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A German Luger produced sometime in the '20s and masterfully restored to original condition by John Lawson. Photo by Ichiro Nagata.





JULY/AUGUST 1991

Vol. 15, Number 88

FEATURES

NP3- MIRACLE FINISH OF THE '90s, Mark Moritz From the North Sea oil rigs comes the toughest finish yet for handguns.

HANDGUNNING HINTS, Bennett Viken and Robin Sutton How to use a gunbelt for a handy field rest.

NOW THIS IS A GUN!, John Taffin
A six pound revolver chambered for the humongous .50-70 buffalo cartridge. 36

TAURUS NINE-SHOOTER, John Taffin
Our Field Editor says this may be the best trail pistol yet!

THE AYOOB FILES, Massad Ayoob
The lessons of a gunfight from a bygone era are still valid today.

AUTOPORTING, John Taffin

Mag-Na-Port has a clever way to reduce recoil for your auto.

VIC BATTLE COMP, Dave Anderson Viceroy International takes the field with their new battle comp.

V.I.P.P., Mark Moritz

Very Important Pocket Pistol, that's what the Seecamp .32 auto is.

ITALIAN MASTERPIECE, Mickey Fowler

A champion shooter puts the new Beretta Model 89 to the test.

DER LUGER, Cameron Hopkins

A classic handgun is still alive and well, thanks to restoration expert John Lawson.

GUNS OF THE I.R.S., Loren Franck
The G-Men cashier their revolvers and file for the SIG P-226 instead.

TRIPLE LOCK TREAT, Frank S. Temlanovich
Combine a vintage S&W Triple Lock with a Model 25— what a treat!

CASPIAN ARMS HYBRID, Cameron Hopkins

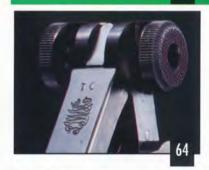
An interview with Hybrid inventor Wil Schuemann on his radical new compensator.

TAFFIN TESTS, John Taffin High performance favorite loads for the powerful .45 WinMag.

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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

Dave Anderson

WHAT'S NEW Bruce Edwards

INDUSTRY INSIDER Cameron Hopkins







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Paing Attention

I have just recived (sic) your renewal notice in to day's (sic) mail. Before I wrote out the check I stopped to reflect on just what your magazine provides as opposed to its fees- and frankly there wasn't much to consider.

The articles, dry and boaring(sic)! Repeating the same thing over and over, except for the S&W 625 (PS I don't own one). I think your wrighters (sic) like every gun known to mankind!!! (IE good, clean, crisp trigger ect.ect.ect!!)(sic)

The loading data is carbon coppied (sic) from caliber to caliber or should I

say zeroxed? (sic)

The tactical employment of firearms as discribed (sic) by your writers, displaies (sic) the tallent (sic) and training one could expect to recieve (sic) from trained monkies. (sic)

Aside from Mr. Ayoob and Mr. Lathem (sic), I think you would be in order to clean house and start from scratch!! Although I realy (sic) like your photographer, I'm sorry guy's, (sic) the check book is now back on the desk and I'm not

renewing!

I hope someone is paing (sic) atten-

Don Meyer San Jose, Calif.

I didn't make this up. Really! Editor.

Lawyers On The Beach

Attorney Marshall Brown (Speak Out, March/April 1991) showed his typical shark colors with his sarcastic questions. It reminds me of a joke around here in lawyer-land.

Question: Why is it you don't see lawyers on the beach?

Answer: Cats keep covering them up with sand.

> Robert Burleigh Buena Park, Calif.

Pit Of Maggots

The very fact that Marshall Davis Brown, Jr. (Speak Out, March/April '91) admits "...the three most important questions in the practice of law" are:

How much money do you have?

2) Where can you get some more?

3) Have you got any guns or motorcy-

cles to trade?

is in itself conclusive enough argument that the legal profession, as a whole, is a bottomless pit of maggots who have no thought whatsoever as what justice is.

Thanks for being dumb enough to confirm what we already knew.

> J. Norman Non-Lawyer Brooklyn, NY

Snakes And Lawyers

Marshall Davis Brown, Jr. (Speak Out, March/April '91) exemplifies what sort of sensational scum haunts the legal business. His three questions show just where this type of reptile's true interests lie-money! Not justice, not the law, not even the best interest of any client. Just

To paraphrase: On a Texas highway they found a dead rattlesnake and a dead lawyer. What was the difference?

There were skidmarks in front of the rattlesnake.

> Michael Clark San Diego, Calif.

Jamie Says Ayoob Can't Shoot!

My name is Jamie. In response to Massad Ayoob's test of the Exactor pistol (March/April 1991), the pistol is accurate but the person shooting the gun must

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know how to shoot. It's called controlling the muzzle of the gun.

I shoot from a bench off a sandbag. I've shot competitively in northern Colorado.

Mr. Ayoob states that he could not get the pistol to group very well. Maybe he should try shooting for groups and not looking for any little flaw he can find in the product.

I've shot thousands of these pistols, you have not. Yes, I probably have better sight than you. I've been taught by the best.

I realize you have an obligation to the public, but to personally put my name as a point of Ayoob's article is not your obligation.

Mr. Ayoob is not a true handgunner. Anybody who supposedly shot a fourinch Model 29 at a running animal at 200 vards is not a responsible handgunner.

Mr. Ayoob, you might be a reporter or tester, but before you start ripping on people of this industry you should make sure of your facts. Yes, Mr. Ayoob, "Jamie can shoot." Obviously better than you.

Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Armand Swenson Retires

Your most recent issue arrived at my mailbox the same moment that UPS delivered my last combat pistol from pistolsmith Armand Swenson of Fallbrook, Calif. I say "last" as this is my seventh handgun from the old gentleman whom I have known and written about and done business with since the early 1960's.

He was going strong in his Gardena shop well before then, keeping the Southwest Pistol League in accurate combat

I say "last" as he told me this was the last pistol to leave his shop before he called it quits and retired. He has suffered several strokes in his old age and feels he has put in his best. Now to relax.

The first time I met him, he was shooting 100 rounds of .45 ACP from the 100 yard line into the K-5 zone as a demonstration for LA narcotics cops. It left a ragged hole, which I have as a souvenir.

He never used a target to check his work. He just made one .45 hole and put the other four touching the first at 25 yards before turning a gun loose to a customer.

He was something to watch at his daily 200+ rounds at the old Popaway And Bang range in LA. He should be noted.

> Joe Rychetnik Pacific Grove, Calif.

Good As A Nagata

I was scanning through a gun mag (turns out to be American Handgunner) when I saw this terrific photo (pp. 57-59, March/April '91) of a pistol.

It flashed through my mind, "That looks like one of those photos by that Japanese guy!"

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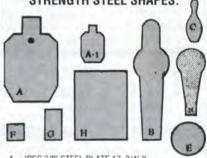
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Now I catch myself, "Hey, Self, if you're gonna admire the photos, at least have the courtesy to get the name straight."

Mr. Ichiro Nagata, my hat is off to you. Your photos are now a class of their own. We can now say that other photos are "almost as good as a Nagata."

Norman Brewer Arcata, Calif.

P.S. Your art department is tops.

Knuckle Draggers

I am a little tired of the disparaging comments from some of your less well informed readers regarding J.D. Jones. Anyone who is familiar with Mr. Jones' record as a big game hunter, appreciates that he knows more about sportsmanship than these knuckle dragging buffoons are ever likely to learn.

J.D. Jones' contributions to the sport of handgun hunting, and to the sporting

Sounds a lot like Cleveland Amory and the Animal Rights loonies.

use of handguns in general, are well known and widely acknowledged. I suggest that people like John Taffin, Cameron Hopkins, and Massad Ayoob are in a better position to judge Mr. Jones' credentials, than some self-styled Rambo from Las Vegas.

Finally, I have to question just whose side Mr. Prather (Speak Out, March/April '91) is on? Quotes like "Innocent big game animals deserve better consideration" sounds a lot like Cleveland Amory and the Animal Rights loonies. Most of that crowd believe that there is no legitimate reason to own handguns at all!

Douglas S. Gee Mountain View, Calif.

Butt Shooting

I do not agree with Roger Prather's view on handgun hunting (Speak Out. March/April '91). Lots of us try to put forth an extremely conscious effort

towards proper shot placement.

In two articles I have seen that were written by J.D. Jones, I noticed that he doesn't seem to care where his shots go, nor does he care how many it takes to bring down an animal. J.D. Jones is not a hunter, he is only a shooter. Even at the moderate ranges he recommends, the .357 Magnum is only marginal.

The last piece of garbage he wrote advocates (twice) shooting an animal in the butt. No self-respecting hunter would even consider that as an alternative to proper shot placement.

I think your magazine would be much

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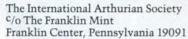
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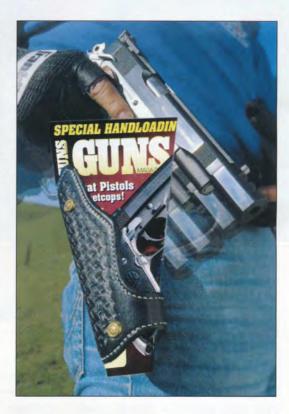
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Jim Baldwin Salt Lake City, Utah

1911 Neutral

I would like to put in my two cents worth in the "Revolver Neutral" controversy. Any poor soul (translation: Revolver Shooter) who thinks this is going to help him in anyway compete more easily in IPSC is going to be sorely disappointed! Except for the rare person like Jerry Miculek, we wheelgunners are the bastard children of the IPSC circuit.

The only reason the "Revolver Neutral" farce was perpetuated was to assure, for a few more desperate years, the prominence of the 1911-type pistols.

The "Powers That Be" in IPSC were bowing to the pressure of the many manufacturers of 1911-style guns, the many makers of after-market parts and the plethora of gunsmiths who don't want to have to change what they are doing and have too much invested in the dominance of the 1911-style guns.

This group wants firearms development frozen so their "rice bowls" won't get broken. They are scared to death of the various Glocks, S&Ws and other high capacity pistols, which can now compete in the major caliber class thanks to new cartridges (.40 S&W) or new designs (.45 and 10mm Glocks).

Is this Progress? No, its hypocrisy in its worst form! Well, they have won for the moment, but they cannot hold back progress forever. Time, and firearms development, wait for no man.

If this is how the shooting sports were meant to run, we'd all be competing with single-action S&W .44 Russian revolvers, with black powder cartridges!

> Paul Scarlata Asheboro, NC

I Am No Prude

Massad Ayoob is a knowledgeable and articulate writer on guns, self-protection, and armed combat. However, as proofreading failures draw more attention to minor errors than to major points, his

I eagerly handgun hunt bears with bearded, fried chicken loving, tobacco chewing men.

messages are muddled by his (self-titillating) use of sexual imagery and slang.

The word scumbag in the introduction to his "Doorstep Shootout" (*The Ayoob Files*, March/April '91) article reflects

poorly on him, your magazine, and handgunners in general.

Although an Ivy Leaguer with two degrees, I am no prude. I eagerly handgun hunt bears with bearded, fried chicken loving, tobacco chewing men who use the *mf* word in every other sentence. But what goes in the woods, on the street, in the bar, or in the men's room, doesn't go in public, especially in print.

When all gunners are subject to close scrutiny by so many (mostly ill-informed) "antis," we all need to make the best possible impression as mature and responsible individuals, or risk losing one of our most important individual rights.

Sheldon L. Smith Austin, Texas

Virgin Mouth

I just opened my March/April 1991 issue of *American Handgunner* and was stopped cold by large bold type at the top column three on page 7.

Obviously, the headline and the following letter compare Massad Ayoob to a bodily orifice. I don't entirely disagree with the analogy (pun intended) however I do strongly disagree with the delivery of the message.

If attorney Marshall Davis Brown, Jr. had the lapse of good judgement to use the unfortunate term in his correspondence to your magazine, you should have certainly had the good sense to edit before

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Dillon Precision is now your one-stop source for BRASS, BULLETS and POWDER from leading manufacturers like Remington, Hercules, Winchester, Sierra and PMC!

printing it. What else are editors for?

I take strong exception to this for two reasons. First, I have witnessed a steady decline in the English language to the present point where the most commonly used adjectives are or should be unprintable. Our children are being raised hearing this language on the street and in their homes and now they are reading it on public bathroom walls and in the pages of American Handgunner magazine.

Next, I am sure the anti-gunners will be pleased to see this development. They already categorize legal law abiding gun owners with armed robbers, muggers and thieves. They would portray us as red necked, pot bellied and foul mouthed and you have reinforced their tainted picture.

I have rarely been called "virgin mouth" but I will tell you that I don't use foul language in the presence of a lady and I certainly would not print it, sign my name to it and publish it for hundreds of thousands of people to see.

D. Thomas Thompson Cypress, Texas

Club 100 Is Tops!

What is American Handgunner's pick of 100 gunsmiths like?

A week or so before Christmas my young wife ordered a Predator from Mag-Na-Port (my Christmas present).

She was told it might not be possible to gain the cherished delivery of her choice due to the work load at Mag-Na-Port. But Larry Kelly, one of your Club 100 pistolsmiths, went the extra mile and the gun was delivered to icy Iowa on Dec. 23!

There, sirs, is a gentleman of the old school. And judging the Predator against my standard 7½ inch Ruger Super Blackhawk, a man who heads a fine group of 'smiths!

Your Club 100 list has been placed in my permanent binder. If the other 99 men you stand behind are of the caliber of Larry Kelly... need I say more?

Casey W. Raskof St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Nuked With Nice

Nearly two years ago I ordered a Dillon Precision RL550B reloading press for my police department. I have used this piece of equipment to initiate a comprehensive loading program to supply range ammo for our issue 9mm Glock pistols.

After loading nearly 10,000 rounds of 9mm I broke a primer seating punch. I called Dillon Precision and requested current prices on the appropriate part.

Instead of getting a reply to my question, I was asked what went wrong. After explaining the circumstances, I was told that Dillon would send me a complete new primer slide assembly at no cost.

Although this was my first experience with breakage on my press, it was the second time I had called Dillon. Both times I called, the folks at Dillon Preci-

sion nuked me with nice!

My new primer slide assembly arrived six days later. I installed the new piece and was up and running as before.

The important point is that I never asked or argued for free replacement of my broken part. And I certainly don't consider a minor part defective if it breaks after 10,000 rounds and two years of use.

Dillon Precision does care, and they aren't afraid to show you. Their RL550B is by far the finest manual-progressive reloader I have ever used. It is apparent to me that Dillon Precision stands behind their product.

It is equally apparent that Dillon stands behind the people who purchase their products. I am happy to be a volunteer Dillon Precision ambassador. I just hope that their corporate behavior rubs off on other companies.

Patrolman Chris Raboin Int'l. Falls Police Dept. Int'l. Falls, Minn.

Tell It Like It Is

Let's go to the wonderful article written by Frank W. James, *The Nationals That Wasn't* (March/April 1991). Controversy is the key word in Mr. James' article and I am so glad to see that Mr. James and your magazine has the integrity to tell it like it is and not sugar coat it as so many others have done.

The brouhaha over the 9mm Major is



just the tip of the iceberg. Now we must contend with calling optical sights practical in a defensive role. Jerry Barnhart says they're "practical" in his interview with Dave Anderson. I don't think Mr. Barnhart has a clue to what it's like in the real world.

Optical sights may have a place on weapons of a special tactics team, but there is no place for them on the weapons of the beat cop, detective, or for that matter, anyone else that carries a gun in a practical sense. Obviously, Jerry has watched too many Arnold Schwarzenegger movies.

Lastly, I will comment on an editorial written by Mike Dillon in his paper *The Blue Press* (Jan. '91). Mr. Dillon tells how photojournalist Nyle Leatham was barred from a IPSC World Assembly Conference meeting in Australia during the recent world shoot by none other than a direct representative of USPSA president, Dave Stanford. It appears that Mr. Leatham was barred because he works for your magazine.

As Mr. Dillon points out, this is clearly an infringement on the First Amendment rights of Mr. Leatham. Fellow USPSA members should take note. Is this really the man we want running USPSA? How about a vote of no confidence. He surely has mine!

L. Peale Grand Junction, Colo.

God Bless Handgunner

Thank God for American Handgunner!

It's so refreshing to read an article in a magazine that tells it like it was. The Nationals that wasn't— what an understatement! (March/April '91)

For almost two years I worked for my slot to this match. Even after being laid off from my job at Southern Gun & Tackle and out of work for almost a year, I hung on, scrimping and saving so I could attend. I even sold several of my guns as well to "pay the price" of attending.

Eight months prior to the match I began to work with my 9mm Major, and was eager to compete, only to have USPSA judge 9mm Major to be "unsafe."

But did I kick and scream? No, I said, "Okay, if it's dangerous then I'll stop shooting 9mm Major," although I never had a problem with it in my Glock.

As the Nationals approached I switched to a Glock .40 S&W only days before the match. As the match progressed, although shooting very poorly, I was still having fun.

That's when I observed Rob Leatham picking up brass at the chronograph. I remarked to my shooting buddy how odd that seemed— maybe the sponsors were getting tight?

That's when I heard about 9x21 and my heart sank, I felt betrayed by USPSA, the organization I've been so proud to belong to.

All of a sudden because the Big Boys

and the Big Bucks wanted it, 9mm Major was now "safe." I'm sure if I showed up at the Nationals with a 9x21 and was the only competitor with it, they would have kicked my ass out of Barry quicker than you can say JLE/TSW!

So much for "safety of the competitors."

I also noticed something your article did not mention. The favoritism given to the Top Guns. I personally saw one top shooter break the 180°, forcing the spectators to lean back, out of harms way. But no D.Q.

I also saw a Top Gun have a major jam on a stage, only to have the timer malfunction while he was trying to clear it, Reshoot!

Yes, this was my first and last Nationals.

James Graubard
Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Gun Control Tactics

Has anyone noticed the similarities in the principles and tactics used by those pushing for the "Major Nine" ban in USPSA and gun control advocates (HCI especially) in general?

Despite the fact that Major Nine is perfectly safe when loaded properly and used safely by thousands of shooters around the world, the USPSA wants it banned citing a "concern for safety."

The "problem," if indeed there is one, is with irresponsible loaders/shooters, not the Major Nine! It is unsafe people we need to ban, not the Major Nine.

The safety issue that USPSA stands on is identical to the arguments HCI uses to push for gun control instead of crime control. The ultimate extrapolation of this "concern for safety" would certainly solve the problem since it ends up with

everyone disarmed!

T"Sgt. Michael S. Orick Kirtland AFB, NM.

Dillon Takes A Licking, Keeps On Ticking!

In your May/June issue's Ayoob Files on "The Greg Ferris Incident," we received a call from Greg shortly after his admirable defense. The first blast of buckshot, while leaving the majority of his Square Deal functioning, demolished the powder measure unit.

After appropriate consultation (10 or 15 milliseconds) it was decided that although this was an extreme case, we would replace the powder measure under Dillon's No-Bullshit Lifetime Warranty. His shot-up powder measure is still gathering dust around here someplace.

Gary Kieft Salesman/Technician Dillon Precision Products Scottsdale, Ariz.

PS: There is one other known instance of a Dillon loader being shot. A customer's friend "accidentally" discharged a 9mm 125 FMJ into the frame of his RL 550B. The impact put a very slight dimple in the frame without even chipping the paint.

We don't encourage our customers to shoot their machines.

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.



FRANK JAMES

ELECTRONIC SCALES SAVE TIME AND FRUSTRATION OF ITTY-BITTY WEIGHTS

othing is more paramount during the process of reloading both in terms of accuracy and safety than a reliable means of weight measurement.

Handloading the empty metallic cartridge case for use in shooting practice, competition, hunting or self-defense demands a precise method of measurement. It is the very essence and definition of safety to know exactly the amount and weight of the powder charge and projectile employed during the reloading process.

Lyman Products Corp. and the RCBS division of Blout, Inc. have always produced fine balance beam reloading scales, but now they have gone a step further with the introduction of two different electronic scales. And I want to tell you the end result from both firms is nothing short of great!

Balance beam scales are the industry standard and their prices range from very reasonable (almost cheap) to the more expensive models. One of the more elaborate balance beam scales on the market is the RCBS Model 304 that I have been using for several years.

The Model 304 is a laboratory quality balance beam scale with a ten grain dial wheel that is accurate to the nearest tenth of a grain. The advantage here is one of speed, because even though the RCBS

304 has two beams (one for 10 to 100 grains, and a second for 100 to 1,000 grains) the dial is used to fine tune the final reading without need of adjusting the weight on one of the beams.

It is this adjustment of the weights on the beams that has always driven me absolutely nuts. I hate it! There

Even though the beams are dampened magnetically, it still takes too long for the

is no other way to say it. I detest adjust-

ing a balance beam scale.

beam to find a balance point and the final zero for my short tempered patience. Since time is one of the few things we can't go out and buy I get impatient while

waiting for the beam to finally stop moving. I am usually running behind to begin with, but the Model 304 allowed me use of the dial for an accurate reading without having to fumble with tiny weights on the ever shaky beams, and up to the introduction of these electronic scales I was quite pleased with the Model 304.

Now I have discovered something better. Something even more idiot-proof and fumble-resistant— the electronic scale.

Lyman LE-1000

There are a number of differences

between the two scales, but let me say up front that both scales are excellent and each receives a Siskel and Ebert "thumbs up" recommendation from me.

The Lyman LE-1000 is presented in a smaller package than the RCBS Model 90

and as such its liquid crystal readout is smaller, which makes it a little more difficult to read depending upon 1) your eyesight, 2) the light available, and 3) how much of a hurry you are in.

The major difference between the two is the fact the Lyman LE-1000 is rated for twice the weight of the RCBS Model 90. The RCBS Model 90 weighs only in grains and will weigh no more than 500 of 'em.

The Lyman LE-1000, on the other hand, will weigh both grains and grams and has an upper limit of 1,000 grains. Each scale reads to the nearest tenth of a grain and each scale takes about the same amount of time to finalize its readout.

Which, incidentally, is about the same time it takes a balance beam scale to quit oscillating. The advantage with the electronic scale is you hit the zero balance point, first time, every time.

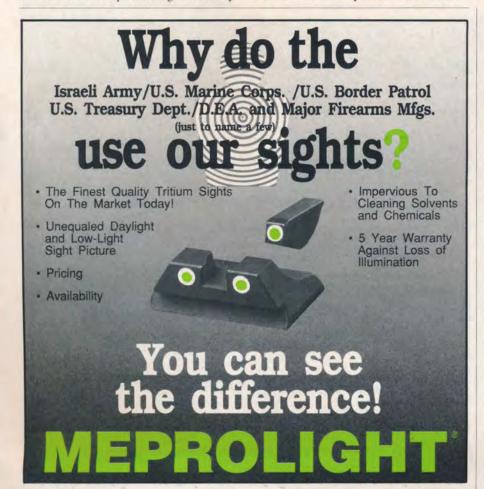
The Lyman LE-1000 comes with a 50 gram test weight, but my test weight was a little light as it was supposed to be 771.6 grains. It wasn't. It weighed only 771.2 grains, but it also showed only 49.97 grams so at least it was consistent.

RCBS Model 90

The RCBS Model 90 operates off eight AA batteries or through use of a 110 volt AC adapter. The liquid quartz readout is large enough to be read easily since the letters are a half inch in height.

The RCBS Model 90 comes complete with the AC power adapter, two 250 grain calibration weights, a scale pan,

Continued on page 115



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J. D. JONES

FREEDOM ARMS NOW CONVERTS TO .45 ACP AND .45 COLT CYLINDERS

here will be another trophy whitetail handgun only hunt at White Oak Plantation next December. Write or call Robert Pittman for information on all their hunting at White Oak Plantation, Rt. #1, Box 25, Dept AH, Tuskegee, AL 36088, phone, 205-727-9258. Numbers are limited on this hunt though there is plenty of other time to schedule a hunt.

For those interested in a trophy Alaskan caribou hunt contact Jim Herbert at (313) 258-1550 which is the number of Big Game Safaris, 44 Long Lake Rd., Dept. AH, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. This is somewhat of an unusual Caribou hunt about a hundred miles from Prudhoe Bay. Final fly in arrangements are still pending and will probably not be com-

pleted until the desires of the hundreds are considered.

There are both scenic and fast routes. The hunt is for resident animals—that means it's not dependent on migration to provide animals for the hunting area.

Accommodations are quite good for this sort of hunt. It is not a "strictly on your own" hunt but a partially guided hunt. We plan to have one guide for every four hunters. This provides a far greater chance of success,

safety and someone to do a major portion of the bull work while providing a hunt far more reasonably priced than a fully guided hunt.

The hunter also feels more comfortable with what he has accomplished than on a fully guided hunt. The hunt will be for five days of actual hunting which should be adequate for selecting a trophy caribou. There is excellent fishing and no extra charge for wolf, wolverine or arctic fox.

Hunt dates are August 25-31 which may be extended for moose which opens on September 1. The hunt itself is \$2,250. Be sure to check out any extras such as licenses and any additional transportation costs which will undoubtably vary according to the scenic or fly-in route.

So far all of the hunts I've recom-

mended in this column have turned out very well. I hope it keeps up. Jim is a very experienced world-wide booking agent who, although he is personally a bowhunter, is fully dedicated to the hunting sports and a past winner of Kelly's Handgun Hunter Hall of Fame award. If you are looking for any kind of hunt, Herbert is worth checking.

By the way, I'm not a booking agent and don't make a cent off of any hunts booked as a result of this column—this is strictly a service.

SSK In Iraq

Desert Shield has generated the greatest ground swell of patriotism and support of our military in history. Desert Storm and the subsequent return of some

excellent with accurate than owned with on was worn out in expensive, lar shoots!

I'll not try to tiny group sizes flyers because the but I will predict than owned with on was worn out in expensive, lar shoots!



SSK Express Mail! A pair of 2,000 lb. laser-aimed bombs on an F-111F prepare to show Saddam's goons the gates of hell. Photo by SSgt. Scott Earle, 366TFW.

troops has kept the ball rolling. Don't forget them.

There will be a lot of guys in the desert for a long time. Send them condiments to spice up MREs, disposable cameras to take a few pictures to remember a time in their lives, foods such as dried fruits, canned tuna, Spam— you get the picture. Books to pass boring time with.

And don't forget the vets in Veterans Hospitals all over the country. These guys from WW II, Korea, Vietnam and disabled by accident during peacetime have paid and are still paying a terrible price for the freedoms which we take for granted and abuse.

Its payback time. Visit them. Take them a small gift. Let them know they haven't and won't be forgotten. Get your organization to sponsor short day trips fishing—visiting zoos, museums, whatever— is of interest in your area. Saying "Thanks" isn't an embarrassment; its an obligation far too many have forgotten.

Freedom Arms News

Freedom Arms .22/.22 Mag. interchangeable cylinder revolver is well launched. Production is well underway with several hundred guns delivered at this writing.

The test gun I have is fitted with both cylinders and performs well with both of them. Chambers are tight— ammunition varies in bullet diameter with the general feeling the largest diameter bullets provide the best accuracy. However, you will have to clean the chambers of this one to keep it shooting.

The overall performance of the gun is excellent with both cylinders. It is more accurate than any .22 revolver I've owned with one possible exception that was worn out in the early Sixties. Yep, its expensive, large and heavy— but it shoots!

I'll not try to dazzle you with quoting tiny group sizes and making excuses for flyers because the wind caught the bullet, but I will predict you will begin to see

revolver .22 silhouette scores getting a lot closer to those shot by the auto pistols and single shots.

Speaking of Freedom, I sent my sixinch octagon .454 back to Freedom for a .45 Colt cylinder and also one of the first .45 ACP cylinders installed in a FA revolver. Haven't shot the .45 Colt yet but the 4.5 ACP is a ball with good handloads. .22 turkeys at 75 yards are "gimmies" from a rest with this gun on a calm day. If the wind

is blowing much its a different story!

The addition of either or both accessory cylinders to your existing .454 can really increase the usefulness and pleasure of using a fine revolver. Freedom advises they can give reasonable turn around on the extra cylinders too. Mine took about six weeks.

I've been having excellent results in .45 ACP revolvers with the 230 Hornady flat point and from 7.5 to 8.5 grains of 800X.

A note of caution about shooting .45 Colt cases in .454 Cylinders. Don't do it. The end of the chambers are square cut. Jacketed bullets can expand to chamber diameter between the end of the case and the end of the chamber.

Continued on page 102

THE SOLUTION

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ELECTRO PRISMATIC COLLIMATORS, INC 375 S. FLOWERS MILL ROAD, LANGHORNE , PA. 19047 TELEPHONE (708)-698-9600 FAX (708)-698-9623 a back-up system. Use of Kevlar composites gives the sight shock resistance up to 5000g. It is also waterproof to 20m.

The iron sights which remain visible through the **EPC** can still be used as

....

DEBBY JAMES

LADIES WORLD CHAMP SAYS GOOD CARE OF EQUIPMENT IS KEY TO WIN

hooting is an art in itself. A competent level of performance in one area of shooting can take many years. The long hours spent on the practice range is only one aspect on the road to success.

Within the main shell of "shooting" there exist three sub-shells that are reloading, gunsmithing, and practice. Each is an art in itself, with sub-systems branching off like a country road. Without exploration, you'll never know how to get to the right place.

Starting Out

Like all new handgunners, I bought a pistol and some usable leather. I had expectations that a stock system and a chronized with each of the "Big Three" loading configurations. These are:

1) The low power end used for Steel Challenge. 2) The mid power end used for Bianchi. 3) The high power end used for IPSC.

I brought a portable reloader, chronograph, tools, and a bag full of spare springs to the range. After finding a load that sat safely on the edge of the desired-power factor, I clipped recoil and mainsprings, a half coil at a time, until shell ejection and the forward slide feeding cycle was acceptable. Resulting data was noted and logged.

Compensators Arrive

The coming of delayed-recoil com-

Cracked lower lugs were due to the .38 Super's violent slide snap. After one barrelmaker got tired of sending me a new barrel every week, he tacked a slab of weld in back of the lug which cured the problem.

Full supported barrels came along about this same time and pot-bellied brass ended. However, fully supported chambers were tight as a drum and brass had to be resized all the way down to the rim!

I found that standard .38 Super resizer dies wouldn't do this. I ground the bottom radius off a Dillon die and seated it down far enough to depress the shell plate. This got us a few extra thousandth's closer to the case rim which cured 99% of our feeding problems.

Standard Colt 9mm/.38 Super extractors also worked poorly with high power ammo. I discovered this fact after having many failure-to-extract induced jams known as the dreaded "double feed."

Bill Wilson came out with beautiful new tuned .38 Super extractors to solve this shortcoming. They have a solid extractor head with a deep, sharp groove unlike the standard Colt style.

Flattened primers, at first, caused no malfunctions, so I thought! During



few boxes of store-bought ammo would do it all.

At my first competition I got beaten by a shooter whose .45 pistol shot without recoil. My stock Gold Cup with hardball ammo bucked like a mule. This started my competitor's drive to find the cutting edge of equipment.

I soon discovered the virtues of reloading, which brings its own agony and ecstasy. Having tailored recoilless loads, we must then deal with the 1911-Al spring systems, which have to be syn-

pensator pistols presented a whole new panorama to the cutting edge as did the list of new gun powders and bullet configurations.

Among them, the .38 Super brought its own agony and ecstasy— the ecstasy being high capacity and no recoil torque and the agony of extreme case pressures and finicky cycling.

To enjoy the ecstasy I had to discover ways to cure the agony. These took the form of flattened primers, pot-bellied brass, bent extractors, and blown barrel lugs.

matches, however, I always had one round that failed to fire. This never occurred in practice, only at matches. The bad rounds all had a strange little half-moon dent in the primer and would fire perfectly on the second hit. This problem, having the classic sign of high-primers, threw me for months.

It cost me a \$15 entry fee to find the real problem. Small bits of chrome from the flattened primers were plugging the firing pin hole when using Continued on page 22

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Match Stainless Barrels	Save \$\$\$	B.A.T. Ultra-Comp Full Profile Kit III	\$299.95	Hi-Swep Beavertail Grip Safety Stainless	\$33.95
	Save \$\$\$	B.A.T. Ultra-Match Deluxe Hammer	\$ 28.95	Match Grade Commander Hammer Blue	\$35.95
Extended Magazine Button	Save \$\$\$	B.A.T. Pro-Series V Comp Kit	\$425.00	Match Grade Commander Hammer Stainless	\$38.95
Match Trigger w/3 Holes			\$250.00	Hex Head 1911 Grip Screw Blue	\$ 7.95
Commander Hammer Blue or Stainless	Save \$\$\$	NEW! B.A.T. Dually Comp II Comp Kit	\$895.00	Hex Head 1911 Grip Screw Stainless	\$ 8.95
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The cure came in the form of these three items—first, a turned down .45 firing pin. This caused a wider primer impact and left no room in the firing pin hole for chrome blow-back. Secondly, the use of the thicker small rifle primers and, thirdly, the use of Blue Dot powder.

Expanding Skills

After six years of digging for the elusive "edge" in pistolcraft, I decided to expand my shooting skills.

I wanted to experience other areas of competition outside the IPSC arena. In doing so I have come to realize the real road to success is in the 10 by 12 foot gunsmithing/reloading room.

You can't even go out and practice if you don't have a reliable gun and load combination.

My journey began when Judy Woolley and Kay Clark called me in January '91. They wanted me as a teammate in the Chevy Truck Sportsman's Three-Gun Team Challenge.

I quickly scrambled to take out the old Remington 1100 12 gauge, and Ruger 10/22 I had won at some pistol match. Within the first eight shots the 1100 jammed.

Having little knowledge of the Remington 1100, my practice session ended.

An experienced shotgun competitor told me that the gas ports needed to be enlarged.

"Start with the small drill bits, shoot the gun, and work your way up," was the advice. He was right! Skeet loads now eject perfectly.

When all this was going on with the shotgun, I was having the Ruger rebarrelled. I began the process of finding an accurate and reliable .22 LR brand. I found Winchester Super-X High Velocity to be reliable and very accurate during my practice sessions.

No sooner did I latch onto the Winchester than Kay Clark said, "Maybe you should change to CCI Green Tag for the match."

I had several malfunctions. An experienced .22 bullseye shooter recommended putting a tad of oil on .22 bullet heads to aid feeding in semi-autos. I decided to give the oil theory a try. It was the only thing I changed in my practice session before the jams occurred.

I quickly stripped the rifle and cleaned it thoroughly, including the rotary magazines. I went back to having quality practice sessions without the oil.

The overall field of competitive shooting is so diversified that it is impossible for any one person to master all aspects. From muzzleloaders to air pistols, each requires a lifetime of personal dedication to research, develop, and test in the heat

of competition.

Constantly updated equipment makes our search for the cutting edge a dynamic chase that changes daily.

Always running on the edge, top competitors realize that there are no books to guide them. Conferring with other shooters and long hours of field testing go beyond that which books can legally print. Top competitors find a total package, from leather to ear-plugs, that will put them at optimum advantage.

Winners press it past the edge of the envelope to find out how far is too far, back off one-half click, and go for it! So don't be afraid to experiment!

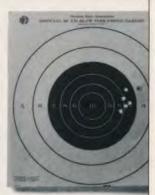
This is my advice to all shooters. Decide at least one year in advance what matches you will attend. Begin the process of working out loading specs and gunsmithing of the specific equipment needed for the match. Then you'll be able to focus strictly on skill development in practice when the time comes, while others frantically search for functional equipment.

Debby James, four-time IPSC Ladies U.S. National Champion and two-time IPSC Ladies World Champion, is a member of Team Colt. Debby, a health teacher, is married to Russ James, a police sergeant with the Bristol, Conn., PD and U.S. Team Manager at the recent IPSC World Shoot in Australia.









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BUY A LATHE AND THEN YOU CAN BRAG "NOW I IS A PISTOLSMITH!"

hen you put the word 'custom" in front of the title "pistolsmith," you advertise to the world that you'll take on the work that most 'smiths turn down.

My customer wanted what, at first glance, seemed to be a straightforward job of barrel replacement in his S&W revolver. A closer examination revealed some problems.

In order to meet shape specifications- the desired effect was to be attained by cutting away the length of lug that protects the extractor rod, leaving only the front portion, as in early revolvers- the tapered barrel had to be machined from a different configuration, leaving an integral platform portion on the bottom that was not the same distance from the bore centerline as the barrel's top surface.

This combination would create some problems in packing each independent chuck jaw to true the bore prior to cutting the shoulder.

An alternative-holding between centers- was better, but still required turning out accurate plugs for both ends of the bore with 60° center holes to accommodate the lathe centers, then making a small padded lathe dog that would not injure the barrel or front sight, yet would be solid enough to drive the barrel.

Since it usually takes me at least three cuts to do the shoulder trim so that the front blade is perpendicular, starting with a barrel that needs 7/8 of a turn to true, I was going to have to go through the set and re-set procedure enough times to make it tedious.

Faced with this prospect, I decided to order Brownell's new barrel set back fixture and do the job by hand, rather than in the lathe. Then the fun really began.

First, I found that the fixture takes the new style of barrel facing pilot. Mine are the old threaded style. That didn't prove too much of a problem, since I only need two for the work I do.

What stumped me was the fact that the barrel bottomed out in the fixture before the cutter blade reached the barrel shoulder.

I hasten to add that this was a special job and as provided, the fixture is satisfactory for cutting the shoulder on nearly every barrel I have ever worked over. The fact remained that I was going to have to alter the fixture to do the work at hand.

Of my two choices— deepening the counterbore in the tool body or making a cutter with a longer reach- I chose the latter. The 3/8 shank brazed carbide tool is a relatively cheap item at industrial supply companies. The shank is soft and machine easily.

All I had to do was drill three holes and tap two of them for the elevation set screws. The cutter then reached the shoulder and allowed the job to proceed. Although I seriously doubt that many 'smiths will ever need to make this alteration to a well-thought-out fixture, you have a simple solution to the problem.

I was not satisfied with the lock nut on

the center elevating screw in the fixture body, so I substituted a 1/4"-28 wing nut. That made adjustment easy and accurate, but I still wasn't satisfied with the advance action.

After some thought, I drilled a slightly larger hole in the base of the elevating member, squeezed in a single ball bearing of appropriate size, honed down the slightly expanded skirt to accurately fit the bore in the fixture body and re-assembled the device.

The result was a smooth action, easily adjustable to accurate dimensional changes and an extremely useful time saver in cutting down barrel shoulders to fit a new barrel or to compensate for improper cylinder gap. The Brownell barrel set back fixture is a worthwhile acquisition for any revolversmith.

Taiwanese Lathe

It's axiomatic that purchase of a metal turning lathe will put a pistolsmith in a position to accept a wider scope of work than was possible only working with hand tools. But lathes are a big ticket item.

Pistolsmiths can get by with a smaller machine than 'smiths who work on rifles, so any serious worker can obtain an adequate lathe without undue financial strain. Selling a couple of personal guns may be the simple solution.

I looked at several small Taiwanese lathes at local importers and from everything I could determine, any of these would prove useful to a beginning pistolsmith.

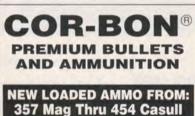
While the Taiwanese lathes aren't in the same class with European lathes, or even used American lathes, they are an adequate minimum and will repay the investment quickly. And, since most pistolsmiths don't have very deep pockets, these Taiwanese offerings are going to be big sellers in the next few years.

Two companies that import small lathes are: Shop Task, P. O. Box 7531, Dept. AH, Tacoma, WA 98407 (The Shop Task is a versatile combination of lathe, mill and drill.) and Grizzly Imports, Inc., Dept. AH, P. O. Box 2069 Bellingham, WA 98227 (Grizzly imports an 8" swing lathe with a quick change box, suitable for cutting a variety of screw threads.)

Brownells handles the versatile and accurate Emco Compact 5 lathe that converts to milling and drilling through the use of accessories. They also handle the Unimat 3 that converts similarly. You can reach Brownells at Rt. 2, Box 1, Dept. AH, Montezuma, IA 50171

While acquisition of a lathe won't automatically put you into the big time, it would be a step in the right direction.

John Lawson is a master pistolsmith in business since 1946 at The Sight Shop, 1802 E. Columbia Ave., Dept. AH, Tacoma, WA 98404. Write to inquire about your pistolsmithing needs or call Pacific Time Zone at (206) 474-5465.



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OVER-PENETRATING BULLETS POSE SERIOUS THREAT TO INNOCENT LIVES

ast night, when I arrived in the Northwest for a teaching stint, my associate instructor Bob Smith of Post Falls, Idaho, told me of his friend who'd had a startling revelation.

"Bob," the friend had said, "I've seen this videotape about stopping power. We've been doing it all wrong! Penetration is everything! We need bullets that

go all the way through!"

My mind flashed back to the night before, in Tampa, when I'd been talking shop with Joe Ciarciglino, the famous defense lawyer for cops. Joe had told of a case when he was with the prosecutor's office in which a man had decided to settle a barroom dispute by going out to his car for his .357 Magnum.

He had returned to the saloon and fired two shots, shooting three people. The two Magnum slugs had instantly killed the object of his angry intentions. The first slug had then passed through and struck another unoffending bar patron in the head, killing him instantly. The second bullet had also exited, striking and severely wounding yet another customer.

The man with the .357 remains incarcerated and will doubtless die in prison, convicted of two counts of murder in the first degree and one of aggravated

Penetration Casualties

Bob's friend had said, "Stop and think! No one has ever been hit by a bullet that has gone through someone else!"

I had just rolled my eyes. I knew where he'd gotten that information, and it made me ashamed to be a gunwriter. The fact is, history is rife with people hurt by bullets that have gone through other people.

This is one reason why, in the early 1960s, the Phoenix Police Department became the first major agency to adopt the "controlled expansion bullet," as hol-

lowpoints are euphemistically known in law enforcement, and why the vast majority of our nation's police quickly followed suit.

As we scan back into the history of the Old West, we note that the bullet fired from ambush that mortally wounded Morgan Earp in a poolhall, revenge for the young Earp's part in the gunfight at the OK Corral, exited his body and severely wounded a bystander.

That wasn't the first time and it was not to be the last.

Modern Examples

Look just at the last couple of years. In late 1989, a Philadelphia police officer was killed by police .38 slugs that had gone through a felony suspect who was between him and the officers who fired.

In 1990, a shooting on a University of Arizona campus saw a 9mm bullet fired by Officer A pass through the arm of the aggressor he was shooting at and go on to kill Officer B.

Later that year, in Southern California, deputies of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department became embroiled in a shootout with an armed robber. The suspect ran into the doorway of a mom n' pop convenience store that was just closing. The lights had been turned off a moment before.

The officers could not see the innocent person behind the felon as they fired. The



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147 grain subsonic hollowpoint, chosen by the department after FBI's study found their deep penetration desirable, tore through the gunman's body and into the woman hidden in the darkness behind him.

The woman died. The suspect lived.

Miami Massacre

The current trend to deep penetrating bullets can be traced to a single incident. On April 11 of 1986, the most infamous gunfight of modern times unfolded in Dade County, Florida on the outskirts of Miami. The story has been told in these pages.

Of the many lessons learned and the many factors that played a role in the shootout that killed two FBI agents, crippled three for life, and wounded two more, it was noted that most of the agents were shot by suspect Michael Platt after he had been wounded in the chest with a 9mm Winchester Silvertip 115 grain hollowpoint by Agent Jerry Dove, who was himself slain moments later by Platt.

The bullet had gone through the killer's right arm before piercing the thorax, severing the pulmonary artery, and stopping just short of the gunman's heart.

Many theorized that if the bullet had just penetrated a few inches deeper, it would have bled the gunman dry before he could have finished his deadly orgy. That may have been true, but it begged the issue.

Dozens of shots were fired without effect at Platt and his partner, William

Matix, without striking them. The tactics used were atrocious. The FBI did in fact make some changes in its marksmanship training, adopted the HK MP5SF semi-automatic carbine as a direct result, and also significantly changed and improved the manner in which felony arrest tactics were taught to the agents.

The recognition, within the Bureau, of the tactical factors that had led to the debacle, prompted important and meaningful changes. ly by the even more widely publicized adoption of the Smith & Wesson Model 1076 pistol and a new, downloaded version of the 10mm Auto cartridge, the 10mm Lite.

FBI Illusion

The illusion had been created that the Bureau felt the Miami failure was purely a matter of firepower and stopping power. When FBI's subsequent and systematic study of ammunition led to a heavy

When FBI's systematic study of ammunition led to adoption of the 147 grain subsonic hollowpoint, the Penetration Proponents were off and running.

Outside the Bureau, however, little was known of the tragedy save for the reenactment film *Firefight* produced by FBI and distributed widely among our police establishment.

The tactical failures clearly recognized at the FBI Academy in Quantico were not addressed in that film. In addition, most of the improvements that came about as a result of the Miami shootout were not publicized.

One that was, was the approval of 9mm and .45 semi-automatics for use by field agents, followed almost immediate-

emphasis on deep tactical penetration, and adoption of the 147 grain subsonic hollowpoint for those who used the 9mm within the agency, the Penetration Proponents were off and running.

Not everyone had seen all dimensions of the problem.

The single most quoted authority when you discuss this matter is Col. Martin Fackler, MD, the US Army's leading authority on small arms wounds. Unfortunately, many in the world of the gun do not have Dr. Fackler's medical knowledge, and fail to understand that his life's



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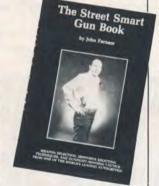
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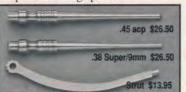


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45% Reduction in lock time gives M-1911 owners unmatched accuracy with these new light weight hammers. Bullseye Shooters, Titanium Hammers offer the latest quantum leap in accuracy. IPSC Shooters, there is no turning back once you have experienced the benefits of 45% less lock time for speed shooting sports.

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Weighs 45% less than factory standard parts to further reduce lock time. The .38 Super/9mm Firing Pins have improved geometry to reduce "Primer Bleed & Firing Pin Skate" in IPSC Major Loads.



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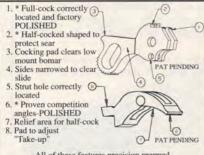
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Chip McCormick Corp. 7506 Bender Drive Austin, TX 78749

work has been determining how gunshot wounds do damage, with a view toward repairing them.

He has made great strides in this area, and it will be what he's remembered for in the medical schools. However, analyzing gunshot wound dynamics with a perspective toward stopping power had never been his field until others began to extrapolate his work.

When I visited Dr. Fackler at his lab in the Letterman Institute at the Presidio, I realized that he had a better handle on this penetration thing than most of those who attempt to interpret his work.

Fackler's Diagrams

On the wall of his office were two depictions of human bodies, overlaid with the approximately two foot long wound track of a .45 ACP 230 grain hardball round through muscle tissue.

In one, it was a figure of a bad guy pointing a pistol at a cop. The bullet has entered the arm, tracked lengthwise along the bones, and passed through the armpit and into the chest, there traversing the heart and lungs before coming to rest in the spleen.

But the next image put it in perspective. Three average men were standing in line. The same wound track went through and through the chest of the first, exited his back and did the same to the man standing behind him, and, exiting the sec-

But the next image put it in perspective.Three fatal wounds on three men from one overpenetrating pistol bullet.

ond man, pierced the thorax of the third, lodging in his heart. Three fatal wounds on three men from one over-penetrating

As we look at those shootings mentioned above, we who are involved in ammo selection for police patrol have to balance these two graphic real world views of deep penetration.

On your next patrol tour, as you and a brother officer interact with a suspect, observe how many times that individual gets between the two of you.

If you had to fire, with the offender's body the only backstop between you and your gun muzzle and your partner's body, would you really want a deeply penetrating bullet to emerge from the muzzle of your gun?

If your partner had to fire with you standing on the opposite side of this subject, what would you want his gun to be loaded with?



Eye of the eagle, kick of the mule.

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Leupold EER scopes, from top to bottom: 2X, 2X Silver, 4X and 4X Silver.

shaking handgun like the Ruger Redhawk 44 Magnum, then pull the trigger. What happens?

From the scope's perspective, nothing. Because Leupold EERs are built to withstand the kind of handgun recoil that makes your body ache and the competition beg for mercy. Round after round.

This is no idle boast. If it was, we couldn't back these scopes

with the best consumer protection in the business: The Leupold Full Lifetime Guarantee. But we do back them up. And we impact-test the tar out of them.

that random EERs are pulled from inventory and sent to "the machine." Looking something like a guillotine, our impact tester subjects scopes to as many as 15,000 impacts over several hours. It attempts to destroy seals, dislodge reticles, and make chaos of mechanical systems. Such manhandling would kick the life out of most handgun scopes. But not Leupold EER scopes.

And yet, when you sight through an EER, you get an eagle-eye picture that's bright, clear and crisp. So getting on target is easy and fast.

All four Oregon-made EER scopes (2X, 2X Silver, 4X and 4X Silver) feature the famous Leupold Duplex® reticle. And, they're guaranteed to be waterproof.

See the EERs. That is, if you've an eye for ruggedness.





FREEDOM ARMS REVOLVERS FINALLY ARE LEGAL UNDER I.H.M.S.A. RULES

he IHMSA production price ceiling rule is now history and Freedom Arms revolvers, which have always been legal for silhouetting under NRA rules, are now once again legal under IHMSA rules.

I say "once again" as the Freedom Arms was a certified production revolver prior to the Price Ceiling Rule after the 1986 Internationals. At least two competitors used Freedom Arms revolvers at

Freedom Arms new .22 is sure to set new IHMSA records.

the 1986 Internationals and they were certified as production guns legal for competition at that time.

During the 1986 Internationals, I discussed the coming proposal for a price limit on production guns with then IHMSA president Elgin Gates. The figure mentioned to me at the time was a ceiling price of \$1,000. No revolver or single shot was being offered at the time that even came close to this figure. The Colt Python was selling in the \$600 range and the retail price for the Freedom Arms revolvers with adjustable sights was \$795.

In late 1985 I contacted Wayne Baker, president of Freedom Arms, to obtain a .454 Casull for silhouetting. Up to this point I had never seen a Freedom Arms product as they had only been producing revolvers for about two years.

Baker informed me that they did have Bo-Mar sights available for the Freedom Arms guns and I ordered a 10-inch .454 Premier Grade revolver with Bo-Mar silhouette sights consisting of an excellent rear sight with fine adjustments and a matching front sight that was a radically undercut post to eliminate all glare and was also very thin and mated properly with the rear notch to allow a very fine sighting picture on turkeys and rams. I also asked for an action job and trigger pull of less than three pounds.

That .454 was written up for IHMSA in an article entitled Ultimate Silhouette Revolver? I quote the following from that article in 1986.

"As so often happens, the silhouette match arrived before I was ready, so I found myself stopping at the gravel pit and setting up a target at 40 yards, so I would have some idea of where the new revolver was shooting. Sighting in on a

> chicken target so I would hit dead center with a foot hold. I found my setting for both 260 grain jacketed and 300 grain cast bullets. I was ready, at least for chickens. At the match I was the first person to shoot which meant everyone would be watching to see how the new revolver. and I, would perform.

"At the first shot, the chicken disappeared immediately as it flew, and I do mean flew, backwards. Our Match Director

who also likes big bore revolvers, was hoopin' and hollerin' and having a great

"I cleaned the chickens, came up two clicks, and readied for the pigs. That first pig disappeared almost as fast as the chickens and by now a small group had gathered to see what was putting the targets down so fast.

"After cleaning the pigs, I missed the first turkey, overshooting, took the next four, and then got only one of the second bank. When the rams came up, I got eight of them, undershooting the first one and overshooting one in the second bank.

"I finished with a 33 which is the highest first-time score I've ever shot with an unknown revolver. As I look back at it, I believe one target, the one I undershot was a real miss, the other six, which I overshot, I believe happened because I relaxed my grip more than I should have.

"The revolver I was shooting was the newest silhouette pistol on the scene, the .454 Casull by Freedom Arms. The load I was using was the 260 grain Speer .45 JHP at 1,650 fps, using 32 grains of WW296 and CCI Large Rifle primers. I had chronographed 140 loads, and picked the load that seemed to fit my velocity wishes and also showed good uniform velocity. As it happened, I picked a winner."

Seville Was First

While I do not believe that I was the first to use the .454 cartridge in silhouetting, as the now defunct Seville revolver was already out and being used for silhouetting in .454 Casull chambering, I was possibly the first to use the Freedom Arms .454 revolver.

The Seville was a six-shot revolver as compared to the Freedom Arms being a five-shot- and much better builtrevolver. Tolerances in the Freedom Arms revolver were (still are) kept to a minimum and silhouetters began to look at the Freedom Arms revolver as quite possibly the silhouette production revolver.

Perfect Package

Later in 1986, I met with Freedom Arms management and we designed the perfect silhouette package. A cased revolver with an action and trigger job. 10-inch barrel, and Bo-Mar silhouette sights. The main chambering would not be the heavy recoiling .454 Casull, but the milder .44 Magnum, which at the time also had the greatest number of silhouette bullets available for the reloader.

Freedom Arms was so enthused about silhouetting by now that they planned to specially mark the silhouette guns with the IHMSA logo and use a serial number series beginning with EG to recognize Elgin Gates' contributions to the sport of silhouetting.

I took the proposal to Gates and that was the end of that.

In a few months we had a price ceiling rule lower than \$795 so that Freedom Arms revolvers were no longer legal for production competition in IHMSA silhouetting.

Freedom Arms Returns

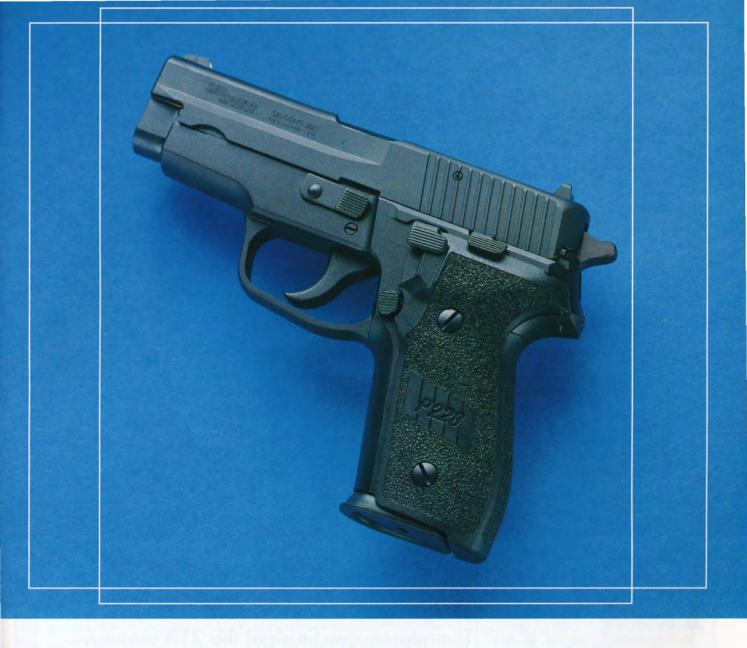
Now all that has changed. The price ceiling rule is gone and once more Freedom Arms revolvers are legal for production class competition under IHMSA

It is interesting to contemplate what the last four years of revolver shooting would have been like if the Freedom Arms guns had been allowed for competition. Would the Dan Wesson .357 Super-Mag still be the number one long-range revolver... or would it be number two?

Freedom Arms wasted no time when it became obvious that enough shooters were unhappy with the price ceiling limit that it would be lifted if put to a vote. This happened in the mid-1990 and even before the final results were in, Freedom Arms decided to build a new silhouette revolver as a companion piece to those available in .454 and .44 Magnum chamberings.

The obvious choice would be for a medium bore of .35 to .40 caliber that would give excellent velocity and flat tra-

Continued on page 112



What is worth waiting for... is worth waiting for!

P220 .45 ACP

P225 9MM PARA

P226 9MM PARA

P228 9MM PARA

P230 .380 ACP





By Mark Moritz

magine a gun finish that would protect your weapon from rust, and would never need to be oiled. Now stop imagining, because it's here.

Just a couple of years ago, Dr. Paul Ebdon was a chemist in England, working on a process to protect metal parts on oil drilling rigs in the North Sea. The process he developed is now being used in the automotive and aerospace industries, to provide corrosion resistance and low friction for precision parts.

Now he lives on the other side of the world, in Arizona. He is the director of Coating Technologies, Inc., and he works with Rob Barrkman (Robar Industries), applying his "wonder finish" to firearms.

This is how it works. Start with high phosphorous electroless nickel. This is the most corrosion-resistant finish currently being applied to firearms. Mix in microscopic particles of Teflon (polytetraflouroethylene, or PTFE). The result is a finish that is hard (48-51 Rockwell), durable, and looks something like the inside of a Silverstone Tefloncoated frying pan.

The coefficient of friction is almost zip; we are talking *slippery*. This not only improves reliability, it also means

less wear and tear on the gun; your gun should not wear out as quickly.

The slide doesn't go "chunk-chunk," it hisses.

available was the old-fashioned shiny stuff, applied with electricity, and subject to peeling and flaking.

Barrkman met with the head of the

The miracle gun finish of the 21st century.

When you press the mag release button, the mag flies out.

Under a microscope, NP₃ looks like a Baby Ruth candy bar, according to Barrkman. Imagine little chunks of peanuts suspended in, and evenly distributed through, a caramel base. The caramel (electroless nickel) provides the hardness, durability, and rust resistance, while the peanuts (Teflon) provide the lubrication.

The color is dull silver-gray, not as bright as what Colt calls their "satin nickel" finish, and not as bright as stainless steel. It is a very subdued appearance.

A large police department was having rust problems, and was looking into a rust-resistant finish for its autopistols. They asked Barrkman about Parkerizing. He recommended NP₃. But, the department policy and procedures manual specified that no guns were to be nickel plated.

Apparently, that specification had been written when the only nickel plating department, and said, "Let me plate your personal gun. Use it for awhile, and if you don't like it, I will remove the plating, and refinish the gun as it was. No charge."

Six weeks later, a truck pulled up to the door. It was loaded with a crate of SIG P220's, for plating with NP₃.

Not "Rust-Proof"

Adding this finish does not interfere with the dimensional tolerances of a gun. Typically, they apply a coating of .0003" or .0004" (that's *ten thousandths*) to firearms, consisting of a base of electroless nickel, topped by a layer of NP₃.

Engineering types are very fussy about accurate terminology, and both Barrkman and Ebdon will cringe if you say "rust-proof."

"Nothing is rust-proof," says Barrkman, "Given enough time and enough Continued on page 77

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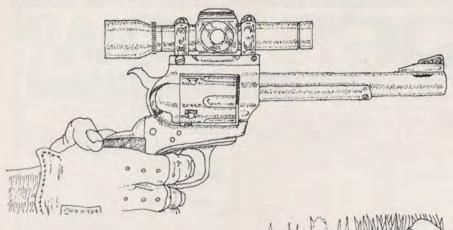


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By John Taffin

he story is a familiar one: "The World's Most Powerful Revolver."
Beginning in 1935 with the .357
Magnum, each succeeding generation of shooters has been treated to a new "most powerful."

The .357 was dethroned by the .44 Magnum in 1956, which fell to the .454 Casull in 1983. The 1980's also saw the introduction of two wildcat candidates for the most powerful revolver, the .475 and .500 Linebaughs.

Recoil, while not a problem with the .357 Magnum, is a real factor to be reckoned with using the .44 Magnum, .454 Casull, .475 Linebaugh, or .500 Linebaugh. All of these are available in three pound revolvers and recoil is as one would expect—heavy!

For the past couple of months I have been shooting the new champ in the world's most powerful race. Would you believe a 525 grain bullet at 1400+ fps from a revolver? The cartridge is not even new but more than 100 years old.

Let's back up, as we are getting ahead of the story.

The first revolver, the Paterson of 1836, was made in various calibers from .28 through .40. It was a relatively lightweight five-shot easy packin' revolver, but the quest for more power soon surfaced.

The answer was the Walker Colt of 1847, a four and one-half pound six-shot

revolver that fired a 140 grain .44 caliber ball backed by 50 grains of black powder, probably approaching 1500 fps. The Walker would also take a 220 grain conical bullet at 1000 fps.

The problem was one of portability and the Walker was followed by the Dragoon and the 1860 Army, which used forty grains of black powder but in a much more compact package.

By 1873, 40 grains of black powder was loaded under a 255 grain bullet in the first cartridge powerhouse, the .45 Colt chambered in the Colt Single Action Army. Velocity was around 900 fps with a 255 grain bullet.

The Walker was able to fire a 220 grain conical bullet at 1000 fps and the slimmer, lighter 1860 Army got the same 220 grain conical bullet up to 900 fps. Now the .45 Colt made 900 fps with a more efficient 255 grain bullet.

The .45 Colt remained champ in the progress of power for a long time. Some would say it has never been dethroned. In 1925, Elmer Keith blew the top strap and top half of the cylinder of an old black powder .45 Single Action using 300 grain .458" rifle bullets and all the black powder he could stuff into the case.

After the old Colt blew, Keith "discovered" the new champ, the .44 Special. Using his design for a semi-wadcutter bullet, Keith attained 1200+ fps and used this load for 30 years, or until

the .44 Magnum came along.

Modern Magnums

The .357 Magnum of 1935 went to a smaller, lighter bullet of 158 grains at the then unheard of velocity of 1500 fps. Then the argument began as to which is really the most powerful, a 250/1200 or a 158/1500.

The .44 Magnum combined the best of both worlds by mixing .357 Magnum speed with .44 Special weight and diameter. Surely we had reached the pinnacle of power.

Even before the .44 Magnum was factory-produced, Dick Casull had begun the experiments which led to the .454 Casull in 1983 and velocities of 1800-1900 with 250 grain bullets and 1700-1800 with 300-340 grain bullets. And this in a three pound revolver.

Also in the 1980's, custom gunsmith John Linebaugh of Cody, Wyo. first cut .348 Winchester brass and then .45-70 brass to standard revolver length, fitted the Ruger Bisley with special five-shot cylinders and the .475 and .500 Linebaughs, subsisting on a diet of 400-450 grain bullets at 1200+ fps, were born. Power plus portability.

Others took a different route. Instead of using standard length revolver cartridges, the late Elgin Gates of IHMSA went with a 1.600" length giving birth to the .357, .375, .445, and .414 SuperMag

cartridges in Dan Wesson revolvers with stretched frames and cylinders.

Another path to more power was that of using old time rifle cartridges in extra large revolvers. Elmer Keith reported in his book *Sixguns* that he had tried a revolver weighing five pounds and chambered for the .45-70 rifle cartridge: "...it was accurate and the load was not at all unpleasant to shoot from the huge gun. However the gun was so crudely made it did not function worth a whoop and could not be recommended, but it proved such a gun is entirely possible."

Sometime in the late 1950's, early 1960's two .45-70 revolvers were handmade in a joint effort by Clarence Bates of Arizona and Stu Brainard of Idaho. Brainard displayed his big revolver at local gun shows for many years until his death.

.45-70 Revolver

Now enter Earl Keller. In the mid-1970's, Keller started manufacturing the Century Model 100 revolver in .45-70 chambering. Keller died in 1986 after making slightly less than 400 of the big sixguns and I have serial number 276 that was received after a wait of eight years!

Elmer Keith had serial number 12. At the time of his death, Keller had requests and reserved serial numbers for more than 2,500 more of the big .45-70's.

Just before he died, Keller negotiated the sale of his company to Paul Majors who produced 120 more revolvers in Keller's Evansville, Ind. plant before moving the entire operation to Greenfield, Ind.

The Greenfield Centurys are made with investment casting with the frame being of 120,000 pound tensile strength bronze and the barrels and cylinders are of 4140 steel.



The .45-70 and .50-70 Government cartridges and cylinder (at right) dwarf Elmer Keith's .44 Magnum. The .50-70 can make 1800 fps with the 450 grain bullet.

The standard .45-70 chambering is available in barrel lengths of 6½, 8, 10, 12, and 14 inches. Retail price of the .45-70 Century Model 100 is \$750.

This is a big revolver to say the least. Weighing in at six pounds, it dwarfs "ordinary" revolvers like the Colt Single Action or Ruger Super Blackhawk. Two hands are the norm in firing this big sixgun.

Although the Century is huge, the grip frame is of the proper proportion and is quite comfortable. Recoil, rather than being a quick snap, is more like a large shove.

The Century is a traditional single action six-shot revolver that must be loaded one at a time and ejected one at a time. There is a cross bolt safety for carrying six shots, but I do not trust single action revolver safeties and prefer to carry five shots, thank you.

Sights are a fully adjustable Millett rear sight set into a massive flat-top frame and the front sight is a rifle ramp

BARREL LENGTH: 6 1/2"

BRASS: WW .45-70
PRIMER: CCI #250
CHRONOGRAPH: OEHLER MODEL 35P

LOAD	MV
AL FACTORY	1012
30.0 GR. #2400	1254
31.0 GR. #2400	1323
32.0 GR. #2400	1424
33.0 GR. #2400	1410
34.0 GR. #2400	1406
35.0 GR. #2400	1438
33.0 GR. IMR4227	1161
34.0 GR. IMR4227	1244
35.0 GR. IMR4227	1287
36.0 GR. IMR4227	1297
37.0 GR. IMR4227	1241
38.0 GR. IMR4227	1329
33.0 GR. SR4759	1018
34.0 GR. SR4759	1200
35.0 GR. SR4759	1029
36.0 GR. SR4759	1152
37.0 GR. SR4759	1107
38.0 GR. SR4759	1238
	1096
	1164
	1093
32.0 GR. IMR4227	1129
	1134
9.114 9.10 0.11.1891	1182
35.0 GR. IMR4227	1195
	30.0 GR. #2400 31.0 GR. #2400 32.0 GR. #2400 33.0 GR. #2400 34.0 GR. #2400 35.0 GR. #2400 35.0 GR. #2400 33.0 GR. IMR4227 34.0 GR. IMR4227 36.0 GR. IMR4227 36.0 GR. IMR4227 38.0 GR. IMR4227 38.0 GR. SR4759 34.0 GR. SR4759 36.0 GR. SR4759 36.0 GR. SR4759 36.0 GR. SR4759 37.0 GR. SR4759 36.0 GR. SR4759 36.0 GR. SR4759 37.0 GR. SR4759 37.0 GR. SR4759 38.0 GR. SR4759 38.0 GR. SR4759 38.0 GR. SR4759

with a dovetail for the front sight, allowing the easy use of different height and blade combinations. An excellent idea.

30.0 GR. SR4759 31.0 GR. SR4759

32.0 GR. SR4759

33.0 GR. SR4759

34.0 GR. SR4759

35.0 GR. SR4759

52.0 GR. H322

46.0 GR. RE7

Firing The Big Gun

I've fired the .45-70 Century quite extensively, both my original Evansville Model and the new Greenfield Model.

Continued on page 52



The .45-70 Century delivers excellent performance despite its huge size. Surprisingly, the "Mother Load" .50-70 shot tighter groups when tested over sandbags.

1101

1114

1123

1188

1195

1256

1324



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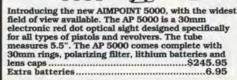
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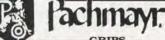
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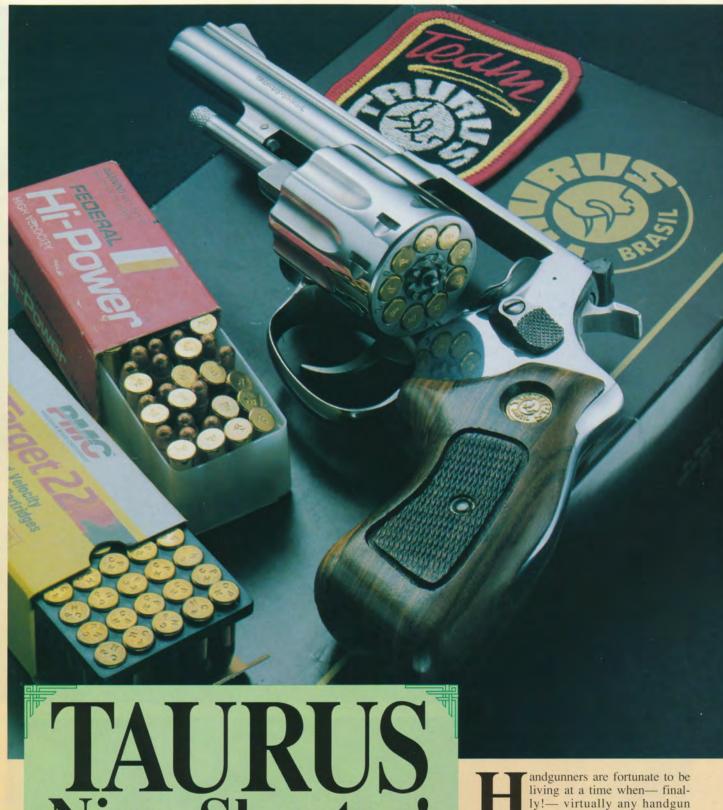
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TAURUS Nine-Shooter!

The perfect trail gun or plinker, says our Field Editor, is this weatherproof stainless steel nine-shot .22 revolver.

By John Taffin

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

you could possibly want is available. For years, even decades, handguns were offered much like Henry Ford's Model T. You could have any color you wanted... as long as it was

Handguns varied not much more than this. But now just about anything is available. It may come from one of the major manufacturers; one of the newer and smaller firearms companies; or it may require that a custom pistol- or revolver-

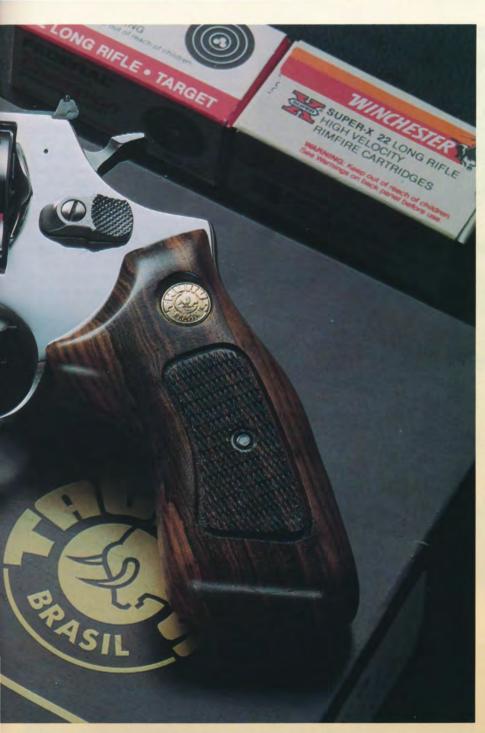


smith be called upon to fulfill our deepest desires, but anything reasonable— and some not so reasonable— can be acquired.

In the past decade we have seen the introduction of the SSK line of Hunting HandCannons on the Thompson/Center Contender. Freedom Arms has gone the .44 Magnum one better and magnumized the .45 caliber with their .454 Casull. John Linebaugh has taken revolvers to the ultimate, combining the large calibers in a packin' size pistol. Desert Eagle now has a .50 caliber auto pistol, for those who prefer their big bores with a self-loading flavor.

All of this comes in addition to the veritable plethora of regular Magnum





actions from Smith & Wesson, Ruger, Dan Wesson, Desert Eagle, Freedom Arms, and Thompson/Center as well as imports from Astra and Llama. And now, almost 40 years after the fact, we finally see Colt enter the .44 Magnum market.

Add to this the many silhouette pistols available plus the almost impossible-to-keep-track-of semi-autos in .45 ACP, 9mm, .38 Super,.41 AE, 10mm, and now the .40 S&W— just what more could a shooter ask for?

The one major hole that was left in all of the fairly recent handgun developments has been the lowly, but immensely popular .22. While the big guns were getting better and bigger, the .22's were disappearing.

The Ruger Bearcat vanished along with the entire lineup of Colt Woodsman .22's, and all of the High Standard .22's.

And weren't they grand target pistols?



The Taurus 9-shot plinker shows excellent fit and finish. The gun handles and balances comfortably thanks to the well-designed grips. We would prefer a blue front sight to the shiny stainless one, but maybe we're just picky.

handguns offered by the major manufacturers. We are free at last to buy any Magnum we like after we had suffered through a long dry spell of having to pay black market prices to get a Smith & Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum.

Now we can choose from .44 Magnums in nearly all shapes and sizes and





The Colt .22 revolver died in both singleand double-action mode as the Single Action .22, the New Frontier .22, the beautiful little Diamondback. The overweight Trooper also disappeared from the Colt catalog.

Iver Johnson and Harrington & Richardson, known to nearly every farm boy as the supplier of rugged but inexpensive .22's, both closed their doors and those little plinking pistols known to generations vanished.

It almost looked like the .22 handgun was on the brink of extinction. We still had the Ruger Single-Six and Smith & Wesson Model 17 in sixguns and the Ruger Mark II and Smith Model 41 for the serious target shooters and semi-auto fanciers. The Smith & Wesson .22/32 Kit Gun was available at least in theory if not in fact, but that was the entire spectrum of .22's to be had not too many years ago.

Good .22s Are Back!

And then manufacturers woke up and started offering real quality .22's once again. Ruger brought out their long established .22 semi-automatic with a long range, tack-drivin' 10-inch bull barrel.

The Browning Buckmark was a real

Internal lockwork differs from the S&W J-frame revolver primarily in that the Taurus uses a different trigger return set-up. In other respects the Taurus 94 and J-frame 63 are quite similar.

disappointment to me originally, mainly because of its sight system, but it was quickly changed to both long-barreled Silhouette and Varmint Models, both of which are deadly accurate and now the Browning lineup has been made even better by the addition of a heavy-barrelled target pistol which is nothing more than the Silhouette Model gone shorter.

Smith & Wesson went the other direction and brought out the first easy-to-pack honest-to-goodness semi-automatic .22 field pistol, the lightweight Model 422. Now we were really in hog heaven as .22's go!

Well, almost. Something was still missing. There was still a gap, a major hole in the .22 line-up.

No one, absolutely no manufacturer saw the need for a lightweight, high-capacity, spelled *nine-shot*, .22 revolver.

(Years ago, High Standard produced a nine-shot .22, The Sentinel, but it has gone the way of the all other High Standard products, Just plain gone.)

I never really understood why none of the major manufacturers brought out a .22 that utilized all the steel in the cylinder. It just never made much sense to me to pack a .22 revolver with a large block of steel for the cylinder with six barely discernable holes.

The only .22 sixgun that really appealed to me was the beautiful little Ruger Bearcat. Even the small frame .22 Kit Guns from Smith & Wesson still left an awful lot of unnecessary metal around each .22 chamber.

I often thought that someday when I had more money than sense, I would actually try to have a custom 'smith build a nine-shot revolver on the Kit Gun.

Nine-Shot .22 At Last!

No longer do I need to think of spending a thousand-plus dollars to come up with a small nine-shot revolver. It has been done, and done quite inexpensively.

And this so much appreciated and



needed new revolver does not come from one of the major US manufacturers, but from the enterprising Brazilian firm of Taurus. Finally, backpackers, fisherman, woods loafers, mountain climbers, smoke jumpers— the list is almost endless have a lightweight, nine-shot .22 revolver!

To make it even better as an outdoorsman's pistol is the fact that it is available in weather-beating stainless steel.

TAURUS MODEL 94

IF21 LIMINA	WESOF	19
Ammunition	Velocity	Group Size
Federal High Power HP	971 fps	11/2"
Federal High Power	884 fps	11/2"
Federal Spitfire HP	1,059 fps	31/2"
Federal Spitfire	993 fps	3"
Federal Champion	825 fps	23/8"
CCI Blazer	914 fps	21/2"
CCI MiniMag	829 fps	21/2"
CCI Stingers	1,036 fps	31/2"
CCI Green Tag	802 fps	31/2"
CCI Pistol Match	850 fps	33/4"
Winchester T-22	890 fps	21/4"
Winchester High Velocity	853 fps	21/2"
PMC Predator	1,061 fps	25/8"
PMC Zapper	987 fps	13/4"
PMC Sidewinder	799 fps	21/2"
PMC Rifle Match	751 fps	23/4"
Remington Yellow Jacket	1,118 fps	21/4"
Remington High Velocity	948 fps	21/2"
Remington Thunderbolt	941 fps	17/8"
Remington Target	935 fps	21/2"
Barrel Length: 4-inches	, 00 .ps	-/-
Group Sizes: nine shots at	50 ft	
Chronograph: Oehler Mo		
Temperature: 35°	40.001	
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When it comes to handguns, I take better care of mine than a museum curator. Yes, I use them and use them hard, but I do not abuse them. And when the going gets rough, I leave those with beautiful blue finishes and custom grips at home and often grab a Pachmayrgripped stainless steel gun and laugh at the weather.

Tough-Duty Kit Gun

Now Taurus has given us the best of both worlds in that we have the lightweight rough-duty .22 kit gun in a finish that needs little care. And after it shoots six times, it shoots again. And again. And again.

This is not a gun to be babied and pampered and carefully wiped off and put away. This is a gun to be carried in a back-pack, or in a hip holster for days on end, or left in the tackle box, or tool box, where it is always available.

This is the gun for the fisherman who spends all of his time either around water, on water, in water, or being rained upon. Yes, a stainless .22, light in weight, 26 ozs., and carrying nine rounds makes a whole lot of sense to me.

Add 100 rounds of .22 ammunition,

my Al Mar/SSK folding knife, a pair of lightweight, but exceptionally clear Swarovski 8x20 binoculars, yes, add all of these to the Taurus .22 and one has a grand total of 50 ounces to pack.

Gun, ammunition, binoculars and knife— three pounds two ounces for all that makes a lot of sense when weight is critical. In fact, Taurus might have missed a good advertising gimmick by not calling this little .22 "The Backpacker."

Model 94 Features

The stainless finish on the Taurus 94 is quite good especially for a gun in this price range, or "affordable quality" as Taurus calls it. The single-action trigger pull is smooth enough not to be tampered with while the double-action pull is hampered by a sharp trigger that catches me, painfully, on the bottom of the trigger finger.

The entire grooved trigger could benefit by being polished completely smooth and the sharp tip being rounded off. The serrations on the hammer are also quite sharp and irritating when firing large quantities of ammunition in the single-action mode. Both the hammer and trigger can be fixed quite easily by anyone with a MotoTool.

Standard Model 94 wooden grips are quite good being the square-butt filler-style of Brazilian walnut. They are also very comfortable. These stocks are bigger than they need to be for a little .22 as the Taurus has the same grip frame as the round-butt Smith & Wesson J-series.

Pachmayr grips made for the round butt Smith & Wesson Chief's Special fit the Taurus Model 94 simply by drilling holes for the grip pin. That means the Taurus wooden grip will also probably fit the Chief's Special. I see a grip swap coming here.

Test Firing

The Taurus 94 is fitted with adjustable sights that allow it to be easily sighted-in to hit point of aim. And while the rear sight is the necessary black finish for good shooting, they goofed on the front sight which is integral with the barrel and thus stainless steel also.

I found it very difficult to see as my eyes prefer plain black front sights and this could account for the fact that my nine-shot groups fired from 50 feet were nowhere near the one-hole sample target provided with the Model 94 no matter what .22 LR ammunition was tried.

Fitting of a dark plastic insert in the front sight would aid sighting tremendously. This will be done after the front sight is filed down so the Taurus 94 can be sighted in at 50 feet with the rear sight bottomed out.

Groups were more in the 2.5" range with a few exceptional groups under two inches accomplished with Federal High Power .22's both in the solid form and hollowpoint versions. PMC Zapper and Remington Thunderbolt .22's both came

in under two inches also.

Definitely not a target pistol, but a lightweight packin' pistol. Complete testfiring results are shown in the accompanying chart.

Perfect Kid's Gun

This gun, in spite of its few flaws (which are easily fixed) and average accuracy, is definitely a keeper. I will use it to teach each of my grandkids to enjoy handguns in general and .22's in particular as each reaches the shooting age.

The light weight coupled with the diminutive grip for their small hands will make it easy to handle. My kids first packin' pistol was a Ruger .22 Bearcat. I would not be surprised to find the Taurus .22 passed from grandkid to grandkid as their first packin' pistol on family woods outings.

It will also spend a lot of time in my shooting box in a nylon holster from Idaho Leather, and also on my wife's hip as she and her girlfriend often go fishing for the weekend so I can concentrate on getting a lot of writing finished. She has been carrying a stainless .44 Special for years, but the .22 Taurus is lighter in weight, easier to shoot, and just plain fun to have for plinking when the fishing is lousy.

Once in awhile the handgun she carries fishing goes for an unexpected swim, still on her hip of course. The stainless Taurus with Pachmayr grips and carried in a nylon holster will go off for the weekend and I will be at home without a single worry about what shape it will be in when it comes back from the trip.

The .44 Special has always returned from each trip with the same five semi-wadcutter loads that it left with. I don't believe the Model 94 .22 will be able to do this. Thanks for providing a real practical kit gun, Taurus.

And Great For Gals Too!

My home state of Idaho has a positive Concealed Weapons Carry law. Basically, issuance is mandatory to anyone who is an honest law-abiding citizen as 99.99999% of all gun owners are. The Taurus nine-shot stainless .22 seems to me to be the perfect carry gun for a woman with small hands who does not like recoil.

Small and light in weight, easy to conceal, and most importantly, easy to learn to shoot, the Taurus is also one that will be practiced with. Rounding off the corners of the rear sight with a few file strokes and the installation of small round-butt grips and the Taurus becomes an even better concealed carry gun. Thanks again, Taurus.

For complete details on the Model 94 and all other Taurus handguns, write for free color catalog to Taurus International at 16175 N. W. 49th Ave., Dept. AH, Miami, FL 33014.

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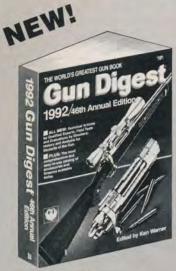
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The Guns of the Philippine Wars by William R. Weir. In a new look at an old set of wars—from 1900 to 1913, they lasted—Weir examines the myth of the 45 and the myth of the unstoppable Moro warriors, and provides fresh examination of the facts concerning the many sorts of firearms U.S. forces actually used.

Thompsons That Never Saw Battle by John Malloy. There was at least one big Thompson gun, and several smaller ones, apart from the Tommy gun everyone knows about. The company did not rest on its laurels, but it never got a second brass ring, so there are a very few real Thompson guns that never fought and here they are.

Silent Arms In Modern War by Wilfrid Ward. Crossbows, silenced autoloaders, De Lisle Carbines—that's only a partial list of the quiet killing devices of the two World Wars. These are the grandaddies of the tools they use now—the ones we can't show you—but they are interesting for more than historical reasons.

The Legend of Liver-Eatin' Johnson by Doc Carlson. Whether or not Robert Redford in

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Jeremiah Johnson really believed in his character, there is strong reason to believe the legend has more than a few flaws. John Johnston was real; his story was...well...read what Carlson found in the legitimate record.

The Kangaroo Rifle, Then and Now by Ross Simpson. There were more than enough 'roos in Australia in the 19th Century to create big problems—and there may actually be more now—but in between, the Aussies bagged them by the boatload, mostly with single-shot British rifles, then Winchesters. Now professionals control the 'roo population with high velocity 22's.

James M. Triggs: A Retrospective by Ken Warner. Between World War II and now, Jim Triggs has done a lot of things, but mostly he drew and painted guns. GUN DIGEST covers, Ruger advertisements, American Rifleman exploded views—he did it all. His trompe l'oell technique hes carrod him national attention in technique has earned him national attention in the art world, and even more attention from those of us who like guns as much as he does.

Colt Clones by Jim Thompson. They come from Germany and Italy, mostly, these new versions of Colt's single-action six-shooters. Over a 20 to 30 year span now, they've been around, and it turns out they're pretty good.

The Browning That Almost Was by William G. Fohrman. Browning's BLR was invented and developed in the United States. And then Browning tried to have its lever action built here, which turned out to be an industrial-strength error, but it did produce a few hundred collectibles. Fohrman tells the story in detail

The Gentleman's Companion Rifle by Ron Mac-Donald. They made them in the thousands for probably 70 years in England, but not a lot of Americans yet know it. They're called "rook rifles" and they're charming single-shots that can often be fed standard American ammunition and make splendid small-game getters.

Twice As Many Shots by Dwain Bland. It's so obvious, right? Shoot a double in place of a single—it shoots twice. Well, if you're talking single—it shoots twice. Well, if you're taking muzzloading shotguns, and Bland is, there's a lot more to it: like the right loads, the right maintenance and, most of all, safe handling. Bland tells all out of 40 years of blackpowder two-

The Oldest Guns In The World by Gad Rausing. Simple things they were, and mostly lost in battle and dug up only hundreds of years later. These were the starting place for all that GUN DIGEST is about—and men made them 665 years ago!

Those 26½-Inch Guns by Ken Wamer. If it's a shotgun, the barrel has to be at least 18 inches long; a rifle barrel has to be at least 16 inches; but overall, either one must be—in most places—just 26½ inches long to be legal. Here's how they look.

The 1500-yard Antelope Shot of Yore by Jim Foral. Did a fellow deliberately bag antelope at a mile with his Mannlicher-Haenel or not? And did he do it more than once? The debate raged in the shooting press for years before World War I and

here's what it sounded like. The truth? At that range, who knows? But it's fun.

Getting The Best From Your 22 Rimfire by C. E. Harris. Thousands of rounds in hundreds of groups fired with dozens of rifles have told Harris the difference between what works, what doesn't. For example, sorting ammo doesn't; crowning muzzles does.

My Perfect Squirrel Rifle by James Wheeler. Ruger doesn't make a rimfire Number One rifle, but Jim Wheeler did and it's a beauty. It took three years, but it was worth it and we'll show you both the first drawing and the end result.

My Air Rifle Makes Big Hunts Bigger by R. J. Robel. A seasoned big game hunter and veteran wingshot, Bob Robel has a simple air rifle practice routine that "absolutely" improves his shooting on trophies and, he finds, brings the hunt into focus months before he packs his bags. It takes 30 minutes three times a week.

Cults by John Barsness. Winchester Pre-64 70s? Yep—Cult guns. So are fancy doubles. And big bores. And small bores. There are cults all about us and Barsness points them out.

The SHOT Show The First Time by Willfrid Ward. Two-time Amber Award winner and English, to boot, Ward tells us here of his first he hopes—SHOT Show, our own shooter's showcase extravaganza. Not too surprisingly, he found different marvels than we do.

Sidney DuBroff, John E. Ross and Lee Arten add their choices for "One Good Gun." Testfire reports on the Desert Eagle and the USAS-12 Shotguns, among others.

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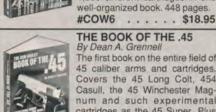
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SIGHTS INTO IPS

CORNUCOPIA OF COMBAT SHOOTING **ACCESSORIES AND PRODUCTS IN '91**

ometimes I think that after 15 years of IPSC surely people must start running out of ideas for new products. After wandering the endless corridors at the 1991 SHOT Show for four days, though, it's evident that innovation is alive and well.

advised that the new P-9 "World Cup" model based on this prototype should soon be available in both 9x21 and .40 S&W calibers.

You might have to wait a bit for this model as production is being held up by delivery of some parts, and once these

field Armory pistols are the best, they will also build any of their custom guns on Colt or U.S. military pistols. For a description of the packages and services available ask for the custom shop brochure from Springfield Armory, 420 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254 or call (309)441-5549.

New Caspian Frame

Caspian Arms Ltd. displayed a prototype big capacity frame (compatible with most 1911-type parts) that they hope to have in production by late 1991. Final specifications are still being worked out but they anticipate a magazine capacity of 14-15 rounds of .38 Super.

Caspian also makes the interesting Hybrid System compensator designed by Wil Scheuman, and the excellent Weigand scope mount for 1911 pistols (a model for CZ-type pistols is also in the works).

Caspian frames can be purchased already drilled and tapped for the Weigand scope base. The address is 14 North Main St., Dept. AH, Hardwick, VT 05843 or call (802)472-6454.

5&A M-16 Upper

Smith & Alexander (Box 835790, Dept. AH, Richardson, TX 75083, phone: (214) 231-6084) are best known for their very popular S&A Mag Guides, but they make a number of other accessories as well, and distribute parts from Ed Brown Products, Caspian, CMC, and Shooting Star.

For shooters who compete in threegun matches they offer an M-16 upper receiver with the carrying handle removed and a Weaver-type base installed. The sample shown appeared to be very well made, with a suggested retail price of \$149.95.

S&A now make a titanium firing pin for .38 Supers or .45's, listing at \$24.95. These light pins speed lock time, but S&A point out another advantage- on 1911 pistols lacking a positive firing pin lock, these light, low inertia pins are less likely to cause an accidental discharge if the gun is dropped.

Accurate Arms Data

Accurate Arms powders have become increasingly popular with IPSC and action shooters. Accurate No. 7 is virtually the standard of performance for .38 Super major loads, while No. 5 was developed for the .45 ACP and should prove excellent in .40 S&W and .41AE as well.

The introduction to the 5th Edition of the Accurate Arms loading guide states "there has been a re-evaluation of the criteria for selecting data for inclusion... the data in this guide takes precedence over all prior publications. Previous editions of this loading guide should be discarded." For your copy of the 5th Edition send two bucks to Accurate Arms, Rt.1, Box 167-AH, McEwen, TN 37101.

Vic Bullets

A recent trend in IPSC competition is



Big capacity guns, scope mounts, and optical sights seem to represent the next wave of technology, but there are lots of other new products as well.

Springfield P-9

The Springfield Armory display at the SHOT Show was swarming with people wanting to get a look at Rob Leatham's prototype P-9 racegun.

Custom shop director Les Baer

arrive the custom shop is going to have to work through a backlog of orders. I'm sure that if the guns had been available Springfield could have sold several dozen at the show.

The custom shop has developed a frame-mounted scope mount with integral 30mm rings that will fit the P-9, or (with frame modification) 1911-A1 pistols.

Incidentally, although the custom shop naturally feels their own forged Spring-

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CUSTOM HANDGU

the use of light bullets at high velocity loaded to meet the major power factor. The idea is that the light bullets mean a bigger volume of powder gases at higher operating pressure, making the expansion chamber compensator operate more efficiently for a faster rate of aimed fire.

The .38 Super shooters started this trend with 130 gr. bullets and soon .45 ACP users, not wanting to be left out of the fun, started clamoring for lighter bullets as well. VIC International (18056 Ledgepoint Pl., Dept. AH, Strongsville, OH 44136, phone: 216-572-0323) responded with .452" cast



bullets weighing 152 gr.

VIC provides a page of loading data with these "VIC Lite" bullets indicating that major loads can be achieved while (barely) staying within SAAMI maximum pressure limits of 19,900 cup. The data warns against the use of excessively throated barrels with such loads due to the possibility of case ruptures, and personally I'd feel better using a fully supported barrel.

Caspian Arms offers a supported 6" match barrel in .45 ACP at a suggested retail of \$199.95. Briley Manufacturing also makes fully-supported .45 barrels.

+P+ 9x21 CP

The hot news from C.P. is the introduction of a new cartridge case, the CP+P+9x21 CP. This is a rimless case midway in length between the 9mm Parabellum (19mm) and the .38 Super (23mm).

It's stretching a point to call it new, for the 9x21 first appeared in Italy some years ago. Evidently it was developed for civilian shooters as an alternative to the 9mm Parabellum, which was prohibited as a military caliber.

(As Jeff Cooper once put it so neatly, "Silly rules provoke transparent evasions.")

What's new about the CP version is the extra-heavy case construction designed to contain high pressures. The new case is intended to put .38 Super "major" performance into high capacity guns such as the Springfield Armory P-9 and the Smith & Wessons.

Its slightly shorter length will fit

these guns' magazines, while the true rimless design should stack and feed better than the semi-rimmed Super from double column mags.

And unlike the USPSA-banned "9mm Major" loads, there can be no complaints about exceeding SAAMI specs for the simple reason that no SAAMI specifications have been set!

C.P. Bullets has added a 152 gr. .45 bullet to its line of high quality super hardcast bullets, in addition to a heavy-weight 200 gr. bullet in .357" diameter, intended for bowling pin shooters.

Two more .356" jacketed bullets have been introduced, a 125 gr. FMJ and a 115 gr. "steel special." This last is a roundnose design but with an exposed lead tip that should help avoid arguments over whether or not a plate was hit.

C.P.'s range of products now goes far beyond bullets. C.P. distributes brass, Accurate Arms powders, and accessories from Wilson, Heinie, S&A, Safariland, and CMC.

They also make "Super Tuff" mag pads and recoil buffers. The mag pads for 1911 magazines screw onto the mag base, while the pads for S&W 9mm, 10mm, and .45 ACP magazines are designed to replace the base plate. They're available in nine colors from "Aurora Pink" to "Purple Haze."

The C.P. recoil buffers are made by an injection molding process, which, so I'm told, makes a better buff than the die cutting method used by some competitors. I'm completely sold on the utility of these recoil buffers. There is no better way to reduce the chances of stress cracks on your 1911 autopistol.

For information write C.P. Bullets, 1814 Mearns Road, Dept. AH, Warminster, PA 18974 or call (215) 956-9595.

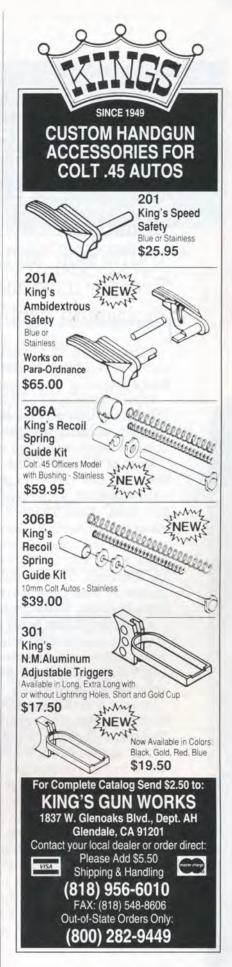
Nosler IPSC Bullets

Nosler Bullets, Inc. (Box 671, Dept. AH, Bend, OR 97709, phone: 503-382-3921) has introduced a new bullet dubbed the 38/150 IPSC (actual bullet diameter is .357").



The jacketed bullets have a small amount of lead exposed at the tip, with a configuration that's a cross between a round nose and a flat point. They should prove excellent in the .38 Super.

Nosler sells them only in 250 quantity bulk packs. I'd like to see them offered in Continued on page 76



The AYOOB FILES

DISARMED AND TAKEN HOSTAGE: THE ORAN PAPE INCIDENT

Situation: Disarmed during a traffic stop, an Iowa State Trooper must make the decision to fight or flee.

Lesson: Living up to some sort of "image" of The Brave Policeman can get you killed. There's no disgrace in retreat.

A policeman or anyone else who legally carries a gun has one recurring nightmare that lurks somewhere in the back of the mind: being disarmed by a criminal, then taken out and shot.

There have been numerous training approaches to handling the problem. One school of thought is that any disarming attempt should be met with savage reaction, even if death is certain; another suggests that compliance is the way to go; a third approach is to feigh subservience, and then attack the abductor when he has dropped his guard.

Most of us have thought about it, but few have had to do it. One who did was Patrolman Oran Pape of the Iowa State Patrol, and he did it long ago.

On the 40th anniversary of the Pape incident, I was commissioned to write a story on it for *Iowa State Trooper* magazine, a publication of Iowa State Troopers Association. The research unearthed facts about Patrolman Pape and the shootout that were never made public at the time of the incident, facts still relevant today.

On April 26, 1936, Pape observed a black '35 Chevrolet with Iowa registration 3-1590 on Highway 61 just outside Muscatine. It was on his hot sheet as a stolen car. Cruiser radios at that time were receivers only, and he could not broadcast his location and mission. Instead, he just wheeled his Ford in behind the black Chevy and pulled it over.

An officer today with proper training would have dealt with such a problem as a "felony stop," to be handled with drawn guns and plenty of backup troopers. In Pape's day, however, highway patrolmen were expected not to pull guns on the citizenry if a gun had not been pulled on them. Accordingly, Pape left his department issue 4" Colt Official Police service revolver in the flap holster that hung low from his right hip.

It was a fatal mistake. Inside the Chevy was one Roscoe Barton, 23, a tall, lanky punk with an extensive criminal record. At the moment he was on probation from Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary on a conviction for theft of government property.

The car wasn't the only thing he had that was stolen: several sets of illicit license plates were in his possession, a bundle of stolen checks that could link him to a bank robbery... and two stolen Army 1911 .45 automatics with plenty of ammo. There was, Barton knew, only one way now to stay out of Leavenworth.

As Pape reached the left front of the car, Barton flung open the driver's door and levelled one of the .45s, cocked, dead center on the patrolman's uniform.

Even then, flapped police holsters were known to the cops as "widowmakers." No man in his right mind would try to draw from one against a man who already had the drop on him with a .45. Pape had no choice but to obey Barton's command and raise his hands. The thug then jerked the Colt revolver out of the officer's holster.

A handgun in each fist now, Barton gestured with the weapons as he snarled, "Get in the car!" Pape moved slowly around the front of the vehicle, toward the right front pas-

Continued on page 78



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THIS IS A GUN!

Continued from page 37

The accompanying loads were all developed in the latest model from the Greenfield plant.

The .45-70 Century proved to be quite accurate at both 25 yard paper targets and random rocks out to 250 yards. Bringing out the big .45 is a guarantee of drawing a crowd at any public shooting range. I much prefer the heavier 405 grain cast bullet from RCBS's #45-405FN mold.

The Century Custom Shop offers wooden presentation cases, custom leather, custom grips, scope mounts and engraving. But more importantly, additional chamberings are offered in the Century.

In addition to the Model 100 .45-70, I also received two other guns for testing from the Custom Shop. These were a Model 400 in .444 Marlin and a Model 500 in 50-70 Government. The Model 50-70 is appropriately dubbed "The Mother Load" and is so inscribed on the barrel.

The Century is also available, through the Custom Shop at \$1500 per, in .30-30 Winchester and .375 Winchester. Personally speaking, I can see no use for the

BARREL LENGTH: 8"

BRASS: DIXIE .50-70
PRIMER: FEDERAL #250
CHRONOGRAPH: OEHLER MODEL 35P
TEMP: 70 DEGREES

BULLET	LOAD	MV
RCBS #50-515FN	27.5 GR. IMR4227	953
	30.0 GR. IMR4227	978
	32.5 GR. IMR4227	1128
	35.0 GR. IMR4227	1162
	37.5 GR. IMR4227	1210
	40.0 GR. IMR4227	1295
	27.5 GR. SR4759	847
	30.0 GR. SR4759	1001
	32.5 GR. SR4759	1162
	35.0 GR. SR4759	1272
	37.5 GR. SR4759	1437

.30-30, .375 or .444 Marlin chamberings in this big gun. It deserves better, namely the old .45-70 Government and .50-70 Government, chamberings.

The .444 Marlin can't do anything that isn't accomplished by the .44 Magnum and the .445 SuperMag. The .30-30 and .375 are definitely in the wimp category in this big sixgun.

The Model 400 in .444 Marlin also performed well in the accuracy department, but I was surprised to find the factory .444 Marlin Remington 265 grain load delivering less than 1500 fps, or about what a good .44 Magnum will do.

The .444 Marlin is hampered by case

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Targets are designed for use with all lead pistol bullets only. Custom plate prices upon request. Send \$2 for full-color brochure. For inquiries call us at (203,553-5915. All shipping charges collect. CT residents add 7½% sales tax. To order call us at 1-800-HIT-TARGET or send name & full shipping address with check or money order to:

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721-AH Woodvue Lane Wintersville, OH 43952 (614) 264-0176 (614) 264-7217 capacity. Too much, not too little. The case is so long that there is little room left for bullet seating in the Century chamber and 300 grain bullets seated deeply bulge the brass. If I had the time to really work with the Century .444, I would trim cases to allow proper seating of 300 grain cast and jacketed bullets and see what the .444 would really deliver.

The Real Powerhouse

Now we come to the real powerhouse of the Century line and the cartridge mentioned in the beginning of this piece. The old black powder .50-70 Government cartridge that pre-dates the .45-70 actually delivers over 1400 fps with a 525 grain bullet!

Majors tells me they have regularly shot 450 grain bullets to 1800 fps from The Mother Load.

In looking for bullets for the biggest of the big, I came across the RCBS #50-515 FN and a quick call to Jay Postman at RCBS brought a mold and .512" sizer. With my alloy of three parts lead to four parts type metal, these dropped from the mold at 525 grains. Huge!

I do believe the .50-70 is actually more accurate than the .45-70 as all loads printed excellent groups, especially in light of the fact that this gun kicks. Even though it weighs six pounds, recoil of full house loads brings it rarin' right back and care must be used when it is fired off sandbags to not get hit in the head or face.

In spite of its reaction to heavy loads, the recoil is not punishing by any means, again just a large, heavy push.

Loads for the .50-70 were assembled using the top grease groove rather than the crimping groove to give a little more case capacity though I doubt that it is needed. Even the top loads show no signs of excessive pressure on primers nor do fired cases have any stickiness tendency in the cylinder.

Majors sent along a piece of one-inch bullet-proof glass that had been used as a test medium. Needless to say, it has 240 grain .44 Magnum bullets imbedded in it along with .50-70 holes all the way through it.

The Century big sixes performed as promised. The only question is how practical are they?

The huge cylinders are at the outer limits of one being able to physically turn them for loading and unloading and no one is going to fire a six pound revolver off-hand for very long.

But do all firearms have to be practical? Sixty years ago all cars were practical and all came in the same color. Look at the profusion we have now. How many people actually buy the most practical car? The Century may not be practical but it sure is a whole lot of fun.

For full information on the Century line of big sixguns, contact Century Gun Distributors, 1467 Jason Road, Dept. AH, Greenfield, IN 46140; phone 317-462-4524.

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AUTOPORTING

By John Taffin

ag-na-port International, creation of world renowned handgun hunter Larry Kelly, has long been known for its porting of the barrels of hard kickin' single-action and double-action revolvers as well as big bore Thompson/Center Contenders. Many shooters would not think of using one of the big Magnums without first having the familiar trapezoidal slots cut into the barrel on both sides of the front sight. Mag-na-porting does two things for shooters of Magnum handguns— the strategically placed slots reduce muzzle rise and felt recoil.

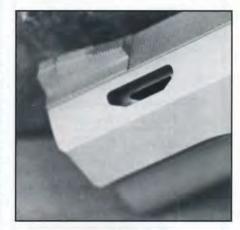
For two decades this service has been offered to both sixgunners and single-shot fanciers by Mag-na-port International.

226, Beretta, Glock etc."

Recently, American Handgunner received four semi-autos for the purpose of testing the effectiveness of Autoporting. Guns that came through were a Delta Elite 10mm, Glock 9mm, a Browning 9mm Hi-Power, a Colt stainless Government Model .45 ACP, and a Smith & Wesson Model 645 .45 ACP.

Running two Brownings side-by-side, one with Autoporting and one without, I really could not ascertain any difference in the felt recoil nor the muzzle rise when using standard factory loads for the 9mm as these loads are all relatively mild. If one shoots factory ammunition exclusively, I cannot see that the porting of the 9mm gives any great advantage.

Going to my pet handloads for the





Taffin tested four "autoported" pistols (L to R) a Glock 17 9mm, Browning Hi-Power 9mm, Colt Government Model .45 ACP and a S&W 645 .45 ACP. John said he was impressed with the autoporting process for reducing muzzle rise.

However, Mag-na-porting is not simply for revolvers and single-shots; Autoporting is also provided for semi-automatic shooters.

According to their catalog, "Mag-naport offers a unique system of porting semi-automatics by using a metering port through the barrel, and an oversize expansion vent through the slide to allow maximum dissipation without fouling. This process can be applied to any auto with a rebound spring under barrel. Examples: 1911, Browning Hi-Power, S&W 645, 6906, 39, 59, Astra, SIG P-

Browning, consisting of Sierra's 115 grain JHP at 1,300 fps using either 7.0 grains of Herco or 10.0 grains of AA#7, I do believe there is a slight advantage in using a ported gun. Enough so, if the 9mm is a carry gun, and uses warmer ammunition, that the advantage just might be enough to make a real difference in a crucial situation where quick repeat shots are necessary.

Moving up to the .45, we come to quite a different situation. The Government Model, while not a hard kicker for anyone who is experienced with the big

Magnum sixguns that roar and buck and twist, does intimidate many shooters. And while I do not find the recoil to be a problem normally, I do find that the back of my hand gets pounded by the top of the grip safety and is sore after a long string of heavy .45 loads.

Running the stainless Government Model .45 against an unported Gold Cup stainless .45, I found a significant difference with the ported compared to the unported gun. The difference in muzzle rise was just enough that I did not have the normal red mark on the back of my

Mag-Na-Port's revolutionary new porting system for autopistols!

hand after a long string of heavy loads as I was not getting hit with the top of the grip safety at all.

This was particularly true with my top end .45 ACP load consisting of Bull-X's 200 grain SWC over 7.5 grains of Unique. This is basically the old Cooper Combat Load and chronographs out at slightly over 1,030 fps.

While shooting the .45's in one session, I ran into a lady shooter who was using a standard .45 ACP Government



Trapezoidal ports are cut into both barrel and slide to vent powder gas.



In a scientific analysis, John determined that an autoported Colt didn't "kachunk" as much as an non-autoported pistol. Nobel Prize Committee, take note!

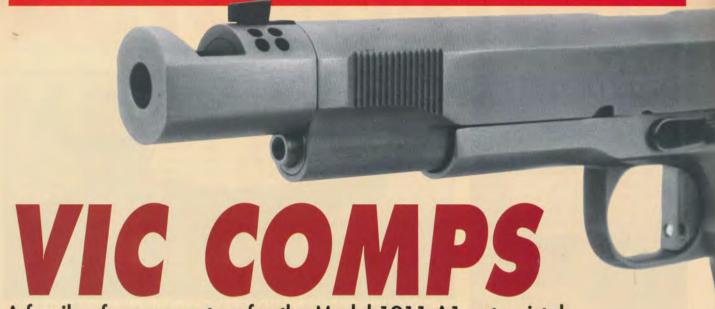
Model and I asked her if she would please help me by running the ported Colt against her .45 ACP. Using her hardball loads, she fired the first magazine through the ported Colt, turned around and smiling asked: "Can I try that again?"

Her strictly unbiased opinion was that

it made a great difference to her and when I asked her what the difference was she replied: "This gun doesn't ka-chunk like mine!"

What she was saying was simply that she was not feeling the recoil as the slide Continued on page 107





A family of compensators for the Model 1911-A1 auto pistol.

By Dave Anderson

IC International distributes a wide range of parts and accessories for practical shooters. VIC offers a series of compensator designs, led by the imposingly named "Battle Comp C/D."

The "battle" refers to bowling pin competition such as the Second Chance match, while C/D refers to Suzan Cooper and John Dixon, for whom the comp was originally designed. Cooper used this compensator, on a gun built by pistolsmith Jerry Dove of Princeton, West Virginia, to set a women's record time in the 5-pin main event at the 1989 Second Chance.

The Battle Comp uses a full profile comp along with a cone lockup and full-length guide rod for added weight. The comp is a double chamber design; the first chamber has eight small vents to channel the expanding powder gases up and out, while the second is an angled deflection chamber design similar to the Clark Pinmaster.

It's intended to provide maximum control with the heavy loads used in pin matches. Although Cooper set her record using standard 230 grain ball from Atlanta Arms and Ammo, even heavier bullets (250-260 grains) and loads are commonly used to provide extra momentum to get those stubborn pins off the table.

The VIC "Classic" comp, made for VIC by pistolsmith Barry Mowry, has the same double chambers and cone lockup as the Battle Comp, but is a half-profile design, intended for those who want a somewhat lighter gun.

The third VIC compensator is the "Traditional", which again is a full profile model but with a single deflection cham-

ber and a standard bushing lockup instead of the cone system.

Family Of Comps

Why make more than one system? It would seem to make more sense to simply find which design gives the least amount of muzzle jump and stick with that. Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

The purpose of a compensator system is not just to reduce muzzle rise; the ultimate objective is to place hits on target in the least possible time.

Masters is a 125 grain bullet at 1,000 fps for a power factor (weight times velocity divided by 1,000) of 125.

For practical shooting competition, IPSC "major" loads must factor at least 175, and in practice most shooters give themselves a bit of a safety cushion by loading to a factor of 180-185.

Bowling pin loads are hotter still, with factors running from 210 to 240, sometimes even higher. As the power level increases, greater gun weight becomes more tolerable in return for better recoil control.



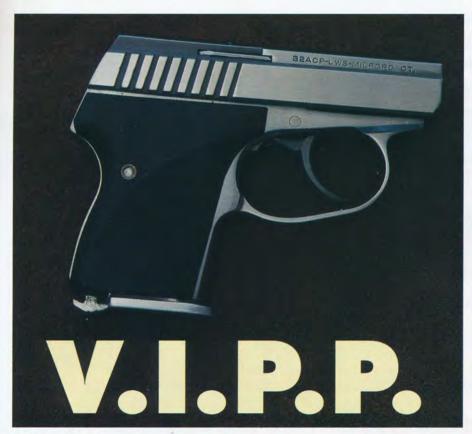
The author's 12-year-old daughter Andrea found the .45 ACP Vic Battle Comp to be easy to control in rapid fire shooting with full-power IPSC loads.

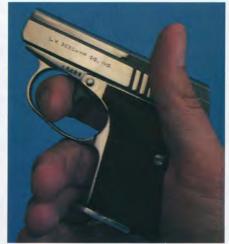
In choosing a comp there are several factors to consider besides just effectiveness in controlling muzzle rise. One variable is the power level of the loads to be used.

For example, a typical load for the Steel Challenge or the speed event at the

The nature of the shooting challenge is another factor. Still another variable is the skill level of the competitor.

A heavy gun does more than reduce recoil; it also hangs on target steadier and Continued on page 108





The Seecamp
.32 Auto is a
Very Important
Pocket Pistol.

By Mark Moritz

This is a Very Important Gun. It is important all out of proportion to its size, and its caliber.

Three things make it important: its ergonomic design, its size/power efficiency, and its double-action-only operation.

Most gunfights happen in bars, or in parking lots outside of bars, between drug dealers and street punks. If you stay away from "bad" places and "bad" people, you greatly reduce your chances of being shot at.

But, reading the newspapers proves that psychopathic misfits can attack in the most mundane places. Huberty: MacDonald's. Sherrill: post office. Dann: shopping mall. Purdy: schoolyard. Pough: car loan office.

The First Rule of Gunfighting is "Have one." If you are in the burger joint or post office or shopping mall when the shooting starts, you will not have time to go home and put on your IPSC rig. If you have a gun, you literally have a fighting chance.

The Seecamp .32 is a gun you can have with you just about any time. It is the same size as most .22 and .25 pocket pistols. In winter, you cannot unbutton your coat every time you pass somebody on the street. You *can* keep your hand in your pocket, on a Seecamp .32.

In summer, you cannot wear an ankle holster with tennis shorts. You *can* carry a Seecamp .32 in the front pocket of your tennis shorts.

Jeff Cooper notes that the big advantage of pocket pistols are that they are



Next to a Colt .45 ACP, the little Seecamp .32 Auto is a pipsqueak. But, as the author points out, the first rule of a gunfight is "Have A Gun," and the Seecamp is a gun! At left, the Seecamp is striker fired, DA-only.

Guns. You can point one at somebody and say "Get out of here; I have a Gun."

Sometimes, that works. Stopping power formulae notwithstanding, there are occasions where a person will be so dismayed at the thought of having been shot, he will run away, even though the shot is not incapacitating.

The term "size efficiency" was coined Continued on page 118



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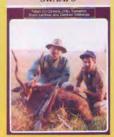
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SWAMPS



THE BANGWEULU SWAMPS

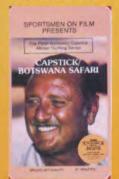
This safari takes place in northern Zambia, east of Lake Bangweulu. Wayne Pocius and Ronnie Sparrow hunt the Oribi, Tsessebe, Black Lechwe, and finally the Zambezi Sitatunga, the legendary aquatic antelope that lives in the swamps.

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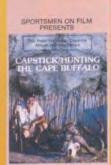
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Italian Masterpiece

How do you spell accuracy?
B-e-r-e-t-t-a. The new Beretta
Model 89 is redefining the
standards for handgun accuracy
in a .22 LR target pistol.

By Mickey Fowler Photos by Ichiro Nagata



eretta U.S.A. has introduced a new 22 L.R. target pistol to the American market, designated the Model 89. This new gun is a single action semi-automatic, of straight blow back design, with exposed hammer.

The Model 89 comes with two 8-round magazines, and has ergonomic hand-filling walnut grips with a thumb rest on the left side. Target style iron sights are adjustable for both windage and elevation and interchangeable front sight blades from 1.5 mm to 2.5 mm are included.

Other features on the Model 89 are an ambidextrous safety and an attractive non-reflective flat black finish. The magazine release button is located behind the trigger guard in position to be operated with the left thumb, as is the slide release lever which holds the slide locked back after the last round is fired.

The Model 89 trigger finger contact surface is lightly grooved. Trigger width is 11/32" and

CH elocity .22 LL by designed .



ger stop is adjusted with a supplied Allen wrench.

The barrel and sight assembly are one piece and only the slide moves when the pistol is fired, like a Model 41 Smith. This pistol comes boxed in a rugged plastic carrying case which holds the extra magazine, take down wrenches and other

At 40 ounces, with a grip angle and controls similar to many full-size, single action, service auto pistols, it is easy for someone who has done some shooting with the large bore guns to adapt and feel at home with the Model 89.

Take down of the Model 89, for cleaning, is accomplished by loosening the two Allen bolts on the underlug one-quarter turn, then loosening the counterweight slide adjusting screw below the muzzle half a turn. The barrel assembly then slides straight off the underlug.



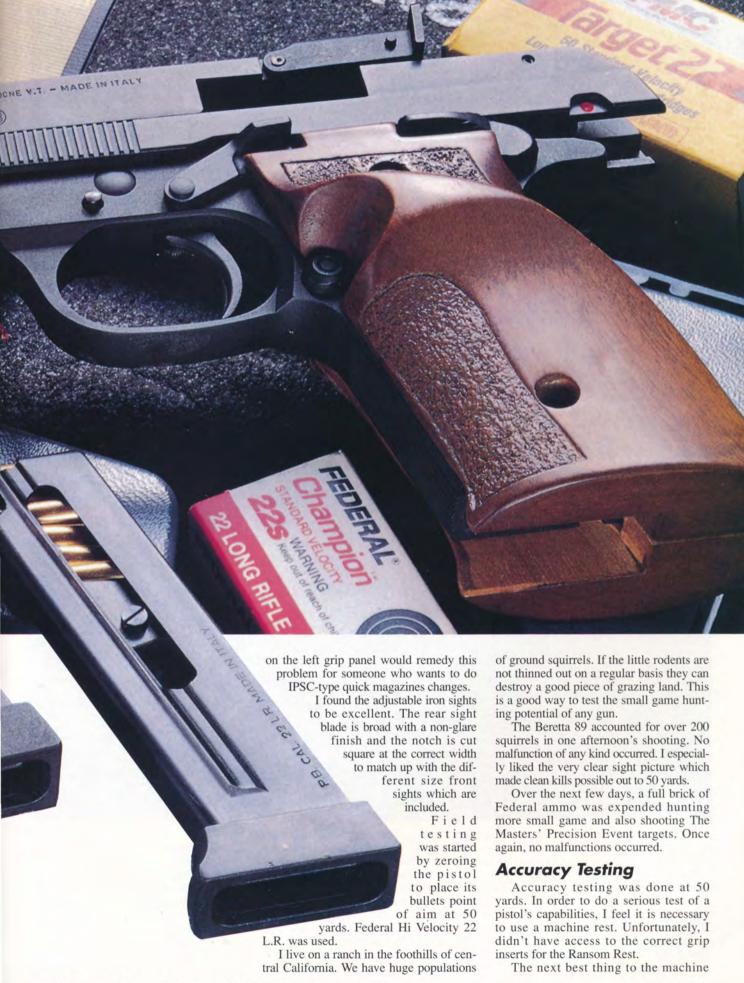
Mickey Fowler was particularly impressed with the Beretta's sights.

Model 89 retails for \$685. Fit and finish are up to the quality standards the buyer would expect to see on a pistol in this price range.

1911 Style

I have spent many years shooting Model 1911 type pistols so I immediately liked the position of the thumb safety, magazine release button and slide release. They are all easily operated.

I must qualify that last statement in regard to the magazine release button. Due to the large target-style grips with the thumb rest, it is not possible to press the button with the thumb. Careful use of a file



rest is to install an optical sight and shoot over sandbags. A call to Beretta U.S.A. was made and I received approval to drill and tap two holes on the top of the frame. I installed a Weaver base and one of the new Aimpoint 5000 electronic red hot sights. This new 30mm sight really brings out the accuracy potential of any pistol.

The following group sizes were obtained at 50 yards. Three 10-shot groups were fired with each round of

ammo:

potential of the Model 89 really comes Federal Hi Velocity 13/4" **RWS R50** 11/2" CCT Green Tag Winchester Silhouette C.C.I. Pistol Match

an adjustable overtravel stop.

over look this fact.

scope or red dot sight.



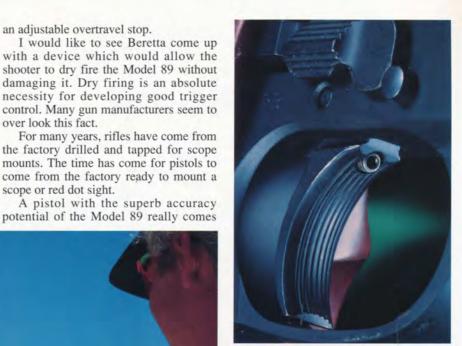
This is excellent accuracy for a stock out-of-the-box pistol of this type. In fact, this is about as good as some of the full-race European target pistols which cost up to twice as much as the Beretta.

Mickey's Advice

Trigger pull on the test gun is heavier than I like. This is understandable on a production pistol. But, it is crisp and has

into its own with the addition of an Aimpoint or other optical sight. By simply drilling and taping the holes at the factory and supplying a Weaver type base, the buyer is saved the time, money and inconvenience of going to a gunsmith.

I fired over 1,500 rounds with different brands of 22 LR ammo in the Beretta tack-driver. I never had one malfunction of any kind. The new Beretta impressed



The Beretta's trigger is adjustable for over-travel, but lacks the multi-angle, multi-position trigger adjustments of such exotic target pistols as the Walther , FAS and Hammerli. Below, the Beretta has interchangeable front sights and a thumb safety in the same position as the author's beloved 1911. Left, Mickey gave the Beretta a thorough workout on The Masters Precision Event targets. People have referred to these targets as aspirin tablets- now you see why!



me with its exceptional accuracy and user friendly controls.

Out of the box it is ready to go small game hunting. With some trigger work and the addition of an Aimpoint it would be an excellent pistol for use in the N.S.S.F. Chevy Truck Challenge or possibly the Masters' Precision Event. My overall impression of the Beretta Model 89 is very favorable.



Mickey Fowler is the only threetime Bianchi Cup champion in the prestigious match's history (1979, 1980, 1981). He is the 1979 IPSC United States National Champion and won the Steel Challenge in the same year. He and Rob Leatham are the only two shooters to ever complete handgunning's Triple Crown in a single year (winning the IPSC Nationals, the Steel Challenge and the Bianchi Cup). He still holds several records in the Southwest Pistol League which he dominated for years until his recent retirement from active competition. Mickey is a Combat Master and has recently re-entered the world of professional pistol competition by shooting the Bianchi Cup, The Masters and Buck Masters.

Restoration expert John Lawson puts the luster back in this German classic!

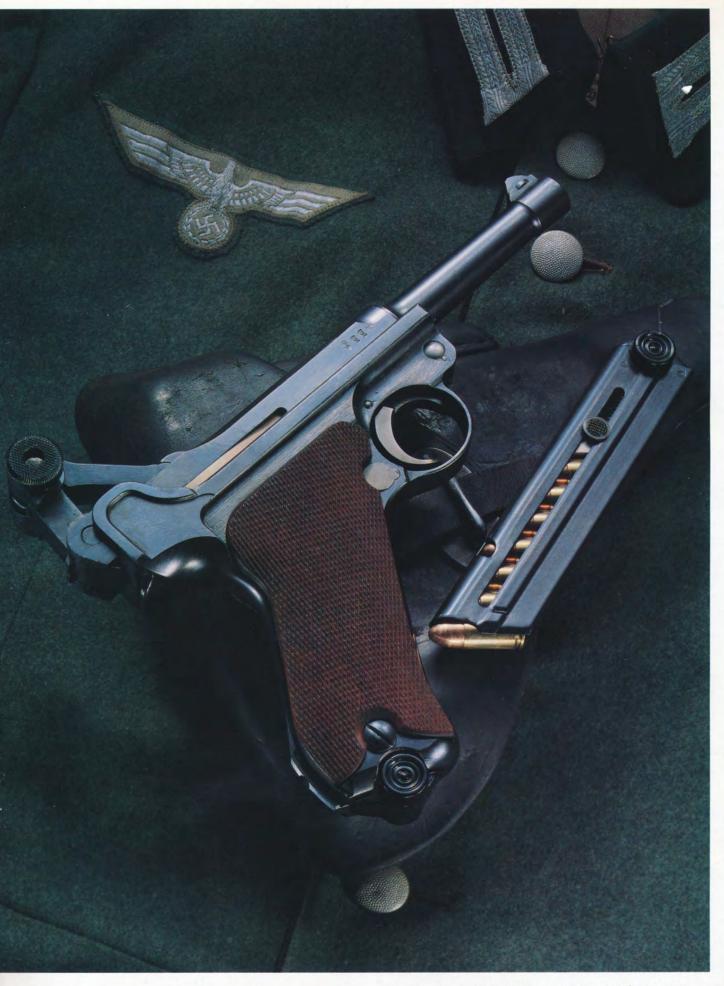
64

By Cameron Hopkins
Photos by Ichiro Nagata

f a gun can be sexy, it's
the Luger. There's something almost sensual in
the shapely curves of this sleek,
seductive pistol. But this lady's
charm entices you with a fatal
attraction.

The German 9mm Parabellum Model 1908 pistol is more affectionately known as simply the Luger. Those who love the Luger pamper her idiosyncrasies— she's a bit finicky about dirt— and she responds by enchanting her admirer with





a most deadly performance indeed.

The epochal Luger was the first successful semi-automatic pistol designed for military purposes— killing enemy soldiers. The "Parabellum" designation for the Luger's 9mm cartridge translates from the Latin "for war," deriving from the quotation Si vis pacem parabellum. "If you desire peace, prepare for war."

Luger vs. Mauser

During the 1890s, the Kaiser's high command realized that the existing service revolvers were degenerating into obsolescence. As early as 1891, tests were underway in Prussia to assess the

merits of "repeating pistols."

The principal contender was the Mauser-Selbstladepistole C-96 chambered for the .30 Mauser cartridge. This ungainly gun is best know today as the Broomhandle Mauser, but at the time no one was jeering at its peculiar shape. It was a radical improvement over the wheelgun and, at the time, was considered every bit as racy as an Aimpointsighted .40 S&W combat pistol is today.

Its inventor, Peter Paul Mauser, was on a roll-two years later his phenomenal '98 Mauser rifle would revolutionize bolt-action design for the next century.

However, the C-96 Broomhandle did not live up to its early promise. The results of an extended field trial of this new-fangled pistol were reported in February, 1901. "So many malfunctions had occurred, the commission confided, that the troops would rapidly lose confidence in the guns were they to be issued in quantity," said John Walter in his definitive reference work, The Luger Book.

An embarrassed Mauser was ordered to resubmit modified guns with no more feeding problems and also a version with a shorter barrel and reduced weight for officers. However, Mauser now had a serious rival in the race to equip the Kaiser's army with a semi-automatic pistol. Georg Luger had been waiting on the sidelines since 1900 with his Borchardt-Luger pistol and when the chance came, he pounced.

It was quickly apparent that the Luger pistol was the better design-lighter, handier, more reliable, more accurate. Still, there were i's to dot and t's to cross before the German high command finally gave the nod to Luger after the third series of tests ended in 1903.

By 1904 the German Navy had adopted the Luger and the rest of the Imperial Forces followed suit when Kaiser Wilhelm II signed the formal order to adopt the Luger on August 22, 1908.

It was a triumphant year for Georg Luger that will always be memorialized in the gun that bears this significant date as the Pistole 1908 or, as it is generically known today, P-08.

9mm Parabellum

Along the way, the pistol's ammunition changed from the .30 Luger (7.65mm



Parabellum) caliber to the 9mm Parabel-

"Luger developed his cartridge— the widest distributed pistol cartridge of all time— in response to the German army's worries about the 'stopping power' inherent in the 7.65mm Parabellum. By providing a heavier, larger-diameter bullet propelled at comparable velocity, Luger affected sufficient improvement to satisfy experts from the Gewehr-PrufungsKommission." Walter said.

This was easy. Luger simply cut the neck off the .30 Luger case, a bottlenecked design, and presto-chango there was the 9mm Parabellum.

The round was loaded with a truncated-cone bullet originally, but was changed to a jacketed ball round in 1916 in compliance with the Hague Convention that banned flat-point bullets. It weighed from 115 to 123 grains.

The Toggle Action: How It Works

he toggle action was the brainchild of Hiram Maxim, the firearms genius best known for his Maxim machinegun. Likened to the human knee joint, a toggle action pivots only one way and is supported from breaking by lateral movement.

Hugo Borchardt and Georg Luger both relied upon the toggle action in their pistol designs, the Ludwig Louwe-Borchardt and the DWM P-08

Luger.

A toggle action functions on the "recoil-operated" principle. The receiver is propelled backward by the cartridge's recoil which causes the breechblock to break the togglejoint by pushing it upward until the axis of the toggle-joint's cross pin lies just above line of thrust (bore line). This occurs after residual

chamber pressure has dropped virtually to zero. The toggle-joint then continues upward, propelled by momentum imparted to it by the receiver. The receiver is then halted by a stop mounted in the

As the toggle-joint rises, it pulls with it the breechblock from the breechface thus extracting the spent cartridge which is flung clear by a fixed ejector.

The mainspring in the backstrap of the frame returns the toggle-joint, breechblock and receiver back forward again, stripping a fresh round from the magazine and chambering it. Lock-up is achieved when the mainspring has forced the axis of the toggle-joint crosspin below the axis of the bore.

The striker has been recocked and the sear set. The toggle-action semiautomatic Luger pistol is ready to fire again by pressing the trigger.





(Some may find it ironic that the very same 9mm Luger cartridge which is maligned today as a "mouse gun" compared to the "man-stopping" .45 ACP was itself considered a "big bore" to replace the anemic .30 Luger!)

Two Types Of Lugers

There are two types of Lugers, "shooters" and "collectors." Since the Luger was first adopted by a military service (the Swiss army in 1900), there have been a total of at least two million Lugers manufactured and quite probably many more, according to Small Arms Of The World.

It is quite beyond the scope of this article to address the minutia of detail and trivia that interests a serious Luger collec-

tor, but suffice it to say that collecting Lugers is a lively activity.

I have here on my desk as I write this a reference book called *The World Of Lugers* by Sam Costanzo which is a 432 page coffee-table-sized book devoted exclusively to proof marks! Page after page after page of funny little symbols, all of which are no doubt fascinating to a Luger collector.

So let's don't get stuck in the esoteric world of collector-grade Lugers. They can range in price from an eye-popping \$20,000 for an 1898-1899 Borchardt-Luger "transitional model" (only 10 were manufactured) to a modest \$2,700 for a clean 1908 Navy, six-inch barrel.

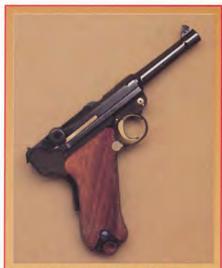
As far as "shooters" are concerned, you can find a decent Luger in the \$450 to \$600 ballpark, but even at that the pistol might not be safe to fire. If it is, it may not function very well.

Besides that, unless you pay collector prices for a mint condition Luger, you won't get one that comes anywhere close to resembling the lovely finish of those immaculately made German Lugers.

No, if you want a good "shooter," a Luger that is both functionally and cosmetically sound, then you should seek the services of a gunsmith who specializes in restoring Lugers.

Restoration Expert

To recondition a Luger to original German military specifications takes a dedicated expert with the necessary experience to know the many idiosyncrasies both of the Luger's complex mechanism and its many variations. Such an expert is John G. Lawson, 61-year-old master gunsmith of Tacoma, Wash., and Pistolsmithing Editor of American Handgunner.



Genuine P-08

auser-Werke, the famous German gunmaker nestled in the Black Forest of Baveria, continues its legacy of beautifully crafted firearms today. Mauser was one of the original manufacturers of the P-08 Parabellum pistol, and you can still buy an original P-08 from Mauser.

A basic blue four-inch P-08 retails for \$2,995; a Navy Model with a six-inch barrel is the same price. Artillery Models are elaborately engraved and start at \$6,000.

For a color catalog on the Mauser line of P-08 pistols, write to Davidson's Supply Co., Dept. AH, 6100 Wilkenson Dr., Prescott, AZ 86301.

Stainless Steel P-08

he newest name in Parabellums is Mitchell Arms, a California manufacturer that displayed a stainless steel P-08 at the 1991 SHOT Show.

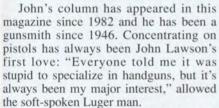
According to a Mitchell Arms press release, "Eighty-three years after its first real introduction by George Luger, the famous 'German Luger' is re-introduced to the world market in its American Eagle version and, for the first time in its legendary history, it is being produced in stainless steel.

"All normal Luger features are retained. The pistol is one of the most natural pointing pistols ever created, resting in the hand naturally. Its design is still modern having features envied still by others.

"Its extractor forms a loaded chamber indicator, it assembles and disassembles without tools and its only screws (two) serve to hold the grip panels in place!"







John explained what to look for in a basic P-08 suitable for restoration: "The genre is called the 1920 Commercial and it's anything that was sold commercially during the Twenties. It's usually stamped *Germany* somewhere on it.

"It might include some of the more desirable World War I service guns that are not so interesting to collectors. Any of those guns will make a shooter. Almost any other Luger that was made is a collectors item."

A good supply of surplus Lugers still floats around out there in Used Gun Land, being swapped and dickered-over at gunshows the world over. But many specimens that look good on a show table may be missing parts.

Buying a used Luger for the purpose of restoration is not like picking up a surplus 1911 Government Model where there are oodles of parts available. Says John Lawson: "Parts are exceedingly hard to find today. I've had a little tiny sear spring on order for going on a year now.

"Take the gun you've got there (for



The Luger's toggle is stamped DWM for Deutsche Waffen-und Munitionsfabriken which was one of the major manufacturers of Lugers. Note the matching 01 number on the toggle, sideplate, breech and frame. The two joints in the toggle action can be seen to the left and right of the DWM logo.

Meet John Lawson

on't dry fire a Luger any more than you have to," advises the Pistolsmithing Editor of *American Handgunner*, "The parts are 10 years older than I am, and I'm as old as the hills of Ezion Gaeber."

John G. Lawson is the owner and resident pistolsmith of The Sight Shop in Tacoma, Wash., where he offers his discriminating clientele a full line of pistolsmithing services. However, the 61-year-old veteran pistolsmith specializes in combat pistol work and, of course, restoring vintage Lugers to original condition.



"I started pistolsmithing in 1946. Everyone told me it was stupid to specialize in handguns, but it's always been my major interest," John reminisced fondly.

"Since 1954 I've been a law enforcement handgun instructor, so I've had to keep current on handguns. I still train security officers, quite a few police officers and a few civilians who are licensed to carry," John explained.

When John went into the gunsmithing profession at the end of World War II, the rage was converting military rifles to hunting and target rifles. "Sporterizing" it was called.

"Around here the big industry was converting Springfields, 98 Mausers and Enfields. I did a certain amount of sight mountings on rifles— I still have all my fixtures— but I always would have rather worked on handguns. Today I only work on rifles for a friend if he really twists my arm." John said.

And what handguns does John like to work on most?

"I do more Government Models than anything else," the member of the Guild Of Master Craftsman allowed, "I've always specialized in street guns.

"I've made competition guns too, but mostly street guns. I made Mas Ayoob the first Combat Commander that was used in IPSC competition with a five-inch barrel that Larry Kelly Mag-Na-Ported. He was quite a competitor in his time," concluded our Pistolsmithing Editor about our Law Enforcement Editor when Ayoob was actively competing in IPSC in the late Seventies.

John Lawson is among the few pistolsmiths in America who is a member of the elite Guild Of Master Craftsman which was founded in the Middle Ages.



Milquetoast 9mm

merican-made 9mm ammunition is the milquetoast of the Parabellum world. Contrary to popular belief, John Lawson pointed out that American-made 9mm ammunition is actually relatively weak— intentionally downloaded— rather than European-made 9mm being relatively "hot."

The so-called "NATO" or "submachine gun load" is nonsense, Lawson asserts.

What happened, explained the savvy pistolsmith, was that US soldiers brought back hundreds of shoddy Italian-made Glisteni pistols after World War I which quickly proved too feeble to handle 9mm Parabellum ammunition.

Designed to handle the 9mm Parabellum case with a two-thirds powder charge only, the Glisenti pistols were blowing up at an alarming number with full-power 9mm ammo. "It was a well-made pistol, but it was made for the .380 or 9mm Kurtz. It wouldn't hold much more than blow-back pressures," John explained.

"American 9mm factory rounds are downloaded for the person who tries to use them in a Glisenti pistol," Lawson continued, "If you get some hot factory rounds, you can tell what the Luger is capable of with the standard four-inch barrel!"

Today, most people regard European-made 9mm as a tad on the warm side. Some people call it "NATO-spec 9mm," but in fact it is nothing more than 9mm ammunition made to the original 1900 specifications laid out by Georg Luger.

Similarly, some shooters today refer to Israeli-made 9mm as being specially designed for the Uzi submachinegun, but in fact the so-called "submachinegun 9mm" is just standard 1900-era 9mm ammunition.

When Is A Luger Not A Luger

uger is a registered trademark in the United States belonging to Stoeger Arms. Stoeger is a major importer of fine firearms such as the Sako and Tikka lines of rifles from Finland and the Llama line of handguns from Spain.

Only Stoeger has the right to the name Luger, anyone else making Georg Luger's epochal pistol has to call it something else. "Parabellum" and "P-08" have both been used as generic substitutes in the past.

Even the famed German gunmaker Mauser-Werke of Oberndorf, one of the original manufacturers of the Luger, cannot call their Luger a Luger in the United States; it is sold as a P-

08 Parabellum.

A:F. Stoeger & Co. of New York City was founded in 1919 by Austrian born Alexander F. Stoeger (1863-1945). At one point in the company's long history, they marketed a product called "Stoegerol" which was a lubricant that the salesmen claimed was so fantastic that is could be used both as a preservative and an analgesic!

In 1922, BKIW, the commercial arm of Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken (DWM), appointed Stoeger as sole agent for the Luger pistol. This prompted a legal spat with Hugo Panzer & Co., but it was resolved in favor of Stoeger.

In 1929, Stoeger registered the name "Luger" in the United States to prevent its use by rival distributors. The registered trademark remains valid today.

this article)," John continued, "It's the result of tearing down three guns to make that one."

So if you want to buy a Luger for John to restore, it would probably be best to let him find you a suitable one.

"If a customer wants one, I go to a

top-flight Luger collector and get a good gun. Of course we're talking serious money here— six hundred bucks or so," John advised.

Luger Reconditioning

Carefully inspecting the base gun is

the first thing that John does when he reconditions a Luger like it had just been packed in sealing grease at a German factory 70 years ago.

"The first thing is make certain there are no surprises! Next, I determine if everything is functional," John explained, "I strip the weapon down and see if the parts match. Quite often the 1920's guns were made from mismatched parts. You get some excellent ones and you get some that are barely functional."

At this point, John's practiced eye sorts over the inner workings of the Luger destined to be restored and determines which, if any, need to be replaced. "There are several different parts suppliers. Most collectors have an inventory of parts and can give you what you want. But you truly pay for them!" John said.

Once any broken or mismatched parts have been replaced, John routinely installs new springs. It is at this point that a new barrel, like the "Super Artillery" barrel shown in Ichiro Nagata's accompanying photographs, may be installed.

Finally, John assembles the Luger and test fires it.

Slow Rust Blue

Once he is satisfied that the toggleaction pistol is functioning properly, Continued on page 92



Guns Of The

After carefully auditing the field, the IRS has cashiered its .38 revolver and switched to SIG's 9mm pistol.



By Loren Franck



t's been said that two things in life are certain— death and taxes. Okay, so there's a third— the Internal Revenue Service. Since you pay taxes, you know all about the IRS.

But you probably don't know that for once— the IRS has done something right. Many handgunners are applauding the agency's recent switch from .38-caliber revolvers to high-capacity, doubleaction 9mm semiautomatics.

Most major law enforcement agencies now at least offer the option of automatics. With other departments, semi-automatics are mandatory. And for good reason. They're the trend-setting weapons for the '90s.

Yet, despite the recent trend in law enforcement away from wheelguns and toward Wondernines, all has not been roses for IRS agents who have made the change. The new autopistols brought IRS shooters a unique set of challenges that

In a mock car stop, agents are trained to stay low and use cover effectively.

weren't faced when the standard-issue handgun was a .38.

An Elite Force

Compared to the many police officers serving in America's large cities, IRS Inspectors and Special Agents are rare. For example, in the IRS Western Office

of Regional Inspector, Internal Security Division, there are only about 60 agents. This Western Region covers the three West Coast states plus Idaho, Nevada, Alaska and Hawaii.

What do IRS agents do? True, they're federal agents— cops— but in a restricted sense. As Inspector John Rabatin



Inspector David L. Jorgensen clears a stovepipe jam on his SIG P-226. Even though malfunctions are virtually non-existent with the Swiss 9mm, agents are nonetheless trained in the proper handling of jams.

explains, "Internal Security Inspectors deal with threats, bribes and impersonations regarding IRS personnel.

"There are also Special Agents in the Criminal Investigation Division, which is much larger than Internal Security. They investigate tax fraud, money laundering and that sort of thing. Nationwide there are about 500 Internal Security agents and about 3,000 Special Agents."

But despite being an elite force, the need for a more powerful, higher capacity weapon was there. And fortunately, IRS agents got it.

Why The Change?

Certainly, pistols aren't new. IRS officials in Washington, D.C. realized that. And given the right magazine, a pistol can easily muster more ammunition capacity than a revolver. The IRS knew that too.

What was new to IRS officials, however, were the needs of their Inspectors and Special Agents in the field. Police now confront an escalating degree of deadly force on the street.

Put simply, bad guys are better armed than ever before. Their firearms are more powerful and can hold more ammo. That was the obvious reason for the switch.

But there was perhaps a more important reason, says veteran IRS Inspector David L. Jorgensen: The agents liked the new guns.

"Initially, the agency sent out a questionnaire asking how many people wanted to change from revolvers to semiauto-



Special Agent Ken Harper prepares to reload while keeping his weapon at eye-level. If danger presents itself during a reload, the agent can reengage the target even with the magazine out, a tactical advantage.

matics," Jorgensen explains.

"We in the Western Region had an opportunity to go to Fort Ord army base in northern California, and the regional representative from SIG brought several of their pistols there. Everybody in the region had a chance to fire the SIG. Smith & Wesson and Ruger were also represented. After experiencing these different semiautomatics, the whole region unanimously said they wanted to make the transition."

Which Wondernine?

After careful consideration, it was decided the agents would be issued the SIG 226 or 228. Agents had hoped they could have made that choice themselves, but it wasn't to be. The final decision rested in Washington.

"When the agency first started talking about converting to semi-automatics, I found out about the SIG," Jorgensen recalls. "Of course, our national firearms board already knew about it, and eventually, people in the different regions were asked what they thought."

Jorgensen went for it. When the SIG was compared with the other semi-autos tested, it proved to be a great weapon—the 9mm that should become standard issue. He recommended the SIG to officials in Washington, explained why the agency should adopt it, and they agreed.

Actually, it came down to the SIG or the Glock. During this time, Inspectors were sending as much information as they could to Washington regarding 9mm's. Other agencies had already chosen the SIG, while a select few agencies had gone with the Glock. SIG was the obvious choice.

"Therefore," Jorgensen says, "The issue for Internal Security nationwide is the SIG 226 or 228. We also have a few Smith & Wesson 6906's for personnel who require a smaller weapon. Our Criminal Investigation is still testing to see which 9mm it will adopt nationwide. However, many of their Special Agents are already using the new guns.

"Because we were the first region to get the pistols, our order went in for 226's. But when the 228 became available, Washington decided to purchase 228's from that time forward. The 228 is now much more common than the 226."

Rabatin was already well versed in semi-automatics when Washington announced the switchover. His favorite personal firearm was— and still is— his Government Model Series 70 Colt .45 automatic.

Rabatin also had ample hands-on experience with 9mm pistols before the change and was already aware of the increased firepower and other benefits the SIG would offer. He was sold too.

"I was anxious to get the new weapons and get started with them," Rabatin explains, "I wanted to get the added firepower and be

Continued on page 84

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The Brownells catalog is a must for anyone in the handgun or rifle repair and modification trade as well as those garage tinkerers. The 28 page booklet profiles 1,400 tools, custom accessories and replacement parts, with 90 new additions for 1991. Contact Brownells at Dept AH, Rt 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA 50171, Tel. 515-623-5401.



Bianchi Desert Camo

Bianchi International is now offering a desert camo pattern on a variety of products. The 100% nylon fabric will be featured on the Universal Military Holster pictured above, mag pouches, Ranger belts, packs, duffel bags and more. For details see your local dealer, or contact Bianchi at 100 Calle Cortez, Dept. AH, Temecula, CA 92390, Tel. 714-676-5621.



S&W Mag Pads

C.P. Bullets now has colorful Super Tuff™ mag pads for Smith and Wesson Autos. Keep your different loads color coded, insure proper seating and avoid pinched palms. Mag Pads are also available for 1911-style pistols. For more information on these and other C.P. products, including their custom match bullets, contact them at 1814 Mearns Rd., Dept. AH, Warminster, PA 18974.



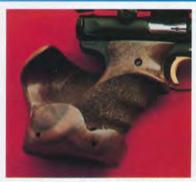
Radical Grips™

R.J. Renner Co. introduces a new line of wrap-around sport grips to add some color to your 1911-style pistol. The pebble-textured thermo-plastic rubber grips also feature gold medallion insets with the Radical Grip™ palm tree and sunset logo. Way cool, and only \$19.95. For more information, contact R.J. Renner Co. at 8774 Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 1 Dept AH, Sepulveda, CA 91343.



E-Z Mount

The E-Z Mount from R&R Accessories makes mounting scopes, red dot optics, and lasers on rifles, pistols and shotguns quick and easy. A core block fits over the barrel, and the frame and rail then tighten on it with hex screws. The existing sights can remain in place and functional. Accepts Weaver-type rings. For details contact R&R Accessories, Dept AH, P.O. Box 240, Hope RI 02831-0240.



Ruger Mk II Grips

M.R. Turner Customs has introduced an orthopedic wraparound grip for the Mk II pistol. The grip features finger grooves and stippling, and is available in walnut, butternut, and cherry. Currently available in medium size only, but other sizes will be out soon. Contact M.R. Turner Customs, Dept AH, P.O. Box 76, Mt. Pleasant ARE 72561 or Volquartsen Custom, Rt 1, Carrol IA 51401.



\$129.95

New Timer From PACT

The official timer of Springfield Armory's 1991 Canadian IPSC National Championship

A Timer for Matches

The PACT Championship Timer is the best training timer in the world. That's why the world's top professional shooters choose it for their vital practice sessions. However, it is something of an "over kill" for timing a match.

You Talk We Listen

As a club grows it's faced with the problem of needing several timers going at once to move shooters throught the match at a reasonable pace. Many of our customers have asked us to provide a "minimum configuration" timer that could accurately time shooters but was inexpensive enough to allow a club to purchase several of them.

What's it do?

In order to accurately record a shooter's time the RO must be sure that the timer heard the correct number of shots, otherwise he doesn't know what he's writing down. The PACT Club Timer™ uses our copyrighted user interface to automatically alternate between the shot number and time. This allows the RO to confirm at a glance, no button pushing required, that the time recorded is correct.

The Club Timer contains the usual **trick** software that you've come to expect from PACT: **No limit** to the number of shots recorded. Unlike other timers that "lock" when the

memory fills, the Club Timer will automatically replace the last shot in memory with the last shot fired. 199.99 second time limit. Instant or delayed go, status line tells you what mode it's in. Auto Sense stop plate jack allows you to use normally open, closed or momentary switches. The Club Timer won't let you start a run unless the plate is set back up. Optional print driver lets you make a hard copy of the shooter's time eliminating recording errors.

Trade up to a MKIII

The Club Timer is designed for running matches, and lacks the features we consider essential for training. Nevertheless, for the individual who is just getting his feet wet in competitive shooting and finds himself attracted to the Club Timer we'll make you a deal. We'll give you a \$75 trade in allowance on your Club Timer if you trade up to a Championship Timer within 90 days from the date of purchase.

30 Day Money Back Guarantee & Lifetime Warranty

As with all our products, we designed the Club Timer, we build it, and we sell it factory direct to you. We take full responsibility for your satisfaction. If you are not 100% satisfied with any PACT product, return it to us undamaged within 30 days, and we will refund your money.

The Club Timer also features a real **simple repair policy**. If it breaks due to a defective part or faulty workmanship we'll **fix it free**. If you break it we will fix it for no cost. No hassles and no questions asked.

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By Phone: We are happy to answer your questions and take your order. We accept Dept. PO's, VISA, MC and COD* orders.

PACT Club Timer	\$129.95
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Extra Printer Paper (6 rolls)	\$ 12.00

*Shipping & Insurance \$5.50 UPS Ground/\$10 UPS 2nd Air. Bank service charge VISA/MC. COD fee \$3.75. Texas residents please add appropriate sales tax. **Brochure available.**



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IPSC

Continued from page 49

bigger lots as well. Serious IPSC shooters think in thousands: thousands of bullets, thousands of primers, and of course, thousands of dollars.

Custom S&W Pistols

The Smith & Wesson Performance Center is building limited runs of several custom handguns for exclusive distribution by the Lew Horton Distributing Co.



Lew Horton's custom .40 S&W from Paul Liebenberg.

The line includes two autos based on the Model 4006, with a number of custom features: special oversize slides with fitted slide/frame rails, match grade barrels with a new spherical barrel bushing, lowmount Novak rear sight and interchangeable front sight, custom trigger job, and a handsomely polished appearance.

The two models are the Tactical Pistol and the Comp .40, with a single expansion chamber comp. Both, of course, are in .40 S&W with 11-round magazine capacity. For more information write Lew Horton, 15 Walkup Dr., Dept. AH, Westboro, MA 01581, phone: (508)366-7400

Wilson Goodies

Bill Wilson has added a scope mount base for 1911 autopistols to his big catalogue

of custom handgun accessories. This lightweight base bolts to the forward extension of the frame (gunsmith in s t a 11 a t i o n required) and accepts standard Weaver-type rings. Suggested retail is \$99.95.

A new bigcapacity 1911 style frame is in the prototype stage

and should be ready by the fall of 1991.

Wilson's new book, *The Combat Auto*, should be in print by the time you read this. Edited by Cameron Hopkins, this

book is a complete guide to modifying and customizing the 1911 auto for competition or self-defense. Suggested retail is \$14.95. A catalogue is available for \$3 (refundable) from Wilson's, Route 3, Box 578-A, Berryville, ARE 71616.

McCormick Frame

Chip McCormick Corp. (CMC) also has a 1911-style big capacity frame in the works. Having used CMC parts in the past, I am sure it will be both high tech and high quality. An easily attachable scope base is being designed to go with it.

All of these manufacturers are doing their best to build the products that customers want. If we believe the market, then the competition gun of the '90s is a compensated, optically sighted, 9x21 or .40 S&W autopistol holding 15 to 20 rounds of ammunition.

And to think some people asy this sport isn't practical!



Shoot the American Handgunner's International IPSC Postal Match! Watch For Results In The Nov/Dec Issue!

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Continued from page 32

salt water, I can make anything rust, including stainless steel."

The typical engineer's measure of corrosion resistance is a salt-spray test, where they put a chunk of metal in a box, spray it continuously with salt water, and see how long it takes for rust to appear.

Blued steel has a rating of one hour of salt spray. Parkerizing is twice as rustresistant; it has a rating of two hours. Hard chrome rates 58 hours. A typical "stainless steel" alloy, as used in firearms, can go 80 to 85 hours before showing signs of rust.

NP3 is 500 hours by itself, but Barrkman and Ebdon apply it over a base coating of plain electroless nickel, to raise it to 1,000 hours!

Now maybe an engineer won't call that "rust-proof," but it seems to me you would have to really work at getting an NP3-finished gun to rust.

If you are really serious about rustproofing, if you work with the Coast Guard and you live on a houseboat, then get a stainless steel gun, and put NP3 on it. Not only will you increase the rust protection, the lubricating attribute will completely eliminate the "galling" that plagues stainless steel guns.

NP3 can be applied to regular chromemolybdenum gun steel, and stainless steel, and even aluminum. All parts of the gun can be plated, except the inside of the

barrel.

Test Sample

The gun pictured here is a Colt Commander with aluminum frame, regular steel slide, and Safari Arms stainless steel grip safety. The color is uniform, regardless of the metal.

The test gun was stripped of all lubricant. Five hundred rounds of Federal fullpower hardball were fired through the gun. With no cleaning, and no lubrication whatsoever, the gun functioned perfectly.

It was then cleaned by merely wiping it off with a paper towel!

Lube-Free Finish

Now you might think, if NP3 without lubrication is slick, then NP3 with lubrication must be even better, right?

Wrong! Liquid lubrication collects dirt, like burned gunpowder soot, and plain old airborne dust. This builds up and turns into black, sticky sludge, that can foul up the works.

In cold weather, gun oil can congeal, and slow down the cycling action enough to cause malfunctions. In extremely cold weather, gun oil can even freeze.

If you have your gun finished with NP3, don't try to "improve" it by lubricating it; it works perfectly just the way it is. Nothing sticks to it, including dirt.

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Spring Kits for lighter/ smoother actions and high performance loads. These quality spring kits feature the finest gun springs available, made from high tensile spring wire, for the finest possible action tuning jobs. Kits include the various springs necessary to assure reliable function. smooth operation, consistency, and long life. When only the best will do, WILSON COMBAT "CUSTOM-TUNE" spring kits are the only choice.



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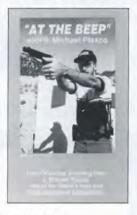


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1911 Hex Head Grip Screws

Stop screwdriver slips! Replace your ruined screw slots with these Allen Head screws. Blue #803 and Stainless #804.



Beavertail Installation

neat and easy-touse jig



for installing our beavertail grip safety. Heat-treated super-hard so hand filing right up against it is okay.

1911 Extended Safeties

Made in both Blue #890 and Stainless Steel #891, this new part is more oversize than any Angled slightly to keep thumb from contacting

slide and has double angle to fit thumb perfectly. Requires gunsmith fitting for safe operation.

Commander Style

Slotted

Holes are precision machined in location and sear hooks are surface ground so hardly any stoning is necessary. Heat-treated to at least 50Rc. Available in Blue #870 and Stainless #871.

1911 Ambidextrous

hand stages as well as lefthanded shooters.

Blue #892 and Stainless Steel #893. Requires gunsmith fitting for



Four-Star Comp Unly

Available in any caliber in Blue #900 or Stainless #901. Internal threaded .581 x 40. Requires a 5.5" barrel.



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Four-Star

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Not just four slots, four separate chambers with four baffles to wipe the expansion gas from the bullet and reduce recoil. Complete assembly available in blue or stainless steel with a stainless barrel pre-fitted to a Colt Government model in 45ACP or 10mm. 1911 copies may require fitting.



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Intended for drop-in installation in standard Government Model pistols. May be shortened for installation in Commander pistols,



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For faster revolver reloads, cut to clear any speed loader. Available in Blue #894 and Stainless #895. Fits Smith & Wesson 'K', 'L' and 'N' frame revolvers.



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stack magazine.

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Required for the IPSC weak

safe operation.

senger door. Looking off into the cornfields, he knew he could make a dash for

Is there anything else? Oh, yeah.

The test Commander already had a

So, it's like getting your gun refinished,

The price is not cheap, but it's not unrea-

sonable. A complete refinish for a handgun

is \$205. For comparison, plain electroless

nickel is \$150, Parkerizing is \$105, and

Readers interested in the NP3 finish can contact the firm at Coating Tech-

nologies Inc., 21438 N. 7th Ave., Suite

Is it worth it? For a gun that you

good old-fashioned bluing is \$95.

plan to bet your life on, I think so.

AYOOB FILES

B. Phoenix, AZ 85027.

Continued from page 50

nice 41/4 pound trigger, courtesy of Colorado gunsmith Ikey Starks. When I got it

back from Barrkman, it was 31/2 pounds,

and getting a trigger job thrown in free!

Before you spend money on an "action job," have your gun refinished. You just might find that the trigger pull is smoothed up enough to make polishing

and stoning unnecessary!

still crisp, and still safe.

In high school and college, he had been a football star, and many considered him professional material. But then the image flashed into his mind, an image of other policeman laughing at him, mocking him for running like a rabbit and letting a punk take his gun and perhaps his patrol car. No, Pape decided, he'd see it through and wait for an opening.

Pape entered the vehicle and sat in the right front seat. Barton shoved the officer's gun between his own left thigh and the seat cushion, leaving his left hand free to drive.

He kept the .45 auto in his right hand as he worked the floor-mounted gearshift lever with it. Pape thought he could see the light at the end of the tunnel. That big automatic was in easy reach of his own hands, and if his kidnapper took his eyes off him at a stop sign...

Courageous Move

Back then, cops didn't refer to tunnel vision, but Pape must surely have experienced it. His mind dwelt on the deadly grey automatic in the gunman's right hand. And, when the moment came, he went for it.

Jumping a drawn gun sounds hopeless, but one must remember, Oran Pape had had the courage to beat such odds before, on the gridiron. Eight years prior ace sportswriter John O'Donnell of the Des Moines Register had described a game in which Pape's Iowa State team was being romped by their archrivals, the Minnesota Gophers:

"Hopeless? Not for Oran Pape. He took the ball from center and started at a gallop which never ended until he deposited the pigskin back of the goal line. Irving Nelson kicked the goal, and Iowa marched off the field to the tune of a 7-to-6 victory. Pape was the toast of the throng."

Pape, now 29, dipped into the same reserves of courage. When the moment came, he lunged for Roscoe Barton's gunhand... and got it!

The young trooper bent Barton's wrist backward so hard that he broke it, and the cocked .45 flew harmlessly into the backseat. But his concentration on the autoloader had too deeply canalized his mind: he had apparently forgotten his own .38 Special, under Barton's leg.

Copkiller Strikes

And now, in one swift and terrible movement, the gunman grabbed the Official Police with his left hand, swung the barrel up between the patrolman's legs, and pulled the trigger.

The 158 grain roundnose lead bullet carried little merciful shock power with it as it entered the groin and tore its way upward through the lower abdomen, shattering the left hip-bone as it lodged there. But perhaps the agony and the horror of the wound fed even more strength, for a moment, into the body of the young athlete.

Pape and Barton were both large, powerful men. But Pape's hands were both on the revolver's four-inch barrel now, and slowly, inexorably, he turned the Colt around toward his tormentor.

No one knows if Roscoe Barton screamed before the final moment of the death struggle. We do know that both men were still grappling for the gun when Pape pulled the trigger and shot Barton in the face.

And now, no one would ever know if Barton had intended to finish him or not, because the last thoughts of the kidnapper exploded out the back of his head in the jetstream vapor mist of the bullet's wake. The corpse of Roscoe Barton slumped against the driver's door, the bloody head lolling.

Plea For Help

The first part of Oran Pape's struggle was over. Now the second stage began. Still clutching his service revolver, Pape rolled out of the car and managed a couple of halting steps before the broken hip gave way and he pitched forward. The rough road surface grated the palms of his hands away as he dragged his uncompliant lower body behind him into the middle of the lane.

When he saw a car coming, he flagged

The vehicle pulled over and a man stepped out, staring at the prone officer. Pape's entire lower body was soaked with blood; the green uniform trousers now



Series 47 WILSON-ROGERS Advanced Pistol Magazines for 1911 style autos are the choice of experienced competitors and the U.S. Military elite special forces. These high quality stainless steel magazines are designed with maximum durability and reliability in mind. Incorporating the latest in durable materials like the 17-7 aircraft grade stainless steel bodies, heat treated to R/C 38. and precision formed from .021" gauge metal, the self-lubricating followers are made from a high strength custom blendefiberfill nylon as is the removeable base-pad. Springs are specially fabricated from a heavy duty, high tensile strength spring wire to reduce "spring ser" and provide the longest possible spring life. Totally redesigned to take advantage of the latest technological improvements with a commitment to uncompromising quality for those who demand nothing but the very best.



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We stand behind the quality of our dies and will repair or replace them at no charge if damaged in normal use. See your Lyman dealer today or send \$2.00 for 44-page color catalog of complete Lyman line. Small version free.



Dept. 974, Rt. 147 Middlefield, CT 06455 Questions? Call toll-free 1-800-22-LYMAN. appeared dark red.

"I've been shot," Pape blurted through teeth clenched in agony, "For God's sake, get me to a hospital!"

The man looked at him for a long moment, then said disdainfully, "I'm not getting blood all over my car."

The motorist turned on his heel, got back into his car, and accelerated. The spinning rear wheels sprayed dust and E. Fender of Illinois helped them transfer the wounded officer into his high-powered touring car. They now raced toward Hershey Hospital in Muscatine.

A Brave Man Succumbs

When the word went out over the air, the other officers were stunned. Some wept, openly and unashamedly. Pape was the first of their number to be shot in the

line to give blood could hear their brother patrolman repeating, "I could have got away... I could have got away... When he made me walk in front of the car, I could have taken off... but... I couldn't do it I was afraid you'd all laugh at me... I just couldn't do it... but I could have got away..."

Too long untreated, the loss of blood had created hemorrhagic shock, or collapse of the blood vessels. When the first transfusion had clearly failed, by midnight, a second was ordered. John Hattery, Chief of Patrol, volunteered, and in moments he lay next to the wounded trooper, hooked up for direct transfusion.

Even that wasn't enough. Mrs. Charles Pape, his mother from Dubuque, and his brother Vern were at his bedside. The patrolman's wife Nancy had been so shattered by the news that she had to be sedated, and lay in a nearby room. At 2:40 a.m., nearly 10 agony-wracked hours after the shooting, Oran Pape succumbed.

Chief Hattery broke down when he made the announcement to the other assembled patrolmen. Behind hid tears, however, was a cold rage. Hattery spent several days in Muscatine after the shooting seeking the first motorist who had abandoned the hero cop in a puddle of blood.

The man was never found. Forty years later, now a septuagenarian, Hattery still

Barton's pattern of criminal violence was already escalating long before he pulled the .45 on Patrolman Pape. It is entirely possible that he intended to murder the officer.

gravel on the broken body of the young trooper as he lay helpless in the bloody dirt of the Muscatine Road.

The incident had begun around 5 p.m. It was nearly six when Kansas City salesmen L. L. Steward and C. W. Watson pulled over at the sight of the prone form waving weakly from beside a black sedan.

"My God, step on it, will you," Pape pleaded as they helped him into the car.

Their sedan was equipped with a speed governor, and just outside Fairfield, they pulled into a filling station where I. line of duty.

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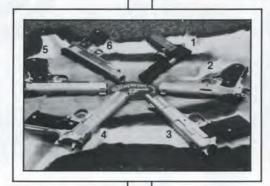
OUR 20TH

ANNIVERSARY

To the end of their days, each of his brother officers would remember where they had been the moment they learned of the Pape shooting, the way generations later a nation would remember the moment when the assassination of President Kennedy was announced.

Pape had lost a terrifying amount of blood. As policemen from all over the region converged to donate blood, an agonized Pape was telling his story to the doctors.

Outside the halls, officers waiting in



- Frank Paris Bowling Pin, Integral Porting. No Recessing of Bore
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AUTOPORTING?

So what's new!

Mag-na-port® International has been Mag-na-porting auto's for 20 years! There have been some new so-called "High-Tech-Engineering Porting Systems" which claim 40% less in recoil reduction. These claims are **impossible** unless you attach or hang a cement block on the end of the muzzle or barrel. The new so-called "Porting Systems" don't even know what a Metering Port is. Eighteen years ago, Larry Kelly started putting Metering Ports on handguns, rifles and shotguns! Now, nearly eveyone who drills or mills a hole in a gun barrel refers to it as a "Port" and they don't even know what a Metering Port is.

Don't be misled!

Don't be misled by claims and promises from companies here today and gone tomorrow. Mag-na-port® International is now located in five countries. We've been Porting for 20 years, that speaks for itself!

Write the "Originator"

Anyone interested in further information on Porting handguns, rifles and shotguns, write the originator:



"Imitation is the sincerest form of plagiarism."

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found the memory so painful he couldn't discuss it with me except in writing.

The Pape Lessons

Like all martyred policemen, Oran Pape left lessons in his death. In the '30s, cops didn't carry backup weapons unless they worked for the Texas Rangers or a heavy-duty urban felony squad. To wear one was to court the derisive nickname of "two-gun."

Yet, the kidnapping was a classic example of the need for such an instrument. When Barton turned away to check for traffic, the unmanacled Pape could easily have cleared a hideout gun and shot him. Tragically, Pape had no weapon left to shoot him with.

After Pape's death, the flap holster was moved to the left of the belt, supposedly to make disarming more difficult. Iowa State Patrolman then and later found it curious—many thought a quickdraw holster would have been a more fitting memorial.

The crossdraw flap holster remains today— even left-handed officers must wear it on the left, butt forward, for "uniformity"— and the Troopers Association has unsuccessfully tried to sue for a change.

Roscoe Barton, with the proverbial record as long as his arm, should never have been free. Evidence in his vehicle—from the stolen checks, to the spare ammo for the stolen guns, to nails for throwing out on the road behind him to flatten the tires of pursuing police cars—indicated that he was spending his probation as a full time criminal.

Federal Judge Charles A. Dewey, who suspended Barton's sentence, and Barton's probation officer do not seem to have made themselves available for comment in the furor that followed the slaying.

A spokesman for the people board simply said, "The present parole system is the best that can be worked out with the funds available." Barton had been required to check in with his parole officer only once a month.

In 1976, investigation showed that the average criminal on parole or probation still checked in only once monthly. Some things remain constants.

Unresolved Question

One question would never be resolved: if Pape hadn't jumped him, would the killer have just let him go, out in the country?

Extensive as Barton's record was, it showed no history of violence against the person, and many theorized that Pape was killed by his own heroics, that Barton would only have dropped him off in some cornfield far from a telephone.

That premise is highly arguable. The presence of the guns and the indications of bank robbery all show that Barton's pattern of criminal violence was already escalating long before he pulled the .45 on Patrolman Pape. It is entirely possible





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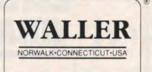
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that he intended to murder the officer. We simply have no way of knowing.

On the average, a man who takes an officer's gun in a *struggle* is likely to immediately shoot him with it, in a state of rage. The majority of cases where a punk gets the drop on a lawman and says, "Gimme your gun, Copper," end with the disarmed officer being released unharmed.

This is not, however, guaranteed.

A Detroit officer who surrendered his gun under such circumstances was summarily executed with a bullet in the back of the head moments later. In a Miami incident nearly two decades ago, an officer who was disarmed after unknowingly walking into a robbery in progress was about to be executed. He was able to draw a second weapon and blow away both attackers.

Clearly, any felon including car thieves must be considered capable of killing those who might bring them punishment. A stop like Pape's, we know with the clarity of 20/20 hindsight, warrants backup.

The radios of the period did not permit Pape to call for assistance, but even today, officers with more courage than is good for them make such high-risk stops single-handed.

A day's drive from the Pape death scene in 1979, a lone policeman attempted to pull over a stolen car. When it was over, that officer and two perpetrators lay dead, with another suspect wounded; an innocent bystander and a subsequently responding backup officer were also slain, and a third officer severely wounded.

After the tragic death of Oran Pape, Iowa Highway Patrol regulations were modified. Officers were now permitted to approach suspects with their service revolvers drawn when handling high-risk operations like the apprehension of a Grand Theft Auto suspect.

Tombstone Courage

Perhaps the most sensitive aspect of the Pape case in police discussions is the element of what LAPD officer survival expert Pierce Brooks classically characterized as "Tombstone Courage." Pape had seen an opening to escape, and apparently believed that his athletic prowess could carry him into the adjacent cornfields faster than his antagonist could successfully attempt to shoot him in the back.

But that wouldn't have been "brave." One remembers the last, dying words of the horribly wounded hero policeman on the blood-soaked operating table: "I could have taken off... but... I couldn't do it. I was afraid you'd all laugh at me... I just couldn't do it... but I could have got away..."

The peer pressure that leads to tombstone courage is a powerful and deadly thing. It can go beyond training, even beyond the individual's own common sense and intellectualized awareness of danger and the principles of survival.

nd there is reason to believe that Pape id have survival awareness.

Forty years after he saw the young hero cop bleed to death, Chief Hattery wrote me, "Oran Pape was an excellent patrolman, and it had only been less than 30 days before his death that, at a meeting in Cedar Rapids, I had given quite a long talk to the Patrol force of the eastern part of the state of Iowa about the necessity for exercising extreme care and caution in the apprehension of various people.

"Every so often you are bound to meet up with a desperado who has a very low regard for life, particularly a patrolman's life, and is willing to do most anything to still maintain his own freedom. I can even recall that during this talk Pape's eyes and mine met and it seemed that he was answering me- that I could rest assured

that he would be careful.'

High Activity Man

One final grim warning can be drawn by those who study the brilliant and tragically foreshortened police career of Highway Patrolman Oran Pape. He was perhaps the most popular officer on the force, and many felt, one of the finest.

He was what is called a "high activity" man, that is, went out of the way to do his job. Any large-scale study of police gunfights shows that certain men are at unusually high risk of shootouts, and tend to be involved in a disproportionate number of violent encounters in their career.

The layman would figure them for having Dirty Harry complexes, but on the contrary, what we see is that the conscientiously good cop is the one who is most often in harm's way.

The more actively you seek lawbreakers, the more likely you are to find danger.

A more recent parallel of the Pape tragedy was the murder of New Jersey state trooper Philip Lamonaco. Considered by many the finest lawman in his part of the state, and known to his peers as a "super trooper," he was gunned down in a bloody shootout with heavily armed terrorist bank robbers.

Among civilians, the man who is most likely to step out of the crowd and attempt to rescue an innocent victim from muggers is similarly the man most likely to face homicidal assault, the man most likely to be involved in a gunfight if (one hopes) he is in fact armed himself.

Yes, there are many lessons to learn so that Oran Pape's sacrifice will not be in vain. Perhaps the true tragedy is that more than half a century later, so many of those lessons have gone dangerously unheeded by so many in American law enforcement.

The author wishes to thank Tpr. Bill Pasut of the Iowa Troopers' Association, Col. Hattery (ret.), Col. Dickinson (ret.), and Lt. Bob Glenn, the historian of the Iowa State Patrol, all of whom made the research for this article possible.









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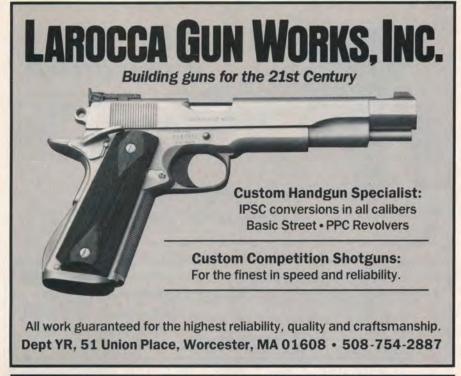
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IRS GUNS

Continued from page 73

on a par with the people we were dealing with rather than continuing with what, for us, was outmoded technology."

Auto Pistol Pluses

Semi-automatics hold more rounds than revolvers do, an important asset when you're caught in a firefight. The SIG 226 holds 15 + 1, while the newer 228 has an ammo capacity of 13 + 1. IRS Inspectors were previously limited to 18 rounds of .38-caliber +P ammo— a full cylinder and two speedloaders.

Although 18 rounds were enough to handle most desperadoes, today's escalation of deadly force against IRS Special Agents and Inspectors mandates high-capacity weapons to overcome that force. With two spare magazines and a fully loaded semiauto, IRS agents now go into the field with 40-46 rounds instead of 18. That's over twice their former ammunition capacity!

IRS agents are authorized to use two 9mm rounds—Federal's 115 grain JHP and the Winchester 147 grain STHP. The lighter Federal round leaves the muzzle at about 1,160 fps, delivering some 345 ft/lbs of muzzle energy.

The 147 grain Winchester, while slower at about 1,010 fps from the muzzle, is obviously heavier than the 115. Therefore, it has more momentum and more penetration. It has a slightly lower muzzle energy of 333 ft/lbs.

Both Jorgensen and Rabatin claim the 147 grain Silvertip is the next best thing to a .45 ACP. "When my SIG is armed with it, I have all the confidence in the world," Jorgensen says.

"I guess I'm just an old-timer, but I love the .45," Rabatin admits. "That's just my personal feeling. I'm not saying it should be our duty weapon, because I also love the SIG. I think it's an excellent weapon, and I feel very confident with it."

Special Agent Ken Harper of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division was delighted when the agency converted to Wondernines. One of the biggest reasons was reload time. Even with speedloaders, reloading a revolver costs valuable time in a firefight.

As Harper explains, "If you take a good shooter with a .38-caliber revolver— or any revolver for that matter— and pit him against an equally skilled 9mm shooter, the semi-automatic shooter will out-reload him every time."

Why? Because it's easier to drop an empty magazine out and pop in a fresh one than it is to tilt the wheelgun up, extract the empty casings, reload using the speedloader, and then place the weapon back into firing position. Physically, reloading a semi-auto is a more streamlined move.

Harper touches upon a forgotten aspect of reloading. With a revolver, he says, you disturb your sight picture by removing the weapon from eye level to eject your empty shell casings. You then position the gun downward to reload, after which you must restore the sight picture.

But with a semiautomatic, Harper claims, you can go though the entire reloading process without losing the sight picture at all. You can drop the empty

"Suppose I'm in a situation where I have to fire 25 shots. If I'm armed with a revolver, that means I must reload five times. I can go into that same situation with my SIG, fire the same 25 rounds, and only reload once."

magazine, reload and resume firing almost instantly. That's one of the biggest assets the Nines have over the .38's.

Still another benefit of the Wondernines is that you don't have to reload them as often as a revolver. Inspector Stephen Walsh, a Special Investigator with the Los Angeles IRS Internal Security Division, sums it up this way: "Suppose I'm in a situation where I have to fire 25 shots. Now I admit that 25 rounds is a lot, but just suppose.

"If I'm armed with a revolver, that means I must reload five times. In other words, in the space of a few minutes, I must stop five times, forget that the bad guys are still shooting at me, and feed my gun.

"Well, no thanks. I can go into that same situation with my SIG, fire the same 25 rounds, and only reload once."

For IRS agents, 9mm semi-autos have a clear advantage over revolvers in terms of trigger pull. With their .38's, agents fired most— if not all— of their rounds double-action. It's a long, hard pull that requires skill. What's more, it disturbs the sight picture in all but the best shooters.

However, with the semi-automatics IRS agents have adopted, only the first shot is fired in the DA mode. Then it's single-action all the way. And, of course, there's a difference between single-action on these semiautos and the single action inherent in a revolver. To fire single-action with a revolver, you must manually pull the hammer back before each shot.

However, with the semi-automatics, that's not necessary, except when pulling the slide back on the first shot. The pistol



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The Price Of Progress

All has not been roses for IRS agents in converting from revolvers to Wondernines. There have been the usual problems associated with replacing one weapon with another. However, proper training usually corrects these stumbling blocks. Other problems are rooted in the

IRS agents quickly discovered that the more they fired the weapon at the range the better they liked it.

nature of semi-automatics themselves. Yet, these challenges can also be overcome with training.

Some skeptics don't believe that a pistol can be fired as accurately as a revolver can. But IRS agents (and thousands of other law enforcement officers) know differently. Experience has taught them that Wondernines can be very accurate.

As Jack Mason, an Inspector with the

Los Angeles IRS Internal Security Division, explains, "After we got used to the new semi-automatics and felt natural with them, they were as accurate as our old revolvers, perhaps even more so. In fact, the more we trained with our new SIGs, the more accurate we became."

Surprisingly, no one in the Western Region got worse with the Nines after becoming familiar with them. In fact, with practice, many poor shooters eventually improved their qualification scores at the range, some dramatically.

"But there were some shooters who stayed the same with the semi-automatics," Mason recalls. "Some had trouble with the recoil. But generally, the things that make an automatic easier to shoot helped them as much as possible. The SIG is very nice to shoot. I think this helped everybody get comfortable with it."

Many of the problems IRS agents faced in switching from revolvers to semiautomatics centered around muscle memory. In other words, agents had trained with their revolvers to such an extent that the processes of reloading, aiming and firing became automatic. The challenge agents faced with their new Wondernines was to instill that same muscle memory with their new weapons.

As Rabatin explains, "When our people became more comfortable with the gun, they spent less time concentrating on the weapon itself, less time looking at it and trying to figure out what they should do with it. Once they felt comfortable with the gun and didn't need to look down at it every time they moved, they could concentrate on proper shooting techniques like good trigger pull, grip, stance and sight picture.

"Because of our training, we became increasingly familiar with the new guns," Rabatin continues. "It's now to the point that if you took some of our people and gave them a revolver again, they would run into problems such as reloading, grip—everything."

Jorgensen agrees. The way he sees it, the whole purpose of the agency's threeday transition training and all of the follow-up work is to change muscle memory. If you don't, you'll always be ineffective with the weapon.

Big Problems

"Our national office was naturally concerned about pistol jams," Harper says. "People in the agency felt the revolver was simple, almost foolproof."

Many IRS officials believed that a revolver is a simpler weapon than a semiautomatic. If a revolver malfunctions, they reasoned, there's more the shooter can do to get it going again.

True, automatics are more complex then revolvers. They can be fieldstripped, they have a lot of moving parts, and they are more sensitive to dirt and abuse.



But realistically, how much of a problem are jams? According to IRS agents, jams do occur, but not nearly as often as you'd think. And when they do, agents are ready for them. A big chunk of their training focuses on clearing jams.

Slide locks are another concern IRS officials had with the semiautos. After all, when the slide locks back, the weapon won't fire-not a good situation for anyone in law enforcement.

When slide locking increased at semiautomatic training sessions in the Western Region, Jorgensen and other firearms instructors became concerned. Were all shooters off? Or was something wrong with the guns?

Mason clearly recalls one incident: "It was hot and humid, and because of that, everybody was tired toward the end of the day. And then it happened. All across the firing line, slides were locking back. It was incredible. One right after the other locked back. Dave [Jorgensen] and I talked about it and said, 'Well, it's a good weapon. It's been working fine up until now. It's got to be the shooters."

As it turned out, that's what it was. The shooters were tired. They lost their concentration. Furthermore, they were shooting with limp wrists, which broke the straight line from firing hand to shoulder. In essence, the body wasn't supporting the weapon. However, after the shooters had a good night's rest, there were no more problems with slide locks. The new semiautomatics performed just fine.

Winning Confidence

If there's one thing IRS Inspectors and Special Agents have as a result of switching to 9mm semi-automatics, it's confidencein themselves and in their new weapons.

"It's kind of like being one with your gun," Mason explains. "Success with the weapon is often a mental thing. You want to have confidence in the weapon so if the slide keeps staying back, or if you experience other malfunctions, you won't lose faith in the gun."

IRS agents quickly discovered that the more they fired the weapon at the range and the longer they carried it in the field, the better they liked it.

"Hopefully," Jorgensen says, "You'll get to where you feel comfortable with the 9mm, and you'll learn to depend on it.

"You have to. If you don't have confidence in your weapon, you won't want to do your job. Fortunately, I have more confidence in my SIG than I've had in any other duty weapon issued to me.

"It wasn't easy making the switch, either. It took a lot of work. But it was worth it. When I think about the job we do and all the advantages the semiautomatics we use, making the switch was one of the smartest things we ever did."





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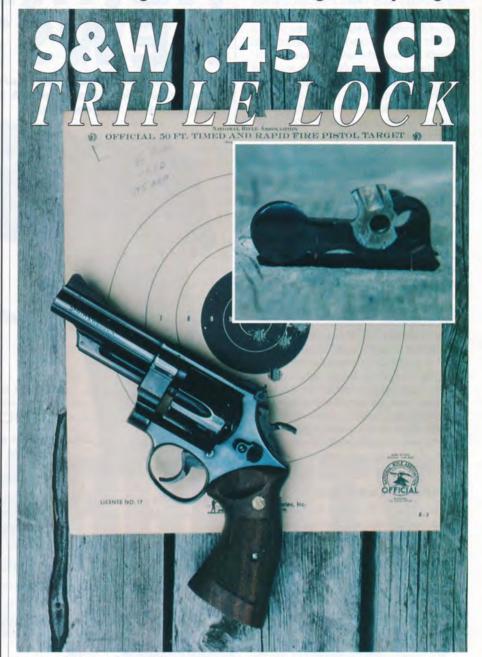


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By Frank S. Temlanovich

ccasionally a man has the good fortune of meeting one of those rare characters whom a man must regard with a combination of awe, wonder, interest and deep respect. Such was the case a few years ago when I became acquainted with Emerson Farrell.

Many of us, in this part of Wisconsin, consider him our "Expert in Residence," both in firearms and local history. In his lifetime, he has been a jeweler, machinist, gunsmith and experimenter. With his experience in shooting, dealing, gun repair and tinkering, he has become a living firearms encyclopedia.

We came to know each other because of a Smith & Wesson Model 25-5 .45

Colt. I owned it and he tried to talk me out of it. I still own it!

Despite the nearly 40 years difference in our ages, we have become close friends. After shooting together a few times, we soon discovered we that share similar thoughts on firearms— pistols in particular. We both like Colt Single Actions and Smith & Wesson revolvers. By asking the right questions, then listening and watching, I've come to learn of and appreciate the quality and detail of the fine old guns of the past.

Having things pointed out to me that I overlooked for years, I've come to agree with him that most of the current guns don't quite measure up. As Emerson put it "If you buy one, you've got most of the parts you need to make a good gun."

Learning more and more about handgun quality, I came to appreciate a Smith & Wesson that was put together the Old Way. And one of those that I've always wanted is now discontinued, a Model 25 1955 Target in .45 ACP. However, most of the good 25s in this area have either been bought up and sold elsewhere or are in the hands of people that won't part with them.

Over the last year or so, several things happened that made my dreams come true. Now I've got both— a classic S&W and a Model 25— in one beautiful package.

Triple Lock Quality

Last year, Emerson came up with a Smith & Wesson .44 Hand Ejector First Model, also known as the .44 Hand Ejector New Century and the .44 Triple Lock. This is the model Elmer Keith used to develop his heavy .44 Special loads

The Triple Lock was made from 1908 to 1915. With some 20,000 being made in calibers .44 Special, .44 S&W Russian, .450 Eley, .44-40 Winchester, .45 S&W Special, .45 Colt and .455 Mark II. The .44 Special was the primary caliber, with the others being special order or contract guns.

Available barrel lengths for a Triple Lock were 4", 5", 61/2" and 71/2". It could be had with fixed or adjustable target sights in either blue or nickel finish.

Emerson's is a mid-production gun with adjustable sights, 61/2" barrel, blue finish and chambered in .44 Special. Other than in photographs, this is the first Triple Lock I've seen. For me, it has come to represent what a handgun should be. The attention paid to the minor details during manufacturing is something you don't normally see today.

The metal-to-metal fit is simply perfect. Now, I don't mean that by today's standards. All too often gun writers pen lines about the "top quality" and "perfect finish" of the gun they are reviewing. More often than not, all they have is junk. I'm not pointing at any single manufacturer. They are all guilty of lapses in quality control.

Unfortunately, the shooting public has accepted this as a sign of the times, with little or no complaining to the manufacturers.

Emerson's Triple Lock exhibits a quality of craftsmanship that would be the envy of anybody that has ever tried to fit two pieces of metal together, let alone a complete firearm.

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Custom 1955 Target

After handling the Triple Lock, my talk repeatedly turned to "Some day I'd sure like to have one!" Before long, we located a source of original Smith & Wesson Triple Lock cranes.

Then the wheels really started turning. Why not build one! Emerson agreed to do the work

Now, seeing all he had to do, I don't know why he agreed. It's quite a job, requiring the steady patience of a master craftsman.

The gods must have been smiling. Another friend, shooting partner and fellow lawman decided to sell his Model 25-2. Needless to say, I paid him, grabbed the gun and ran like hell before he could change his mind. Now I had most of the parts I needed.

A job like this takes time. There's no room for mistakes and only one chance to do things right. You just can't rush. It took Emerson several months of working off and on. Thanks to his expertise, it turned out just right.

For ease of carry, both afield and in a duty rig, I wanted a four inch barrel. So, the first step was to remove the barrel and shorten it's 61/2" length. The cut was made just behind the front sight ramp, and the new muzzle squared up on the lathe.

Next, Emerson milled the mortise in the right side of the frame, leaving enough material to handfit the new crane. No doubt due to changes in tooling and manufacturing processes over the years, the Triple Lock crane was slightly longer on the front end than the Model 25 crane. So, a little reshaping and polishing of the new crane was required.

These Triple Lock cranes are a wonder in themselves. In these days of stampings, plastics and investment castings, to see a piece of such fine work really pleases the eye. We had to get a couple extras-just for lookin' at!

With the crane fit to the frame, the barrel was now remounted. A spring and a hardened, pointed plunger were now made and fit into the locking recess in the front of the crane.

The plunger was used to scribe the rear of the barrel lug. This was done to locate the center of the hole for the locking bolt. Accordingly, proper positioning of the barrel and a very close fit between the scribe, plunger and the crane were critical.

Intricacies Of The Job

Current production Smith & Wessons have a locking bolt in the barrel lug that engages the end of the ejector rod. This is a fairly simple, straight piece. The Triple Lock has a U-shaped locking bolt, the upper leg of which is shorter than the

lower. The short leg locks the end of the ejector rod. The longer lower leg fits through the lower portion of the barrel lug, under the ejector rod, and into the recess in the crane insert.

To get the barrel lug ready to accept the new locking bolt, the end of the scribe mark was located and marked with a needle punch. This was then deepened with a center punch. The barrel was clamped vertically to the table of the mill and a hole then drilled through to the front end of the lug.

A slot was then milled on the front end of the barrel lug between the new hole and the upper hole, left by the removal of the ejector rod locking bolt.

The new locking bolt for the Model 25 has a slightly different shape than the Triple Lock bolt. The redesign of the Model 25 also required that a plug be made to fit the slot in the barrel lug. Though these two parts differ from the original Triple Lock design, function is the same.

You'll notice the plug protrudes a bit from the barrel lug. This is intentional, so anyone looking at the gun would instantly notice there is something different here. A bit of showmanship.

The barrel was now brought to the proper length by shortening and squaring up the shank end. Setting it back a turn gave us a very fine .002" barrel-cylinder gap. (We like 'em tight!) This gave us the added advantage of reducing the size of

the forcing cone in the rear of the barrel.

On newer guns the forcing cone is excessively large. They are made that way to compensate for less than perfect cylinder-bore alignment.

Setting the barrel back left the ejector rod a bit long, so it too had to be shortened. This won't affect the function as the ejector rod is more than long enough to eject the short .45 ACP and .45 Auto Rim cases.

Final Custom Touches

The barrel was again removed, for the final steps. The new muzzle was crowned on the lathe, and a slot milled on the top of the barrel to accept the front sight. The sight was milled from the left-over piece of the old barrel and the blade was reshaped to the Baughman Quick Draw style. Enough material was left on the bottom of the sight to fit it to the slot on the top of the barrel. The barrel and sight were held together in a vise, drilled and pinned together.

The cylinder had a couple high spots that needed facing off, so it wouldn't drag on the barrel during rotation.

The last modification to the Model 25 gave us another unique feature of the Triple Lock. At the bottom of the crane, inside the frame, is a small spring and plunger. When the cylinder is open, this plunger enters a recess in the frame and acts as a cylinder hold open device, this is handy during loading and cleaning.





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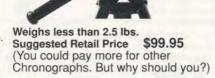
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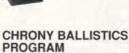
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Replacing the barrel completed the project. My Model 25-2 1955 Target Triple Lock was now a reality.

Test Firing

The honor of firing the first rounds went to the Chief Project Engineer. Beside his other talents, Emerson is, without exception, the finest pistol shot I have ever met. Firing at a measured 25 yards, offhand, the first group from our fancy sixgun measured 13/4". Disregarding the one flier it measured a mere 11/2". Now that's shooting! And he complains of failing eye sight.

The load was a Winchester 230 gr. jacketed roundnose backed up by a stout 10 gr. charge of Blue Dot and a Winchester large pistol primer, wrapped in Winchester .45 ACP Match cases.

Over the chronograph, this load averaged 882 fps. By way of comparison, we chronographed Federal 230 gr. Hydra-Shoks at 847 fps from the 4" Model 25 and 816 fps from my 3½ Model 4516. A 212 gr. Keith SWC and 10.4 gr. of Blue Dot gave us 927 fps.

Lead bullets aren't the best choice in this gun. They tend to lead up the cylinder face, causing it to bind during rotation. This isn't unexpected.

With the shallow rifling of the 1955 Target barrel and the .002" barrel-cylinder gap, this gun was meant to be used with jacketed bullets.

If this gives you ideas of having your favorite sixgun turned into a Triple Lock, don't bother trying to get Emerson's address. He's not going into business building them. You'll have to find a custom gunsmith to do the job. Probably just one more will come out of Emerson's shop. And, that will be it.

On the other hand, I've got a great idea...



DER LUGER

Continued from page 71

John prepares to finish the gun in the original method— slow rust bluing. "A collector wouldn't touch a gun that's been polished or blued," John confided, "It's a sure sign that work's been done on the weapon."

Slow rust bluing is a meticulous, time consuming procedure that lasts John 10 days. The result is a gorgeous, deep, lustrous blue like gun lovers have admired over the years in such wonderful examples of slow rust blue as Remington rifles into the 1950s.

"The weapons that are treated with slow rust blue are never buffed or polished," John explained, "Everything's done by hand.

"First you degrease the weapon. Then the bluing is applied by hand," said John as he paused to note that the bluing solution is a liquid that is rubbed all over the

gun metal where it immediately begins to oxidize.

"After a number of hours you have a fox-red rust all over it," John elaborated, "Then the parts are boiled in water and the red rust turns to black magnetic oxide. After 10 of these treatments, you usually have a finished blue job.

"Then the gun is dipped in certain kinds of oil to prevent further oxidation. However, the slow rust blue finish will continue to oxidize for the next 50 years, subtly.

"The pistols that you see today that have that bright blue look like heat blue (produces), those are the results of slow rust finish 50 years later. It's oxidized bright blue!"

Several important parts were never slow rust blued on original Lugers. John routinely inspects the bolt, extractor and several other parts that the Germans left "straw colored."

"They were never blued," John said of these parts, "They were heat-treated with that straw color from the tempering, which is just below spring tempering."

One of the clues that will be a dead giveaway to a Luger collector is if these parts have been blued. If an amateur has tried to restore a Luger and blued these parts, John will strip off the bluing, reheat-treat the part and leave it in the original straw color.

Having restored a classic Luger to its original finish, John quips, "The last thing you do is put the Kaiser's fingerprints on it. Then you're all set!"

The Luger Design

Today's gun designers bandy about the term "ergonomic design" like the concept of making a gun fit comfortably in the human hand was invented with the microchip. In fact, the most "ergonomic" handgun designs are some of the oldest-Sam Colt's single-action sixgun and Georg Luger's Pistole 1908.

A Luger fits beautifully in the hand, its precise balance making the gun point like a natural extension of the shooter's arm. The Luger is surely the most "shootable" of all semi-auto designs, including even the venerable Government Model. The Luger's grip angle is both comfortable to point and suitable for absorbing what modest recoil the Luger

Ironically, the Luger's grip with its natural feel was not a result of human engineering. The first design, known as the Borchardt-Luger, was chambered for the bottleneck .30 Luger cartridge and the grip angle was designed to accommodate the awkward feeding cycle of a bottleneck case.

The comfortable and natural "ergonomics" are merely a happy byproduct of Georg Luger designing his gun to feed the .30 Luger! Consequently, when the 9mm Parabellum cartridge was developed, the Luger pistol had a wonderfully reliable straight-line feeding arrangement



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from the magazine to the chamber.

Recoil is minimal from a Luger because the recoil-operated action does not begin to unlock until the chamber pressure has dropped to virtually zero. It is this peculiar trait of the Luger that makes the weapon ideally suited to silencing.

"Gangsters in Chicago used silenced Lugers a lot," John Lawson ventured off-handedly, "They preferred the .30 caliber to the 9mm. It was a Maxim type silencer."

John went on to note that you can check on the Luger's mechanism of remaining locked until pressures have dropped to virtually nothing by removing the extractor. "The way to test this is to take the extractor out and wait until the gun fires. Then reach in with your fingernail and take the case out. It won't blow back!"

The Luger "Cannon"

The reason that pressure drops to zero before the action begins to open in the Luger is that the entire upper assembly—called the "cannon" by Luger buffs—must move rearward before the toggle mechanism pivots open. This is a *large* component—barrel, receiver, breech block and toggle assembly—requiring considerable force to move.

In fact, some Lugers will not function reliably with standard 9mm ammo because there is not enough pressure to cycle the cannon. Use of pepped-up handloads or the so-called "NATO 9mm" will usually cure a sluggish Luger.

The cannon is actually a complete firearm. Says Lawson, "The top portion can still be fired even when it's off the pistol by depressing the sear. It's damn dangerous that way. The cannon actually constitutes a complete firearm. You must check your chamber (before disassembly)."

The reason that the cannon can fire independently of the frame is, of course, that the Luger is striker-fired. There is no frame-mounted hammer that strikes a firing pin. The striker is captured by the sear and is powered by a firing pin spring, all of which is entirely contained within the cannon's breech block.

The cannon itself slides on machined rails inside the frame, like a Government Model slide reciprocates on the frame rails of a 1911.

Luger "Safety"

The safety mechanism of the Luger would bring an evil, larcenous smirk to the sour visage of a liability lawyer. Like chumming the water with fish guts to attract a shark, the safety on a Luger is the stuff that these bottomfeeders of the "justice system" thrive upon.

First of all, the safety doesn't say safety. It says *Gesichert* which means "made safe" in German. (So you see ladies and gentlemen of the jury, no one could expect poor Mr. Klutz to know what safe-

ty means in German and so it's not *his* fault that he shot his big toe off.)

Secondly, some of the thumb safeties are "on safe" in the up position... and some aren't! Apparently the German navy, which adopted the Luger in 1904 four years earlier than the army, eventually got around to standardizing their *Pistole 1904* with the army's improved *Pistole 1908* and the result was an "on safe" lever in the down position.

(And as you can conclude, ladies and gentlemen, up is 'off safe' with some Lugers and up is 'on safe' with other Lugers, so therefore Mr. Klutz is not at fault for pointing the pistol at his foot and

squeezing the trigger.)

Thirdly, some Lugers have grip safeties, and some don't. Some have sear and magazine safeties, and some don't. John Walter has this to say about the various safeties found on Lugers in *Book Of The Luger*: "In the late 1920's, for some reason, the police suddenly insisted on the development of sear and magazine safeties— presumably, there had been some accidents— and many such devices appeared in the period between 1929 and 1933. Most worked; few were needed."

If you happen onto a Luger, the chances are that it's a "down-safe" pistol. The thumb safety on most Lugers is rotated down for "safe," up for "fire."

"Super Artillery" Luger

Besides restoring Lugers to immaculate original condition, John Lawson also customizes the timeless toggle top with an exotic conversion that he calls his "Super Artillery Luger."

One of the most distinctive handguns of the 20th century is the Artillery Model Luger, a long barreled version that was often fitted with a shoulder stock and a snail drum magazine. Eight-inches long, the Artillery barrels were fitted with rear sights, as opposed to the standard four-inch Luger which has its rear sight machined into the toggle.

The primary advantage of an Artillery Model is the increased accuracy from the rear sight being integral with the barrel, permanently aligned with the bore itself, instead of flying around on the back of the toggle during recoil. Additionally, the standard Luger sights are "double acorn" sights, an arrangement of triangle-shaped sights that is awkward to align precisely.

"Americans just don't get along well with that double acorn system. We're more used to the Patridge system," John explained. In fact, John said the Luger has been given a bum rap for being inaccurate because of those acorn sights.

"A Luger will do what the shooter does— especially the longer barrels," John pointed out.

John's Super Artillery barrel is made from a Shilen match-grade blank. "The heavy bull barrel is as heavy as the Luger carbine barrels of the 1920," John said, "They were 14 and 16 inches in length,



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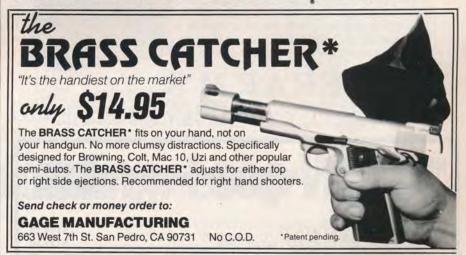
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but were quite thin. I have always wondered what a bull barrel of Artillery length-eight-inches-would do.

"First, it would require carbine-level loadings to cycle the action, in this case, 6 grs. of Unique behind a Hensley & Gibbs 133 gr. cast bullet, seated out to give adequate capacity to prevent excessive pressures.

"These loads crack through the Mach I sound barrier and slightly flatten primers, but are within the bounds of safety and reason. Do not use this handload in the four-inch barrel configuration! They will probably recoil violently enough to disconnect the recoil spring from its hooks and present major reassembly problems!"

Luger Accuracy

To test the accuracy of the Lawsonrestored Luger, I fired sandbagged groups, offhand groups and Ransom Rest groups. The results were rather inconclusive, despite a conscientious effort, because of several weird problems.

The handheld groups didn't work out too well because, as John pointed out, the triangle-shaped sights did not live up to my apparently Patridge-shaped eveballs. Groups with the four-inch barrel were on the order of six inches at 25 yards and the brand of ammo didn't make much difference. Sandbag results were in the fourinch ballpark.

Handheld groups with the Super Artillery were skewed because the pistol shoots a good 12-inches high at 25 yards with the Wichita rear sight bottomed out. That makes things awkward. However, sandbagged groups, while far from the point of aim, were a tidy two- to threeinches.

Switching over to Chuck Ransom's invention. I found it was difficult to obtain definitive results with the Luger in the Ransom Rest because of persistent jams. The gun never malfunctioned with either barrel during handheld shooting, but the rigid Ransom Rest must have somehow acted to absorb some of the cannon's momentum, thus causing frequent failures to feed. At least that's my

In order to clear the jams, I would have to handle the gun and it's bad news to fiddle with a pistol once its secured in the Ransom Rest. Ideally, you don't touch the gun at all until the shooting is finished because any sort of movement could jiggle the gun out of its precise alignment.

Anyway, after these problems I was able to get five uninterrupted shots with the Super Artillery barrel using a cast lead handload provided by John Lawson and the result was a very impressive 3/4inch one-hole cluster. Doesn't get much better than that!

The four-inch barrel did not jam as badly as the Super Artillery in the Ransom Rest, so I was just beginning to think that I was going to get some good results when a small part broke inside the gun,

rendering the trigger inoperable. Prior to breaking, I recorded one 5-five-shot group of 2½ inches with Federal ball, which is about typical of what a Luger can average.

Obviously, the design of Herr Luger is capable of outstanding accuracy, as witnessed by the one-hole group produced with the Lawson-custom Artillery barrel. However, the standard "as issued" four-inch barrel with its peculiar "acorn sights" is going to be a tea cup pistol at 25 yards.

A Piece Of History

Accuracy notwithstanding, the joy of shooting a Luger is to experience history in your hands. This is the gun that really started it all, the first successful semi-automatic military pistol. Not only was the Luger a pivotal new handgun, but also the gun was introduced with a new cartridge, the 9mm Parabellum. As Col. Charles Askins has observed, more men have been killed in combat with the 9mm Luger than all other autopistol calibers combined.

Today the 9mm is the standard issue of the US Armed Forces, the NATO alliance plus countless armies the world over. The Luger itself is not in current service because its epochal design has been supplanted with more advanced models like the gas-operated H&K P-7.

The Luger is one of the most glamorous handguns ever made, a distinctive



pistol that has endured the test of time. And those who appreciate the special significance of owning and shooting a piece of history will be glad there's a man like John Lawson who restores the Luger to its original, timeless condition.

Those who would like to contact John Lawson about his beautifully restored Lugers can reach him at The Sight Shop, 1802 E. Columbia Ave., Dept. AH, Tacoma, WA 98404 or call (206) 474-5465. The author gratefully acknowledges his reliance on the excellent research of John Walter in his definitive reference work, The Luger Book.

American Handgunner extends its appreciation to Mr. Don Wood for the use of the German uniform, medals and other historical artifacts as photo props. Mr. Wood, an avid collector of World War II uniforms, medals and memorabilia, is the owner of Gun South Inc. which imports the fine line of Steyr-Mannlicher rifles.

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IHMSA 15th Anniversary Match

By Dick Williams

he southern Arizona scenery was spectacular coming out of the Baboquivari mountains toward Tucson. In addition to the giant Saguaros, mesquite trees, and various cactus plants I couldn't identify, there was an abundance of lush ground cover from the late summer rains that enhanced the high desert's beauty. I thought that this would be a great place to introduce handgun silhouette shooting to the world.

Like most of my great ideas, this one was a little late. I was on my way to participate in the 15th Anniversary of handgun silhouette shooting at the Tucson Rifle Club where the first match was held in 1975.

I missed that first match but managed to catch the next one, called the First Western Regional, which was held in southern California during the summer of 1976.

I was hooked the moment my S&W .44 Magnum knocked that first chicken from its stand with a soul-satisfying clank. What followed were several years promoting the sport as Colorado's first state director leading to even more years enjoying handgun hunting in several of the western states. For this anniversary event, I was looking forward to some

"then and now" reminiscing.

The revolvers on line were dominated by Dan Wessons and Freedom Arms. There was a smattering of other wheel guns on the line, and one of them, a 10 inch Ruger .44, was hauled to the line by Major Golden of Tombstone, Ariz., who shot a 32 standing to win the match. Never argue with a man from Tombstone who can shoot a .44 Maggie like that!

Speaking of revolvers, Freedom Arms had sent their prototype .22 wheelgun down, and it was available for anyone to try. It's the full-size frame with a shortened cylinder, and does it shoot! Appropriately, the 15th Anniversary Match had a couple of shooters celebrate their first 40's. Congratulations to Don Miller and Dennis Taylor. Perhaps equally appropriate, there were a number of 39's with one shooter missing his first 40 by missing—you guessed it— his last ram!

Frank Scotto, president of IHMSA came and shot, but it was his son, Frank Jr. that won the family honors taking High Junior. Frank Senior spent some time mending fences and ending rifts with some of the southwest clubs that have gone from IHMSA to NRA sanctioned matches.

Frank's message was short and sensible, "Put the sport back in the hands of the shooters." We wish Frank the best of luck in returning silhouette shooting back to the growth sport category.

Since this was an anniversary match and welcomed shooters from both IHMSA and NRA, it was a little surprising that no NRA officials attended—perhaps they were all in Washington.

The other equipment evolution of interest is the focus on soft-set rams, or "glass rams" as they are sometimes called. I remember the concern in the late '70s about shooters coming to the line with elephant-size loads in antelope-size guns trying to knock down those stubborn rams.

If memory serves, silhouette shooting (particularly at the rams) was intended as a test of both power and accuracy. Sometimes rams and pigs remain standing just as turkeys and chickens turn without falling. I personally think its good to ring a ram occasionally: it builds character, it teaches humility, it generates sympathy and might even get you a free beer after the match!

Trophies were made and donated by Arizona's IHMSA state director, Paul Longmore and his wife Cissy. It was everything this family oriented sport was intended to be, a fitting celebration of 15 years of silhouette shooting!

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HYBRID

It took a rocket scientist to figure this one out. It's called the Hybrid and it's a radical new concept in compensators.

Interview by Cameron Hopkins Photo by Ichiro Nagata

nited States patent number 4,942,801 says that Wil Schuemann has a better mousetrap. Wil is a rocket scientist who used to work for Hercules Powder Company designing solid rocket propellants where he learned, as he puts it, "a great deal about nozzling."

When Wil took up IPSC shooting, he quickly realized that the popular "expansion chamber" compensators were not optimal. That's when he began work on the Hybrid system. The Hybrid is a small rib that is silver-soldered to a pistol barrel with a row of funnel-shaped holes drilled through. A non-stress-bearing portion of the slide is milled away to accommodate the Hybrid rib.

The number of holes in the Hybrid varies with the length of the barrel. The 3" Officers Model utilizes three holes, a 4" Commander has four holes and a 5" Government Model sports five holes.

Our testing of a Caspian Arms "Commander" custom built by Jack Weigand incorporated the first integral Hybrid barrel.

> Previously, the Hybrid rib

was sold separately to be installed by silver-soldering it onto a barrel. Caspian Arms now markets a match-grade barrel with the Hybrid system as an integral part of the barrel.

We discovered that the four Hybrid ports in the Caspian Commander averaged within five feet per second of a standard Officers Model. In other words, you get Officers ballistics (3" barrel) with a Hybridized Commander (4" barrel). Velocity loss of the Hybrid Commander barrel compared to a standard Commander barrel averaged 52 fps with four different .45 ACP loadings.

We spoke with Wil Schuemann about his remarkable design:

Handgunner: Could you explain the "nozzle theory" behind the Hybrid?

WS: If you put a hole in the wall of a pressure vessel, you get a force that is equal to the product of the area of the hole times the pressure in the vessel. That's comparable to the porting situation on all conventional compensators.

However, if you place a specially shaped expanding cone on the outlet of that hole, then you realize an increase in thrust of about 50%.

Handgunner: What size are the Hybrid's nozzles and how do you determine the number of holes?

WS: The ports themselves are .16" in diameter at the bore and .25" in diameter at the top of the rib.

The aft hole position is determined by the requirement that it be located forward of the most forward radial locking lug (of a 1911 pistol). And the most for-



ward hole position is determined by the requirement that it be aft of the front sight.

Handgunner: How did you determine the optimal size and number of nozzles?

WS: We made a test fixture consisting of a shoulder joint, an arm, a wrist joint and a hand. The shoulder and wrist muscles were simulated with springs and the weights of each element and the spring tension were adjusted such that an uncompensated firearm, when discharged, moved the fixture similarly as when that same firearm was fired by a moderately experienced shooter.

What we did was install the Hybrid on this apparatus and adjusted the number and size of the holes so as to optimize performance. During the testing, the motion of the arm and the wrist were measured.

Handgunner: How does the Hybrid work?

WS: The Hybrid uses nozzles instead of typical holes, which gives it a 50% advantage to begin with.

The second element of the design has to do with gas utilization. In a conventional comp gun, when the bullet clears the muzzle, we can assume that roughly half of the gas goes out through the upper port and half goes out in front of the gun. The reason is that the time it takes for the gas to travel down the length of the barrel is much longer than the the time it takes for the bullet to clear the compensator.

Now multiple-chamber comps— this is an aside— are an attempt to improve the percentage of gas that ends up going upward instead of forward.

Now in the Hybrid, the muzzle is still plugged by the bullet while the gas is being vented and therefore almost all the gas goes upward through the ports before the bullet leaves the muzzle.

Handgunner: What about velocity loss if most of the gas escapes before the

bullet leaves the barrel?

WS: We know intuitively that the bullet achieves 90% of its final velocity in the first two inches of bullet travel. We gain very little velocity in the last two inches of the barrel.

Handgunner: Excuse me, are you talking about a five-inch barrel?

WS: Any length, it doesn't matter. Handgunner: Sorry for interrupting, please continue.

WS: Where were we? Oh yes. The bullet base is what we're concerned about, and the bullet base is within about half an inch of the breech face before it's fired. So even in the Commander, we have four inches of bullet travel before it clears the muzzle.

When the bullet travels the last two inches, the amount of pressure in the gas drops to less than half of what it was when the bullet was in the middle of the barrel while we gain very little additional velocity.

Therefore, the ordinary compensator has to work with less than half the pressure of the Hybrid because the Hybrid is dumping gas when the bullet is in the middle of the barrel!

Handgunner: You could reload to get

back that velocity?

WS: Yes, in order to maintain the original muzzle velocity, the propellant charge needs to be increased by 0.3 grains. This additional propellant raises chamber pressures by approximately 1,500 PSI.

Also, this additional pressure that reestablishes original muzzle velocity is available to the Hybrid to provide increased compensation.

Handgunner: You're talking about a .45 here. That wouldn't be the same with a .38 Super would it?

WS: Yes. We've found the 0.3 grain increase applies to everything.

Handgunner: You are selling the Hybrid as a separate component, but Caspian Arms is selling integral barrels with the Hybrid. How did that come about?

WS: Caspian has an exclusive license for all 1911 after-market Hybrids. They have a non-exclusive license for all other

The effect of the Hybrid on accuracy is to improve accuracy by 20%.

applications.

Handgunner: Are any other gun companies looking at the Hybrid?

WS: My ultimate goal is to sell the Hybrid in a box gun that's sold across the counter. Right now Glock has one on their Model 22 for testing in Austria. Or is it the Model 23? Anyway, it's the .40 S&W model.

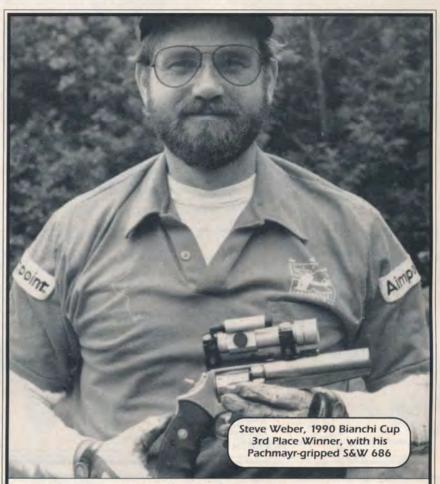
Also, Smith & Wesson has looked at one on the Model 3914, but I haven't heard anything from them. Right now the FBI has initiated a test program on the Model 1076 and the Hi-Power, both Hybridized. The DEA has a test gun on the SIG 220.

Handgunner: Conventional wisdom says that if you drill a hole in a rifle barrel, you will raise a burr that will ruin accuracy. How do you get around that?

WS: Burrs didn't affect accuracy. Some people polished them out, but some of the lazier ones just left the burrs in there. I'm not recommending that, but it just has never caused any trouble.

Handgunner: You're saying the Hybrid doesn't affect accuracy?

WS: The effect of the Hybrid on accuracy is to improve accuracy by 20%. The explanation is probably that the action of the Hybrid pushes the barrel down firmly



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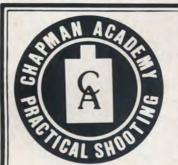


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into the slide and frame while the bullet is still in the barrel.

Mechanical alignments are more reproducible when the gun is fired. In addition, the Hybrid reduces the pressure in the barrel to approximately 3% of the peak pressure before the bullets leaves the barrel, so the normal violent motion of gas escaping between the muzzle and base of the bullet is essentially eliminated.

Handgunner: On another matter, it's been said that the muzzle flash is pretty spectacular in darkness. Considering that a bright muzzle flash could blind the shooter, isn't this a drawback to the Hybrid on a self-defense or duty gun?

WS: The muzzle flash is no different for Hybrid than any other gun in terms of its intensity. The flash occurs as a ball of flame in front of the muzzle which is directly in the line of sight of the shooter. On the Hybrid, the flame is completely above the gun and there's no flame in front of the gun.

Because of the temperature and velocity of the gas coming out of the muzzle, the flame does not become incandescent until it is about an inch or so above the line of the gun. That is not in the line of sight of the shooter.

Recently low-flash powders are becoming popular and Scott Powder Company has essentially zero-flash powders available. I expect the other manufacturers will supply lowflash powders shortly.

Readers interested in contacting Wil Schuemann for a Hybrid rib should call (702) 885-7362 or write to 705 Wagner Dr., Dept. AH, Carson City, NV 89703. Readers interested in the integral Hybrid barrel from Caspian Arms should call (802) 472-6454 or write to 14 North Main Street, Dept. AH, Hardwick, VT 05843.

HUNTING

Continued from page 18

With a little luck the little ring of jacket material shaved off will fall out when the case is ejected. Jacket material and lead from cast bullets can build up in the end of the chamber and a heavily crimped .454 round chambered and fired with no place for the crimped case to go.

I believe the end of the chamber may also become "peened" in some cases causing other problems. Cylinders aren't cheap— certainly not as cheap as .454 brass. It's a false economy to try to save a few bucks by using .45 Colt brass in the .454 chamber.

New PACT Timer

PACT— a very well known name to many of you— recently did me a big favor. Shortly after the first of the year I

spoke with owner Ronin Colman about the feasibility of using his timer to determine the rate of fire of machine guns. To the best of my knowledge there was no simple, reliable device in production to perform this task.

He advised me that the PACT timer as it was being produced was not capable of

Got a "bad" magazine? Does it feed smoothly or in a jerking manner? The PACT timer will tell.

accurately performing this function. Experimenting with Butch McCorts unit had already led me to believe that that was the case.

However, Ronin said it would be easy to program RPM (Round Per Minute) mode into the software and he would have one for me by the end of the month. It arrived January 27th.

Ronin advised me that it was the first attempt at writing that program and if I found any problems to let him know what they were. He also explained some of the workings of the mechanism and warned me of a few things to look out for—particularly during indoor shooting since the timer may reject a shot thinking it was an echo.

He was right— the timer so far has missed recording *one* shot from a burst from a full-auto 10-22 indoors. That is the only malfunction of the timer so far— if it can even be truly called a malfunction.

I'm still learning about the unit and its uses but it seems each time we use it a new use becomes apparent. Obviously the final readout of rounds fired per minute allows the rate of fire of a particular weapon to be determined.

The readout of the time between shots also tells us a lot. So far this has been interesting. For example Remington High Velocity was used in this test string with the standard Ruger magazine except for the noted exceptions.

Clean gun—1,267 RPM. RamLine magazine clean gun—1,158 RPM when it (the magazine) worked. Fairly dirty gun— 1,184 RPM. Dirty gun with more oil in it— 1,197 RPM. Winchester Super Max clean gun— 1,491 RPM. Same ammo but dirty gun— 1,381 RPM. Remington Thunderbolt— 1,054 RPM. Remington Viper— 1,463 RPM.

The timer exhausts its capability to time rate of fire at 2,000 RPM, but few guns will exceed that figure.

In working with a Thompson with one ammunition in stages, the rate of fire was increased from 460 RPM to 1,316 RPM.

Continued on page 106



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BY JOHN TAFFIN

TAFFIN TESTS

t was an idea that had to come to fruition. The 1899 .38 Special was lengthened to the .357 Magnum in 1935, the 1908 .44 Special was lengthened to the .44 magnum in 1955, and they became two of the most popular sixgun combinations available.

have been tremendous successes, the .45 Win. Mag. is still offered only in one ammunition style, namely the 230 grain hardball .45 ACP bullet. The reason is quite simple. The promised semi-automatics chambered for the .45 Winchester Magnum never really materialized.

has found two permanent homes, semiauto style, in the Grizzly from L.A.R. and the AutoMag IV from iAi.

The .45 ACP has been magnumized with style!

It is impossible to look at the cartridge without first looking at its most prevalent chambering, the Grizzly. The L.A.R. Grizzly looks much like a Government Model on steroids and to this shooter was an intimidating handgun, at least at first.

I've shot 'em all. All the big ones from every make and style of .44 Magnum through the .454 Casull and the .475 and .500 Linebaughs. All of these guns generate considerable recoil but none put me on the defensive as did the Grizzly .45 Win.Mag.

The problem is not recoil. The problem is grip shape. To allow the Government Model grip frame shape to accommodate magnum-style cartridges it must be made much wider from front to back

the .45 WinMag

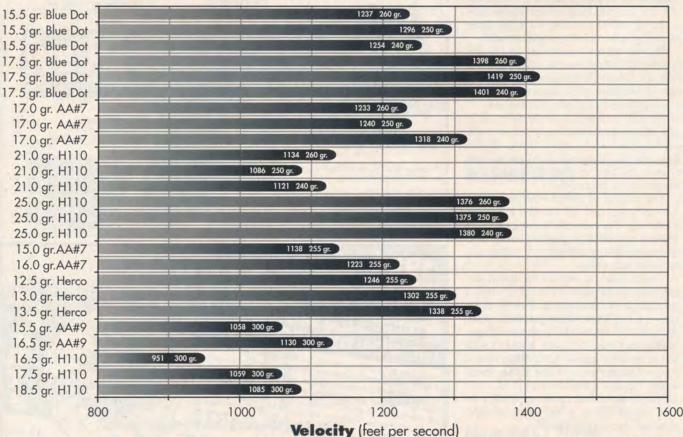
What about the semi-autos? The .45 ACP had been around since well before World War I, but no one lengthened the .45 ACP until Olin was convinced to stretch the legendary .45 Auto cartridge to the .45 Winchester Magnum in 1979 for use in the Wildey pistol.

And while the .357 and .44 Magnums

The first gun was to be the Wildey which has been an on-again, off-again proposition for years.

But the .45 Win. Mag. did find a home in the Thompson/Center Contender and my shooting buddy swears by his Super 14 Contender .45 WM as a superbly accurate handgun. Now the Win. Mag.

High Performance Favorite Loads For The .45 Win Mag



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.

and this does not mate well with short stubby fingers.

I felt that I did not really have a secure hold on the Grizzly as I began to test-fire the .45 Magnum. I actually felt that I would not be able to hold onto the big .45. Familiarity did not breed contempt in this case as the more I fired the Grizzly the better it felt, and I now don't even notice the grip girth.

The .45 Win, Mag, operates and strips like a Government Model and conversion kits are available in 10mm and the bottle-



It is used, as its name claims, to expand necks of brass cartridges by simply tapping the bottom of the brass on the bench as the tapered pin is entered in the mouth of the brass. It is also invaluable for "rounding out" bent and misshapen cartridge mouths.

The mouths of .45 WM brass are first "nexpanded" and then the cases are ready for standard handling. Almost. The mouths are still too crooked to enter the .45 WM sizing die, so all brass is then

run through a .45 Colt carbide sizing die.

A f t e r these first two steps, then the .45 WM brass is ready to be run through the four RCBS dies to result in a loaded .45 Win. Mag. round.

The .45 Win. Mag. is definitely a reloader's cartridge as

the factory round, the 230 grain roundnose FMJ, or hardball, is good only for... for... Hmmm? I really can't think of anything.

Muzzle velocity of the factory Winchester round clocked 1,392 fps from the six-inch barrelled Grizzly and compares with the Federal 240 gr. JHP .44 Magnum round that goes 1,465 fps from a 7.5" Ruger Bisley and 1,380 fps from the 5.5" inch Ruger Redhawk.

I consider the factory round as maximum. Any attempt on my part to exceed this velocity with Sierra 240, Hornady 250, or Speer 260 grain jacketed bullets resulted in much higher pressures as read on the flattened primers. I would definitely consider 1,400 fps as absolute maximum with this weight range bullet in the .45 Winchester Magnum.

Powders used in reloading the .45 Win. Mag, are Hercules' Blue Dot and Herco, Accurate Arm's AA#7 and AA#9, and Hodgdon's H110. The above mentioned Sierra 240, Hornady 250, and the Speer 260 JHP's all work well in the .45 WM. All loads are assembled in Winchester brass with CCI #350 Magnum Primers.

Favorite loads with Sierra 240 gr. JHP are 15.5, 16.5, and 17.5 grains of Blue Dot for muzzle velocities of 1,254, 1,326, and 1,401 fps; 17.0 grains of AA#7 (1,318 fps); 13.0 and 13.5 grains of Herco (1,258 and 1,285 fps respectively); and 25.0 grains of H110 for a maximum load at 1,380 fps.

Going up the weight scale to the 250 gr. Hornady JHP, most accurate and most

favored loads are 16.5 and 17.5 grains of Blue Dot for 1,331 and 1,414 fps, and 25.0 grains of H110 for 1,375 fps.

Milder loadings that show excellent accuracy with the 250 gr. Hornady in are 17.5 grains of AA#9 for 1,041 fps and 21.0 and 22.0 grains of H110 for 1,086 and 1,169 fps.

Speer's 260 gr. is the heaviest jacketed bullet available for use in the .45 Win. Mag. and proved to be the most accurate jacketed bullet in my test L.A.R. Grizzly. Best loads turn out to be 15.5 and 16.5 grains of Blue Dot for 1,237 and 1,304 fps, 16.0 and 17.0 grains of AA#7 (1,156 and 1,233 fps respectively), 12.5 grains of Herco for 1,185 fps and again 25.0 grains of H110 for 1,376 fps.

Actually 25.0 grains of H110 proved to be an excellent load for all three jacketed bullets, Sierra's 240, Hornady's 250, and Speer's 260. Again consider this a maximum load.

Blue Dot is an excellent powder for use in the .45 Win. Mag.

Any of these three bullets turn the .45 WM into an excellent hunting handgun or silhouette pistol. Of course the retrieving of brass becomes a real problem when using the .45 Magnum in silhouettes. And where the hot, fired and extracted brass winds up could make one very unpopular with fellow shooters.

Switching to cast bullets for the .45 Win. Mag., I went with Bull-X's (102 S.Main St., Dept AH, Farmer City, IL 61842) 255 gr. SWC .45 Colt bullet. These bullets proved to be highly satisfactory in the .45 WM and favorite loads turned out to be 18.5 grains of AA#9 at 1,215 fps, 12.5 grains of Herco for 1,246 fps, and 22.0 and 23.0 grains of H110 for 1,275 and 1,342 fps respectively.

These loads would work fine for hunting medium-sized game at reasonable ranges and puts the .45 WinMag right alongside a heavy loaded Ruger .45 Colt. BRP bullets are assembled with 16.5 grains of AA#9 at 1130 fps, and 17.5 and 18.5 grains of H110 for 1085 and 1130 fps muzzle velocities. All of these are the equivalent of the loads that I use with the same bullet in the .45 Colt for use in the Ruger Bisley and Blackhawk and the Freedom Arms .454 Casull and they are perfect close-range hunting loads and excellent long-range funshooting loads out to 800 yards. When shot over dusty ground, it takes a few seconds but they do raise a lot of dust when they hit.

The .45 WinMag is actually quite a good cartridge and definitely in the true Magnum class. With a longer barrel and better sights, the Grizzly would do fine as a long range silhouette pistol. While definitely too large to be carried as a defensive or law enforcement weapon, it would make a fine hunting pistol when properly handloaded. I am anxious to see how the .45 WinMag AutoMag IV feels and handles.



necked .357/.45 WM. L.A.R also offers a compensator that replaces the standard bushing and definitely reduces felt recoil. (For further information on The Grizzly contact L.A.R, 4133 West Farm Rd., Dept AH, West Jordan, UT 84084.)

The .45 Winchester Magnum cartridge is .3" longer than the standard .45 ACP cartridge and theoretically at least can be reloaded with .45 ACP dies. I use an RCBS .45 WM four die set that includes a taper crimp die which I consider mandatory for reloading the .45 WM or any heavy recoiling semi-automatic cartridge.

I say I use the RCBS four die set, but it is not quite so simple. Actually these four dies plus two others are needed to successfully load for the .45 WM.

The .45 WM brass takes a considerable beating when fired in the Grizzly. Ejected empties come flying out, leaving brass skid marks across the top of the slide, and unless caught with some type of brass catcher, wind up 55 to 60 feet behind the shooter. When retrieved, the brass is almost hopelessly out of round. So much so, at least, that it will not enter the .45 WM sizing die.

To reclaim the brass, I first use a Nex-Pander tool (available from NEI) that is an extremely valuable addition to any reloading bench. The NexPander is a cylinder approximately three inches long by .900" in diameter with a tapered pin on each end. One tapers from approximately .500" to .350" and the other about





Congratulations Bruce Piatt, Winner of Soldier of Fortune

AVAILABLE 1991

Until the timer was here we had no idea of the progress we were making or the rate achieved. Certainly we knew we were doing something— but not really what sort of gains could be attributed to what modification.

Interestingly my Reising, which is supposed to be a slow 450-500 RPM without any special tuning, turned in 920 RPM on the timer. A Swedish K rated at 450 did 460 with Egyptian ammo. An FN D in 8mm did 360 on slow rate and 620 on fast rate which still *seemed* slow compared to the 650 of a 7.62 X 39 RPK.

Assume you have a very reliable load, gun and magazine. It is simple to see what effect changing any one of the components of the whole will make. Since the timer also records and prints out the time span between shots changing bullet shapes may show a "stumbling" on the feed ramp that could lead to jams while showing an essentially identical rate of fire as a totally reliable system.

It could also show a major slowing of the rate of fire which could point toward the possibility of misfires and/or jams. The recoil impulse of various ammunition utilizing different powders to produce the same velocity may be different—the change in rate of fire will show it without grandiose study.

Got a "bad" magazine? Does it feed smoothly or in a jerking manner? The PACT timer will tell. So far I've not been able to see any difference in rate of fire by applying any of the "Miracle" oils

compared to any other oil.

In the past the timing of a series of shots with competition timers was accomplished with simply decimal fractions of seconds to look at. Rate of fire per minute had to be calculated from those figures. Without exception everyone so far who has used this timer has preferred the RPM figure.

Frankly, for me the difference of a revolver string or six at a rate of 220 RPM or at a rate of 277 RPM is a lot more meaningful than a decimal fraction, although the meaning is exactly the same.

Obviously in major competition the split second will continue to be the deciding factor. It does seem to be a lot more fun to compete with your buddy as to who can get the highest rate of fire out of a revolver or auto pistol. One stumble on the trigger can cost you over 100 RPM. This is really a fun feature as well as being very useful.

While the RPM factor is a very useful tool to anyone involved in automatic weapons such as a police armorer—particularly servicing them or selecting ammunition for them—the fun factor is

fully as important.

The uses are practically unlimited. In addition the PACT is a timer for shooting, a chronograph and is capable of printed readout. Its compact, lightweight, and

inexpensive enough to provide excellent quality without breaking you. And most importantly, it works.

Now for the kicker. If you want the RPM option on your new PACT you must tell them you want it when you order. No extra charge to include this feature! However, time is money and materials are money too. If you already own a PACT and would like to add this feature to your unit it will cost you the staggering sum of twenty bucks and shipping costs.

AUTOPORTING

Continued from page 55

slammed back as she did with her own gun. Many law enforcement agencies are allowing those who are qualified to carry .45 Autos. Now we get into an area where porting could make a significant difference. The reduction in muzzle rise and felt recoil allows the .45 to be brought back on target in less time, which could be crucial in a firefight. Two .45 Autos that come quickly to mind as definitely needing porting are the little Colt .45 Officer's Model and the Smith & Wesson

shooter very appreciative of Autoporting. With the 10mm, especially in a Colt Delta Elite, we are getting up into heavy recoil for a standard weight semi-automatic pistol. Most shooters report that the 10mm is downright nasty with full-house loads in the Colt.

Model 4516. Long strings of fire with

these dandy little .45's would find the

I find that the recoil of the Colt 10mm with full loads provides a wrist-wrenching

Running the ported 10mm against the unported 10mm, my immediate reaction was "What a difference a couple of little holes can make!"

type of recoil to me that is actually more painful in a long firing string than say a .44 Magnum, .454 Casull, or .500 Linebaugh. These big sixguns provide plenty of recoil that smack right into the palm and knuckle. The Colt 10mm, however, by-passes the pain in the hand and instead torques enough that I feel it in the more vulnerable wrist of my shooting hand.

Running the ported 10mm against the unported 10mm, my immediate reaction was "What a difference a couple of little holes can make!"



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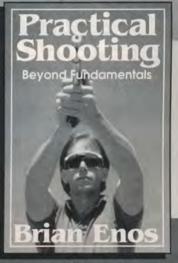


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With Autoporting and the 9mm, I can take it or leave it. With the .45 ACP, porting is a definite advantage. Moving up to the 10mm, I would classify Autoporting as mandatory if one is going to shoot the Colt a great deal with full-house loads. At \$90, Autoporting could be the cheapest

"compensator" available.

Just as I completed this article, I received a copy of a letter from a San Francisco police officer to Mag-na-port. I would like to quote the following: "The Autoporting to the SIG 226 and my Officer's .45 works very well. When I had it at the range, everyone was extremely impressed with the difference that the Autoporting made. I was shocked when about half of the officers including a couple of the range masters did not know anything about Mag-na-port. If I was the range master, and had the authority to do it, I would have all department SIGs ported."

For more information about Autoporting, call for your free catalog today at (313) 469-6727 or write to Mag-na-port at 41302 Executive Drive, Dept. AH,

Mt. Clemens, MI 48045.

VIC COMP

Continued from page 56

is less likely to be moved off target by a poor trigger break than a light gun. Light guns tend to magnify the effects of errors in hold or trigger release.

Generally speaking (and I emphasis that there are plenty of exceptions) novice and intermediate level shooters will do better with a heavy gun; top level shooters, who have mastered the ability to hold the gun steady and release the trigger smoothly can derive the most benefit from a light gun.

Because of all the variables involved, I don't place too much faith in compensator comparisons in which muzzle jump alone is measured (i.e., in a Ransom Rest). While such tests do have the value of providing objective data, they don't necessarily tell how well a comp will work for different people in different matches.

Sometimes the only way to test a race gun is like a race car—put it on the track and drive a few laps.

I don't mean to make the subject of compensator design and selection sound like some sort of black art, for it's really not all that complicated; we're not exactly talking about making a better space shuttle here.

As a general guideline a heavy gun and comp will do best for pin shooting, a light gun is best for steel shooting, an IPSC gun shouldn't go to extremes either way. Don't worry about it too much, because more than likely someone like Tom Campbell or Jerry Miculek will show up with no comp at all and win the match.

Battle Comp

The demands of various types of competition explains why VIC offers more than one comp system. Pete Viceroy, president of VIC International, provided a Battle Comp already fitted to a .45 ACP barrel and slide for evaluation.

This full profile, double chambered unit should be ideal for pin shooting (the ad says "an all-out, no holds barred comp for pins...perfect for heavier bullets and more powerful loads") and most shooters will find it excellent for IPSC as well.

Fit, finish, and overall quality of this unit is very good. The top end was hooked up to two receivers, a Colt Gold Cup and a Para-Ordnance F14 .45 and functioned flawlessly on both.

The combination of an effective comp and the 14-shot Para-Ordnance frame makes a particularly nice setup for IPSC matches, especially now that the frame is available in steel for the high volume shooter.

Most .45 ACP factory 230 gr. ammunition is rated at 850 fps, though in my experience such loads usually chronograph at more like 815 fps from a 5" bar-

rel. To check the comp's effectiveness with heavier loads, the Hornady 230 gr. FMJ-FP bullet was loaded to a bit over 900 fps for a power factor of about 210, with velocities checked on the PACT Mk. III chronograph.

With these heavy loads the comp really went to work. On strings of shots at an IPSC target, breaks between shots with the Battle Comp were about half those recorded with the same loads and a noncomped gun.

My 12-year-old daughter Andrea asked to try a few shots and had no trouble controlling the gun. I thought the Para-Ordnance frame might be too wide for her hand, but to my surprise she much preferred it over the standard 1911 pistol. Evidently the wider grip frame spread the recoil over a wider area and was more comfortable to shoot.

Which Comp For You?

For the competitor who is primarily interested in pin shooting and IPSC, the Battle Comp is an excellent choice. If a lot of steel shooting is on the agenda, then the somewhat lighter half-profile Classic comp would probably suit most people better.

For exclusively IPSC use, it comes down to a matter of personal preference, as either model is more than adequate. Both designs come with an interchangeable front sight— a very worthwhile feature that allows the shooter to experiment with different sight patterns and widths.

The Battle Comp isn't a cheap item, listing at \$375 in .45 ACP, \$50 more in .38 Super or 10mm. The kit includes the dual-chamber comp with removable front sight, cone system and spring plug, and full length guide rod, and must be fitted to your existing barrel.

The Classic system with dual chamber comp and front sight, integral cone system, recoil spring, spring plug and Shok-Buff costs considerably less, listing at \$250 in all calibers, or \$350 if installed and test-fired on your gun by VIC.

Viceroy makes no apologies for the price of his comps, noting that some of the lower-priced units are made from castings while the VIC units are individually machined from solid bar stock to provide a better fit and durability. VIC also sells complete top end conversions with adjustable rear sights installed, and can build full house guns to order.

I've always found VIC an excellent company to deal with. Both Pete Viceroy and his wife Laurel compete in IPSC and other action-shooting matches, they understand the shooting sports, and make every effort to provide competitors with the best in shooting accessories. For more information write VIC International at 18056 Ledgepoint Place, Dept. AH, Strongsville, OH 44136 or call (216) 572-0323.





olt's rugged Officers Model quickly established a devoted following among serious professionals when the short, powerful pistol first hit the streets in 1984. Packing the punch of a .45 ACP in a compact package proved to be an enormously popular concept, and today the Colt Officers Model is available in a wide variety of models from the standard blue to the Lightweight to weather-resistant stainless steel.

But as good as the Colt Officers Model comes "in the box," there is a core of serious handgunners who demand custom features. That's when the serious handgunners— men who trust their lives to the tough little Colt— turn to master pistolsmith Bill Jarvis of Jarvis Gunsmithing. Bill offers his services in a traditional "one man shop" where the customer is assured that each and every gun is personally detailed by the master himself.

Bill describes his custom Colt Officers Model as a "no frills, no nonsense defense weapon." Don't look for any glamorous gimmicks, Bill builds em lean and mean!

Reliability is Job One on a self-defense gun, and Bill goes through the Officers Model and performs a "reliability package" for trouble-free feeding and ejection. Bill painstakingly hones the internal parts and surfaces to remove any burrs that might affect functioning.

To improve the handling characteristics of the weapon under stress, he checkers the front strap at 20 lines per inch and modifies the thumb safety for fast, positive release.

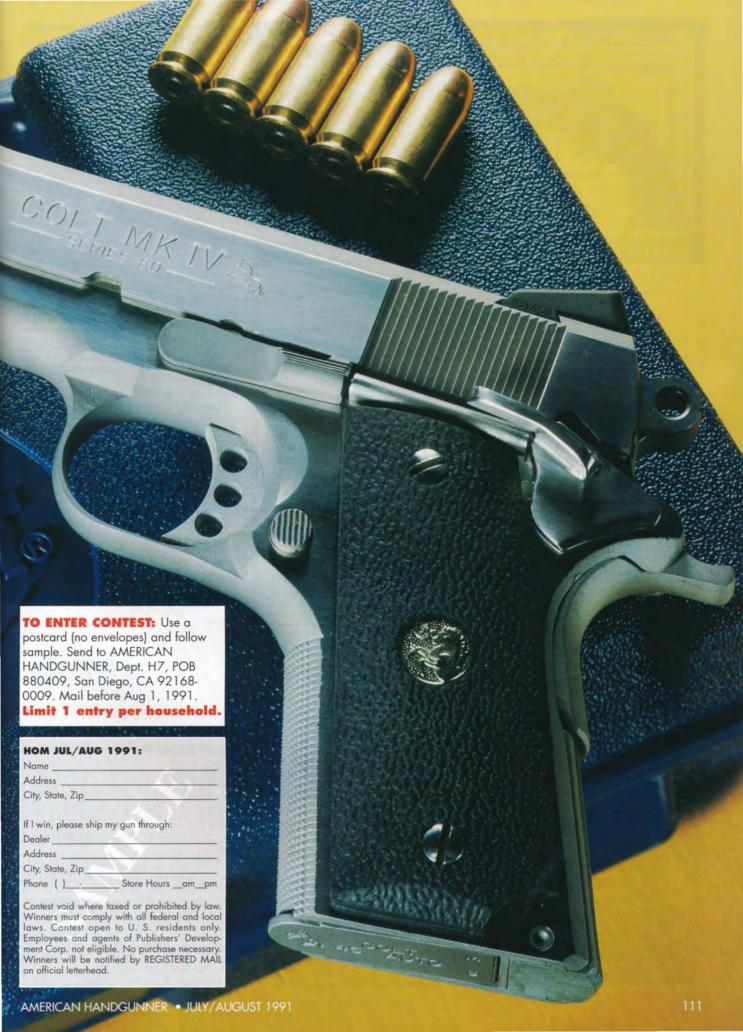
The Officers Model receives a "street trigger job" of a crisp 4.5 lbs. and the installation of a long, lightweight match trigger. A Novak lo-profile rear sight is fitted and a dovetailed, ramped front sight is installed.

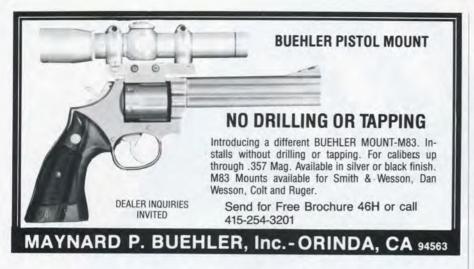
The complete custom package as described above and shown in this photo costs \$375 plus \$15 for shipping, handling and insurance.

Those who are acquainted with Jarvis custom guns and accessories (the maker of the famous Jarvis underlug for S&W L-frames that John Pride used to win the Bianchi Cup) will be interested to learn that Bill relocated from his Orange, Calif., shop to Hamilton, Mont. While Bill has traded the sunshine of southern California for the invigorating great outdoors of Montana, his customers can rest assured that the same level of expertise and dedication to excellence is still a hallmark of Jarvis Gunsmithing.

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SILUETAS

Continued from page 30

jectory. Or give SuperMag performance in the standard-sized Freedom Arms cylinder.

Freedom's New .22

Perhaps in the future, it will be possible to come up with such a cartridge. For now, the spotlight is on the smallest bore, the .22 Long Rifle. This is the toughest course of the silhouetting options available to the shooter and until now, no revolver was designed specifically for .22 silhouetting.

Freedom's .22 Silhouette revolver is built to the same tolerances as the big bore guns and is in fact a full-sized revolver chambered for the diminutive .22.

If the conventional .454 Casull cylinder had been used, the weight would have exceeded four pounds. So for the .22 chambering, the cylinder has been shortened and the barrel extends back through the frame.

The barrel is also slightly tapered and four holes are drilled into the sides of the hammer. This all results in a total weight

Freedom Arms maintains their reputation on quality, not price.

package, including Iron Sight Gun Works silhouette sights and black micarta grips, of a fraction of an ounce under four pounds.

As of this writing, only prototype .22 revolvers are out and a retail price has not been set. However, by the time you read this, production guns will be available. Contact Randy Smith, Sales Manager, Freedom Arms, P.O. Box 150, Dept AH, Freedom Wyoming, 83120. Phone 307-883-2468.

Real Quality

The 1991 Silhouette Season is anxiously awaited to see what the result of the availability of Freedom Arms revolvers for IHMSA production silhouetting will be. They are, without a doubt, the finest made revolvers ever to leave a factory.

They are, in fact, custom made production revolvers. The only revolvers that would come close to the tolerances of the Freedom Arms guns would possibly be the pre-World War I New Century .44 Specials from Smith & Wesson, the collector's prized "Triple-Lock." They were dropped because it was too expensive too maintain that type of quality.

Freedom Arms maintains their reputa-

tion on quality, not price.

The silhouette shooter can now choose three chamberings from Freedom Arms for competition, four if one is a real traditionalist.

For big bore shooting, silhouette guns are available in .454 Casull, .44 Magnum, and even .45 Colt. If this gun really catches on with the silhouetting crowd, I would also like to see it made available in .41 Magnum or even a longer .40 or .41 mated specifically to the Freedom Arms cylinder.

The fourth chambering is of course the new .22 Long Rifle option.

For silhouetting, full-house .454 loads are not needed, and certainly not desirable. Recoil is too much for sustained firing in 40, 60, and 80 round matches. This is one of the main reasons for choosing the .44 Magnum chambering over the .454 if the only use for the revolver is to be big bore silhouetting.

However, the Freedom Arms revolvers

The latest offering from Freedom Arms is accurate enough to challenge many rifles at 100 yards.

are all set up for ease of sight changing and it is possible to go from standard iron sights to silhouette sights and even to scope sights with minimum fuss and bother. All sights fit into, not onto, the top of the frame and afford the best type of mounting arrangement available.

This allows the Freedom Arms revolvers to be used for silhouetting or hunting simply by a quick sight change. Use 'em for silhouetting until hunting season. Remove the silhouette sights and install the standard iron sights or more preferably the scope base (these guns will outshoot the iron sights) and the Freedom Arms revolver becomes a first class hunting pistol. This double function helps one to justify the high price.

In addition to this versatility, the .22 Long Rifle Silhouette Class revolver will also be available with an extra .22 Magnum cylinder. Remove the silhouette sights, install a scope, replace the Long Rifle cylinder with the Magnum cylinder and one has a deluxe varmint revolver good for animals up to the size of rockchucks out to reasonable ranges.

Handloading The Casull

The .454 Casull functions with bullets from 240 grains up through the specialty 400 grain bullets, but silhouetters will be best served with bullets in the 240 to 260 grain weight range.

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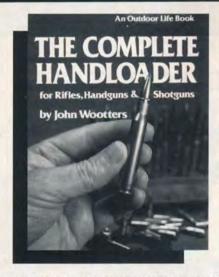
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excellent bullets available for silhouetting and I have had excellent results with Hornady 250's, Sierra 240's, and Speer 260's. None of these bullets can be driven as fast as the Freedom Arms 260 grain jacketed soft point, but this is not a real factor in silhouetting. Some selected loads for the .454 for silhouetting are:

Sierra 240 JHP	35.0 grs. WW680	1,595 fps
Hornady 250 JHP	32.0 grs. WW296	1,529 fps
Speer 260 JHP	34.0 grs. WW680	1,562 fps

Switching to the .44 Magnum chambering in the same 10-inch barreled version of the Freedom Arms silhouette revolver, I have had my best results with 22.0 to 24.0 grains of WW296 with the Hornady 240 JTC-SIL, the Speer 240 FMJ, and the Sierra 250 FPJ silhouette bullets.

	Hornady	Sierra	Speer
22.0 grs. WW296	1375 fps	1400 fps	1367 fps
23.0 grs. WW296	1442 fps	1455 fps	1422 fps
24.0 grs. WW296	1492 fps	1517 fps	1484 fps

Testing The .22

Rrand

The latest offering from Freedom Arms for silhouetting, the 10-inch .22 Long Rifle version, is accurate enough to challenge many rifles at 100 yards.

My testing was accomplished with a Thompson/Center 3X scope installed on a Leupold mount and using an Outer's Pistol Perch for a rest. The results verify that this is the most accurate .22 revolver to ever come from any factory. Groups are for five shots at 100 yards.

Velocity Group

Diana	Tolouty	aroup	
Federal High Velocity HP	1,108 fps	1 3/4"	
CCI Green Tag	1,007 fps	1 7/8"	
CCI MiniMag	1,045 fps	17/8"	
CCI MiniMag +V	1,290 fps	1"	
CCI Pistol Match	1,123 fps	1 1/8"	
PMC Zapper	1,126 fps	1 1/2"	
PMC Match Rifle	974 fps	1 1/4"	
Winchester High Velocity	1,009 fps	1 3/4"	
Winchester T22	1,073 fps	1"	

Notice that the .22 version has the ability to handle both lead and copper .22 loads, and both standard and high velocity loads with loads below 1,000 fps and also at 1,300 fps both shooting right at one-inch at 100 yards.

For years, the .454 Casull has been touted as the most powerful revolver available. Now that all Freedom Arms revolvers are available for silhouetting, we may well find that they are the most accurate as well.

WATCH FOR JOHN TAFFIN'S SILUETAS **COLUMN EVERY ISSUE**

HANDLOADING

Continued from page 16

al, and a warranty card.

The Model 90 is a sensitive instrument and as such carries certain stipulations about its use that could apply equally to any electronic scale.

It is recommended that you check calibration of the scale prior to each use and for this purpose the two 250 grain check weights have been provided. Additionally, the instruction manual warns against locating the RCBS Model 90 near open win-



dows or doors, near air conditioning or heating vents, near any vibrating or moving equipment, or on an uneven surface.

Severe changes in temperature will also affect the accuracy of the Model 90, so the manual advises the scale should be allowed to stabilize for an hour after movement into areas with different temperatures.

The main advantage with an electronic scale is the purchase of time. Remember you can't buy time, but you can use technology to lessen the time needed for the performance of certain tasks and that, to me, equals the purchase of time.

The zero adjustment feature on both electronic scales allows you to establish a tare weight for any object beside the pan used to measure powder. If you are one who is extremely picky about your cartridge cases either of these electronic scales allow you to quickly establish a base line weight and then find those empty cases closest to it.

Finding The Dud

Additionally, one of the greatest problems with certain progressive reloaders is the infrequent tendency to throw an empty charge. That's right, the old live primer, no powder, bullet in the barrel trick

It's okay, if you notice this aberration of nature before you pull the trigger on the following round, but if you don't the results can present serious damage to the household budget.

With this in mind, I intentionally loaded 25 rounds of .45 ACP on one of my progressive presses, but on one round I poured the powder out before seating the bullet. Mixing them all up so I lost the bad round I proceeded to see if I could find it in an easier and safer fashion than I have in the past.

I weighed each completed round and



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wrote that weight down on a list while arranging the rounds in order. After weighing all 25 rounds I picked the round with the lightest weight and pulled the bullet.

Guess what? I found it. Easy as pie, because that was the one with no powder charge. I could have done the same thing on the balance beam scale, but the time required to accomplish it would have been about 10 times greater, many swear words deeper, and with a blood pressure reading that would only make my health insurance rates exceed the cost of rebuild-

Electronic scales are sensitive to everything. I found I could get a reading just by waving my hand over each one.

ing Iraq.

The alternative was easy with an electronic scale.

Outside Vendors

Both firms went to outside sources for these products. RCBS went to Ohaus and Lyman went to a supplier of jewelry scales. Lyman intentionally made theirs go to 1,000 grains because they wanted to be able to accommodate the shotshell reloaders.

Lyman has also discovered there is a good market for scales among competition archery shooters who weigh their arrows for increased consistency. Since the shaft of an arrow weighs 350 grains or more the point often puts the entire weight of the arrow well over 500 grains, Lyman felt it made sense to recognize this when they designed their scale.

Electronic scales are sensitive to everything. I found I could get a reading just by waving my hand over each one. They are sensitive to dust, air waves, static electricity, even your breath, but they are definitely an advancement.

I used them in my testing to find an empty charge, but you could just as easily use one to search for a double charge.

Lyman is offering free to all customers who purchase their LE-1000 in 1991 a shooter's check weight set normally worth \$20. The check weight set consists of seven different weights totaling 60.5 grains. Lyman is also thinking about bringing out later in the year a dust cover and a carrying case so you can take their scale to the range.

The Lyman LE-1000 has a suggested retail price of \$325; the RCBS Model 90 runs \$395. I think both scales are worth the money if for no other reason than I don't have to fool with those damn little bitty weights on a balance beam any more.

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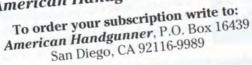
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From America's Handgunners



James Dinan East Islip, NY

Age: 55

Occupation: Marksmanship Instructor

Shooting Interests:

- 2600 Club Master Shooter
- · Competition shooter

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Age: 42 Occupation: Teacher Shooting Interests: Target shooting, Handgun hunting

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Brad Gray Zionsville, IN

Age: 33

Occupation: Registered Nurse **Shooting Interests:**

- · Competition shooting
- · Handgun hunting
- · Self-defense

T've been shooting since I was eight years old, and American Handgunner is simply the best overall source I've found for pure handgunning information. Massad Ayoob's features have assisted me in picking self-defense pistols and the night sites for those pistols. The Ayoob files help me keep a healthy tactical edge. Features are accurate, comprehensive, timely and very often amusing.

American Handgunner is just plain enjoyable reading (I gotta have some reason to make the hike to the mailbox.)'



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V.I.P.P.

Continued from page 57

by lawman/holstermaker Bruce Nelson. He postulates that a serious gun (i.e. one not used for playing games) should be no larger than it absolutely has to be in order to contain its cartridge. With this philosophy, the proper vehicle for the .38 Special is a J-frame snubby, not a bull-barrelled L-frame; and the Firestar is a more efficient 9mm than the Beretta 92.

If a gun can be chambered to take a more powerful cartridge, it should be. Most .32 autos are actually .380 autos, rechambered for the smaller cartridge. This violates the concept of size efficiency.

Why carry a Walther PPK in .32 when you can get a Walther PPK in .380? The .32 ACP is no powerhouse, but it has to be better than a .25. There is no reason to carry a .22 or .25, when you can now get the same size gun in a larger caliber.

The thing about the Seecamp is not just that it is little. It is better. Usually, when a manufacturer makes a little gun, they just shrink the dimensions of a big gun. The result is that you get a gun that can only be used by a leprechaun: the stocks are too small; the levers and buttons are unworkable; the trigger guard is too small.

Seecamp has designed a small gun for regular size hands. The trigger guard and trigger are full-size. The grip angle is not the same as that on a big gun.

Although you can only get one and a half fingers on it, the grip angle positions the hand for proper control, without the pinching, hammer-bite, and slide "tracks" of miniaturized guns like, for example, the Walther TPH.

Double-Action-Only

The Seecamp is double-action-only. Now, let's discuss that term. How can a gun be "double-action-only," if it only works one way?

Doesn't double-action mean that it works two ways? Not necessarily.

"Double-action" can be defined as "The trigger does two things: it cocks the hammer, and then releases it." On a single-action gun, the trigger only releases the hammer. Thus, there is such a thing as double-action-only, and the Seecamp is it.

Why is that important? For a pistol of this type, it is ludicrous to build in ittybitty safety levers and hammer droppers. With the DA-only action, it is always safe, yet ready for instant action.

There is no fumbling around with miniature latches and buttons. For a gun that is going to get carried in a pocket or purse, that is important.

For the liability lawyers, there is no question about this gun "going off by itself." And, if you like ambidextrous guns, this is as ambidextrous as you can get. On a larger scale, it is important for another reason. The most common cause of accidental shootings is violation of Safety Rule Three: "Keep your finger off the trigger until the sights are on the target."

Safety Rule Three

The following are true stories:

Plainclothes cop chases kid down alley. Catches him. Draws Colt Detective Special revolver and cocks hammer. Attempts to put on handcuffs. Shoots kid in back, paralyzing him for life.

Police set up roadblock, looking for holdup suspect. Man and woman (innocent parties) stop, officer approaches with .357 revolver drawn, hammer cocked. Accidentally shoots man in face. Bullet passes through and hits woman.

Highway Patrol officers chase speeding car, known to be stolen. Car goes off road. Officer approaches, with SIG double-action .45 cocked. While running up to car, officer accidentally fires through windshield, striking woman passenger in face.

The military euphemism is NDP -Non-Dedicated Personnel. Many cops and soldiers are not "into" guns. Safety Rule Three is not ingrained. The perfect issue weapon for NDP's is a doubleaction-only sidearm.

These people need a gun— whether revolver or auto— that *cannot* be cocked. The same is true of homeowners who are not gun enthusiasts, but who buy guns for self-defense.

If you are a good shot, DA-only will not hinder you; witness the Bianchi Cup and PPC folks.

If you are an NDP, the DA-only will help keep you from making a dumb mistake. In either case, it is a protection against lawsuits.

DA-only is the way to go, not just for little guns, but for full-size service weapons as well. The Seecamp is important because it is a pioneer in this area, along with the now-defunct Thomas .45, and the H&K VP70Z.

Test Firing

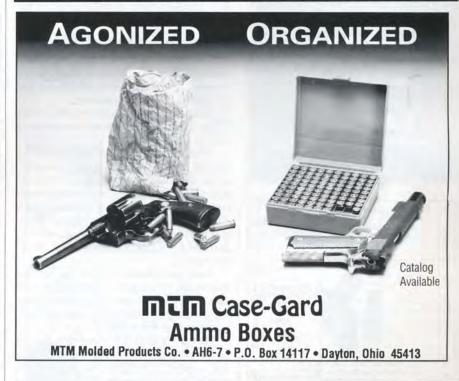
Larry Seecamp provided the test gun; Winchester-Western provided the ammunition. The instruction manual warns repeatedly against using anything other than Winchester Silvertip ammo. I figure they know what they are talking about, so all testing was done with 60 grain Silvertip hollowpoints.

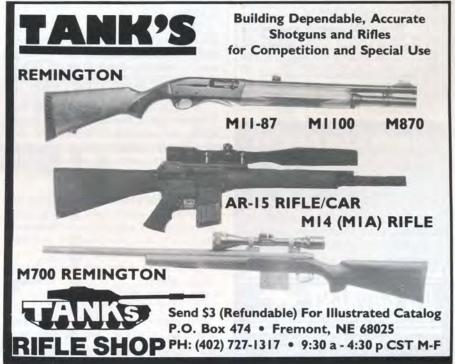
According to the PACT chronograph, velocity ranged from 800 to 860 fps, with an average of 833. This is no bear gun, but as noted, it is miles ahead of any .22 or .25.

Because the gun is so small, and so light (12.75 ounces loaded, according to my digital postal scale), the trigger guard gives you a sharp rap on the bottom edge of your trigger finger. This is of no consequence in a gunfight, but you may want



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Dept. HG08, 2855 Centennial Ave. Radcliff, Ky 40160-9000 to wrap some Elastoplast around your finger for longer practice sessions.

Functioning was perfect, other than one quirk, which is noted in the owner's manual. The magazine follower drags against the slide on the last round, so the gun fails to eject the last case, every time. This is unimportant.

If you have fired seven rounds with this gun (six in the magazine, one in the chamber), and have not solved your problem, a speed reload is not likely to help. This is not the kind of gun for which you carry spare magazines. If you do, or for practice sessions, just remember not to shoot the gun dry. Reload while there is still a round in the chamber.

What, No Sights?

I am thoroughly delighted with the concept, design, and execution of the Seecamp .32, with one exception. It has no sights, and I think it should.

Seecamp and I disagree on this. Here is his view, quoted from the owner's manual:

"The Seecamp .32 is unique among present pocket designs. It has no sights, as we do not seek to encourage firearms misuse with promises of a non-existent capability. If you cannot hit your mark with a natural instinctive pointing of the gun in the direction of the target, and feel the need for sights, the LWS .32 is not the gun for you."

Well, gee. Maybe it is not for me, but that would be a shame, because I like the gun. My opinion is that it is better to have sights and not need them, than to need sights and not have them.

Not all gunfight scenarios are at powder burn distance. Granted, this is not a sniper's weapon, but even at 10 and 20 feet, sights make a big difference in hitting.

The Seecamp .32 retails for \$350. You are not likely to see one in the display case at your local hardware store. You get one by ordering direct from the factory. They are six to eight months behind in filling orders.

Also on the drawing board is a 9mm DA-only pistol, the same height, length, width, and weight as a Walther PPK. Size efficiency: if a gun can be chambered for the .380, it can be chambered for the 9mm; the dimensions of the cartridge are close enough.

Now *there* would be an important pistol. Would it kick? Sure, about as much as a snubby .38 with +P loads. Many people handle that combination just fine. Seecamp is on to something here.

Hey, Larry. Neat gun. Neat design. (How about some sights?)

Readers interested in the Seecamp pistol can contact the manufacturer at P. O. Box 255, New Haven, CT, 06502 or phone (203) 877-3429.



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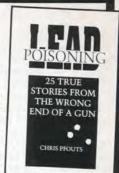
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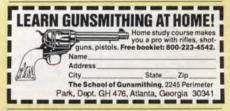
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INDEX OF **ADVERTISERS**

Accurate Arms	90	Combat Shop	83	Jarvis Gunsmithing	120	Quasi-SCS	51
Accurate Plating	96	Compasseco Inc	118	Kings Gun Works	49	Ranch Products	115
Aimpoint	93	Competition Electronics	3	Kleenbore	8	Ransom Intl.	95
Ajax Custom Grips	125	Cor-Bon Bullets	24	Bob Krieger	112	Ringler Custom	112
American Derringer	112/120	Cylinder & Slide	52	LaRocca's Gun Works	84	RTP Products	114
American Sales	116	Davis Industries	118	Lauren & Lindsey	120	Wil Schuemann	90
Artnzen	8	DBI	46-47	Leather Arsenal	120	SeeR Inc.	115
Atwood Arms	84	Denny's Shooters Supply	38-39	Lee's Red Ramps	94	Shooters Depot	21
Austra Comp	119	Desantis	6	Leupold Stevens	29	Shooting Chrony	92
Auto Ordnance	89	Dillon	13	Lyman	79	Sierra Bullets	7
B-Square	53	Drakes Targets	53	Mag-Na-Port	80	Sigarms	31
Bain & Davis	120	Dynamit Nobel	125	Mail Order Video	40	Smith & Alexander	109
Bar-Sto	120	Brian Enos	107	Chip McCormick	28	Milt Sparks	103
L.L. Baston	85	EPC-Electro Prismatic Collin	nators 19	Meprolight/Hesco	16	Springfield Armory	108/03
Baumannize Inc.	106	Franklin Mint	11/17	Merit Corporation	113	SSK Industries	53
Bergman-Williams	48	Gage Mfg.	95	Metaloy	113	Stewart Arms Co.	91
Better Accuracy	84/115	Galco International	(2	Michaels of Oregon	10	T-D Arms	87
Blackhawk Crossbows	118	Guncraft Inc	114	Mixson Leathercraft	81	Tanks Rifle Shop	119
Ted Blockers Custom	113	Guncraft Sports	33	Modern Schools of America	107	Tosco	23
Bo-Mar	120	Gun Parts	103	MSS Maharlika	102	Ten Ring Precision	82
CT Brian	103	Hammerli Ltd.	26	MTM Molded	119	Trijicon	55
Briley	10/108	Heine	96	National Bullet Co.	83	Melvin Tyler	115
Ed Brown Products	78	Hildago	116	Oehler	115	U.S. Cavalry	120
Maynord Buehler Inc	112	HKS Products	116	Oglesby & Oglesby	93	Urschell Mfg.	94
Bull-X	35	Jim Hoog	115	P.A.S.T. Corp.	82	VIC International	103
Burris .	14	Hoque Grips	88	Pachmayr	101	Woller & Son	82
C.P. Bullets	25	Hornady	9	Pact Inc	5/75	Wayland Precision	116
California Grip	107	Don Hume Leather	92	Paladin Press	121	Weigand Combat Hand	launs 94
Caspian Arms	106	Hydrosorbent	107	Para Ordnance	86	Wichita Arms	89
Centaur Systems	95	IMR	22	J. Michael Plaxco	77	Wilson's Gun Shop	77/79/81
Centerfire Designs	115	Interorms	96	Police Bookshelf	27	W.C. Wolff Co.	102
Chapman Academy	102	Campbell Irwin Gunsmith	112	Ponsness Warren	97	World Class Pistols	85
Colorado School of Trade	118	International Shootist Inc.	91	Power Custom	15	Wyoming Arms	98
Colt	C4	J-Gar	120	Practical Pistol Service	118		
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Combat Corner	76	J.A.F. Gunsmithing	103	Practical Tools Inc	89		

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New Device Adds Versatlity To Safariland's Final Option Holster

Highlander Supply has recently patented a unique device that allows the famous Final Option holster to be adjusted throughout a wide range of angle and height choices.

The Final Option is the winningest "action" holster on the market, but its other-



wise flawless performance is hindered only by a relatively small degreee of adjustment— no more!

The Highlander device is a "plate" of thick plastic with dozens of holes drilled to fit the Final Option's screw attachments.

The shooter can now move his Final Option to virtually any cant or height and then secure the holster body to the Highlander device permanently.

A test sample used at American Hadgunner is rugged and strong, however, we found the instructions overly complicated. For more info, call Bud Bond at (303) 221-3736.

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INSIDER

Continued from page 126

ty Firearms Inc.) and EAA (European American Armory) are now handling the guns that FIE formerly distributed. Specifically, EAA has the Tanfoglio line of Italian-made versions of the CZ-75 as well as the line of .22 single-action revolvers.

Says an EAA press release, "We are the exclusive importer of the full line of Tanfoglio products. These products were previously imported by FIE or Excam. EAA is in no way connected with these past companies nor are we responsible for their problems, debts, etc."

QFI is manufacturing single-action revolvers in their Florida plant, including The Horseman and The Dark Horseman. The Horseman is available in .357, .41 and .44 Magnum and the Dark Horseman comes in .44 Magnum and .45 Colt. The other QFI single-actions continue the FIE heritage of .22 LR affordable plinkers for the Western traditionalist.

QFI retains the FIE mainstays of inexpensive semi-autos in .25 and .22, plus the modestly priced DA revolvers of Arminus.

If you're having trouble finding a Colt Anaconda .44 Magnum, hang in there because the new and improved model is forthcoming. Apparently Colt determined that the accuracy was not up to their stringent standards and so halted production until they could enhance the Anaconda's strike.

Also, six-inch blue Pythons may be scarce until Colt completes a contract for 800 of the elite snakes for the Kuwait government. Armed with brand-new Colt M-16A2's and Pythons, the Kuwaiti army surely must be drinking Perrier from their canteens and driving Mercedes jeeps!

Anti-hunting activist Clint Eastwood (White Hunter, Black Heart) received a Colt Frontier Model revolver from the estate of Sammy Davis Jr. The Colt was one of Sammy's prized possessions.

If you're interested in Aimpoint-sighted IPSC pistols, you might want to check out the new aluminium mount (1.5 ozs.) from Bill Hamilton at CPMI.

Naturally the mount for 1911 and P-9 pistols comes in Goofy Grape and other wild colors for the image-conscious shooter. The Hamilton mount attaches to the dust cover after drilling and tapping the necessary holes. For more info, call **Denny's Shooters Supply** at (319) 277-3171.

I'm very pleased to announce that my good friend and colleague John Taffin has been named the new chairman of the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation. This is a high honor indeed and I know you will all join me in wishing John the very best of luck.



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RUGER GOES SYNTHETIC WITH MK. II PISTOL AND CHAMBERS P-89 IN .45

espite scurrilous rumors to the contrary, everything is copesetic at the FBI Firearms Training Unit. Some loose tongues have been flapping that the famous FBI ballistic test, which resulted in the Bureau switching to 10mm, had been faked.

Balderdash says John Hall, former Unit Chief and developer of the revolutionary ballistic test. "It's ironic that now that we document the test so thoroughly, some people question it. Before we just issued reports and no one said anything. Now we document literally every round fired," Hall told the *Insider*.

"We published the results of our test and the methods we used, right down to how to mix the gelatin. Anyone who wants is free to duplicate the test. That's how I answer those who question our results," Agent Hall said.

One of the most competent professionals in the PR business is now managing media relations for **Sturm**, **Ruger & Co.** Mike Bussard recently hung his hat in the Ruger plant in Prescott, Ariz., and his capable hand is already being felt. Mike reports that two exciting new semi-autos will be introduced at the NRA Show, a .45 and .40 S&W.

"The P-85 is officially dead. What we have now is the P-89 series," Ruger's new spokesman said. He is referring to the enhanced performance and improved features found on the upgraded P-89 that resulted from the product recall of all P-85s following an alleged safety defect in the firing pin.

The new .45 caliber version of the P-89 will be called the P-90 and the .40 S&W chambering will be known as the P-91. Samples should be heading to your Ruger dealer by the time this sees the printer's ink.

But that's not all the news from Ruger. A new Mk. II .22 pistol is coming with a— get this!— synthetic frame! Mike Bussard demurred to my use of the word "plastic" to describe the frame. Mike said that "composite resin" is the preferred terminology.

Other than a reduction in weight, there should be, theoretically, a reduction in price. Mike said one of the advantages of composite resin is that it is much cheaper to manufacture than steel parts.

During the Desert Storm ass-whipping, American Handgunner sent over a parcel of magazines to our victorious troops. We were glad to contribute to the espirit de corps of our soldiers.

However, we were hoping to get some combat reports on the **Beretta** versus **Colt**, but those "elite Republican Guards" kept surrendering before our boys could check the penetration of the 9mm vs. .45.

But Colt emerged a winner from the romp in the sand. Following the "Mother Of All Surrenders" Colt came away with a juicy contract for 12,000 M-16A2 rifles. Colt's savvy new president Ron Stilwell effused that the award is the first of what he hopes will be many announcements signaling Colt's return as an active supplier for the US Government.

Regular readers of this column will recall that Colt lost the M-16 contract to **Fabrique Nationale** last year after bidding \$470 per gun against FN's \$420. To gain the new 12,000 gun order, Colt bid about \$420 on the contract, according to Colt's government liaison, Jim Griffin.

Holsters designed for concealed carry, I've found, require a minimum of six weeks daily wear before you can pass judgement on their quality. Well, I have been wearing the new Milt Sparks "Executive Companion" version of the famous Summer Special for a Colt Officers Model for well over four months now and I can tell you that it's the most comfortable and accessible inside-thepants (ITP) holster I've ever tried. It's a top quality rig in every respect.

Tony Kanaly, designer of the Sparks' Roadrunner, conceived the idea of incorporating the best features of other holsters with the proven Summer Special. To eliminate the annoying tendency of ITP holsters to collapse when the gun is removed, making re-holstering an awkward, two-hand proposition, Tony installed a non-collapsible steel band in the top of the holster to hold it open. This is the first ITP design I've tried that allows for easy, eyes-off, one-hand reholstering.

The new Executive Companion comes with interchangeable belt loop fasteners so you can switch from 1" to 11/2" wide belts and still have a proper holster-to-belt fit. Additionally, the backside of the new Sparks holster incorporates a "paddle" so that the holster snugs up against the small of your back with greater comfort. To obtain a catalog for the entire line of Milt Sparks holsters, drop them a line at P.O. Box 187, Idaho City, ID 83631.

I just read a brilliant little essay on Smith & Wesson revolver actions by gunsmith Bob Lloyd. It's only six pages

long, but it really explains what goes into an "action job" and, more importantly, why. Send Bob a self-addressed stamped envelope and a buck for his trouble and he'll send you his most interesting treatise, "Smith & Wesson Revolver Action Tuning." The address is 1928 McDolwing Dr., Huntsville, AL 35803.

Colt sporting handguns are now shipped from the factory in a custom molded plastic case with a convenient carrying handle. It is packed in "a handsomely designed paper board box" featuring historic Colt advertisements "printed in stylish rotogravure brown," according to a Colt press release.

The innovative Canadian manufacturer Para-Ordnance has completed work on their .38 Super high-capacity 1911-style pistol. This remarkable new pistol of the familiar Browning pattern holds an amazing 18 rounds of potent .38 Super ammunition in a double-column magazine, but at the same time the Para-Ordnance engineers cleverly kept the grip's girth very slim.

Don't be put off by the fact that some after-market attempts at converting Para-Ordnance magazines to .38 Super have not been entirely successful. This is the real McCoy, and the new Para-Ordnance .38 Super comes with magazines *specifically* designed for the cartridge.

One of the marvelous things about the gun industry is that no one ever leaves, they just switch chairs. A good case in point is Gary French, former president of Colt, former president of Ruger who is now president of Bianchi International.

A nice homecoming might be awaiting Gary from his former VP of marketing when he was at Colt, Bob Morrison. Bob switched chairs two years ago when he left Colt to work for the world's largest leathermaker.

After hanging tough for quite awhile, **Kimber Of Oregon** finally chucked in the towel. The fine gunmaker that specialized in high-dollar hunting rifles finally shut its doors after struggling valiantly to recover from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The U.S. National Bank of Portland, a primary creditor to the defunct gunmaker, told the *Insider* that it had no comment on the situation because legal action is pending.

The newest member of **Team Colt** is Debby James, the lovely lady who has won an unprecedented two IPSC Ladies World Championships and four back-to-back Ladies National Championships. I first met Debby in 1986 at the Nationals in Dallas when we were squadded together. She was basically a "no name" shooter then and it's been a real pleasure to see her career rise ever since to this new pinnacle. Congratulations, Debby!

Those of you who lamented the passing of **FIE** late last year will be pleased to know that two gun companies have arisen from the ashes of FIE. **QFI** (Quali-

Continued on page 124

TEAM SPRINGFIELD CAPTURES STILL ANOTHER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

Team Springfield's championship tally for the 1990 season includes:



Doug Koenig

-Winner, 1990 IPSC World
Championship (Springfield P9)
-Winner, 1990 Bianchi Cup and
Bianchi Cup Speed Event with the
first perfect score ever recorded
(Springfield 1911-A1)
-2nd Place and Top Professional,
1990 Masters International Pistol
Championship (Springfield 1911-A1)
-5th Place, 1990 USPSA National
Championship (Springfield 1911-A1)
-6th Place, 1990 Steel Challenge
World Speed Shooting Championship
(Springfield 1911-A1)



Rob Leatham

-2nd Place, 1990 USPSA National Championship (Springfield P9) -3rd Place, 1990 IPSC World Championship (Springfield P9) -5th Place, 1990 Steel Challenge World Speed Shooting Championship (Springfield 1911-A1)



Allen Fulford

-U.S. Civilian Bullseye Champion, 1990 Camp Perry National Matches, his fourth national championship (Springfield 1911-A1) -Winner, 1990 Masters International Pistol Championship, the first shooter to win the Masters title twice (Springfield 1911-A1)

"BESTIN THE WORLD"

MIGHT LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT TODAY...
BUT IT'S STILL A SPRINGFIELD.

Springfield P9
1990 IPSC World Championship Pistol

1990 IPSC
World Champion

speed merchant, won the 1990 IPSC World Championship using a Springfield P9, he broke several old traditions and solidly established three very important new facts of life in the fast paced world of IPSC shooting:

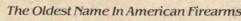
hen Doug Koenig, Team Springfield's twenty-one year old

First...Even though the tried and true Springfield 1911-A1 in traditional .45 ACP or .38 Super is still a bonafide winner, it's not the only winner. Now competitors have an option—the high quality, high capacity Springfield P9, the only double action 9mm pistol that's a proven winner.

Second...with the right combination of talent, determination, hard work and championship caliber equipment, the road to a major world championship is open to anyone with the commitment to pursue his dreams.

Third...Springfield Armory is still America' gold medal winner. We're America's leading manufacturer of premium grade, competition proven firearms. Our record proves it; Doug's performance with a P9 confirms it.

Want to be a winner? Now you have two options: The 1911-A1 or the new P9. They're both Springfields...your only real choice.



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Free instruction manuals and catalogs are available from the factory on request.