt Mansberger, \$1,000; High Sportsman and also High Law Enforcement: Dwight Stearns, \$6,500; High Professional (second only in cash winnings to The Grand Master): Doug Koenig, \$8,000; High Junior: Rick Harris \$5,000; High International: Mauricio Friere, \$2,500.

During the course of the match, Smith & Wesson Hall was dedicated. This will be a place for shooters to gather and get out of the heat and humidity and will be finished in time for the 1991 Masters Tournament.

Three Special Guns

A real highlight of the week's events was the presentation to Roy Jinks at the banquet on Saturday evening. Without Roy there would be no Masters Tournament.

Editor of *American Handgunner* Cameron Hopkins started the ball rolling and contacted participants and Smith & Wesson to do something really special for Roy Jinks. The idea was to present Roy with three guns, each representing one of the three stages of the match, and for the money to be raised from Masters shooters. The theme was "A gift from shooters to a shooter."

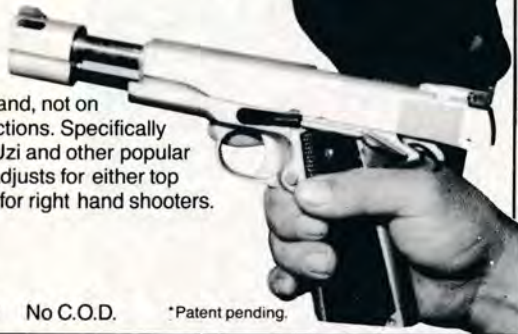
A nearly speechless Roy Jinks received three engraved Smith & Wessons in a three-drawer presentation case from the new Smith & Wesson Performance Center. The guns presented were all Smith & Wessons naturally, a Model 41 representing the Precision Event, a Model 745 for the Action Event, and a MagnaClassic .44 Magnum signifying the

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Long Range Event.

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Closing Thoughts

One of the most interesting guns seen during the Masters was that used by Ken Tapp. Long Range guns have moderated and the XP-100 seems to be the gun of The Long Range Event now with most of the exotics disappearing.

Tapp's Long Range gun, a 7 T/CU by Les Baer, had *two scopes*, one for standing and one for free-style. The two Burris scopes were a 7x mounted on the gun and a 4X mounted above the first scope. The weird looking combination was good enough for 31 Long Range targets.

The spotlight at The Masters is on the so-called Super Squad, but they are only a small percentage of the shooters who take part. With a total of 300 shooters, a lot of lesser known names took home some sizable chunks of money. There are two basic classes of shooters, Professional and Sportsman, and sportsman Dwight Stearns cracked into the Top 16 this year.

What does the future hold for The Masters? Smith & Wesson has been the major guiding force but now that The Masters is firmly entrenched, the role of Match Director has been turned over and others besides Smith & Wesson will be taking a larger role in the management of The Masters.

The town of Quincy has announced the erection of a Convention Center as a direct result of The Masters so it looks like the Quincy-Barry area will continue to be the place for the shooting tournament.

New names are going to surface as The Master in the future.

As mentioned, LaMonte Drees needs only to improve his Action scores and he has an excellent shot at the title.

Doug Koenig will be The Master eventually; it is only a matter of time. This year he finished second overall, by finishing 11th in Long Range, 17th in Precision and eighth in Action.

If you are a dedicated handgun shooter, consider a trip to The Masters next year. More honest-to-goodness great shooting at one time will be seen at PASA Park in Barry, Ill., than in any other part of the world. It has truly become the the gathering place of master shooters.



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He seemed to be having difficulty speaking, and when I turned to look I saw tears streaming down his cheeks. I prefer to think they were tears of sympathy.

Subsequently I found that the best way to prevent frame cracking is to use a polymer fiber washer on the recoil spring guide. I've used the Shok-Buffs from Wilson's Gun Shop (Rt. 3, P.O. Box 578, Dept. AH, Berryville, AR 72616-0578) ever since they became available, replacing them every 1,000 rounds or so, and

have never had a cracked frame. The buffers from Red Buffs (P.O. Box 99, Dept. AH, Mountaintop, PA 18707) are similar in design and also seem to work fine.

Perilous Prone Position

Speaking of frames cracking reminds me of something that happened to another friend, though in Tony's case it wasn't the gun's frame that got cracked.

Tony is one of those people who attacks any endeavor with single-minded intensity, considering no obstacles and counting no costs. He's never quite satisfied until he's gone just a bit too far.

Tony was building himself triple-

chambered aluminum comps back when gunwriters were debating whether single-chambered comps worked. While the rest of us fret over whether 130 gr. bullets at 1,400 fps should be used in our .38 Supers, Tony loads 90 gr. bullets to 2,000 fps (and blows two or three sets of grips off his gun each year).

His shooting techniques reflect his character. For example, the accepted way of getting from standing to prone for a fast, accurate shot is about as follows:

Draw the gun and keep it pointed downrange throughout, safety on and finger out of trigger guard.

Bend at the waist and place the weak hand on the ground; then simultaneously the legs kick back, the strong hand extends the gun to the target, and the weak hand lowers the body smoothly to the ground, then slides forward to support the gunhand.

Tony scoffs at this procedure. His method is to draw the gun, then give a convulsive snap of his entire body, rather like a jumping marlin trying to shake the hook.

Both arms extend the gun to the target, his legs extend in the opposite direction, and for an instant his body is horizontal, in shooting position, only three feet in the air. Then he slams straight down to the ground and cuts loose. (Kids, don't try this at home.)

The secret, he says, is to land flat so that the shock of impact is absorbed equally by all the body.

One day we had a match in which several stages required the shooter to start from a seated position. As we were kitting up someone mentioned that a cross-draw holster would be an advantage.

Tony had already figured this out. He moved his Davis Phoenix holster from its normal strong-side position, placing it right on the center of the body, with the holster loop where the belt buckle would normally be.

And it did work well, saving a couple of tenths per draw. Then came a stage in which the competitor fired around the side of a barricade, then dropped prone and engaged a couple of targets through a ground-level port.


With the wisdom of hindsight I can see that somebody should have foreseen what would happen, but we didn't. And Tony didn't.

He fired a staccato burst around the barricade at the first targets, and while the empties were still in the air and the shots still echoing, he performed his going-prone trick. The full weight of his body came crashing down right on top of that heavy, steel-lined Davis holster.

Later, much later, Tony described what he felt at that moment. It went so far beyond what we would normally think of as pain or even agony, that it assumed some of the aspects of a near-death experience.

His conscious mind seemed to take on

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an out-of-body aspect; in a detached way he could see waves of blackness closing in on his vision until there was only a small tunnel of light ahead of him. He recalls thinking that if the light disappeared he would be unconscious, or maybe dead, and then he'd drop his gun and be disqualified.

With all his strength he fought to keep the tunnel of light open, and he succeeded. At the end of the tunnel he could see his front sight on the targets and he fired until he was sure he had hit them all.

He had enough mental discipline left to engage the safety, and between clenched teeth, to tell the range officer to take the gun. Only when the gun was safely in the hands of the R/O did he follow normal instincts and curl himself up tightly into a ball.

We dragged him back from the line—after all, the match had to go on—but for the next half hour a team of weightlifters couldn't have straightened him out with a block and tackle.

In an odd way, this incident almost lead to another injury a couple of years later. Following a local match, some of our club members like to meet at a certain restaurant for burgers and root beer. On this occasion I gave Bill, a new member, a lift and as we drove he was expressing concern over his new steel-lined holster.

He had read that going prone on a steel holster can flatten it out, requiring it to be straightened before it will accept the gun again. The article suggested that a plastic laminated Rogers holster would avoid this problem.

I stayed noncommittal; in due course he would end up with a drawer full of used holsters like all the rest of us anyway.

But the question was still on his mind as we entered the restaurant.

On occasions such as this it's usual for stories to be told, and in the course of the evening those of us who had been there recounted the legend of The Time Tony Went Prone, complete with sound effects, and perhaps, a certain amount of hyperbole.

Such as the healing powers of time that Tony could laugh at the story with us. Bill listened with particular interest. He was still wondering if he had bought the right holster, and he somehow assumed that since that was on his mind, everyone else was thinking about the same thing and would know what he was talking about.

This assumption was incorrect.

When the laughter died down a bit, Bill spoke, "That's quite a story. But could you tell me something, Tony? When you hit the ground that time, did you squash it completely flat?"

Tony gave Bill a long, cold, speculative look. I hate that look. It reminds me of why Tony's nickname is the "Ultimate Warrior."

Anyone who knew Tony would have

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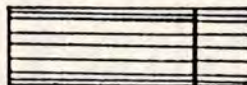
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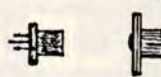
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shut up at that point, but Bill didn't know better, and he blundered on, "I mean, I'm sure it had to be straightened, but was there any permanent damage? Have you ever used it since, or did you replace it with one of those plastic jobs?"

Tony neither spoke nor changed expression, but his right hand went slowly to his pants pocket, seemingly of its own volition.

I decided this had gone far enough. With Tony, you never know when he might have something in his pocket that cuts, shoots, or explodes.

"The holster, Tony!" I exclaimed. "He's talking about the holster!"

Tony turned the look on me. After a long moment his hand came out of the pocket with a handful of change, from which he counted out a tip.

"I knew what he was talking about," he said, then turned to Bill, "No, the holster wasn't damaged, just a few scratches to the leather. That Davis outfit makes good stuff."

Well, he might have fooled the others, but he didn't fool me. That was the first and only time I've ever seen Tony leave a tip.



JERICO 941

Continued from page 69

tages of this type of rifling are increased accuracy, increased velocities, longer service life, and easier cleaning. It would require the firing of hundreds of thousands of rounds through at least a couple of dozen guns under controlled conditions to prove or disprove the first three claims, so I won't draw any firm conclusions from firing a couple of thousand rounds through one gun.

I will say that based on experience with this one gun, there do not seem to be any disadvantages to the polygonal rifling versus conventional rifling. As to the last claim—easier cleaning—of that there is no doubt. Even after firing hundreds of rounds, a few passes with a bore brush followed by a couple of clean patches made the barrels look brand new.

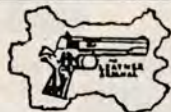
The Jericho uses the classic Browning tilt-lock system, with double locking lugs on the barrel that engage corresponding recesses in the slide. Locking and unlocking is controlled by an enclosed track in the bottom barrel lug that moves on the slide stop pin, a variation of the Browning system that is generally credited to Charles Petter.

It's a strong, reliable, well proven system that is used in a number of modern autopistols. The recoil spring uses two coil springs of different diameters, coiled in opposite directions with one inside the other, and both permanently fitted to a recoil spring guide rod.

Actually it's not correct to say they are permanently fitted, since the springs

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could be removed by tapping out a pin and removing one of the spring retainer caps, but normally there is no need to do so. These so called "captive" recoil spring systems are quite popular, since they make it easier to use double-wound springs, and they make field stripping and reassembly easier since the springs are always controlled by the guide rod.

It's a comfortable pistol to hold and shoot, provided your hands are at least average on size- and no, I can't say what constitutes an "average" hand. Measured at the base of the triggerguard, the grip is 1.35" wide by 1.87" long. Trigger reach, from the center of the trigger to the back-strap, is 3.00" uncocked, 2.625" cocked.

My wife, who is 5'3", had trouble reaching the trigger in its uncocked position without canting the gun in her hand, though she can shoot a Colt Government Model with no problems. For comparison, the grip of the Colt at the base of the triggerguard is 1.24" wide by 1.98" long, and the trigger reach is 2.55" with the standard short trigger.

If your hands are large enough to reach the trigger in its forward position, the rest of the controls will cause no difficulties. The slide stop is stepped and extended for easy manipulation. The magazine release is in the familiar Browning position at the base of the trigger guard on the left side of the frame. If you should prefer it on the right side instead, the release can be readily removed and reinstalled on the right.

All four magazines have cutouts for the mag catch on both sides. The positioning of the release made for fast and sure handling, and along with the bevelled and enlarged mag well opening provided for extremely fast mag changes—though admittedly with either 12 or 17 rounds in the gun to start with, the need for a speedload is remote.

The magazines themselves are of double column/single feed design, very well made, with stiffening ribs on each side. Followers are made of plastic. By pressing in on a hole in the base of the mags, the base plate can be removed to allow for easy disassembly and cleaning.

Depressing the ambidextrous slide safety pulls the firing pin into its tunnel, positively locks it, then disconnects the sear from the hammer. There is no passive trigger-actuated firing pin lock, a feature which seems to be standard on most current designs.

Flipping the safety lever up reconnects the sear and allows a double action first shot. Double action pull is 13¼ lb. and quite consistent from start to finish, with no "stacking" at the end of the pull. Not great, but comparable to current revolvers as they come from the factory.

Single action pull is 5 lb. on the nose, with about 0.1" of initial takeup and a bit of creep and overtravel—in total about another 0.1" of trigger movement.

Continued on page 94

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By Cameron Hopkins
Photos by Roger Andrews

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Indeed, his name is a household word among handgunners. It's used as a noun to describe his remarkable invention—I took my *Ransom Rest* to the range today. It can

be activated as a verb—my gun *Ransom Rested* at 2.357 inches at 50 yards. And it's even applied as an adjective—that's a *Ransom-sized* group. You even find it used metaphorically—three-time Bianchi Cup champion Mickey Fowler has been described as a “walking Ransom Rest.”

This amazing invention is the internationally accepted standard by which accuracy is measured. “Most

major arms manufacturers and ammunition manufacturers have them all over the world,” Chuck told *American Handgunner*, “For years it's been the international standard.”

Twenty-three years, to be precise. The first Ransom Rest was sold in 1968.

When Chuck was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 1955, where he had served as an armorer, he took up competitive pistol shooting and “did a little pistolsmithing on the side.” Then as now, there was no qualitative test to determine a pistol's accuracy other than that error-prone, flyer-flinching frailty we call the human hand. So Chuck set about inventing a way to test the guns he was building.

“You can build a gun and never be sure whether it's shooting properly or not. Even world-class pistol shooters can't tell what the gun and ammunition are capable of doing. Just because it functions nice and smooth doesn't mean it's going to shoot!” Chuck explained.

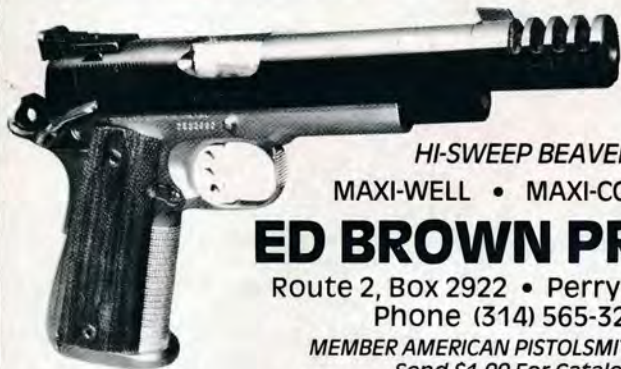
“I needed a machine rest and there
Continued on page 100



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JERICO 941

Continued from page 91

There seems to be plenty of sear engagement, not uncommon in these lawsuit-crazy days; in fact, one can see the hammer cam back slightly during a slow single-action trigger press. Overall I wouldn't call it a good trigger by match standards, but it is as good as most current service pistols and no one would doubt that it is plenty safe.

The trigger itself is worthy of mention. It is 0.35" wide, smooth with nicely

I pulled the gun out of the mud and without even wiping it off, pointed it at the backstop and rapid-fired all 16 rounds without a malfunction.

rounded edges, allowing the trigger finger to slide across it easily during double action pull, finishing up in proper position for followup single action shots.

Field stripping to clean or to change barrels takes just seconds. Remove magazine and clear the chamber; with the hammer back align dots on the left rear of the slide and frame and pop the slide stop out, then run the slide forward and off the frame. The recoil system can then be removed and the barrel slid out from the rear of the slide.

Tapping out one cross pin allows the sear/ejector assembly to be removed which makes it easier for your gunsmith to do a trigger job if you wish. The gun would have to be awful dirty before I'd go any further, though. Disassembly isn't that hard, but reassembly is a bit of a pain.

The Jericho's finish is a smooth matte black that seems to be some sort of oxide rather than bluing. The trigger and safety appear to be conventionally blued and were the only surfaces to show any wear. The finish is extremely durable and showed no wear whatsoever despite a lot of shooting, handling, and dry firing—not even on the slide and frame rails.

Damn Good Gun

So far I've tried to describe the 941 as objectively as possible, but though objective data is important it doesn't really indicate what an excellent pistol this is.

In design, fit, and finish the Jericho is the equal of any service pistol made. Slide to frame fit is as good as a lot of handfitted match guns. Finish, both exterior and interior, is almost flawless—the only area I found that could have used a

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bit more polishing was the inside of the trigger guard.

The all steel construction gives one the impression of massive strength and durability. A lot of shooters handled and fired the gun, ranging from novices to IPSC and PPC competitors to peace officers, with nothing but positive comments.

Reliability Testing

With the 9mm barrel in place, some 1,600 rounds were fired, using 15 different factory loads plus some handloads. There were two malfunctions, both stovepipes with the empty case being caught by the ejection port.

Stovepipes usually result from (a) loads that don't impart sufficient momentum to the slide to overcome the force of the recoil spring, (b) too heavy a recoil spring, which is the opposite side of the same coin, (c) a dirty gun, causing sluggish slide travel, (d) a weak grip that lets the frame move with the slide, or (e) a too short or damaged ejector.

In this case the two stovepipes occurred just a few rounds apart, after the gun had fired about 800 rounds without cleaning, using the light UZI 90 gr. ammunition. This particular lot of ammunition had a fairly high extreme spread of velocities, and I'm convinced that the stovepipes resulted from a combination of dirt buildup on the slide rails and a couple of unusually light rounds.

The double wound recoil springs seem to be set up for ammo that provides a little more momentum, such as 115 gr. bullets, which most shooters seem to prefer. With the exception noted, reliability was most impressive.

I tried mixing 15 types of ammo indiscriminately in the mags, firing the gun upside down and sideways, high speed shooting (holding the gun in one hand and fanning the trigger with the other hand's trigger finger), dumping out 15 shots in around two seconds, and the Jericho functioned perfectly.

Then a late spring storm, with heavy rain mixed with wet snow, offered a chance for a more severe test. I loaded 16 rounds into a magazine, chambered a round and covered the pistol's muzzle with a strip of duct tape, then dropped it into a puddle of soupy wet mud. Then I pulled the gun out of the mud and without even wiping it off, pointed it at the backstop and rapid-fired all 16 rounds without a malfunction.

Still without wiping the gun off, I loaded another 16-round mag in the gun, replaced the tape, and immersed the 941 in a bank of wet snow to chill for a while. Following this cold soaking, the Jericho again delivered all 16 rounds without skipping a beat.

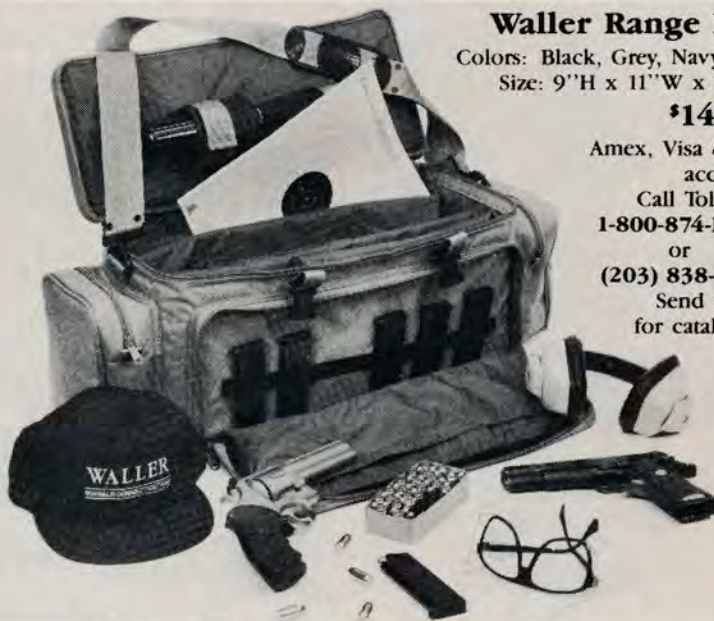
How Does It Shoot?

Accuracy testing was done at 20 yards. I would have preferred to shoot the groups at 25 yards, but cold weather

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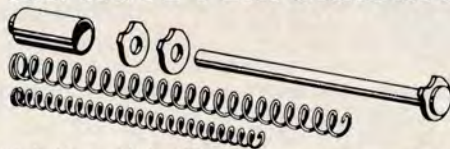
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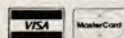


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made it impossible to do any precision shooting outdoors and the maximum indoor range available was 20 yards.

Groups with the 15 types of factory rounds averaged from 2.2" to 2.9". This is the average of five 5-shot groups with each ammo type. There were plenty of individual groups that were under 2", but I don't think it gives a realistic evaluation of accuracy to show just a few exceptional groups.

Best accuracy was with the Speer Blazer 147 TMJ's, the UZI 115 gr. JHP's, the Hornady 124 gr. FMJ-FP, and the Federal 115 gr. JHP's.

The other types weren't really far behind. The UZI 115 gr. JHP "Carbine +P" load is worth noting, as it clocked at 1,350 fps over the PACT Mk. III skyscreens. I believe this is the hottest 115 gr. 9mm ammo available to civilians, faster than some other brands' police-only +P+ loads.

Turning to handloads, I tried some of the 135 gr. C.P. Elites from C.P. Bullets (1814 Mearns Rd., Warminster, PA 18974). These .356" bullets are a FMJ-RN design and wouldn't be first choice for defense, but they are considered the hot set-up for IPSC and action shooting competition because of their superb functional reliability and accuracy.

Loaded in Hornady cases over Accurate Arms #5 powder on an RCBS Piggyback press and RCBS dies, these bullets shot significantly better than the factory ammo, averaging 1.7" for five 5-shot groups, the best group running just over 1".

Turning to lead bullets, the beautifully made 142 gr. truncated cone design from Colorado Cast Bullets gave a five-group average of 2.1" with a best group of 1.3", again using Accurate Arms #5 powder.

.41 AE Testing

The .41 Action Express testing took less time, since there are currently only two factory loads available, a 170 gr. JHP and a 200 gr. FMC-FP, both distributed by Action Ltd. under the UZI and Samson brand names.

I had assumed that a dual-caliber conversion without fully adjustable sights wouldn't work out too well, but in practice it was better than expected. The .41AE loads were right on for elevation at 20 yards, but about 2.5" left, while at the same range the 9mm loads were correct for deflection, but from 1" to 2" high, depending on the load.

Five hundred rounds of the 200 gr. UZI .41AE load were fired through the Jericho with no malfunctions. Velocity averaged 940 fps. The first 10 rounds chronographed showed an extreme spread of 13 fps and a standard deviation of 4 fps.

This level of consistency is usually just a fluke, so I tried another 10 rounds, this time getting an extreme spread of 25 fps and an s.d. of 7 fps. I ended up chronographing 50 rounds in all with a total extreme spread of only 43 fps. This is the most consistent factory ammo I've



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ever chronographed.

The 170 gr. load was almost as good, averaging 1,026 fps with an extreme spread of 52 fps and s.d. of 13.4 fps. But where the 200 gr. load gave perfect functioning, the 170 gr. JHP's simply would not feed reliably in the Jericho, despite the fact that the feedramp had been polished mirror smooth. Failures to feed ran 10-25%. These rounds would poke their noses into the top of the chamber and just stop there, stubbornly refusing to chamber.

Yet it's not a case of the .41 barrel being incompatible with hollowpoints. I replaced the 9mm dies in the Piggyback progressive loader with .41AE RCBS dies (no need to change shellplates, of course, since rim diameter is the same) and loaded a couple of hundred rounds with the Remington 200 gr. JHP bullet, using Accurate Arms #7 powder and adjusting the charge until the chronograph showed an average of just over 950 fps.

Seated to the same overall length as the 170's (1.15") these loads functioned perfectly. I'm not sure just why the Remington 200 gr. JHP should feed flawlessly when the 170's won't.

Both bullets were originally intended, I believe, for the .41 Magnum revolver round. Both have considerable exposed lead at the bullet tip. The 200 gr. bullet has a more rounded profile, while the 170 (which I think is the Sierra jacketed hollow cavity bullet) has more of a cone shape. Whether the difference in shape accounts for the difference in reliability I just don't know, but no other factor is apparent.

Accuracy of the two factory loads were nearly identical. Ten 5-shot groups with 200 gr. UZI ammunition gave an average of 2.2", with a best group of 1.75" and the worst measuring 2.75". The 170 gr. bullets shot into an average of 2.3" while the handloaded Remington 200 gr. JHP's gave a 2.0" average, all groups fired at 20 yards.

Inspection of the fired .41AE cases showed an elongated firing pin indentation on the primer, and scratches on the case from machining marks on the breechface.

These are sometimes taken as indicators that pressures are excessive, but it's not necessarily so. It does mean that pressures are still relatively high at the time the barrel unlocks from the slide and drops down. Since gas pressures are still high the case head is pressed tightly against the breechface before the firing pin can retract, resulting in the elongated pin mark and the scratches on the case.

Slide velocity seems high, judging by the vigorous ejection of fired cases, with the empties landing 15-20 feet away. In short, the gun seems to be unlocking a little early; not dangerously so, but enough to give unnecessarily high slide velocities which increase recoil and stress on the slide and frame.

Speculating that a faster burning powder with a quicker peak pressure would

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reduce this effect, I loaded some of the 200 gr. Remingtons to 950 fps with WW231. Primers still showed an elongated firing pin impression, though not quite as much.

Possibly IMI could consider experimenting with the cam on the .41AE barrel to delay unlocking a bit. Lower pressures as the gun unlocks should also ease the load on the extractor.

Minor Criticisms

The rest of my criticisms of the gun are likewise quite minor. I found the sight picture to be a bit tight; fine for slow fire, but IPSC shooters long ago discovered that lots of light around the front sight makes for far faster acquisition of an acceptable sight picture.

I'd like to see a 0.125" rear sight notch and the same width front sight.

The plastic grip panels are held in place by inletting at the front and top, secured by a single screw at the bottom rear of each panel— all right in theory, but in practice the panels could be felt to shift slightly even with the screws reefed down tightly.

Plus, after four or five mags through the gun the grip screws would loosen up. During long shooting sessions the screw-driver blade of my Swiss army knife saw lots of use.

Finally, if K.B.I. is looking for any more neat gadgets to add to its list, I'd vote for the "Superthumb" magazine loading tool distributed by Adco International (One Wyman St., Woburn, MA 01801). Getting the last few rounds in these big capacity mags can be difficult; with the Superthumb it's a snap.

Last time I looked this clever little widget cost about six bucks. After stuffing 2,500 or so rounds into the mags of the Jericho with the Superthumb, I'd have fought anyone who tried to take it away.

Jericho Leather

Holsters to fit the Jericho may not be available until the makers can get hold of sample pistols. However, Galco International (2019 W. Quail Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027) came to the rescue with their moderately priced "Jak Slide" holster for the TZ-75. This is a belt slide model worn on the inside of the belt that proved to be both comfortable and adequately secure. The Galco single mag carrier for 9mm stacked mags was a good fit for the Jericho's magazines. If you like holsters, the Galco catalogue at \$5 is worth it for the fine color photos alone.

The Jericho 941 should make a fine police duty sidearm. Since I'm not a police officer, I asked the opinion of two competition shooting friends, Lt. Steve Kukowski and Sgt. Michael Knoop, who serve on the police force of Minot, an attractive small city in North Dakota. In addition to their many years of police experience both are knowledgeable

Continued on page 100

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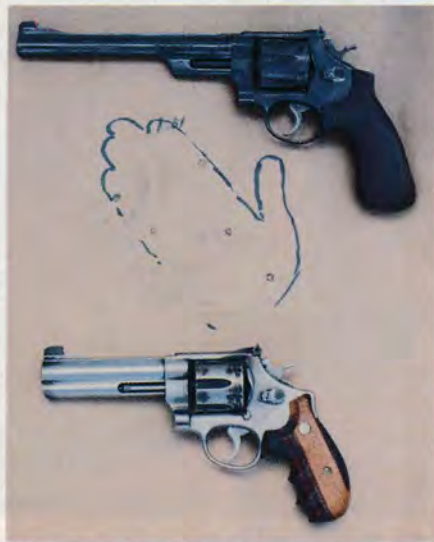
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A CAJUN GOES TO BISLEY



Here's the target that broke Ed McGivern's record of 5 shots in 0.2 seconds! Jerry showed up at the Bisley range (top left) toting a few rounds of practice ammo.

Or how Jerry Mikulek broke Ed McGivern's speed shooting record with a revolver.

By Wilfrid Ward

Bisley is a time capsule from the Nineteenth century. Whereas the great ranges of the past, such as Walnut Hill, are often suburban housing estates, Bisley is largely unaltered. One still can wind one's target in on the trolley which served Walter Winans. The Centenary of the NRA's move to Bisley is in 1990. When the camp arrived in 1890, its wooden buildings were transported from Wimbledon and survive today. Bisley's atmosphere owes a lot to British India, with many souvenirs of the Empire.

Rifle shooting is the principal interest at Bisley, but *Pistol '90* ensured that most of the Clubs were well used by the 1,185 pistol competitors attending. Though much of the scenery may be archaic, the competitions are up to the minute, and there is scarcely a discipline of consequence which is not provided at the meeting.

In addition to Fulton's permanent shop there were three marquees accommodating many trade stands, and some firms had their own tents and caravans. This shoot started in 1979 and has continued

annually since. To compete in everything would be a superhuman task, since there are 53 matches exclusive of extra shoots. Nonetheless a great many people were doing an awful lot of shooting.

Britain has some pretty tight gun laws. Despite these it is possible for all competitors to have weapons to shoot in all the competitions.

Just what can be done with a wheel-gun was shown to the British audience by Smith & Wesson's Jerry Miculek in his

sensational demonstration shoots. Those of us who were at the The Masters knew that he could be fast with a handgun. At Bisley we got some idea of his real speed.

Jerry's experience of pistols began early. According to his mother he had his first holster when he was two, and has been putting it and its successors to good use ever since. Born in Texas in 1954, the family soon moved to Thibodaux, La. Serious shooting began at 15. Jerry was never in the US military, and is a chemist by profession, now employed full time by Smith & Wesson. Mrs. Miculek says he was born to shoot.

When he crossed the Atlantic for the first time he was well equipped, having brought no less than nine Smith and Wessons. His chosen one was the 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ " barrel Model 27 .357 Magnum that he had used to win the Action Event in The Masters.

Miculek fired a demonstration shoot on each of the three days. Amazing was the right word for the third day. The shooting display was at 15 feet, in the traditional manner, with Miculek shooting into large sheets of brown paper. Like Ed McGivern's, the shots could be covered by a handspan.

Timing was informal, but with a modern timer, probably as accurate as that used to time McGivern.

Jerry fired six shots, against McGivern's five. The time is taken on shots two to six instead of one to five. Thus the McGivern record of five shots in two-fifths of a second was informally broken.

Continued on page 70

firearms enthusiasts and compete in action shooting and PPC matches. Lt. Kukowski, in 1989, won the Distinguished Master class at the PPC national championships. Their force has the enlightened policy of allowing officers to choose their own duty arm, providing it meets certain caliber requirements and has been inspected and approved. After examining, handling, and shooting the Jericho and hearing of its performance in the reliability tests, both commented that they would not hesitate to carry it on duty. Features they liked included the obvious quality, the heavy duty construction, the night sights, the comfortable grip and excellent handling qualities, and the reliability.

K.B.I. initially plans to offer the Jericho only as a complete kit, but may make it available in single caliber versions in the future. Considering the modest extra cost, I'd say the kit is the only way to go anyways. The Jericho 941 is truly an excellent pistol, as nice a full size service pistol as any on the market. With its steel frame, hammer forged polygon barrels, and superb workmanship it should prove to be extremely durable under the toughest conditions. It looks as though Israel Military Industries, makers of the Galil, Uzi, and Desert Eagle, have come up with another winner.



JERICO 941 PISTOL

serial number 003244

Caliber:

9mm Luger, .41 Action Express

Magazine capacity:

9mm-16 rounds, .41AE-11 rounds

Overall length:

8.125"

Height:

5.06"

Width:

1.40"

Barrel length:

4.375"

Weight: (empty, with magazine)

38 oz. (.41AE barrel), 39 oz. (9mm barrel)

Weight: (loaded)

46 oz. (with either 17 rds. 9mm or 12 rds. .41AE)

Trigger pull:

5 lb. SA, 13 1/4 lb. DA

Maker:

Israel Military Industries

U.S. distributor:

K.B.I., Inc.,
P.O. Box 6346,
Harrisburg, PA 17112.

RANSOM REST

Continued from page 93

wasn't anything around that did what I thought it should, so I designed the original Ransom Rest, a magazine insert rest, for the 1911 and Model 52 Smith. We introduced that in 1968," reminisced the inventor.

Chuck's first "magazine insert rest" mounted the gun by an insert in the magazine well. "I could see the drawback to the original rest was that you couldn't feed an auto pistol out of the magazine, which is important. Also, we began to suspect that the .22s weren't doing their job the way they should. We did some research on a better clamping idea and came up with the grip insert. I started

possible. The idea behind the Ransom Rest, after all, is to see what the accuracy potential of gun and ammunition are for a shooter so naturally the goal is to try to replicate the action of flesh and blood holding the gun as closely as possible.

"I was trying to duplicate the action of the gun in the hand as near as possible," Chuck explained, "The ultimate test is in the hands of the shooter. We worked with an oscilloscope and we decided that we were pretty close (to the human hand). How the gun is reacting in the milli-second of firing is extremely important. The gun moves around quite a bit before the bullet gets out of the barrel."

Fitting the handgun to the grip inserts is one of the keys to getting maximum performance from a Ransom Rest. Don't over-tighten the star nuts that hold the



The Ransom Rest allows an auto to feed out of its magazine. You can change mags by tipping the rest upward and accessing the mag well from underneath.

working on it in 1969 and it wasn't until late '71 that the first Master Series Rest was delivered," Chuck recalled.

As you can see in accompanying photos, the grip inserts that secure a handgun to the Rest itself are made of a blue plastic. While that sounds rather simple, it actually took Chuck over two years to develop the exact composition of the material for the grip inserts. Chuck is naturally rather protective of his secret formula and refers to it as "a specially blended polyurethane elastomer."

The formulation of the grip insert material was conceived to duplicate the "feel" of the human hand as closely as

gun! Chuck advises you tighten the three nuts with *extended finger* pressure. "Don't curl your thumb around the star nut and torque down on it; keep the fingers extended and just tighten the nuts normally," Chuck cautioned.

A helpful hint in setting the grip inserts properly is to keep the same gap between the grip insert panels all the way around—front to back, left to right, up and down.

Besides over-tightening the grips, Chuck says the second most common problem is incorrect mounting. The Ransom Master Series Rest comes in essentially two pieces, the windage-adjustable base and the machine rest itself. The

instructions clearly explain the proper way to mount the windage base, but some of Chuck's customers still get it wrong.

"The big thing is to select the mount. The mount itself has to be harmonically dead. That means no vibrations can be enhanced by the base. If that thing vibrates, you'll never get a group. If you mount it on an old railroad tie, for instance, you'll get good groups 'til the cows come home," Chuck advised.

Bearing in mind that a railroad tie is not exactly portable, the instructions suggest that the unit be securely mounted on 3/4-inch plywood with two inch strips of wood at the front and rear of the plywood base to suspend the center. I mounted mine on a scrap piece of three-quarter CD plywood after first spray painting it day-glo orange. (The plywood, not the Rest!)

Another tip to assure satisfactory results is to be sure to use the lug on the side of the machine rest for repositioning the gun each time after it fires. The rest is hinged at the back so that the gun elevates during recoil, and it is crucial that you push the gun back down by pressing on the lug on the side of the rest instead of leaning on the barrel. Once the gun is locked into the grip inserts, you don't want to exert any force on it because it can move inside the grips, thus changing your point of impact.

By tipping the rest up—with the lug of course—you can reload autopistols. In shooting auto pistols, especially finely tuned match guns with light triggers, I recommend "feathering" the trigger very lightly. I've seen a Colt .45 autopistol with a light trigger pull go full-auto in the Rest from pressing too firmly on the trigger. For the same reason, stand to the side of the Rest when shooting an auto and not directly behind it. If by chance the gun "doubles" on you, you don't want to be in the path of that muzzle!

Can the Ransom Rest withstand the recoil of heavy magnums? Most definitely! The device was originally designed to withstand .44 Magnum recoil. "It does its job with everything from a .22 rapid fire pistol right up to a .44 Magnum," Chuck boasted proudly.

To mount a gun in the Rest, remove the grips and place the gun in the Ransom grip inserts. Carefully slide the inserts onto the three mounting posts, slide the outer plate on and secure it with the star nuts. The instructions advise that you fire five shots to settle the gun into the inserts before actually shooting for group size.

To fire the gun, adjust the Ransom Rest's "trigger" to fit the particular gun you are testing. Clearly shown in the accompanying photos, the Ransom Rest's trigger is a linkage system activated by gently pulling on a red-tipped lever. It's easy to adjust.

The windage-adjustable base is used to fire several different groups without physically unbolting the base and moving

the Rest to a new location. You can simply adjust the windage base and shoot a fresh group on the same target!

Speaking of bolts, the method of attaching the plywood base to a sturdy table top to form a solid shooting platform is with C-clamps. The instructions recommend the use of three C-clamps with standard handguns, four with heavy magnums.

I've covered the basics of the Ransom Rest's operation, but you can always get personalized help in setting yours up because Chuck and his wife Joan run the show in their Prescott, Ariz., office. They answer the phone themselves and a more helpful and friendly couple you'll look hard to find. If you want to explore the

outer limits of handgun accuracy, contact Chuck or Joan at P.O. Box 3845, Prescott, AZ 86302 (phone: (602) 778-7993) and request their brochure on this amazing thing we call the Ransom Rest.



Those who have come to appreciate the performance of the Ransom Master Series Rest for the handguns will want to know about Chuck Ransom's newest invention, the Rifle Master Rest. This is a scientifically designed pedestal rest for a rifle's forearm when benchrest testing for accuracy. Contact the folks at Ransom International at the above address for more information. Editor.

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AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 50

thought nervously.

The store manager walked quickly into his office and opened the door of his private desk. In it was a Walther PPK/s .380 pistol, loaded, in a suede waistband holster with metal belt clip. He'd bought it for when he had to carry large sums of money to the bank.

Arbiter had never fired the gun, and almost never worn it inside the store, but now, he clipped it inside his waistband behind his right hip under his blue sport-coat.

As the manager walked back to where Rob Gonif sat twitching in the reclining chair, he was joined by one of his employees. Ray Mensch, 35, worked mainly on the delivery truck but assisted on the sales floor occasionally, as he'd been doing today. He had purchased some time before a small Remington-pattern over and under derringer pistol for protection when he had to make late night deliveries.

He had noted the erratic behavior of the customer in the green trench coat, and that pistol was now in his right trouser pocket, both barrels loaded.

Neither man knew that the other was armed.

They approached Rob Gonif.

Arbiter asked, "May I help you, sir?"

Gonif looked even angrier. He glowered at both of them, particularly the tall black man who had joined the manager. Mensch looked impassively back at him and let the manager do the talking.

Gonif began muttering. "Motherf--er," he growled, over and over. "Motherf--er."

The crack of a pistol echoed through the store, and Rob Gonif stopped as abruptly as if his lunge had carried him into an invisible wall.

Arbiter said, "Sir, if you don't wish to buy anything, I'll have to ask you to leave."

Gonif just muttered louder, rocking back and forth in the recliner. He threw his shoulders back and snapped up the footrest, pounding his heels on it.

"Motherf--er. Motherf--er!"

Nothing like this had ever happened at Green's Furniture before. It was a flustered Harold Arbiter who saw something

silvery drop out of Gonif's left coat pocket and hit the floor. He saw the man reach down, snatch it up, and shove it back in his pocket. Was that a *knife*?

Nut With A Knife

"If he doesn't leave, we'll call the police," the shaken manager said loudly to his employee Mensch, for Gonif's benefit. But the strange stranger just lay back on the recliner, mumbling more obscenities.

Arbiter strode to the rear office and called the police. A man was demonstrating bizarre behavior and frightening his customers and refused to leave, he told them. The dispatcher said officers would be there soon.

And Rob Gonif got up to leave.

A wave of relief swept over the tall, bespectacled black man and the nervous white guy in the suit. The weirdo in the trenchcoat was about to become a self-resolving problem. They fell in step behind him, to make sure that he didn't hurt any of the customers on the way out. Wanting to avoid crowding him, they stayed 10 to 15 feet to his rear.

In the doorway, Rob Gonif glanced over his shoulder. The two store people were right behind him. His hand came out of his pocket.

So did the four-inch bladed Gerber steak knife.

Arbiter was caught flatfooted as the

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man whirled and lunged in their direction. He saw the flash of the knife. He was frozen.

But Ray Mensch wasn't.

The crack of a pistol echoed through the store, and Rob Gonif stopped as abruptly as if his lunge had carried him into an invisible wall.

He stood still for an eternal moment. Then he dropped the knife to the floor. He looked at Mensch and Arbiter.

And smiled.

Then he turned and walked out the door.

The police found Rob Gonif in a barbershop 50 yards across the street from the furniture store. He was arrested for felonious assault, and was rushed to the hospital for treatment of the gunshot wound to his right chest.

Ray Mensch was arrested and held overnight, but released with charges dropped the following morning when investigators had talked to enough witnesses to realize that the shooting was self-defense.

Aftermath

No one was hurt in the incident except Rob Gonif, and he not much. The surgeon extracted a .22 caliber bullet that afternoon that had entered the right chest, failed to penetrate the wall of the thorax itself, and instead skidded around the rib cage to lodge harmlessly against the mus-

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cles of the back. Gonif was out of the hospital in a couple of days.

That was a rare change of pace for Rob. His last eight or so such incidents of violently assaultive behavior had landed him in mental institutions instead of the emergency ward, and usually for considerably longer periods.

There were two court cases that arose from this incident. One was the criminal trial of *State v. Rob Gonif* for felonious assault. The other was the lawsuit *Gonif v. Green's Furniture, Inc.*

It was hard to keep a straight face during some portions of the legal aftermath. Gonif's lawyer at one point was asking Ray Mensch what was so unusual about

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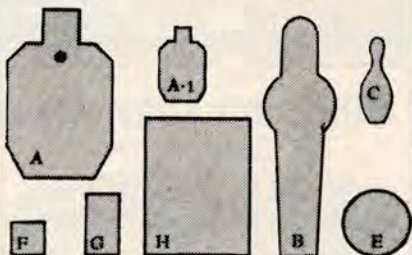
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his client's behavior that Mensch should have his hand on a pocketed pistol.

Attorney: What did he say? The cuss words.

Mensch: Motherf--er.

Attorney: But, just out of context? Just motherf--er? He didn't say, you are?

Mensch: M.F., M.F.

Attorney: It was another form of mumbling?

Mensch: No, he said motherf--er and then he started mumbling again.

Attorney: Could you tell us what he meant by motherf--er?

Fruitcake On Trial

At one point Gonif was asked why he had gone to the barber shop. Because, he replied with great agitation, they had a help wanted sign. Oh. Did he mistake that to mean he could get help there?

No, screeched Gonif, he needed a job!

The 24-year-old Gonif stated that he carried his mother's 4" Gerber steak knife for protection against "young hoodlums." When asked why he'd drawn it on store personnel who were 10 to 15 feet away (Gonif claimed the distance was 18 to 20 feet), the blade wielder replied, "They were comin' up on me!"

Prior to the civil trial, the furniture store's attorney, Rob Stein, was chatting with me about court dates. I asked about security precautions, reminding him of Mr. Gonif's history of violently assaulting people who said or did things he took personally.

Stein called me back a couple of days later. "I've had a talk with the assigned judge," he said, "and the judge thinks it would be an excellent idea for you to be right there at the table with me for the entire trial, and to have your .45 on under your coat."

During pre-trial conversations, Gonif's attorney was apparently trying to make Ray Mensch look like a black cowboy with a too-quick trigger finger. If he felt the shooting was justified, the plaintiff's lawyer sneered sarcastically, why didn't *he*, the white manager, reach for *his* gun?

"Because," blurted Arbiter, "I couldn't get at it quick enough!"

Knife Lethality

Incredibly, Rob Gonif was found not guilty of felonious assault. Well, maybe not so incredibly.

It is a common myth that a contact weapon such as a knife is not dangerous to you until it is at contact distance. That myth was permanently blown out of the water in 1983 by Sgt. Dennis Tueller of the Salt Lake City (Utah) Police.

An adjunct instructor at Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute, Tueller had been running students through a graduation drill that included drawing and hitting a target twice in 1.5 seconds from seven yards. He found himself wondering how far a knife wielder would get from

that distance before the two .45 slugs put him down.

Dennis had a group of students "reverse the exercise" and run forward to stab the 7-yard target. The average time? One-point-five seconds. The results were published in a classic article in *SWAT* magazine entitled, *How Close Is Too Close?*

Today, Tueller's discovery is standard training in serious firearms training circles. The judge, alas, was not up on state of the art. In his decision to find Rob Gonif not guilty, the judge stated, "I'm having problems that this activity (Gonif's action in the doorway) is 'causing or attempting to cause physical harm to a person.' We have a problem here with 10 feet..."

"I believe," the judge said finally, "that for assault, one must actually cause or attempt to cause the physical harm. There can be behavior which appears threatening and is threatening to a victim that does not constitute assault, specifically provided for in the 'menacing' statute, and the 'aggravated menacing' statute.

"At the very best I think the evidence in this case would support conviction for menacing or aggravated menacing. However, neither of those offenses were charged by the Grand Jury..."

The Tueller Concept

Now, we pause briefly. Suppose that the Grand Jury had charged Ray Mensch instead of Rob Gonif with felonious assault. Obviously, the same judge would have concluded that Mensch was in no real danger of being killed, and this would not have boded well for his defense.

This is why it is critically important for all the good people who carry guns to be able to prove that it was known to them *beforehand* that a man with a knife can close seven yards and kill in a second and a half or less, and can close 10 feet and thrust the knife home in well under a second.

Had that been proven in court, Rob Gonif might well have been found guilty of felonious assault and appropriately removed from the social mainstream. But the prosecution didn't even present the Tueller Concept.

Expert Vs. Expert

Consider the tactics. Gonif hired an expert who said the knife attack was provoked by the two store employees because "Although it is debatable whether there was a serious threat of immediate bodily harm (in Gonif's actions) it is likely that the abnormal individual also felt threatened if they were that close. Abnormal persons should never be crowded or pressed...it is my opinion that Mr. Arbitter and Mr. Mensch negligently resorted to the use of deadly force..."

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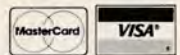


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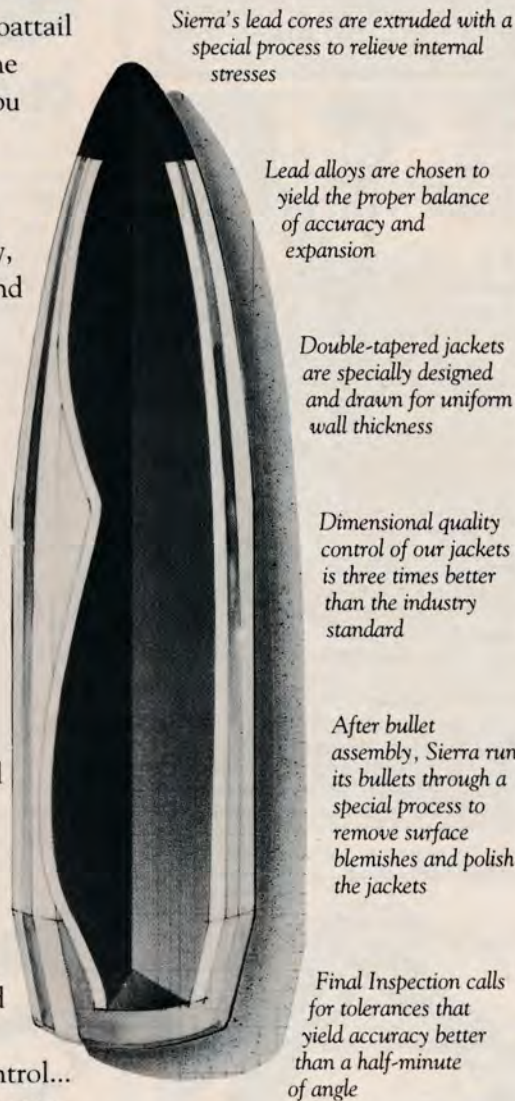
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As this expert's counterpart on behalf of Mensch and Arbiter for the civil suit, I replied that Arbiter had not used deadly force at all, and that the staff had a responsibility to protect customers from a man who was acting in a bizarre and antagonistic fashion and whom they had reason to believe might be armed with a weapon.

Could they have taken cover and stayed at a distance? Yes, and if they had it to do over again, they probably would. Remember, though, neither man had a scintilla of training and Arbiter had a pistol he had never even fired.

Can a man who has never fired his pocket .380 before hit from a long distance away if a knife-wielder attacks one of his customers? Can a man with an el cheapo .22 derringer do the same? I believed then and believe now that their actions were totally justified.

A .22 derringer may or may not stop a charging mouse. It is apparent in this case that it stopped a charging *man* only because he was totally surprised. As the criminal trial judge said, "and then he is shot and he smiled and walked into the sunshine like John Wayne."

Gonif stated under oath that he did not realize he had been shot until he had walked across the street and someone noticed blood on his shirt. "I thought they fired to scare me."

At least Mensch was able to shoot the man before he or Arbiter could be stabbed. There is a reason for this: he'd seen something metallic drop on the floor and go back in Gonif's pocket, and had slid his hand into his own pocket and gotten ready to fire his derringer.

This is what enabled him to whip the gun out and snap off the shot that startled Gonif into stopping the attack after he'd spun with the Gerber in his hand and taken his first step into the lunge. Arbiter couldn't have completed a draw and stopped Gonif with his marginal .380 from 10 feet if he'd tried.

He didn't try, by the way. When asked why under oath he replied, "I was probably too frightened."

Face Of Madness

It had promised to be a fun trial. I was wondering in particular if plaintiff's counsel would be able to keep Rob Gonif from continually referring to his Gerber steak knife as "my razor," as he did throughout his criminal trial.

I was also wondering how he'd cope with some of Rob's statements under oath, such as the following:

"It was the first day I ever carried the knife on me, because it was raining...It's a funny thing, like, when there's a change in the weather, different people get on the street and start walking the street or what have you, and, sometimes, because of the weather, it leads certain individuals to do things that they feel they can do, as far as robbing you..."

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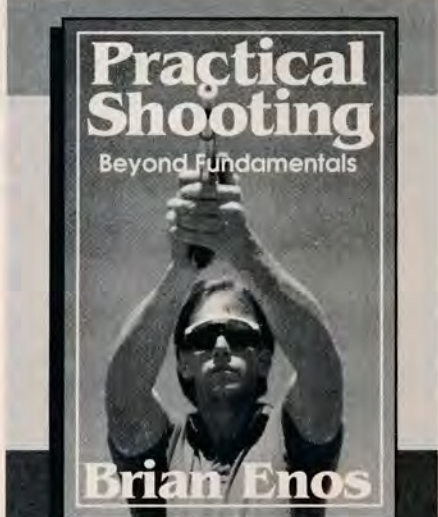
"I started feeling there was something wrong, you know, they were observing me a little too much, you know, and I

I took my steak knife out and I twirled it, just twirled it in my hand, and I looked at him, and before I stuck it back in my pocket, that's when he shot me...

began to leave, you know, walk away. But, I knew— something told me to go back to the chair. So I went back to the chair and I saw that my knife was on the ground, and he didn't say anything to me. He seen it and he didn't say anything."

Gonif's ramblings continued. "I took my steak knife out and I twirled it, just twirled it in my hand, and I looked at him, and before I stuck it back in my pocket, that's when he shot me...(I held it like that) so I would be able to cut...I felt someone was on me, so that's why I swirled around with it out.

"They were 20 feet away. They were not a distance to be sliced, but they were 20 feet away from me...I didn't want them behind me. I didn't want them



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walking behind me— you know...If they had gotten up on me, I would have cut them...

"(If I had it to do all over again) I would probably have a gun...I would have shot if I would have seen their pistols. Even if I would have sensed that they had them, I wouldn't have turned my back on them walking out the door."

Reading the transcripts of Rob Gonif's statements, I saw myself peering through a window into the face of madness, and none of the lighter moments of the case seemed funny anymore. Insanity is tragedy, and when it leads to violence the

*I saw myself peering
through a window into
the face of madness.*

tragedy ripples outward to affect more and more innocent people and innocent families.

Wrap-Up

Harold Arbiter doesn't keep a gun in the store anymore, a wise decision for someone who is admittedly too frightened to use one, though he has finally taken his Walther .380 to the range to practice with it.

And Ray Mensch has gotten rid of his mousegun and bought a .38 Special revolver. Later, there were some who wished he'd had it on November 18, 1986.

I never did get to have that fun civil trial with Rob Stein, the one name in this article that is not a pseudonym. The panicky furniture store management and a nervous insurance company settled out of court. The chump change they gave the other side was cheaper than cost of trial.

A shame, since I think they'd have won handily; Stein is one the brightest and savviest attorneys I've been privileged to work with.

Freed by a court that didn't understand the dynamics of violence, and by an anemic bullet that hit him with more startling power than stopping power, Rob Gonif went back on the streets.

One reason the other side was eager to settle in the civil suit was that they weren't sure how the jury would handle it when Mr. Gonif was marched into court wearing shackles and the blaze-orange jumpsuit issued to prisoners at the county jail.

Gonif had been charged with the recent rape of a 12-year-old girl.

Like I said. It's hard to find anything funny in cases like these.



The author wishes to thank Mark Jackson and attorney Robert Stein for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

STOPPING POWER

Continued from page 36

Did you know that a 158 grain .38 LRN at 850 fps is better than a 225 grain .45 LRN at 850 fps? In other words, given the same velocity and shape, a small, light bullet is supposedly more effective than a big, heavy bullet. What can I say? Your tax dollars at work.

The bottom line is that the RII is a report that would have gotten a "D" as a high school science project. It is so full of methodological errors that it cannot be regarded seriously.

Is Placement The Key?

If it were, we could all carry .22's, and shoot carefully. Unfortunately, there are mountains of cases where people were struck squarely in the X-ring with low-powered bullets, and were not stopped.

The search for stopping power is a result of the countless cases where people placed their shots perfectly, yet their opponents were not stopped.

A teenage boy got into a fight, and was shot in the back, dead center, with a .22. He never knew he had been shot. He continued fighting, then walked home and went to bed. He woke up in the middle of the night feeling sick, and died the following morning. The placement was

perfect, but there was no stopping power.

In a drug deal gone bad, a man shot three people in the head at point blank range, with a .25 ACP, as they lay on the ground. Two of them died. The third

You must hit the right spot, you must hit with sufficient power, and you must hit before it's too late.

played possum, then got up and walked several miles. He lived to testify. Again, perfect placement, but no stopping power.

Can you imagine that happening with a .357 Magnum?

No, placement is not "the" key; it is one of *three* keys: Placement, Power, and Speed.

You must hit the right spot, you must hit with sufficient power, and you must hit before it's too late. Placement is not a substitute for power, any more than power is a substitute for placement. All three elements are *equally* important; none is more important than another.

Dead Men Tell No Tales

Specifically, we can learn little or

nothing by hanging around the morgue and attending autopsies. The issue is stopping power, not lethality.

Looking at a corpse, there is no way to tell whether he fell down instantly upon being shot, or continued fighting for an hour before dying. Also, if you draw your conclusions from examining dead people, you will miss the largest part of the database: those who were shot and did not die!

What about those who were stopped instantly, but lived? What about those who were *not* stopped, and lived?

About the only thing you can tell from an autopsy is whether the bullet deformed. And, as we have seen, that may not tell us anything at all about stopping power. In fact, about the only advantage of attending autopsies is impressing folks with what a tough dude one is.

"Empirical" Studies?

Clearly, the best way to calculate stopping power would be to shoot a lot of people, and see how often they fell down! This is not practical, however.

We can study reports of actual gun-fights, but it is extraordinarily difficult—perhaps impossible—to draw any meaningful conclusions.

In order to be scientifically valid, a survey must "eliminate the variables." The key phrase is, "All other things being equal . . ." Unfortunately, all other things



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are hardly ever equal. Person A was shot with Cartridge 1, and fell down. Person B was shot with Cartridge 2, and did not fall down. Can we conclude Cartridge 1 is more effective than Cartridge 2? It is not that easy.

Person A is 65 years old, and weighs 115 pounds. Person B is 25 years old, and is a heavyweight boxer. Person A was hit between the eyes. Person B was hit in the leg. There are so many variables, and so few shootings (comparatively) that we can probably never arrive at a scientifically valid conclusion.

Consider this actual case: A police officer stopped a stolen car. The driver shot the officer in the chest with a .32 auto. The officer then drew his .45, and shot the driver six times in the chest, killing him immediately. On our statistical scorecard, we can definitely say that the shooting with the .32 was a failure to stop (even though, tragically, the officer died later).

But we cannot include the .45 shooting in the statistics. Why not? Because the officer fired six times. We have no way of knowing whether one shot would have sufficed.

Furthermore, we need a definition of "stopped." (Remember, lethality is unimportant. We do not care if he dies, only that he immediately stop his dangerous acts.)

As any trial attorney will tell you, eyewitness reports are notoriously unreliable. A witness may testify that the "shootee" stayed on his feet for a long time, when in fact he fell down right away (or vice-versa).

Two police officers were shot by a bank robber (with a .32 auto). Although mortally wounded, they were not stopped, and they returned fire. One officer, on his deathbed, testified that he had shot the robber. Sure enough, the robber had a bullet in his head. But when the bullet was removed, it was a .32, not a .357. The robber had shot *himself* in the head! So much for eyewitness reports in the heat of a gunfight.

The Impossible Dream

The ideal database for a statistical study would feature

- large numbers
- of people identical in size, weight, age, musculature, chemical impairment, and mental condition,
- struck one time, in the same place, at the same angle,
- with the same bullets at the same velocities,
- and with the shootings recorded on videotape!

That is unlikely to happen any time soon, so we must make do. Our most important tool is not the chronograph, the autopsy, the computer, or ballistic gelatin. It is old-fashioned common sense, with a healthy dose of skepticism.



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HUNTING

Continued from page 28

Unfortunately, handloading information for them was widely published that borders on sheer idiocy. Their correct recoil impulse is generated by powders in the general burning rate of WW 296 and H-110, not bullseye.

I remember shooting a 10-shot, 10-inch 300 yard group from a sitting backrest position, with a little crosswind to make things a bit more difficult, with a .357 AMP. The .41 AMP was my favorite deer and hog gun. Although it was a magazine fed repeater, it really didn't make much difference—it had both the power and accuracy to be a viable hunting firearm.

Seldom did its firepower enter the picture. As a matter of interest, I can't remember many individuals even remotely concerned with firepower in a hunting handguns the way many are concerned

I'll send some guns out. See if you can break them...

with it today. Mostly we hunted with revolvers, recognized their limitations and hunted within them and lived happily without worrying about it much.

Harry Sanford was the man behind the original Auto-Mags. Also the AMT pistols and now iAi which produces the new series of Auto-Mags. I have one now in .30 carbine which is a cartridge few have had the guts to tread in with a repeating pistol, particularly a semi-auto repeating pistol.

Incidentally, it works flawlessly with 100 and 110 grain loads from 1,400 to a little over 1,700 fps. As a matter of fact it is 100% in operation with corroded hot rifle ammo I loaded for a rifle in the mid-'60s as well as military of any vintage and all commercial ammo I've tried in it.

10mm Magnum

I well remember abusing the first ACP Hardballer released by the plant for 1,600 rounds of overloads without breaking it. During a recent conversation about Harry's newest 10mm, the 10mm Magnum, Harry said, "I'll send some guns out. See if you can break them and let me know if you find anything wrong."

Seems like Harry said about the same thing in about '72 when I got my first Auto-Mag. I guess some of us never change.

The 10mm circle is now complete. The 10mm Magnum is here and there is no doubt it's a magnum. Okay, Ten fans: now you have a 10 with enough power to make it a reasonable deer-hog gun within it's accuracy limitation.

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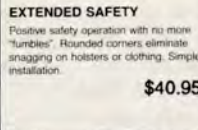
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I'm told the one I have is the seventh made. Not much is known about the gun at this point. Less is known about the ammunition for it. I spent an afternoon working up some loads that seem to be safe and not exceptionally violent in operation of the gun. Maybe they are light, maybe too heavy. Time and a lot more rounds will tell.

At this point I consider the top loads shown as *maximum* for the gun and components I was dealing with. All loads cycled the gun satisfactorily and with 100% reliability. I used Hornady 10mm dies to load the unfired brass used in the tests.

Consider the loads shown to be experimental because that's what they are. Some of them showed very uniform velocities from shot to shot as should any correctly loaded ammunition in a closed breech weapon. More than one five shot string showed a 4 fps spread, several were under 10 and the worst was around 30 fps extreme spread.

Generally speaking, the smaller the case the smaller the average extreme spread between shots will be, assuming correctly loaded ammunition.

Shooting The Magnum

My shooting impressions boil down to



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a few simple things at this point. I have fairly large hands. The grip seems a little short for me, but in actuality it is pretty close to the same length with a slightly different angle than that of the 1911. It isn't bothersome, just noticeable.

Recoil seems soft with most loads. In

fact, some of the 10's I've fired with far lighter loads shock the hand more.

The sights are good adjustable Millets. I haven't tried it for accuracy yet but the impression I get in plinking is it's reasonably accurate in the light of what seems to pass for accuracy these days. Generally, it seems to me it will become marginal in accuracy for deer-sized game at around 75 yards.

Of course this is just one gun; it may or may not be better or worse than the next one made. It may or may not loosen up and lose accuracy over the next few hundred rounds. As I said, not much is really known about it at this point.

The lightweight bullets aren't going to be worth much for anything except varmints. For deer I'd probably select the 180 gr. Hornady XTP right now although I'm favorably impressed with the 180 gr. Sierra in the lower velocity 10's. Someone should come out with a 200 grain hunting type bullet for it. Are you listening, Cor-Bon?

Most impressive is the trigger on this new Auto Mag. It's long, compared to a single shot or revolver, but smooth and light. It's a good, easy to get used to friendly trigger.

So far I like the gun. It isn't nearly as powerful as the original Auto-Mags but it isn't bad for its weight and design. I'll just have to say thanks, Harry. You gave us a good one.



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PERFORMANCE

Continued from page 66

shooters want," John French told us.

Just as Smith & Wesson has listened and responded to what the shooters want in factory models, so too will the Performance Center keeps its finger on the pulse of America's handgunners and give us what we want.

629 Hunter "Detailing"

Enough background on the PC, let's go shooting.

Here we have a slick gun, the stainless steel .44 Magnum Smith & Wesson Model 629. Elaborately customized for handgun hunting, it features a custom barrel, sights, action job, roundbutted grip and a number of subtle touches that can be rounded-up under the heading of "detailing."

Indeed, this latter category is most revealing of the quality for it is the attention to detail that sets this Performance Center revolver apart.

Take the over-travel stop in the trigger, for instance. The quick 'n dirty way to install a trigger stop is to drill and tap a hole into the trigger and slap in a screw. The trouble is that the face of the trigger now has an annoying hole in it that really is distracting when you're concentrating

on smooth trigger control.

You won't find such a sloppy approach on the PC's trigger. Here revolver maestro John French applies his characteristic touch for subtle refinement by press-fitting an over-travel stop into the rear of the trigger. The front surface of the trigger is unmarred.

Smoothly contoured for either a left or right handed shooter, the trigger itself has been lightly radiused on the leading edge—right or left—to better accommodate the trigger finger.

The cylinder's charge holes are modestly chamfered to ease the big .44 Magnum hunting loads, usually with blunt-nosed 300 grain lead-tipped bullets, into the chambers without catching on the chamber mouth.

With the Smith & Wesson's swing-out cylinder, a speed loader can be employed more reliably with the chamber mouths chamfered.

To lock the cylinder tightly into battery, an additional crane-bearing detent-lock is precisely mated to the frame. This additional lock serves to secure the cylinder via the crane, similar to the original S&W Triple Lock design that also binds the crane to the frame.

The 629 Hunter is roundbutted and a set of Pachmayr Grippers are installed. Hogue Monogrips are available as an option and the revolver may be ordered with the standard squarebutt frame.

Another "detailing" touch that John French incorporates on the PC's 629 Hunter conversion is to reface the recoil shield to prevent the cartridge rims from hanging up as the cylinder turns.

This malfunction can only occur if the weapon is pointed upward as might take place on a cougar or black bear hunt with dogs that put the quarry up a tree. Sometimes a big blackie won't take kindly to being chased up a tree and when that enraged bear comes barreling back down, you don't need your revolver to jam!

By carefully relieving the sharp edge of the recoil shield, the cartridge rims won't be snagged from gravity pushing them back against the shield.

Action Job Deluxe

There are two things to look for in a trigger job on a double-action revolver. (Single-action autopistols are different.)

You want *smoothness* and you want *crispness*. Notice we did not say anything about the weight of pull because the poundage required to stroke a DA revolver's trigger is far less important than the *feel* of the trigger, which is a function of smoothness and crispness.

Granted, the weight of pull is important, but if a gunsmith knows how to achieve a smooth and crisp stroke, he damn sure knows how to get it fairly light as well.

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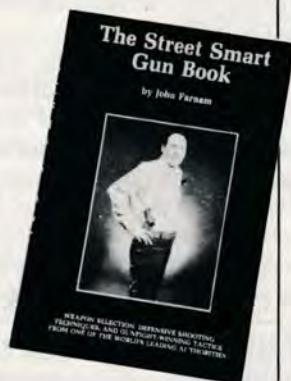
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back off on the strain screw of a S&W's mainspring: this lightens the pull considerably but it doesn't do a thing to smooth out the action. It's still scratchy and rough.

Now when the Performance Center slicks up an action, you get a buttery smooth feel and a crisp break. As Crocodile Dundee would say, "Now *this* is a trigger!"

There are several different grades of action work available ranging from a basic "slick and polish job" suitable for a service gun right on up to the ultra-sophisticated shortened-throw action jobs for the

Center's high grade competition guns like Mickey Fowler's Bianchi Cup revolver.

While John was with Third Stone Gunworks, he developed many unique innovations and among them is his unique method of shortening the double-action throw by 45%. In other words, the hammer's arc is nearly half again as short as a standard, unmodified Smith's. The trigger still pulls all the way to the rear, and it can be "staged" if the competitor prefers.

(A staged trigger is a refinement of double-action so that a slight resistance is

met just before the double-action stroke is completed and then the shooter squeezes the final fraction of inch slowly as though it were single-action. Popular on PPC revolvers, the staged trigger has never achieved much success in Bianchi Cup custom guns.)

The action on the 629 Hunter is competition-grade, but it lacks the shortened-throw feature. The double-action pull is remarkably smooth and the hammer releases crisply. The pull weight is eight pounds DA and three pounds SA.

John advises that the shortened-throw DA is not available on all models of revolvers, like the 629 Hunter.

The single-action pull is intentionally heavy because of liability reasons. John French is more than capable of putting a 1 1/2 pound single-action trigger pull, but the S&W lawyers won't allow such light actions to leave the Center.

Krieger Custom Barrel

The fluted six-inch barrel with an integral recoil compensator is milled from a single Krieger blank of premium match-grade. Wisconsin barrel maker John Krieger produces a superior quality gun barrel from specially selected 416R stainless steel.

John orders his 1 5/16" blanks from Crucible Steel Mill where they treat steel destined for gun barrels differently. "From start to finish, it's given special treatment," John says of the Crucible steel.

John makes the billets of specially prepared steel into barrels with the time-honored method of single-point cut rifling. The tool cuts only one groove at a time by removing one-tenth of one-thousandth of an inch (.0001") of material at a single pass.

This tedious process requires 30 to 40 passes per groove, and the standard Krieger .44 barrel has six grooves.

However, before getting to the stage of cutting the rifling, a billet destined to wear the Krieger name is first drilled, then reamed, lapped and then rifled. After rifling it is lapped again.

"Single-point cut rifling is the oldest and slowest method, but I think it does the best job," John said. It must work—in 1990, Mitchell Maxberry won the 1,000 yard Leech Cup at Camp Perry's national championships and then went on to win the whole banana, the Long Range Championship, with Krieger barrels on five out of six guns that he shot in the multi-course match.

Revolver Comp

The barrel sports an integral expansion chamber compensator that John French milled from the Krieger steel. A thick frontal plate inhibits gas escape inside the compensator until a sufficient gas volume has escaped from the large single port.

This efficient design dramatically counter-acts muzzle rise and recoil. The internal dimensions of the compensator

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are carefully contoured to maximize the high pressure effect of a .44 Magnum hunting load.

In addition to the recoil absorbing effect of the compensator, the 629 Hunter is available with an optional custom scope mounting rib that, with the scope in place, contributes to lessening the recoil due to the additional weight.

Our test sample was designed to be carried as a back-up revolver for the hunter to employ only with iron sights. Noticeably more convenient to carry than a scoped revolver, the iron sighted 629 Hunter fits perfectly inside a Bianchi Ranger padded nylon holster.

Often a custom barreled revolver necessitates a custom holster, but the Bianchi Ranger has proven remarkably adaptable in accepting the heavy-barrel profile of the

It is always tricky in gunsmithing to harmoniously mate a curved surface with a flat one, but the fit of the top rib on the 629 Hunter is a good example of how to do it right.

629 Hunter. Not only flexible enough to wrap around the gun's distinctively under-ribbed barrel, the nylon holster is plenty tough and rugged. It resists scratching and marring in the field, and it's completely waterproof and rot-proof.

Rack Of Ribs

The front sight is securely dovetailed into a very tasteful sight rib that is reminiscent of a quarter rib on an express rifle. The rib blends gracefully into the top strap of the frame where the sighting plane continues to the standard Smith & Wesson rear sight.

The front sight is a serrated ramp style, however, other varieties are available. Pioneered by the MagnaClassic Model 29, removable and easily interchangeable front sights are possible on the 629 Hunter.

Similarly, it would be possible to incorporate an after-market rear sight like the Bo Mar or perhaps the Millett, but for back-up applications on a heavy-duty hunting revolver, the standard S&W rear sight is hard to beat.

The top rib into which the front sight is fitted is attached with two slotted screws to the barrel. The metal-to-metal fit is absolutely perfect. The stepped rib blends tastefully with the top strap of the frame from a gentle radius that continues the flow of the line naturally into the frame.

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It is always tricky in gunsmithing to harmoniously mate a curved surface with a flat one, but the fit of the top rib on the 629 Hunter is a good example of how to do it right.

By the same token, the under-rib beneath is also mated gracefully to the fluted Krieger barrel with an exacting fit and finish. Here again it is awkward to bring a round barrel into symmetry with a rectangular under-rib, but John French solved this aesthetic design problem with a twin-planed rib that angles upwards to join the frame. Unlike some rather bulbous looking underlugs, this tapered rib is a handsome addition.

From a functional standpoint, the under-rib serves two purposes. First, it incorporates an ejector rod housing to protect the rod against damage in the field. Secondly, the under-rib contributes additional weight to help tame the recoil of heavy hunting loads.

Test Firing

As good looking as the 629 Hunter is, it's the performance that counts in any gun from the Performance Center. And if this .44 Magnum custom hunting revolver is any indication, the standards of performance are indeed high at the new S&WPC.

We tested the revolver with ammunition that is appropriate for its function as a hunting gun. Savvy big game hunters



The S&W Performance Center staff (left to right) is Jim Rae, Paul Liebenberg, Tom Gordon, Paul Piquette, John French, Lynda Bradt and John Wallace.

know that a heavy 300 grain bullet is the real ticket to adventure and the new Sierra 300 grain jacketed flat point has proven extremely potent in the hunting fields already.

We loaded Sierra's big slug on top of 22 grains of H110 powder inside fresh Winchester cases and ignited the whole shebang with a Winchester large pistol primer. The load delivered the bullet over our PACT skyscreens at an average 1,457 fps. Extraction of fired cases was easy

despite the fact that the Sierra reloading manual lists a conservative 21.7 grs. of H110 as the maximum load.

(Use caution when loading beyond published maximum charges, working up your loads a half-grain at a time and watching carefully for sticky extraction in revolvers and other accepted signs of over-pressure. At the first hint of difficult case extraction, back off the load.)

Our test firing drew a sharp breathe of surprise as we looked downrange at the 50 yard target through a Redfield spotting scope. Either the gun is shooting very well or very badly, because there is but one black tear in the paper. One hit, five misses?

No, we were pleasantly surprised to find a six-shot group, the entire cylinderful, in a small cluster. Not a one-holer by any means, but there were three shots in a clover leaf, another two nearly touching and one rather unsociable flyer that went off by itself. The total six-shot group measured 1.6" wide by .825" high. At 50 yards with iron sights!

We obtained similar groups as the testing continued and, having proven that the Performance Center revolver is more than accurate enough for hunting purposes, we proceeded to shoot the rest of the ammunition at the 100, 200 and 300 yard steel gongs at the Lake Elsinore Sportsman's Association range in southern California. It was an afternoon of good fun.

The 629 Hunter is sure to be popular with the growing legions of handgun hunters and, for that matter, with anyone who demands the very best in a custom .44 Magnum.

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For information on the guns of the Performance Center, write S&WPC, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01102.



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| JUNE | FEB 25 | MAY 1 | |
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| AUG | APR 25 | JULY 1 | |
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

Continued from page 122

Other new guns promised for 1991 include a bevy of pistols in .40 S&W caliber: Heckler & Koch P-10 or P-11 (they can't make up their minds what to call it yet); a Springfield Armory P-9 (not to be confused with the P-7); and a Taurus .40 S&W will replace their now-discontinued .41AE (they might call it the PP-91, but then again they might not).

In a late breaking development from Down Under, the IPSC World Shoot has concluded with Doug Koenig of Pennsylvania winning the world championship of practical shooting. The 21-year-old shooter won the week-long match in Australia with a Springfield Armory P-9 pistol. Congratulations, Doug!

Interestingly, four out of five top finishers in the World Shoot used high-capacity 9mm pistols. Only Jerry Barnhart, 2nd, used a Colt 1911 in .38 Super. (The others were Rob Leatham [3rd] with a P-9 in 9x21 and Mike Plaxco [4th] and Brian Enos [5th] with their S&W 5906's in .356 TSW.)

After two years of delays and glitches, Ruger finally shipped the first P-85 (Pistol of 1985) 9mm pistols in 1987. Apparently the Prescott, Ariz., plant needed more time than that to work the bugs out because they're recalling every dagdum P-85.

Citing a faulty firing pin that renders the gun capable of firing accidentally merely by engaging the decocker, Ruger has recalled some 200,000 of the blocky 9mm's for a no-charge "product improvement." Owners of P-85s are asked to call tollfree 1-800-424-1886 for details on scheduling their gun for return to Ruger.

To his credit, Bill Ruger Sr. ordered the recall even though reportedly only one pistol had experienced this bizarre failure. Ruger's general counsel, Steve Sanetti, told me that a P-85 owner AD'd his gun and sent it back to the factory to discover the cause. Even though the gun discharged, no one was hurt because, Sanetti said, "There's no substitute for safe gun handling."

I've got a favor to ask. Anyone who has experience with Clark barrels for the 1911 pistol, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Just tell me what you think of Clark barrels. Write to me at *American Handgunner*, 591 Camino de la Reina, Ste. 200, San Diego, CA 92108.

From the *Reports of Our Death Are Greatly Exaggerated Department*, we are embarrassed to admit that we really shot ourselves in the foot last issue. We reported in this column that *Outdoor Sports* had filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11.

That is incorrect, *Outdoor Sports* is alive and well. What happened was that *Outdoor Sports* bought the remnants of Southern Gun & Tackle, which did in fact go belly up under Chapter 11. We apologize for the error.



ARMY BALLISTICIAN CHARGES FALSE ADS HYPING HYDRA-SHOK BULLETS

One of the co-designers of the M-16 rifle, Reed Knight, has invented a new 9mm pistol that **Colt** will introduce in 1991. Colt refuses to divulge any information on the pistol, but according to an insider who has handled the CM9 (Colt Mystery Nine), the gun resembles a Steyr 1912 pistol with a grip frame like a CZ-75 and a slide like an H&K P-7.

The Knight-designed pistol has a bolt

like the M-16, a five-lug rotating bolt locking into a helical recess. It is striker fired, has a roller-bearing trigger and is trigger-cocking-only. One report held that the CM9 has a "plastic" frame like the Glock.

Don't get too anxious to see Colt's secret 9mm because it has been one full year since the .44 Magnum Anaconda was announced... and still no guns. It's exasperating the way these damn companies throw a royal extravaganza to hype a

new gun and then don't deliver any for a year or more.

Another new 9mm "crunchenticker," as Jeff Cooper fondly refers to DA nines, is coming from the originator of the high-capacity 9mm pistol, **Browning Arms**. The Utah gunmaker will have a new 9mm available in 1991 featuring a special selector that switches the pistol from DA-only to conventional DA-first shot, SA-remaining shots. The new pistol is called the Browning BDM 9mm for Browning Double Mode.

"It's very desirable for law enforcement," said Browning's Paul Thompson. Will it be offered in other calibers besides 9mm? "We're kind leaning toward the .40 Smith," Thompson said. He indicated it would be at least 1992 before any new calibers would be added to the BDM.

Buoyed by the success of Superstar Shooter Jerry Barnhart, **Team Colt** plans to broaden its ranks. "Chances are we'll expand our team," said Colt spokesman John Nassif. "We're not sure when, but we'll be adding one of two more people." Jerry just won the 1990 IPSC National Championship with his Pro-Pointed Colt Government Model, the first time a Colt gun has won since 1986.

Anyone who got screwed by **Bren Ten** will want to telephone Richard Voit of Peregrine Industries at (714) 847-4700. According to a press release, "**Peregrine Industries** has also designed a program to specifically accommodate former Bren Ten clientele who were affected by the bankruptcy of the pistol's original manufacturer.

"While we have no obligation to the former Bren Ten clientele, we want to offer them something special," says Voit, sole owner and operator of the new Peregrine firm. Details of the program will be announced at a later date." Peregrine Industries will be manufacturing the "Falcon" pistol, a copy of the Bren Ten.

Hope Bianchi, daughter of holster magnate John Bianchi, confirms that there is a deal cooking between **Bianchi International** and renowned competition leather maker **Ernie Hill Speed Leather**.

Ernie Hill himself told me that he is negotiating the sale of his Speed Leather company to Bianchi, but Hope denied that negotiations had progressed that far. "We're talking, but nothing has been formalized, let alone finalized," Hope said.

You think we're kidding about **Smith & Wesson's** "Gun of the Week" policy? Hey, the proposed new guns for 1991 number 40. That's right *forty* new models ranging from a double-action-only version of the 3913 compact 9mm to new Airweight version of the hammer-shrouded Centennial.

(One request, please. Get rid of that tacky laser "engraving." Let's go back to rollmarking the caliber and S&W logo. It's much more tasteful and doesn't look so "cheap" like the laser marks do.)

Continued on page 121

A prominent expert on wound ballistics said that he plans to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission alleging that advertising for **Federal Cartridge's** Hydra-Shok ammunition is false and misleading.

Col. Martin L. Fackler, MD, of the Wound Ballistic Laboratory at the Letterman Army Institute of Research, told the *Insider* in an exclusive interview that the Hydra-Shok bullet's advertising claims are nonsense. "The little post doesn't do anything to improve expansion," Dr. Fackler charged, "Their advertising is a sham."

"The whole thing is just one big farce," Dr. Fackler said, "I have reports from all around the country... and they [Hydra-Shok bullets] are coming apart. It's an extremely erratic bullet."

Mike Bussard, a marketing executive with Federal Cartridge Co., vehemently denied Dr. Fackler's allegations. Bussard pointed to a recent FBI study that, he said, "proves conclusively that the Hydra-Shok bullet does in fact work."

"He [Dr. Fackler] wants to set himself up as the high guru of ballistics and he feels he needs to put on a show to prove it. He feels he needs to take on a major ammunition company," Bussard said.

"It makes me angry when a well-known company does something that I consider to be pretty sleazy," Dr. Fackler retorted.

"If I was Dr. Fackler, I'd get on a plane and get up here to take us up on our offer to test the bullet. I would also remind all and sundry that he is a serving officer in the United States Army and he is not entitled to run around saying this [about Hydra-Shok bullets]," Bussard said.

Widely recognized as the nation's foremost authority on wound ballistics, Dr. Fackler is responsible for the landmark research into terminal ballistics that resulted in the ballistic testing protocol being used by the FBI and other leading agencies.

In a greatly simplified nutshell, Dr. Fackler's research dictates that a handgun bullet can be tested for its ability to incapacitate a human being by shooting it into a specially formulated composition of 10% ballistic gelatin. If the projectile penetrates 12" or more, Dr. Fackler's research says that the bullet will be a reliable manstopper.

Dr. Fackler said that he and several colleagues conducted an extensive series of tests in which Hydra-Shok bullets were fired into ballistic gelatin with the post removed from the hollowpoint.

"I cut the posts out very carefully and I found there was no difference [in expansion]," Dr. Fackler reported, "Even at reduced velocities, there was no difference." He charges that Federal's advertising claim that the Hydra-Shok post enhances expansion is false.

Bussard said that Dr. Fackler's tests are invalid and that the FBI tests prove otherwise. Agent John Hall of the FBI Firearms Training Division told the *Insider*, "The Hydra-Shok is performing very, very well. It is very accurate and consistent." The FBI tests show that the .45 ACP Hydra-Shok bullet *with post* passed 92.5% but when the post was removed, the success rate dropped to 77.5%.

Dr. Fackler does not dispute the FBI's data, but he said that he disagrees with the FBI's conclusion. He maintains that the Hydra-Shok bullet is a "gimmick to corner the police market" and that he intends to continue his crusade to educate police and civilians alike about the Hydra-Shok. "I would like to see the American shooting public become so intelligent that they'd be able to recognize bullshit like this," Dr. Fackler said.

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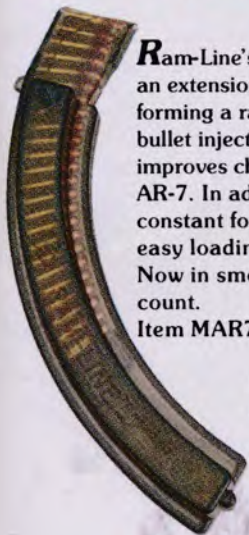
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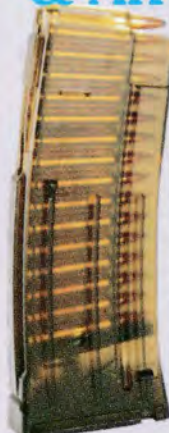


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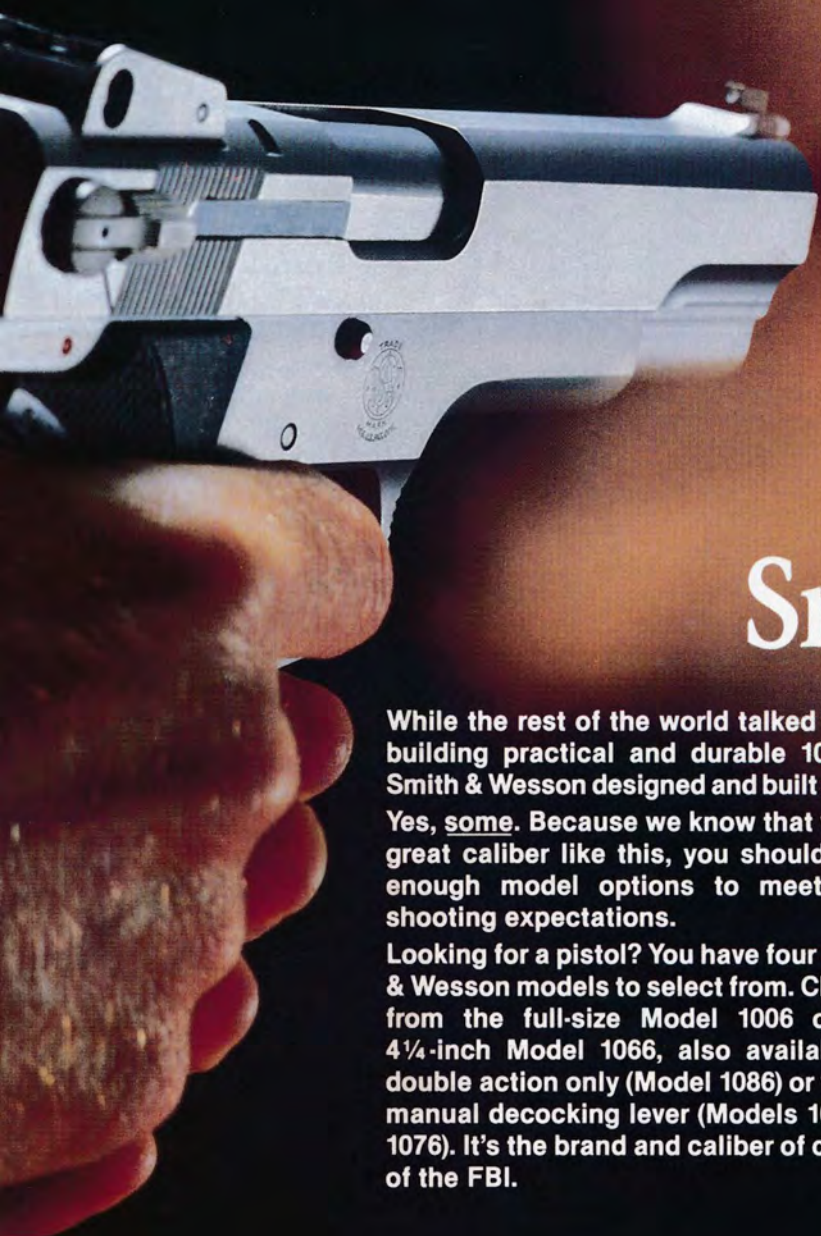
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